

Need to review the decision to permit supply of alcohol in Lakshadweep-Laid

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): The

Lakshadweep Administration has permitted the supply of liquor in Dak Bungalows across the islands. Lakshadweep is not merely a tourist destination; it is a closely knit island society rooted in strong cultural values, social discipline and deep religious convictions. For decades, prohibition has been an integral part of its governance framework and has significantly contributed to maintaining peace, social stability and a low crime rate. The predominantly Tribal population of Lakshadweep come from modest socio-economic backgrounds and has historically resisted the use of intoxicants. In such a small and socially interconnected community, even a limited introduction of alcohol in Government guest houses risks gradual normalization, with long-term social consequences that cannot be easily reversed. This decision appears inconsistent with the spirit of Article 47 of the Constitution, which urges the State to work towards prohibition of intoxicating drinks harmful to health. Under Article 240, the Administration carries a responsibility to ensure governance that safeguards social harmony and public welfare. Lakshadweep's tourism growth has been built on ecological purity and peaceful living, not on alcohol-based attractions. I therefore urge the Ministry of Home Affairs to immediately review and revoke this order in the larger interest of protecting the islands' culture.