Bill Summary

The Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013

- **Apprenticeship**: The Act allows boys of age 15 and above to be employed as apprentices on a ship. The Bill proposes to raise the minimum age to 16 and allow girls to be employed as apprentices as well.

- **Employment of children**: The Act prohibits employment of a person below the age of 14 on a ship except: (i) on a training ship, (ii) on a ship where all the employees belong to the same family, (iii) on a ship engaged in short voyages and (iv) on nominal wages and under the charge of his father or other adult near male relative. The Bill entirely prohibits employment of a person below the age of 16.

- **Employment of minors**: The Bill prohibits engaging minors in night work. The Act allows minors to be engaged as trimmers or stokers under certain conditions.

- **Food and drinking water**: The Act stipulates that every ship shall have sufficient provisions of food and drinking water as per the provisions of the Convention. He shall also undertake educational activities to promote awareness and implementation of these standards.

- **Medical facilities**: The Act specifies that every foreign-going ship carrying more than the prescribed number of persons should have a qualified medical officer on-board. The Bill adds that every foreign-going ship carrying less than the prescribed number of persons shall have medical facilities on-board, as prescribed in the Convention.

- **Maritime Labour Certificate**: The Bill states that every ship: (i) with gross tonnage of 500 or above, and (ii) voyaging internationally or operating in another country, shall require a Maritime Labour Certificate and a Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance. The government shall prescribe the manner and form of the Certificate required for other ships. It also empowers an authorised government official to inspect a ship for possession of the Certificate and the Declaration.