

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

BULLETIN PART-I No. 8

Monday, the 7th May, 2007.
Vaisakha 17, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Monday, the 7th 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 49 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 54 asked by Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA regarding the road construction of Wangoo-Sandangkhong via parking.
- (b) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 55 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding the construction of Salanthong Bridge.
- (c) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 56 asked by Shri W. Morung Makunga, MLA regarding the road construction of N.H. 39 from Pallel-Kumbi Village, Chandel district.
- (d) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 57 asked by Shri M. Manindra Singh, MLA regarding the opening of Sub-Treasury Office at Moirang.
- (e) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 58 asked by Shri Awangbow Newmai, MLA regarding the development works of I.T. Road.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Forest) made a reply to Starred Question No. 59 asked by Shri Khangthuanang Panmei, MLA regarding the measures taken up by the State Government to tackle bamboo flowering.
- (g) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 60 asked by Shri Ngursanglur, MLA regarding the construction work of N.H. 150 from Churachandpur Town to Tipaimukh Village.
- (h) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 61 asked by Shri Erabot Yumkham, MLA regarding the widening of the I.V.R. leading from Hatta-Minuthong crossing to Ayangpalli Road.
- (i) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 62 asked by Shri Doukhomang Khongsai, MLA regarding the construction of new buildings for Saikul block S.D.O./B.D.O.

(j) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 63 asked by Dr. U. Deben Singh, MLA regarding the construction of road from Sekmajin leading to Irong.

(k) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 64 asked by Shri E. Kunjeswar Singh, MLA regarding the present position of payment of compensation for the widening of road from Singh & Co. to Singjamei Bazar.

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos. 9 & 10 were laid on the Table of the House.

ZERO HOUR:

Shri Bijoy Koijam, MLA raised a matter regarding misappropriation of MLAs' Local Area Development Fund by the E.E. DRDA Imphal East.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BUSINESS:

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 the Annual Report of State Vigilance Commission for the year 2006-2007.

CALLING ATTENTION:

S/Shri O. Joy Singh and I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLAs called the attention of the Education Minister on the attempt made to encash money with fake documents at Jiribam.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA quoting the April 7th Huiyen Lanpao publication expressed surprise on the attempt to encash money with fake documents after being passed by the State Finance and Treasury Departments. Citing such similar incidents of encashment of money by fraudulent means, he said the government lacked seriousness in dealing with such cases and made suggestions to be more cautious and careful in future. He further added that a case should be registered and those involved should not be spared.

Shri. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA co-mover of the motion expressed suspicion that there might be many more such cases in other districts also. He also stressed the need to maintain secrecy and confidentiality in all the important departments.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the motion informed the House that ZEO Jiribam had filed a case to Jiribam Police Station to catch the culprit. To prevent such fraudulent drawings in future a thorough investigation was going on in the Finance Department and other concerned departments, he added. He also said that after the findings, those involved in the collusion would be given due punishment.

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

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA raised a point of order on the non-availability of Annual Administrative Report of the Manipur Public Service Commission prior to

the discussion of Demand (2) Council of Ministers. He said such procedural lapse would be violation of Article 323(2) of the Indian Constitution.

Shri Th. Devendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister Law and Legislative Affairs and Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh, MLA expressed views.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister made a clarification on the delay in circulating the Annual Report in the House. He made an assurance that it would be made available in the House before passing the Demands.

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 1 - State Legislature, Demand No. 2 - Council of Ministers, Demand No. 3 - Secretariat and Demand No. 5 - Finance for discussion.

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

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA initiating the Demand discussion made certain observation on the role of legislature and the lack of proper facilities of the MLAs. He also stressed the need to preserve and keep up the dignity of the House. He spoke on the importance of accountability and credibility of the Ministers and added that they should give more room for hearing the grievances of the people effectively. He suggested that the Finance Department should extend the areas for collection of taxes and make it operative. Regarding the Secretariat, he said that secrecy and confidentiality should be well maintained and check any sort of leakage.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 1.00 p.m. till 2.00 p.m. of the day).

(The afternoon session resumed at 2.00 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair).

