First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continues for ninth day
Proposal ‘upgrading of free compulsory primary education system into duty to educate children’ submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March-The first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the ninth day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann declared that the attendance of 432 made up 99.77 percent of 433 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and that the ninth-day session was therefore valid.

Out of the questions raised by Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, permitted ones were raised, and members of Union level organizations Minister for Electric Power No.2 U Khin Maung Myint, Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe and Minister for Transport U Thein Swe replied to them. The questions were about whether or not there is any plan to distribute some of power supply from Myogyi Dam to Danu region and about whether or not there is any plan to extend power supply from Kinda Dam being distributed to Ywangan by U Aung Thein of Ywangan Constituency; about the electricity bills the people of Rakhine State have to pay by U Ye Tun of Thandwe Constituency; about how plans are made to hold by-elections by U Nelson (a) Sai Hsaung Hsi of Kyaukme Constituency; about prevention of Minbya of Rakhine State from being eroded by Laymyo River by U Aung Sein Tha of Minbya Constituency; and about the blockage of the waterway of Kaladan River 29 miles north from Paletwa of Chin State by U Paik Lin of Paletwa Constituency.

Regarding the matters related to the proposals ‘granting permission to foreign guests and tourists to visit Chin State’ and ‘upgrading Haka, the capital of Chin State, into a city with the characteristics of the capital cities of other states’ presented by U Ngun Moung of Haka Constituency, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives made discussions, members of Union level organizations Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Soe Naing and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Thein Nyunt made reviews and discussions and the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought.

Then, U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency submitted the proposal ‘nationwide taking of censuses in Myanmar and U Khin Maung Yi (a) Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency the motion ‘upgrading of the free compulsory primary education system into a free compulsory middle school education system (duty to educate children) with a view to achieving the goal of cent-per-cent literacy rate in Myanmar and making suitable policies in order that both the government and private sector can engage in adopting school curriculums and the education system in which the examinations that can have links with international universities are included’.

Then, the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought to decide whether or not the said motions should be discussed.
Later, the speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced that the ninth-day session ended and the tenth-day session would be held at 10 am tomorrow.

The session was adjourned at 1.45 pm.

Hluttaw candidates, election agents declared as persons of distorted qualification

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March-The Union Election Commission issued Notification No.6/2011 today. The translation of the notification is as follows:-

The Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No.6/2011
10th Waxing of Tabaung, 1372 ME
(14 March, 2011)

Hluttaw candidates and their election agents failed to submit election expenses in the prescribed period declared as persons of distorted qualification

1. According to Section 55 of respective Hluttaw Election Laws, and Rules para 77, Hluttaw candidates and their election agents who run for Multi-party Democracy General Election held on 7 November, 2010 are to submit election expenses to the respective sub-commissions in line with the laws during 60-day as of the date the name of representatives-elect are announced.

2. To be able to decide whether those who fail to submit election expenses in accord with the law should be designated as persons of distorted qualification or not, the Union Election Commission formed election tribunals and ordered them to check with them.

3. The Election Tribunal found that the following Hluttaw candidates and their election agents failed to submit the election expenses during the prescribed period, and in accord with the respective Hluttaw Election Rules Paragraph 83 (a), designated them as persons of distorted qualification.
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4. The Union Election Commission announced that the above-mentioned Hluttaw candidates and their election agents are persons of distorted qualification according to para 84 of respective Hluttaw Election Rules after judging the decision of Election Tribunal.

5. It is hereby announced that Hluttaw candidates and the election agents who are declared as persons of distorted qualifications, in accord with the Section 88 of the respective Hluttaw Election Law, shall not contest in the election as a Hluttaw candidate from the date of this declaration in the existing Hluttaw term and the next Hluttaw term.

Sd/ Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee,
Amyotha Hluttaw Rights Committee, Government’s
Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee hold meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March-The First Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the Amyotha Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee held the first meetings at their offices at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this afternoon.

The meetings were attended by chairmen, secretaries and members of respective committees.

They participated in discussions on work programme of the committees, duties and rights of the committees.

