

**MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT**

**BULLETIN PART-I
No. 50**

Wednesday, the 18th March, 2009.
Phalguna 27, 1930 (Saka)

The House assembled at 11.00 am of Wednesday, the 18th March, 2009 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon'ble Chief Minister, 11 Cabinet Ministers, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Hon'ble Chairman & Vice-Chairman (Hill Areas Committee) and 43 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

(a) Hon'ble Minister (Power) made a reply to Starred Question No. 314 asked by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA regarding the construction of 33/11 K.V. Sub-Station at Yairipok.

(b) Hon'ble Minister (Commerce & Industries) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 315 asked by Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA regarding development of Industrial Growth Centre in Imphal.

(c) Hon'ble Minister (Works) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 316 asked by Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA regarding the proposed work programme under SPA Programme for the year 2009-10.

(d) Hon'ble Minister (P.H.E.D.) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 317 asked by Shri L. Nandakumar Singh, MLA regarding the sewerage project work taken up at R.I.M.S. road.

(e) Hon'ble Minister (Works) gave a reply to Starred Question No. 318 asked by Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA regarding the Leishang Hiden Project.

CALLING ATTENTION:

(i) S/Shri O. Joy Singh and Radhabinod Koijam, MLAs called the attention of MAHUD Minister on the reported proposal for amendment of Shri Shri Govindajee Temple Act in the management of affairs of Umanglai.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA moving the calling attention motion quoted the Huiyen Lanpao edition of the 18th February, 2009 edition which reported of a cabinet decision to bring Umang Lai worshippers under the umbrella of Govindajee Temple Board. He pointed out that the constitution of India safeguard the freedom of adopting any religion and the freedom to manage their respective religions. He further argued that even under the Govindajee Temple Act it is mentioned that all activities of Umang Lai would be controlled by the Umang Lai Committee. Therefore bringing Umang Lai under the Govindajee Temple Board, as decided by the state cabinet, amounts to violation of the rights envisaged in the constitution of India.

Shri Radhabinod Koijam, MLA participating in the calling attention motion said that the meitei community have multiple faith and that Umang Lai worship and Hinduism are different faiths and so bringing Umang Lai under the umbrella of Govindajee Temple Board would hurt the sentiment of a section of the society who follow the Umang Lai faith and could create law and order problem. Therefore, he said, it would be in the best interest of the state to institute a separate board for Umang Lai.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA participating in the calling attention said that nobody has the legal right to interfere in the religious affairs of any religion and so bringing Umang Lai faith under the Govindajee Temple Board is not fair. He further gave suggestion for the constitution of Umang Lai Management Act in order to manage the Umang Lai faith worshippers.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA participating in the calling attention motion said that Umang Lai Act should be constituted and that the titular king be made the Chairman of the Board with some cultural intellectuals as Members.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA participating in the calling attention motion said that the issue of religion was a very sensitive issue and further expressed apprehension of an uproar over the current issue and suggested for legislating a separate law in the House to solve the problem.

Shri E. Kunjeshor Singh, MLA participating in the calling attention motion expressed the need to maintain the existing system before legislating a new act.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister clarifying to the calling attention motion said that the present issue was a very sensitive issue and added that ever since the legislation of Govindajee Temple Act in 1972 and the inception of Temple Board under it, all misunderstandings between various religious faiths was being settled by the Pandits of Pandit Loisang. He further said that any amendment in the Govindajee Temple Act would have to be done in the House after a thorough discussion and that all suggestions given by the Members would be considered.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh adjourned the House at 1.00 p.m. till 2.00 p.m. of the day).

(The afternoon session resumed at 2.00 p.m. with the Hon'ble Speaker, Dr. S. Budhichandra Singh in the Chair).

(ii) Dr. Khashim Ruivah and Shri Morung Makunga, MLAs called the attention of Chief Minister on the recent devastating fire incident in Ukhrul District.

Dr. Khashim Ruivah, MLA initiating the motion drew the attention of the Chief Minister to the recent devastating fire that broke out in Ukhrul. He pointed out that the lack of sufficient fire tender and availability of water was a handicap in tackling such kind of devastating fire and therefore stressed the need to make available sufficient fire tenders and set up water storage tank. He wanted the government to look into the grievances of the affected families and take necessary steps to rehabilitate them.

Shri Morung Makunga, MLA participating in the call attention said that the lone fire tender available was not sufficient to tackle fire that broke out at Wino Bazar, Ukhrul and stressed for making available 2/3 fire tenders and also for setting up large water storage tank. He pointed out that as the couple who ran the hotel from where the fire broke out went into hiding after the incident, an enquiry was necessary.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the calling attention motion said as soon as information of the fire was received fire tender was rushed to the spot and reinforcement was also rushed from Imphal. Assam Rifles also helped in dousing the flames using 2 fire tenders, he informed and added that according to the preliminary report the fire was broken out from a hotel with the explosion of LPG cylinders aggravating it. He informed that a

ministerial team including the Relief Commissioner had visited the place of the incident and Relief Committee which included social organisations was formed and blankets, rations, kerosene, etc. were supplied to the affected families as immediate relief. Medical aid was also being extended by organising medical camp, he informed. Relief for the affected families was not announced immediately due to the enforcement of the Election Model Code of Conduct, he said and added that efforts would be made to reconstruct the bazar after a detailed project report was received from Ukhrul DC.

GENERAL DISCUSSION & DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, 2008-2009:

Shri O. Ibohi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister moved for discussion and voting for Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2008-2009.

Shri O. Joy Singh, MLA initiating the discussion pointed out that financial indiscipline and practice of depositing huge amount in the 8449 account need to be looked into for maintaining a smooth financial flow. He pointed out the need to look into the excess behaviour of security personnel, scarcity of water and non-availability of power supply to the general public. He drew the attention of the Government to the reported presence of 4 designated camps in Manipur as per a press statement of Assam Rifles and enquired as to why the respective District Authority did not report about it to the higher authorities.

Dr. I. Ibohalbi, MLA participating in the discussion enquired as to how the fund to be passed was going to be utilised when there was report that fund for last year could not be fully utilised. Lack of basic requirements in Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals need to be looked into, he said. He pointed out the need to take up steps for water harvesting to solve the problem of scarcity of water. He drew the attention of the government to the lack of respect by the staffs of Manipur Bhavans to the Members of the opposition.

Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA taking part in the discussion pointed out that some teachers of the Education Department were not getting their retirement benefits for the last 5 years and stressed the need to solve their problem. He pointed out the need to discuss, with experts, the technical details regarding the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences that was going to be set up for making it fully functional. He also stressed for expansion of the municipality area, filling up of vacant posts of Veterinary doctors, releasing of funds due for

payment of flood control works done in the last 2 years, making available of pipes for water supply and separate ministers for minority and OBC respectively. He also drew the attention to the non-availability of pipelines for water supply at Kongkham Leikai which was hardly half a kilometre from the Porompat Water Supply Centre.

Shri R.K. Anand, MLA participating in the discussion emphasised the need to rectify the difference in rate fixation between the urban and rural areas in respect of payment of compensation to the affected land owners for various development projects that were being taken up. He drew the attention of the Chief Minister for checking the excess behaviour of security personnel in the state. He expressed desire to fill up vacancies in the PHED department for proper functioning of the department and also take steps for protection of Sangai.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister replying to the discussion said that around 70% of the plan allocation had been utilised so far and the remaining fund would be deposited under government account. He said that due to non-submission of utilization certificate and alleged misappropriation of Rs. 10 crore in the Manipur Aids Control Society(MACS) only 13 crore out of 26 crore had been released by the Government of India and informed the House that the Chief Secretary was instructed to take necessary action against the guilty officers. He also said that all the time the government of India was ready to extend fund from Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other schemes if utilization certificate was submitted in time. Regarding JN Institute of Medical Sciences, the post of Director or Principal was yet to be filled up and that MCI Rules would be adhered to in the appointment of such post. On Power, he informed the House that a transmission line of 400 KV would be installed by the government to get full state share of power from the North East Power Corporation and further added that Leimakhong Heavy Fuel Power Project was not functioning due to heavy cost and that it was reserved only for emergency purposes. He also expressed concern on the shortage of drinking water in the state and informed that efforts had been made by the government to supply water 2 hours each in the morning and evening a day. Clarifying to the queries of Dr. Ng. Bijoy Singh, MLA, he said that non-payment of pension to the 200 pensioners of the Education Department was due to lack of finalization of MGEL and informed that the government would look into the matter to expedite it. He also informed that most of the construction of 50 bedded hospitals under DONER Ministry in all the districts was underway. Expressing concern on the rampant threat to the Congress workers of the state, he termed

the threat as very unfortunate and informed that such action was a challenge to the democracy of the country and that necessary measures would be taken.

All the demands were passed unanimously by the House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL:

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister moved for leave of the House to introduce the following Bills:-

- (i) *The Manipur Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2009; and*
- (ii) *The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009.*

And also moved for introduction.

The House granted leave and the Bills were introduced.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 4.50 p.m. till 11.00 a.m of Thursday, the 19th March, 2009.

Th. Megha Raj Singh
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly.
