

**MINUTES OF THE 97TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT OF THE SWFS HELD ON 29/04/2024.**

1. The 97th meeting of the Committee of Management of the Seafarers Welfare Fund Society was held on 29/04/2024 @ 4.30 p.m. in the conference hall of the O/o the Directorate General of Shipping, Kanjurmarg, Mumbai on hybrid mode. The meeting was presided over by Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping & Chairman of the Committee of Management of the Seafarers Welfare Fund Society.

2. The list of participants who attended the meeting is placed at Annexure-I hereto. Leave of absence was granted to Shri Mandeep Singh Randhawa, Director (MA & MT), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India and Capt.M.K. Patankar Member. Capt. S.M. Halbe attended the meeting on behalf of Capt. M. Patankar. The meeting was attended online by Capt Kenneth Sajnani, Capt Sujit Churi and Capt Tushar Pradan and Capt. Sankalp Shukla.

3. The Member Secretary welcomed all the members who attended the meeting and the agenda items were taken up for discussions and following is the brief of the deliberations/ discussions and decisions taken during the meeting.

4. **Agenda Item No.1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 95th and 96th COM Meeting held on 10.12.2023 and 16.1.2024.**

The Member Secretary informed that the minutes of the 95th and 96th meeting of the Committee of Management (the COM) were forwarded to the members of the COM and no specific comments received from any COM member till date. The COM members gone through the minutes of the 95th and 96th COM meetings and concurred with the minutes and confirmed the same.

5. **Agenda Item No. 2 : To approve the Action taken report on decision taken in 95th and 96th COM Meeting held on 12.12.2023 & 16.01.2024.**

5.1. After going through the details of action taken by the SWFS, the COM approved the ATR.

6. Agenda Item No.3: To consider and approve ‘Medical Insurance Assistance Scheme’ for Seafarers and spouse of deceased seafarers, as recommended by the Welfare Sub-Committee.

6.1. The COM after going through the ‘Medical Insurance Assistance Scheme’ details, rules & eligibility criteria and the financial assistance to be provided by way of re-imbursement of 50% of Medical Insurance Premium or ₹.2,000/- whichever is less, as recommended by the WSC agreed to it. The scheme details are attached herewith for reference to the COM members. (Annexure-II) Regarding launching of the scheme during the ongoing election period the Committee decided to launch the said scheme in June 2024 after the withdrawal of code of conduct for election declared.

7. Agenda Item No. 4 : To consider & approve the recommendations of the Welfare Sub-Committee for enhancing the financial assistance under the (i) Survival benefit Scheme and (ii) Invalidity benefit Scheme.

7.1. The members of the COM have gone through the details given in the agenda and the recommendation made by the WSC.

7.2 The Chairman observed that the justification for enhancing the financial assistance is not given in the WSC meeting minutes and hence the Chairman requested for justification for increase in financial Assistance. Capt. Halbe informed that the SWFS implemented the welfare schemes called (i) Survival Benefit Scheme (SBS) & (ii) Invalidity Benefit Scheme (IBS) on 21.08.2014 after obtaining the approval from the COM. At the time of implementation of above two schemes the COM decided to remit the financial assistance of ₹.One lac to eligible applicant. Thereafter on the review and recommendation of the Welfare Sub-Committee (WSC) the COM has decided to increase the financial assistance from ₹.One lac to ₹.Two lacs w.e.f. 16.3.2016. The WSC has reviewed both the schemes in its meeting held on 06/03/2024 and after going through the number of eligible beneficiaries to whom the financial assistance was paid since inception and the available Welfare Fund Corpus as on 31/12/2023 was ₹.550 Crores the WSC decided to enhance the financial assistance under both the schemes as given in the COM meeting agenda.

7.3 The COM further asked for the justification of enhancing the financial assistance in IBS from ₹.Two lacs to ₹.Six Lacs which is more than the SBS, to this Capt. Halbe justified it by saying that the seafarer becomes permanently unfit for the seafaring profession and it is very hard to survive than in death case.

7.4 After the discussion the Chairman alongwith all COM members agreed to the recommendation of WSC to enhance the financial benefit from ₹Two lacs to ₹.Four Lacs under 'Survival Benefit Scheme' in respect of date of death of seafarers from prospective date i.e. from today 29/04/2024 onwards and to enhance the financial benefit from ₹.Two lacs to ₹.Six Lacs under the 'Invalidity Benefit Scheme' in respect of seafarers who becomes permanently unfit due to accidental injury which occurs from the date of approval given by the COM i.e. w.e.f. 29/04/2024..

8. Agenda Item No. 5 : To appraise the COM Members about the implementation of two new welfare schemes for (i) Super Senior Seafarers and (ii) Spouses of deceased seafarers on the occasion of celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahostav'.

The members of the COM have noted the details of the agenda. The Chairman expressed happiness for the responsible work done by SWFS for taking action on application within 15 days of receipt of application

9. Agenda Item No. 6 : To consider and approve the proportionate expenses for Global Maritime India Summit – 2023 held in Mumbai.