Supply of some electric power generated from Myogyi Dam to Danu Region asked at Pyithu Hluttaw session

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March-Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Thein of Ywangan Constituency asked whether there is any plan for supply of some electric power generated from Myogyi Dam to Danu Region after comple-tion of the dam under construction by the government in Ywangan Township of Myogyi Village.

Regarding the question, Minister for Electric Power No.2 U Khin Maung Myint said that the dam with installed capacity of two 15 megawatts turbines with 33KV would generate 30 megawatts of electricity; that generator would distribute electric power to Taungtawgwin and Ingon main power stations and connect national power grids; that now, electric power is being supplied to Pindaya and Ywangan through national power grid; that ten transformers supply 800 KW of electric power to six villages of Pindaya’s environs; that two transformers in Ywangan distribute 300 KW of electric power to two villages near Ywangan through national power grid; and that Danu region is using electricity through national power grid before the representative asked.
EP-2 Minister replies to plan to be implemented to supply more electricity from Kinda Dam to Ywangan

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March- In his question, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency said that the main watershed area of Kinda Dam is in located in Ywangan Township of Danu Self-Administered zone. At today’s session of Pyithu Hluttaw, he asked whether the plan would be implemented to supply more electricity from Kinda Dam to Ywangan for conservation of the watershed area and effective management.

In his response, Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Myint said that Ywangan is being supplied electricity from the 12-mile 11 KV power line from Kinda Dam.

Depending on demand of irrigation water for agricultural purpose, Kinda Power Station generates eight hours a day. The generator is not operated in the remaining hours. At that time, the national power grid supplies electricity to Ywangan through Kinda Power Station. At a time when Kinda Station is stopped, Ywangan will get electricity. With regard to extended supply of electricity, he replied that arrangements are being made for supply of electricity form the national power grid to Pindaya and Ywangan via Aungban instead of installation of power line over the watershed area of Ywangan Township.

Industry-1 Minister replies to question
“whether or not there is a plan to build a pulp factory in Buthidaung Township where a large number of bamboo plants are naturally grown”

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - At the session of Amyotha Hluttaw held today, U Maung Aye Tun of Rakhine State Constituency No-9 said that a large number of bamboo plants that can make pulp are naturally grown in mountainous region of Buthidaung Township. If a pulp factory was built, local people would enjoy job opportunities, contributing towards better living standards. Besides, the nation can see greater industrial production. So he asked “whether or not there is a plan to build a pulp factory in Buthidaung Township where a large number of bamboo plants are naturally grown”.

Regarding the question, Minister for Industry- 1 U Aung Thaung replied that it was found that Saidin bamboo forest in Buthidaung and Ponnagyun regions can be used to produce raw materials for a factory with the production capacity from 200 to 500 tons of pulp a day.

The establishment of a pulp factory requires chemical plant, chlorine dioxide plant, generator and boiler plant, cooking and digesting plant, pulp sheet making plant and recovery plant.

Inputs to the plants are from about 0.3 to 0.75 million tons of bamboo per year, from 20 to 50 megawatts of electricity, from 30,000 to 75,000 tons of limestone, from 90,000 to 300,000 tons of salt and from 10 to 25 million gallons of water a day.

Only if these inputs are fulfilled can the pulp factory be built.

Lack of sufficient electricity supply at the present time, capital and technical problems hindered to build the factory.

Although five field trips were made with the participation of foreign companies, progress could not be made due to electricity supply, energy and other problems.

With future prospects of energy sector in Rakhine State, there are good prospects for the establishment of a pulp factory by local organizations and foreign investors.
Transport Minister answers question of Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Sein Tha from Minbya Constituency

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—At today’s regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Aung Sein Tha from Minbya Constituency in his question said that Minbya in Rakhine State is facing the erosion of its coastal areas yearly due to the Laymyo River; that strong current of the river causes damage to houses and buildings in riverside wards in the township; and asked if there is a plan to take preventive measures against bank erosions in the township.

