

HOTEL & RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF ODISHA

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21st October 2020

Sri Vishal Dev, IAS,

Commissioner-cum-Secretary,

Dept. of Tourism, Sports & YS,

Govt. of Odisha

Respected Sir,

While we express our sincere thanks and gratitude to you for sparing your precious time at the webinar held yesterday (20.10.20) we would like to bring to your kind notice the following few appeals raised by the hoteliers of Odisha for kind consideration of the Government at this pandemic situation.

1. Relaxation on bar licence on hotel on shop : Instead of exemption of Bar licence fee for two months, we appeal Bar Licence fee **should not be charged till Financial Year 2021 as all Bars are closed since 22nd March 2020. Even now the Bars are closed as per Govt. directive.**
2. Electricity bill to be converted to industrial tariff instead of commercial tariff : During this lockdown / shutdown period, the OERC is charging Minimum Demand Load and now increased electricity tariff by 20 paise by putting a big burden on the industry. Further, hotels have been declared as industry under the IPR and are eligible for industrial tariff on electricity, but hotels are deprived of availing such facility. **We, therefore, request your kind intervention for waiver of Minimum Demand Load and increased electricity tariff for a period of two years and grant of industrial tariff on electricity to the hotel industry.**
3. Since lockdown, i.e. from March 22, 2020, we have been following up for exemption of Municipal Corporation Holding Tax. We may request for **some special discounts may be declared on property for holding taxes.**

Sir, the tourism industry as you are aware has been badly affected during this COVID pandemic and neither the Central Government gave any relief to the tourism or to the hotel industry in the special economic relief package announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister nor the State Government came forward for extending any sort of assistance for the tourism industry of Odisha.

We appeal before your esteemed office for considering our appeals at the highest level for providing necessary assistance and confidence to the hospitality industry / travel trade for their survival at this pandemic situation and oblige.

Thanking you

Most sincerely yours

Sd/-

J K Mohanty, MHCIMA

Chairman – Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha & IATO Eastern Region

Co-Chairman – FICCI National Tourism Council / *Convenor – CII (Tourism Panel)*

Member – State Tourism Promotion Council & Tourism Advisory Committee, GoO

Hony. Secretary, Hotel Association of India

Copy forwarded for kind information to

The Director & Addl. Secretary, Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of Odisha