

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT**

BULLETIN PART-I

No. 26

Tuesday, the 5th February, 2008.

Magha 16, 1929 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Tuesday, the 5th February, 2008 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (RD&PR) made a reply to Starred Question No. 200 asked by Shri Awangbow Newmei, MLA regarding the programmes/schemes under BRGF (Backward Region Grant Fund) in Tamenglong District for 2006-2007.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (Works) made a reply to Starred Question No. 201 asked by Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA regarding improvement of Khuyathong to Lamphel road under the SPA programme during 2007-2008.
- (c) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 202 asked by Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA regarding increasing of the age of superannuation at 60 years of Government College teachers.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (Education) made a reply to Starred Question No. 203 asked by Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA regarding the policy of the Government for upgrading some High Schools in the State to higher Secondary School status. Chief Minister, Shri O. Ibohi Singh further supplemented to it.
- (e) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 204 asked by Shri K. Wungnaoshang Keishing, MLA regarding the work programme of Border Area Development Programme for 2007-2008 of Ukhrul District.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Revenue) made a reply to Starred Question No. 205 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding the declaration of area of hills as mole hills by the Government.

Answer to Unstarred Question No. 15 was laid on the Table of the House as written reply.

ZERO HOUR:

During Zero Hour, Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA highlighting the plight of the people drew the attention of the Government on the indefinite ceasework strike called by the staff nurses demanding increase of allowances which paralysed the normal functioning of the hospitals, PHCs and CHCs.

Shri R.K.Anand, MLA raised a matter on the issue of expansion of Tulihal Airport and expressed the need to hold talks between the JAC against its expansion and the Government and solve it amicably.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh,MLA quoted the 5th February 2008 Yakairol edition on the calling of Manipur bandh against the abduction of one N. Kishore A.E.of the Electricity Deptt.and citing such similar instances raised queries on whether the Government have any long term or short term action plan.

CALLING ATTENTION:

(i) Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh and Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLAs called the attention of the Health minister on the fraudulent withdrawal of General Provident Fund (G.P.F.) in the Community Health Centre, Moreh.

Dr. Ng.Bijoy Singh,MLA quoted the 29th January 2008 publication on the fraudulent withdrawal of 19 lakhs and the involvement of the DDO,Dr.Lungkim Manthang and charged that the instead of taking stern action against him by the Government, he was transferred to a place in Churachandpur. He also mentioned the indifferent attitude of the Finance Department by making an order to deduct money from GPF accounts from 9 employees, inspite of their complaints. He asked the concerned Minister on whether a criminal case was taken up against him and sought a detailed statement.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA supporting the motion expressed unhappiness on the act of the concerned authorities by making the 9 innocent employees undergo undue stress by deducting their salaries. He also sought a detailed statement of the findings of the House Committee set up earlier and the steps taken up by the Vigilance Department in this connection. He wanted the Government to take fitting action against the erring official within a definite timeframe.

Shri Ph.Parijat Singh,Health Minister replying to the motion admitted that Dr.Lungkim Manthang was involved in the case and an FIR was lodged against him.Regarding the order of the Finance Department, it was done to find out whether the withdrawals were done without the knowledge of the 9 employees and asserted that their regular salaries had been restored. So far 4 lakhs had been recovered from the DDO and the remaining would be recovered from his benefits, he added. He also said that the case is to be finalised soon and make an assurance to table the documents of the action taken report in the coming session.

(ii) Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moved a call attention motion quoting the September 17, 2007 edition of Naharolgi Thoudang on the alleged irregularities of one Mr. Koireng being promoted subsequently to a Deputy Inspector of Schools of Education Department from an ad-hoc matriculate teacher under district Council.

He said that there was a suspicion of forgery and manipulation in the documents of the concerned person raising doubts in the preparation of MGEL and

Treasury administration. He furnished documents substantiating his suspicion and asked the Government to examine the matter.

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh replied that relevant documents would be made verified and that appropriate action would be taken after verification.

DISCUSSION ON GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS:

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA participating in the discussion said that the Address failed to mention a policy to defend the territorial integrity of the state. Highlighting the need to address the grievances of the hill people, he said that the address did not mention the reviewing of the 2001 census and to conduct Delimitation process based on it and .He expressed that the address failed to mention the proper implementation of the reservation policy of the STs which they were deprived since the attainment of statehood. Further commenting on the problem of insurgency, he said that the address did not mention a permanent policy to put an end to it.

Shri Khashim Ruivah, MLA participating in the discussion said that the inclusion of the phrase “integrity of the state” in the address is unconstitutional as every legislators had been sworn to protect the integrity of the nation. Regarding upgradation of infrastructure in the hills, he said that the address had failed to give directives to implement developmental policies effectively and termed the address as “sugar coated quinine tablet”.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 1.05 p.m. till 2.05 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).

