

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT**

**BULLETIN PART-I
No. 57**

Friday, the 10th July, 2009.
Asadha 19, 1931 (Saka)

*The House assembled at 11.00 am of Friday, the 10th July, 2009 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, Chairman & Vice-Chairman (Hill Areas Committee) and 42 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (Works) made a reply to Starred Question No. 351 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding the black topping of N.H.-150 from Lamlong to Chairel.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (R.D. & P.R.) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 352 asked by Shri T. Hangkhanpao, MLA regarding the released of fund by the Govt. of India for Multi Sectorial Development Plan (M.S.D.P.) to be taken up by the Department in the State.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (IFCD) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 353 asked by Shri Awangbow Newmei, MLA regarding the programmes taken up to control flood and erosion in Tamenglong District.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (CA, F&PD) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 354 asked by Dr. Kh. Ratankumar Singh, MLA regarding discontinuation of distribution of rice under APL Scheme through Retail Outlet Shop in Mayang Imphal A/C.

- (e) Hon'ble Minister (Social Welfare) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 355 asked by Shri Th. Nandakishor Singh, MLA regarding the payment of pension for handicapped persons.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Works) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 356 asked by Shri Wungnaoshang Keishang, MLA regarding the improvement of road from Kamjong to Kangpat Khullen.
- (g) Hon'ble Minister (Tribal Development) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 357 asked by Shri W. Morung Makunga, MLA regarding the vacant posts of Primary School Teachers in the Autonomous District Councils.
- (h) Hon'ble Minister (Works) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 358 asked by Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA regarding the ongoing work of N.H.-39.
- (i) Hon'ble Minister (CA, F&PD) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 359 asked by Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA regarding the entitlement of APL rice of Thangmeiband A/C.
- (j) Hon'ble Minister (R.D. & P.R.) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 360 asked by Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA regarding the working days under NREGS in Bishnupur District in 2009.
- (k) Hon'ble Minister (Revenue) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 361 asked by Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA regarding the construction of SDC Office, Oinam, Bishnupur District.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE:

Shri V. Hangkhanlian, Chairman of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes present the Twelfth Report of the Committee.

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMAND FOR GRANTS, 2009-2010:

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 4 - Land Revenue, Stamps & Registration and District Administration, Demand No. 8 - Public Works Department and Demand No. 26 - Administration of Justice for discussion.

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

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving cut motion on Demand No. 4 - Land Revenue, Stamps and Registration and District Administration flayed the government for the failure of district administration, the backbone of administration, in the state and added that the state cannot progress without proper district administration. Districts, he said, should be bifurcated for the sack of better administration and further questioned why Jiri and Sadar Hills should not be given the status of new districts for the sack of better and efficient administration. The Land Law of the state, he suggested, should be amended to allow people living in the valley to settle in the hills. He also gave comments on the construction of Capitol Project, Manipur Bhavan Gauhati, Manipur Bhavan, Delhi and repairing works on NHs and urged the Minister concerned, to complete them at the earliest.

Dr. Ng Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motion expressed dissatisfaction over the failure of the government to restore the records lost due to the burning of SDO Office, Sawombung and urged the Minister to look into the matter. Pointing out the inconveniences faced by the employees of offices located at Nongmajing Ching as they had to go to Kangpokpi to get their salaries, he urged the Minister concerned to bring the hillock under Imphal East District. He also pointed out the need to rectify the tussle on the appointment of a new Chief Engineer in the Works Department in order to do away the problem arising out of it. He came heavily on the delay in implementing work programs and urged the Minister concerned to examine the mater for a balanced development in the state.

Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA participating in the discussion wanted d the Revenue Minister to check the irregularities in the issuing of dag chithas and pattas to encroachers. He also apprised the Minister to the inability of people living at Napat, under Kumbi Kendra to get any benefits given by the government due to the non-issuance of pattas to them and urged the Minister to issue pattas to

them. He further requested the Minister PWD to construct approach road for the constructed Moirang Kumbi Bridge, widen the Churachandpur to Moreh Road via Saiton and Waiton under Kumbi constituency and solve the problems arising out of appointment of a person having electrical background as Chief Engineer of PWD.

The 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 pm with the Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair.

Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA moving cut motion charged the Works department for failing to control quality in its work and wanted a systematic monitoring and supervision in the execution of works under the department. He drew the attention of the Works Minister on the proper installation of hot mix plant and on the proper functioning of the soil testing cell in the department for efficiency and quality control in its works. He expressed regret over the non completion of Kolkata Manipur Bhavan and Tikendrajit House, Chanakyapuri, Delhi and wanted to expedite the work at the earliest. He also stressed the need to adopt need -based system in the department and alleged that Works department did not consult the public representatives at the time of formulating need based programmes in the department. He also further stressed that officials of the department should be work oriented and wanted to prepare proper seniority list for enhancing efficiency in its functioning.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA moving cut motion asked the Works department to know whether the technical sanction for reviewing grant of sub contract and allocation of works to the agencies like the Manipur Police housing Corporation and Manipur Development Society was made by the competent authority and wanted to black list those contractors who did not maintain quality in their works. He also drew the attention of the Ministers concerned on the framing of a policy regarding the traffic congestion in Imphal city, maintenance of Babupara Quarters, enhancement of state revenues.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA moving cut motion on Administration of Justice stressed the need to implement a uniform land law both in hills and valley of this state and wanted to review MLR & LR Act. He drew the attention on the delay of the disposal of cases in the Revenue department and emphasized the need to streamline it. Regarding road connectivity, he urged the Works department to

produce a white paper indicating the department- wise allocation of budget in view of the allegation that proper fund for the development activities in the hills was not provided and wanted a balanced attention of the department both in hills and valley. He also drew the attention of the Law Minister for providing adequate infrastructure to the Administrative of Justice department and wanted proper implementation of Juvenile Justice Act in the state.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA participating in the discussion expressed desire to transfer land record of hills which was presently kept at Thoubal and Bishnupur Districts to the districts concerned. He informed the House that implementation of MLR& LR Act in hills was desirable because of the fear of the influx of the outsiders who were skilled in agricultural farming and might even become potential voters in future. On District Administration, he observed that proper instruction should be made to the DC concerned in order to help implement programme effectively. He also drew the attention of the Works Minister to identify contractors who were not working and wanted the Minister to take action against them.

Shri V. Hangkhanlian, MLA participating in the discussion drew the attention of the Minister for the finalization of district boundary and wanted to frame a policy on the wet land in the state. He also expressed unhappiness on the non-availability of SDC in hills and said that it had affected the district administration. He urged the Work Minister to expedite the development of roads in Churachandpur district. He also stressed the need to provide adequate infrastructure to the Administration of Justice department.

Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA participating in the discussion drew the attention of the Works department to implement the development of roads in time and expressed the need to improve IV roads in the hills. He also stressed the importance of streamlining the District Administration and wanted SDO and other officials to be stationed at their respective place for effective district administration.

Shri K. Ranjit Singh, Minister (Works) replying to the discussion clarified that for quality control in the works taken up under the department he used to visit at the work sites personally and monitored the works. He informed the House that construction of High Court Complex would be completed by May, 2010 and the Assembly Complex by March, 2011. He further informed that construction works of Gauhati Manipur Bhavan at Gauhati was underway and site inspection for the construction of Shillong Manipur Bhavan at Shillong would be carried out soon.

He also informed that Kolkata Manipur Bhavan at Salt Lake would also be started from this year and the repairing works of Tikendrajit House, Chanakyapuri, Delhi would be completed by August this year. He said that for the maintenance and improvement of NHs, the Centre had redirected and assured the state government to sanction required fund for it and also added that so far six hot mix plants had been installed at various places of the state. He informed that monitoring of the staffs and contractors to ensure maintenance of quality works would be done and added that he did his best to include most of the works proposed by the Hon'ble Members in the work programme. He further informed that DPR have been submitted for urban bypass in order to ease traffic congestion in the city.

S/Shri Radhabinod Koijam, V. Hangkhanlian and Dr. I. Ibohalbi, Hon'ble MLAs sought further clarifications and Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Minister (Works) made the necessary clarifications.

Shri Th. Debendra Singh, Minister (Revenue, Law and Legislative Affairs) replying to the discussion informed that infrastructure development of the revenue department was being taken up and the functioning of the department would now be effective as the newly recruited SDOs and SDCs have started functioning. Survey and mapping, strengthening of land survey and framing of Land Policy was required, he informed and said that he would look into the matter. He informed that computerisation of land records have been taken up in the SDC offices. Construction of Court buildings have been taken up he informed and added that appointment of 6 Judicial Magistrate, which have been lying vacant for a long time, had been made for speedy disposal of cases. He said he would look into the matter of the lack of clerical staffs in courts and for making regular appointment thereof.

