

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**SECRETARIAT**  
**BULLETIN PART-I**  
**No. 24**

*Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023*

*The House assembled at 11:00 a.m. of Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 39 Elected Members.

**QUESTIONS:**

- (a) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No.155 asked by Shri Janghemlung Panmei, MLA regarding power Sub-Station at Tamenglong.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (Education) made a reply to Starred Question No. 156 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding School Fagathansi Mission.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (PHED) made a reply to Starred Question No.157 asked by Sheikh Noorul Hassan, MLA regarding JJM & ADB funded project in Kshetrigao A/C.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (Relief & Disaster Management) made a reply to Starred Question No.158 asked by Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA regarding drought relief assistance.
- (e) Hon'ble Minister (Textiles, Commerce & Industries) made a reply to Starred Question No.159 asked by Shri Kh. Joykisan Singh, MLA regarding permits for stone crushers.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Works) made a reply to Starred Question No.160 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding work programme list and Imphal-Saikul road.
- (g) Hon'ble Minister (Power) made a reply to Starred Question No.161 asked by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA in the absence of Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding Loktak Downstream Project.
- (h) Hon'ble Minister (Forest, Environment & Climate Change) made a reply to Starred Question No.162 asked by Sheikh Noorul Hassan, MLA regarding Nongmaiching & Leimaching reserved forest.

*Answer to Starred Question No. 154 was laid as written reply on the Table of the House.*

### **PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE**

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Administrative Reforms) laid the “The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Manipur Information Commission for the year 2021-22” on the Table of the House.

### **CALLING ATTENTION:**

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA called the attention of the Hon’ble Leader of the House on the illegal quarrying of sand and stone along Thoubal River which has rendered the water unfit for human as well as animal consumption. He enquired the government on the steps that will be taken up to stop such activities and whether any assessment has been done to evaluate the damage caused by such illegal mining.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Home) replied that despite repeated actions taken by the government and police, the people continue to act in the same manner. He also informed that the Cabinet has recently taken a decision to put a ban on such illegal activities and added that a gazette notice will be issued soon. For the daily wage earners who are dependent on sand mining, he added that they will be given different alternatives like MGNREGS to earn their livelihood. In addition it was also clarified that the department of home is vigilant and is regularly assessing the mining areas of the river to check such activities and that appropriate action will be taken up against the perpetrators.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Hon’ble Speaker made an announcement that Shri Th. Radheshyam Singh, MLA had applied for leave of absence for the sittings from 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 till 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. He further announced that Shri K. Ranjit Singh had also applied for leave of absence for the day and Shri Haokholet Kipgen, MLA had also applied for leave of absence for the sittings from the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 till 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.

*The House agreed and the leaves were granted.*

### **STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF MINISTER:**

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in charge of Home) informed that District Hospitals, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres in various districts like Churachandpur, Noney, Imphal East, Imphal West have reopened and resumed normal functioning.

### **DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS:**

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved Demands Nos. 22-Public Health Engineering; 26-Administration of Justice; 34-Rehabilitation; 36-Minor Irrigation; 37-Fisheries; 41-Art and Culture and 44-Social Welfare Department.

Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA moving cut motion on Public Health Engineering highlighted the ineffectiveness in the implementation of Har Ghar Jal scheme and questioned the government on when this scheme will be fully implemented in the state. On Minor Irrigation, he expressed that there is lack of transparency in the work programs that are being taken up citing that no updates or information were provided to the concerned MLAs about such work programs. On Fisheries, he stated that for the past 5-6 years there has been no impressive developmental program for the fish farmers and enquired about the number of schemes that fish farmers can avail and further enquired about the funding from the central government. He then sought clarification on the alleged misappropriation of funds of around Rs 50 lakhs in the department and asked whether it has been recovered. On Social Welfare Department, he also pointed out that there are irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries of old age pension and suggested for involving local MLAs for selection of genuine beneficiaries.

Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA raising cut motion on Public health Engineering queried whether there is any plan to replace the old water pipes with new ones. He also urged the Minister to check the quality of water provided by the private suppliers. He also enquired if the pending liabilities for the completed works under the RWSP (Rural Water Supply Projects) and JJM (Jal Jeevan Mission) can be cleared before 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023. Regarding Minor Irrigation, he requested the Minister to replace the RLI (River Lift Irrigation) diesel motor with electric motor for better functioning. He further wanted construction of canals in areas that are yet to be constructed. He wanted to know whether pending liabilities of works taken up under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Program (AIBP) be cleared by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023. Making a query on the work programs of the year 2023-24 he expressed his desire to incorporate the opinions of the local MLAs while choosing the work. On Fisheries, he stated whether it will be possible to convert non-arable areas into fish farms so that there will be maximum fish production and also queried the criteria for distribution of fingerlings were distributed to the fish farmers. On Social Welfare Department, he urged the department to include local MLAs in the process of selection of old age pension beneficiaries. He further lamented that there are some discrepancies in the direct benefit transfer system in the department and placed that it needs to be looked into.

***Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 1:04 p.m. till 02:00 p.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 Surjakumar Okram, MLA moving cut motion on Art and Culture stressed on the need to have a proper campus for Manipur University of Culture and asked whether the government have any plan to construct the campus at the allocated land in Imphal East. He enquired the government whether any policy programme had been taken up to develop Manipur Film Industry including tribal film production, expansion of various courses for artists, establishment of District Art and Culture Offices and shifting of the state Kala Academy building to a permanent site. He further expressed the need to constitute the Cultural Advisory Board under the Manipur Cultural Policy and further enquired the reason for discontinuing the Folk-Art Festival. Observing on Public Health Engineering, he sought information from the department about the implementation of works taken up in the hill areas under Jal Jeevan Mission. He further asked whether there is plan to install meter system in the scheme. He urged the government to resolve the land dispute at Irong Khunou where a scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission is being taken up and make it functional.

Shri Nishikant Sapat, MLA making an observation on Public Health Engineering Department informed that the drain under the culvert at Dhobi Machu Leirak was blocked due to laying of pipes underneath it and asked the government to look into the problem. He further highlighted the need to encourage rain water harvesting in the state and suggested for developing Lamphelpat into a large water body. He added that there is scarcity of water in Keisamthong A/C as water supply from Singda Kangchup had been discontinued. He further suggested the need for coordination between the P.H.E and Works department during laying of pipes.

Shri M. Rameshwar Meitei, MLA making an observation on Art and Culture urged the government to acquire the Kakching Garden as it is under the Department and has been misused by the Kakching Garden Development Committee. He further added that the area earmarked for construction of water reservoir has been encroached upon by Kakching Garden Development Committee and expressed the need to acquire it.

Shri L. Susindro Meitei, Minister (in-charge of Public Health Engineering Department) making his clarification, stated that laying of pipelines and electrification of a water supply scheme at Jiribam taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission would be completed soon to make the scheme functional. He clarified that potable water could not be supplied through the old pipelines as new pipelines are being laid at the present at Wangkhem. He further informed that the national target for providing tap water to every household under Jal Jeevan Mission is 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2024. There are delays in completion and inauguration some water supply schemes due to land disputes, he further clarified but added that the department is taking up steps to solve it. The Department is making all out effort to provide potable water to both urban and rural areas despite the scarcity of water source. He further appealed to the concerned to restrict themselves from excessive use of tap

water for other purposes. He also added that old pipelines had been replaced by new ones as per its necessity and the kits for testing water quality had been provided by the Department, he stated. He further informed that the government will draft a law to check the quality of water being provided by private water suppliers.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Minor Irrigation & Art and Culture) clarifying on the cut motions stated that the the government is giving utmost priority to Minor Irrigation Department considering its importance to a small state like Manipur. He informed that 36 new RLI projects are taken up above the present 217 RLIs and is considering steps to convert the diesel pumps utilised in the RLIs to electric pumps. Construction of irrigation canals are done after co-ordinating with departments of Water Resources and CADA, he stated and added that various projects are taken up under PMKSY and proposal for construction of check dams over streams at foothills are being sent for approval from the Central Ministry. Preparation of work program are done after proper field survey, he said. Liabilities of AIBP will be cleared after due verification by a third-party monitoring committee. He further said that the government is considering to permit conversion of agricultural land into fish farms depending on the specific case. Regarding Old Age Pension, he informed that application for selection for old age pension can be applied during Meeyamgi Numit held on 15<sup>th</sup> of every month organised by the district administration. On Art and Culture, he clarified that the final approval for forest clearance from the Central Ministry is awaited for the proposed permanent site at Wakha, Imphal East for establishment of Manipur University of Culture and that a proposal under the PM-DevINE scheme has been submitted for its development. Recruitment process of 73 nos. of post under the MUC has been initiated, he added. The department is taking up steps for preserving many heritage sites, promoting film industry, shifting of State Kala Academy to a permanent location, completion of Kala Academy auditorium, formation of the Cultural Advisory Board under Manipur Cultural Policy, resumption of cultural exchange programs and competition of various art forms, etc, he informed.

Shri H. Dingo Singh, Minister (in-charge of Fisheries & Social Welfare Department) clarifying on the cut motions stated that the Fisheries Department is trying hard to increase fish production and in recent time it has been able to scale up the production. He informed that fish farmers are provided benefits under different schemes of PMMSY, RKVY, NFDB and Loktak Livelihood Mission and that the notification for availing these benefits are advertised in local dailies. He clarified that there was no budgetary allocation for construction of fish pond during 2022-23 but added that there is provision for the same in the 2023-24 budget and further mentioned that at present fingerlings are not provided to fish farmers by the department. Regarding the allegation of misappropriation of funds according to CAG report, he clarified that the matter is being examined by the PAC. Regarding selection of old age pension beneficiaries, he clarified that the selection is done through proper screening by the Screening and the

Selection Committee and added that our state's ceiling limit, as per the Ministry's guidelines, is 55,926 beneficiaries. He further informed that distribution of old age pension is done through DBT and added that the department would tie up with the banks so that no irregularities occur during its transfer. He added that construction of Anganwadi Centres will now be taken up jointly by MGNREGA and Social Welfare Department

*All cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 22, 26, 34, 36, 37, 41 & 44 were passed unanimously by the House.*

*Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 4:53 p.m. till 11: 00 am of Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023.*

**(K. Meghajit Singh)**

*Secretary,*

Manipur Legislative Assembly

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