

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT
BULLETIN PART-I
No. 21

Friday, the 24th February, 2023

The House assembled at 11:00 a.m. of Friday, the 24th February, 2023 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon'ble Chief Minister, 11 Hon'ble Cabinet Ministers, Hon'ble Chairman (Hill Areas Committee) and 41 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (Medical, Health and Family Welfare) made a reply to Starred Question No. 138 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding Primary Sub-Centres in Khundrakpam A/C.
- (b) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No.139 asked by Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding illegal immigrants from Myanmar.
- (c) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No.141 asked by Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding irrigation of paddy fields.
- (d) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No.142 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding land registration.

Answer to Unstarred Question No. 46 was laid as written reply on the Table of the House.

CALLING ATTENTION:

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA called the attention of the Chief Minister (in-charge of Home) on the reported death of an IRB Jawan who succumbed to injury sustained during election duty in Gujarat at Dukda Gosa, Porbandar District in Gujarat and lamented that compensatory financial assistance or government job is yet to be provided to the deceased family as of now. He inquired on the stand of the government and urged to provide a job to the next of kin of the deceased at the earliest.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Home) terming the incident as unfortunate stated that professional ethics should be maintained by all. He informed that the government would write to the ECI for providing the entitled compensation as per norms to the deceased's family. He also informed that either a pension or government job would be provided to the deceased family on humanitarian ground.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Hon'ble Speaker Th. Satyabrata Singh announced that Shri Losii Dikho, MLA had applied for leave of absence for the day's sitting.

The House agreed and the leave was granted.

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF MINISTER:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Home) giving a statement regarding the eviction drive carried out recently at K.Songjang village stated that the government is taking up the said drive in the larger interest of the state and not against any community. He appealed to all concerned to cooperate and not to add communal tone to such activities taken up by the government.

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved Demands Nos. 9- Information and Publicity, 13- Labour and Employment, 14- Department of Tribal Affairs and Hills Development, 23- Power, 27- Election, 46- Science & Technology and 50- Information Technology for discussion & voting.

Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA moving cut motions on Information and Publicity expressed the need to upgrade DIPR into a major department and also utilise social media effectively under DIPR. He inquired on the various steps taken up by the department to check the authenticity of news before it reaches the general public. He urged to pay pension to the journalists as promised in the House and fill up the vacant posts of the department in the newly created seven districts under the department. On Power, he urged the concerned Minister to produce the signed MoU between Loktak Hydro Electricity Project and the State Government on the Table of the august House and further suggested for signing a new agreement if necessary in order to save Loktak Lake. The state government should approach the Centre regarding the matter, he stated. He further inquired the reason for the incompleteness of the Loktak Downstream Project.

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA moving cut motions on Information and Publicity department inquired the various steps being taken up for making it a major department. Lamenting on the non-availability of government information at the District Information Offices, Manipur Information Centre, New Delhi and State Information Centre, Imphal, he inquired whether the government had any plans for making it more functional. He further asked if there is any mechanism to disseminate news through the website of the department, check anti social elements cropping up on social media platforms. He also urged for clearance of advertisement bills at the earliest. Regarding Power, he queried on when the pending results of recruitment for MSPCL and MSPDCL would be declared. On Labour and Employment, he queried on the amount of minimum wages fixed for labourers.

Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA moving a cut motion on Power lamented about the various irregularities in erecting electric poles, high mast light and LED street light and expressed the need to replace damaged poles. He urged for declaration of the pending recruitment results of MSPCL and MSPDCL at the earliest. On Labour and Employment, he questioned the various schemes and benefits provided under the department and asked whether the sewing machines could be provided for the labour card holders. He also asked if the fixation of wages of labourers was done by the Labour department.