Minister for Transport U Thein Swe relied that preventive measures against bank erosions have been taken in Minbya from 1999-2000 to 2010-2011 as follows: -
(a) 1999-2000 sand bed 1320 feet
(b) 2000-2001 Geotube 2490 feet
(c) 2004-2005 rock-filled embankment 350 feet
(d) 2005-2006 rock-filled embankment 180 feet
(e) 2007-2008 rock-filled embankment 120 feet
(f) 2008-2009 rock-filled embankment 150 feet
(g) 2009-2010 rock-filled embankment 90 feet

Rock-filled embankments are being built for 320 feet in 2010-2011 fiscal year as follows: -
(a) No. 1 retaining wall (mouth of Sambale Creek) 70 feet
(b) No. 2 retaining wall (downstream mouth of the creek) 120 feet
(c) No. 3 retaining wall (downstream mouth of the creek) 130 feet

He said that the tasks will continue for prevention of bank erosions in Laymyo.

The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker in his discussion said that if erosion of coastal areas persists in Laymyo despite preventive measures, it should seek to know whether there are other technical requirements or not, and other approaches for durability of embankments.

PBANRDA Minister replies to question of Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ngun Moung from Haka Constituency

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—At the session held today, Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Zartalan from Thantlang Constituency seconded the proposal “to upgrade Haka, the capital of Chin State to the level of other state capitals” submitted by U Ngun Moung from Haka Constituency in his question.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Thein Nyunt said that the State Law and Order Restoration Council issued Ordinance No 5/ 93 dated 1 April 1993 to keep townships clean and beautiful and ensure development of rural areas; that taxes and revenues levied in a year from Haka Township are low, so the government has to provide funds to urbanize Haka; that in that case, the government is upgrading roads in Haka to fine ones and constructing bridges and supplying potable water; that in addition, it built 120 feet long, 60 feet wide and 30 feet high city hall, Wamma Thumaung Sports grounds, Khaingkam Gymnasium, Bo Taik Chun Gymnasium and Bo Kywan Pi Gymnasium in Haka; that Chin State has seen a park, nine youths training centres,
six vocation training centres, Haka General Hospital (200-bed), and many other offices, revenues and buildings; that according to Article 254 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, taxes and revenues collected in Chin State are deposited in the state fund; that the government is urbanizing Haka to become a modern capital, so there is no need to present a separate proposal.

The speaker said that a representative has seconded the motion of U Ngun Moung and the minister has made clarification to the question, so all are believed to realize the process; that what the minister has presented is such a thorough reply that the minister suggested that the motion should not be under further discussion; and that so he wanted to know the stance of U Ngun Moung.

U Ngun Moung of Haka Constituency expressed thanks for the clarification, and said that he no longer wanted to continue his proposal.

The hluttaw approved U Ngun Moung’s submission and announced that there is no need to continue discussing his proposal.

**Minister for Hotels and Tourism replies to discussion of U Khin Maung Yi (a) Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - U Khin Maung Yi (a) Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency discussed the proposal of U Ngun Moung of Haka Constituency “to allow foreign guests and tourists to visit Chin State” at today’s regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw that Chin State is scenic and could attract the attention of tourists; tourism industry is one of important foreign currency earners of the nation; it is heartening to learn the State is undertaking development tasks in Chin State; to help Chin State develop in parallel with the Union the blockage of tourist entry should be cleared; the similar cases of that, for example, an American citizen who was born in Haka and his family legally arrived in Myanmar to attend 100th Anniversary of Haka, was refused to travel to Haka and only reached Kalay should be averted.

With the aim to apply new ideologies, new ways and new laws which envision peace and development in transition to democracy in conformity with the new State Constitution, he supported the proposal submitted by U Ngun Moung, he discussed.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Soe Naing explained that foreign guests and visitors who want to enter Myanmar for various purposes may obtain visa at Myanmar Embassy and Consul- General Office; they are permitted to live for 28 days in Myanmar; the number of foreign guests and visitors entered Myanmar through Yangon and Mandalay International Airports in 2010 was 310688 including 201971 tourists.

The State had issued Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Law to enable private entrepreneurs to run hotels, rest houses, tour, transportation and tour guide services with licenses to make tourism industry systematically developed.

