

# 173 Lottery drawn for 206 liquor shops in city

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**JAIPUR:** After inviting online applications for the first time, the excise department on Friday drew the lottery to allot IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquor) and country liquor shops across the state. The new allotments will come into effect from April 1.

The department recently received nearly 5,28,000 applications from almost all the states and 10 countries. An official informed, "The lottery was drawn at all the district headquarters by the committee comprising of district collector, superintendent of police and district excise officer. Transparent methods were adopted to draw lottery for 1,000 IMFL and 6,660 outlets."

For Jaipur (City), the lottery was drawn to allot 206 IMFL and 106 country liquor shops. Similarly, for Jaipur rural allotment of 11 IMFL and 216 country liquor shops was made at Bhawani Niketan School.

District excise officer Rajesh Verma said, "The excise department in 2016-2017 earned the revenue of Rs 50.51 crore after receiving 24,501 applications for Jaipur city. The revenue earned is seven crore higher as compared to last year." The department received nearly 25,000 applications for Jaipur rural.

After the online process was adopted, nearly 43,000 applications were increased as compared with last year. The department received 4.82 applications last in 2015 - 2016. "For financial year 2016-2017, the excise department is targeting at Rs 7,000 crore. Out of which, it earned Rs 1,125 crore after inviting application fee. This is a non-refundable amount and would go to the state treasury." This year for the first lotteries of all the shops were drawn at one time as the department has received applications for all the shops. Earlier, the process continued in phases till May for lack of takers, but the online process made things easier.

Official further informed, also it is first time that we have received applications from all the 36 states and union territories and 10 applications from the United States, Britain, Kenya, Israel, Bahrain etc.

## **CRITICISM**

**Udaipur:** Permitting the lottery draw process by the excise department for liquor shop allocations, inside the university campus on Friday, has drawn severe criticism. The vice-chancellor and the registrar were on the radar of the critics who claimed the act to be against the values of education and symbol of righteousness, something the universities aim for.

"At a time when rural women in Rajsamand have united, come out of their houses and voted for shut down of a liquor shop, it is highly shameful that the 5-star graded Sukhadia University allowed such an act which has put the institution in a bad light," said Dr Girija Vyas, former chairperson of National Women Commission and ex-professor of the university.

"They have been giving the auditorium for public and private functions but this is first time that the temple of education saw people collecting for alcohol shop allotments. The campus shares its premises with the Agriculture University too and before giving the sanction, the management should have once thought what example they are going to set for the youth? " said Dr Sanjay Lodha, a Professor from Political Science dept.