

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

BULLETIN PART-I No. 16

Thursday, the 17th May, 2007.
Vaisakha 27, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Thursday, the 17th 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 44 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No.122 asked by Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA regarding the number of posts of Primary Teacher notified for appointment.
- (b) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 123 asked by Dr. Kh. Loken Singh, MLA regarding present status of the Language Cell established in 31st January, 1998.
- (c) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 124 asked by Shri O. Joy Singh in the absence of Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA regarding the present status and devt. plan of border trade via Moreh.
- (d) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 125 asked by Shri Awangbow Newmai, MLA in the absence of Shri K. Raina, MLA regarding the IVRs blacktopped in Senapati District.
- (e) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No.126 asked by Shri M. Manindra Singh, MLA regarding the functioning of SDO and SDC Office of Moirang in DIET Office in Moirang Lamkhai.
- (f) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No.127 asked by Shri R.K. Anand, MLA in the absence of Shri Doulhomang Khongsai, MLA regarding the plan of the Government to inaugurate Sadar Hills as a full fledged district.
- (g) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No.128 asked by Shri W. Morung Makunga, MLA regarding the construction of Khunutabi to Machi Road.
- (h) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 129 asked by Shri Awangbow Newmai, MLA regarding the non posting of SDO at Tousem.

(i) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 130 asked by Shri I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA regarding the progress of construction of 2nd Manipur Bhavan at Salt Lake, Kolkata.

(j) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 131 asked by Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA regarding the blacktopping of Sagang-Sugnu Road.

(k) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 132 asked by Dr. U. Deben Singh, MLA regarding the conversion of Aided Schools.

ZERO HOUR:

Shri Bijoy Singh, MLA drew the attention of the Chief Minister to construct a permanent bridge in place of the wooden bridge which was recently swept away by the Imphal River in his constituency.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA raised a matter regarding the 48 hours general strike called by the Zeliangrong Students Union from 18th May onwards and wanted the government to bring a solution.

S/Shri K. Meghachandra Singh and L. Jayantakumar Singh, MLAs raised similar matters on the need to repair the Yairipok Bridge built over the Thoubal River and the wooden Keishamthong Bridge over the Nambul River.

OBITUARY REFERENCE:

The Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh moved a resolution on obituary reference on the demise of Shri Ng. Luikang, Former Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister, Shri Awangbow Newmai, Shri O. Joy Singh, Shri Morung Makunga, Md. Helaluddin Khan, Shri I. Hemochandra Singh, MLAs and Hon'ble Minister Shri P. Parijat Singh, participated in the Obituary Reference.

The following resolution was adopted by the House:-

“That, this House expresses its deep and profound sorrow at the demise of Shri Ng. Luikang, former Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly on May 16, 2007.

And, that the Members of the House observe two minutes' silence by standing up to pray to the Almighty God for the eternal peace of the departed soul.”

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER:

Hon'ble Speaker announced that Shri Th. Shyamkumar had applied for leave of the House for the day.

The House granted leave.

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

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 13 -Labour & Employment, Demand No. 21 -Commerce & Industries and Weight & Measures

Department, Demand No. 22 - Public Health Engineering, Demand No. 39 - Sericulture and Demand No. 43 - Horticulture & Soil Conservation.

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

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving a cut motion observed that Manipur was lagging far behind in industrialization and that based on the New Industrial Policy, 2003 incentives should be given to the thrust areas. He expressed the need to encourage bamboo-based industries by setting up Technology Park. Regarding Mineral development, he said that proper mapping and investigation should be developed to explore mineral resources. The various schemes undertaken by the Industries department were not properly implemented and failed to bring the desired results, he said. He pointed out the need to streamline the working system and attitude of the offices of the commerce and industries department. He wanted to provide proper office building for the department of Weights and Measures. In respect of PHED, he stated that the department failed to distribute drinking water fairly. He said that due to less allocation in the non-plan budget old schemes undertaken by the department could not be renewed. Regarding the Lilong Chajing water supply scheme completed in 1977-78, it had collapsed at present and no non-plan allocation was made to renew it, he added. He observed that Sewerage and drainage projects were very much important in Imphal and greater Imphal areas. Provision to provide kucha drainage system at the onset of monsoon season in the greater Imphal areas should be implemented, he said. He also mentioned the no-completion of the Canchipur water supply scheme inspite of being allocated enough funds under the non-lapsable scheme. Due to mismanagement, the department failed to utilise the funds sanctioned by the Central government, he said.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 1.15 p.m. till 2.15 p.m. of the day).

(The afternoon session resumed at 2.08 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair).

Dr. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motion said that the Commerce and Industries department lacked vision and pointed out the need for improvement of the industrial policy of the state. He spelt out steps for extracting the maximum benefit from the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade. Necessity for a long term measure to provide safe drinking water to the public was pointed out by him and suggested for river water harvesting. He suggested for better management of the Sericulture department and proper implementation of the different schemes under the Horticulture and Soil Conservation department.

Shri I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA mover of cut motion observed the need for modernisation and extension of financial assistance for improving the handloom industry of the state. He suggested for reviving the various PSUs wound up in the past due to the lack of proper policy planning. Safe drinking water need to be provided to the public, he said and suggested for taking up rain water harvesting. Setting up of cold storages and framing of a marketing policy was necessary in view of the increased horticultural production of the state, he added.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA moving cut motion observed the need for providing drinking water by plugging pilferage and implementing numerous schemes in time. He drew attention towards setting up of food park, cold storages and formulation of a proper marketing policy of the state. Drawing the attention towards exploitation of labour in the state, he also stressed the need for checking child labour.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA taking part in the discussion pointed out the non performance of its duties by the Weight and Measures department. He expressed desire for setting up two Industrial Estate in Chandel and setting up of cold storages in all the districts. He further stressed for providing safe drinking water and effective implementation of various water supply schemes.

