

**Proceedings of the sitting of Hon'ble Member (TS) with  
Owner/Management of Urban Pind, New Delhi on 22.07.2008 at 3.00 pm**

A list of officers present in the sitting is at Annexure.

**ISSUE**

Denial of admission to Ms Zubeni Lotha, a free lance photographer, hailing from North Eastern part of India in lounge bar of Urban Pind, GK Pt-1, New Delhi at 11.00 pm on 19.06.2008 with the comments that she didn't have the 'right profile', whereas her friends and even foreigners were being permitted.

**BACKGROUND**

On 19.06.2008 at 11.00 pm Ms Zubeni Lotha, a free lance photographer foixed a personal meeting with her two female friends at lounge bar of Urban Pind, New Delhi. One of her friend is an Editor of Random House and the other is a German girl working in a development bank in Delhi. The editor friend also checked for Ms Lotha's entry into the bar, which was confirmed by the management even if she is a female.

At the time of entry into the bar, bouncer blocked Ms Lotha and let the other two friends go inside. On enquiry, it was intimated that She could not go in because she did not have the 'right profile'. Later her friend asked Mr Tahil, Manager to apologize for the incident but he refused saying that he did nothing wrong and that the policies of profiling was laid down by the management.

**DISCUSSION**

It was intimated by Mr. Prashant Ojha, co-owner of Urban Pind that nothing of that sort has happened on 19.06.2008 as mentioned by Ms Lotha in her petition. In fact, around 11.00 pm on that day entry was stopped for some time to clear the rush. Notwithstanding any clarification, he further mentioned that as Ms Lotha is our customer and if anything in Urban Pind has hurt her sentiments, management of Urban Pind is ready to offer apologizes. He also mentioned that they have filed a civil suit in Tis Hazari court to protect the image of their restaurant.

Ms Zubeni Lotha appeared with her advocate after Mr Ojha left the Commission and intimated that she didn't present her in front of Mr Ojha as she was concerned about her security. She requested for a public apology in the matter.

Joint Secretary mentioned that co-owner of Urban Pind was inclined to explain his position in the matter and it was preferable that Commission cross-examin him in the presence of Ms Lotha. He also emphasized that Ms Lotha could have, concerns for her security, appropriately addressed to the police authorities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Commission recommended that Mr Ojha should send a written reply explaining the factual position in the matter. Thereafter, next hearing / sitting may be scheduled.

## **ANNEXURE**

The following were present in the sitting on 22.07.2008 :

### **NCST**

1. Shri Tsering Samphel, Hon'ble Member .....In Chair
2. Shri Aditya Mishra, Jt. Secretary
3. Shri Vinod Aggarwal, Director

### **URBAN PIND**

1. Shri Prashant Ojha, Co-owner

### **Petitioner**

1. Ms. Zubeni Lotha, Free lance photographer
2. Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, Advocate