Subject: Garbage collection from ships calling at ports and reception facility to all the ships calling their ports on dealing with COVID-19 pandemic - reg.

1. The Directorate has received representations from shipping industry that certain ports are not providing permission for landing the garbage to shore reception facility in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. It may be noted that the Annex V Regulation 7(1) of International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) 1973 / 78 mandates the Government of each Party to the Convention undertakes to ensure the provision of facilities at ports and terminals for the reception of garbage, without causing undue delay to ships, and according to the needs of the ships using them. Also, section 7(1) of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Garbage from Ships) Rules 2009 mandates that Central Government shall ensure that adequate reception facilities are provided at ports and terminals for the reception of garbage, without causing undue delay to ships.

3. It may also be noted that this matter of landing garbage ashore due to the COVID-19 pandemic was considered and para 5.2 DGS Order No. 02 of 2020 dated 16.03.2020 addresses the issue. The said para 5.2 DGS Order No. 02 of 2020 dated 16.03.2020 is as follows: “Garbage required to be landed ashore from vessels may need to be properly disinfected to ensure that there is no possibility of transmission of the COVID-19 disease from the landed garbage.”

4. In view of the foregoing paras, all concerned shall comply after taking adequate precautions with the aforesaid para 5.2 of DGS Order No. 02 of 2020 dated 16.03.2020.

5. This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India.

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