

RECEIVED ASSENT ON 12/12/49

Act No. LIII of 1949

~~[AS PASSED BY THE DOMINION LEGISLATURE]~~

~~AM~~  
~~BILL~~ Act

further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923 (XXI of 1923), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1949. 1x1

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint in this behalf.

2. **Amendment of the heading to sections 24 to 26, Act XXI of 1923.**—For the heading "*Licenses to supply Seamen*" appearing at the head of sections 24 to 26 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the heading "*Supply of Seamen*" shall be substituted.

3. **Insertion of new section 25A in Act XXI of 1923.**—After section 25 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"25A. *Seamen's Employment Offices for the supply of seamen.*—(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, establish at such ports as it thinks fit Seamen's Employment Offices for the purpose of engaging or supplying seamen for merchant ships and generally for regulating the supply of maritime labour.

(2) The Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, direct that at any port at which no separate Seamen's Employment Office is established under sub-section (1), the functions of the Seamen's Employment Office in that port shall be discharged by such person or body of persons as it may specify in the notification, and thereupon the person or body of persons so specified shall be deemed to be the Seamen's Employment Office established at that port within the meaning of this Act.

(3) Where there is in existence at any port a Seamen's Employment Office within the meaning of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), then, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other provision of this Act, no person shall receive or accept to be entered on board any ship any seaman unless such seaman has been engaged through or supplied by such Seamen's Employment Office.

(4) If any person receives or accepts to be entered on board any ship any seaman in contravention of the provisions of this section, he shall, for each seaman in respect of whom an offence is committed, be liable to a fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

(5) (a) The Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for the purpose of enabling Seamen's Employment Offices effectively to exercise its powers under this Act.

(b) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for—

(i) the consultation with respect to any specified matter by Seamen's Employment Offices with such advisory boards or other authorities as the Central Government may think fit to constitute or specify in this behalf;

*La 15-1-54, vide notifi. no. 890. 222, dt. 5-1-54, Gaz. of India 1954, Pt. II, Sec 3, p. 145.*