

Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1578

Confidential ~~no~~ 51

Dated 26th April

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.P. issuing certain instructions to Collectors and Deputy and Assistant Commissioners in the matter of the maximum prices to be charged at distilleries, warehouses and wholesale depots on issues of liquor.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 2112

Coupt no 46

From

The Secretary to the Commissioner of
Salt, Abkari & Separate Revenue,
Madras.

Order mis. No. 1578 d/26.4.99
Cmpt no 51
Recorded.
25/4/99

Mis. No. 1153

Dated 20th March 1899.

Received 24.4.99 do

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SUBJECT.

Issuing certain instructions to
Collectors and Deputy and Assistant
Commissioners in the matter of the
maximum prices to be charged at dis-
tilleries, warehouses and wholesale
depots on issues of liquor.

SA/ 6/4/99.
AR.
7.4.99
The B.P. may be
Recorded.

The points raised are
not easy of solution, but depend
entirely on the actual practical
working of distilleries as that until
some concrete case occurs they
may be left alone so far as the
Govt is concerned.

SA 22/4/99

BACK PAPERS. 0

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Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue).

Dated 20th March 1899. 189 .

Mis No. 1153

Read letter from the Collector of South Arcot, No. 135/O.S., dated 24th February 1899, requesting Board's orders as to how maximum prices are to be fixed for arrack distilled in the Nellikuppam Distillery and Board's reference thereon No. 210, dated 27th February 1899, requesting the Collector of South Arcot to report whether any case of mixture of materials for arrack distillation at the Nellikuppam distillery has yet arisen and if so to report the circumstances.

Read again Board's Proceedings Mis No. 1053, dated 12th March 1899, informing the Collector of Coimbatore that, if a wholesale depot licensee changes his source of supply after taking out a license, his maximum price must also be changed.

Read also petition from the Coimbatore distiller No. 414, dated 16th March 1899, requesting to abolish the restrictions imposed on distillers in the matter of maximum prices for liquor issued.

RESOLUTION:-

The papers read above relate to certain questions raised by distillers and others on the enforcement of Board's Notification Nos. 1, dated 30th January 1899, and 5^x, dated 7th February 1899, regarding the maximum prices to be charged by distilleries, warehouses and wholesale depots on issues of liquor.

2. Before answering them the Board desires it to

* Cp. 617-
10-2-99 put up
with another
current.

clearly understood that Government has been compelled to take action in altering the maximum prices to be charged and in compelling supply to all licensed dealers by the conduct of distillers in combining, in raising prices, and in affecting the machinery for the distribution of liquor in a way detrimental to the interests of the consumer and the revenue. The results were already apparent, but threatened early intensification; and the action of Government has proceeded in no spirit of reprisal or suppression of legitimate industry properly conducted but only in protection of the public interests. It should further be noted that the prices fixed are still considerably over distillery selling prices in the past. The Board, therefore, desires Collectors and others clearly to understand that their present main duty in regard to this - Notification is to watch the course of prices and events and that unnecessary interference by them with distillers is to be avoided. Apprehensions seem entertained by some distillers and others which the Revenue and Departmental Officers should endeavour to remove. To prevent mistakes and to secure due consideration the Board has already directed that the maximum prices fixed by Collectors for wholesale depots shall be checked and confirmed by itself before they are put in force. Meanwhile licenses may be issued as usual, leaving the Notification of the maximum prices till they have been received from the Board. The maximum prices for warehouses will be fixed for the present at a uniform rate of 10 annas and 6 pies for molasses arrack of 30° degrees under-proof and similarly for other kinds and strengths.

3. On this understanding the Board proceeds to answer the queries asked by Collectors and others.

(a) The Collector of Coimbatore desires to know what is to be done when a wholesale depotkeeper changes his source of supply. The Board does not believe that such changes will be frequent. If they occur the maximum prices must also be changed.

(b) The Distillery Officer, Nellikuppam, and the proprietor of Coimbatore distillery ask whether different rates are to be

E.P. 625-
25-10-98

re: maximum
prices.

note/p. on page 13
of E.P. 124
17-2-99

This matter identical
with in another case
separately submitted
(Cor. 2144 of 99)

The Board replied
to the same effect
in answer to a query
from this office
(original of E.P. 124
not put up)

provided for liquor distilled from different materials when a distiller is distilling at the same time from more than one. This will become necessary if the prices to be charged for the mixed liquor exceed that allowed for the lowest priced; but the Board has no reason to believe that this contingency will occur as distillers can regulate their business without difficulty so as to keep sorts separate.

(c) The question of the price to be charged on liquor made from a mixture of materials is also raised. Such mixture is not, according to the Board's information, a common or necessary practice. It will be necessary for the Board to take notice of it if it is practised and the product priced above the maximum fixed for liquor made from the lower class of materials used. In such cases the Board will be compelled to assume, unless the contrary is shown, that mixing was done with a view to evasion of the rule and will have to meet it by enforcing the lower appropriate maximum.

(d) Lastly the proprietor of the Coimbatore distillery protests against being compelled to sell to all comers of the score who he manufactures only for persons who have contracts with him. The Board cannot accept this protest. It is impossible to conduct a system of independent sale of shops if a shopkeeper cannot be more or less certain of a supply of liquor and the Board believes that there is little danger of this distiller's stock being exhausted by outside demand.

4. With reference to his petition No. 414, dated 16th March 1899, the proprietor of the Coimbatore distillery is informed that the Board is not prepared to reconsider its orders in the matter of the maximum prices to be charged for liquor issued from distilleries, &c. The Board is surprised to find that he regards them as in any way harmful; it would have expected a contrary attitude.

(True Extract)

To
All Collectors
All Deputy & Assistant Commissioners,
Copy to Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.
Forward to the Proprietor,
Coimbatore Distillery.

G. P. M. S.
Acting Secretary.

23-3-99

23-3-99

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
 189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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