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THE TIMES OF INDIA, KOLKATA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Liquor bodies urge govt not to change tax structure

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: The Indian alcoholic beverage industry has raised an alarm over the new taxation structure for sale of liquor in West Bengal and urged chief minister Mamata Banerjee not to make any changes in the tax structure in the current fiscal keeping in mind the Covid-19 pandemic during which the industry has already been hit hard.

In a joint representation to CM, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) and International Spirits and Wines Association of India (ISWAI) has said that if the taxation structure is changed just be-

PANDEMIC PROBLEMS

fore the beginning of the Durga Puja festivities and other rules and regulations are also changed, it would prove to be counter-productive both for the government and the industry.

The two industry bodies, which represent international and national spirits and wine companies, has urged the West Bengal government to delay the proposed taxation implementation beyond 2020 to avoid disruptions in the market.

"The state has already seen a 35% fall in volumes in the month of July-August, which could worsen going forward. When most states are rationalizing taxes (Odisha,

Liquor bodies write to state on price concern

Kolkata: International Spirits and Wine Association of India (ISWAI) and the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), who represent the national & international liquor industry in India, have written a joint representation to the state about the proposed change in the tax structure of liquor in West Bengal. The representation to the chief minister and the Union minister, with copies sent to the additional chief secretary, Revenue and the union minister, CIABC and ISWAI have pointed out that under the present policy, the current prices of all existing brands will go up substantially. Vandalizing market of the alcoholic drinks, as a consequence of the change in tax structure, is a serious concern.

CIABC director general Vinod Giri said, "The Bengal government is not only not looking at the needs of the industry in the country, but also not looking at the needs of the industry in the state."

Delhi) in order to bring MRP at such levels that revenue is maximized, WB has proposed a taxation structure which would make MRPs even higher. We estimate 40%-45% (for the entire year) fall on overall volumes if such a taxation structure is implemented in its current shape and form," the joint representation to the CM stated.

The two bodies have pointed out that new taxation structure would lead to revenue collection shortfall of about 25% from the revenue target of the Excise Department for the year 2020-21.

Urging the state government to implement any changes in taxation structure by incorporating industry recommendations, CIABC director general Vinod Giri said: "There are some serious gaps in the proposed taxation structure which need to be addressed before taking any decision."

ISWAI director general Vinod Giri said, "The Bengal government is not only not looking at the needs of the industry in the country, but also not looking at the needs of the industry in the state."

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