

THE MARITIME UNION OF INDIA

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All Indian Seafarers who sail on Indian and Foreign flag ships get relief in Income Tax Rules

The Finance Bill placed in the Parliament on 01 February, 2020 posed unexpected disadvantage in terms of (1) Seafarers qualifying as NRI (proposed 240 days in place of 182 days) (2) payment of income tax in if the same is not paid in any other country.

You will recall that The Maritime Union of India (MUI) and National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) had requested all seafarers to send a Petition as a protest against the above mentioned proposals at petition@maritimeunionofindia.com addressed to the Honourable Prime Minister and Honourable Minister for Shipping. In response, we received thousands of such petitions from all ranks of seafarers. MUI met honourable Minister of Shipping Shri Mansukh Mandaviya on 20 February, 2020 in New Delhi to put forth our strong view on the matter, who assured us that he will take up this matter with the Ministry of Finance. We were also supported by ship owners, ship managers associations in this matter.

MUI is now privileged to inform that the budget was finalized on 23 March, 2020 and both demands of MUI have been fulfilled :

- (1) Continuation of the existing rule of being outside India for 182 days to qualify as NRI;
- (2) No payment of income tax by seafarers who qualify as NRIs (even if they do not pay income tax in any other country).

The Maritime Union of India would like to thank all Seafarers, have expressed their support and displayed confidence in MUI and NUSI to accomplish this achievement.

We would like to place on record our thanks to Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Honourable Minister of Shipping, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya.

As conveyed earlier, we also await a formal declaration in the form of circular/s clarifying the above two points specifically for our Seafarers. We are pursuing the matter in this direction which act as an additional and CONCLUSIVE assurance for our dear Seafarers in the present, near future and beyond.

Meanwhile, I would not be doing justice if MUI does not place on record its acknowledgement and appreciation for the work all Seafarers are carrying out in the midst of entire countries being shut down because of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Your ongoing work on ships which is 24/7, is keeping the worlds lifelines running. Thank You All Seafarers. I would request you to convey everyones appreciation to your families back home. They too are the "heroes", taking care of your families and homes with confidence, commitment and strength.

Best Regards

Sd/-
Amar Singh Thakur
General Secretary