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No. 12022/2/92-TDC
Government of India
Ministry of Welfare
Tribal Development Division

4th Floor, Lok Nayak Bhavan,
New Delhi 110 003

Dated the 16th September, 1992

The Chief Secretary
of all States/Union Territories

R. D. No. 176 (MAB)

Subject: EXCISE POLICY IN TRIBAL AREAS

Sir,

I am directed to say that since the excise policy followed by the States had been found to have resulted in the exploitation of the tribal population, guidelines were issued for adoption by the State Governments in the tribal areas, particularly, about abolition of commercial vending of liquor. The policy of the Central Government has all along been that the commercial vending of alcoholic beverages in the tribal areas should be stopped while the STs may be permitted to brew their traditional beverage for home consumption and on religious, social occasions, considering their customs. In the Circular dated 21-9-1981 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs the words 'alcoholic beverages' were inadvertently used for the traditional drink of the tribals. The intention, however, was not to allow brewing or manufacturing of alcoholic drinks.

2. The three basic points which may be adopted for the tribal areas of the country are reproduced below:-

- (i) Commercial vending of alcoholic beverage should be discontinued in tribal areas.
- (ii) Scheduled Tribes may be permitted to brew their traditional beverages for consumption at home and on religious and social occasions.
- (iii) Attempts may be made to wean the Scheduled Tribes away from the habit of drinking alcoholic beverages and for this purpose, official and non-official voluntary organisations may be encouraged to take up work in the tribal areas.

It will be appreciated if your Government consider the above points and formulate and implement effective excise policy for the tribal areas in order to prevent exploitation of tribals by vested interests.

Yours faithfully,

(P. K. MOHANTY)
JOINT SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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