MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

BULLETIN PART-I No. 19

Monday, the 21st May, 2007. Vaisakha 31, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Monday, the 21st 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 48 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 150 asked by Dr. H. Borajao, MLA regarding the building of Kanglatombi Hindi School.
- (b) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 152 asked by Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh, MLA regarding the development programme under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission.
- (c) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 153 asked by asked by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA regarding the conversion of Yairipok High School as Government School.
- (d) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 154 asked by Shri Khangthuanang Panmei, MLA regarding the construction of Mini Secretariat at Tamenglong.
- (e) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 155 asked by asked by Shri K. Wungnaoshang, MLA regarding the release and withdrawal of Bills of maintenance of roads.
- (f) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 156 asked by asked by Dr. Kh. Loken Singh, MLA regarding the widening of road from Keishampat Bridge to Tera Bazar (N.H. 53).
- (g) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 157 asked by Shri Erabot Yumkham, MLA regarding the payment of ex-gratia.
- (h) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 158 asked by asked by Dr. Kh. Ratankumar Singh, MLA regarding the payment of relief to the victims affected by Natural Calamities occoured from 2002-2004.
- (i) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 159 asked by Shri Th. Shyamkumar, MLA regarding the payment of Old Age Pension (NOAP) and MOAP).

(j) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 160 asked by Shri Awangbow Newmei, MLA regarding the construction of Tamei to Tening Road under N.E.C.

Answers to Starred Question Nos. 151 and 161 were laid on the Table of the House.

ZERO HOUR:

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA raised a matter on the ongoing economic blockade called by ATSUM and the problem of scarcity of essential items arising out of it. He drew the attention of the Chief Minister to break the deadlock by taking peaceful measures.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BUSSINESS:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Leader of the house announced the Business of the House for the week.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister laid a copy of Medium Term Fiscal policy Statement, Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement, Macro Economic Framework Statement and Disclosures on the Table of the House.

CALLING ATTENTION:

(i) Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA called the attention of the Rehabilitation Minister on the payment of compensation to the victims of poll violence at Wangoo and Sandangkhong.

Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA moving the motion made a reminder of the assurance made by the Chief Minister on the floor of the house to take action to those involved in the violence and to give due compensation to the victims. He said inspite of the assurance given, so far no action had been taken and pointed out the need to prevent such unwanted incidents in future in a democratic way. He observed that criminalisation of politics and gunpower violate the democratic process and the election model code of conduct. He further urged the Chief Minister to protect the right and liberty of the people of Kumbi and restore the peace and harmony in the area.

Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the motion informed the House that the concerned SP had been instructed to conduct an enquiry on the matter and take up effective measures. He said that such unwanted incidents create tension among the people and lower the dignity of a democratic society. A committee would be set up to conduct an enquiry on the matter with the concerned DC as Chairman and the concerned SP, SDO and SDC as members and asked to submit the report soon, he added. He also said that to prevent such things in future, exemplary punishment would be set to the wrongdoers.

(ii) Shri O. Joy Singh and Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLAs called the attention of the Health and Family Welfare Minister on the misappropriation of Central Fund in the Faminly Welfare Department.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA quoting the 18th May, 2007, Huiyen Lanpao and 18th May, 2007, Poknapham publications expressed that due to negligence on the part of the government, 554 employees of Family Welfare Department were not

getting their salaries for some months. He stated that due to non-observance of the Central government guidelines, the department failed to properly implement the various programmes and schemes undertaken. He also pointed out the failure of the department to furnish utilisation certificates for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and raised queries regarding it. He made observation on the victimisation of office bearers of Employees Association and suggested that the office bearers of the trade union should be posted at the headquarter. He further made an enquiry on the making of fresh appointments despite inability to clear its liabilities.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA expressed the need to streamline the administrative system of the Family Welfare department and to timely clear the due salaries of the 554 employees. Regarding the interview for making new appointments under the Rural Health Mission, he said that it was done without experts. He maintained that the accountable officer should be given appropriate punishment.

