

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

BULLETIN PART-I No. 17

Friday, the 18th May, 2007.
Vaisakha 28, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Friday, the 18th 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 45 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (IFCD) made a reply to Starred Question No. 135 asked by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA regarding occupation of office of the IFCD Division-IV in Yairipok.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) made a reply to Starred Question No. 136 asked by Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA regarding the components of macro management of Agriculture in the Hill Districts of Manipur.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) made a reply to Starred Question No. 137 asked by Dr. Kh. Loken Singh, MLA regarding projects to be taken up by the Central Agricultural University with the State Government.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (IFCD) made a reply to Starred Question No. 138 asked by Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA regarding the examination of the Government to increase the present existing height of the Imphal Barrage.

Answer to Starred Question no. 133 was laid on the Table of the House.

ZERO HOUR:

Shri S. Joy Singh, MLA drew the attention of the Chief Minister regarding the temporary Samurou bridge, which was swept away recently. He also made a reminder of the assurance given by the Chief Minister to complete the construction of the permanent bridge.

CALLING ATTENTION:

S/Shri O. Joy Singh and Th. Shyamkumar Singh, MLAs called the attention of the Home Minister on the illegal tax collection by NSCN (IM).

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA quoted the 13th May 2007, Huiyen Lanpao publication and observed that the collection of taxes in broad daylight on national highways in the presence of security forces by the NSCN (IM) was an undeniable fact. Such illegal imposition of taxes led to price rise of the essential commodities and the normal development of the state was greatly affected, he said. He cited incidents of ill-treatment and brutal torture being meted out to the truck drivers

and asserted that such inhuman treatment should not be tolerated in a civilised society. He expressed apprehension on whether the ground rules of the ongoing peace talks between the NSCN (IM) and the government of India was violated by the outfit. He said that it was a sentimental issue and that the Home Ministry and Nagaland government should be pressurised to take up appropriate action.

The Chief Minister replying to the motion said that the activities of the NSCN (IM) was intolerable and taking advantage of the peace talks. In spite of the security measures being taken up to prevent such illegal activities, the results were not satisfactory, he stated. He said that the improvement work of National Highway-53 which would serve as an alternative lifeline was being completed and serviceable presently. He informed the house that the Union Government had been urged to extend the Super Express Highway upto Moreh and extension of railway line from Jiribam to Imphal via Toupul would be taken up soon. He also said that his counterpart, the Chief Minister of Nagaland had been informed about the matter repeatedly in the past and would do so again for taking necessary action.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA made suggestion on the need to chalk out a short term plan. He said that the Home Ministry should be informed about the matter for giving instruction to the Nagaland Government. He wanted the Chief Minister to arrange for sending an all party delegation to place the matter before the centre.

S/Shri Elangbam Kunjeswar Singh, R.K. Anand and Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLAs made observations on the matter.

The Chief Minister made further clarifications.

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

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 12 -MAHUD, Demand No. 37 -Fisheries, Demand No. 40 - Irrigation & Flood Control Department and Demand No. 41 -Art & Culture.

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

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA moving cut motions made observation on MAHUD regarding the construction of market sheds and the need to work out effective policy to restore the normal functioning of the women vendors. In respect of Fisheries, he said that in spite of the various fishery schemes implemented by the government, the products could not meet the demands of the state and wanted the government to look into it. Due to indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides by the farmers, there was extinction of a variety of indigenous fishes and special attention should be given in this regard, he added. Regarding Arts and Culture, he said that no grant-in-aid allocation was made for the voluntary organisations for development of Arts and Culture. In respect of IFCD, he expressed the need for timely implementation of the flood control schemes. Regarding the Waisel Maril Drainage Project taken up, he said that so far no achievement could be seen and wanted the IFCD Minister to make the project functional.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA moving cut motions in respect of Fisheries said that Takmu Fish Farm was not functioning due to large scale increase in phumdi growth and private encroachers. He pointed out that there was discrimination on the part of the government in implementing the National Welfare Scheme for fishermen and wanted to streamline it and added that fibre reinforced plastic boats should be made available to the poor fishermen. Commenting on Arts and Culture, he said that budget allocation of the department

should be increased. Manipur Film Development Corporation should be revamped and medium term loans should be given to the film producers, he said. He also commented on the need to make Kangla Fort Board function effectively and to increase the budget allocation for Govinda Temple and Lainingthou Sanamahi Temple. The records of the unsung heroes who laid down their lives in the freedom struggle against the British should be maintained, he added. In respect of MAHUD, he made observation on the need to chalk out an effective mechanism to complete the construction of the Khwairamband Bazar. He pointed out flaws in the waste management of Imphal Municipal Corporation, pathetic condition of roads and drainage system in and around Imphal city. He said that proper parking space should be provided for buses and other vehicles and irregularities in the issuing of licences for rickshaws should be checked. He made further observation on the Oinam Nagar Panchayat and Nambul Municipal Council.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 1.10 p.m. till 2.10 p.m. of the day).

(The afternoon session resumed at 2.18 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair).