The number of hotels and rest houses was 691; that of tourism companies, 658; that of tour vehicles, 215; and that of tour guides, 4077.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had issued rules, orders and directives for tourists and foreign guests who visit Myanmar to travel with their tour plan and to travel with the permission of respective ministries through the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Tourists and foreign guests are traveling in Myanmar in accord with this directive.

Although the directive for tourists and foreign guests to travel in Myanmar issued in 1996 by the Ministry of Home Affairs had some limitations to travel in Chin State, Natmataung National Park was
opened in 1997 and tourists were allowed to travel to this region and Chin State since 2002 with prior request.

With improved number of tourists and increased interest in ecotourism industry, the Home Affairs Ministry issued necessary directives for foreign citizens for business purpose, tourists and other foreigners for various purposes. Package tour groups and foreign independent travelers were allowed to travel Kanpetlet, Natmataung, Mindat, Ayeywa station, Ramhsi station, 8th mile station, Kennedy hill, Falam and Haka in Chin State with the arrangement of tour companies.

Therefore, the number of tourists who visited Chin State reached 80 in 2008, 150 in 2009 and 280 in 2010. The number of tourists who visited the state in January, 2011 alone, reached 112.

To allow tourists to visit Chin State, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and other ministries concerned have to make arrangements for them as the trip to the hilly state is tough and not easily accessible by vehicles and there is a limited number of guest houses. Besides, arrangements have to be made to ensure safety and prevent accidents.

The number of foreign visitors to Chin State would increase in proportion to the number of visitors to the country.

Like other regions and states, Chin State should attract not only foreign tourists but also local visitors, Therefore, the tourists have been allowed to visit Chin State since 2002, and the number of visitors to the state has increased year after year. Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Soe Naing promised to provide necessary assistance to the state and the ministry has already taken measures related to the proposal submitted by U Ngun Moung of Haka constituency in Chin State.

Afterwards, the Speaker sought approval of the representatives over the discussion of the minister.

U Ngun Moung thanked the minister for his clear clarification, saying it was not necessary to continue to discuss the proposal.

After the approval of Hluttaw, the Speaker announced that it is not necessary to discuss the proposal separately.

Representative of Yangon Region Constituency-4
Dr Myat Nyana Soe raises questions

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - At today’s session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency-4 said according to surveys, Yangon has a population of more than 7 million. Among them are over 3 million commuters. There are over 200 bus lines, 8000 vehicles, 240,000 private cars and 130,000 circular train users.

It is learned that in the circular train system, there are 21 railway coaches, 200 daily railway schedules, 18 diesel locomotives and three RBEs. Train fares are low enough for the convenience of grassroots. However, it can still be found that trains are running on untimely schedule with weaknesses in sanitary and maintenance services. So it is necessary to upgrade the circular railway system, the most common public transportation, in order to solve the problem of traffic congestion.

Then, Dr Myat Nyana Soe questioned whether or not new circular railroads can be built in the commercial capital Yangon for the convenience of service personnel, students and public commuters; whether or not new circular railway schedules can be extended; whether or not enough locomotives and railway coaches can be provided; whether or not services can be provided to improve the standards of
railway coaches in accord with the characteristics of a commercial capital; and whether or not departure and arrival time of trains can be exact to meet the international standard.

In response to the questions, Minister for Rail Transportation said there are two systems – circular trains and sub-urban trains running to Hlawga, Thanlyin, Oakposu and Thilawa in connection with circular railways.

Before 1988, there were about 100 daily railway schedules with nine coaches.

But now there are about 200 daily railway schedules with 21 coaches to transport more than 0.1 million railway passengers.

With the increasing area of Yangon, survey work has been carried out to build a new outer circular railroad from Toekyaunggalay, Dagon University and Pale Myothit to Hlawga.

In building a new circular railroad, a point should be considered in order not to cause traffic congestion. The Yangon circular railroad is 30 miles long and there are 65 level crossings.

When a road is blocked for a circular train to pass, about 300 cars have to stop. So to solve this problem, 24 overpasses have been built and plans are under way to construct 41 others. For transportation of more passengers, arrangements are being made for trains to run with more carriages without necessity to extend the existing circular railway schedules.

