

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT**

**BULLETIN PART-I
No. 37**

Wednesday, the 5th March, 2008.
Phalguna 15, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Wednesday, the 5th March, 2008 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon'ble Chief Minister, 11 Cabinet Ministers, Chairman & Vice-Chairman (Hill Areas Committee) and 43 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (Education) made a reply to Starred Question No. 251 asked by Shri Ngursanglur, MLA regarding the number of teaching and non-teaching staff posted in the High School/Junior High School in Tipaimukh Sub-Division.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (Works) made a reply to Starred Question No. 252 asked by Shri K. Raina, MLA regarding the completion of I.T. Road under SPA funding in Tadubi A/C.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (Sc. & Tech.) made a reply to Starred Question No. 253 asked by Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA regarding the progress of national e-Governance Plan for setting up of a State Wide Area Network (SWAN).
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (Power) made a reply to Starred Question No. 254 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding the proposal for providing Dedicated Power Supply to the studio of Door Darshan Kendra and All India Radio, Imphal.

ZERO HOUR:

During Zero Hour, Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA drew the attention of the Minister Works to complete construction of road at Watham Leirak at the earliest.

Shri I. Hemochandra Singh, MLA raised a point of order to maintain decorum of the House by the Members for enhancing its dignity.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA also drew the attention of the Minister concerned to make an arrangement for broadcasting the recognized tribal programmes through their own dialect in the AIR, Imphal.

CALLING ATTENTION:

Shri L. Nandakumar Singh, MLA called the attention of the Works Minister on the cause of death of one Tokpam Norendra due to the non-completion of the improvement work of Uripok-Kangchup Road.

Quoting Sangai Express edition of 3rd March, 2008, he said that the death was caused by the diversion of road to the northern side where there was heavy traffic congestion. He further said that the non-completion of road in the southern side caused inconvenience to the public and urged the Minister, Works to complete the road at the earliest.

Shri K. Ranjit Singh, Minister (Works) replying to the calling attention motion clarified that an FIR on the matter had already been lodged by the police department and informed the House that according to the report, the death of the person was due to rush and negligence of the driver but not due to traffic congestion. He said that WBM of the road had been completed and at present the portion of black topping was left and informed the House that the road would be completed by June this year.

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

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 15 - Food & Civil Supplies, Demand No. 16 - Co-operation, Demand No. 19 - Environment & Forest and Demand No. 46 - Science & Technology & Information Technology for discussion.

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

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motions observed that proper fund was not allocated to the Self Help Groups and expressed desire to incorporate the fund for Self Help Groups by enhancing the MLA Local Area Development Fund to encourage co-operative movement and for enhancing rural economy in the state. He said that the fund for the Pisciculture Co-Operative Society was not sufficient and wanted to provide cold storage facility along with electric generator to it for sustainable rural economy. He also inquired the government on the number of industrial growth centre of the state in the primary, district and state level and expressed desire to allocate more fund to ICM and CCM. He also stressed the need to set up offices of DCO in hills including women cell and printing press. On Forest Department, he asked whether the plantation of trees under aforestation programme was monitored properly and expressed the need of proper utilisation of fund under CSS in the Environment and Forest Department. He further said that animals in the zoo had become emaciated due to lack of adequate food and wanted to provide adequate food to the animals. He also drew the attention of the Minister concerned on the non-functional of wild life sanctuaries in the state and wanted to know any action plan in this regard. He also mentioned, among other things, importance of social forestry, to maintain equal treatment to the staff of MARSAC with the MANIREDA in the Science & Technology Department, improvement of PDS in the Imphal East, etc.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA moving cut motions drew the attention of the Minister on the shrinking of dense forest area in the state and stressed the need of monitoring the plantation of trees under aforestation programme of the social forestry. He also expressed desire to know the actual demarcation of Loktak lake and wanted to check encroachers to conserve the lake. He further urged the Minister to pay compensation to the owner of the agricultural lands submerged in the water due to Loktak Hydro Electric Project. He also mentioned, among other things, provision of clearing Athaphum in the Loktak lake, clearance of siltation of the rivers to avoid artificial flood, installation of incinerator in all the health Centres of the state for proper solid and bio waste management, etc. He charged the government for not allocating proper budget for e-governance in hills. He further stressed the importance of tapping non-conventional source of energy by the government and expressed desire to provide solar energy facilities to district hospitals in hills. He drew the attention of the FCS Minister for regular distribution of essential items under PDS. He also made observation on the Co-Operation and wanted more budget allocation to ICM and CCM.

