MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

BULLETIN PART-I
No. 61

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Thursday, the 16th July, 2009.
Asadha 25, 1931 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Thursday, the 16th 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 Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 384 asked by Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA regarding the conversion of Manipur Fire Services into Relief and Disaster Management

(b) Hon'ble Minister (Art & Culture) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 385 asked by Dr. U. Deben Singh, MLA regarding the Govt. Music Institution imparting upto Master's Degree Level.

(c) Hon'ble Chief Minister gave a reply to Starred Question No. 386 asked by Shri K. Raina, MLA regarding the S.O.O. (Suspension of Operation) signed between GOI, GOM and Kuki militant groups.

(d) Hon'ble Chief Minister gave a reply to Starred Question No. 387 asked by Shri R.K. Anand, MLA regarding the payment of ex-gratia to the victims of the indiscriminate firing occoured on 31st December, 2005 at North A.O.C.

(e) Hon'ble Chief Minister gave a reply to Starred Question No. 388 asked by Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA regarding the progress in the investigation by the CBI regarding the killing of Dr. Th. Kishan, former SDO, Kasom Khullen and two other Govt. employees.

(f) Hon'ble Chief Minister gave a reply to Starred Question No. 389 asked by Shri Morung Makunga, MLA regarding the Commando Party on duty in front of White Palace Hotel on 19.04.2009 at 9.00 p.m.

(g) Hon'ble Chief Minister gave a reply to Starred Question No. 390 asked by Shri Wungnaoshang Keishing, MLA regarding the Schemes taken up under Eastern Border Area Development Agency (EBADA) in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

ZERO HOUR:

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA drew the attention of the Hon'ble Minister (Power) on the complete shut down of power supply in the state on the 16th July, 09 and the inconveniences caused thereof.

DISCUSSION ON A MATTER OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST:

Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA raised a discussion on the need for a regular and systematic educational policy.

Shri Khashim Ruivah, MLA initiating the discussion pointed out that there were lots of irregularities in the education department and chaos in the education system of the state and therefore stressed the need for rectifying it. Proper implementation of the SSA and Mid-Day Meal Scheme was necessary, he said and drew the Minister's attention in this regard. Ban on direct recruitment affects the education in the state as there was lack of adequate number of teachers, he said and added the appointment of teachers on contract basis should be done away and regular appointment be made instead. Infrastructure development, cultural exchange programmes, faculty improvement programmes, educational tours, in-service trainings, etc were some of the measures that need to be taken up, he suggested. He suggested for framing a proper policy to reform the education system in the state.

Shri E. Kunjeswar Singh, MLA taking part in the discussion pointed out the diminishing number of students in Govt. schools in contrast to that of the private schools and added that no concrete steps of rationalization could be seen at present. Pointing out the non-completion of preparation of MGEL for Education department, he enquired when the same would be completed and drew the Minister's attention in this regard. He pointed out that the salary of part-time lecturers of Hr. Sec. Schools was inadequate and also not paid on time thereby demoralizing the teachers which in turn affects their teaching and subsequently the education in the state. He stressed the need for looking into the problem faced by teachers regarding irregular salary due to the ongoing preparation of MGEL. He suggested for formulating an education policy of the state by consulting educationist of the state.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA participating in the discussion enquired whether the State Education Code, 1982 was still operational or not and added that the non following of the code would have an adverse effect on education in the state. Further, he suggested for renaming the Remedial Teaching programme being taken up the government.

Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh, Minister (Education) replying to the discussion informed that preparation of MGEL by the department had been completed and the finance need to look into it. He informed that SSA was implemented from 2004-05 and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, through the respective DCs monitoring, was being implemented properly, he informed. Infrastructure development of eleven Hr. Sec. Schools was being taken up last year under SPA at a cost of Rs.1 crore per school, he informed and added that another eleven schools in the hills were upgraded at the cost of Rs.1 crore each to bring them at par to ensure that there was no disparity between the schools in the hills and Valley. Construction works of library, auditorium, teacher's quarter, hostels, kitchen-cum-

dining hall, etc, in the Manipur Public School at the cost of Rs.3 crores was almost complete, he informed. Various programmes like the National Scholarship Examination, State Level Sc. Seminar, National Talent Search Contest, Quiz Competitions, Exhibitions, etc. were conducted, he informed and added that School Meet was started from last year as part of cultural and sports exchange programme. He informed that the proposed English Medium Model School for Imphal West was started and the same would soon be taken up for the remaining districts. Remedial Teaching, imparting of vocational course, and capacity building programme for both teaching & non-teaching staffs were being conducted and meritorious students were awarded incentives, he informed. He said that the department was working on computerization for ensuring regular payment of salary. Academic Reforms Committee was constituted and its report had been submitted, he said and further informed that schools in the state were being inspected under the School Recognition Rules, 1985

The Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 12.45 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.

