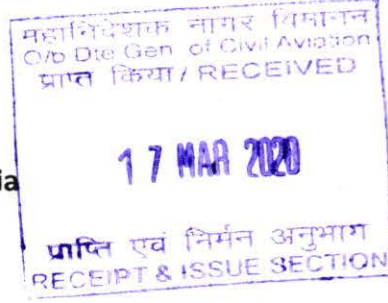




वायु यातायात नियंत्रक गिल्ड (भारत)
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' GUILD (INDIA)

CC/ATCG/Operations/2020/04

Shri Narendra Modi
The Honorable Prime Minister of India
7, Lok Kalyan Marg
New Delhi 110011



March 17, 2020



Sub: Temporary suspension of Breath Analyzer Test for ATCOs due to CORONA outbreak.

Hon'ble Sir,

o/c
Air Traffic Controllers' Guild (India) is the only recognized officer's association of Indian Air Traffic Control Officers. Our activity is not only limited to the welfare of our members but also whenever society demands, we rise up to the occasion, like flood relief operation, military operation to name a few.

We salute the way government is dealing the outbreak of Novel Corona Virus in our country. Under your dynamic Leadership, in a country of 140 crore people, such preventive action is praiseworthy. When smaller developed countries like Italy, Iran are struggling, we are proud that we Indians are under safe hands. This applies to the Indians residing abroad also, as the way you took initiative and brought back many Indians from vulnerable places, ATC Guild (I) salutes your effort.

Sir, in this context we would like to inform you that Breath Analyzer Test (BAT) for our Members (ATCOs) was introduced 3-4 months back by DGCA. This is as per global standard to enhance safety of our airspace. It was introduced so that in a highly safety critical job like Air Traffic Control, no one is under the influence of alcohol. ATC Guild (I) welcomed the decision as it is related to safety of our airspace and air travelers. Although, we would like to inform you that even before BAT was introduced, no ATCO came on duty under the influence of alcohol, as every officer understands the sensitivity of the job and all are equally worried about safety of our sky. Ultimately national pride is associated with it.

We would like to inform you that in our every duty shift, people have to undergo BAT under this scary CORONA virus situation also. ATC Guild (I) had communicated the same to DGCA without any fruitful result. When GOI had taken initiative to close the CORONA chapter in India in Stage II itself, the acts like BAT for ATCOs may backfire. In fact GOI even banned biometric attendance and all state governments banned BAT for drivers, which are less dangerous than BAT of ATCOs. Anytime an ATCO can be infected by the deadly and highly infectious virus in BAT. If only one ATCO got infected, the whole shift will and the whole airport needs to be closed. Sir, you can well understand the gravity of the situation. If it is not stopped right now, it can even affect general public as well. We can assure you that our members know their critical duty and never come under the influence of alcohol. The past instances of almost

zero incident record of Indian airspace before implementation of BAT proves that our ATCOs were very much sincere about their duties and will always remain so.

It is, therefore, requested to temporarily suspend the BAT for ATCOs in National interest.

Jai Hind

Thanking you and assuring our best cooperation all the times.

Yours sincerely,



(Alok Yadav)

General Secretary

Copy to :

1. The Director General of Civil Aviation, Opposite Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003
2. The Chairman, Airports Authority of India, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi - 110003