Dr. S. Ranjan Singh, Minister (Information & Publicity) replying to the discussion informed that DIPR as a major department medium to disseminate information to all and stated that the department has set up Information Centre in Delhi. He informed that benefits to journalists under their welfare scheme have been increased. He also informed that the newly created seven districts had been activated and have already started functioning. He further informed that the majority of the pending bills have been cleared on regular basis and journalism training courses are still continuing by offering various short and long term courses under the department. He also informed that the social media is being handled effectively. The family pension amount for journalist had been increased for the welfare of the media fraternity, he informed. He further informed that an interview for various posts of the department had been completed and the result for the same is in the pipeline. He said that the functioning of Manipur Information Centre, New Delhi is being looked into on regular basis. He informed that the department is making necessary verification to issue identity cards to accredited journalists in the state.

Shri H. Dingo Singh, Minister (Labour & Employment) replying to the discussion informed that the minimum wages of the labourers would be fixed at the earliest. He said that steps have been taken up to provide financial assistance for medical, education and accident expenses to the labour card holders. He informed that skill development programmes have taken up and added that sewing machines were being provided to the beneficiaries from time to time.

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 12:54 p.m. till 02:00 a.m. of the day.

The House resumed at 02:00 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh in the Chair.

Shri Th. Biswajit Singh, Minister (Power) in his clarification stated that the MoU signed between the government of Manipur and NHPC is untraceable as of now and the department had written to the NHPC about the same but they too are not in a position to provide it, he informed. Signing of a new MoU is not in the discretion of the state government, he said. He informed that Loktak Downstream Project couldn't be completed due to some budget issues in project cost and running cost. However, a cabinet decision would be made and complete the project, he informed. He further stated that the Department is trying to declare the results of the recruitments of MSPCL and MSPDCL. He said that the electric poles that have erected were procured after a technical team

inspected the standard weight of the poles and is maintaining the quality. He clarified that smaller solar plants are constructed off-the-grid through MANIREDA and bigger ones would be considered for construction after looking the pros and cons. He informed that high mast lights had been installed in all the Districts. He further clarified that the BPL families were given power connection at subsidized rate.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister supplementing the reply informed that the government is very much concerned about the future of Loktak Lake and as such a team expert from ADB had surveyed the lake. Based on the subsequent report, the government will consider whether Loktak Hydro Electricity Project should be decommissioned fully or to make it 50% operational to conserve Loktak Lake.

All cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 9, 13, 23, 27, 46 & 50 were passed unanimously by the House.

DISCUSSION ON A MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST:

Shri Ram Muivah, MLA raised a matter of public interest regarding the deplorable condition and the delay in construction of the road stretch of 30 Km from Yaingangpokpi to Finch Corner along NH-202(Imphal - Ukhrul road). He stated that the delay in the construction and the present deplorable state of the road causes great hardship to the residents of the area. Wondering as to how NHIDCL awarded the work to Varaha Infra Pvt. Ltd by violating the EPC, he urged for conducting an enquiry into the conduct of the company and the role of NHIDCL. He lamented that the M/s Varaha Infra Pvt. Ltd. a construction company had entrusted the work to four sub-contractors and again those sub-contractors had entrusted to 40 local sub-contractors however, Varaha Infra Pvt. Ltd have never turned up and the sub-contractors were not paid for the works they have done. He further urge for issuing a Show Cause Notice for the delay in completion of the said stretch of NH-202.

Shri K. Govindas, Minister (PWD) in his clarification informed that NHIDCL is an agency under the Central Government and that 82% of the National Highway road construction works of the state were entrusted to them hoping that they are to work in a time bound manner. The road construction work from Yaingangpokpi to Finch Corner had been entrusted to Varaha Infra Pvt. Ltd. to complete in phase wise manner, he stated but added that the work couldn't be completed as scheduled. However, he added that the matter has been apprised to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and informed that a Monitoring Committee comprising of MORTH, NHIDCL and state government would be constituted to speedup the road construction work and maintain the quality and informed that he would look into the matter.

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 03:22 p.m. till 11:00 a.m. of Saturday, the 25th February, 2023.

(K. Meghajit Singh)
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly
