



Madhya Pradesh Excise Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Why in News

- On August 3, 2021, Madhya Pradesh Excise Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was approved to increase the fine and penalty imposed on various types of crimes with a view to **discourage excise-related offenses in Madhya Pradesh**.

Key Points

- In this, there is a provision for punishment mainly for offenses related to **spurious liquor under Section 49 (A)**.
- If a person dies due to the consumption of spurious liquor, then a provision has been made for **life imprisonment or death penalty and a minimum fine of Rs 20 lakh**.
- The amendment bill provides for physical damage caused by consumption of adulterated liquor unfit for human use, imprisonment of a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 8 years besides a fine of up to Rs 2 lakh for the first time and a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of 14 years imprisonment and a minimum fine up to Rs 10 lakh for the second time.
- Similarly, for the detection of adulterated liquor unfit for human consumption, imprisonment for a minimum period of 6 months and maximum of 6 years and fine up to Rs 1 lakh in the first instance and minimum 6 years and maximum 10 years imprisonment for the second offense. A provision has been made for a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh.
- Any person who poses obstruction in duty or is guilty of assault under the Act may be arrested by any Excise Officer.
- In order to bring **Mahua based liquor** into the mainstream in Madhya Pradesh, it has been decided to give it the **status of heritage (traditional) liquor**. Rules will be set by the department for its controlled manufacture and sale. This will encourage small-scale industries of Mahua based liquor. The rights of the tribals already provided in the Act will be preserved as they are.

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