Shri Gaikhangam, Minister (Health and Family Welfare) replying to the motion expressed that no schemes or expenditure of the Department were taken up without the knowledge of the Finance Department and that there was no question of misappropriation. He mentioned the backlog of liabilities in the past years and assured the House that the Government would soon clear the due salaries of the 554 employees. He also said that to clear the backlog the department had initiated necessary measures to the Planning Department. Regarding the transfer and posting of office bearers, he said that the matter would be looked into. He also made further clarifications on the issue of utilisation certificates and holding of DPC under the Rural Health Mission.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER:

Hon'ble Speaker announced that Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA had applied for leave of the House for 21st and 22nd may, 2007.

The House granted leave.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 12.55 p.m. till 2.00 p.m. of the day).

(The afternoon session resumed at 2.05 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair).

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, AND DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2007-08:

Chief Minister, Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved the Supplementary Demands gor Grants, 2007-08 for discussion.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA initiating the discussion observed that there was discrepancy in the budget of Power and PWD and wanted clarification from the Chief Minister for its rectification. Pointing out the lack of office buildings for Transport Department, MOBC, Excise, etc, he stressed the need to develop district administrative infrastructure. He also highlighted the lack of infrastructure in health sectors specially PHSCs. He charged the government for not utilising fund meant for the development of roads in hills and drew the attention of the Chief Minister to check encashment of bills without proper works. He urged the concern to give compensation to the victims whose houses were evicted in the expansion of MU at the earliest. He also mentioned, among other things, proper utilisation of

central road funds like ACA, pathetic road conditions of National Highways and Imphal and greater Imphal areas, improvement of drainage system, etc.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA participating in the discussion urged the Revenue Minister to repossess the 30 acres of land for the North East Institute of Science and Technology Lamphel being up gradated from the Regional Research laboratory, Jorhat from the area earlier allotted Kombirei Housing Co-op Society. He drew the attention of the Education Minister to extend superannuation period of college teachers up to 62 years and added that UGC recommendation on superannuation of 65 years had already been implemented in the teaching staff of Manipur University. Pointing out the discrepancy of pay scales in the time of advertisement and offer form of the recent appointment of graduate teachers, he expressed desire to maintain pay scales in the offer form and wanted its rectification. Regarding MAHUD, he drew the attention of the Chief Minister on the pathetic road condition of Thangal bazaar where shingles were piling up causing inconveniences to the public. He also mentioned, among other things, streamlining of PDA loans, induction of Veterinard Director or Joint Director in the Board of Directors of Manipur Milk Producers Co-operative Union Ltd., introduction of agri clinics and business centre in SBI, appointment of regular Director of Remote Sensing.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA participating in the discussion expressed concern on the road condition in hills and suggested for taking up district roads on a rational basis. Pointing out the lack of infrastructures, he expressed desire to construct school buildings, quarters and hospitals in hill districts. He drew the attention of the Chief Minister to exercise backlog and carry forward appointment in the interest of SC and ST in the state. He also stressed the importance of Mithun farming in the state and expressed desire to grant subsidy for its encouragement.

Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA participating in the discussion observed that local MLAs should be consulted in implementing works for a balanced development for both the hill and plain and wanted decentralisation of power. He also drew the attention of the Chief Minister to upgrade schools which were already downgraded providing adequate teachers in hills.

R.K. Anand, MLA participating in the discussion expressed sentiment over the apprehension of the students of Bal Bhavan at Khuman Lampak in connection with the proposed setting up of National Sports Academy and wanted to allocate proper site for them within the heart of the Imphal City. Expressing concern on the non-completion of long standing schemes in all the departments he drew the attention of the Chief Minister in this regard. He also made observations on IFCD, Education and Revenue Department.