Shri E. Kunjeshwar Singh, MLA participating in the discussion expressed the need to improve essential commodities under PDS in the Imphal East and

added that fair price shop in the state should be re- introduced. He also expressed desire to revive Consumer Co-Operative Societies in the state. He suggested for the protection of monkeys in the Mahabali forest and wanted to plant fruit producing trees for the monkeys. He also observed that equal treatment of staff in the Science & Technology Department should be maintained and also expressed the importance of road side plantation.

(Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh adjourned the House at 1.05 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 R.K Anand, MLA moving cut motion said that the problem of FCS items like rice, kerosene, sugar etc. not reaching the poor people of the state was an issue of both the ruling and the opposition alike which need to be solved very soon for the benefit of the people. He further expressed the need to reverify the BPL and AAY beneficiaries. Regarding Forest, he said that the department should take up effective measures to control deforestation and take up afforestation process. He wanted the Forest Minister to solve the impasse arising out of the ongoing strike by the LDA staff of the forest department who were left out in the regularisation of LDA staff. He further wanted to know the measures of the government to prevent and fight forest fire. He further gave suggestions on Cooperation and Science and Technology.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving cut motions expressed the need to revive the Labour Contract Cooperative Societies which had remained defunct for long. Commenting on Science and Technology, he said that the Remote Sensing under MANIREDA should be used very effectively. Expressing concern over the decreasing density of forest due to deforestation, he wanted the government to put more effort on preservation rather than on new plantation. He further commented on the excessive felling and ferrying of timber inspite of the ban imposed by the Supreme Court and added that the government should adopt a policy to collect revenue from it. He further observed on preservation of wild life and encourage Eco Tourism. Rubber Plantation, he observed, if taken up properly, would solve the problem of deforestation and also generate more revenue for the state.

Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA participating in the discussion observed that Forest Department should check bottlenecks and leakages in forest products and collect more revenue and wanted the department to check the mushrooming of unlicensed saw mills in the state. He enquired about the plan of the government to pay the pending compensation to the farmers whose fields were submerged due to the construction of Loktak Hydro Electric Project. He further enquired about the details of the process of clearing phumdis from Loktak Lake, identification of Athaphum owners and payment of compensation to them, the stock position of equipment of LDA, plan of the government to check siltation of rivers and Loktak Lake and the rehabilitation programs of LDA for people dependents of Loktak Lake.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA participating in the discussion said that the exact quantity of AAY rice should be made available to the beneficiaries. Pointing out the ill effects of deforestation, he said that efforts should be put more on preservation of forest rather than afforestation and urged the government to prevent forest fire. He further suggested for taking up rubber plantation and encourage villagers on rubber plantation to solve the problem of preservation of forest and also get economic benefit. Remote Sensing, he pointed out, should be utilised effectively and added that Science and Technology Department should provide more solar lamps to unelectrified villages.

Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA participating in the discussion suggested for smoother distribution of FCS items in the hill areas and pointed out the importance of godowns in the hill districts. Regarding Forest, he suggested for encouraging Floriculture in the state and urged the government to check the rampant selling of orchids in the market for fear of their extinction. Commenting on Science and Technology, he said that solar lamps should be provided to unelectrified villages and added that the department should take up projects for generating power from Non Conventional Energy Sources like wind, Biogas etc.

