

DGMA initiates investigation and regulatory action in Seafarer Welfare Matter

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The Directorate General of Maritime Affairs (DGMA) takes cognizance of the recent incident involving the missing organs of a deceased Indian seafarer whose mortal remains were received, and has initiated appropriate measures to ensure a fair, transparent, and comprehensive examination of the matter.

As part of the immediate response, the concerned Recruitment and Placement Service License (RPSL) agency has been directed to submit all relevant records and documentation pertaining to the seafarers involved. A preliminary examination has been undertaken, and verification of the available information with the competent authorities is currently in progress.

Recognizing the seriousness of the matter, DGMA has also formally taken up the issue with the Superintendent of Police of the concerned jurisdiction for investigation into the prima facie allegations and for initiating appropriate legal action, wherever warranted.

To ensure an independent and objective assessment, DGMA has nominated two surveyors to conduct an enquiry in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference. The enquiry team has been directed to submit a factual report within ten working days, following which the findings will be examined and taken up with the appropriate authorities for necessary action.

DGMA continues to closely monitor the developments and remains steadfast in its role as the custodian and guardian of the interests and welfare of Indian seafarers and their next of kin (NOK). The Directorate urges all stakeholders, including members of the media, to exercise restraint and refrain from disseminating unverified or inaccurate information that may cause unnecessary distress or undermine public confidence.

The Directorate further reiterates that any violation of the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) or any other applicable national or international conventions governing the welfare, certification, and rights of seafarers will be dealt with firmly and in accordance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework.

DGMA appeals to all stakeholders to rely only on verified and authentic information and to avoid the circulation of rumours or speculative reports that may adversely affect the mental well-being of Indian seafarers and their families. The Directorate remains committed to safeguarding the rights, dignity, and welfare of Indian seafarers through timely intervention, due process, and strict regulatory oversight.

Source - DG Shipping/ EdgarCoelho / DineshYadav

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