Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
Prime Ministers’ Office,

New Delhi.

Respected Prime Minister,

Sub :      **Announcement in Budget 2020 – Injustice to NRI Indian seafarers**

**Request Roll back of benefits to Seafarers**

We are merchant navy seafarers Officers working on ships in the high seas.  We brave the storms, inclement weather conditions and rough seas and lately are also victims of piracy and armed robbery.  But we carry on our work with passion and integrity.  Seafarers are called the **“Second line of Defence”**.  We play an effective and constructive role during war and peace times.  It was the Indian seafarers who kept the life line open during conflicts so that the export and import of the Indian economy does not suffer.  It was the Indian seafarers who have assisted in natural calamities like floods, earthquakes, famine etc.  Indian seafarers are also big foreign exchange earners.  For decades, Indian seafarers have always enjoyed tax benefits available if they qualify for the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) status.

The Budget 2020 placed in the Indian Parliament has shattered all our hopes.  We will now have to have minimum 240 days outside India instead of present 183 days to qualify for NRI status.  And even if we qualify for NRI status we will be treated as resident Indians and taxed as we are a floating Indian population and do not pay tax in any other country.

This is injustice to all Indian seafarers.  We request you to kindly :

treat the Indian seafarers as a special workforce and allow us to retain the existing benefits available to us before the Budget 2020 which is 183 days outside India for NRI status

and on qualifying for NRI status, no income tax on our income as we are a floating population which is unique to our profession.

We are hopeful of your positive response in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Name of the seafarer :

CDC No.:

Rank :

Email id :

Mobile number :

Name of the Ship / on leave :

Date:

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**Email to PMO Office Email Id :****connect@mygov.nic.in****;** **narendramodi1234@gmail.com**

**and copy to :**

**mansukh.mandaviya@sansad.nic.in** **Honorable Minister of State (Shipping)**

**and**

**petition@maritimeunionofindia.com**