

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

BULLETIN PART-I No. 12

Friday, the 11th May, 2007.
Vaisakha 21, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Friday, the 11th 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 Minister (IFCD) made a reply to Starred Question No. 89 asked by Shri K. Wungnaoshang, MLA regarding obtaining of forest clearance and payment of compensation to the affected people in the construction of Thoubal Multipurpose project.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (IFCD) made a reply to Starred Question No. 90 asked by Dr. Kh. Loken Singh, MLA regarding steps for embankment of Nambul River bank.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (Law & L.A.) made a reply to Starred Question No. 91 asked by Shri R.K. Anand Singh, MLA regarding the enforcement of The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (Minor Irrigation) made a reply to Starred Question No. 92 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding plans for construction of R.L.I. Scheme in Khurai A/C.
- (e) Hon'ble Minister (Env. & Forest) made a reply to Starred Question No. 93 asked by Shri T. Mangibabu Singh, MLA regarding measures taken up by the government for the protection of Loktak Lake.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Tribal Development) made a reply to Starred Question No. 94 asked by Shri W. Morung Makunga, MLA regarding the election of the Autonomous District Councils in the state.
- (g) Hon'ble Minister (Env. & Forest) made a reply to Starred Question No. 95 asked by Shri S. Joy Singh, MLA regarding measures of the government to allow transportation of Timber within North -East.
- (h) Hon'ble Minister (Minor Irrigation) made a reply to Starred Question No. 96 asked by Dr. U. Deben Singh, MLA regarding the number of R.L.I. Schemes under the Minor Irrigation Department.

(i) Hon'ble Minister (Env. & Forest) made a reply to Starred Question No. 97 asked by Shri I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA regarding proposal of the Government for resumption of the works of Loktak Lift Irrigation. Hon'ble Chief Minister further supplemented to it.

ELECTION FOR FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN COMMITTEE:

Shri E. Dwijamani Singh, Chairman of the Committee on Estimates moved the following motion:

“that in pursuance of Rule 233(3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Manipur Legislative Assembly, this House do proceed to elect 1 (one) member for filling the casual vacancy in Committee on Estimates on 19th May, 2007.”

CALLING ATTENTION:

Shri O. Joy Singh and Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLAs called the attention of the Home Minister on the indefinite economic blockade called by ATSUM from 13th May, 2007.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA quoted the 10th May, Imphal Free Press and other publications of local dailies on the imposition of indefinite economic blockade from 13th May 2007 by ATSUM against the failure of the government to fulfil the assurances given to them. Highlighting the severe hardships that would be faced by the people during the blockade, he urged the government to look into the matter to bring about an effective solution. He observed that such a trend of calling bandhs and blockades should be seriously taken into consideration since it greatly affects the rights of the citizens.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA co-mover of the motion also quoted some of the local dailies and made certain suggestions to solve the impasse in the interest of the general public. Regarding the constraints to fulfil the assurances, he wanted the government to find out quick remedies and make the student body retract its stand.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the motion said some of the demands of ATSUM were already met and stated the reasons for non-fulfilment of some of the demands. Regarding the Manipur Reservation Bill for SC/ST, he said, it would be reintroduced in the House during the ongoing session. Prior to the upgradation of Manipur University, the 100 point roster programme was being followed but after becoming a Central University, Central Rules are being implemented in the recruitment of employees and enrolment of students, he added. He further said that the government would find ways and means to comply with the rest of their demands inspite of the discrepancies and appealed to the student body to withdraw its decision.

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

Chief Minister, Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 4 -Land Revenue, Stamps & Registration and District Administration, Demand No. 19 -Environment & Forest, Demand No. 25 - Youth Affairs & Sports Department and Demand No. 47 -Welfare of Minorities and Other Backward Classes.

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

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving a cut motion in respect of Youth Affairs and Sports expressed that the government should frame a clear cut policy to give financial assistance in advance to voluntary organisations and clubs. He wanted the government to give special emphasis to gyms to make them fit to national and international competitions. Citing the various problems faced by the sportspersons, he emphasised the need to develop infrastructures and channelise the energy of the youth. He made observation on the decrease in the budget allocation of Environment and Forest and said that the annual report of the department was theory oriented and not practical oriented. He also commented on the need to improve Social Forestry. Internet facilities should be provided for Land Revenue and Stamps, he said. He also made observation of the awarding of scholarships under Central Sponsored Schemes.

