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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **O.M.P.(MISC.)(COMM.) 405/2024 & I.A. 29645/2024**

M/S KRISHNA ENTERPRISES

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Anupam Dwivedi & Mr. Vikash
Kumar Sinha, Advs. (M:9891629964)

versus

**UNION OF INDIA THROUGH MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND
ANR.**

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Vikrant N Goyal, Adv. for R-1.
(M:9953228888)
Mr. Shubham Prasad, Adv. for UOI.
(M:9712533333)

CORAM:

JUSTICE PRATHIBA M. SINGH

ORDER

% **20.05.2024**

1. This hearing has been done through hybrid mode.
2. The present petition has been filed by the Petitioner-M/s. Krishna Enterprises under Section 29A of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 seeking extension of the mandate of the Id. Sole Arbitrator.
3. The Petitioner is a partnership firm providing on-board catering services in Indian Railways. Disputes originated from a 2014 tender awarded to the Petitioner for catering services on a specific train, which later led to a Master License Agreement in 2014, subsequently transferred to the Respondent-IRCTC through a Tripartite Agreement in 2017. Following unresolved disputes, the Petitioner invoked arbitration proceedings in 2017. Despite initial delays, the Id. Sole Arbitrator was appointed in 2018. However, due to various reasons, including the COVID-19 pandemic and different administrative issues, the arbitration process faced multiple



extensions and delays. The mandate of the Id. Sole Arbitrator expired on 1st December, 2022 leading to the appointment of a new Id. Sole Arbitrator on 5th October, 2023, and records were handed over to the new Id. Sole Arbitrator on 4th January, 2024. The Respondent's evidence could not be concluded before the new mandate expired on 31st March, 2024. Thus, the present petition.

4. Ld. Counsel for the Petitioner submits that the Id. Sole Arbitrator is now recording the evidence of the Respondent. Ld. Counsel for the Respondent submits that she has no objection to the mandate of the Id. Sole Arbitrator being extended.

5. The mandate is, accordingly, extended till 31st December, 2024.

6. The petition is disposed of. All pending applications are disposed of.

PRATHIBA M. SINGH, J.

MAY 20, 2024

dj/dn