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No.19/6/73-SD
Government of India
(Bharat Sarkar)
Department of Social Welfare
(Samaj Kalyan Vibhag)

.....
New Delhi-1

25.1.1975

To

All Chief Secretary,
All State Govt./Union Territory
(Except Tamil Nadu, Gujarat & Lakshdweep)

Sub: Excise Policy in tribal areas.

Sir,

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I am directed to state that the present excise policy for tribal areas in many States, particularly the practice of vending of liquor through contractors, has been criticised frequently in the Parliament, and has been described as the worst form of exploitation of the tribal population. A memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister by some Members of Parliament strongly urging that the sale of distilled liquor through contractors should be discontinued in the tribal areas. It may be recalled, in this connection, that there is a duty cast on the State under Article 46 of the Constitution to protect the members of Scheduled Tribes from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

2. The Prime Minister, while endorsing the suggestion in the memorandum submitted by certain Member of Parliament, asked the Central Prohibition Committee to consider this question. The Central Prohibition Committee appointed a Special Committee of Ministers incharge of Excise to examine in detail the various issues. This Committee consisting of Ministers incharge of Excise from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Manipur, made comprehensive recommendations which were later endorsed by the Central Prohibition Committee at the meeting held on 26.3.1974. The recommendations have been carefully considered by the Government of India from all view points and have been finally accepted by them. On the basis of these recommendations it has been resolved that the following guidelines may please be kept in view by the State Governments in regard to the excise policy to be followed in future in all areas where tribal population are preponderant :-

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