

Kalkaji Vyeopar Mandal(Regd.)

K-51 Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019

Director (Plg.) MPR/TC,
J.D.A. Vikas Minar N. DELHI-2
Dy.No. 944
Date 18/11/11

To,
The L & D O/ DDA
Nirman Bhawan
New Delhi

Subject: Relief from Payment of Conversion Charges for Commercial Establishments on Notified Roads.

Dear Sir.

Firstly we would like to appreciate the efforts of your kind department for coming out with a resolution that the few roads notified by your kind department can be used for running commercial establishments.

However the above provision to use the premises for commercial purpose was dependant and subject to the payment of conversion charges to your department. The entire class of traders accepted this proviso though under resentment and protest.

For the purpose of paying the conversion charges two theories were formulated and placed before the shopkeepers/traders. Both these theories were formulated without taking into consideration /consultation the shopkeepers/traders associations, though in today's democratic set up there is a accepted provision to invite the suggestions of the concerned class before a policy/legislation is brought into force. The same seems to have been ignored by your department for the reasons best known to you and only you.

The 2 theories proposed for the purpose of the payment of the conversion charges were as follows:

1. Traders could pay the conversion charges 8 times the calculated amount at one time to get rid of any further liability in this regards, or
2. Traders who could not afford the one time settlement payment were supposed to pay annually the calculated conversion charges, for each year till the premises is being used for commercial purposes.

We question the very ethics and basis on which such a proposition was brought in. The sole object of each and every policy is and should be to keep in mind the best interests of the majority of the class in question but this seems missing here.

Majority of the shopkeepers belong to middle class & lower middle class who are hardly able to meet their ends and from such shopkeepers & traders to demand 8 times the amount was not only difficult but impossible to a great extent.

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[Handwritten notes: J. D. A. Vikas Minar, 24/11, DD MPR, AD-11]

As a result since all the shopkeepers were living under the threat that their shops may get sealed, they had no other option but to pay the charges annually each year. Majority of the shopkeepers have been paying the said charge annually for the last 4 years and we now feel that we have been exploited and request that this liability should come to an end after 8 years.

We would like to question that:

1. Why the policy is drafted keeping in mind the minority population of the effected class?
2. Why the policy is drafted in favor of the rich and affluent class and why are the middle class & lower middle class (who comprise the majority) ignored?
3. Why there has been such a disparity and discrimination meted out to the middle & lower middle class shopkeepers/traders?
4. Why have not all the shopkeepers/traders been kept on the same footing?
5. How can you equate the earnings of a small grocery store or a stationery store to a jewellery house/MNC showroom.
6. Is the earning/profit making of the above categories the same? If the answer is in the negative then how can you expect small shopkeepers/traders to arrange 8 times the amount? In such a situation he can either pay you or close his business.

The very option to pay 8 times the calculated conversion charge as one time settlement has been exercised by a very miniscule strength which in turns speaks out that the option was never in the interest of the masses and this option in particular was a failure and was not accepted by the majority of the shopkeepers/traders.

We are very sure that when you will answer the above questions you will realize the gravity faced by the small shopkeepers/traders. We are burdened to face the never ending liability simply because our businesses and our monetary positions are not in a position to afford the one time settlement payment.

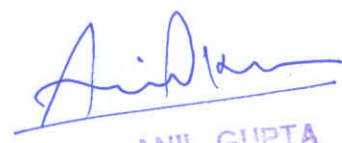
It is therefore prayed and humbly appealed that the problem of this class of shopkeepers/traders should be dealt with sympathy and open mind and the liability to pay must come to an end at the expiry of 8 years. We further request that we should be given an earliest opportunity to be heard and present our grievances.

Looking forward to a positive reply and response.

Yours truly'


P.C. Sareen
Chairman
Kalkaji Vyeopar Mandal
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