In order to manufacture quality locomotives and coaches locally, plans are under way to build a locomotive shed in Nay Pyi Taw and a coach factory in Myitnge with the parts from the People’s Republic of China. Construction of factories has to take about two years. Upon completion, locomotives and coaches of high standards can be provided.

Moreover, diesel motorized units will be imported for improving the standard of locomotives and coaches, the minister added.

Po\textit{or prospects for building cement factories in Nayputaung and Gutaung-Kantaung due to low quality limestone}

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - U Maung Aye Tun, a representative of Amyotha Hluttaw from Rakhine State constituency No.9 asked question whether the State has a plan to implement cement projects at limestone hills at Nayputaung and Gutaung-Kantaung areas in Taungup Township during today’s regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

In his question, he said that Taungup Township has prospects for mass production of cement from 500 tons to 2000 tons a day as there are many limestone hills in the township. He suggested the State build a cement factory in the township, paving the way for creating job opportunities for locals and boosting production of the country.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung said the amount of limestone in the township is not enough to be supplied to a cement factory and the material in the area does not meet the standard for making cement. Besides, it has been calculated that there are only about 18 million tons of the stone at Gutaung-Kantaung limestone hill about 8 miles north-east of Kama Village, 20 miles south of Maei, Taungup, and the amount is just enough to produce cement at a cement factory for a few years. The quality of limestone in the township is same to the one of Nayputaung, meeting the standard for producing ornaments.
As the quality of limestone in Nayputaung does not meet the required standard for making cement, Ministry of Industry-1 used the limestone in the area to make ornaments. But, the production was not a commercial success and stopped in 2006.

Rakhine State Union Solidarity and Development Association made proposal to build cement factories in Nayputaung and Gutaung-Kantaung areas to create job opportunities for locals, Ministry of Industry-1 assessed prospects for producing cement in the areas in 2005-2006. It was found that there are poor prospects for building cement factories in the areas, the minister said.

First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continues for ninth day
Raising and replying to queries, submitting proposals, holding discussions and approval sought at Amyotha Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - The first regular session of the Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the ninth day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

The speaker announced that the ninth-day session was valid as the attendance of 222 made up 99.55 per cent of 223 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

During the session, questions asked by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives were answered by the respective Union level organizations members.

U Maung Aye Tun of Rakhine State Constituency No.9 asked whether there is any plan to construct a pulp factory in Buthidaung Township as bamboo are abundant in the township and whether the State has a plan to implement cement production projects at limestone hills at Nayputaung and Gutaung-Kantaung areas in Taungup Township. U Paul Thang Thaing of Chin State Constituency No. 3 asked whether there is a plan for allowing tourists to visit Chin State. Dr. Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region constituency No.4 raised a question on a plan for extending community train services for public transportation in Yangon. U Khet Htein Nan of Kachin State constituency No.1 put a question about the plan upgrading Mandalay- Shwebo-Myitkyina Railroad to an all-weather road. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Soe Naing and Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min answered the respective questions.

Afterwards, Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint discussed proposals of U Paw Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency No.9 constituency about upgrading of the road between Gangaw and Razwa to an all-weather road and about upgrading of the suspension bridge between East Gangaw and West Gangaw to a bridge with a motor road.

He also discussed proposals of U Kyun Khan of Chin State constituency No.1 about building lowcost housing and letting government employees to buy them in installments.
After seeking the decision of the Hluttaw, the Speaker announced the conclusion of the session and holding of the tenthday session at 10 am tomorrow.

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee, Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee hold meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March-The First Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee held the first meetings at their offices of Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this afternoon.

Chairmen, secretaries and members of respective committees attended the meetings.

They participated in discussions on work programme of the committees, duties and rights of the committees.

EP-2 Minister replies to question of Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ye Tun from Thandwe Constituency

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March-At the session held today, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ye Tun from Thandwe Constituency in his question said that the township electric power supply committee was formed in 2003; that then users are charged from 450 to 1000 kyats for a unit, which means locals also have to share charges for the electricity used at the departmental rate by governmental departments; and that he wondered whether there is a plan to equalize electric power charges between Rakhine State and other Regions and States.

