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

4th Floor, 'B' Wing,
Lok Nayak Bhavan,
New Delhi - 110 003

Dated the 24th March, 1993

The Chief Secretaries
(All States/U. Ts)

Subj: EXCISE POLICY IN TRIBAL AREAS.

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Sir,

Guidelines on the excise policy in tribal areas have been issued by the Government of India to the States from time to time for their adoption. The latest guidelines in this regard were issued vide this Ministry's letter No. 12022/2/92-TDC dated 16th September, 1992. The three basic points which are to be adopted according to guidelines are as follows:-

- 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.

2. It has, however, come to the notice of the Government that the guidelines have not been followed by all the State Govts. Commercial vending of alcoholic beverage continues in some of the States. In other cases, commercial vending of alcoholic beverage has been stopped in the tribal areas except in the district/sub-divisional/tehsils/block headquarters and other places having urban characteristics, even though they are in the Scheduled Areas. All this is against the guidelines issued as the basic purpose is to save the tribals from clutches of the venders of alcoholic beverage in the interest of the health and economy of the tribals.