Vide DGS order 1 of 2002 dated 5th February, 2002, the Director General of Shipping had stipulated minimum educational qualification of 'VIII standard passed' for the candidates who are natives of Minicoy Island and belong to Scheduled Tribe in relation to Union Territory of Lakshadweep for obtaining CDCs and for admission to Pre-Sea Training Courses for Deck, Engine and Saloon Ratings. This was done considering that these natives are studying in Mahal language upto 8th std. However, from 9th std. they have to compulsorily pass Malayalam language paper since they are attached to Kerala State Education Board. Malayalam is entirely different from Mahal, the language the natives are used to and in this process they find it difficult to pass the 10th std. examination as they do not speak or read Malayalam language at all in the native place. Consequently a majority of students drop out of the school after VII std. and go for shipping or fishing. In these special conditions and background, the time limit was extended for further period of 1 year vide DGS order 2 of 2005 dated 4th March, 2005.

On 27th January, 2006 an official meeting took place between the officers of Directorate General of Shipping and Administrator of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep at Kavarati. During the meeting, the Administration requested that the validity for relaxing standards of minimum education qualifications both for pre-sea admission to GP Rating course and issuance of CDC may be extended for further period of 3 years. The Administrator stated that they are shifting to CBSE Board from existing Kerala Board. This will take care of the problem of natives of Minicoy.

After careful consideration of the request made by the Administration, the Director General of Shipping and Secretary to the Government of India is pleased to extend the stipulation of minimum educational qualification of VIIIth Standard passed for obtaining CDCs and for admission to Pre-Sea Training Courses for G.P. Rating, to the candidates who are natives of Minicoy Island and belong to Scheduled Tribe in relation to Union Territory of Lakshadweep and produce a certificate in accordance with Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs letter No. BC-16014/1/82-SC and BCD-1 dated 6th August, 1984, to the effect that he is a member of Scheduled Tribe in relation to Union Territory of Lakshadweep, for a further period of 3 years from the date of issue of this order. The other conditions as stipulated in DGS order 1 of 2002 dated 5th February, 2002 shall remain applicable.

Sd/-

(G.S. Sahni)
Director General of Shipping &
Secretary to Govt. of India