Shri I. Ibohalbi, MLA participating in the discussion drew the attention of the IFCD Minister on the recent heavy downpour which led to water logging in Greater Imphal and Bishnupur district and wanted to clear Merakhong canal. He also urged the Education Minister for the quick implementation of pension scheme for the aided-school teachers. He stressed the need to develop rural roads specially IVRs. He also mentioned among other things, movement of Hiyang Hirel inside Kangla, separate water supply scheme for two three villages, unauthorised cutting of pine trees, more production of fruits ,etc.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the discussion said that steps had been taken up by the government to bring about a balanced development in hill and valley for which required funds under SPA had been allocated for the development of roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, etc. in the interior parts of hill areas. He further said that funds for the construction of quarters for doctors, paramedical staffs and teachers in hill districts also earmarked and added that the construction work had already been started since the previous year. He informed the House that Reservation Amendment Bill for SC and ST was also passed by the House so that any backlog in appointment could be reviewed for taking up proper action. He further informed that only six backlogs were found in the recent

appointment of graduate teachers and that instruction in this regard was also given for prompt action. He appealed to the ATSUM through the House to withdraw economic blockade and said that most of the commitments of the government were executed. He said that the government had approved for taking up works related to tribal development in the district level. He further said that guest house would be constructed in all district headquarters and added that FCS godown along with Weight Bridge having a capacity of 2,500 MT would also be constructed in each hill district headquarters. Expressing concern on the rise of school dropouts, he said that a Committee was instituted headed by Chief Secretary as its Chairman to improve education and added that up gradation of schools in hills would be considered if necessary. He further said the government was also considering an alternative site for Bal Bhavan within Imphal city.

Shri O. Joy Singh, Shri Morung Makunga, Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, Shri R.K. Anand sought further clarifications.

Hon'ble Chief Minister made clarifications and moved for passing the Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2007-08.

The Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2007-08 was passed unanimously by the House.

DISCUSSION ON A MATTER OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST:

Shri O. Joy Singh, Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, Shri Th. Shyamkumar, Shri R.K. Anand and Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLAs raised a discussion on the Annual Report of the State Vigilance Commission, 2006-07.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA initiating the discussion on the Annual Report, State Vigilance Commission, 2006-07 said that the Vigilance Commission was set up in 1981 and expressed disappointment over the failure of the government to appoint a separate Vigilance Commissioner even though the Chief Secretary was functioning as the Vigilance Commissioner. Highlighting the importance of Vigilance Commission in bringing about efficient and effective administration in the government departments, he suggested for making the Commission a full fledged Commission. He further remarked that inspite of various cases taken up by the Commission and giving recommendations the government failed to take action as recommended and expressed regret over the noncompliance of recommendations of the Commission by the high officials of various departments and further questioned the relevance of the Commission in such a situation. He urged the government to make the Vigilance Commission more effective.

Shri Th. Shyamkumar, MLA participating in the discussion remarked that even the Vigilance Officials were corrupt and added that the department needs to be examined by the august house.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA participating in the discussion pointed out the importance of the Vigilance Commission in view of the rampant corruption prevalent in the state and added that noncompliance of the recommendations of the Vigilance Commission was more like grooming corruption in the state. He said that the Vigilance Commission should be empowered to check corruption and to make the state corruption free.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA participating in the discussion suggested to take up some cases from the list of recommendations of the Vigilance Commission to award some minor and major punishments. He opined that the Vigilance Report Should be discussed in the House and added that the recommendations of the Commission should be implemented for eradicating corruption from the state.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA participating in the discussion pointed out some instances of lack of coordination between the Vigilance Department with other departments citing the example of the present Director of Remote Sensing who was under the scanner of the Vigilance Commission and who also do not fulfil the RRs of being a Director. He further suggested for proper implementation of the recommendations of the Vigilance Commission and expressed concern over the failure of the departments to submit action taken reports.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the general discussion appreciated the observations and suggestions of the Hon'ble Members and added that several recommendations of the Vigilance Commission had been disposed off by the government. He also informed that the Vigilance Department was a totally autonomous body and the Police Headquarters had no link with it. Highlighting the achievements of the Vigilance Commission, he said that all the pending cases would also be disposed. He further informed that reports from other states were being sought to examine whether the State Vigilance Commission could be made a statuary body or not. He appreciated the discussion as it was done for the benefit of the people.

S/Shri R.K. Anand and O. Joy Singh, MLAs made further suggestions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved for leave to introduce the Manipur Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2007.

The House granted leave and the Bill was introduced.

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 6.00 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Tuesday, the 22nd May, 2007.

T. JouteSecretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.