

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT**

**BULLETIN PART-I
No. 36**

Tuesday, the 4th March, 2008.
Phalguna 14, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Tuesday, the 4th March, 2008 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon'ble Chief Minister, 10 Cabinet Ministers, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Chairman & Vice-Chairman (Hill Areas Committee) and 42 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (Health) made a reply to Starred Question No. 246 asked by Shri Awanbow Newmai, MLA regarding the District Hospital, Tamenglong.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (IFCD) made a reply to Starred Question No. 248 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding the construction of Khuga Dam.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (Vety. & A.H.) made a reply to Starred Question No. 249 asked by Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA regarding the Pony Farm at Tingkhai Khunou of Saitu A/C.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (RD & PR) made a reply to Starred Question No. 250 asked by Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA regarding the Director (RD & PR) and SIPRARD/SIRD.

ZERO HOUR:

During Zero Hour, Shri Awangbow Newmei, MLA raised a matter regarding the snatching of cash and mobile phone of some of his associates while going to MANIREDA at Naoremthong by a Commando team and drew the attention of the Government to take appropriate action against the team for their indisciplined ways.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA drew the attention of the Government on the eastern side of the newly constructed overbridge which was becoming accident prone with the construction of the road median and suggested that experts should be consulted to rectify it.

Shri Ngursanglur, MLA drew the attention of the Chief Minister on the imposition of unauthorised taxes recently by the security forces on motorboats carrying ginger and other items from Tipaimukh to Silchar.

CALLING ATTENTION:

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA called the attention of Education Minister on the non-availability of text books of Class-IX (nine) under the BSEM.

Highlighting the problems faced by the class IX students due to the non-availability of textbooks even after the commencement of the session from 1st February for both the schools in the hill and valley, he wanted the Government to make speedy arrangement to make it available. He also expressed the apprehension that it would create the feeling of disintegrity in the minds of the students of some hill districts who had earlier opted Nagaland Board. He further said that the order for printing the textbooks was made only in December 2007 and the printed books were sub-standard. Pointing out mismanagement on the part of the Secretary, he said that without the knowledge of the Board, 22 thousand copies of unused textbooks had been sold away and wanted the Minister to take appropriate action against the Secretary. He further said that the present Secretary-in-charge of BSEM had not the requisite qualifications for the post and mentioned the order of the Vigilance Department to remove him from his post.

Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh, Minister (Education) replying to the motion expressed regret on the inability to make available the textbooks timely. He clarified that on 28th January 2008, 15 thousand copies were sold away through the Board to the public and gave information regarding the present stock position and the number of copies being prepared. He asserted that the delay in the printing and despatching of textbooks was due to limited manpower of the Board presently engaged in the ongoing HSLC examination. The change in the syllabus was in accordance to the National Curriculum Framework, 2005 developed by the

Ministry of HRD and was to be introduced from 2008 onwards, he said. Regarding the apprehension of creating of the feeling of disintegrity in the minds of students of the hill districts, timely action would be taken up accordingly, he stated. On the charge of abusing of unused textbooks, he said it was done after holding a Board meeting on 18th December, 2008. On the non- fulfilment of RRs for Secretary, he assured that the matter would be looked into.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA sought further clarification and the Minister made the necessary clarifications.

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMAND FOR GRANTS, 2008-09:

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 5 - Finance, Demand No. 9 - Information & Publicity, Demand No. 28 - State Excise and Demand No. 29 - Sales Tax, Other Taxes/ Duties on Commodities & Services for discussion.

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

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motions observed that MGEL was a good policy particularly for pensioners and also stressed the need to open banks in every district for effective disbursement of pensions and to improve the information network. He said that arrangements should be made to provide leave encashment on the retirement day to pensioners and the delay in the issue of termination order should also be looked into. A more rational transfer policy should be adopted for more efficiency and transparency in the Finance service, he stated. He made further comments on the need to streamline the functioning of the State Treasury office and improving the Imphal Urban Co- Operative Bank. He said that provision should be made to provide Press Information Service to the rural masses and wanted the Minister to make necessary arrangements to give live coverage of the proceedings of the House to the public. He also pointed out the failure of the Government to provide information to the people regarding the various developmental works taken up by the Government.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA moving cut motions made observation on the importance of NABARD and the utility imparted by it to the public and wanted the Government to take full advantage of it. Regarding the introduction of the Electronic Clearing System and Electronic Fund Transfer System in the Treasury Department, he wanted the Government to provide them to all the nationalised banks to prevent inconveniences faced by pensioners and to finalise its the implementation soon. He said that the necessary arrangements for opening of the Bishnupur Treasury office should be made at the earliest. He questioned on

whether the objective of VAT was being achieved in the state and that it could not provide maximum benefit to the people since there was no control in the market rate of different items. The Market Intelligence Department under the DCs was not functioning properly and wanted the Minister to check it. Commenting on the role of electronic and printmedia, he wanted the Government to increase the fund allocation. The media person should improve its relation with the public and an institution for Journalism should be set up, he added.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA moving cut motions made observation on the need to streamline the Finance Department since it was dealing only with routine matters. He said that the fiscal policy should be return-based to gain more income and required proper management and augmentation. The Government should take steps for removing the inconveniences of pensioners, he said. Under the Indo-Myanmar Trade Policy, the import and export of commodities should be controlled, he said. He wanted the Government to give serious effort in the plugging of leakages in the collection of taxes in the different departments. The administration of the Excise was virtually done by voluntary organisations, he stated and wanted the Government to improve its functioning. The proceedings of the House should be given live coverage for public awareness, he suggested.

(Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Shri Th. Shyamkumar 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).

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving cut-motion pointed out the lack of initiative of the Government in initiating steps for recovery of taxes and loans and stressed the need for plugging leakages in the collection of taxes and for increasing the State's own resources to improve financial position of the State. Lapses of Treasury administration need to be properly checked and give befitting punishment to those involved in fraudulent withdrawal from the state's exchequer, he emphasized. Regarding Information and Publicity, he suggested for telecasting the proceeding of the House in order to create awareness to the public about the activities of the House.

Shri Radhabinod Koiyam, MLA taking part in the discussion suggested for maximum realisation of taxes through optimum and prudent use of resources and drew the Minister's attention towards it. He drew the attention of the Finance Minister to the leakages in the collection of VAT and emphasized for plugging it. He stressed for augmentation of the Directorate of Institutional Finance and also

for improving the functioning and for enforcing transparency of the Treasury department. He questioned the credibility of the Excise department when the civil organizations were doing the enforcement work of prohibition in the state at present. The achievements of the Government, activities of the House and the performance of the Peoples representative should be made known to the public, he said and therefore suggested for telecasting the full proceeding of the House by drawing the attention of the IPR Minister and the Chief Minister.

Shri T.N. Haokip, Minister (IPR), replying to the discussion said that the department was managing for providing coverage of the various programmes connected with the activities of VIPs and other important state functions. He informed about the programme for distribution of 3000 TV sets to the people of the hills and rural areas by the Doordarshan with IPR as the nodal agency in order to disseminate information to the rural masses. A multimedia campaign would be kicked off on the 13th of this month in Churachandpur district, with other 4 districts to follow suit, for highlighting the initiatives, policies and programmes of the government to the people. Street plays to publicize the illegality and harmful effects of bandhs and blockades would be staged, he informed and added that the government was trying to disseminate information about the activities, policy and programmes of the government to the rural mass by using LCD projectors on trial basis. Journalism Course of 15 days, 3 months and 6 months duration were conducted at the State Institute of Journalism by engaging eminent journalist of the state as resource persons due to the lack of required staff of the institute, he informed. He further informed that Journalist pension of Rs.2000 p.m and Rs.1000 p.m. were provided to 4 men and 4 widows, respectively. Regarding the live telecasting of the full proceedings of the House, he said that he would looked into the matter on an initiative from the Hon'ble Speaker in this regard.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, Shri RadhaBinod Koijam, Shri Morung Makunga and Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLAs sought further clarifications and Hon'ble Minister IPR made clarifications.

Hon'ble Speaker announced that he would looked into the matter of telecasting the full proceedings of the House in consultation with the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Minister IPR after considering the pros and cons and also the financial involvement.

Shri O. Ibohi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister, replying to the discussion said that target for collection of VAT was achieved and added that there was reduction of tax evasion and improvement of tax collection since implementing VAT in 2005. He acknowledged that the government could not achieve the target in

realization of power and water supply taxes and said that the government had passed an Act to help in the collection of power taxes . There was an increase in the revenue interest from investment made through RBI, he informed. Enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act and implementation of many leakage plugging exercises like the preparation of MGEL and computerization of pensioners record had improved the financial position, he said. He mentioned that DA and other benefits of employees pending for a long time had been cleared in the line of the central Govt. employees and added that ACP scheme had been implemented. To check fraud and loss of Govt. money through irregularities committed by public servants the government enacted the Manipur Public Servants Personnel Liability Act, 2005 and 2 (two) new funds namely, Sinking Fund and Guarantee Redemption Fund were set up in 2008-09 to reduce debt burden. The State Cabinet had also decided not to allow the State Govt. to act as guarantor for any loan, he said. For maintaining strict financial discipline and improving the financial position, the Central Government had waived an amount of Rs. 47 crores from the loan amount, he informed. He also said that the government was doing its best for strengthening financial institutions in the state.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, Shri Morung Makunga, Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh and Shri O. Joy Singh, MLAs sought further clarifications and the Hon'ble Chief Minister made clarifications.

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 5, 9, 28 & 29 were passed unanimously by the House.

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 4.10 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Wednesday, the 5th March, 2008.

T. Joute
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.
