

‘Permit retail in non-virus zones’

Sans consumption, manufacturing will be meaningless: RAI

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Retailers Association of India (RAI) has asked the government to allow the opening of establishments such as shops and malls dealing in non-essential items along with restarting of manufacturing activity in non-COVID-19 zones, stating without retail consumption, manufacturing will have little meaning.

Committing to adhere to the highest safety standards in terms of social distancing and hygiene, the association has pleaded for a gradual opening up of retail units to

boost consumption and ensure job retention.

Retailers have also asked the government to provide subsidy of up to 50% for payment of the salary of employees earning up to ₹25,000, 25% additional working capital credit line to pay salaries, working capital loans of three months of sales at a very low rate of interest and a moratorium of six to nine months for repayment of loans which will help in achieving normalcy in nine to 12 months.

They said all earlier loans should get a similar moratorium and GST across the

board for retail should be reduced to boost consumption and reboot the economy.

Open shops, multiplexes

“Twenty-five million people working in the sector will be impacted if shops selling non-essential goods remain closed. If retail does not open, then manufacturing will be [hit]. Malls, shops and multiplexes must open,” said B.S. Nagesh, chairman, RAI. He said RAI has come out with safety standards to be implemented across all retail units to provide safe shopping experience to customers.