

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT**

BULLETIN PART-I

No. 65

Wednesday, the 22nd July, 2009.

Asadha 31, 1931 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Wednesday, the 22nd 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 45 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (Health) made a reply to Starred Question No. 416 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding plan to stop the inconvenience caused to the people in performing Post Mortem at RIMS Morgue.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (Commerce & Industries) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 417 asked by Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA regarding the payment of salaries for the staff of Khadi and Village Industries Board.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (Education) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 418 asked by Shri R.K. Anand, MLA regarding the policy of the Government to promote, develop and protect Manipuri Language and its script.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (Forest) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 420 asked by Shri W. Morung Makunga, MLA regarding the deputation of Engineers of Loktak Development Authority to other Department.
- (e) Hon'ble Minister (CA, F & PD) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 421 asked by Shri V. Hangkhanlian, MLA regarding the repairing of FCS Godown at Thanlon.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Social Welfare) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 422 asked by Dr. Kh. Ratankumar Singh, MLA regarding the selection of beneficiaries of the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme.

- (g) Hon'ble Minister (Education) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 423 asked by Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA regarding the setting up of Model School at Moirang Sub-Division.
- (h) Hon'ble Minister (Power) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 424 asked by Shri Awangbow Newmei, MLA regarding the construction of 33 KV sub-station at Tousem and Tamei.
- (i) Hon'ble Minister (PHED) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 425 asked by Shri T. Mangibabu Singh, MLA regarding the Water Supply Schemes functioning at Thanga A/C.

Starred Question No. 419 was not asked as the Member was not present in the House.

ZERO HOUR:

Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA drew the attention of the House on the misuse of the community tanks constructed by MDS and said that the matter should be made to look after by Deputy Commissioners and utilise the tanks to supplement the drought problem. Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh, MLA raised a query regarding the facilities provided by the government for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE:

Shri O. Ibohi Singh, Chief Minister laid the Annual Report, 2008-2009 of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Manipur & Mizoram.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE:

Shri O. Joy Singh, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee presented the Thirty-Third Report of the Committee.

CALLING ATTENTION:

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA called the attention of the Home Minister on the excess of security personnel during the operation at Phumlenpat on 20th June, 2009.

He quoted the 21st June 2009 local dailies edition on the combing operation carried out by the combined forces of 21st A.R. Maratha Light Infantry and the Commandoes and pointed out excesses on the part of the security forces by killing 4 civilians, gutting 13/14 houses of the villagers and even consuming their livestock. Commenting on the present law and order situation, he said that the counter insurgency operations carried out had a great impact on the civilian

population and such injustice meted out to them was intolerable and condemnable. He maintained that the role of the security forces was to safeguard and there was requirement of restraint on their part. He enquired whether the such inhuman acts were committed by the security personnel or matter was wrongly reported by the Press and asserted that such incidents would cast a bad image of the government. He wanted the government to looked into the matter and compensate the losses and award befitting punishment to the wrongdoers.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the motion said that specific information was received and combined forces rushed to the area and operation was carried out from three angles Tokpa Ching, Ahongyangbi Village and Chingjao. He informed the House that there was exchange of fire and some ammunition and documents belonging to the PLA and KYKL were recovered and an FIR was lodged at Waikhong P.S. He reiterated that the area was a safe haven for undergrounds since it was not easily accessible by security forces. Regarding the charges of gutting of houses and lost of livestock, he said that so far there were no written complains.

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

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 37 - Fisheries, Demand No. 40 - Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Demand No. 44 - Social Welfare Department and Demand No. 48 - Relief & Disaster Management for discussion.

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

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA moving cut motions observed that the Annual Report of the Fisheries Department was resourceful and wanted the Government to give more attention to the main fish producing areas. In order to meet the demands of the local population 50% of the fishery areas should be utilised. For the benefit of the fish farmers loans, insurance cover and other facilities were not provided timely, he stated. He raised queries on the housing loans guaranteed by the Government of India and benefits of Accident Insurance Scheme received by the farmers. He further drew the attention of the Government on the hike of tax per hectare from Rs. 200 to Rs. 600 and expressed that since it would be a burden for the poor farmers, the Government should review the order issued in that connection and also to looked into the functioning of Keinou Pisciculture Co-operative Society. On IFCD, he said the continual flooding of Oinam Constituency every year should be looked into and a means to solve the problem must be chalked out under the Brahmaputra Project. Regarding the Imphal Main Canal, he said that the blockades and leakages at certain points should be cleared and repaired to give maximum utility to the people. On Social Welfare Department, he said that there was no monitoring or direct control of the funds sanctioned by the Centre and said that a body to look into its functioning should be formed. The number of Drug De-Addiction Centres was not at par with the number of addicts, he opined and wanted the government to increase the number. In spite of the porous borderline, the Indian Drug Laws was liberal and suggested that the drug laws should be reviewed and made stricter.

Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh, MLA participating in the discussion highlighted the inconveniences faced of the people residing near the Thoubal Multipurpose Project and said that the means of earning their livelihood was stalled. Due to the construction work going on, the condition of the roads were greatly affected, he said. Regarding Fisheries, he said that awareness of the projects and programmes undertaken should be spread to the fishermen for acquiring maximum benefits. Lastly he expressed that the functioning of the Anganwadi Centres under the Social Welfare Department should be examined and streamlined.

The 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 2.05 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA moving cut motion expressed that the Social Welfare department need to look into the facilities/benefits extended and also the reservation policy for the disabled persons for its proper implementation. He suggested that adequate funds should be reserved to tackle any natural calamities. He emphasized the need for improving the drainage systems and for dredging the Merakhong and Waishel Marin on priority basis as most of the drains were connected with them.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motion drew the attention of the IFCD Minister to the eroded and depressed river banks of the state and the non filling of earth even after construction of retaining walls were completed. He suggested for constructing retaining walls beside the Lamlong bridge, shifting the sand quarry at Imphal river along the stretch from Minuthong to Khurai and for taking some remedial measures regarding the Muster Roll employees of the IFCD. A fixed contingency fund should be kept to meet any expenses in times of natural calamities, he said. He drew the attention of the Social Welfare Minister to the non-distribution of Annapurna rice to the beneficiaries for the last 13 months and for constructing home for the aged and destitutes.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA mover of cut motion pointed out the failure to give relief from the calamity fund to those affected by floods during the last few years. He drew the attention of the IFCD minister to the non-payment of bill for the expenses incurred in fighting floods some 2/3 years back, non-filling of earth after construction of retaining walls, closing of the dam's gate of the Imphal Barrage at the appropriate time for retaining water and for dredging the riverbed of the Chandranadi.

Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA moving cut motion drew the attention of the Minister (Fishery) for improvement of the Cold Water Fish Breeding Centre at Siroy, Ukhrul and to the need of fishery pond and other related programmes in the Hills. He drew the attention of the Minister (IFCD) for taking up flood control measures in the Hills also. Pointing out the disparity in setting up of anganwadi centres he opined the need for consulting the respective MLAs in taking up any

programmes by the department and suggested for setting up old age home in major villages with the availability of the necessary amenities.

Shri Radhabinod Kojiam, MLA moving cut motion emphasized the need for taking up appropriate steps regarding silted up major rivers of the state. He drew the attention of the Minister concerned to the non-payment of compensation to the affected landowners regarding the acquisition of land for the Nambul River Flood Control Project during 1994 and stressed the need for payment of the compensation at the earliest and also rehabilitate those persons who were completely displaced by the acquisition. Regarding Social Welfare department, he pointed out the non distribution of Annapurna rice to the beneficiaries for the last 13 months and emphasized the need for looking into the role of the transporters in this regard. The order of the Supreme Court for setting up anganwadi centres in ST/Sc inhabited areas having 40 children on demand was not implemented, he said and added that there was disparity in the implementation of Family Benefit Schemes, Old Age Pension Scheme, etc as a major chunk of Thamgmeiband A/C's share was diverted for the District Committee members' share. He further drew the attention of the minister for giving benefits to people living with HIV/AIDS and infected mothers and children.

Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA taking part in the discussion enquired about the achievements of the Singda Project and the Khuga Multipurpose Project. He opined that the height of the Imphal Barrage need to be increased and enquired whether any steps had been taken up for its modernization and that of Khoupum Dam. He drew the attention of the Minister (IFCD) to the siltation of rivers and river bunds rising higher than habitation area thereby endangering people's lives. He enquired about the number of disabled persons given employment under reservation fixed for them, the number of year relaxed for them and the number of unemployed disabled persons registered so far. He further added that Annapurna rice should be made available to the beneficiaries.