Minister for Electric Power No-2 U Khin Maung Myint responded that Rakhine State has not got electricity from the national grids yet; that but, a state office, four district offices, 18 township offices, three sub-township offices, and two town offices totaling 28 electrical engineer,s offices with 16 officers and 307 other ranks have been established to supply electricity.

Twenty-eight townships in Rakhine State including state capital Sittway, and three district level townships have 100 generators for which the government uses 29,590 gallons of fuel a month or 355,080 gallons a year; that the government also spends 1776.72 million kyats in 2010-2011 fiscal year for salaries of staff and generators, pylons, power stations, maintenance and other structures; that the government fund shows a loss of 453.6 million kayts a year to supply electricity to the townships in Rakhine State including 13 townships that get electricity two hours a day; that charge rates on a unit of electricity are various according to own programmes such as K 400 in Sittway, Kyaukpyu, MraukU, Manaung and Taungup, K 500 in Kyauktaw, Minbya and Yanbye, K 550 in Gwa, and K 600 in Thandwe; that there is no township in Rakhine State where electricity users are charged K 1000 a unit; that overall, K 400 a unit is a reasonable rate, but if fuel price goes up, the charge rate will also goes up; that when ongoing hydropower projects in Rakhine State are completed, the rates will go down to K 25 a unit for households and K 50 for enterprises; that the profit the ministry makes from electric power supply is very low; and that the government is carrying out non-profit projects in the national interests in that regard.
The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker said that U Ye Tun’s question carried a fact that Rakhine State has to share charges for the electricity used at the departmental rate by governmental departments; and that responsible persons should review that point.

**Transport Minister responds to queries on maintenance for blockage of water course in Kaladan River**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - In his question, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Paik Lin of Paletwa Constituency said that the water course of Kaladan River was blocked at 29 miles north of Paletwa of Chin State due to landslide in 1997.

He asked whether the department concerned would restore the water course as soon as possible, and he wanted to know when the plan would be implemented.

In his response, Minister for Transport U Thein Swe said that an official report on blockage of water course in Kaladan River due to landslide caused by earthquake in 1997 had not been submitted to the ministry. Kaladan River is shallow in summer and the current of river is speedier in the rainy season. So, any ship cannot run along it, but local motorboats run in it. An expert team will be sent to conduct feasibility study at the place where water course is blocked. If necessary, the State level authorities will carry out maintenance work depending on the report of the expert team. If it is concerned with local authorities, they will carry out the task.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw said that if Kaladan River has water course limits, other ways and means are to be sought and submitted for better transport of local people. As blockage of water course in Kaladan River due to landslide triggered by earthquake in 1997 was not reported, the Union level authorities did not know it. In the future, the important information and incidents are to be submitted to officials concerned at different levels.

**Rail Transportation Minister responds to question on arrangements for the convenience of passengers on Mandalay- Shwebo-Myitkyina railroad in all seasons**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - At the session of Amyotha Hluttaw held today, U Khet Htein Nan of Kachin State Constituency No-1 said that running of one-day trains on Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina railway is convenient for public transportation. He was delighted to see and thanked the government for construction of Katha- Bhamo and Myitkyina- Bhamo-Momeik-Namhsan railroads. But the accidents in which trains derailed and overturned happen along Meza-Bonchaung railroad section on Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina railroad in Indaw Township in Sagaing Region. So he asked about arrangements made for the convenience of passengers on Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina railroad in all seasons.

Regarding the question, Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min said that about 200,000 passengers are provided with 400 rail services of Myanmar Railways of the ministry daily. Depending on the maximum transportation of passengers and goods, Yangon-Mandalay railroad stands first on the list of priorities. Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad is second, Yangon- Mawlamyine-Ye is third and Yangon-Pyay is fourth.

More emphasis was placed on Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad section as people heavily relied on the railroad. In 2010-11, erosion of the banks between Namhkam and Bonchaung destroyed railroads after Nange creek was eroded by rainwater caused by heavy rains. The first time lasted from 26 to 29
September 2010 and the second time from 6 to 8 October 2010. Railway schedules were suspended for seven days.

