

SEAFARERS WELFARE FUND SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 96TH COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON 16.01.2024 @ 15.30 HRS. ON HYBRID MODE.

The 96th meeting of Committee of Management (the COM) of the Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society (the SWFS)was held on 16th January, 2024 @ 15.30 hrs. on hybrid mode in the conference hall of the Directorate General of Shipping, Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai. The meeting was presided over by Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping and Chairman of the SWFS.

2. The list of participant who attended the meeting physically as well as on video conferencing mode is placed at Annexure-I hereto.

Leave of absence was granted to Shri Mandeep Singh Randhawa, Director (MA), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, GoI, Capt. M. Patankar, Capt. Carvalho, Capt. Tushar Pradhan, Capt. P.K. Sahoo, Capt. S.M. Halbe attended the meeting on behalf of Capt. Carvalho & Shri Ranade attended the meeting on behalf of Capt. Tushar Pradhan.

3. The Chairman welcomed all the members who attended the meeting and the single point agenda item was taken up for discussion and following is the brief of the deliberation / discussion and decision taken during the meeting.

4. Agenda : **To Consider and approve the details / rules for two new welfare schemes i.e. (i) scheme for spouses of deceased seafarers and (ii) scheme for Super Senior Seafarers (i.e. 75 years and above age) to be implemented on account of celebration of ' Azadi Ka Amrut Mahostav'.**

4.1. The Member Secretary briefed about both the schemes, as recommended by the Welfare Sub-Committee (WSC) of the SWFS and requested for the comments from the COM members.

4.2. **Scheme for Spouses of the deceased seafarers** : Capt. S. M. Halbe, while deliberating the scheme for 'spouses of deceased seafarer', he agreed for the eligibility criteria given in the scheme. He further stated that there are instances of few cases under the Survival Benefit Scheme (SBS), where the applicant spouse of the deceased seafarers are eligible, however the applications for the same were not received within stipulated due dates and hence were not processed by the SWFS administration and were placed before the WSC for its consideration, which was not approved by the WSC. He further stated that the seafarer expired within the stipulated period from the date of sign-off from the vessel and his nominee wife is eligible, however due to non-submission of application within due date of submission of application, she did not get the benefit under the Survival Benefit Scheme, such eligible cases may also be considered under this Amrut Kal scheme for the spouses of the deceased seafarers.

4.2.1. The point was placed before the other COM members and Capt. Shukla, Capt. Tandon, Capt. Sujit Churi, Capt. K. Sajnani, Shri M. Kandalgaonkar, Shri Sunil Nair, Shri Ranade, consented to the views of Capt. Halbe to consider such cases in the eligibility criteria of the scheme for spouses.

4.2.2. Capt. S.M. Halbe further raised the issue, that the inclusion of those spouses under this Amrut Kal Celebration scheme, if the spouses claim the benefit under the SBS also which was not considered as per the Rules of the SBS for non-receipt of application within the stipulated due date. The COM Members after deliberation and discussion concluded that the SBS scheme and this Amrut Kal Celebration Scheme are two different

schemes and as per the rules of the SBS scheme their application was not considered and the stand taken by the SWFS remains same.

4.2.3. The Vice-chairman desired to know the projections made for the beneficiaries and the budget for the scheme. It was informed that for the Scheme for Spouses the database is already available with the SWFS for roughly 7500 actual beneficiaries and additional 2500 beneficiaries are considered over and above and as such it is expected that the society may receive approx. 10000 applications and each eligible beneficiary will be paid Rs. 25000/- thus the projected outflow of Rs. 25 crores is made for this scheme. The COM Members noted the details and agreed to make the budget provision for this scheme.

4.2.4. The Member Secretary requested for views of the Chairman and the Chairman has consented to the views taken by the COM members and approved the scheme for Spouses of the deceased seafarers with amendment as agreed by all the COM Members.

4.3. Scheme for Super Senior Seafarers: The COM members after going through the scheme details/ rules agreed for the eligibility criteria and the quantum of the financial assistance to be provided.

4.3.1. Capt. Tandon raised the issue, if the seafarer completes his 75 years during the window period i.e. in between 26.1.2024 to 25.1.2025. The matter was deliberated in detail and it was informed that this scheme is one time limited period scheme for celebration of Amrut Kal Period, thereby bestowing to those seafarers who are 75 years and above on or before 26.1.2024, by providing some sort of financial assistance. And the window period is given in the scheme rules / details, is for submission of application to the SWFS, which is one year normally made applicable for other SWFS welfare schemes. The COM Members agreed to the eligibility criteria given in the scheme rules and no further amendments suggested.

4.3.2. Vice-Chairman noted that the window period for submission of application given in both the schemes i.e. 26.1.2024 to 26.1.2025 and both days are Public Holiday and suggested to change the same as 26.1.2024 to 25.1.2025. All the COM Members consented for the same.

4.3.3. Capt. Halbe informed that the database of the super senior seafarers is not readily available and hence only projection of 10000 beneficiaries and outflow under this scheme is projected at Rs. 25 crores, which may be considered by the COM Members. The COM members agreed to make the provision of Rs. 25 crores for the scheme for Super Senior Seafarers.

4.3.4. The Member Secretary requested for views of the Chairman and the Chairman has consented to the views taken by the COM members and approved the scheme for Super Senior Seafarers with amendment as agreed by all the COM Members.

4.4. Capt. Halbe suggested that both the schemes be inaugurated on 26.1.2024 by the Chairman-SWFS, as the office will be functioning on that day for flag hosting ceremony. Vice-Chairman suggested that the symbolic cheques can be made to be presented during the function to be given to the beneficiaries.

4.4.1. The Member Secretary informed that the Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways, GoI, is going to inaugurate the Maritime Single Window in the function to be organised by the Indian Ports Association and in that function we may request the Hon'ble Minister to launch those two schemes, however the date for the function is not yet finalised. The Chairman suggested to write a DO letter in this connection, to get his convenient time, if agreed and requested the Member Secretary to prepare a DO letter and submit the Chairman.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Member present at the 96th meeting of the Committee of Management of the Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society held on 16.1.2024 at Mumbai on hybrid mode.

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| 1. | Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS,
Director General of Shipping, Gol. | : Chairman |
| 2. | Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar
Addl. Director General of Shipping, | : Vice-Chairman |
| 3. | Capt. Daniel Jhon Joseph,
Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew Br.) | : Member Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Mukul Dutta.
Shipping Master, Govt. Shipping Office, Mumbai. | : Member Treasurer |
| 5. | Capt. Kenneth Sajnani | : Member |
| 6. | Capt. Sujit Churi | : Member |
| 7. | Capt. S.M. Halbe | : Attended on behalf of
Capt. Carvalho |
| 8. | Capt. Rajesh Tandon | : Co-opted Member |
| 9. | Capt. Sankalp Shukla | : Co-opted Member |
| 10. | Shri Milind Kandalgaonkar | : Member |
| 11. | Shri Sunil Nair | : Member |
| 12. | Shri Ranade | : Attended on behalf of
Capt. Pradhan |
