It has been brought to knowledge of the Directorate that in a number of occasions, the Indian ship-owners are rendered at a disadvantage during the tendering process itself for employment of their vessels is foreign waters as certain foreign prospective charterers require their nationals to be employed, in varying stages, on board their chartered vessels during the currency of charter period. As such, Indian ship-owners lose valuable time in obtaining necessary dispensation from the DG Shipping on the subject matter and are disqualified at the bidding stage itself.

The matter has been examined in the Directorate and the Director General of Shipping, to facilitate and for the general benefit of Indian Shipping, vide powers granted under Section 456 of the MS Act, hereby grants prior authorization to Indian ship-owners for the purpose of signing, sealing and tendering qualifying bid in securing employment of Indian flag vessels by prospective foreign employers, where employment of their nationals as part of manning on Indian flag vessels is necessary, provided following conditions are maintained –

1. The vessel operates within the territorial waters including the EEZ of the country having such requirements and such manning is by that country’s nationals; and

2. the Master, Chief Engineer and radio operator of the Indian vessel shall be Indians and the radio communication equipment shall be operated by such officers who shall be in possession of a valid radio operator’s license (certificate of proficiency) issued by the Ministry of Communication; and

3. the requirement does not stipulate number of such foreign nationals deployment in excess of 50% of total minimum safe manning complement of the vessel during first one year of charter\(^1\); and

4. the ship-owner shall furnish a statement/undertaking to the Director General of Shipping, to the effect that prima-facie, there is no violation of Sec 86 of the M.S. Act and officers of such country largely fulfill the requirements and may be granted Certificate of Equivalence (CoE) under provisions of Regulation I/10 of
the STCW Convention 78 (as amended), on a subsequent date, in compliance of applicable procedure therein; and
5. the Indian ship-owners shall comply with the element of company’s responsibility under the provisions of ISM Code and Reg I/14 of STCW Convention 1978 (as amended).

The Director General of Shipping hereby authorizes issuance of this MS Notice in order to encourage Indian Ship owners to retain their vessels under Indian registry.

Yours faithfully,

(Capt. S.K. Shukla)
Dy. Nautical Advisor to the GOI

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1. If the charterer’s requirement is in excess of 50% of safe manning by their nationals, then prior exemption along with details of the case may be put up to the Directorate for consideration.

2. The procedure with respect to documentation will consist of self attested required copies of certificates / documents and a certification by the Master of the vessel that the necessary elements of Indian Maritime Law, company’s ISM Manuals and ship board familiarization have been successfully addressed.