According to the guidance given by the Head of State on cut of travel time from 24 hours to 16 hours on Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad, upgrading of railroad was carried out on 12 December, 2009.

60 pounds rail tracks were substituted with 75 pounds ones on 357 miles long Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad. 33% or 291312 out of 873936 wooden sleepers laid along Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad were substituted with concrete sleepers and substitutions are underway.

Repair works for maintenance of bridges were carried out and 1577900 cubic feet of paving stones were filled.

Watercourse of Nange creek was changed in order not to occur erosion of the banks of Nange creek between Namhkam and Bonchaung. Retaining walls totaling 245 feet long were built in three places and widening of the area on both sides of railroads and heavy maintenance works are being carried out.

He said that upgrading of Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad is gearing up for the convenience of passengers in all seasons.

**Construction Minister replies to proposal of U Paul Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency-9**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March- Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, responded to the proposal approved to be discussed by previous sessions “to construct motor road linking Paletwa and Matupi as soon as possible, tabled by Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Paul Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency-9 at Amyotha Hluttaw session today.

The minister said that 135 miles and three furlongs long Matupi-Paletwa Road comprises three furlongs long asphalt section, two miles and one furlong long gravel section and 132 miles and seven furlongs long earthen session. At present, Matupi-Paletwa Road cannot be carried out due to heavy work and regional situation. The people from Paletwa may go to Matupi along 33 miles and five furlongs long Paletwa-Kyauktaw section, 133 miles long Kyauktaw-An section, 66 miles long An-Padan section, 121 miles long Padan-Pauk junction section, 50 miles and two furlongs long Pauk junction-Mindat, and 102 miles long Mindat-Matupi section by car spending one and a half days.

Normally, it will be a two-night trip.

As the route between Paletwa and Matupi has been arranged, he requested to withdraw the motion to construct motor road linking Paletwa and Matupi as soon as possible.

U Paul Hlyan of Chin State Constituency-9 submitted to change his proposal to the question.

The session followed according to the agenda.

**Proposal to construct low-cost housing and sell them to staff in monthly installments replied**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March -Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied the proposal of U Zhun Kan of Chin State Constituency-1 “to construct low-cost housings and sell them to staff in monthly installments” which was approved to discuss by recent Hluttaw sessions at today’s regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw.
To construct low-cost housings and sell them to staff in monthly installments is a matter for the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and other related ministries as the salary needs to be balanced against the price of the housing and financial investment has to be funded in construction.

Currently in Chin State, three rental staff quarters have been built in Haka, Mindat and Fhlam. The staff quarters in Haka has 103 rooms - 98 rooms of 48 two-room buildings and five bungalows; that in Mindat has 82 rooms - 48 rooms of four-room buildings and 43 bungalows; and that in Falam has 74 rooms - 10 rooms of five two-room buildings and 64 bungalows. The staff with accommodation difficulties were roomed in 259 apartments in Chin State.

There is no plan at present to build low-cost housings in Chin State and sell them in installment. Regarding the matter related to construct low-cost housings and sell them to staff in monthly installments proposed by the MP, the representative was requested to withdraw the proposal as the State has arranged rental staff quarters, the minister explained.

U Zhun Kan of Chin State Constituency-1 submitted the withdrawal of the proposal. The Hluttaw approved the withdrawal of the proposal of U Zhun Kan of Chin State Constituency-1.

**UEC Chairman U Thein Soe responds to Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nelson (a) Sai Hsaung Hsi of Kyaukme Constituency**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Kyaukme Constituency U Nelson (a) Sai Hsaung Hsi asked about the preparations for byelections to fill the seats of the Hluttaw representatives who are going to take the executive duties including the presidentelect and the vice presidents-elect; when the elections will be held; and how the elections will be managed to be free and fair.

