

Sl.No.6(R) P.11/C

(22)

The PUC is a letter from the Joint Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of welfare addressed to the Chief Secretary, A & N Admn. regarding excise policy in Tribal areas. The Joint Secretary has stated 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 Government of India have desired this Admn. to consider the following points to be adopted for the tribal areas and formulate and implement effective excise policy for the tribal areas in order to prevent exploitation of tribals by vested interests.

- 1) Commercial vending of alcoholic should ~~be~~ 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 voluntary organisations may be encouraged to take up work in the tribal areas.

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In this connection it may be mentioned that the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India relating to excise policy in tribal areas are fully being implemented in this U.T. The above points to <sup>be</sup> adopted for the tribal areas are examined as under:-

- i) No licence for vending of liquor in tribal areas has been issued so far. The sale of liquor in tribal areas of this U.T is prohibited without a licence granted by this Administration.
- ii) The tribals here do not brew any traditional liquor. However, they tap toddy from coconut trees for their consumption for which there can be no restriction.
- iii) The Admn. is strictly following the guidelines of the Govt. of India in regard to excise policy in tribal areas. As such, no licence has been issued to vend liquor in tribal areas to avoid tribals ~~from taking~~ liquor.