

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sub: Annuity Scheme for Seafarers
Suggestion to increase Provident Fund Money
Scholarship Grant for Children of Ratings / Petty Officers
Interest free loan to Ratings to become Officers

In the 116th meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation (SPF) held on 7th September 2010, an important decision was finalized regarding the Annuity Scheme for serving seafarers. NUSI has been fighting very hard to start this Annuity Scheme for the benefit of the seafarers and their families, when they are no longer in service. **NUSI had strongly written letter no SPF/31/586/2008 dated 26th December 2008, regarding the Annuity Scheme for Seafarers, which was discussed in the 110th Meeting of the SPF.** The process of starting the discussion of Annuity scheme for seafarers was then started by the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation. **For the past nearly 2 years,** many meetings have taken place in which NUSI Vice-President Bro. Maruti Rethrekar and NUSI General Secretary-cum-Treasurer Bro. Abdulgani Y. Serang represented the Indian seafarers.

1. We are pleased to inform you that on 7th September, 2010 in the 116th Meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Seamen's Provident Fund has finally approved the **Contributory Annuity Scheme (CAS)** for seafarers unanimously as per rules and regulations. This scheme is now being sent to the law department of the Government of India in New Delhi. **Once the law department of the Government of India approves it then it will become official. NUSI is very happy because it was a long-pending desire to have a good retirement scheme for the seafarers as per guidelines.** We will keep you informed about the developments.
2. In the same meeting it was also suggested that the definition of the word 'Wages' should also include emoluments as per the Merchant Shipping Act. Presently the definition, as per the Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 'Wages' mean only basic and leave. **With the new suggestion more items in addition to basic and leave can be included for calculation of provident fund which is to the advantage of the seafarers.**
3. You are also aware that in the month of July the first batch of 68 seafarers were sanctioned the Scholarship Grant amounting to Rupees Fourteen Lakhs from the NMB Rehabilitation Trust for Indian Seafarers. Seafarers whose children are undergoing pre-sea training will also be eligible for the scholarship. A similar scholarship grant scheme for Petty Officers from the Merchant Navy Petty Officers Welfare Trust has been finalised. The children of retired or deceased Ratings and Petty Officers will also get the benefit of scholarship scheme from the NUSI / ITF Trust for Indian Seafarers. The scholarship scheme is as per the respective guidelines.
4. Another scheme is providing financial support in the form of an interest free loan as per guidelines of the NUSI / ITF Trust for Indian Seafarers to the Ratings to become Officers. We are receiving applications from the aspiring Ratings who wish to become Officers.

Seafarers and their families are very happy due to the welfare schemes initiated by NUSI and have sent their best wishes in large numbers

If you want to give your feedback, then feel free to get in touch with your union NUSI by email nusi@vsnl.com or ag.serang@yahoo.com

Long Live NUSI

Long Live Seamens Unity

Yours faithfully,



(Abdulgani Y. Serang)

General Secretary-cum-Treasurer

JAI HIND

JAI NAVIK

JAI NUSI