Shri R.K. Anand Singh, MLA moving a cut motion in respect of Youth Affairs and Sports observed that Sports served as the status symbol of the state. He said that some changes were seen in the talents promoting mechanism and stressed the need for grooming from the grassroots level. Expressing concern over the disorganised way of rendering facilities to sportspersons, he wanted the government to give better facilities to coaches. In spite of the afforestation programmes, deforestation continues and a concrete and stringent policy should be framed to check it, he maintained. He also made certain observation on the effect of Loktak Hydro Electric Project on the natural habitat of Sangai.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 1.05 p.m. till 2.06 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).

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving cut motions observed on the Revenue Department that there was shortfall on the collection of land revenue of the department. Regarding the Forest Department, he charged that the department failed to collect proper forest revenues in the state and wanted proper tapping of forest resource for proper utilisation of forest areas. He expressed unhappiness on the setting up of saw mills within the forest reserved area near National Highways in spite of Supreme Court's directives against it and pointed out that the department had no concrete forest policy for proper management of forest. On Youth Affairs and Sports, he expressed concern on the youth's unrest and unemployment and wanted to formulate state youth policy in the light of the guidelines of the government of India to tackle youth's problems in the state. He also pointed out that the department failed to implement 5% reservation of outstanding sports persons in government jobs and wanted to maintain the policy in the interest of the talented sports persons in the state. He expressed appreciation of women football team of the state and wanted promotion of women football players who were already in service.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA participating in the discussion expressed desire to decentralise land records in the state. He observed that the forest department lacked proper management and added that control of deforestation was more important than plantation of trees. He expressed concern on the land encroachers within forest reserved areas and wanted the forest department to look into the matter. He also stressed the need to plant rubber and Moubi (a variety of bamboo) to generate revenue of the state. Regarding Youth affairs and Sports Department he emphasized the need to develop playgrounds of the district

headquarters in hills and suggested for setting up of sports academy from the grass roots level in all districts.

Shri S. Joy Singh, MLA participating in the discussion expressed desire to relax ban on the movement of timber by the Supreme Court and wanted to allow inter-state movement of timber. A Cabinet decision should be taken on the matter, if necessary, so that more revenues could be collected, he added. He also made observation on wild life and sports.

Md. Alauddin Khan, Minister (MOBC) replying to the discussion said that the pre-matric and post-matric scholarships had been given by the department since 2001-2002 and informed the House that furnishing of district wise report of the scholarships could take more time but the report for the year 2006-2007 could be made available to the Members within the current month. He said that the department had a small budget allocation and that the fund for the post-matric scholarship was provided by the Centre only. He further said that through Centre and state matching share the construction of boy's hostel at D.M College of Commerce, girl hostel at Akampat and one Minority girl hostel were undertaken by the department. He said that the department also took up programmes like tailoring, embroidery, fishery, poultry, vegetable farming, etc. extending benefits to minorities and other backward classes in the state. He also said that the department lack adequate staff having only 22 staffs to implement various schemes of the department and informed the House that effort had also been made to strengthen the department. He sought co-operation from the Members to pass the budget.

