

# Sawaikar takes up seafarers' grievances

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Margao:** Commissioner of NRI affairs Narendra Sawaikar has written to Union minister of state for shipping, chemicals and fertilisers Mansukh Lal Mandaviya to take steps to ensure that employment of Goans whose INDOS (Indian National Database of Seafarers) number has been deactivated, is adequately protected. INDOS serves as a means to cross-check a seafarer's identity.

Sawaikar, in the letter, pointed out to the show cause notice issued by the director general of shipping to 3,762 Indian seafarers, including Goans, by which their INDOS numbers have been deactivated. "Due to deactivation, seafarers cannot depart from India as e-migrate clearance is linked to INDOS for all Indian seafarers," Sawaikar said in the letter.

He further pointed out that "such abrupt action of DG shipping has not only put the employment of 87 Goan seafarers' at risk, but has also brought bad image to hundreds of those already employed in the sector".