Md. Allauddin Khan, Minister (Fisheries) replying to the discussion informed that the state had a capacity of producing around 18800 MT of fish against the demand of 25,000 MT annually and added that the inability to meet the demand of the state was due to the decrease in area suitable for fishing being converted for cultivation purposes. He informed about the construction of jetty at 3 places for the convenience of fish transportation, introduction of fish in many rivers of the state and imparting of fishery training at Lamphel. The department was putting all efforts to overcome extinction of indigenous fishes, he said and further informed that prawn fishery had been inaugurated at Lamphel with the distribution of around 2 million fry to 200 fish farmers. Construction of 621 houses, 31 community halls and 2 community tanks were made as part of improving the status of the fishing community, he informed and added that fish farm of the size of 2974 paris had been constructed and there was plan for constructing 310 paris size farm during the current year. He informed that 110 fish farmers were benefited under the Accident insurance scheme. Further, he informed that efforts were being made to overcome the production shortage of 6 MT of fish at the earliest.

Shri N. Biren, Minister (IFCD) replying to the discussion clarified that with the repairing of Imphal barrage, irrigation to large hectares of paddy field in various parts of the state had been made for which Rs 20 crore had already been earmarked under non-plan for the repairing of the projects completed and informed that construction of retaining walls in Imphal river for the first phase was also near completion. He further said that the department was also ready to construct retaining walls for those most vulnerable areas of river banks in the second phase and added that proposal for the purchase of two dredging machines had been made to the government for the removal of silts in the riverbeds of Imphal and other main rivers in the state to help reduce flood. Regarding the due payment of the workers for earth works during flood, he informed that the fund for it would be released after the end of the current budget Session and further informed that he would look into the grievance of the muster roll and work charge employees of the department. He said that DPR for Chandranadi and Merakhong Projects had been prepared. He also clarified that the department had no negligence to hills in the release of its funds and added that 500 hectares of land had been irrigated under Khuga barrage.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, S/Shri Radhabinod Koijam, and Th. Shyamkumar, MLAs sought further clarifications and the Minister clarified.

Shri N. Loken Singh, Minister (Social Welfare) replying to the discussion clarified that Anganwadi Centres in the state had been functioning properly. He informed that disabled welfare programmes had been taken up by the Social Welfare Department in full swing and added so far 359 beneficiaries had been given as disabled unemployment allowance. He further informed that appointment of 29 disabled persons had also been made under the reservation quota of the disabled persons and added that wheel chairs, hearing aids, etc. to 1500 disabled persons had also been distributed through District Disabled Rehabilitation Committee (DDRC). The distribution of Annapurna rice to BPL card holders had been made up to March, 2009, he said and informed that he would check whether such rice had not been in receipt by the beneficiaries, if any. He also informed that the department always tried to maintain its transparency in extending all of its benefits to the beneficiaries under different schemes and programmes of the department through District Committee under the Chairmanship of DC concerned.

Dr. Khashim Ruivah, Dr. I. Ibohalbi, and Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLAs sought further clarifications and the Minister clarified.

Shri O. Irobi Singh, Chief Minister in-charge-of Relief and Disaster Management Shri O. Irobi Singh, Chief Minister (in charge of Relief & Disaster Management) replying to the discussion clarified that a Cabinet decision would also be taken for providing adequate contingency fund and required staff in the department for its effective management of natural disasters. He informed that required relief to the victims of the bamboo flowering in Churachandpur, Tamenglong and Chandel districts had also been extended and further informed that necessary relief had been made to the concerned taking into account of the fund position of the department from time to time through the reports from the DC concerned. He also said that under the disaster management programmes of the department, awareness programmes, seminars, workshops, sensitization programmes, etc. had been undertaken at various levels for public awareness.

Shri R.K Anand, MLA sought further clarification and the Chief Minister clarified.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister supplementing to the reply of the Social Welfare Minister said that the District Committee constituted for the selection of beneficiaries under various programmes of the department should be under strict supervision of the Department and appealed the Minister concerned to look into any disparity in this regard for its effective management.

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 37, 40, 44 & 48 were passed unanimously by the House.

Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 5.20 p.m. till 11.00 a.m. of Thursday, the 23rd July, 2009.

Th. Megha Raj Singh
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.
