

13.01.2021

**Shri Atul Chaturvedi,**  
Hon. Secretary,  
Animal Husbandry Department,  
Government of India.

**Subject: RAI appeal regarding the order restricting entry/sale of dressed, processed and canned chicken and its products in Delhi, dated 11.01.2021 by the Government of NCT of Delhi.**

*Hon'ble Secretary,*

Greetings from the Retailers Association of India (RAI)!

At the outset, we appreciate the Centre Government for the proactive measures taken towards containment, control, and prevention of COVID-19 and continue to extend our continued support to the authorities in the ongoing fight.

**Sir, we are writing to you regarding the order issued by the Government of Delhi, on 11.01.2021, restricting the entry/sale of dressed, processed and canned chicken and its products in Delhi. Subsequently, North Delhi & South Delhi Municipal Corporations have issued orders directing restaurants against serving poultry meat, poultry products or any egg-related dishes, failure to which action would be taken against the restaurants.**

Sir, while we understand that the State Government is concerned about the wellbeing of the citizens, we request you to consider that the decision to restrict the entry/sale of dressed, processed and canned chicken and its products and restricting serving poultry related food items will have a negative impact on the restaurant industry which is already struggling to revive from the aftermath of the pandemic.

**Sir, our members strictly adhere to the best food safety procedures and practices, including Sanitization, Screening, Social Distancing & Contactless service, through the handling & cooking of all products while following all protocols for the safety of the staff and the citizens.**

Furthermore, the World Health Organization (WHO) & the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) state that poultry cooked at or above 70 degrees is completely safe for consumption. Our member restaurants cook poultry beyond 100 degrees before it is served to the customers, which is safe for consumption.

Moreover, the industry resonates with your view that there is no evidence to suggest that consumption of poultry or eggs, fit for human consumption could transmit the Bird Flu Virus.

**In the interest of citizens and to help the survival and revival of the restaurant industry, we request you issue a central advisory clarifying that consumption of dressed, processed, and canned poultry and egg products, when cooked beyond 70 degrees, is safe for human consumption.**

Sir, we look forward to your urgent support for the benefit of recovering from the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis as well as the Bird Flu outbreak.

Warm regards,  
For and on behalf of Retailers Association of India (RAI),



**Gautam Jain,**  
Director – Finance & Advocacy, RAI