Shri Khangthuanang Panmei, Vice Chairman (HAC) participating in the discussion said that there had been unchecked felling and transportation of timbers in Tamenglong and urged the government to check it. He informed the house about a Royal Bengal Tiger prowling at Tamenglong attacking domestic animals and wanted the Forest Department to catch it under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Shri Erabot Yumkham, Minister (FCS & Cooperation) replying to the discussion said that FCS department had to meet the food item requirements on any event of natural calamities like flood, famine etc. resulting to shortfall of food items. He clarified that inspite of the various hurdles faced by the department due to the present situation of the state, he had been personally supervising to prevent any irregularities and added that many investigations were being taken up under the Essential Commodities Act and many erring employees too had been penalised. He further informed that reports of the samples collected from petrol pumps and sent for checking adulteration of SK oil had been received and accordingly explanation had been sought from some pumps and added that necessary action would be initiated very soon. Similarly report of samples of edible oils sent for checking any adulteration had come and the Health Department had been informed of the report to take necessary action, he said. He further informed that consumer courts would be constructed in all hill districts and the government was trying to make nonfunctional godowns located at the hill districts functional. Clarifying on Cooperation, he informed that SHGs were getting loans from banks and added that the department was taking up NCDC schemes and conducting cooperative Mela almost every year. District Cooperative Officers were being deputed to most of the districts, he said and added that the department was in the process of implementing the SHEGP scheme in all the districts except Thoubal District. He appealed to all cut motion movers to withdraw and allow the demand to pass.

Shri Th. Debendra Singh, Environment & Forest Minister, replying to the discussion said that area of forest cover had increased now as compared to the past due to reduction in degradation of forest. For regulating felling of trees, all unclassified forest had to be registered and trees could be felled by paying some royalty, he informed and added that for the scientific management of forest, Working Plan had been completed for Ukhrul and Chandel while that of Tamenglong, Senapati and Jiribam was almost complete and work was under progress for Churachandpur, Thoubal and Imphal also. For the non-reserved forest, the benefit of National Bamboo Mission could be realised through the Bamboo Development Agency, he informed. There were 180 numbers of Sangai as per the 2003 census, he informed and added that the number was on the increase in the recent years. He said that economic plantation was taken in reserved forest and seedlings were also distributed under the social forestry programme. He said that he was looking into the lack of maintenance of rubber plantations and lack of taping. A master-plan for the Manipur Zoological Garden was being developed, he informed. He said that attention was being given to

clearing of the floating bio-mass (Phumdis) and conservation of catchment areas as a step towards conservation of Loktak Lake.

Shri Phungzathang Tonsing, Minister (Science & Technology), replying to the discussion said that 150 villages in the hill districts including an area in Bishnupur District were covered under the home lighting system so far. Wind Hybrid Power Project was taken up in 3 places, 2 in Senapati and 1 in Ukhrul District with a capacity of 10 kw each, he informed and added that the Department was trying to cover all the hill districts during this year. He informed that the Central Government had sanctioned fund for the setting up of an IT Park at Mantripukhri and land acquisition had also been completed. He said that 39 Community Service Centre (formerly CIC) were taken up with 100% funding from the Centre. So far 19,051 Solar Lighting System were distributed so far, he informed. Regarding the depth in the laying of the Optical Fibre Cable, he said that the matter would be looked into and added that this project would be extended to all the Districts HQs and Sub-Divisional HQs of the hill districts.

Further clarification sought by Shri E. Kunjeswar Singh, Shri R.K. Anand, Dr. Bijoy Singh and Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLAs were made by the concerned Ministers.

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 15, 16, 19 and 46 were passed unanimously by the House.

NO-DAY-YET-NAMED-MOTION:

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moved the following motion:

“that this House may discuss the Annual Report of the Manipur State Vigilance Commission, 2007”.

He said that a large number of cases were pending for action to be taken regarding the recommendations of the Manipur State Vigilance Commission which was established in the year 1991. Citing some instances he pointed out that no actions was taken against guilty officials and added that in this situation the existence of the Commission was questionable. He enquired as to what steps would be taken up in this regard for improving the functioning of the Commission. He expressed desire for the report of the Commission to be discussed by the Cabinet.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the motion acknowledge the non implementation of the recommendations of the Commission and said that the matter would definitely be looked into. The Commission would be able to work efficiently if autonomy was given to it by a legislation of the House, he said and added that the State Cabinet had already discussed 2/3 times regarding the matter and a decision regarding it would be taken soon. He assured the House that the Government would expedite the process for taking actions as per the recommendation of the Commission

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 6.23 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Thursday, the 6th March, 2008.

T. Joute

Secretary,

Manipur Legislative Assembly.
