

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

BULLETIN PART-I No. 11

Thursday, the 10th May, 2007.
Vaisakha 20, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Thursday, the 10th May, 2007 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon'ble Chief Minister, 6 Cabinet Ministers, Chairman (Hill Areas Committee) and 49 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 78 asked by Shri Awangbow Newmai, MLA regarding Junior High Schools under Tamei and Tousem Block.
- (b) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 79 asked by Shri S. Kunjekeswor (Keba) Singh, MLA regarding the construction of SDC Office, Konthoujam.
- (c) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 80 asked by Shri I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA regarding the steps taken up for widening of roads in the Uripok side of Bir Tikendrajit Fly Over Bridge.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (Power) made a reply to Starred Question No. 81 asked by Dr. Kh. Loken Singh, MLA regarding the repairing of street lamps in Imphal city.
- (e) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 82 asked by Shri R.K. Anand Singh, MLA regarding the construction of roads under SPA, ACA and BHNP.
- (f) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 83 asked by Shri E. Kunjeswar Singh, MLA regarding liabilities of the Government for work done in the Engineering Departments.
- (g) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 84 asked by Shri S. Joy Singh, MLA regarding the construction of Samorou Bridge.
- (h) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 85 asked by Shri T. Mangibabu, MLA regarding the daily wages fixed for labourers.
- (i) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 86 asked by Shri Erabot Yumkham, MLA regarding villages surveyed and allotment of land in Wangkhei A/C.

Answers to Starred Question Nos. 87 & 88 were laid on the Table of the House.

ZERO HOUR:

During Zero-Hour, Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA making clarification to the news report of the Poknapham Daily of 8th and 9th May, 2007, said that he was not against the inner line permit but made the observation regarding the matter for increasing the resource mobilisation of the state.

CALLING ATTENTION:

S/Shri O. Joy Singh and Th. Shyamkumar Singh, MLAs called the attention of the Health and Family Welfare Minister on the alleged misappropriation of medicinal and other items worth over Rs. 88 lakhs in the Malaria Office.

Shri Th. Shyamkumar, MLA mover of the calling attention motion, quoting the 8th May, 2007 edition of the Imphal Free Press expressed apprehension about the involvement of department's officials in the Rs.88 lakhs fraud that reportedly occurred in between the month of March and October of 2006. He therefore, drew the attention of the Minister concerned to the matter and enquired about the course of action to be taken regarding the matter. He further pointed out the need for giving befitting punishment to those involved in the case after conducting a thorough enquiry.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA co-mover the call attention quoted the 8th May edition of the Imphal Free Press and recapitulating the report, said that items worth about Rs.88 lakhs in the State Malaria office, Lamphel, meant for the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme were misappropriated with the matter coming to light when a Committee of officers constituted on 01-02-07 conducted a physical verification of the store. He enquired about the officer in charge of the store, the officers in the enquiry committee and whether the UDC, during whose tenure the fraud was committed, was entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the store. He further enquired about the action taken up regarding the matter and wanted a detailed report relating to the case be placed before the House.

Shri Gaikhangam, Minister (Health and Family Welfare), replying to the calling attention motion said that on receipt of a report from the State Malaria Officer regarding loss of items amounting to around Rs.88 lakhs, a verification of the store for the period from 23-03-06 to 30-10-06 by a four member committee of officers headed by the Director Health constituted for the purpose was conducted and discrepancies were found. A case was registered with the Imphal Police Station regarding the matter and investigation was going on, he informed and added that befitting action would be taken up against those officials found guilty. The documents relating to the case would be made available, he further informed.

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2007-2008:

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 9 -Information & Publicity, Demand No. 10 -Education, Demand No. 17 - Agriculture, Demand No. 27 -Election and Demand No. 42 -State Academy of Training.

Hon'ble Speaker clubbed the five demands for a joint discussion.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motion suggested for increasing the budget allocation of the Information and Publicity Department, Agriculture Department, Education Department and the State Academy of Training and sought clarification for the static budget allocations. He pointed out the necessity for further improvement of the different services under the Publicity and Information Department. He suggested for framing an Agricultural Policy, making operational the Land Use Act and different other developmental steps for improving the rural economy. He suggested for an effective management in Education Department and stressed the need for taking up corrective measures regarding the irregularity in the posting of the recently appointed graduate teachers and reserving posts for the physically handicapped in future. He expressed desire for infrastructure development and technical upgradation in the State Academy of Training.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 12.55 p.m. till 2.00 p.m. of the day).

