

Reward panchayats enforcing Prohibition: Lok Satta

Written by

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Welcoming the Excise Minister's move to constitute a committee to campaign against the liquor menace, the Lok Satta Party today suggested that the Government reward panchayats enforcing Prohibition with an annual grant of Rs.100000.

Lok Satta Party State Working President D. V.V. S. Varma in a media statement suggested that the anti liquor campaign committee should have enough resources and powers to accomplish the Government's objective.

Mr. Varma recalled that the Congress Party, which returned to power in 2004 by promising to usher in Prohibition in phases, has done all that it could to encourage liquor consumption by auctioning liquor shops. Subsequently, it formed an anti liquor campaign committee devoid of powers and funds for rehabilitating some party workers. The committee did not fulfill its promise of granting a cash incentive of Rs.100000 to panchayats enforcing Prohibition although the Lok Satta submitted a list of such villages. If history were not to repeat itself, the Government should allocate more than Rs.40 crore for the proposed committee and confer adequate powers on it.

Mr. Varma reiterated the party demand that the Government itself run retail liquor shops in the excise year beginning July 2012. The decision to permit or deny location of a liquor shop in a village should be left to its panchayat/or gram sabha.