

Title: Need to enhance the grant and increase the strength of Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (OUTER MANIPUR): The Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal is in a very bad shape from the very start. The greatest set back of the Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal, Manipur, was because of a major fire accident in 1995 which damaged the studio complex leaving the studio unusable. The repairing works were started very late and it took three years. Though the studio is now functional, the machines have since been exposed to fire and kept unused for three years. As a result, the smoothness of the machines is totally absent. Certain machines are yet to be operational. As such, the quality of the programme is comparatively very poor and the programmes could not be telecast in all the districts. Another problem being faced by the Kendra is the shortage of engineering staff. At present the main operational staff (EA&SEA) is only ten while as per norm, the minimum requirement is 26. Although there is a public demand for the increase in the duration of local transmission, it has not materialised due to the lack of staff and equipment. The budget is another problem being faced by the Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal, Manipur. Though the number of programmes and participations have increased, the budgetary grant is not proportionately enhanced. In the circumstances, I urge upon the Government to enhance the grant to Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal and increase the strength of the staff so that the functioning of the Kendra and the quality of the programme can be improved.