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Title: Regarding liquor policy in India.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue regarding the need to evolve a Liquor Policy in the country.

India is the highest alcohol consumer in South East Asia. *The Times of India* has reported that a global study found that liquor consumption has raised by 55 per cent over the past 20 years in India. This is a matter of serious concern.

Our Hon. Prime Minister is committed to fight poverty in India with different measures and schemes. But unfortunately, liquor has become a major concern for the country. Today, most of the people living in the rural areas are consuming liquor the most. Due to liquor, a lot of crime is being committed in our country. Not only that. The basic requirement to fight poverty is to evolve a Liquor Policy.

The World Bank reports that poor people see alcohol and drug use as major consequences of poverty. Hence many States have resorted to ban liquor in the past, as has been done in the State of Gujarat. Andhra Pradesh has also banned liquor earlier. But unfortunately that has been recalled. So, I feel that the Union Government has to come forward and evolve a Liquor Policy, like Gujarat, by supporting the States which ban liquor.

Hence, I demand that liquor should be banned across the country to protect the poor people. Special permits can be granted to five star hotels to serve liquor for the rich people. But the poor people should be protected from this agony to fight poverty. Therefore, liquor has to be banned in the country.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री शरद त्रिपाठी, श्री बीरों प्रसाद मिश्र, श्री विंकर पुष्पेन्द्र शिंह चन्देल और श्री रवीन्द्र कुमार जेना को श्रीमती कोशापत्ती गीता द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबंध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।