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

Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh moved Demand No. 5 - Finance, Demand No. 9 - Information & Publicity, Demand No. 28 - State Excise and Demand No. 29 - Sale Tax, Other Taxes/Duties on Commodities & Services for discussion.

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

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving cut motions stressed the importance of Finance and said that an effective and efficient government depended on Finance. He also drew the attention of the Chief Minister in charge of Finance on the fraudulent drawal of money from the government account by officials of government departments especially the engineering departments and wanted the Minister to fix responsibility against the officers involved. He also further asked as to why such officials involved would not be punished under Manipur Government Public Servants Liabilities Act and wanted streamlining of the financial administration of the department to cope with such irregularities. He also expressed unhappiness on the delay of the disposal of pension cases despite court's directive and wanted the Minister to look into it in view of the grievances of the pensioners. On State Excise, he said that the prohibition policy of the department had not been implemented properly and also wanted co-ordination of the police department for its effective implementation.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA moving cut motions drew the attention of the CM in charge of Finance for the early settlement of pension cases and said that leave encashment of the retired employees should be given just at the time of their superannuation. He also drew the attention of the CM for the relaxation of some of the restrictions imposed on the withdrawal of GPF and also drew the attention of the CM on the improvement of pension grievance cell in the department, decentralization of banks for the welfare of the pensioners, increase of banks to avoid its congestion, revival of state lottery. On Information and Public Relation,

he asked for a clear cut mechanism of the department for insuring feedback from the public and also wanted the department to make arrangement for a time slot in the radio for highlighting the achievement of the government. Regarding Excise Department, he expressed the need for an effective and suitable Act.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA moving cut motions drew the attention of the CM in charge of Finance on the payment of pension to the children of the late jawan whose wife had remarried to another person and the grievances of 18 regular employees out of 56 employees in the Khadi & Village Industries for getting their salaries under non-plan fund instead of plan fund of the budget and wanted the Finance department to look into the matter. He also wanted clarification on the present position of the pending bill regarding the construction of school rooms like toilet and extension under PMGSY in Bishnupur District, non payment of salaries of the IMC employees for 24 months, rampant unauthorized money laundering in the state, etc. He also expressed the need for a proper investigation on the disproportionate accumulation of asset by the government officers, MLAs and civilians. He also drew the attention of the Minister on the lack of proper space in the SBI, Bishnupur.

Shri R. K Anand, MLA moving cut motions observed that the Information and Public Relations had failed to fulfill its objectives and also wanted the key post of the department to be manned by experts from All India Information Services for its smooth functioning. On Finance Department, he wanted clarification from the CM on the non-implementation of 6th Pay Commission in the state with all clarity. He also drew the attention of the Minister on the timely payment of salaries of teachers and anomalies of pay structure of graduate teachers in the education department. On Excise, he stressed the need for an effective legislation for its empowerment and wanted to implement the Manipur Liquor Prohibition Act effectively.

Shri T.N. Haokip, Minister (Information & Public Relations) replying to the discussions said that every year World Environment Day had been organized by the department and also informed that state journalist award had also been given to the state journalists for their encouragement. Special tours to outside the state were also conducted for the working journalists, editors group and hill journalists for their exposer to different environment of other states in India, he informed. He further said that multi media campaigns for public awareness on NREGS, RTI and Rural Health Mission as part of the policy and programme of the government was also organized and added that seminars, workshops, symposiums were also organized by the department. He also informed that efforts had been made to man the department by experts from the All India Information service but unfortunately they were unwilling to apply for it and further informed that under the initiative of the CM mid day news bulletin was introduced in the AIR and up gradation of uplink satellite had been approved by the Ministry of Broadcasting Ministry.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh and Shri R. K Anand MLAs sought further clarifications and the Minister (Information& Public Relations) clarified.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the discussion informed that he would look into the pensioners' grievance and its early settlement of retirement

benefits like leave encashment at the time of their superannuation and added that computerization of treasury had been made so that disposal of pending cases of pensioners could be expedited. He also said that decentralization of banks had been done in view of the grievances of the pensioners and added that opening of employees' personal account in different banks could be completed latest by August this year. On State Lottery, he informed that online lottery had been introduced in the state for which the Finance department was advised to examine proposals from the companies applied for it. Regarding the non-payment of salary for the IMC employees for 24 months, he said that he would look into the matter and examine its monthly expenditure and further pointed out the excess appointment in the IMC. He also said that the deposit of money in the 8449 of the government account was made to avoid its lapses after the end of 31st March. He further clarified that efforts had been made to prevent illegal tax imposed in the NHs for which Ministry of Home Affairs and Nagaland government had been discuss with the matter.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA sought further clarification and the Chief Minister clarified.

All the cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 5, 9, 28 & 29 were passed unanimously by the House.

Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 4.20 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Friday, the 17th July, 2009.

Th. Megha Raj Singh
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.

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