

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT
BULLETIN PART-I
No. 26

Thursday, the 2nd March, 2023

The House assembled at 11:00 a.m. of Thursday, the 2st March, 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 (Education) made a reply to Starred Question No.173 asked by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA regarding employment provision for meritorious sportspersons.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (Public Health Engineering) made a reply to Starred Question No. 174 asked by Shri Kh. Joykisan Singh, MLA regarding Water Supply Scheme at Awang Leikinhabhi.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) made a reply to Starred Question No.175 asked by Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding urea distribution.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (Horticulture & Soil Conservation) made a reply to Starred Question No.176 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding distribution of seeds.
- (e) Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) made a reply to Starred Question No.177 asked by Sheikh Noorul Hassan, MLA regarding rice production in Kshetrigao A/C.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Power) made a reply to Starred Question No.178 asked by Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding establishment of Solar Power Plant.
- (g) Hon'ble Minister (Forest, Environment and Climate Change) made a reply to Starred Question No.179 asked by Shri K. Paolienlal Haokip, MLA regarding afforestation of barren hills.
- (h) Hon'ble Minister (Water Resources) made a reply to Starred Question No.180 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding work programme of Water Resources Department.

Answers to Starred Question Nos. 181 & 183 and Unstarred Question Nos. 48, 49, 50, 51 & 52 were laid as written replies on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF MINISTER:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister informed the House that Saikhom Mirabai Chanu had been honoured with “Sportstar of the Year” (Female) during the Sportstar Aces Award, 2023 organised by Sportstar. He further informed that a sum of Rs 1 crore each during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 budget had been earmarked for establishing Saikhom Mirabai Chanu Fitness Centre at Nongpok Kakching.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE:

Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, Minister (in-charge of Health & FW) laid the “Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Performance Audit of Select District Hospitals in Manipur for the year ended 31st March, 2019” on the Table of the House”

CALLING ATTENTION:

Smt. Irengbam Nalini Devi, MLA called the attention of the Minister (MAHUD) on the reported difficulties faced by the women vegetable sellers in Khwairamband Bazar due to inadequate time permit for sale. He asked the government to extend the time period to 10 a.m. instead of 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Shri Y. Khemchand Singh, Minister (MAHUD) clarified that a Municipal Act banning street vendors was already in force but considering the plight of the women vendors, a time period from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. was allotted. He further informed that there were plans to shift their place of business to the Super Market at Lamphel. He added that he would meet with the women vendors after the session to bring a solution.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (i) Shri L. M. Khaute, Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertaking, Manipur Legislative Assembly presented the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2019.
- (ii) Shri Nishikant Sapam, Chairman of the Committee of Privileges and Ethics, Manipur Legislative Assembly presented the Thirty-Sixth Report of the Committee for the year 2022-23.

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

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved Demands Nos. 19- Environment and Forest; 38- Panchayat; 43- Horticulture and Soil Conservation; 45- Tourism; 47-Minorities and Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes Department and 48- Relief and Disaster Management for discussion & voting.

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

Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA moving cut motion on Panchayat, pointed out the delay in conducting Panchayat election and asked if the elections would be held as per schedule decided by the Cabinet. On Environment and Forest, he stressed the need to improve the deteriorating environment within Imphal city. He lamented the loss of forest land in the state and asked what steps had been taken up to protect the reserved forests. On Relief and Disaster Management, he asked what policy and programmes had been taken up to save lives when natural calamity such as earthquake; flood; landslides etc. hit the state. He also highlighted the need for trained personnel with proper technical equipment to help victims of natural calamities.

Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA moving cut motion on Environment and Forest expressed unhappiness over the loss of protected and reserved forest in the state. He queried why the government was unable to exercise its power given by the constitution to protect forest land. On Panchayat, he wanted to know the reason for government's inability to conduct the Panchayat elections even as the term has expired. On Tourism, he enquired about the plans for taking up development works relating to road connectivity, water facilities and power supply at Gwarok Mahadev temple complex in Thoubal District and further sought as to when the work would be taken up.

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 01:01 p.m. till 2:00 p.m. of the day.

The House resumed at 2:00 p.m. with Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh in the chair.

Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA moving cut motion on Environment and Forest, enquired about the steps taken up by the government for protection of forests in the state and suggested nursery preparations of various varieties of trees to enhance afforestation. He also pointed out the need for the Manipur Pollution Control Board to perform proactively to tackle the rise in pollution level. He also wanted to know if there are any plans to introduce electric crematorium and replace the use of firewood by gas while preparing food in large quantities during social functions in the state. Along with this, he wanted to know if there were any policies for planting trees on both sides of the road. On Horticulture and Soil Conservation, he highlighted the need of planting various fruit bearing trees and vegetables that suit the soil and climatic condition of our state to promote self sufficiency and also queried whether greenhouse will be provided to farmers. He questioned whether saplings and seeds are given free of cost or at a subsidized rate and also suggested providing of modern technology to farmers to increase horticultural production. Regarding Tourism, he expressed the need to identify new tourist spots with the help of experts and concerned MLAs and to improve road connectivity for enhancing tourism in the state. He expressed the need to develop Nungshigum Battle Field where

many tourists already visit every year. On Minorities and Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes Department, he enquired whether there was any irregularities during awarding scholarship to students and further queried whether embroidery machines, sewing machines, carpentry tools, health schemes and housing schemes are still being provided to the families that are below the poverty line.

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA making an observation on Environment and Forest mentioned that deforestation in the hill areas as well as failure to conserve water bodies in the valley has led to scarcity of water in the state and lamented that the Wetland (Conservation and Management Rules) 2017 could not be implemented effectively in the state till date. He further wanted to know whether Lamphelpat is covered under the Wetland Rules and added that Lamphelpat could be one of the attractions for tourists in the state if developed. He enquired if the digital inventory of all the wetlands and brief documentation of the recommended wetlands as directed by the Manipur State Wetland Authority under the Wetland Rules 2017 has been prepared yet.

Shri Nishikant Sapam, MLA making an observation on Tourism stated that in order to boost tourism in the state, ILP App should be introduced for the convenience of tourists. He also mentioned that qualified and certified tour guides should be made available at every tourist spot, specific hotels should be given bar licenses to sell alcohol and the spirit of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' should be upheld in the state.

Shri K. Leishiyo, MLA making an observation on Forest and Environment lamented the lack of trading point despite having a long border area. To reduce forest exploitation, he suggested the idea of conglomerating several small villages. He also added that all the other North-East States had started carbon trading except our state and suggested that the same should be introduced in our state to extract ample benefits from it.

Shri M. Rameshwar, MLA participating in the discussion opined that the department need to conduct a survey like Forest Resource Mapping by using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and study the soil type and accordingly find out the carbon credit availability in the state. He expressed the need for an effective means to tap the forest resources. Stressing on the significance of Loushi Pat in Kakching District, he suggested for finding a solution in bringing sustainable development to the said wetland. On MOBC, he expressed the need to increase the percentage of reservation for the Scheduled Caste students. On Relief and Disaster, he suggested for identifying disaster prone areas using geographical information system and make proper disaster mitigation plans.

Shri Ram Muivah, MLA participating in the discussion stressed on the importance of tourism sector in generating revenue and providing employment in the state. He appreciated the efforts of the government in launching Integrated Tourist Circuit Project

and urged to include villages like Shingcha, Shangshak, Langdang, Longpi, Jorcheng of Ukhrul in the tourist circuit map. On Horticulture and Soil Conservation, he urged for inclusion of Khamasom and Khayangphung villages for plantation of high value plants under Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East (PM-DevINE) Scheme.

Shri Th. Biswajit Singh, Minister (in-charge of Environment and Forest) while making clarification informed that two machines were installed at Manipur University and DMU Campus to monitor the Ambient Air Quality of Imphal city from time to time. He said that the reason for the inability to maintain the air quality in some places of Imphal is due to the dust and pollutants emerging from the road construction works but stated that the air quality would subsequently improve when the road construction works are completed. He further informed that the maintenance of the road median has now been taken care of solely by the Forest and Environment and the plantations would be done systematically. He clarified that the rate for auction has been finalized for timber seized from illegal timber trade. Regarding the eviction drive in areas of reserved forest and protected forest areas, he informed that evictions were carried out as per the act and rules under the Indian Forest Act. He said that the department is considering plantation of trees after testing the soil in the reserved and protected forest areas and added that the government is taking steps to curb illegal poppy plantation. He sought cooperation from all the Hon'ble Members, stakeholders, CSOs and the general public in conserving forest. He further informed that the department would check whether the brickfields operating in the state have obtained pollution and registration certificates. He added that various measures are taken up to tackle forest fire and informed that the department is considering plantation of high value fruit bearing trees to generate huge revenue. He then added that the best tree saplings are going to be prepared and also drones would be used for mass plantation. He said that the department is considering a joint venture for roadside tree plantation initiative by coordinating with the PWD. Regarding the conservation of wetlands, he informed that proper identification of wetlands including Lamphelpat within the state are carried out for conservation. He said that the government is working on reviving the spring water sources by consulting experts and also informed that carbon credit trading would be look into. He informed that the demarcation of the reserved forest areas and protected forest areas are about to be completed and added that unclassified forests belong to the government.