Shri T.N. Haokip, Minister(PHED) replying to the discussion said that water was being treated for providing safe drinking water and different schemes were being taken up both in urban and rural areas. He informed of the completion of Kangchup water supply scheme, commissioning of the water reservoir near Assembly Secretariat and other ongoing schemes like the one at Sekmai and another two at Irilbung and Canchipur under NLCPR as steps for providing safe drinking water in Imphal areas. Construction of Waithou project under NLCPR for covering five towns was started and targeted for completion in 2008, he informed. He further said that water supply schemes under NLCPR at Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Chandel and Churachandpur Zone-III were commissioned while the ones at Senapati, Mao, Maram Tadubi, etc, were under progress. For other towns also steps were being taken up under the JNNURM, he informed. Work for the France aided Sewerage treatment plant was going on, he further informed. He added that steps for ground water exploration and rain water harvesting were being taken up. Noting the constructive suggestions of the Hon'ble members, he appealed to the movers for withdrawing the cut motion.

Shi E. Kunjeswar Singh, MLA participating in the demand discussion pointed out that the overhead tank of Ningthem Pukhri Water Supply Scheme had collapsed and asked when it would be reconstructed and also enquired about the time of completion of the water supply scheme taken up at Thumbuthong and Moirangkhom.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA further urged the government to increase the number of water tankers of the PHED to meet the growing demand of the state.

Shri T. N. Haokip, Minister (PHED) clarified that afforestation programme at the catchment areas of rivers was needed to make river water harvesting more effective and added that the water supply scheme at Thumbuthong and Moirangkhom would be completed after the completion of Irrilbung Water Supply Scheme.

Shri Elangbam Kunjeswar and Dr. Ng. Bijoy, MLAs sought further clarifications and Hon'ble Minister (PHED) clarified.

Shri Gaikhangam, Minister (Horticulture and Soil Conservation) replying to the demand discussion said that inspite of the decrease in the budget allocation the department was taking up various programmes for the welfare of farmers under the Mini Mission phase 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Mission Technology. Some of the important schemes taken up by the Horticulture department were Magfruit, Mushroom cultivation and Potato Farm at Mao, he informed. Soil Conservation had taken up many Central Sponsored Schemes for prevention of soil erosion, he said and further informed that a web site of the department would be launched very soon to provide information to the public to enhance transparency. The selection of beneficiaries of Small and Marginal Farmers and implementation of programmes were done through District Officers, he said. Under the Vegetable Development Scheme of Mini Mission II, high yielding seedlings were provided to farmers and as a result production had increased and added that construction of Cold Storage and providing Markets would be taken up under Mini Mission III.

Training of farmers, plantation of passion fruit, Banana, ginger, Cabbage, Bee keeping, technical support etc. were some of the other programmes taken up by the department, he informed. He appealed to cut motion movers to withdraw and help to pass the demand.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA sought clarification regarding the selection of beneficiaries for giving assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers and Hon'ble Minister (Horticulture and Soil Conservation) clarified.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister in charge of Commerce and Industries replying to the demand discussion clarified that the state had an Industrial Policy since 1996 giving emphasis on Mineral exploration, Tourism, Agro based Industries, Handloom and Handicraft, Export Oriented Industries and Non Conventional Industries. He further informed that Government of India had formulated the North East Investment and Industrial Promotion Policy giving several tax holidays to entrepreneurs setting up industries in the north east states and added that the Commerce and Industries Department is setting up a Committee consisting of economists and experts apart from the department officials to identify economically viable areas of investment. Indo-Myanmar Border Trade, he said was the prerogative of the Central Government and the state had very little hand in it but the central government had been approached to increase the trade items. He also informed that Sate Medicinal Plant Board had been constituted. Various industrial units, he said, were wound up as they were not economically viable. He appealed to cut motion movers to withdraw and allow the demands to pass.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, S/Shri R.K. Anand, Dr. Ibohalbi Singh sought further clarifications and Hon'ble Chief Minister clarified.

Shri E. Kunjeshor Singh, MLA sought clarification regarding the progress of the Japanese Funded Sericulture Project.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister clarified that the progress of the Sericulture project was being monitored every fortnight but expressed unhappiness over the repeated interference of the unlawful organisations and added that the alleged frequent change of Project Director of Sericulture Project would be looked into.

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 13, 21, 22, 39 and 43 were passed unanimously.

STATEMENT BY THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister placed the report of the enquiry conducted over the death of one lady from Leimaram during childbirth at RIMS in the House.

Clarifying to the alleged excess to the people of Kotha by the Assam Rifles Personnel stationed there, said that as per the preliminary report there was no mention of such excess by the AR Troops. The Laiharaoba ceremony at Kotha was not performed in the preceding years to avoid any untoward incident during the ceremony. But the ceremony was held this year without any unwanted incident. He also clarified that no idol of Durga was placed inside the temple of Imoinu as was alleged. He was of the opinion that the rumour could have been propoganda spread by underground outfits as they do not want the AR outpost to be stationed there.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER:

The Hon'ble Speaker made an announcement regarding the enquiry report of the death of one Premila from leimaram during childbirth at RIMS.

S/Shri Dr. Ibohalbi Singh and O. Joy Singh suggested that the enquiry report should be accessible to all the Members.

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 5.30 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Friday, the 18th May, 2007.

T. Joute

Secretary,

Manipur Legislative Assembly.
