



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
Member of Consultative Committee on Defence
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

24th June 2014

Dear *Siddaramai havarane*,

I am writing to thank you for taking cognizance of my letter dated 16th June 2015, highlighting the increasing incidents of under-aged patrons being served alcohol in bars, restaurants and pubs in the city. Serving liquor to the under aged is not just a blatant violation of law but a crime against children, and I am glad that the issue has received the attention of your Government and the Excise Commissioner.

Since this also amounts to being a crime against children, it would be appropriate if the Ministry of Women and Child Development also starts acting on this to ensure that children are protected.

Since the lack of adequate manpower within the Excise Department is an impediment to strict enforcement, I believe there is a need to create a Government-Citizen partnership to protect our children. In this regard, I urge you to consider the following recommendations:

1. **Excise Department / Department of Women and Child Development should conduct surprise periodic and regular checks/ inspections of establishments serving alcohol:** This will ensure strict enforcement of the law. Restaurants, bars and other commercial establishments found to be flouting rules must be brought to book, and penalised to ensure the Government sends a strong message of zero tolerance to both, under-age drinking and those indulging children in this illegal act.



2. **Start a joint Excise Department / Department of Women and Child Development Hotline where E-mails and calls can be received on violation:** This will involve parent groups, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and other citizens in the enforcement process who will call/ mail to report such violations. I have started a similar hotline protectourchildren@rajeev.in to allow parents and citizens to write in anonymously and report / make complaints on bars, restaurants and pubs in the city which serve alcohol to patrons under 21 years of age. The hotline has received several complaints some of which I am attaching herewith for your consideration and action.

Only a Government-Citizen partnership and Excise Department and Department of Women & Child Development partnership, will help tackle this menace of liquor served to under-aged that has for too long, been actively supported and encouraged by restaurants, bars and other commercial establishments. I urge the Government and the Excise Department / Department of Women and Child Development to evolve such a partnership to prevent harm and protect our children from this menace.

I look forward to your response on the issue.

Yours Sincerely

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Siddaramiah

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

Copy to:

- 1) **Smt Umarshri**, Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore
- 2) **Dr Rajneesh Goel**, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Women and Child Development Department, MS Building, Bangalore
- 3) **Shri SR Umashankar, IAS**, Excise Commissioner, Government of Karnataka.