

News

Excise dept unearths permit scam by Valpoi alcohol trader

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The state excise department has been computerised to bring in transparency and prevent faking of permits and misuse of genuine permits, but a scam post computerisation has been unearthed involving use of a sham company, set up by a local trader from Valpoi, to hoodwink the excise authorities in various parts of the country.

Excise commissioner Menino D'Souza informed that the scandal came to light after excise authorities from Rajasthan sought verification of a permit issued by the Goa excise for import of alcohol. On verification of the permit, it was found that the permit issued to Maria Traders from Valpoi was being misused.

Giving details of the modus operandi, D'Souza informed that some unscrupulous persons appeared

Transparency in functioning through computerisation

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Excise commissioner Menino D'Douza has said that computerisation of the excise department using software developed by the department with the help of National Informatics Centre has helped the department streamline its functioning and bring in transparency and do away any scope for malpractices by the department officials.

He said that a permit for import or export as also no-objection certificates are issued only after a thorough excise is done and that there is a

system in place for issue of permits and NOCs. Unless all the steps are followed, the permit is not generated, he said adding that the system has been put in place since December 2014.

He said following the computerisation, all documents, permits and NOCs carry a bar code, which helps in easy scan to detect forgery, if any. He also said that a secured payment gateway for payment of excise duty is made available, which could be used by liquor

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to have set up a sham company in an attempt to misuse the genuine permit issued by the department. He said that the company which obtained the permit after paying the excise duty for import of alcohol had

perhaps tried to misuse it by faking it when it was caught.

"It has come to our knowledge that the permit issued by the Goa excise

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department after following the due process was being misused for transportation of alcohol to other parts of the country in the guise that the same was being transported to Goa," he said adding that in some cases consignment was never brought to the state.

He said that scan of the bar coding of the permit revealed that a fake permit was produced before the Rajasthan excise officials. He said based on the probe conducted by the state excise official, a first information report has been filed against the owner of the company, Joao Dias, with the police. Rajasthan

Transparency in functioning

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companies to make electronic payments. "We can now issue permits within a day if all requirements were met," he said. The department has so far issued 1,431 permits for import of alcohol and 2,465 for export of liquor, he

said adding that besides 422 NOCs have been issued for import of alcohol and 755 NOCs for export of liquor. "We will soon set up an intelligence cell to gather information of illegalities," he said adding that the computerisation has helped in doing away with malpractices.

officials have also filed a case against the company, he added.

D'Souza further said that the company after obtaining the permit, which has a fixed period, apparently uses it for transportation of alcohol to different parts of the country

and then seeks either its extension or cancellation to hoodwink the authorities. "The amount paid for the cancelled permit is used to obtain a fresh permit," he stated.

He said that it was now almost impossible to fake a permit and obtain it

through fraudulent means following the computerisation of the department. He also said that obtaining a genuine permit has also become difficult in recent times as stringent measures were in place almost all over the country.

The excise commissioner further said that another liquor company was under scrutiny of the department as it was found to have been seeking extension of permits and their cancellation frequently. "We are probing the dealings of the company and if found that it was involved in illegalities appropriate action would be taken against its management," he stated.