



# NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI / 26-1

20 March 2020

Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman  
Hon'ble Finance Minister  
Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
136-A, North Block  
New Delhi – 110001  
Email: [fmo@nic.in](mailto:fmo@nic.in) ; [appointment.fm@gov.in](mailto:appointment.fm@gov.in)

**Subject: Request For A Virtual Meeting To Discuss Urgent Issues Related To The Restaurant Industry**

Hon'ble Minister,

1. Greetings from **National Restaurant Association of India**. NRAI is the Indian Restaurant Industry's leading Association. Founded in 1982 and headquartered in Delhi, we are the **Voice of the Restaurant Industry** representing the interests of 5,00,000+ restaurants pan India. The Restaurant Industry, with an annual turnover of ~ INR 4 Lakh Crore is the third largest after Retail and Insurance in the service segment, providing direct employment to over 7 million Indians.
2. At the outset, we would like to **appreciate and thank your Government's initiatives in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic**, and the announcement of Economic Package for various segments. However, the Restaurant Industry was not covered in the current series of announcement made in this regard. We are sure that you have the interests of the industry in mind, and therefore would like to put up the following points for your consideration please.
  - a) **Employment Support**  
Request an unemployment pay support for our lower end employees through ESIC under the current circumstances. **(Support to the marginalized)**
  - b) **Working Capital Support**  
Request to provide working capital support at the lowest possible interest, close to the repo rates, with a six month moratorium for the Non-MSME Restaurant Industry. **(Liquidity support)**
  - c) **Force Majeure towards rent**  
Current pandemic being one of the worst human crisis ever, request you to kindly declare this as a case of force majeure. **(Policy cum Liquidity support)**
  - d) **E-Commerce Support**  
Request covering the food service aggregators under the purview of Press Note-2 of December-2018 by the Union Commerce Ministry to protect the interests of lakhs of small and medium size restaurants. Propose cap on platform-led discount and limitation in commission. **(Policy support)**

**ANURAG KATRIAR**  
Executive Director & CEO  
deGustibus Hospitality  
Pvt. Ltd.  
**President**

**KABIR SURI**  
Co-Founder & Director  
Azure Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.  
**Vice President**

**PRATIK POTA**  
CEO  
Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd.  
**Hony. Secretary**

**NITIN SALUJA**  
Founder Chaayos  
Sunshine Teahouse  
Pvt. Ltd.  
**Hony. Jt. Secretary**

**MANPREET SINGH**  
Director  
K S Hotels Pvt. Ltd.  
**Hony. Treasurer**

**PRAKUL KUMAR**  
**Secretary General**



## NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

e) **GST**

Request for allowing an option to avail Input Tax Credit (ITC) on GST for the Restaurant Industry. We can have two rates, current 5% for those not availing ITC and 12% for those availing ITC. **(Policy support)**

f) **Refund of Pending Income Tax dues**

Request you to kindly facilitate an immediate processing of refund for all the pending income tax claims at the earliest. **(Liquidity support)**

g) **Restaurant Licensing**

Requesting for a policy ensuring that all licensing authorities across the nation may please be requested to extend the current tenure of license by 12 months with no additional payment of fee. **(Liquidity support)**

3. While we all sincerely hope for a quick normalisation of the situation, we would like to state that the food service industry, already battling through tough times for the past couple of years, is now **facing a challenge of mere survival**. We are staring at unmeasurable losses, prospect of several businesses closing down and most importantly, a scary spectre of **job loss to millions in the sector** employing more than seven million people.
4. **These are unprecedented times**. While we totally understand that the healthcare of people and preventing spread of the deadly Corona Virus should be the top priority of the Government at this hour, we also need to protect our businesses from total ruin. **It is a matter of our survival**. We need these urgent measures so that we live to fight subsequent battles for revival of the restaurant industry.
5. We sincerely request you to consider the above suggestions favourably and give necessary directions for their quick implementation. **We also request for your time for a virtual meeting at your earliest convenience** to explain the seriousness of this matter in greater details.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

**Anurag Katriar**  
**President**  
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**Rahul Singh**  
**Immediate Past President**  
**& Trustee**

**Riyaaz Amlani**  
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**Anjan Chatterjee**  
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