MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT
BULLETIN PART-I
No. 22

Saturday, the 25th February, 2023

The House assembled at 11:00 a.m. of Saturday, the 25th 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.

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2023-24:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved Demands Nos. 7-Police, 8-Public Works Department, 24-Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Department, 31-Fire Protection and Control, 32-Jails, 33-Home Guards and 49- Economic & Statistics for discussion & voting.

Hon'ble Speaker clubbed all the Demands for a joint discussion.

Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA moving cut motion on Public Works Department inquired as to why the construction of road between Wabagai Lamkhai to Serou Lamkhai had been left out whereas construction work for Serou Lamkhai to Chakpikarong road is slated to begin soon. Further, he stated that tender process for the work Programmes of 2022-23 could not be carried out since ESs had not yet been accorded and queried as to how the earmarked budget for the work programmes could be utilised in time before 31st March. On Police, he stated that since border pillar nos. 80 and 81 along the Indo-Myanmar border were in a disputed area and inquired whether the fencing work being carried out could be halted until the dispute is settled. Further, he urged for clearing the thirteenth month's pay for Police personnel before the Holi festival. On Fire Protection and Control, he inquired whether modern fire-fighting equipment using chemicals, foam, etc had been procured.

Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA moving cut motion on Police, urged for proper implementation of transfer and posting policy. Further, he urged the government to declare the recruitment results of Jemadars (IRB) at the earliest and appealed to the government to keep the recruitment process fair. Regarding the Manipur Police Training College, he lamented the lack of a regular faculty and demanded that it be made fully functional. On Public Works Department, he inquired whether funds for construction of state highways that could last 10-15 years had been earmarked in the current budget. Further, he asked

the government to encourage local contractors and local labourers to be engaged in construction work which would help the state economy and added that contract works of the Department should not be given to outside agencies. Further, he asked whether the security deposited by a registered special contractor was refundable and how it is utilized and queried about the total number of special contractors in the state. He further sought clarification on whether the bills for construction of a bridge on Haraorou-Tangkham road and construction of Pukhao-Dolaithabi Ring road which was executed under a different department were illegally encashed by some contractors from PWD. He also urged to clear the pending liabilities of the contractors.

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA moving cut motion on Police, urged the government to release 13th month's pay for the police personnel and to declare the recruitment result of Jemadars conducted in 2018 at the earliest. Further, he urged the government to upgrade Manipur Police Training College so that training could be provided to different grades till the rank of DSP. He expressed desire to continue the earlier system of disbursement of allowance for police commandos which is being discontinued at present. He also sought clarification on the alleged irregularities while procuring the DNA profiling machine. He stated the need to provide promotion to the police personnel playing international polo tournament. Regarding the "War on drugs 2.0", he enquired about the actions taken up to tackle the menace of drugs in the state and further urged the government to provide alternative ways of livelihood and for shifting to cash crop cultivation to farmers who were once engaged in poppy cultivation.

Shri Ram Muivah, MLA making observation during the discussion stated that the budget priority is misplaced by giving priority to regulatory department instead of developmental department citing the huge difference in budgetary provision between Police Department and PWD. He mentioned the need to give more priority to development departments like PWD, PHED, Education, etc. Expressing discontentment over less budgetary provision under PWD with regards to Ukhrul, he enquired how this meagre amount will be able to maintain the long stretch of roads in and around Ukhrul. He further lamented that AA(s) and ES(s) for 2022-23 have not been accorded for various works even as it is the fag end of the financial year. He further suggested for implementation of a proper official planning within the department as road construction work in the state is seasonal.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister clarifying on the cut motions on Demand No.7, appreciated the various suggestions and advices while mentioning that various changes have been brought about in the police department. Regarding territorial disputes between Border Pillar 80 and 81, he stated that the State Government had appraised the Central Government and subsequently a Central team had surveyed and discussed the matter with Myanmar officials to reach into an agreement and as such the border fencing