(The afternoon session resumed at 2.10 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SPEAKER:

Hon'ble Speaker informed the House that Motion for Disapproval of Policy Cut raised on Demand No.17-Agriculture in the day's list of business by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA was withdrawn. He also appealed to all the Members to maintain quorum in the House.

Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA drew the attention of the Honb'le Speaker to give direction to the concerned Minister to be present in the House during Demand Discussion.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving cut motion observed on the importance of press and wanted proper protection of press by the government. Pointing out the mismanagement and maladministration in the Education Department he said that the present education system in the state was in a chaotic condition and expressed unhappiness on the decrease of the number of students in government schools. The transfer and posting of teachers was full of abnormalities, he said and added that the government should find out its root cause. He also expressed concern on the adoption of Nagaland School Board in some schools in hills and wanted the government to take steps in this regard. He further said that mid-day meals scheme in schools was not properly implemented by the department and wanted proper supervision of the authority concerned. Regarding Demand No.17-Agriculture, he urged the Minister to introduce a clear cut agricultural policy to protect agricultural land of Manipur. He also mentioned, among other things, better irrigation facilities in fields, application of modern technologies in agriculture, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SPEAKER:

Hon'ble Speaker announced that the relevant documents in connection with the alleged misappropriation of medicinal and other items worth over Rs.88 lakhs in the Malaria office could be examined by interested Member in his Chamber.

Dr. Khasim Ruivah, MLA participating in the discussion observed that the education department had no clear cut transfer and posting policy and expressed desire to maintain uniform staff pattern in all schools. He also highlighted on the shortage of teachers and lack of infrastructure in hills and wanted a proper rationalised policy of the department. He also expressed desire to appoint Hindi

teachers from local people in hills and added that high schools in hills should be upgraded to Higher Secondary levels by providing more teachers.

Shri Doukhomang Khongsai, MLA participating in the discussion observed that posting of teachers was made without a proper policy by the education department. He drew the attention of the Minister regarding the shortage of teachers in hills. He also expressed concern on the demand of MUTSU for not following proper reservation policy of the state in the appointment of lecturers in Manipur University and wanted re-advertisement in the interest of the tribals.

Shri I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA moving cut motion on Education Department said that the present education system of Manipur was not quality oriented and wanted its reformation. Stressing the need to streamline SSA scheme in the state, he said that the mid-day meal kitchen in schools were very small and wanted proper checking by the department. He also expressed desire to maintain proper transfer and posting policy of education department both in hills and valley. Regarding Information and Publicity, he appealed the media persons to be impartial. On Agriculture, he stressed the need to organise awareness camp for farmers on the harmful effects of various pesticides and insecticides. He also made observation on Higher Education and State Academy of Training.

Shri R.K. Anand Singh, MLA moving cut motion pointed out the low performance rate of the government schools and added that inspite of various measures there was lack of quality education due to the absence of an effective education policy and lack of objectivity in the transfer and posting policy. He pointed out certain flaws in the recent pay anomaly and the school amalgamation process taken up by the Government and suggested for their rectifications. He further urged the government to implement Meitei Mayek properly. He said that the economy of Manipur being an agricultural economy, a proper planning should be done to enable multiple cropping and added that fertilizers should be made readily available to the farmers.

Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA participating in the discussion said that the whole education system needs to be corrected and added that experts in the field of education should be consulted to find out the mistakes in the education system of the state to formulate a solution. He critically commented on the lack of academic atmosphere in the state and added that the government should take up corrective measures to maintain academic atmosphere. He further pointed out the need to formulate a wholesome policy of Agriculture and added that planning and research was required to enhance agricultural production in the state. He expressed regret on the shrinking of agricultural land at an alarming rate due to conversion into homestead land and wanted the government to look into the matter. He pointed out the need for providing market facilities for agricultural products, storage of such products, loan to farmers and give protection to farmers and added that the government should formulate a system to convert shifting cultivation, prevalent in the hill areas, into a permanent cultivation.

Shri Y. Surchandra, MLA supporting the demands gave suggestion that DIPR and Media should be strengthened to keep the people well informed. He said that the government should have some control over the private TV channels operating in the state. He further suggested for bringing out the Calendar and Diary of Information and Publicity Dept. before the new year and for shifting of the present Electricity and DIPR office at a much less congested place. He pointed out the need to make the farmers aware of the benefits of growing cash crops. He also suggested for immediate attention to the dilapidated school buildings in the state and the lack of science and maths teachers in the hill areas.