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motions said that there was shortfall in the fund allocation for the Sports and Art and Culture Department which brought prestige and fame to the state. He charged that the department failed to take up steps to develop art and culture of the state and drew the attention of the Minister (Art and Culture) to convert Imphal Art College into a full fledged College. He expressed desire to open degrees courses in the Government Dance College besides giving more emphasis on the performing arts only. He also wanted the department to provide land to the Manipur Shahitya Parishad for construction of its own building and added that more funds should be allocated in this regard. He informed the house that security barracks in Kangla had tarnished the beauty of Kangla. He suggested for setting up of Mini Film Studio for digital films and wanted to enhance the present financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh for the celluloid film producers. He also drew the attention of the Minister to complete the construction of cinema hall at MFDC, Palace compound. Regarding IFCD, he drew the attention of the Minister on the pathetic condition of the banks of Iril River and wanted to look into the matter. He asked the progress work of Dollaithabi Project and wanted to complete the project very soon. He also expressed desire to constitute a work advisory committee in the framing of work programmes of IFCD as in the PWD. Regarding Fishery Department he wanted to frame a marketing policy and suggested for setting up of cold storage. He also made observation on MAHUD.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving cut motion observed that the IFCD department lacked proper flood management and expressed unhappiness on the delay of submitting final report of the Master Plan for flood management and wanted its quick implementation. He made suggestion to open Ithai Barrage gate during rainy season to manage floods. He expressed concern on the non-completion of Dollaithabi and Thoubal Projects and wanted the said projects to be completed very soon. He also pointed out the lack of survey and investigation of the department in taking up projects. On Fisheries Department he said that the department had no concrete Fishery policy and suggested for utilising wetland areas to mobilise fishery resource of the state and to provide self employment to the people of the area. Regarding Arts and Culture Department, he expressed desire to enhance financial assistance to the celluloid film producers and wanted to set up Mini film studio under SPA for the encouragement of digital films in the state..

Shri T. Phungzathang, Minister (IFCD) replying to the demand discussion said that precautionary measures to control flood in the state were being taken up by the department and flood fighting materials were also ready. He said that Rs. 30 lakh for flood emergency and Rs 20 lakh for flood fighting materials were being allocated. He further said that embankment works of Thoubal, Imphal, Kongba and Iril rivers were also undertaken under NEC and informed the House that the completion of the ongoing projects like Thoubal, Dollaithabi and Kuga Projects was targeted in 2008-2009. He further informed that encroachers nearby the river banks of Iril and Imphal Rivers caused inconveniences to the department in its flood management and that D.Cs concerned had been directed to take up action in this regard. He said that the Master Plan for flood management in Manipur was in the final stage.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA sought further clarification and the Minister clarified.

Shri P. Parijat Singh, Minister (Art and Culture) replying to the demand discussion clarified that no step of the department was taken up to discontinue grant-in aid to the literary organisations of Manipur. He informed the House that cinema hall at MFDC, Palace Compound costing around Rs. 2.12 crores would be completed very soon. He said that financial assistance of Rs. 1 Lakh to the celluloid film producers of the state was being given by the department and added that the department was also considering for the promotion of digital films in Manipur. On the Kangla beautification programme, he informed the House that preparation of project report with a sum of Rs.5 crore was also completed by NBCC. Regarding the non-conversion of Imphal Art College into a full-fledged College, he clarified that it was due to ban of the government and added that Rs. 3 crore under SPA was sanctioned for the repairing of hostel, building and walls of the College. He also informed that dismantling work of more than one hundred unused buildings including A.R barracks in the premises of Kangla would be taken up by the PWD

Dr. Ng. Bijoy and Shri R.K. Anand, MLAs sought further clarifications and the Minister clarified.

Shri M. Manindra Singh, MLA making observation during the demand discussion appealed to the Minister Arts and Culture to augment the existing staff of INA Memorial Complex in view of the number of tourists coming to pay homage to Netaji at the complex.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the demand discussion said that Fishery Department already had a cold storage at Lamphelpat which had been functioning since 1998 and added that the plant was utilised purposefully during the 5th National Games held in the state and during the fish Melas conducted during the Ningol Chakouba Festival. Since the cold storage plant remain non-functional during the rest of the year, the government had given out the plant on lease to a private party, M/S Baba Fish Farm, Uripok. He further informed that Fishery Department was taking up many schemes including central sponsored schemes for enhancing the production of fish in the state and various schemes for production of indigenous fishes seeds and high yielding variety of fish seedlings were also taken up at the various Government Fish Farms and private farms and these seeds were also distributed to the private fish farmers and some released in the various water bodies of the state including Loktak lake. The present budget earmarked special fund for clearing of phumdies from Loktak lake, Khoidumpat, Ikoppat etc, he informed. He further informed that nets, fishing boats etc. would be given to fishermen as part of the rehabilitation process of fishermen of Loktak Lake. Clarifying on MAHUD, he said that under the JNNURM project of the central government development of most of the small and medium towns including Imphal and greater Imphal would be taken up with special priority given to garbage disposal, water supply schemes, and sewerage and drainage system. Special funds, he further said, was earmarked for the development of infrastructure of hill district headquarters. The government, he said, had privatised

the work of garbage disposal of Imphal Municipal areas and the process of privatisation was almost complete. He appealed to cut motion movers to withdraw and help the demand to pass.

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

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 12, 37, 40 and 41 were passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON MATTER OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST:

The House agreed to take up the discussion on the next day.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved for leave of the House to introduce the Manipur Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2007.

The House granted leave and the Bill was introduced.

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 4.55 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Saturday, the 19th May, 2007.

T. Joute

Secretary,

Manipur Legislative Assembly.