work has been halted until a settlement is reached between the two sides. The transfer and posting policy is already in force, he said but sought co-operation from every elected representatives to make it more effective. He informed that the 13th month's pay for police personnel would be released soon. He further stated that the government is trying to declare the recruitment result of Jemadars at an early date. Experts on specific subject are invited as resource person from time to time to provide training to trainees at Manipur Police Training College, he informed. He added that there were no irregularities during procuring of the DNA profiling machine and it was done are per norms. He expressed that poppy plantation had risen due to unaccounted immigrants and increase in unaccounted villages, but added that the police department is giving all out effort in destroying poppy plantation all over the state. Proper budgetary provision for War on Drugs campaign are earmarked in different departments for providing alternative livelihood to poppy farmers but warned that no alleged cultivator can lay any condition to claim benefit for shunning poppy plantation. Different specialised committees are constituted for operations under War on Drugs campaign, he informed and added that drones for identification/monitoring of poppy plantation and spraying herbicides for destroying the plantation are utilised. The Government would not compromise with any outfit under SoO which are involved in drug smuggling, he stated. He further stated that the process of house to house survey to identify illegal immigrants and villages has been initiated and expressed hope that the completion of 34 Police Outposts along the state's border would drastically minimise the cross-border drug trade. On Fire Protection and Control, he informed that modern fire-fighting equipments are procured and that the government had sent proposal for setting up Fire Service Sub-Stations at various far flung areas.

Shri K. Govindas Singh, Minister (in-charge of Public Works Department) in his reply informed the House of the financial challenges faced by the department in its efforts to complete the various developmental projects in the state and added that financial aid is being sought from various multi-lateral funding agencies like the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Japan International Co-operation Agency, Asian Infrastructive Investment Bank etc with this regard. The department is trying to start the tender floating process for Rigid Pavement project under the AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) by March-April, 2023, he added, which will in turn enable the department to utilise funds towards developmental works in the rural areas. Regarding the poor condition of the State highway from Wabagai Lamkhai to Chakpikarong Sugnu, he clarified that a new project for widening of roads has been initiated and the particular road is one of the roads that have been identified for the project . He added that ES (Expenditure Sanction) for the Work Programmes of 2022-2023 have been obtained and the department would try to pay the pending liabilities to contractors soon. Efforts to groom local contractors are taken up from time to time, he informed, and stated that correspondence has been forwarded to the NHIDCL to give more preference to the local contractors for

construction works along the National Highway. Regarding advance payment to contractors, he stated that Mobilisation fund (with bank guarantee) and secure advance (without bank guarantee) are given to contractors before initiation of their projects. He clarified that an amount of 5 lakh rupees required for registering as Special Contractor is deposited in the government's account. He expressed suspicion of a land compensation syndicate operating in the state for creating compensation issues which subsequently delays the completion of newly upgraded National Highways. Regarding the the problem of water logging in the government quarters at Lamphel, he informed that the department is looking for the best means to solve the issue.

All cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 7, 8, 24, 31, 32, 33 and 49 were passed unanimously by the House.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Hon'ble Speaker made an announcement that Shri Letzamang Haokip, MLA had applied for leave of absence for the day's sitting.

The House agreed and the leave was granted.

INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS:

(i) Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister moved for leave to introduce:

"The Manipur Properties and Open Places (Prevention of Defacement and Disfigurement) Bill, 2023 (Bill No.1 of 2023)".

The House granted the leave and the Bill was introduced.

(ii) Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister moved for leave to introduce:

"The Kaina Temple Board Bill, 2023 (Bill No.4 of 2023)".

The House granted the leave and the Bill was introduced.

(iii) Shri Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, Minister (in-charge of Education) moved for leave to introduce:

"The Dhanamanjuri University (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Bill No.6 of 2023)".

The House granted the leave and the Bill was introduced.

(iv) Shri Y. Khemchand Singh, Minister (in-charge of MAHUD) moved for leave to introduce:

"The Manipur Town and Country Planning (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Bill N0.7 of 2023)".

The House granted the leave and the Bill was introduced.

(v) Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister moved for leave to introduce:

"The Manipur Value Added Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Bill No.5 of 2023)".

The House granted the leave and the Bill was introduced.

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 02:50 p.m. till 11:00 a.m. of Monday, the 27th February, 2023.

(K. Meghajit Singh)
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly

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