

Centre's no to CM's liquor sale request

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The Centre today turned down the Punjab Government's request to allow the state to sell alcohol through either regular vendors or home delivery.

The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the lockdown prohibit the sale of alcohol, gutka and tobacco products. With revenue collection hit hard due to the curfew, the Punjab Government had sought permission from the Centre to open the liquor shops.

"The permission wasn't granted as exception can't be made among the states," a top government official said.

Meanwhile, fearing huge

financial losses and job cuts, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) has requested states to impress upon the

Huge revenue loss behind proposal

Centre about an urgent need to start the sale of liquor in non-Covid zones.

In a letter to all state CMs (barring states which are under prohibition), the CIA-BC urged: "The state governments should take up the matter once again with the Centre to permit production, distribution and sales of alcoholic beverages outside containment zones, in conformity with Covid-19 guidelines."