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Title : Need to check smuggling of spirit to Kerala from other states to curb inter-state illicit liquor trade.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (WAYANAD): The inter-state illicit spirit transportation cited in recent media reports indicate that illicit spirit is flowing freely into Kerala from factories set up in various states such as Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka. The consent letters given to the manufacturers of Indian made foreign liquor which is valid for a month is manipulated and tampered with and more than double the load is transported by using the tampered licences.

The spirit thus reaching Kerala is used to make illicit liquor with counterfeit hologram and distributed to various bars and other centres. This dangerous trade of illicit liquor raises the possibility of a hooch tragedy in Kerala which has a higher alcohol consumption rate.

The Central Government must take necessary steps in strengthening control over flow of spirit and ensure stringent checking of consent letters to carry out inter-State transportation of spirit so that the possibility of smuggling of spirit to make illicit liquor is eliminated. An effective co-ordination between Central and State Governments in assessing amending and rectifying systemic loopholes must be initiated by the Central Government.