

received, from time to time, from various quarters. The TV coverage in Pithoragarh district is expected to improve with the commissioning of the very low power transmitter under implementation at Munsiri. Further improvement in TV coverage in the district depends upon the availability of resources for the purpose.

Smuggling of foodgrains on Indo-Nepal Border

1588. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint in regard to the large scale smuggling of foodgrains etc. from Nainital and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh into Nepal;

(b) if so, the number of cases of smuggling detected during last one year; and

(c) the further action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Available reports do not indicate any instances of smuggling of foodgrains from Nainital and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh into Nepal in the recent past. However, the Enforcement agencies remain alert against smuggling activities throughout the country including those on the Indo-Nepal border. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

[English]

Tax Evasion by Tobacco and Drug Companies

1589. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign share holding companies, particularly tobacco and drug companies, have evaded huge Excise duty and other taxes

and opened their office abroad to legalise their black money;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to direct these companies to close their offices abroad to meet shortage of foreign exchange; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mis-Utilisation of Foreign Exchange Allotted to companies in Delhi

1590. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange allotted to M/s. ITC Ltd., Glaxo Ltd., Asian Paints Ltd. and to 5-Star Hotels in Delhi during the last two years.

(b) whether instances of misutilisation of the foreign exchange by the above companies/hotels have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) No case of misutilisation of foreign exchange released to the named companies and five star hotels in Delhi has come to the notice of the Enforcement Directorate during the last two years.

Hotels with Foreign Share Holdings

1591. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of hotels in India with foreign share holdings;