Shri V. Hangkhanlian, MLA participating in the demand discussion said that inspite of the various Central and State projects for the development of education in the state, it was still a failure in the hill areas as most of the schools in the hill areas do not have proper buildings, infrastructures, equipment and teachers. Highlighting the lack of teachers in the schools located in the hill areas, he drew the attention of the Minister concerned to take up necessary steps to send teachers to these schools. He further pointed out the importance of providing alternative means of livelihood to the people living in the hill areas in order to substitute shifting cultivation prevalent in the hill areas. Schemes like Jatropa Cultivation should be implemented in the hill areas for better economic condition of the people living in the hill areas.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA participating in the discission said that Doordarshan and All India Radio should telecast more programmes of the hill people and added that WLL should be made available to all the villages of the hill for instant communication. He further charged that reservation policy was flouted in the appointment being done recently at Manipur University. He urged the Minister concerned to fill up the vacant post of school teachers located in the hill areas and added that standard of government schools should be improved by formulating a proper education policy. He also suggested for issuing voter identity cards to check bogus electorates.

Dr. Kh. Loken Singh, MLA supporting the motion said that a separate directorate for development of local languages should be opened to develop Manipuri language and other tribal dialects. He further said that state awards should be conferred to local writers to promote literature. He questioned the contribution of the existence of CAU (Central Agricultural University) and urged the government to tie up the state Agriculture Department with experts of CAU to get the benefits of their research to the farmers in the state and further suggested that different faculties of CAU can be opened at the different hill districts.

Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh, MLA participating in the demand discussion pointed out the health hazard posed by the random use of fertilizers and pesticides by the farmers and urged the government to spread such awareness to the farmers. He wanted the constitution of a House Committee to examine the various irregularities existing in the Education Department and to improve the department. He further said that the government schools located at the far flung areas should be paid more attention.

Shri P. Parijat Singh, Minister (Agriculture) replying to the demand discussion said that an Agricultural Policy was ready to be announced by the Central Government on 15th August which would be followed all over India. He highlighted various programmes taken up by Agriculture Department like Farmers' Training, giving subsidy on the purchase of powertillers by farmers, opening of units to check insects falling on crops, training for rodent control, etc. He further informed that after the completion of various irrigation projects many agricultural lands can reap the benefit of multiple cropping. Kisan Call Centres, he informed, had been opened at the head office for listening to the grievances of the farmers and added that Agriculture Product Market Act was being formulated with the consultation of the Centre for regulating the price of agricultural products. The department, he said, was taking up programmes for spreading awareness to farmers regarding Agri Technology, diversification and commercialisation in agriculture to improve their economy. He appealed to movers of cut motions to withdraw and allow the demand to pass.

Shri Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA sought further clarification and Hon'ble Minister Agriculture clarified.

Shri T.N Haokip, Minister (DIPR) replying to the demand discussion said that all the suggestions given for the improvement of the department would be looked into.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the demand discussion said that with the step of the Election Commission of India to issue voter identity cards before the 15th Lok Sabha election to be held in 2009 the problem of bogus voters would be dispensed with. Regarding rationalisation and posting of teachers, he clarified that the government had already started the process and expressed confidence that rationalisation could be successfully done after the process of computerisation of MGEL was complete. He further informed that priority was given to local candidates selected in the DPC and added that teachers would be given posting according to the students' strength. The government, he said, was also seriously considering the alarming rate of school and college dropouts in the state and further informed that the government was discussing to constitute a Commission or a Committee to find out the facts and take up corrective measures. He further informed that all the vacant post of teachers under the District Council had been filled up and requested the Members to help the government to check irregular teachers. The Adhoc teachers, he said, could not be regularised as the Supreme Court had passed an order that all adhoc employees could not be regularised without a proper DPC. The programmes under SSA, he said, were implemented mainly by the ZEO concerned as per the guidelines given by the Centre and added that priority was given for the development of schools located in the hill.

He appealed to the movers of cut motions to withdraw and allow the demands to pass.

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 9, 10, 17, 27 & 42. were passed unanimously.

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 6.30 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Friday, the 11th May, 2007.

T. Joute
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.
