

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet brings new liquor policy, orders closure of bars

The Madhya Pradesh cabinet has decided to close all the bars operating in the state, with the liquor shops only being allowed to sell liquor to the customers at the shop. This move comes as the state aims at discouraging liquor consumption.

While addressing a press conference, state government spokesperson, Mr. Narottam Mishra said, "Since 2010, no new liquor shop has been closed in the state. Even during Narmada Seva Yatra, several shops were closed. This year also the liquor policy has been brought to discourage liquor consumption."

'Ahatas', an area attached to a liquor shop for people to drink and shop bars have been closed under the new excise policy that was approved by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government.

"Now, the cabinet has approved the proposal to close all the bars operating in the state. Now, the facility to drink at the shop bars is being ended, and only liquor will only be sold at the liquor shops," he said.

Further adding, he said that as per the policy, The distance of liquor shops from educational and religious institutions has also been increased from 50 to 100 meters. Apart from this, strictness will also be increased on those who drive after drinking alcohol. He said that it has also been decided in the cabinet meeting that the provisions will be tightened against the suspension of driving licenses of those who are caught drunk driving.