MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

BULLETIN PART-I No. 18

Saturday, the 19th May, 2007. Vaisakha 29, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Saturday, the 19th 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 47 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

(a) Hon'ble Minister (Health & F.W.) made a reply to Starred Question No. 139 asked by Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA regarding the proposal for improving the infrastructural facilities of PHC at Kakwa.

(b) Hon'ble Minister (Health & F.W.) made a reply to Starred Question No. 141 asked by Dr. Kh. Ratankumar Singh, MLA regarding the office buildings of PHCs in Mayang Imphal A/C and the number of staff posted in the PHCs in Mayang Imphal and Sekmaijin.

(c) Hon'ble Minister (Sc. & Tech.) made a reply to Starred Question No.142 asked by Dr. H. Borajao, MLA regarding the constituencywise distribution of Solar home Lighting System.

(d) Hon'ble Minister (Health & F.W.) made a reply to Starred Question No.143 asked by Shri M. Manindra Singh, MLA regarding the doctors posted and condition of the Operation Theatre at CHC Moirang.

(e) Hon'ble Minister (PHED) made a reply to Starred Question No.144 asked by Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA in the absence of Shri Radhabinod Koijam Singh, MLA regarding the irregular supply of water in Imphal Municipality Wards No. 1, 2, 3 and 25 within Thangmeiband AC.

(f) Hon'ble Minister (Health & F.W.) made a reply to Starred Question No.145 asked by Shri R.K. Anand, MLA regarding PHC and PHSC in Naoriya Pakhanglakpa A/C.

(g) Hon'ble Minister (Health & F.W.) made a reply to Starred Question No.146 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA inquiring about the enactment of State Nursing Council Act, 2005.

(h) Hon'ble Minister (PHED) made a reply to Starred Question No.147 asked by Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA regarding the number of Water Supply Schemes which were yet to be completed in Kumbi A/C.

(i) Hon'ble Minister (Health & F.W.) made a reply to Starred Question No.148 asked by Shri Doukhomang Khongsai, MLA regarding the construction of Saikul PHC building. (j) Hon'ble Minister (Tourism) made a reply to Starred Question No.140 asked by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA regarding the conversion of the historical places of Gwarok Mahadeva and Kaina as Tourist Centre.

Answer to Starred Question No. 149 was laid on the Table of the House.

ZERO HOUR:

Shri V. Hangkhanlian, MLA quoted the 19th May 2007, Manipur express publication and requested the government to retain the posting of the present Secretary (FCS).

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister laid the following reports;

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2006.
- (ii) Finance Accounts, 2005-06 and
- (iii) Appropriation Accounts, 2005-06.

CALLING ATTENTION:

(a) S/Shri R.K. Anand and I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLAs called the attention of the Education Minister on the exclusion of teaching method of "Manipuri Lol" from B.Ed. Syllabus.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA quoting the Poknapham and other local dailies publications said due to the recent change in the B.Ed. syllabus by a resolution taken on October14th 2006 by the Academic Council of Manipur University, the method of teaching Manipuri language would be written in English from the current academic session. He observed that Manipuri language had been included in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution of India as one of the major Indian languages. The resolution of the M.U authorities had created confusion to both the students and teachers, he said and urged upon the government to clear the confusion. When the affiliation was done under the Gauhati University, Manipuri language was included in the method of teaching, he asserted. He expressed that it was a challenge to our mother tongue and wanted the MU authorities to timely rectify its resolution.

Shri I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA co-mover of the motion quoted the 13th may, 2007 Poknapham edition and observed that since the last 50years; Manipuri language was included in the content and method of teaching language. He said that the guidelines of the UGC and National Council of Teachers' Education (NCTE) did not mention about such changes and M.U Academic Council should review its decision and make necessary changes. He termed it as a challenge to Manipuri language and observed that the House should condemn it. Being a serious issue, proper instruction should be given to the MU authorities to save the academic career of the students, he added.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the motion said that the sentiment of the people was felt and MU academic council would be asked to rectify its resolution. He said the new curriculum for B.Ed. course was approved by the MU on 14th October 2006 and being implemented from the current session. The Students Union of DMCTE submitted a memorandum seeking for a change but was rejected by the MU authorities. He made observations on Manipuri as one of the major Indian language and maintained that there was no question of

exclusion or neglect of the language. He further sought suggestions to rectify the matter and bring about a peaceful solution.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA observed that the university regulations need to be rectified, since it would create problems.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA supporting the movers said the syllabus could be rectified by the Academic Council by taking a decision on the matter.