Regarding the question, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Thein Soe explained that the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker or the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker will inform the Union Election Commission to fill the vacant seats in accord with Pyithu Hluttaw Rules and Amyotha Hluttaw Rules (86). The UEC in accord with respective Hluttaw election Rule (16) will issue the following dates to fill the unoccupied seats:

- (a) Date of by-election in vacant constituencies
- (b) Starting date to submit the name list of Hluttaw candidate for vacant constituencies
- (c) Last date to submit the name list of Hluttaw candidate for vacant constituencies
- (d) Date of scrutinizing the name list of Hluttaw candidate
- (e) Last date to withdraw submission of the name list of Hluttaw candidate if there is any wish

Based on original list of eligible voters, the list of eligible voters will be compiled to be appropriate with current situation and preparedness for the election including polling stations and ballot boxes will be made.

Expected period for interim elections is around October and November 2011. To be free and fair, the interim elections will be held in accord with respective Hluttaw election Laws and Rules.
**Visit of tourists has been allowed to Chin State**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March- At today’s session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Paul Thang Thaing of Chin State Constituency- 3 said that the tourists are allowed to visit all 14 regions and states except Chin State in the nation. In Chin State, the tourists are allowed to visit Kanpetlet only.

However, he requested to allow the tourists not only to Kanpetlet but also to Haka and other regions of Chin State on their visits. As Chin State has less development with least income, the visits of tourists will help increase income. He raised a question whether the plan will be set to allow tourists to visit Chin State or not.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Soe Naing responded that tourists visit Chin State similar to other Regions and States. The tourists wishing to visit Myanmar took tourist visas from Myanmar embassies and consul general from their countries. At present, they are allowed to make trips in Myanmar with 28-day tourist visa.

On their arrival at Myanmar, tourists can freely tour Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, Inlay and beaches. For some regions and states with difficulties for far distance, limitation of duration, accommodation and meals, restriction of security, permissions are issued under scrutiny of respective committees and superior departments.

The organizer travel agencies give services of package tours under the permissions with tour guides. Regarding the visits to Chin State, tourists are allowed with the permissions of respective committees.

According to the ordinance issued on 10 April 1996 by the ministry concerned, the visit of tourists to Chin State was restricted.

After opening Natma Hill National Park in 1997, tourists were allowed to make visits to that area in 2002. Under the permissions of the ministry concerned, the tourists were allowed to visit Kanpetlet, Natma Hill and Mindat of Chin State in 2007 and then Ayeywa Camp, Ramsi Camp, 8th- Mile Camp, Mount Kennedy, Falam and Haka.

At present, the tourists make trips to there.

A total of 80 tourists visited Chin State in 2008, 151 in 2009, and 280 in 2010. The number of tourists is increasing in Chin State in 2011. In January 2011, a total of 112 tourists visited Chin State. As such, it is estimated that the number of tourists to Chin will increase this year.

The minister said that visit of tourists has been allowed to Chin State.

The number of tourists who visited Chin State is increasing year by year. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will provide assistance for improvement of tourism industry.

**Proposals submitted, approvals sought at Pyithu Hluttaw session**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March- Today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session made decisions on whether new proposals submitted by Hluttaw representatives should be discussed or not.

First, U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency submitted the proposal on taking census across the country.

It was seconded by U Sai Awan Sai Mai of Kehsi Constituency. After that, the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought to discuss it in Hluttaw, and then Hluttaw accepted the approval.
The proposal submitted by U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency will be discussed at tenthday Pyithu Hluttaw session held on 15 March, 2011 (Tuesday). Hluttaw announced that those representatives who want to discuss the above proposal are to register at Deputy Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw this evening.

Later on, U Khin Maung Yi (a) Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency submitted a proposal to prescribe a compulsory education system “Duty to Educated Children” at the primary and middle school levels for 100% literacy and new syllabuses and policies comprising examination systems for students to continue education in international universities in which the government and private education centres can participate.

The proposal was seconded by U Thein Aung of Thanbyuzayat Constituency.

After that, the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought to discuss it at Hluttaw, and then Hluttaw accepted the approval.

The abovementioned proposal will be discussed at tenth-day Pyithu Hluttaw session held on 15 March, 2011 (Tuesday). Hluttaw announced that those representatives who want to discuss the above-mentioned proposal are to register at Deputy Director- General of Pyithu Hluttaw this evening.