

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT**

BULLETIN PART-I

No. 67

Friday, the 24th July, 2009.

Sravana 2, 1931 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Friday, the 24th 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 44 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (IFCD) made a reply to Short Notice Question No. 2 asked by Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh, MLA regarding the completion of construction of Right Main Canal of Thoubal Barrage.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (Dev. of SC/ST) made a reply to Starred Question No. 430 asked by Dr. H. Borajao, MLA regarding the Schedule Caste villages recognized by the Government of India.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (Minor Irrigation) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 431 asked by Shri T. Mangibabu Singh, MLA regarding the P.L.I. Scheme functioning in Thanga A/C.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (Works) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 432 asked by Shri Morung Makunga, MLA regarding the construction of Residential Bungalow for S.D.O. at Kamjong in Ukhrul District.
- (e) Hon'ble Minister (Education) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 433 asked by Shri E. Kunjeswar Singh, MLA regarding the part-time teachers appointed for the Govt. Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Education) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 434 asked by Shri Awangbow Newmei, MLA regarding the upgradation of High Schools in Tamei and Tousem Sub-Divisions to Secondary Schools.

- (g) Hon'ble Minister (Social Welfare) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 435 asked by Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA regarding the District Level Selection Committee for selection of beneficiaries of Family Benefit Scheme and Old Age Pension Scheme for Imphal West District.
- (h) Hon'ble Minister (IFCD) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 436 asked by Dr. Kh. Ratankumar Singh, MLA regarding the area to be covered by Imphal Barrage.
- (i) Hon'ble Minister (Education) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 437 asked by Dr. U. Deben Singh, MLA regarding the site for setting up of NIT in Manipur.
- (j) Hon'ble Minister (R.D. &P.R.) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 438 asked by Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA regarding the construction of (Lungchong Meiphai) L.M. Block
- (k) Hon'ble Minister (R.D. &P.R.) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 439 asked by Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA regarding the district-wise number of mandays by the job card holders under NREGS Programme during 2008-09.
- (l) Hon'ble Minister (PHED) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 440 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding the setting up of Water Management Policy of the State.
- (m) Hon'ble Minister (Vety. & A.H.) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 441 asked by Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA regarding the write-off loans to the SEGP Beneficiaries (Laonees) sponsored by Manipur State Co-operative Bank whose fowls were culled due to the outbreak of bird-flu in 2007.

Answer to Unstarred Question No. 19 was laid on the Table of the House.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Hon'ble Speaker informed the House that Hon'ble Member, Shri R.K. Anand had applied leave of absence for the day i.e. 24th July, 2009.

The House granted the leave.

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

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 15 - Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Demand No. 23 - Power and Demand No. 35 - Stationery & Printing for discussion.

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

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motions expressed that the MoU of the Loktak Hydro Electric Project should be reviewed and the viability assessment report of the 36 Megawatt Heavy Fuel Power Project at Leimakhong should be taken. Repairing of transformers, replacing of poles and wires by checking wears and tears should be systematised and contingency funds should be kept to meet committed liabilities, he said. Regarding irregularities in tax collection, he stated that the Power Department itself had failed to clear taxes amounting to Rs. 75 lacs. He enquired whether the MoU of the Tipaimukh Hydro Electric Project was still valid and said that a discussion on it should be held in the House. On Demand No-15, he asked the Minister to provide a list of the consumer goods distributed to the people and A/C wise allotment of sugar. He also said that the AAY, BPL and SK oil quotas of June and July were not yet received and asked to make it available.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving cut motions observed that there should be fair distribution of the power available. Speaking on the frequent powercuts and loadsheddings, he expressed that there was 'regularly irregular supply of power'. Streamlining and proper management was required while repairing and supplying transformers and politicisation of the matter should be avoided, he said. He also pointed out the need to check irregular connection of VIP lines. To accommodate fresh degree holders, appointment against vacancies on adhoc or officiating basis in the department should be checked, he maintained. He made queries on the progress of works taken under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme and re-tendering of works under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojna for Thoubal and Bishnupur without publicity. He further pointed out instances of misutilisation of funds by the department officials and wanted the government to book them under Budget Management and Financial Responsibility Act.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA moving cut motions raised queries on the criteria for determining the number of beneficiaries of AAY and BPL rice distribution in both urban and rural areas and expressed the need for increasing the ratio by reviewing the present rate. He also made observations on provision for wheat distribution, SK oil and mode of paying transportation charges of AAY rice from the FCS Godown, Sangairou to the constituencies. On Power, he pointed out discrimination while supplying transformers and negligence of the department while repairing it. Regarding the Bishnupur Pump House Sub-Station, he mentioned the unavailability of the officers on duty and occupancy of it by the BSF.

Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh, MLA moving cut motions on Power, he observed that the power generated by the state if properly utilised would be able to meet the people's needs but failed due to the negligence of the officials and staffs, irregular collection of taxes and unauthorised connection. He expressed that the department was a failure and proper streamlining of administration was required. On Demand No-15, he said that the prescribed quota of SK oil for Andro was not received timely and wanted the Minister to check such irregularities. Due to the drought problem, no agricultural works could be taken up and to tackle food problem a new system to make rice timely available should be adopted and checked the interference of UGs in the process, he opined. He also commented on the irregular systems adopted by the transport contractors.

Shri W. Morung Makunga, MLA moving cut motions pointed out the need to adopt a new policy to solve power problem. Regarding the works under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojna for Tamenglong and Chandel, he said that there was remarkable difference between the funds released and the progress of works. He opined that engineers should be dedicated to their works and not in contract works. For effective implementation of works, he maintained that collection of taxes should be systematised, proper meter should be installed and Police Department should be made to check unauthorised connection. He also expressed that instead of waiting for the construction of the disputed Tipaimukh Hydro Electric Project, the big rivers flowing through Chandel and Tengnoupal could be utilised. To check consumption of more power, streetlamps should be switch-off timely and VIP lines should be systematised, he added.

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 2.00 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair.

Shri L. Nandakumar Singh, MLA participating in the discussion observed that APL rice was not available and drew the attention of the Minister concerned to look into the matter. He further pointed out the administrative inconvenience caused due to the issuance of Release Order (RO) of AAY rice at Dimapur and appealed to the Minister to look into the matter. He also wanted the Minister to take steps to renew Ration Cards and added that the Centre should be pursued to give more rice quota to the state considering the impending drought situation.

Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA supporting the demands highlighted the importance of power in modern society and gave comments on the shortage of power in the state. He enquired about the number of electrified villages in the state, number of Transformers, H.T wire and L.T wire to be bought in the current budget and further enquired whether material planning was done or not and the present stock position of material of Power Department. He further enquired about the number of power consumers with meter and without meter and the steps taken up by the department to meet with the growing demands of power in the state. He also wanted to know the number of electrified villages under RGGVY, the number of funds sanctioned, ongoing projects and completed projects under the said program. Transformers and Poles should be distributed as per requirement, he said and further wanted to know about the project for laying underground electric cables and the step taken up for system improvement of the department.

Shri Radhbinod Koijam, MLA moving cut motion on pointed out the huge gap in the supply and demand of power in the state and expressed the need for optimum use of available power. He enquired whether the department had taken any step to check transmission/distribution loss and unauthorised connection in the state. He further asked the validity of giving VIP power connection in shops and other individual households. He wanted the Minister to prepare a policy for improving power tax collection in consultation with the officials of the department and further wanted to know the steps taken up by the department to collect the power tax incurred to various departments and suggested for deduction at source from the fund provided in the budget. Considering the power shortage and the time to be taken while completing long term projects like Tipaimukh,

Loktak Down Stream Projects etc., he urged the Minister to exploit maximum advantage of Non Conventional Energy Source programs to enhance power production in the state. Commenting on PDS he wanted a systematic preparation of BPL and APL card holders and further suggested for pursuing the centre for more allocation of rice. Pilferage of rice by transporters in connivance with FCS officials in the name of insurgents should be investigated, he said and further wanted to know the guidelines for selection of beneficiary of APL card holders. He further said that the administration of the department should be streamlined to check pilferage of items meant for the poor.

Shri Y. Erabot Singh, Minister (Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution) clarifying to the demand discussion said that the department, inspite of its scarce staff, the various problems faced on the two NHs, bandhs and blockades on the NHs had been taking up steps to improve the distribution of PDS items to the people. He informed that pulse and coal had been added to the existing items of rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil, and S.K oil for distribution to the public under the PDS. It was the responsibility of the MLAs to check any loss of PDS items since the Ration Agents were selected by the District Level Committee having MLAs as members, he stated and added that instruction had been given for renewal of Ration Cards. He further informed that it was the responsibility of the DCs to deliver the rice issued by the FCS department to the respective Ration Agents and added that the quota of SK oil per households had decreased due to the increase in the number of households since the present quota of the state was based on the 2001 census. Village Grain Bank, he said, were kept at places where natural calamities had occurred and scarcity of food was prevalent. He also informed that the alleged irregularities committed by Transport Contractors in connivance with officials will be looked into and added that buffer stock of rice was kept at the godown. He further said that the stock of items kept at FCI godown had to be transported to FCS godown to check the items. Regarding the alleged forgery of signature and lifting of rice from the FCS godown, as levelled by one Member, he clarified that the signatures were not forged. Reiterating the efforts of the department to check pilferage of rice and other PDS items, he appealed to cut motion movers to withdraw and allow the demand to pass.

S/Shri Radhabinod Koijam, Dr. Ng Bijoy Singh and Th. Shyamkumar, MLAs sought further clarifications and the Hon'ble Minister gave clarifications.

