



# NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI/26-1

10 July 2020

To,

- 1. The Chief Secretary,  
Department of Excise,  
Govt. of Karnataka,  
Vikasa Soudha,  
Bengaluru - 560 001,**
  
- 2. The Commissioner,  
Department of Excise,  
II<sup>nd</sup> Floor, TTMC A Block,  
BMTC, Shanthinagar,  
Bengaluru - 560 027.**

**Re: Request for support to CL-9 license holders for the year 2020-21 in view of COVID-19 pandemic.**

Sirs,

I respectfully write to you as the Bangalore Chapter Head of the National Restaurant Association of India, a society registered under the provisions of the Societies Registration Act, 1860, seeking your gracious support in combating the economic challenges being faced by the restaurant industry, its direct dependants, and allied industries, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. More particularly, I write on behalf of those of our member establishments that had been granted CL-9 licenses for the period 01/07/2019 to 30/06/2020 by your kind offices.

As a direct consequence of the imposition of a nationwide lockdown from 24/03/2020 to combat the spread of COVID-19, our member restaurants were rendered unable to utilize the CL-9 licenses which were issued to them. We did our utmost to retain our employees and our places of business by discharging the wages, rentals, electricity, water and other associated charges. We also secured shelter and food for our employees, and over time, assisted those who wished to return to their hometowns in doing so. Several CL-9 License Holders dipped into our savings without any revenue being generated, thereby placing us at grave risk of bankruptcy. Under these difficult circumstances, we were called upon to apply for the renewal of CL-9 licenses, by depositing 50% of the advance annual fee before 30/06/2020, and a further 50% before 31/12/2020.



## NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

We respectfully bring to your kind attention that the CL-9 licenses which had been granted to us for the year 2019-20 were rendered un-usable for over three months, before their expiry on 30/06/2020. We implore you to grant us relief on this reasonable ground, and humbly ask that you waive 25 to 50% of the annual license fee for CL-9 licenses for the year 2020-21 and grant us sufficient time to make payment of the same as even as on date, CL-9 license holders are unable to utilize the licenses as originally envisaged.

Sirs, we make this *bona fide* request knowing well that our industry will continue to face challenges of survival in the weeks and months to come. We have taken note of bars and restaurants remaining closed across the world, and even those that reopened have been closed once again when COVID-19 infections began to rise in those regions. With infections continuing on an alarming upward trajectory in Bangalore, it is likely that our establishments may face closure for sanitization if our patrons or staff are found to have contracted COVID-19, or the region where our establishments are located may be rendered containment zones. Any such closure will keep patrons away from our establishments on account of their apprehensions about their health. It is also likely that the State or Union Govt. may impose further restrictions or lockdowns in order to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Sirs, we are in full acknowledgment of the onerous burden placed upon State authorities to restore order to the economy and also protect the health of citizens. We ask that the burden placed on CL-9 license holders in our various capacities as employers, tenants, purchasers of goods also be equally appreciated by you, and upon consideration of the challenges before us, relief of partial waiver of license fee for 2020-21 as sought for, be graciously granted to us. A list of our members who seek your support and who have been unable to apply for renewal of CL-9 license on account of grave financial distress is attached at Annexure 'A' hereto for your kind perusal and record.

Sirs, we also request you to graciously permit us to utilize open spaces and terrace spaces at our establishments to serve our patrons, as ventilated spaces are aligned with the safety of our customers, while closed spaces with lack of fresh air circulation pose a risk of infection. This will also enable us to maintain physical distance between patrons and further ensure their safety.

Sirs, if the restaurant industry is not given the timely support it needs, lakhs of citizens will be rendered unemployed, obligations towards creditors will go unmet, the agriculture, dairy and animal husbandry industries will be adversely affected, and a downward economic spiral will begin which will be difficult to arrest. We therefore, look to you for a small measure of support during this difficult time, to ensure



## NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

continuity and sustainability of the State's economy. We remind you of the large remittances made by our member establishments to the State exchequer through direct and indirect taxes and pray that the greater good outweigh the low-hanging fruit. We are pleased to report that bars and restaurants in Haryana, Odisha and Maharashtra have received support from the respective State Governments in the form of waiver, extension of time, etc., and we sincerely hope that you will kindly consider our requests, and provide us much-needed and timely relief. We would also appreciate an opportunity to meet with you at your availability and convenience, to discuss measures that balance our members' financial needs as well as those of the state exchequer in a fair and equitable manner.

We look forward to a positive response from you.

Thanks & Warm Regards,

Sincerely,

Manu Chandra  
Chapter Head – Bengaluru  
NRAI  
Tel: +919611147777