

23rd March, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sub : Update 5 – Budget 2020

CORONA se Duniya Bhaybheet – Income Tax mamle me seafarers ki jeet

Victory in income tax matter for all our Officers, Petty Officers and Ratings serving on all Indian and foreign flag ships of all types (Including Cruise ships, rigs, platforms out of India etc)

You are aware that the Budget 2020 was placed in the Indian Parliament on 1st February, 2020. The same was **harmful** to all our seafarers on two counts:

1. **Non-Resident period was increased from 182 days to 240 days and**
2. **30 percent income tax if seafarers do not pay tax in any other country.**

You are aware that **National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI)** had asked all seafarers to send a protest petition against the Budget 2020 at nusi@nusi.org.in. Thousands and thousands and thousands of **petitions were received** by NUSI from all ranks of seafarers. NUSI got overwhelming support to fight for a just cause. NUSI **strongly** took up the matter with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Shipping and many Members of Parliament with legal opinion from the highly respected and prestigious CNK & Associates LLP.

I also took up the matter personally with Shri P.K. Sinha, Principal Advisor to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

NUSI alongwith MUI also met Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Shipping on 20th February, 2020 in New Delhi. Shri Mandaviya gave his personal assurance to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. **We thank him for his support and pro-active action.** We were also supported by the shipowners, shipmanager associations in this income tax matter.

NUSI had also kept all of you aware about the developments vide our

- Circular – Budget 2020 dated 1st February, 2020
- Update – Budget 2020 dated 17th February, 2020
- Update 2 – Budget 2020 dated 19th February, 2020
- Update 3 – Budget 2020 dated 20th February, 2020
- Update 4 – Budget 2020 dated 2nd March, 2020

I am now happy and very pleased to inform you that today, the Budget was finalised and **both the demands** of NUSI (1) to **retain 182 days** for Non Resident Status of seafarers and (2) No tax on Non Resident **seafarers foreign income** if they do not pay tax in any other country **has been agreed**. The finer details of the

clarification will follow in Update 6 – Budget 2020 which will be explained by CNK & Associates LLP, the legal tax advisors of NUSI.

All this was possible because of the trust, support, conviction and confidence of the seafarers have on **NUSI** and **MUI**.

This is a great victory of NUSI on behalf of the seafarers. We thank Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

NUSI is going to **compile** this historic achievement in a booklet. If you have any message for NUSI to be part of the compilation, then do send it on nusi@nusi.org.in so that it can be **included** in the booklet.

In the time of CORONA where the lands of the whole world are locked, it is only you, the seafarers who are working on the high seas and keep the lifeline of the world open and running.

NUSI salutes the seafarers and their family for this commitment and sacrifices which is unparalleled.

Warm regards,

Abdulgani Y. Serang,

General Secretary – cum – Treasurer
National Union of Seafarers of India
Executive Board Member – ITF
Vice-Chair, Seafarers Section, ITF Asia Pacific Region
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