



NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI/26-1

1 July 2020

To
The Honourable Excise Commissioner
Bengaluru

Dear Sir,

We write to you as the largest representative body of bars and restaurants in India in general, and the city of Bangalore in particular. Ever since the imposition of a nation-wide lockdown in March 2020 by the Govt. of India, holders of CL-9 licenses have been unable to utilize their licenses as intended, and have suffered tremendous losses. Even as on date, we are not permitted to utilize the licenses as they were originally intended at the time of grant. We therefore wrote to your good office and the office of the Hon'ble Minister for Excise, Govt. of Karnataka, seeking your kind intervention and support to ensure that the bar and restaurant industry does not face financial ruin. More particularly, we had sought your co-operation to ensure that the CL-9 licenses for the year 2019-20 be extended in validity for a period corresponding with the time for which the said licenses were rendered incapable of use. We had also proposed other relief measures to ensure public safety and entrepreneurial stability.

Regrettably, we were unable to secure any response from you to our representations, and learned that a demand was made by your office for payment of license renewal fees, notwithstanding the CL-9 licenses were rendered ineffective and beyond commercial use by virtue of the lockdown imposed by the Govt. of India. In view of the non-consideration of our representation to you and the Hon'ble Minister of Excise, Govt. of Karnataka, we were compelled to file a Writ Petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka on 24/06/2020 seeking a writ in the nature of mandamus directing you to consider our representation, and interim protection from any coercive action being taken by you against our member establishments.

We are informed by our legal counsel that our petition is numbered F.R. No. 9023/2020 and that the office of the learned Advocate General of Karnataka has been served with a copy of our petition. We are also informed that the petition is likely to be heard by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in a few days' time.



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Under the circumstances, we respectfully request you not to take any coercive action against any of our member establishments until our petition is adjudicated by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka.

We reiterate that we have the utmost respect for the rule of law, and in the spirit of fairness, our member establishments who have not applied for renewal of CL-9 licenses will strictly abstain from sale of alcohol to patrons until appropriate directions are issued by the Hon'ble High Court. However, keeping in mind the grave financial difficulties being faced by our members and the large number of employees and migrant workers who are engaged in the bar and restaurant industry, we request you to kindly permit us to sell food at our restaurant premises and to make the same available for home delivery, as it would enable us to meet some of the costs attached with the maintenance and upkeep of our establishments, and the retention of our employees. We hope you will empathize with our difficulties and oblige our request.

Thanks & Warm Regards,

Sincerely,

Manu Chandra
Chapter Head – Bengaluru
NRAI