The Chief Minister made further clarifications.

(b) Shri O. Joy Singh and Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLAs called the attention of the Revenue Minister on the acquisition of land for expansion of Manipur University Complex.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving the motion observed that200 acres of land was required for the expansion of MU and enquired the government regarding the side on which the expansion was to be made. He made comments on some of the factors causing disturbances in the plan and asked the government to avoid the inhabited areas. He made suggestions that the expansion could be made both in hill and valley by giving due compensation. He charged that the government allotted some parts of the land acquired earlier to some private individuals and said that the allotment should be cancelled since there would be litigations.

(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 2.10 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair).

Dr. Bijoy Singh, MLA co-mover of the calling attention motion observed that vertical expansion in the existing area could be done to accommodate the required infrastructure or else an alternative site could be selected. If at all expansion need to be done then a campus of the University could be set up in the Hills, in the line of Delhi University having a North Campus and a South Campus at different locations, he suggested. He expressed the need for giving compensation to those sufferers of the earlier eviction drive who are yet to be compensated and also drew the attention to the allotment of university land to an individual.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the calling attention motion said that upgradation of the University to a Central University necessitated the expansion to facilitate infrastructure development. The feasibility of setting up a campus of the University in the Hills or in some other locations as an expansion measure would be looked into, he informed. For more coordination and for security measures, the construction of NIT near the University would be more feasible, he said. Regarding compensation to the victims for the earlier eviction drive for the expansion of the university campus, funds had been deposited with the concerned DC but some of families refused the compensation as they feel the value was very low, he further informed. As for the allotment of university land to an individual, he said action would be taken against those officials involved and sought the documents for taking necessary action.

S/Shri O. Joy Singh, Y. Surchandra Singh and Dr. Bijoy Singh, MLA made further observations.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER:

The Speaker announced that Shri Doukhomang Khongsai, MLA was elected as member of the Committee on Estimates, Manipur Legislative Assembly to fill the casual vacancy that arose due the demise of Shri Th. Navakumar.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT:

Shri Thangminlien Kipgen, Chairman of the Hill Areas Committee, Manipur Legislative Assembly presented the 3rd Report of the Committee on the Manipur Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (For Scheduled Castes and Tribes) Second Amendment Bill, 2007.

CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF BILL:

(i) Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved the Manipur Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007 for consideration.

Shri I. Hemochandra Singh, MLA taking part in the discussion quoted Rules 217(A) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Manipur Legislative Assembly and observed that the Budget Estimates of the Manipur Legislative Assembly forwarded to the Finance Department after recommendation by the Budget Committee and with approval of the Speaker was deducted without any intimation, thus flouting the rules. He suggested for rectifying the mistakes on the part of the Finance department and wanted such incidents not to be repeated again in future.

Hon'ble Speaker announced that the matter was discussed with the Hon'ble Chief Minister and assurance had been given for incorporating the balance in the Revised Estimate.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA observed that it was not money that matters but the system that needed to be looked into. A mechanism need to be framed to avoid such unwanted incidents in future and suggested for an official of the Finance department to be present during the Budget Committee meeting of the Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Hon'ble Chief Minister moved for passing the bill.

After Clause by Clause consideration, the Manipur Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007 was passed unanimously by the House.

(ii) Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved the Electricity (Manipur Amendment) Bill, 2007 for consideration.

Hon'ble Chief Minister moved for passing the bill.

After Clause by Clause consideration, the Electricity (Manipur Amendment) Bill, 2007 was passed unanimously by the House.

(iii) Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved the Manipur Reservation of Vacancies in post and Services (For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Second Amendment Bill, 2007 as reported by the Hill Areas Committee for consideration.

As requested by the Hon'ble Opposition Members, the Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House for 10 minutes in order to go through the bill. Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, Shri O. Joy Singh, Shri E. Kunjeswor Singh, Dr. Khashim Ruivah, Shri Morung Makunga, MLAs and Hon'ble Ministers Shri Th. Devendra Singh and T.N, Haokip made certain observations.

