

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT**

**BULLETIN PART-I
No. 48**

Friday, the 10th October, 2008.
Asvina 18, 1930 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Monday, the 10th October, 2008 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon'ble Chief Minister, 10 Cabinet Ministers, Hon'ble Chairman & Vice-Chairman (Hill Areas Committee) and 43 Elected Members.

CALLING ATTENTION:

(i) Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA called the attention of the Home Minister on the reported human trafficking case of 18 Tangkhul girls.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving the Call Attention Motion quoted Huiyen Lanpao edition of 3 October 2008 and said that the Sekmai Police reportedly rescued 18 tribal girls while one Apam Khamrang from Maichon village, Ukhrul brought them to Chennai on the pretext that they would be given employment at Indra Industry Company there. He also mentioned the incidence of illegal trafficking of 4/5 girls to Singapore and Malaysia. He expressed unhappiness on the rise of illegal human trafficking in the state and said that it lowered the dignity of each community in the state. He further stressed the need to maintain identity of the state and mentioned the role of women in this regard. He also sought clarification from the government regarding the steps taken on the matter.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the discussion informed the House that Sekmai Police had arrested an accused namely one Miss Apang Khamrang from Maichon Village, Ukhrul for which an FIR case had been registered against her. He further said that an investigation on the matter was underway and added that on the spot verification of police; the 18 girls were found proceeding to Chennai on the pretext that they would be given employment in a private Company at Chennai by the said Miss Apang Khamrang. He also informed that the concerned Private Company had also been intimated whether any authorization from the Company was made to the said Miss Apang for sending the 18 girls. He further said that in order to effective control of illegal human trafficking, an Anti Human Trafficking Cell was set up headed by an IG in the state level and one officer not lower than a DSP in the district level. He said that checking was done to check such illegal human trafficking in the airport. Regarding the reported missing of three girls from Tamenglong District, he also informed the House that a complain was received from their parents for which a case had been registered on the matter which was presently under investigation in which one Philip Gangmei from Sibilong had been arrested and other three persons involved were also arrested. He also informed the House that persons

involved in the illegal human trafficking would not be spared and sought co-operation from the public to check such incidents.

(ii) Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA called the attention of the Home Minister on the reported arrest of some underground personnel along with 2500 Urea bags on way to Myanmar.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA moving the Call Attention Motion quoted Huiyen Lanpao edition of 8 October 2008 in which 13 Trucks of fertilizer was seized by Assam Rifles from UKLF at Molnom. He expressed concern over the involvement of law implementing agency in such scandal and asked whether the government did not control fertilizer. He also further asked the Agriculture department on the recent shortage of fertilizer in the state.

Dr Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA, co-mover of the Motion, quoting the Huiyen Lanpao edition of 7 October 2008 said that the matter was very serious and urged the Minister to identify the items of the materials and wanted to know the source of fertilizers. He also sought clarification on the statement of Suspension of Operation (SOO) and alleged involvement of IRB personnel on the issue. He also wanted to take remedial measure on the matter and stressed the need to revamp the management of the department.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the discussion said that during the course of preliminary investigation carried out regarding the fertilizer issue, so far there was no involvement of 3rd IRB personnel. He informed that, four UKLF cadres, who were at present under Suspension of Operation (SOO) with the Government of India and the government of Manipur, were arrested along with arms and added that action would also be taken up if they were found violating the Ground Rules. He further informed the House that any dealer who fail to fulfill terms and conditions of dealership must be blacklisted and added that any agent or officials would not be spared if they were found involved in the fertilizer issue.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi Singh, MLA seeking further clarification drew the attention of the Minister on the recent unauthorized snatching of fertilizers by Hon'ble Members on its way to dealers and wanted clarification from the Minister.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister clarified that the matter would be looked into not to recur in future.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

The Hon'ble Speaker announced the leave petitions of Md. Allauddin, Hon'ble Minister and Shri Y. Surchandra Singh, MLA .

The House granted leave.

CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF GOVERNMENT BILLS:

(i) Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister moved:-

“that the Manipur Municipality Disclosure Bill, 2008 be taken into consideration”.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA initiating the discussion observed that the bill was introduced in the House for the urban local bodies to maintain transparency, accountability, good governance in its functioning and on the implementation of JNNURM under Ministry of Urban Development. He pointed out that fund invested in the Municipality and Urban Local Bodies was not utilised properly and added that proper document regarding the manner of disclosure provision in the bill was lacking. He also mentioned, among other things, decentralization of power of the Local Bodies and enhancement of honorarium of the Panchayat members, appointment of Executive Officer in the Nagar Panchayat to help implement programmes properly and he also expressed desire to pass the bill.

Dr. Ng Bijoy Singh, MLA participating in the discussion wanted to insert comprehensive disclosure provision in the bill for making the Municipalities more transparent and accountable and wanted the bill to be passed.

Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA participating in the discussion observed that the bill was meant for maintaining governance, accountability and transparency in the functioning of the Urban Local Bodies and expressed the need to empower local bodies. He pointed out the lack of office buildings, which hinders its functioning and expressed desire to enhance the honorarium paid to elected representatives. He also supported the bill.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the discussion said that out of the 60 Missions for the implementation of JNNURM in India under Ministry of Urban development, Manipur was also included in the Mission. The bill was introduced to strengthen the Local bodies as self-sufficient Bodies and for effective implementation of the JNNURM. He also said that among the demands raised by the Local Bodies included the selection of beneficiaries of old aged pension, rationing agent. He informed the House that decentralization of power of local Bodies and enhancement of honorarium of members and Pradhans would be looked into.

After clause by clause consideration the Manipur Municipality Disclosure Bill, 2008 was passed unanimously by the House.

(ii) Shri D.D. Thaisii, Minister (Tribal Development) moved:-

“that the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils (Third Amendment) Bill, 2008 as reported by the Hill Areas Committee be taken into consideration”.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA initiating the discussion observed that after promulgating an ordinance, the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Bill was introduced in the House and expressed unhappiness for not getting the chance of discussion on the Principal Bill due to referring the Bill to a Select Committee and Hill Areas committee. He also expressed unhappiness over the Gazette Notification wherein a ‘Hill Department’ was inserted. He said that the word ‘Hill Department’ was not in the Rule of Business and asked why the Gazette Notification was placed on the table of the House and why the Assembly Secretary failed to scrutinize the paper. He said that he had no objection to pass the bill but wanted debate to rectify the lacunae in the technicalities and procedure of the bill.

The Hon'ble Speaker Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 1.15 p.m. till 2.15 p.m. of the day.

The afternoon session resumed at 2.20 pm with the Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA participating in the discussion said that passing of the Bill without any discussion of the Principal Bill would have serious consequences and further opined that it should be referred to a select committee for in-depth examination before passing.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA participating in the discussion pointed out the inclusion of the words "Hill Department" in the bill and wanted the government's order for the creation of such a department. He further suggested that either the bill be referred to a Select Committee or solicit public opinion before passing it.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA participating in the discussion opined that while legislating a law technical and procedural lapses should be avoided and it should be mature, meaningful and acceptable to all and added that all the lapses should be rectified before passing the bill.

Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA joining the discussion enquired whether 'Autonomous' referred to the bill was for an Autonomous District or an Autonomous District Council.

Shri D.D. Thaisii (TD Minister) clarifying to the discussion said that the passing of the bill was very necessary for holding the long pending election of the District Councils in the hill and added that the Bill had no procedural and technical lapses. He further appealed to all the members for passing the bill in the interest of the hill people, whose rights of franchise was deprived for a long time, and the necessary amendment can be done later on.

Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA participating in the discussion said that the present bill of the Autonomous District Council was not a new one and that the house had several discussion earlier and added that consideration of the bill from any other perception rather than for the upliftment of the hill people would not be right and wanted the bill to be passed.

Shri Th. Debendra Singh Minister (Law & Legislative Affairs) participating in the discussion said that even though there were many matters to be settled between the TD and the Revenue Departments the bill should be passed in the interest of the hill people after certain rectifications.

Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA made certain observations.

Shri V. Hangkhalian, MLA participating in the discussion said that HAC was a Committee which was guaranteed by the Constitution of India and that it was different from a Select Committee. He also enquired whether the "Manipur Hill People Regulation Act, 1947" was still in force or not.

S/Shri O. Joy Singh, Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLAs expressed strong opposition to the passing of the bill without any discussion of the Principal Bill and rectification of the procedural lapses.

Shri. O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister clarifying to the discussion pointed out the need for passing the bill in order to conduct the long pending election of the District Councils due to which development of the hill area had been hampered and added that the government had no intension to pass the bill arbitrarily. He further said that the present bill was the same Act of 1971 and the house had discussed it many times in the past and hence another discussion was not very necessary and therefore, appealed to the members to pass the bill unanimously in the interest of the hill people after amending the 'Hill Department' mentioned in the bill by an appropriate word.

The Hon'ble Speaker quoting relevant Rule said that mentioning of specific departments in a bill was not permitted.

Shri Thangmeilien Kipgen, MLA suggested that the Bill be passed by the House after necessary amendment..

After omitting the words "the Hill Department of" in Section 29A of the Bill, the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils (Third Amendment) Bill, 2008 was taken up for passing.

After clause by clause consideration the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils (Third Amendment) Bill, 2008 was passed by the House.

The Hon'ble Speaker gave the valedictory speech and adjourned the house sine die at 4.15 pm.

Th. Megha Raj Singh
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.
