

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT
BULLETIN PART-I
No. 8

Thursday, the 28th July 2022

The House assembled at 11.00 a.m. of Thursday, the 28th July, 2022 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon'ble Chief Minister, 11 Cabinet Ministers, Chairman Hill Areas Committee and 45 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (Water Resources) made a reply to Starred Question No. 23 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding left and right canal of Dolaithabi project.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (PHED) made a reply to Starred Question No.24 asked by Shri Ram Muivah, MLA regarding scarcity of potable water in Ukhrul district HQ.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (Medical,Health and Family Welfare) made a reply to Starred Question No.26 asked by Shri L.M. Khaute, MLA regarding construction of Multi Drug Resistant TB Centre at Churachandpur district.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (Works) made a reply to Starred Question No.27 asked by Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding Imphal-Mayang Imphal-Sugnu road.
- (e) Hon'ble Minister (PHED) made a reply to Starred Question No.28 asked by Shri Kh. Joykisan Singh, MLA regarding sewerage project in the state.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Medical,Health and Family Welfare) made a reply to Starred Question No. 29 asked by Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA regarding Medical College, Churachandpur.
- (g) Hon'ble Minister (Co-Operation) made a reply to Starred Question No. 30 asked by Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding Co-operative inspectors.
- (h) Hon'ble Minister (Works) made a reply to Starred Question No. 31 asked by Shri Kh. Joykisan Singh, MLA regarding State Highways in Manipur.
- (i) Hon'ble Minister (Water Resources) made a reply to Starred Question No. 32 asked by Shri L.M. Khaute, MLA regarding Khuga Dam.
- (j) Hon'ble Minister (Works) made a reply to Starred Question No.33 asked by Shri Ram Muivah, MLA regarding Imphal-Ukhrul (NH-202) road.

Answer to Starred Question No. 25 was laid on the Table of the House as written reply.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Administrative Reforms) laid “The 14th Annual Report of the Manipur Information Commission for the year 2020-2021” on the Table of the House.

CALLING ATTENTION:

Shri Kh. Joykisan Singh, MLA called the attention of the Education Minister regarding lack of proper infrastructure, inadequate teaching faculties and anxiousness amongst the teachers of the 5 colleges affiliated under DMU of not getting their due entitlement if the University couldn't become a full-fledged centre. He pointed out the inaction of the government even after various agitations and boycotts which hampers the academic atmosphere of the Dhanamanjuri University and queried about the steps being taken up by the government to make it a full-fledged university.

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA co-mover of the calling attention drew the attention of the Education Minister to make Dhanamanjuri University a full-fledged university under proper guidelines and to solve issue of infrastructure and inadequate staff of the DMU. He further queried about the vacancies in the administration and urged for filling up the vacancies as per the guidelines of the UGC and also asked when and how the curriculum would be improved. Highlighting the grievances of the students, he stressed on the need to properly implement the Academic Bank of Credit so as to enable students to avail the facilities of scholarships and other benefits.

Shri Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, Education Minister replying to the calling attention stated that the DMU is a long-cherished dream of the people of Manipur and that it was established on 6th April, 2018 as cluster university. He informed that a regular Vice Chancellor has been appointed and added that the vacant posts of a Regular Register, Deputy Register, Deputy Finance Officer would be filled up. He further assured that the demands of the teachers and non-teaching staff would be fulfilled as per the DMU Act and the pension benefits for the teachers would be considered. Regarding the infrastructure development of DMU, he informed that the 3 blocks i.e. Academic, Humanities and Social Science blocks constructed under RUSA would soon to be inaugurated and also informed that filling up of the vacancies in the administration is under process.

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved Demand Nos.6-Transport, 8- Public Works Department, 9- Information and Publicity, 16- Co-Operation, 35- Stationery & Printing, 37- Fisheries and 44- Social Welfare Department for discussion & voting.

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

Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA moving a cut motion on Public Works Department, highlighted the government's inability to improve the Wabagai Lamkhai-Chakpikarong-Sugnu road (New Somtal road) as it has not been maintained for the last decade which is causing inconvenience to the people. He also asked about its source of funding, the time of its commencement and completion. He further urged to upgrade both the Sugnu and Wangoo-Lamkhai bridge into RCC bridge.

Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA moving a cut motion on Public Works Department, expressed resentment over the cancellation of several work programs for two fiscal years after Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction were accorded. He also urged for better co-operation between the PWD and PHED during the improvement of road connecting Tangjeng to Thoubal Bazar. He further urged for speedy payment of the pending liabilities under the department.

Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA, raising cut motion on Public Works Department pointed out the poor quality of bitumen utilised during construction of roads in the state, need to look into the issue of elevated drains, lack of co-ordination between the various departments involved and re-iterated the need for proper planning in the implementation of work programmes. While requesting the department to clear all pending liabilities, he stated that Expenditure Sanction (ES) should be completed by October in order to complete construction works before the onset of monsoon season. On Fisheries, he stated that identification of fish farmers and proper training is required before distribution of fingerlings and further enquired whether there was provision to convert non-arable land into fish farms and if there were any loans for the fish farmers. He further pointed out the need to check the quality and chemical content in the fish being imported from other states. On Social Welfare Department, he stated that respective MLAs should be consulted while selecting beneficiaries and distribution of old age pension scheme. He urged the government to renovate the Anganwadi centres and clear the pending liabilities at the earliest.

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 1:35 p.m. till 2:30 p.m. of the day.

The House resumed at 2:30 p.m. with Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh in the Chair.

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA raising cut motion on Information and Technology, stated that the grievances of the media personnel should be looked into and pointed out the need for the DIPR to check mushrooming of self-styled journalists and unauthorised media channels. He sought a specific dateline for clearance of the dues for government

advertisements in the local dailies and pointed out the need for the government to provide press materials at subsidized rates. He also pointed out that Health Card facilities are not timely received by the beneficiaries and further queried on the progress made in construction of Press Park at Langing Achouba and when it would be made functional. He also queried as to why video telecast of flagship programmes to the interior areas of both hills and the valley has been discontinued and stated that District Information offices need to be maintained and made properly functional. He also enquired if DIPR could be converted into a major department. He further queried whether there is any plan for framing digital news media policy under the Information Technology Rules, 2021. He also asked if the government had made any plans to provide retirement benefits to retired journalists of the print media. On Public Works Department, he stated the need for paving the gullies of the city especially the bazaar areas with bricks as it is more durable.

Shri Kh. Joykisan Singh, MLA making an observation on Transport, opined that introduction of inter-city bus services and widening of roads would help in solving traffic congestion to a certain extent. On Public Works Department, pointing out the poor drainage system of the city and the practice of running cable wires along the drains, he queried on the government's plans to deal with the problems. He also stated that the local contractors should be encouraged and hired for works instead of relying on contractors from outside the state. On reports of roads constructed by PWD being damaged by MAHUD, he enquired if prior permission had been sought from the department. Regarding Fisheries, he queried whether there is any plan for setting up a fish market in Imphal city.

Shri Leishiyo Keishing, MLA making an observation on Transport, queried if the MSRTC bus services from Imphal to Kamjong which has been discontinued can be resumed again. On Public Works Department, he stated that most of the roads being constructed in the hill areas are not eco-friendly and disturb not only the local people but also the habitat of wild life and domestic animals. He also queried as to when the developmental works of the roads within his constituency which were assured would be taken up. On Fisheries, he suggested that fish farming should be taken up in the hill areas especially in Kamjong District. Regarding Social Welfare Department, he stated that genuine beneficiaries did not receive their due benefits of the Old Age Pension Scheme and Widow Pension Scheme.

Shri Ram Muivah, MLA making an observation stated that the budget allocated for the Public works Department needs to be enhanced and suggested for proposing more state highways to be upgraded to National Highways to the central government. He further highlighted the inconveniences faced due to traffic congestion during the Shirui Festival and requested the department to expedite the conversion of the Ukhrul-Nongpi road to double lane and the upgradation of the Imphal to Ukhrul road into a 4-lane road. He further informed of the need to renovate the Circuit House at Ukhrul and urged for

the completion of the Transit Hostel in Ukhrul and the PWD Guest House at Shirui for which the foundation was laid in 2012.

Shri M. Rameshwar Singh, MLA making observation on Transport, opined that external funding is necessary to bring about much developmental progress in a state. He also suggested identifying trading points and setting up logistic hubs and levying taxes on all goods carrying vehicles to increase revenue of the state. Regarding Information and Technology, he stated that the new image of a “peaceful Manipur” needs to be conveyed to the rest of the country through the media.

Shri K. Govindas, Minister, Public Works Department replying to the cut motions informed that as all possible monetary focus was given towards dealing with the Covid pandemic in the previous years, it led to increase in liabilities and cancellation of AAs. He further stated that the department would try to clear the liabilities in phase manner. He further stated that the department is trying to construct roads by taking loans from banks like Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, New Development Bank, etc. He also assured the House that a quality control lab would be set up this year for checking the quality of bitumen. Construction of State Highways, major district roads, other district roads and inter village roads would be started after giving work order and LOI, he informed and added that a proposal has been sent to Ministry of Road and Highways to upgrade some of the roads to National Highway. Work Programme of 2022-23 will also be finalised very soon after the session, he said. Coordination committee of the various departments has also been set up which will monitor the execution of works from time to time. He also added that he will consult with engineers and experts for laying and experimenting with brick pavement. To ease traffic congestion in the state he informed that 79 roads have been identified for widening. He further added that there is long term plan for segregating laying of cables and water pipes through rigid pavement and also added that construction of soldier course for block pavement is included in the 100 days program. He also added that construction of Shangshak-Tamenglong road will start as soon as there is available land and that the Ministry of Road and Transport Highways would be approached to upgrade Ukhrul-Kamjong road to 4 lane road. Construction of Shirui Guest House, he said, would be completed soon.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister, supplementing the clarification informed that there was budget constraint during the pandemic however ES will be approved soon after due scrutiny under the new budget.

Shri H. Dingo Singh, Minister (Fisheries & Social Welfare Department) replying to the queries raised stated that loans to fish farmers are distributed under Kisan Credit Card Scheme and added that 89 beneficiaries had been given such loans. He also informed that non-arable lands can be converted into fish farms under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya

Sampada Yojana Scheme. He also mentioned that with the help of new technologies, the department is trying to increase fish production in the state. Testing kits will be procured to check the quality of imported fish at transit points, he informed and added that there are plans to open fish markets in every district under PMMSY. Applicants for Old Age Pension may apply for the same during the Go to Hills and Go to Village programs, he added. A review meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister had taken place and the pending bills for construction of Anganwadi Centres would be released soon, he informed. He said that a selection committee has been formed to look into the matter of streamlining distribution of old age pension scheme and added that Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme is still continuing.

Shri Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, Minister (Information & Publicity) in his reply informed that most of the press identity cards have been distributed. To augment the shortage of staffs in DIPR, he said that direct recruitment exam had been completed and the result is awaited. He also said that welfare schemes like pension schemes, awards, grants and health benefit under CM gi Hakshelgi Tengbang are also being provided to the media fraternity and priority is also given to them for Covid vaccination. Regarding construction of Press Park in Langjing Achouba, he said that the localities had raised a protest. Various flagship programmes of the government were stalled due to Covid-19, but he mentioned that there are plans to continue. About Digital News Media Policy, he informed that the department would compare the various policies of other states and select the best which is suitable for the state. The Information Centres of some districts which are non functional would be made operational, he stated. Post retirement benefits of the digital journalists are also being looked into it, he said. He also stressed on the need to strengthen the State Information Centre, Delhi for proper circulation of information about the state which will in turn boost tourism sector.

All cut motions were withdrawn and Demand Nos. 6, 8, 9, 16, 35, 37 & 44 were passed unanimously by the House.

CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF GOVERNMENT:

(1) Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved:

“that The Code of Criminal Procedure (Manipur Third Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Bill No. 3 of 2022) be taken into consideration”.

And also moved that the Bill be passed.

After clause by clause consideration, “The Code of Criminal Procedure (Manipur Third Amendment) Bill, 2022” (Bill No. 3 of 2022) was unanimously passed by the House.

- (2) Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved:

“that The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Bill No. 6 of 2022) be taken into consideration”.

And also moved that the Bill be passed.

After clause by clause consideration, “The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022” (Bill No. 6 of 2022) was unanimously passed by the House.

- (3) Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved:

“that The Manipur Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Bill No. 8 of 2022) be taken into consideration”.

And also moved that the Bill be passed.

After clause by clause consideration, “The Manipur Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2022” (Bill No. 8 of 2022) was unanimously passed by the House.

- 4) Shri Y. Khemchand Singh, Minister (in-charge of RD & PR) moved:

“that The Manipur Panchayati Raj (Eight Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Bill No. 4 of 2022) be taken into consideration”.

And also moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

The Bill was referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Hon 'ble Members:

<i>(i) Shri Y. Khemchand Singh (Minister)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Chairman</i>
<i>(ii) Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>(iii) Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>(iv) Shri K. Shyam, MLA</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>(v) Dr. U. Deben Singh, MLA</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Member.</i>

The Committee was to submit its report within 3 (three) months.

- 5) Smt. Nemcha Kipgen, Minister (in-charge of Textiles, Commerce & Industries) moved:

“that The Factories (Manipur Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Bill No.7 of 2022) be taken into consideration”.

And also moved that the Bill be passed.

After clause by clause consideration, “The Factories (Manipur Amendment) Bill, 2022”, (Bill No.7 of 2022) was unanimously passed by the House.

6) Shri L. Susindro Meitei, Minister (in-charge of CAF & PD) moved:

“that The Legal Metrology (Manipur First Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Bill No.9 of 2022) be taken into consideration”.

And also moved that the Bill be passed.

After clause by clause consideration, The Legal Metrology (Manipur First Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Bill No.9 of 2022) was unanimously passed by the House.

Hon’ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 5:40 p.m. till 11:00 a.m. of Friday, the 29th July, 2022.

(K. Meghajit Singh)

Secretary,

Manipur Legislative Assembly
