REVIEW ON THE WORKING OF SEAMEN'S PROVIDENT FUND ORGANIZATION DURING THE YEAR 2024-25

INTRODUCTION

The Seamen's Provident Fund Scheme framed under the Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966 (4 of 1966) was introduced with effect from 01/07/1964 to provide for a Provident Fund for Merchant Navy Seamen. To administer this Scheme, the office of the Seamen's Provident Fund Commissioner was established on 9th July, 1966. Every seaman employed on Articles of Agreement, unless excluded by the definition of 'Seaman' under the Act or exempted by a specific order as provided under the Act, is entitled and is required to become a member of the Scheme.

During year 2024-25, the Seamen's Provident Fund Scheme covered about 122310 Seafarers' Accounts.

PROVIDENT FUND CONTRIBUTION

The Provident Fund Contribution received during the year 2024-25 amounted to Rs.262.95 crore against Rs.291.29 crore during 2023-24. The progressive total balance in the Provident Fund Account as on 31/03/2025 is Rs.3835.59 crore in comparison to Rs.3341.40 crore on 31.3.2024.

DAMAGES

In accordance with Section 18 of the Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966, the damages in the nature of penalty for delay/default in making payment of the contributions can be levied. An amount of Rs.0.65 crores was levied and recovered from the employers as damages for delayed payment of Provident Fund Contributions during the year 2024-25.

INVESTMENTS

The Provident Fund monies are invested as per pattern of investments prescribed by the Government of India from time to time. Investments/re-investments made during the year 2024-25 out of the contributions and interest proceeds were Rs.663.89 crores.

Sr. No.	Details	Book Value
1	**Central/State Government Securities**	**311.26**
2	**PSU/FI Bonds**	**249.81**
3	**Money Market Instruments**	**5.35**
4	**Mutual Fund/ Equity**	**97.47**
	TOTAL	**663.89**

INTEREST PAID TO MEMBERS

The interest earned during the year 2024-25 on the total investments amounted to Rs.255.37 crores (including accrued interest) as against Rs.232.53 crores (including accrued interest) during the previous year The interest rate for credit to the subscribers account was fixed at 7 % p.a. A sum of Rs.49.30 crores is the balance amount as on 31/03/2025 in the Interest Suspense Account after appropriation of credit of Rs.236.04 to the Members' Accounts for the year 2024-25.

WITHDRAWALS/ (FINAL & NON- REFUNDABLE)

A sum of Rs.71.06 crores was paid to the outgoing members during the year 2024-25 as against Rs.76.84 crores paid for the year 2023-24. The total 1429 accounts were closed in the year 2024-25 as against 3872 accounts closed during the year 2023-24

On the recommendation of the Seamen's Employment Office, seamen over 50 years of age are permitted to seek voluntary retirement and are allowed to withdraw full amount of the accumulated Provident Fund.

FORFEITURE

In the "Forfeiture Account" an amount of Rs.5.71 crores was kept invested. This amount is to be used for the welfare of the seamen and their families.

TRANSFER & EXEMPTION

No cases for transfer of accounts from this Organization to the new Employers of the seamen members concerned were received during the year under review under Section 19 of Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966. No exemption was allowed to any employer under Section 20 (1) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

A sum of Rs.9.21 crores was received as Administrative Charges including Damages as against Rs.9.29 crores during 2023-24. The expenditure was Rs.9.67 crores as against Rs.6.58 crores during 2023-24.

Considering other receipts (including interest) of Rs.1.85 crores as against Rs.0.69 crore of last year, surplus of Rs.2.16 was posted in 2024-25 against Rs.3.70 of 2023-24.