

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3182

ANSWERED ON- 09/08/2024

FAIR TREATMENT OF SEAFARERS

3182. SHRI CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) the details of Indian seafarers held captive in foreign jails along with the status of their cases;

(b) whether the Government of India is pursuing their issue with IMO convention on "Fair Treatment of Seafarers" and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Indian seafarers reported missing or dead during service on Merchant ships from 2020 till 2024; and

(d) the details of compensations released till now to the victims' families along with the unsettled claims in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) As per the information available with the Ministry, the details of Indian seafarers held captive in foreign jails is placed at Annexure-A.

(b to d) The Government has been actively pursuing fair treatment of seafarers in alignment with the IMO Convention on "Fair Treatment of Seafarers." The details are given here under :-

i. Engagement with Flag and Port States: The matters are taken up with the Flag State (the country under whose flag the vessel is registered) and the Port States (countries where the vessel is docked or detained). They ensure that the ship-owners and the Protection & Indemnity (P&I) Club (insurance providers for maritime liability) take the necessary steps to address the issues faced by seafarers.

ii. Consular Access via Indian Missions: Indian missions abroad provide timely consular access and support to seafarers in distress. This includes ensuring seafarers have access to legal aid, communication with family, and other necessary services.

iii. Engagement at IMO Council Sessions: During the 132nd Session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council, various Port States have been engaged to discuss and resolve issues

related to the fair treatment of seafarers. This engagement ensures international cooperation and adherence to the IMO conventions.

iv. Meetings with Foreign Ambassadors and Consul Generals: The meetings are held with the Ambassadors and Consul Generals of the concerned Port States where Indian seafarers are detained or jailed. These diplomatic engagements aim to expedite the resolution of such cases and ensure fair treatment.

v. Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SoP): A Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) has been developed to systematically handle cases involving the detention or unfair treatment of seafarers. This SoP provides clear guidelines for action, ensuring a prompt and effective response to such incidents.

vi. Awareness Campaigns through Safety Videos: The Government ensures awareness and disseminating safety videos to educate seafarers on their rights and safety measures. These videos aim to raise awareness and prevent incidents of unfair treatment.

vii. Publication of Booklets on Seafarers' Rights: Booklets have been published to inform seafarers of their rights under the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 and the Merchant Shipping (Maritime

Labour) Rules 2016. These booklets serve as a valuable resource for seafarers to understand and assert their rights.

viii. Strict Action Against Non-compliant Recruitment Agencies: The stringent actions are taken against seafarer recruitment companies that violate the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules 2016. Further, the actions are taken as per Merchant Shipping Notice 11 of 2024 against RPSL companies resorting to deceitful practices. This ensures that only compliant and ethical recruitment practices are followed, safeguarding seafarers from exploitation.

As per the information available with the Ministry, the details of Indian seafarers reported missing or dead during service on Merchant ships from 2020 till 2024 is placed at Annexure B.

Annexure A

Country	Number of Indian Seafarers in foreign jails at present
China	4
Cote d' Ivoire	2
Greece	6
Iran	58
Italy	3
Lebanon	1
Mauritius	2
Qatar	3
Senegal	4
Trinidad and Tobago	2
Yemen	1

Annexure B

S.No	Year	The number of Indian seafarers reported missing or dead
1	2020	58
2	2021	89
3	2022	86
4	2023	88
5	2024	36
