

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

BULLETIN PART-I

No. 2

Monday, the 19th March, 2007.

Phalguna 28, 1928 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Monday, the 19th March, 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, 51 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 1 asked by Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA regarding the progress of construction of railway line from Jiribam to Toupul.
- (b) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 2 asked by Shri T. Hangkhanpao, MLA regarding new policy for transportation of PDS items.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (P.H.E.D) made a reply to Starred Question No. 3 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding the water supply scheme at Khurai A/C.
- (d) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 4 asked by Shri Doukhomang Khongsai, MLA regarding the premix carpeting of Imphal-Saikul Road.

- (e) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 5 asked by Shri Th. Navakumar Singh, MLA regarding the government schools in Khundrakpam A/C.
- (f) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 6 asked by Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA regarding the construction of bridge over the river connecting Saiton and Nganukon.
- (g) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 7 asked by Shri Y. Surchandra Singh, MLA regarding the construction of bridge over Sekmai River at Pallel.
- (h) Hon'ble Minister (I.F.C.D) made a reply to Starred Question No. 8 asked by Dr. U. Deben Singh, MLA regarding prevailing condition of left and right canal of Sekmai Barrage.
- (i) Hon'ble Minister (P.H.E.D) made a reply to Starred Question No. 9 asked by Shri Th. Nandakishor Singh, MLA regarding the Porompat Water Treatment Plant.
- (j) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 10 asked by Shri W. Morung Makunga, MLA regarding the improvement work of Mao to Moreh, N.H. 39 Road.

OBITUARY REFERENCE:

The Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly moved a resolution on obituary reference on the demise of Shri Soyam Satradhari Singh, the then Member of the Electoral College of Manipur 1952, Shri Th. Chandrashekhar Singh and Shri K. Borthakur Sharma, Members of the Manipur Territorial Council and lastly, Shri Mayanglambam Babu Singh, Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister, Shri Radhabinod Koijam, Shri I. Hemochandra Singh, Shri K. Ranjit Singh, Shri N. Mangi Singh, Shri E. Kunjeshore Singh, Shri T. Mangibabu Singh, Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, Shri Erabot Yumkham and Shri S. Joy Singh, MLAs participated in the Obituary Reference.

The following resolution was adopted by the House:-

“That, this House expresses its deep and profound sorrow at the sad demise of Shri Soyam Satradhari Singh, the then Member of the Electoral College of Manipur 1952, Shri Th. Chandrashekhar Singh and Shri K. Borthakur Sharma, Members of the Manipur Territorial Council and lastly, Shri Mayanglambam Babu Singh, Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly.

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

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister presented the First Report of the Business Advisory Committee, 2007 and also moved:

‘that this House agrees with the allocation of time proposed by the Committee.’

The House agreed.

ELECTION OF THREE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved the following motion:

“that in pursuance of Rule 233(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Manipur Legislative Assembly this House do proceed to elect 7 (seven) members each of the following Committees on March 22, 2007:-

- (1) Committee on Public Accounts.
- (2) Committee on Estimates.
- (3) Committee on Public undertakings.”

The House agreed.

CALLING ATTENTION:

(i) S/Shri O. Joy Singh and R.K. Anand, MLAs called the attention of the Home Minister on the reported incident/ ambush at Khoibok Chiru killing 16 (sixteen) I.R.B. personnel including 1 (one) Jamadar.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving the Calling Attention Motion quoted the local daily, Sangai Express of 25th February 2007 regarding the ambush at Khoibok Chiru killing 16 IRB personnel including one Jamadar and observed that the incident could have happened due to lapses in the security arrangement by the government and also due to the lack of alertness of the security personnel. He further questioned why the J.K Army stationed near the site was not deployed for ROP since the area was dominated by underground outfits and why the Jawans were not wearing bullet proof jackets and helmets. He also wanted to know the steps taken by the government for the benefit of the families of the deceased and further urged the government to take remedial and corrective measures to prevent such incidents in future.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 1.10 p.m. till 2.05 p.m. of the day).

(The afternoon session resumed at 2.15 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair).

Shri R.K Anand Singh, MLA co-mover of the motion also wanted to know if there was any lapse on the part of the security forces and whether the deployment of the IRB personnel in that area was under the strict compliance of the instruction of the Election commission or not. He also made a query whether there was any intelligence assessment. He further asked whether the government would provide ex-gratia or any facility like die-in harness appointment to the families of the deceased.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the motion said that it was an unfortunate incident and condemned it as a cowardly act. He clarified that the IRB personnel had to take that route because it was the only route to Khoupum and also that they did not wear bullet proof jackets and helmets although the department had issued them. An enquiry was underway and their finding was

awaited, he added. Regarding the ex-gratia payment, he informed the House that a sum of Rs. 2 lakh each would be provided to the family members of the deceased and gave two options: continuation of the existing salary till the completion of service length or die-in harness appointment to the nearest family members. He also said that precautionary measures were being taken up to avoid repetition of such incident.

Shri O. Joy Singh and RK Anand Singh made some suggestions regarding the terms of reference of the enquiry.

(ii) Shri I. Ibohanbi Singh and Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLAs called the attention of the Finance Minister on the apprehension of a mass agitation following the Manipur Services(Revised Pay)(2nd Amendment) Rules,2006.