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA taking part in the discussion on Governor's Address pointed out that the desire of the government for solving the armed conflict in Manipur through peaceful means on the one hand and strengthening of the police force through recruitment at a large scale on the other hand are self contradictory. Means for safe guarding the basic rights of the people were lacking in the address. He emphasised on lifting of certain restriction hindering entry of tourist in the state and vacation of tourist home occupied by security forces for promotion of tourism in the state. He pointed out the need for a specific policy to protect water bodies, coordination among the different departments in taking up development works and setting up of the highway protection forces.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving an amendment motion on the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address stated that it was the duty of every elected representative to work for the welfare of the state and the integrity of the state should not be compromised with the backwardness of any area. If the insurgency problem of the state had to be solved democratically then the government had to take a step forward towards it, he suggested. He opined that modernisation of the police should be to safeguard the lives of the people. Economic growth of the state in the previous year, giving of employment to unemployed youths and asset creation of the state from the utilisation of funds failed to find a place in the Address, he said. He mentioned that reports of the state Vigilance Commission being recommended, it was handicapped in taking up due action due to the absence of proper empowerment. Proper planning and supervision was required in taking up developmental works in the state, he pointed out.

At 3.25 the House was adjourned for a 20 minutes tea break.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the Governor's Address clarified that the law and order situation in the state had been closely monitored by the state government from time to time to maintain it properly added that an action plan submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs for the improvement of law and order in the state had also been approved. Under this action plan police manpower and infrastructure would be strengthened both in hills and valley, he further said. He said that 100 acres of land at Lamphel had been reserved for a complex exclusively for commandos and the construction of this complex was also being undertaken on a war footing. He informed the House the state Cabinet had reviewed and revised the state surrender policy and added that 100 acres of land at Jiribam for rehabilitation centre had been reserved and Rs 10 crore had also been earmarked for the next financial year. Regarding Sachar Committee Report set up for the welfare of the Minorities, he said that the state government was actively examining the matter for its effective implementation. On Look East Policy of the Government of India, he also mentioned the importance of airport and informed the House that adequate compensation would be given to the affected areas in the expansion of airport under this policy. He said that district infrastructure development in hills was almost completed and all district infrastructures would be completed by 2008-2009. Regarding STs Reservation and 100 point roster in appointment he informed that the government had no negligence on the matter and added that any discrepancy in this regard would also be checked in future. He also appealed to the underground organisations of the state for dialogue within the framework of the Indian Constitution and within the territory of Manipur. He ruled out a third party like UNO in initiating the dialogue. Regarding Nurses' cease work strike, he informed the House that the state Cabinet had taken a decision to enhance their allowance and appealed to the nurses to resume their duties. He also appealed to the Members who press amendments to the Motion of Thanks to withdraw their amendments and pass it.

All the amendments were withdrawn and the Motion of Thanks was adopted by the House.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister presented the Sixth report of the Business Advisory Committee, 2008 and also moved the following motion:

“that, this House agrees with the allocation of time proposed by the Committee.”

The House agreed.

CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF BILL:

Shri N. Loken Singh, Social Welfare Minister moved:

“that the Compulsory Registration of Marriages Bill, 2008 be taken into consideration.”

Shri N. Loken Singh, Social Welfare Minister moving for passing the Bill highlighted the object and reason of the Bill. He said that the Bill was to prevent

child marriage, divorce and to provide widows' right over their husband's property. He said that the Bill would not affect any religious groups in their system of marriage and added that the Supreme Court had already also directed to have a compulsory registration of marriage to prevent crimes arising out of marriage.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA observed that the Bill lacked penal provision and wanted photograph of the marriage to prevent manipulation at the time of registration.

Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA observed that the Bill was not clear and expressed desire to insert penal provision in the Bill. He also suggested for referring the Bill to a Select Committee.

Shri R.K Anand, Dr. I. Ibohalbi, Shri Morung Makunga, MLAs, Shri Th. Debendra Singh, Minister (Law & Legislative Affairs) and Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA made observations.

Taking into consideration the opinion of the House, the Minister-in-charge of the Bill recommended that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

The Hon'ble Speaker referred the Bill to a Select Committee consisting of the following members for examination.

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| (1) | <i>Shri N. Loken Singh, Minister (Social Welfare)</i> | - | <i>Chairman;</i> |
| (2) | <i>Shri Th. Debendra Singh, Minister
(Law & Legislative Affairs)</i> | - | <i>Member;</i> |
| (3) | <i>Md. Allauddin Khan, Minister (RD & PR)</i> | - | <i>Member;</i> |
| (4) | <i>Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA</i> | - | <i>Member;</i> |
| (5) | <i>Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA</i> | - | <i>Member;</i> |
| (6) | <i>Shri Morung Makunga, MLA</i> | - | <i>Member; and</i> |
| (7) | <i>Shri L. Nandakumar Singh, MLA</i> | - | <i>Member.</i> |

Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House at 5.20 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Wednesday, the 20th February, 2008.

T. Joute
*Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.*
