



Liquor traders ask govt to help dispose 70L bottles

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THE alcoholic beverages industry has sought Delhi government's intervention for the disposal of leftover stock of around 70 lakh unsold liquor bottles, a situation caused by the excise policy switchover.

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) has written to the excise department of Delhi government seeking its urgent attention for the disposal of the unsold stocks.

Delhi government on November 17, 2021 brought Excise Policy 2021-22, which ended the near absolute monopoly of the government in sale of liquor, opening the tightly guarded revenue stream to private players, with the city for a brief period seeing opening of fancier liquor shops. This policy was withdrawn in July after the Lieutenant Governor recommended a CBI probe in its implementation accusing government of committing irregularities.

"The matter of stocks leftover in L1 warehouses of companies on 17 November 2021 when the policy changed is yet to be resolved," said Vinod Giri, Director General CIABC.

He added, "Excise department had allowed companies to transfer these stock to their new L1 licensees but permission to sell it was not granted despite such assurance."

"A decision about stock of those brands that were yet not re-registered is yet to be taken," said officials. If the stock is not allowed to be sold, then it will require to be destroyed as liquor can not be sold without a legitimate license, they said.