Th. Debendra Singh, Minister (Environment & Forest) replying to the discussion said that the Supreme Court's ban on the movement of timber was made to safeguard forest in the country. He said that the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Manipur Forest Act, 1971 could at least control deforestation and encroachment of forest areas for other purposes. He informed the house that under aforestation programme, plantation of trees in all classes of forest land had been undertaken by the department in the previous year and added that economic plantation of various types of trees was also done within the reserved forest areas. He also said that trees were planted under social forestry in the interest of the public. He further said that for scientific management of forest, working plan under NEC funding was completed for Chandel and Ukhrul districts for which approval of the Centre was taken and added that the study of working plan for Churachandpur district was underway. Regarding the ban on the movement of timbers by the Supreme Court, he informed the House that only the timber products from Manipur but not from Myanmar could be allowed to move within the north east states.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur replying to the discussion said that awarding of incentives to outstanding sports persons of the state was started since 1984 and that more than one crore of rupees had been spent on cash award since 2001. Besides, appointments of talented sportspersons in III and IV Grade in various government departments, 42 in YAS and 30 in Home department, he said that other outstanding players were also provided residence and house in recognition of their achievement. He informed the House that Rs 1 crore, Rs 50 lakh and Rs. 25 lakh would be given to the Olympic gold, silver and bronze medalist respectively. He further informed that National Sports Academy in Manipur would be set up by the government and District Mini Sports complex in each district headquarters under DONER Ministry with assistance from SPA and NEC would also be constructed. Regarding Revenue Department, he said that computerisation of land records were undertaken and informed the House that direct recruitment of the 44 vacant posts of SDC in the department would be conducted to strengthen the department. He also mentioned, among other things, improvement of district administration, identification of a better site for NIT complex in Manipur.

Dr. Ng Bijoy Singh, MLA seeking further clarification expressed desire to enhance financial assistance of the players of state level associations. He suggested for setting up of hill campus of Manipur University. He also proposed Chingarel hill, Imphal East for the construction of NIT complex. Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA suggested that no more land be acquired from patta land in the expansion of the Manipur University.

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 4, 19, 25 and 47 were passed unanimously.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION:

(i) Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh and Shri I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLAs moved the following resolution:

“that this House agrees to establish a State Medical Council.”

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving the Private Members' Resolution highlighted the objectives of the Medical Council of India and stressed the need for setting up the State Medical Council for controlling the ethics, duties and responsibility of medical practitioners in the state. He further pointed out that the difficulties being faced by doctors passing out from RIMS in going to Guwahati for registering with the Assam Medical Council would be done away with the setting up of the state medical council.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA co-mover of the resolution pointed out the need for a medical council in the state having a medical college. He also highlighted the need for setting up a State Medical Council in order to monitor the ethics and practices of doctors, the numerous hospitals and clinic coming up in the state and to do away with the difficulties faced by doctors passing out from the state in registering with the Assam Medical Council due to the absence of a medical council of the state.

Shri Gaikhangam, Minister(Health and Family Welfare), replying to the Private Members' Resolution observed that the state was not lagging behind in the field of medical science. Necessity for setting up a State Medical Council was felt, so steps were being taken up in this respect and preparation of the draft bill was over, he informed and added that the said bill would be placed during the current session for discussion, if possible.

On the assurance given by Shri Gaikhangam, Minister (Health and Family Welfare), the resolution was withdrawn by the movers.

(ii) S/Shri O. Joy Singh and R.K. Anand Singh, MLAs move the following resolution:-

“ that this House unanimously resolves that a separate High Court for the State of Manipur be established without further delay”.

Shri R.K. Anand Singh, MLA mover of the Private Members' Resolution pointed out the absence of a separate High Court inspite of making it mandatory by Art. 214 of the constitution. Citing the difficulties faced by the people while appealing in a higher court, he observed that justice was being denied to those people who cannot afford to go to Guwahati for appealing in a higher court. The grievances and the difficulties faced by Judges, Advocates and the people of the

state in general due to the lack of a separate High Court of the State need to be looked into, he added.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA co-mover of the Private Members' Resolution said that the number of cases pending in court in respect of our state was more than that of the other neighbouring states excepting Assam. Taking into account the time and money factor, he said that not everyone in the state could afford to go to Guwahati for appealing in a Higher Court. Though Art. 214 of the Constitution makes it mandatory for each state to have a High Court, the state was yet to establish a separate High Court, he observed and added that taking into account all the aforesaid factors a separate High Court was necessary.

Shri Th. Debendra Singh, Minister (Law and Legislative Affairs) replying to the Private Members' resolution also observed the need for setting up of a separate High Court of the state in view of the increasing number of cases pending in the High Court and expressed desire for passing the resolution and for placing it before the Centre for approval.

The resolution was unanimously adopted by the House.

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 5.07 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Monday, the 14th May, 2007.

T. Joute
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.