Shri Th. Debendra Singh made further clarification sought by Shri R.K. Anand, MLA.

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 4, 8 & 26 were passed unanimously by the House.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

(i) Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moved the following resolution:-

“The House, therefore, resolves to urge the Government of Manipur for immediate legislation of “The Manipur Conservation of the Paddy Land and Wetland Act”.”

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA observed that in view of the limited agricultural fields and receding paddyland and wetland in the state there is an immediate need to conserve it. There was no proper law in the state to control wetland and paddyland and their conversion to industrial land, he said and added that an immediate and appropriate legislation was necessary. He observed that conservation of wetland and paddyland was necessary for maintaining ecological balance and for providing food security respectively. He suggested for immediate legislation of “The Manipur Conservation of Paddyland and Wetland Act” in the line of “Kerala Conservation of Paddyland and Wetland Act” which was passed recently.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA supporting the resolution said that the passing of this legislation would have a far reaching positive effect. He pointed out that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on SEZ had reported the increase in non-agricultural use of land while there was a decrease in the agricultural use of land and added that the most of the senior leaders of the Central government were of the view of the need for preserving agricultural lands and therefore suggested for legislating an appropriate act.

Shri Th. Debendra Singh, Minister (Revenue) replying to the Private Members Resolution said that he supported the spirit of the resolution but it would be too hasty to pass it at the moment. He informed that amending the MLR & LR Act and reviving the Land Use Board which was set up in 1983 would serve the purpose of the proposed legislation.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the Private Members Resolution said that agricultural lands both in the valley and the hills was very limited and there was the practice of converting agricultural land for other business purposes and therefore there was the need for conserving agricultural lands. He said that the time has come for legislation of an appropriate

act in the line of the Kerala model of such an Act but it would be too hasty to pass the resolution as of now. The government had been discussing about the need for such an act for quite some time, he said and added that exercise would be made for legislation of an appropriate act and therefore requested the mover of the resolution for withdrawing the resolution.

As the Chief Minister had given an assurance that the Government will look into the matter and do the needful, the mover of the resolution had withdrawn the resolution.

(ii) Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh and Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLAs moved the following resolution:-

“Now, therefore, this House has agreed to recognize the Meetei Sanamahis as one of the Minority communities of the State.”

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving the resolution said that the Meetei Sanamahi religion, as proposed by a Committee of the Assembly, was recognised by the Govt. of India under code no. 751. It was recognized as the seventh religion of India, he said. He further said that the number of followers of Hindu religion and Meetei Sanamahi religion in the state as per the 2001 census were 18 lakhs and 2.35 lakhs respectively and the number of people having faith in Meetei Sanamahi was in minority in the state. He, therefore, pressed for recognizing the Meetei Sanamahi as a minority community of the state.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA co-mover of the resolution said the Meetei Sanamahi religion in the state has a unique and ethnic identity of its own having its own deity, temple, culture, rituals, ceremonies, etc. There were only 2.35 lakhs population following the Meetei Sanamahi religion in the state, he said and suggested for recognizing it as a minority community in the state.

Shri O. Ibohi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister replying to the Private Members resolution said that there was around 2.22 lakhs population of Meetei Sanamahi in the state while the population of Hindu religion was 18 lakhs as per the 2001 census. He informed that granting of religious minority status was not under the purview of the State Government but the National Commission for Minorities make the decision and so it would not be proper to grant the minority status to the Meetei Sanamahi. It would be too hasty to pass the resolution at the

moment, he said and informed that he would see what could be done regarding the matter.

Dr. Bijoy Singh and Dr. Ibohalbi, Hon'ble MLAs enquired whether decision could be taken now to recommend to the Minority Commission for recognising Meetei Sanamahi as a minority community.

Hon'ble Chief Minister replied that he would look into the matter.

As the Chief Minister had given an assurance that the Government will look into the matter and do the needful, the movers of the resolution had withdrawn the resolution.

Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 6.20 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Monday, the 13th July, 2009.

Th. Megha Raj Singh
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.