Hon'ble Chief Minister moved for passing the bill.

After Clause by Clause consideration, the Manipur Reservation of Vacancies in post and Services (For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Second Amendment Bill, 2007 was passed unanimously by the House.

(iv) Shri Th. Debendra Singh, Environment and Forest Minister moved the Manipur Loktak Lake (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2007 for consideration.

Shri Elangbam Kunjeshwar Singh, MLA making certain observation on the bill said that elected Members from other constituencies not just from in and around Loktak Lake and other experts should be inducted as Members of the Loktak Development Authority.

Shri. Th. Mangibabu Singh, MLA participating in the consideration observed that apart from the MLAs from the catchment of loktak lake as Members, MLA from Hiyanglam Kendra should be inducted as Members. Highlighting the apprehension of the people living at the three villages, Ithing, Thanga and Karang, which falls inside the core zone, of being evicted from their homestead lands, urged the Minister concerned to incoporate some words saying that the villages would not be affected in the Bill.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA participating in the consideration said that the selection of Members of the Loktak Lake (Protection) Act, should not be confined to elected Members from the catchment of Loktak Lake only.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA participating in the consideration said that Loktak Lake had been included in the important Wetland map of the world and added that a nominee from the Central Government should also be inducted as Members of the Loktak Lake (Protection) Act.

Shri Th. Debendra Singh, Minister (Environment and Forest) replying to the consideration said that expansion of Members could be done after passing the Bill. He further clarified that the three villages which falls inside the core zone would not be affected. All the suggestions given by the Hon'ble Members, he said, were noted down and appealed to all the Members to help pass the Bill.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA making observation on the consideration said that the act had no teeth as there was no penal provision. He also suggested for inducting someone from the Ministry of Environment and Forest of the Government of India, as Member of the Loktak Development Authority.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister clarifying to the consideration of the Bill said that the motive of the Bill was for the protection of Loktak Lake. He further informed that since large scale afforestation was required in the hill areas located in the catchment of Loktak Lake, elected Members from Saitu and Henglep constituencies had also been inducted as Members in the Loktak Development Authority and endorsed the suggestion of Hon'ble Members to induct someone from the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India, as Member of the Act.

Shri Dr. U. Deven, MLA participating in the consideration pointed out the flooding of large tracts of paddy fields located at Wabgai due to Loktak Lake and

said that MLA from Wabgai constituency should be made Members in the Loktak Lake (Protection) Act.

Hon'ble Minister moved for passing the bill.

After Clause by Clause consideration, the Manipur Loktak Lake (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2007 was passed unanimously by the House.

PRESENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2007-08. He also made a brief statement.

DISCUSSION ON A MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

Shri. O. Joy Singh, Dr. Ng. Bijoy, Shri Th. Shyamkumar, Shri R.K. Anand and Dr. Ibohalbi Singh, MLAs raised a discussion on the Thirty-Fourth Annual Report of the Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC) 2005-06.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA initiating the discussion said that the presentation of the Annual Report of the Manipur Public Service Commission and making it available to the Hon'ble Members was a constitutional obligation. He suggested that the functions of the MPSC should be expanded and added that appointment of SOs, other gazetted officers, Supervisors etc. should be entrusted to MPSC for enhancing quality of administration and to plug any room of irregularities. He further said that, if required, the number of Members should be increased. He also wanted to know whether a candidate who appeared in a certain examination conducted by the Commission could know the marks he or she obtained under the Right to Information Act (RTI). He further questioned why the same yardstick was not followed while announcing the result of the combined competitive examination conducted by MPSC recently.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA participating in the discussion question why the Commission was taking a long time while framing R.Rs of certain posts and added that it should be shortened. He also pointed out the need to broaden the function of MPSC.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the discussion said that the validity of announcing the marks in examinations conducted by MPSC would be examined. MPSC, he informed, started fully functional very recently and the combined Civil Services Examination was conducted under its supervision and the process had started to conduct some other examinations also. Strengthening of MPSC would be considered, he said. The attempt of the MPSC, he said, was to conduct competitive examination every year in the pattern of Union Public Service Commission. All the suggestions of the Members for more transparency and effective functioning of MPSC was noted.

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 5.30 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Monday, the 21st May, 2007.

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Secretary, Manipur Legislative Assembly.