



NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI/26-1

30 July 2020

Mr. Ashutosh Agnihotri
Union Joint Secretary Home &
Member, National Executive Committee (NEC)
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Hony. Jt. Secretary

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

PRAKUL KUMAR
Secretary General

UNLOCK 3 GUIDELINES – REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF TERM ‘BARS’ UNDER PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.

Dear Sir,

1. Greetings from National Restaurant Association of India. At the outset we would like to thank the Government for the steps taken in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, as also the opening up of activities as per the unlock measures. We write to you with reference to the Unlock 3 Guidelines issued vice your Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 29th July 2020, with a request for issuing clarification related to ‘Bars’ as is mentioned under the prohibited activities list.
2. While restaurant dine in has been permitted from 08th June onwards, the industry is not being permitted for liquor service along with dine in. This is due to a wrong interpretation by most states of the generic term ‘Bars’ as mentioned in the unlock guidelines. The following points are relevant:
 - a) The ministry’s guidelines around distinction of ‘Bars’ has created the present unfounded confusion of including dine in liquor service in restaurants under the prohibited list.
 - b) Retail sale of liquor was one of the first activities to be opened up in all states. It is pertinent to mention that it makes no difference if guests at a table consume food during dine in along with a soft drink, coffee or an alcoholic beverage.
 - c) The present restrictions are detrimental for all stakeholders—leading to losses for the business; revenue loss to the government; and above all a reduction in the overall consumer sentiment, which is most essential for increasing consumption and economic revival.
 - d) Opening up of the restaurant dine in sector across the world has been with full service of food along with liquor.



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3. In view of the above, it is requested that liquor service in restaurants during dine in should be delinked from the generic term 'Bars' as is mentioned in the guidelines. Some additional guidelines for the above may be included as mentioned below:

- a) Bar counters to remain closed for service across the counter.
- b) Liquor service be allowed only for dine in at the table.
- c) SOPs issued for dine in to be followed.

4. It is reiterated that the restaurant industry is one of the worst hit due to the pandemic, and is fighting for its mere survival. The above suggestions are critical to help restaurants recover quickly, as also for improving consumer sentiment.

5. It is therefore requested that a clarification be issued to permit liquor service in restaurants along with dine in. In order to further explain/discuss the issues, we request you to grant us time for an urgent meeting with you at your earliest convenience. We will be glad to hold the meeting in person, or online through video conferencing.

Thanking You,
Sincerely,

Prakul Kumar
Secretary General
For National Restaurant Association of India
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