

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding liquor trade in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak during ‘zero hour’. This is a State issue, Sir. Our hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, before the 2019 elections, has promised the people of Andhra Pradesh that there is going to be a total ban on the sale of liquor in the State. But after becoming the Chief Minister, ban on sale has not happened. On the contrary, what is happening, right now, is that the Andhra Pradesh State Government itself is doing business of liquor. Cheap liquor brands have been created by the cronies of the Ruling Party of Andhra Pradesh. Due to this, the prices of liquor have increased exponentially. It has also led to the creation of liquor mafia and black marketing of liquor in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This has also led to severe adulteration of liquor.

As a consequence, the consumption of illicit liquor has risen alongside consumption of dangerous substitutes to liquor including hand sanitizers and other products. What is interesting here is that the Government which says that it is going to ban the total sale of liquor is earning Rs. 16,500 crore just by the sale of liquor. The most important thing is that recently because of the consumption of spurious liquor 18 people have died in Jangareddygudem in West Godavari District. This is how serious this issue is. Our hon. leader, Nara Chandrababu Naidu *garu* visited the victims’ families and spoke to the doctors. The doctors are suggesting that this number could rise in the coming days also. So, it is not going to end here.

I would like to put this issue in the notice of the Central Government because it is related to the health of the people of Andhra Pradesh. If this liquor mafia is left unchecked, this will lead to serious problems in the State of Andhra Pradesh. I would, once again, request the Central Government to look into this issue.

Thank you very much, Sir.