Shri Phungzathang Tonsing, Minister (Power) clarifying to the demand discussion admitted that the state was facing power woes but improvement was expected after the implementation of the various power projects approved by the centre and the completion of the upgradation of the existing transmission line to 400 KV Transmission Line for which the centre had already given its approval. He also informed that the government was in the process of renewing the MOU with the Loktak Hydro Power Project and further informed that for repairing of Transformers fund had already been earmarked in the Non- Plan budget allocation for opening a workshop for transformers. The department, he said, was making all out effort to enhance collection of power tax with the help of other NGOs and streamline the functioning of Electricity Department and added that implementation of power projects in the state got delayed due to interference by many unwanted elements of the society. He further informed that distribution of poles, wires and transformers was done properly. A collective involvement of all

the MLAs and public was needed to solve the problem of unauthorised connection, he said and added that with the enforcing of the Electricity Act, 2003 a special court would be established to take up cases relating power thefts. Highlighting the successful implementation of RGGVY programs to electrify remote areas he further said that other RGGVY programs were also taken up. He further highlighted the upgradation of many major power stations and substations in the state in order to improve the existing power woes. RGGVY projects for Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishenpur and Thoubal, he informed, had been given approval. The government, he further informed, had been taking up steps for restructuring APDRP and appointment of an IT consultant was also complete. He also highlighted the achievement of the department in collecting tax beyond the set target and suggested for forming a Kendra Committee for every constituency for effective collection of power tax and equitable distribution of poles and transformers. Informing of the Joint Venture with the state for the Loktak Downstream Project, Tipaimukh Project, replacement of old HT wires as long term policy for improving the power woes in the state, he appealed to cut motion movers to withdraw and allow the demand to pass.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA wanted clarification on the present status of the construction of power sub-station at Chingarel and also wanted viability report of the Heavy Fuel Power Project at Leimakhong.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA urged the Power Minister to make available the report of the High Power Committee regarding the alleged misutilization of nearly Rs 17 crore of the Power department before the consideration and passing of the Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2009. He also asked whether proper formality was complied at the time of tender of the works under RGGVY and further wanted clarification on the progress of the works under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP).

Shri N. Mangi Singh, MLA wanted a time frame of the completion of works taken up under RGGVY and reported lapses of some of its fund for further works due to non-submission of utilization certificate to the Centre in time and also drew the attention of the Chief Minister to clarify on the matter.

Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh, MLA expressed dissatisfaction that the reply of the Power Minister lacked clarity and wanted streamlining of the department for its effective administration.

Shri Phungzathang Tonsing, Minister (Power) informed that he would look into the progress of the construction of power sub station at Chingarel and viable report of the Heavy fuel Power Project at Leimakhong. He also clarified that the findings of the High Power Committee regarding the alleged misutilization of fund in the department was being awaited and informed that he would submit its report, if any, of the Committee to the Member concerned before the consideration and passing of Appropriation Bill, 2009. He also informed that he would check whether there was any discrepancy on the bid guarantee and further said that first phase of the works under APDRP was started in greater Imphal Areas and the second phase to be taken up in other districts would also be started soon. Regarding RGGVY, he clarified that efforts had been made for its proper implementation and informed that proper procedures was complied in inviting tender of its works.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister supplementing to the clarification of the Power Minister said that the RGGVY was a flagship programme of the government of India which was directly monitored by the Prime Minister's office and to be implemented on turn key basis. He informed that under RGGVY, all the villages in India would be electrified by 2010 and its power connection to each and every house by 2012. Regarding some restrictions in inviting power tender for the works under RGGVY, he said that it was made for effective selection of work agency. On APDRP, he informed that the programme was meant for system improvement in the power department out of which the department could be able to check power leakages and further informed that he would look into technical defects, if any, in submitting utilization certificate to the Centre for effective implementation of the programme. He also clarified that works of the phase two under the programme would also be started soon.

As the movers of the cut motions were not satisfied with the clarifications given by the Minister (Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution) and Minister (Power) the cut motions were pressed.

All cut motions under Demand Nos. 15 and 23 were put to vote and negatived. And Demand Nos. 15 and 23 were put to vote and adopted by the House.

Demand No. 35 was passed unanimously by the House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved for leave of the House to introduce the Manipur Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2009.

And also moved for introduction.

The House granted leave and the Bill was introduced.

GENERAL DISCUSSION, DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister the excess grants for the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 for discussion and voting.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA observed that the discussion on the demands for excess grants for the year 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was not necessary since the Public Accounts Committee(PAC) of the Assembly had already recommended for its regularization.

All the demands for excess grants for the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 were passed unanimously by the House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved for leave of the House to introduce the following Bills:-

- (i) The Manipur Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2009;
- (ii) The Manipur Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2009;
- (iii) The Manipur Appropriation (No.6) Bill, 2009;
- (iv) The Manipur Appropriation (No.7) Bill, 2009; and
- (v) The Manipur Appropriation (No.8) Bill, 2009.

And also moved for introduction.

The House granted leave and the Bills were introduced.

Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 5.50 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Monday, the 27th July, 2009.

Th. Megha Raj Singh
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.
