

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3041
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005
WELFARE OF SEAMEN
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the sea-going vessels of more than 200 GRT belonging to Lakshadweep Administration operated under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Administration implemented Part 7 of the Act relating to welfare of the seamen;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Lakshadweep Administration made any collective bargaining agreement;
- (f) if so, the details of Articles of Agreement made with seamen under section 100 of the above Act;
- (g) whether the Lakshadweep Administration implemented the Award of Paul Antony Tribunal and Ms. Kumud Bansal Tribunal;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) if not, the time by which the said awards are likely to be implemented ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration vessels are manned through three different manning systems as under :

(i) Manning by Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) : M.V. Tipu Sultan having passenger capacity of 658 is fully manned by Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.

(ii) Vessels are manned by officers of SCI with crew complement of UTL : (a) M.V Deepsettu with 140 passenger capacity (b) 60 MT oil; barge. (c) Inter island ferry vessels.

(iii) Full manning by Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. : (a) M.V.Barath Seema with 386 passenger and 160 MT Cargo capacity; (b) M.V.Aminidivi with 150 passenger and 25 M.T.cargo capacity; (c) M.V.Minicoy with 150 passenger and 25 M.T. Cargo capacity; and (d) 4 Nos. of cargo barges with 600 M.T. capacity per vessel.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. However, it is clarified that the UTL crew working on board Administration vessels as indicated against category No. (ii) above are regular Central Government employees appointed under CCS Rules enjoying all the benefits of the government service. As such, they are entitled for basic salary and allowances like DA, CCA, TA, SCA, HRA etc. as admissible to central government employees from time to time. Besides they are entitled to all other benefits including pensionary benefits under CCS Rules. Unlike crew engaged on roaster basis where the crew are required to sign on and sign off for each period of their engagement, the UTL crew by virtue of their being regular employees of the Administration are entitled for salary and allowances through out their services. There is no question of signing on or signing off in their case. They continue to get the salary and allowances through out their service like any other government servants whether they are working on board the ship of the Administration or on shore assignment. As such the question of implementing part 7 of the Act relating to welfare of the seamen does not arise. However, medical treatment facilities are available for them. Whenever on board, accommodation facilities are available to them and where on board accommodation is not available, then either rent free accommodation or HRA is allowed to them as per rules. However, no victualling allowance is allowed. In this connection, it may kindly be noted that United Territory of Lakshadweep crew are government employee and cannot simultaneously claim benefit under both CCS Rules and M.S.Act. However, in case of the crew appointed by SCI and LDCL in respect of ships operated by them, the Administration does not come in the picture so far as engagement of crew and related matters are concerned.

(e) & (f) No, Sir. Since UT crew are central government employees there is no question of negotiating with any union in respect of their salary and allowances which are to be determined under the relevant rules in accordance with the central pay commission's recommendations.

(g) to

(i) The Lakshadweep Administration has already implemented the under-mentioned provisions of the Paul Antony Tribunal which was exclusively constituted for UTL seamen. UTL crew is permitted OTA, Daily Allowance and sailing allowance in relaxation of Govt. Rules as follows : O.T.A :

(i) Upto a maximum of 240 Hrs. per month in case of ships sailing for more than 12 hours,

(ii) Upto a maximum of 150 Hrs. per month for ships for less than 12 Hrs. sailing per day. Daily Allowance : At the rate applicable to the next higher class of cities Sailing Allowance : (a) Rs. 40/- per day for more than 12 hrs. sailing; (b) Rs. 30 per day for less than 12 hrs. sailing.

As far as Ms.Kumud Bansal Tribunal is concerned, it is not related to UTL seamen.