

NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI / 2-12

16 August 2020

To,
Shri Manish Sisodia
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Delhi Secretariat
IP Estate
New Delhi – 110002
Email: msisodia.delhi@gov.in

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

REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF ORDER

No F. L-7/MISC/EX/IMFL/2020/943-949 Dt. 31-07-2020

Hon'ble Minister,

1. Greetings from the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). On the above captioned subject, please refer directions issued vide the excise department Order No.F.L-7/MISC/EX/IMFL/2020/943-949 Dt. 31-07-2020, regarding submission of various documents from licensees within 21 days, failing which concerned licenses will stand suspended. At the outset, we would like to state that the said order needs to be immediately reviewed in light of the following points as are given in succeeding paras.

2. As has been repeatedly mentioned and acknowledged, the restaurant industry has been one of the worst affected due to the ongoing pandemic and subsequent lock downs. We are thankful to the government for the steps initiated to help in the survival of the industry. Directions of the Hon'ble LG to help businesses, and formation of the special committee are welcome steps for this.

3. However, the above order has further added to the problems during these trying times. We therefore request that **implementation of this order be deferred till 31st March 2021**, due to the following reasons:

- All restaurants have not yet been able to start operations related to their excise licenses since the beginning of the financial year – despite many having paid the excise fee in advance. It is not clear when will these operations be permitted to start by the government. It is also not clear as to how many licensees will be able to restart their businesses – if at all.
- As and when such operations are allowed to start, businesses will need all the assistance possible to survive. Asking for such information – with consequences of license suspensions – is therefore not in the spirit of Hon'ble LG's directions for relief related to automatic extension of licenses etc.
- The stated documents are already submitted to various departments, and adding these additional requirements does not help in 'Ease of Doing



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Business'. This especially in light of the present crises due to COVID pandemic.

4. **While we seek overall extension of time till 31st March 2021**, points related to the specific documents required to be submitted are as follows:

- It is suggested that the no-dues certificate be replaced with submission of relevant returns and payment details. This will avoid the unnecessary contact of licensees with the departments.
- The industry is at the moment in a transition phase, where there are ongoing readjustments to business models and rental arrangements with landlords. Final outcomes will be dependent upon when operations are allowed to be restarted by the government.
- The requirement of submitting the affidavit proforma may be removed, and the same may please be replaced with submission of above stated tax deposit receipts

5. In view of the above, we once again request that **implementation of this order be deferred up to 31st March 2021**. This will go a long way in helping the restaurant industry to survive this pandemic and in restarting business operations. We will be glad to further explain/discuss the issues in detail as may be required.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Prakul Kumar
Secretary General
For National Restaurant Association of India
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