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motion on the Council of Ministers observed that the budget was unrealistic as the actual expenditure of the preceding year was not reflected in the budget making the budget more of a performance budget. He drew the attention of the Chief Minister on the non-availability of Ministers in the office and expressed desire to treat Members impartially. On Finance Department, he said that the department lacked transparency in its administration and wanted clarification on the manner of utilisation of special funds from the Centre like ACA and SPA. He suggested for providing bank facilities in each districts in view of the welfare of the pensioners in the state. He also mentioned, among other things, like opening of SBI in Imphal East District, streamlining of treasury administration, present status of on-line lottery, etc.

Dr Khasim Ruivah, MLA participating in the discussion observed that the Council of Ministers lacked co-ordination in passing the budget. He also drew the attention of the Chief Minister on the non selection of PDS nominees in hills and wanted to look into the matter.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA moving cut motion observed to maintain sanctity of State Legislature and wanted to provide waiting shed for the security guards of the MLAs during Session. He also urged the government to control over the issue of quarter allocation to Members and wanted specific allocation of quarter to Members. Regarding Secretariat, he charged that the department lacked secrecy in its administration and wanted to streamline the department. Making observation on the Finance Department, he said that the department must try to

give more attention to resource mobilisation and added that special programmes should be implemented to collect more revenues. He also pointed out that the present budget did not reflect proper collection of water tax. He also expressed desire to introduce migrant labour tax in the state by issuing licence to them and added that Inner Line Permit was not necessary in Manipur. He also made suggestion to institute an expert committee while preparing budget for its effectiveness.

Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA participating in the discussion observed that the budget was a defective one as it failed to prioritise sectors. He said that reduction of budget in power sector would create problems and wanted the Minister to clarify the matter. He further said that industries had failed due to the shortage of power in the state. He stressed the need to enhance resource mobilisation. He informed the House that no adequate income was collected from forest. Regarding Council of Ministers, he said that the Ministers lacked objectivity and that they did not give attention to public grievances. He also drew the attention of the Hon'ble Speaker to introduce DD Live coverage of the whole proceedings of the House in addition to the coverage made during Question Hour. He further said that Members should be given more facilities for discharging their duties and wanted to enhance the MLA Local Area Development Fund.

Shri R.K Anand, MLA participating in the discussion said that MLA Local Area Development Fund must be enhanced because the Members have limited financial power. He appealed the Members to be consensus in core issues of the state above party lines. He also expressed desire to maintain impartiality among the Ministers and appealed to the Ministers to advise the departmental officers to check funds from being misused. He also stressed the need to regulate Inner Line Permit in the state to save indigenous people of the state.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA participating in the discussion expressed the desire to complete the Capital Project soon. He also made observation on the non-availability of MLA Quarters and wanted proper allocation very soon. He also said that MLAs should be provided vehicles during their visit to Calcutta and Delhi Bhavans. He also expressed the need to enhance the MLA Local Area Development Fund.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister, replying to the Demand Discussion clarified that the annual plan size was not made in time due to the last General Election. The Sectorial allocation both in plan and non plan was made based on the thrust area, he added. He said that the budget allocation in power sector would be increased after the finalisation of Special Plan Assistance from the Centre. Regarding Resource mobilisation, he said that computerisation of land records were being undertaken to collect maximum land revenues in the state. He further said that under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission project for city development plan was approved and added that service tax would also be incorporated in the revenue collection in Imphal. He informed the House that medical benefit of the MLAs could be charged from their salary head and separate head was shown for the Ex-MLAs. He further informed that he would try to maintain efficiency in the functioning of secretariat service. Stressing the need of revenue mobilisation, he said that various measures had already been taken up to compress non- plan expenditure and to increase in the plan expenditure to improve our own resources. Regarding power tariff dues he said that measures were undertaken for its effective collection and expressed desire to amend the existing Manipur Electricity Act. He informed the House that overdraft and fund diversion

had been curbed since 2006. He further informed the House that computerisation of MGEL, pensioners etc. were also undertaken.

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 5 were passed unanimously.

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 4.10 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Tuesday, the 8th May, 2007.

T. Joute
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.
