



Forum for Good Governance

Regd. No. 653/2009

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L. No. FGG/CS/REP/ 115 /2022

Hyderabad
6th September, 2022

To
The Chief Secretary
Government of Telangana
Hyderabad

Sir,

Sub : Excise department – Selling of Adulterated Toddy –
Request to stop sale of Adulterated Toddy – Reg.

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Para one of Toddy policy for the year 2004-05 stipulates that, Toddy shop can be established only in such places where tappable Toddy trees are available within 50 Km. distance. This step is taken by Government to prevent adulteration of Toddy with obnoxious substances like Choral Hydrate, Diazepam, Alprazolam etc. and also to provide pure and wholesome Toddy to consumers. In major towns especially around Hyderabad city there are no Toddy trees within 50 Km. The shops selling Toddy in Hyderabad are getting supplies from places like Ananthapur, Prakasam, Karimnagar etc., there by affecting the quality, hence Government banned selling of Toddy in Hyderabad city. From 2004 Toddy shops are closed in Hyderabad city.

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After formation of Telangana the excise policy took 'U' turn and government amended and deleted the 50 Km. distance clause. Now, whether there is any Toddy trees are not, a person (license holder) can sell the Toddy. There are close to 100 Toddy shops in Hyderabad city alone selling adulterated Toddy and people especially from weaker section are consuming the adulterated Toddy thanks to Excise department of Telangana

In this state of Tamilnadu, Toddy tree (Palmyra palm) is a state tree. Nevertheless Government of Tamilnadu banned the sale of Toddy as it is injurious to health. On the other hand tapped Toddy is converted in to Jaggery (value addition) and marketed by the tapper co-op. societies.

In Kerala Toddy is classified as a intoxicating drink which contains 8.1% Alcohol (as against average Beer which contains 6 % Alcohol). The Government have banned sale of Toddy.

Adulterated Toddy with dangerous chemicals is rampant in Hyderabad city. Due to non availability of Toddy trees in several parts of the state, the Toddy sellers are resorting to preparation of synthetic Toddy by adding water, Udat dal paste, foaming and coloring agents, Citric acid etc. and mixing with obnoxious substances like Chloral Hydrate, Diazepam, Alprazolam for giving intoxication to the consumer. When Chloral Hydrate is added in Toddy it gets mixed up thoroughly and hence it cannot be differentiated from genuine Toddy. Since the adulterated Toddy gives higher intoxication the consumer likes this adulterated stuff which is very harmful to their health, even proving fatal.

Since last couple of years Forum for Good Governance is requesting the Prohibition & Excise department to get the Toddy, (being sold in market), chemically examined. The department is avoiding our request for the simple reason that they are well aware of large scale adulteration. The adulterated Toddy is greatly affecting the health of people and in some cases deaths also taking place. It is reported in High Court by state Government (in 2004) on an average 50 persons are dying annually by consuming adulterated Toddy. Unfortunately after formation of Telangana no data of death is maintained in the Commissioner's office. It appears a deliberate attempt is made to down play the ill effects of adulterated Toddy by the P&E Commissioner. The state has abrogated its primary responsibility of protecting the health and well being of the people. The Excise Minister is on record saying that people should drink more so that Revenue of the state improves.

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It is surprising that the excise policy of 2004 has banned the sale Toddy virtually in Hyderabad and other major cities for the valid reason that Toddy trees are not available within 50 Km. and after 10 years in 2014 Telangana Government have lifted the ban.

Forum for Good Governance requests the Chief Secretary to take effective steps to prevent sale of adulterated Toddy. Like in Tamilnadu the Toddy should be converted into Jaggery to provide employment to Toddy tapper community.

Yours Sincerely



M. Padmanabha Reddy

Secretary

Forum for Good Governance

- Encl :**
1. Letter received from Proh & Excise department, Government of Tamilnadu
 2. Letter received from Keral Government
 3. Government Affidavit in High Court
 4. Two Paper clippings