

[English]

Functioning of Aizawl T.V. Centre

*140. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding improper transmission of National network programmes on T.V. in Mizoram despite expansion and increase in the power of Aizawl T.V. Centre;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take action to ensure that programmes could be viewed clearly; and

(d) if so the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) Complaints about the poor reception of TV Service in parts of Aizawl town have been received from time to time. The high power (1 KW) TV transmitter installed at Aizawl, in replacement of the low power (100W) TV transmitter earlier functioning there, has its antenna mounted on a 40 Metres high TV tower, as against the normal height of 100 Metres in such cases, causing thereby a limitation in its overall reach. It was not possible to construct a TV tower of the requisite height of 100 Metres as the clearance given by the Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SACFA) was available only for a height of 40 Metres.

Nevertheless, the overall TV coverage in the area has considerably improved on commissioning of the 1 KW TV transmitter. However, reception at certain places which earlier received satisfactorily service from the low power transmitter, has been adversely affected due to formation of

“Shadow Zones” caused by the intervening hilly terrain. This situation can be rectified by establishment of additional transmitting facility in the “shadow area”. The provision of this facility, however, depends on the availability of adequate funds for the purpose.

Excise Frauds

*141. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Excise frauds that have come to light during the last twelve months;

(b) the action taken on these cases; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to eliminate such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) During the period July, 1989 to June, 1990, 5419 cases of alleged evasion of Central Excise duty involving an estimated duty of Rs. 1018 crores have been detected in respect of various manufacturers all over the country.

(b) Action has already been initiated to investigate these cases and to issue show cause notices demanding duty alleged to have been evaded by the manufacturers.

(c) Detection of duty evasion is an ongoing process. Anti-Evasion machinery of the Government has been geared up to curb such malpractices. Recently, the strength of officers engaged in detecting evasion of Central Excise duty has been increased. Field formations have been alerted and asked to further intensify patrolling, nakabandi, surveillance of suspected units etc. Guidelines on prosecution have also been revised to make them more meaningful and comprehensive so as to ensure that tax evaders are dealt with severely.