

ACHIEVEMENT OF EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

Though the avowed policy of the Government is to dissuade people from drinking, however, with a view to check illicit liquor and generate more revenue to add scarce resources of the State, Government has evolved a policy through which manufacturing, distillation, trading in liquor are canalised under strict vigil of the State, which has helped in generating considerable resources without compromising with the social values.

To check the illicit liquor trade and the possible liquor tragedy, the provisions relating to the punishment for the Excise Offences have been made more stringent by amending the Bihar & Orissa Excise Act., 1915 through Bihar and Orissa Excise (Orissa Amendment) Act, 2006 during the year of 2006-07. The Excise Offences have been made non-bailable in many cases. The Excise Officers have been empowered with Police Power in investigating the Excise Cases. Provisions have also been made in the said Act for opening of excise shops by the Govt. organisations without taking licence with a view to break the dishonest alliance of the liquor traders. The Bihar and Orissa Excise (Orissa Amendment) Act, 2006 has shown its good results. The liquor mafias are afraid of conducting illicit liquor trade.

The monopoly in wholesale trade in India Made Foreign Liquor and Country Spirit has been taken over by the Govt. through Orissa state Beverages Corporation Ltd. since 2001. This has helped in checking illicit liquor trade to a great extent. As a result, the collection of Excise Revenue has been increased substantially. The Collection of Excise Revenue during last three years is given below: -

2004-05	-	Rs.306.61 crores
2005-06	-	Rs.389.20 crores
2006-07	-	Rs.430.12 crores
2007-08	-	Rs.524.83 crores

The Excise Enforcement measures have been strengthened. The District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police have been asked to keep close watch on the suspected illicit distillation centres and spurious liquor. Joint raids have been conducted by Police and Excise Personnel at the district level for better enforcement activities to prevent the manufacture, supply and sale of illicit liquor in the district. The massive raids have been conducted by the Excise Department for destruction of illegal cultivation of Hemp Plant throughout the State.

Further, considering the changing situation a new Bill namely, Orissa Excise Bill 2005 was introduced in the Orissa Legislative Assembly. The Orissa Legislative Assembly had referred the Bill to the Select Committee of the Assembly. The Select Committee after visiting a number of States finalized the Bill with necessary amendments, which will be placed before the ensuing Assembly Session for consideration and passing of the new law.