9.1 The Chairman informed that the D.G. Shipping has already made the payment of GMIS event and informed the Committee to drop this agenda.

10. Agenda Item No. 7 : To consider and approve the SWFS – Enterprise Resource Planning (SWFS – ERP) project for automation of key activities of the SWFS.

10.1 The COM members after going through the details and deliberation has given the formal approval for implementation of SWFS-ERP project. The Chairman directed the Member Secretary to initiate the steps for project for which the initial internal meeting to be called immediately.

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11. Agenda Item No. 8 : To consider and approve for continuation of fixed medical allowance to SWFS employees and revision of fixed medical allowance at par with EPFO and other recommendations made by the Special committee set-up by the COM.

11.1. The members of the COM after going through the report of the Special Committee regarding 'Fixed Medical Allowance' to the SWFS employees and ex-employees and its recommendation and after discussion and deliberation unanimously accepted all the recommendation made by Special Committee. The decisions of the Committee of Management are given below:

1. As the SWFS employees are not covered under the CGHS scheme, the Committee of Management (the COM) has agreed to restore the fixed medical allowance on monthly basis to SWFS employees which was discontinued w.e.f. 1.6.2022 and pay the same immediately.

2. The committee of Management further approved enhancing the fixed monthly medical allowance from ₹.1,200/- to ₹.2,000/-p.m. w.e.f. 1.3.2013 at par with the EPFO, for meeting domiciliary/OPD medical treatment expenses and to pay the arrears for the said period to all eligible employees.

3. the Committee of Management further approved that w.e.f. financial year 2024-25 i.e. From 01.04.2024 the fixed medical allowance benefit at par with the regular employees, be also provided only to the retired employees, who are/were retired after the completion of their age of 58/60 years as applicable, against the submission of prescribed self-declaration certificate on yearly basis after the completion of the financial year. This benefit may not be extended to their family members, after the death of retired employee.

4. The Committee of Management agreed that henceforth the revision of Fixed Medical Allowance be made at par with EPFO.

5. The Committee of Management approved that the reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses to be continued as per existing facility i.e. Reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses as per rates prescribed under the medical attendance rules amended from time to time for Mumbai Region Central Government Employees.

6. The Committee of Management approved for the reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses benefit also be extended to retired employees of the SWFS, who are/ were retired after the completion of their age of 58/60 years as applicable, as per existing facility available for regular employees i.e. reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses as per rates prescribed under the medical attendance rules amended from time to time for Mumbai region central government employees. The retired employees can claim the reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses for self and for spouse only, against submission of original bills, as per prescribed claim format. This benefit may not be extended to their family members, after the death of retired employee.

12. Agenda Item No. 9 : To appraise the members about the present status of various litigations/ cases filed against SWF Society

12.1 The Members of the COM have gone through the statement provided in the agenda and noted the same.

13. Any other items:

13.1 The Chairman has informed that the SWFS is an Autonomous Society set up and administratively controlled by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Govt. of India and hence the General Financial Rules(GFR) are applicable to it.

13.2 The Chairman directed that for incurring expenses i.e. ‘revenue and capital’ there should be Budget Manual which is to be prepared on priority basis. Further regarding procural of goods and services, he directed Member Secretary & Member Treasurer to get them registered in GEM/CPMP as HoD and DDO for SWFS.

13.3 Further he informed that (i) Sagar Me Yog (ii) for lady seafarers ‘Sagar me Samman’ (iii) Seafarers Welfare at Port for which the D.G. Shipping has issued orders recently for formation of “Seafarers Welfare Board Audit Team (SWBAT)” with a mandate to inspect the welfare facilities Provided in the Ports (iv) To connect with seafarers (v) D.G. Shipping 75th year’s celebration and (vi) SWFS staff training & welfare, for which the necessary output by way of actions from SWFS are expected and the Chairman directed that Welfare Sub-Committee may discuss all above six issues and submit its report before the COM.

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

(Annexure – I)

Member present at the 97th meeting of the Committee of Management of the Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society held on 29/04/2024 at Mumbai on hybrid mode.

1.	Shri. Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping	Chairman
2.	Capt. Daniel Joseph, Dy. Director General of Shipping	Member Secretary
3.	Shri. Mukul Dutta, Shipping Master, Mumbai	Member Treasurer
4.	Capt. Sujit Churi	Member- online
5.	Capt. Kenneth G. Sajnani	Member- online
6.	Capt. C. Carvalho	Member
7.	Capt. S.M. Halbe	Attended on behalf of Capt. M.K. Patankar
8.	Capt. Som Raj	Member
9.	Shri. Milind V Kandalgaonkar	Member
10.	Shri Sunil V. Nair	Member
11.	Capt. Tushar Pradhan	Member- online
12.	Capt. Rajesh Tandon	Coopted Member
13.	Capt. Sankalp Shukla	Coopted Member- online