Shri I. Ibohanbi Singh, MLA initiating the motion queried why the order of the PIC issued on December, 28, 2006 was notified to the public after two months in March, 2007. He expressed apprehension of a mass agitation because more anomalies had been created as there was disparity of pay scales in the same rank in various departments. He asked why there was down-gradation of pay scale of teachers even after revised pay was made in 1999 in accordance with the recommendation of a Cabinet Sub- Committee. He remarked that the revised pay must be reviewed to avoid a possible mass agitation in future.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLAs co mover of the motion also expressed apprehension of a chaotic condition following the pay revision order. He made enquiries regarding the basis and objectives of rectification of pay anomaly. He also suggested to review the pay revision order to avoid mass agitation by the employees.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, replying to the motion said that the down-gradation of pay scale of teachers was done because the pay-scale recommended by the Cabinet Sub-Committee was not in conformity with the recommendation of the 5th Pay Commission and the Centre had also sought a clarification regarding this matter. The Manipur Services (Revised Pay) (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2006 was framed but it was notified only in March because of the model code of conduct of election, he added. He further clarified that there was no intention of victimization of employees and if there was any gross mistake in other cases, it would be re-examined or reviewed.

PRESENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2006-07:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister presented the Supplementary Demand for Grants, 2006-2007 and made a statement.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET ESTIMATES:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister presented the Budget Estimates, 2007 and made a statement.

MOTION FOR VOTE ON ACCOUNTS:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved the motion for Vote on Accounts, 2007 and made a statement.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION:

S/Shri R.K. Anand, I. Ibohanbi and Radhabinod Koiyam, MLAs moved the resolution:-

“That, this House has resolved to urge the Union Government to repeal the Act (Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958)”.

Shri Radhabinod Koiyam, MLA, moving the motion, said that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 was anathemic to the public and the act was not serving the purpose of containing the insurgency. He remarked that the Act was counter-productive because many incidents of human rights violation had occurred since the enforcement of the act in Manipur. He further expressed concern over the enforcement of the act in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern Region in a discriminatory way, although it was not enforced in the Naxalite and Maoist infested areas in other parts of the country. He said that in several occasions the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister had been apprised to repeal the Act by the All Political Party Forum, he informed the House. Then the Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee was instituted and that its recommendation had also been submitted to the Government of India, he added. Even the recommendation did not mention any amendment of the Act but total removal of the Act, he informed. He also further informed the House that a letter from the Committee on Racial Discrimination of the United Nation had been communicated to the Government

of India for removal of the Act. He urged the House to adopt the resolution unanimously and intimate it to the Union Government.

Shri R.K Anand Singh, MLA moving the Private Member's Resolution observed that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 had been depriving the democratic rights of the people of the state. He drew the attention of the House that the Act failed to serve its purpose and added that the Act has no place in Republic India. Rather the Act brought a feeling of alienation to the people of the region, he strongly maintained. He urged the House to adopt the resolution and recommend the same to the Government of India.

Shri I. Ibohanbi Singh, MLA moving the Private Member's Resolution observed that even though the demand made by Sharmila was not heard by the government of India, the present 60 MLAs were bound to hear. He said that the aim of the Act was nothing but giving license to kill and added that the matter was very serious which needed a strong decision in the House. He also urged the house to adopt the resolution.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA while supporting the motion observed that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 had failed to contain insurgency movement in the region and added that the Act was counterproductive. The extension of the Act in the state for a fairly long spell had created a sense of alienation in the minds of the people of the state, he further added. The matter was a serious issue and that it should not be handled sentimentally, he informed the House. Even the Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee had also recommended that the Act was discriminatory among the citizens of India, he further informed the House. He also expressed that the Act was outdated and wanted a more humane Act by repealing it.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA supporting the resolution expressed suspicion that the North East region had become the training ground for the Indian army and added that insurgency movement could not be controlled through arms only. He also urged the House to adopt the resolution and apprise the same to the Centre.

Shri Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA supporting the resolution observed that a feeling of sympathy for the insurgents had been created in the minds of the public with the enforcement of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 in the state for too long, over and above creating a sense of alienation to the people.

Shri O. Ibohi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the discussion on the Private Member's Resolution said that it would be a wrong step to adopt the resolution very hastily in such a deteriorating law and order situation in the state. But that did not meant that his government was against the removal of the Armed Forces

Special Powers Act, 1958, he informed the House. He said that the state had no adequate security forces to tackle the insurgency problem in the state. In the meantime the law and order in the state had not improved, he further said. He mentioned, among other things, ambush at Khoibok Chiru, Bishnupur District that took the lives of 16 IRB personnel, killing of IGP Thangthuan, etc. However the Act had been scrapped from the 7 Assembly segments of Imphal Municipal areas on trial basis in view of the public sentiments, he informed the House. He further informed the House that the Act could automatically be repealed if the region was in complete normalcy and free from extortion, kidnapping, threat, etc. Regarding the Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee, he informed the house that the report of the Commission was being examined by the Union Government and added that the state government was ready to take up steps after the examination of the recommendation by the Government of India. He appealed to all the movers to withdraw the Private Member's Resolution.

As the movers of the resolution pressed for passing it the Hon'ble Speaker took a voice vote.

The private Members' Resolution was defeated by a voice-vote.

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 6.20 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Wednesday, the 21st March, 2007.

T. Joute
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT**

No. 5/3/(1)/2007/LA(B)

Imphal, the 24th March, 2007.

CORRIGENDUM

In Bulletin Part-I No.1 and 2 for the sitting of 16th and 19th March, 2007, the number of Members under the Heading Members' Present shall be read as 50.

S. Devendra Singh

Jt. Director,

Manipur Legislative Assembly