Shri Y. Khemchand Singh, Minister (in-charge of Panchayat) replying on the cut motions clarified that the term for the present Panchayat ended during October last year and the Cabinet had discussed and decided to conduct the election during March/April of this year. As the present term had ended, he informed that the administrative roles of ZP Members was assigned to the concerned DCs and Administrative Committees which will be nominated by the DC will look after the affairs at the Gram Panchayat level until the elections are held. He added that all the official formalities have been submitted to

the State Election Commission and election for those Zilla Parishads and Gram Panchayats devoid of any litigation would be conducted as per the Cabinet decision.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister supplementing the clarification on the cut motions stated that the election for ADC, Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats could not be held timely due to various reasons like covid pandemic, delimitation of ADCs, and some pending court cases regarding the Local Bodies but informed that the State Cabinet had taken a decision to conduct the elections during March/April of this year if there are no further litigations.

Shri Letpao Haokip, Minister (in-charge of Horticulture and Soil Conservation) clarifying to the cut motions stated that the department is providing saplings of various variety like avocado, mango, low chilling apple, blueberry, etc., under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). He further informed that registered farmers can apply for benefits related with horticulture through the online portal 'hortnet.gov.in'. Construction of ponds and installation of green nets are also provided at subsidised rates through the department, he said. He added that millets and other high value crops will also be provided as alternatives to poppy cultivation.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Tourism and MOBC) while clarifying the cut motions expressed that the government had identified 57 spots for developing as tourist destination spots. He added that there are plans to develop war memorial sites around the state. Development of Gwarok Mahadev temple complex and battlefield areas at Nungsigum would be looked into, he informed and further expressed desire to inaugurate the tourist spots at each assembly constituency which had been developed during the last government's tenure with a funding of 30 lacs from the government and 20 lacs from MLA-LADF of concerned MLA. Regarding MOBC, he clarified that the department could not release the scholarship on time as the Central Ministry released a sum of only 1 crore as against the required 17 crores. He stated that schemes under Economic and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) provide beneficiaries with equipment after imparting proper training for trades like plumbing, electrical works, mushroom cultivation, mobile vending outlet, etc and added that beneficial schemes are also presently provided for trades like carpentry, poultry, fishery, etc.

Shri Awangbow Newmai, Minister (Relief & Disaster Management) clarifying on the discussion stated that the department is working together with the Emergency Response Functionaries to support and rescue operations at the time of emergency. Highlighting the important roles of the department, he said that State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Police and Indian Army including villagers has been working together for providing rescue operation at times of natural calamities. He said that there are dedicated trained teams of SDRF and NDRF for conducting rescue operations efficiently. He also added that there are volunteers

trained by the department at district and village level. He clarified that the Imphal Municipal Corporation has a by-law to monitor construction of buildings in Imphal areas and the department is also formulating measures to regulate construction of buildings in hills in order to protect from high magnitude earthquakes. Explaining on the non predictable nature of the natural calamities such as earthquakes, landslides, etc., he informed that the best way to prevent or protect ourselves from the disasters is to learn from experiences and stay prepared.

All cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 19, 38, 43, 45, 47 and 48 were passed unanimously by the House.

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh announced that a lunch is being hosted by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat for all Hon'ble Members during the lunch break the next day.

INTRODUCTION OF APPROPRIATION BILLS:

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

“The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2023 (Bill No.3 of 2023)”

The House granted leave and the Bill was introduced.

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 06:55 p.m. till 11:00 a.m. of Friday, the 3rd March, 2023.

(K. Meghajit Singh)

Secretary,

Manipur Legislative Assembly
