

- (h) Government should encourage all recognised non-official agencies by giving financial assistance, to engage themselves in promoting temperance.
- (i) There should be an assessment by the Tribal Welfare Department of what has been done in this regard. Such an assessment, it is felt, might throw up new ideas. //
- (j) The general recommendations of the Central Prohibition Committee regarding the location of shops can apply in the case of Industrial complexes and towns in tribal areas also, but the sale of liquor should be through Government shops only.
- (k) All these recommendations should equally apply in respect of the 'tea garden labour' also notwithstanding the fact that they are not scheduled as tribes.

3. I may also invite your attention to the minute of the Prime Minister dated 19.6.1974 which was forwarded to your Chief Minister by the Union Home Minister in his D.O.No.20/47/74-SCT, III dated the 25th September, 1974. In this minute the Prime Minister referred to similar recommendations of the Scheduled Areas and Tribes Commissions. In 1961, and observed that it is a pity that, even though accepted by the Government, these recommendations have remained unimplemented so far. A copy of this note is enclosed for ready reference.

4. The question of compensating the States for the loss of revenue has also been considered. Admittedly the present excise policy is resulting in the exploitation of the tribal communities, for the ending of which the States are constitutionally responsible. Besides, the policy now advocated should have been implemented with effect from 1961 itself, consequent on the acceptance of the recommendations of the Scheduled Areas and Tribes Commissions. In these circumstances, it will not be possible for the Government of India to compensate the States financially for the loss of revenue likely to be incurred in implementing this policy. The State Ministers of Excise at the last meeting of the Central Prohibition Committee dated 26.3.1974 had also agreed that compensation would not be a pre-condition for the suggested change in policy.

5. I am to request that the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations may kindly take immediate action for implementing the above policy in their respective tribal areas, Action taken may kindly be intimated to this Department.

.....4/-