First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continues for eleventh day
Queries raised and replied, proposals submitted and discussed, approval sought at Pyithu Hluttaw session

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March - The first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the eleventh day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning, with the attendance of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

After taking position, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the validity and start of the eleventh-day first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw as 430 representatives out of 433 attended the session, accounting for 99.41 per cent.

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo responded to questions regarding “plan to upgrade Aungpan-Hammyintmo road” made by U Aung Thein of Ywangan Constituency; “maintaining and upgrading Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway” by U Kyaw Soe Lay of Mohnyin Constituency; “maintaining and upgrading Mandalay-Bhamo motor road” by U Tun Tun of Mansi Constituency; “how has motor road between Sumprabum and Putao been managed to become all-weather road” by U Yaw Di Dwe of Putao Constituency; and “right to freely cultivate and sell seasonal crops” by Sai Win Khine of Hsenwi Constituency.

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives discussed approved-to-discuss proposals by Pyithu Hluttaw “to review the pension scheme as there is a wide gap between the pension and current commodity prices and to make pension salary grades depending on two to three agewise groups” submitted by U Soe Win of Sangyoung Constituency and “to draft a bill that would allow farmers to legally store their crops at garages of governmental organizations and private garage at reasonable prices, paving ways for the farmers to earn stable price from crop production” submitted by U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Constituency.

Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun and Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein made clarifications and the Pyithu Hluttaw sought approval.

U Maung Nyo of Sittway Constituency submitted a proposal “to level power charges of Regions and States covered by national grid and other counterparts out it” and U Pwint Hsan of Mayangon Constituency, “to make necessary arrangements for drawing a new international level Social Security Insurance Law (draft) and to submit it to the second regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw”. Pyithu Hluttaw sought approval to discuss the submitted approvals.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced the end of the first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw for eleventh day and the twelfth-day session will be held at 10 am on 21 March (Monday).

The session came to an end at 1.15 pm.
First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continues
Raising and replying to queries, holding discussions on proposals,
and changing proposal into question done

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—The first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw was held for the 11th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning.

The attendees numbered 220, accounting for 98.65 per cent of the 223 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, announced Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint.

Union level organization members Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo and Minister for Energy U Lun Thi replied to the questions about two-week visa for foreigners entering Myanmar through border checkpoints including Chin State by U Zon Hlyal Htan from Chin State Constituency (2), about wrong statements in Citizenship Scrutiny Cards of citizens of national races including Shan by U Sai Mya Maung of Kachin State Constituency (10), and about distribution of fuel by Dr Myat Nyana Soe from Yangon Region Constituency (4).

Union level organization member Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint responded to the proposals Amyotha Hluttaw has approved for discussion: to form a board of experienced professionals to lay down the most appropriate ways to improve the health care in the health sector by U Steven Thabeik from Chin State Constituency (4), and to grant graduated Chin national doctors Sa Ma (physician licence) as soon as possible and assign more doctors to Chin State by U Paw Hlyan Lwin from Chin State Constituency (9). The hluttaw made decisions on the proposals.

U Paw Hlyan Lwin from Chin State Constituency (9) changed his proposal to upgrade Rezwa Sub-Township in Chin State to a township to a question.

The session ended at 12 noon. The 12th-day session takes place on 21 March.

Construction Minister answers question on upgrading of Aungban-Hanmyintmo road

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March - At today-session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Constituency put a question on upgrading of Aungban-Hanmyintmo road, a strategic road of Danu Self-Administered Zone with poor development to link Shan State (South) and upper Myanmar, saying that development of a region calls for better transport.

Regarding the question, Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied that 79-mile and one furlong long Hanmyintmo-Myogyi-Ywangan-Aungban road is a major road for the region to transport products of Aungban and Pindaya to Mandalay Region. It was upgraded to 12 feet wide tarred road by the Ministry of Construction.

The road surface was damaged by increase in running of machinery and trucks starting from 2004-05. The amounts of damage to road surface are one mile in Mandalay Region and nine miles in Shan State (South) totalling 10 miles.

During the 2010-11 fiscal year, upgrading of three-mile and six-furlong long road section in Shan State (South) was completed and the remaining six-mile and two-furlong will be upgraded in the 2011-12 fiscal year. This year, narrow parts of the road section were widened and road works will be continued in the coming fiscal year. Two reinforced concrete bridges were built.

Bridge No (1/7), Nwartat Bridge, on the road section in Mandalay Region was upgraded. One new bridge was built and six bridges upgraded. The abovementioned construction and maintenance works were carried out in the 2010-11 fiscal year only.
Similar works had already been carried out in previous years.

Now, the three-mile and six-furlong road section with rough surface was upgraded and the upgrading of remaining road sections is underway.

So the Ministry of Construction will carry out road works on priority yearly and upgrading of Hanmyintmo- Myogyi-Ywangan- Aungban road is underway.

**Construction Minister responds to question on maintenance of Mandalay-Bhamo road**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March - At today’s session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Tun Tun of Mansi Constituency said that the people are pleased for enjoying fruits of economic, social, education and health sectors as unprecedented smooth transport sector is being undertaken across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Local people of Kachin State including those of Mansi Township thanked the government for construction of Mandalay-Bhamo road between Kachin State and Mandalay Region.

As some parts of the road are damaged, the travellers face difficulties. In raising the question, he asked how the Mandalay-Bhamo Road will be maintained.

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, in his reply, said that there are two routes linking Mandalay and Bhamo-Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road as original road and Mandalay-Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road as the new one.

The 370-mile first one is being constructed by Asia World and Shwe Moe Thun Aung Companies through BOT system.

Asia World Co is constructing 24 feet wide asphalt road from Mandalay to Namkham while Shwe Moe Thun Aung Co, the 60-mile section from Namkham to Bhamo. The road comprises 325 miles and four furlongs long asphalt section, seven miles long gravel section and 37 miles and four furlongs long hard section. The new facility is 277 miles long Mandalay- Thabeikkyin-Tagaung- Bhamo road on the east bank of Ayeyawady River.

The new road passes through Thabeikkyin, Tagaung, Nga-Oh, Udaungtaung, Sinkhan and Hanhtet. The facility linking Mandalay and Sagaing Regions and Kachin State was commissioned on 11 May 2010. The road comprises 25 miles and five furlongs asphalt section, 167 miles and seven furlongs long gravel section.

A total of 397 bridges were also built on the road.

Of the, 460 feet long Sinkhan Bridge is of twoway RC floor type and 2330 feet long Shweli (Nga-Oh) Bridge, of twoway RC beam and floor type.

Union level organization member Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint responded to the proposals Amyotha Hluttaw has approved for discussion: to form a board of experienced professionals to lay down the most appropriate ways to improve the health care in the health sector by U Steven Thabeik from Chin State Constituency (4), and to grant graduated Chin national doctors Sa Ma (physician licence) as soon as possible and assign more doctors to Chin State by U Paw Hlyan Lwin from Chin State Constituency (9). The hluttaw made decisions on the proposals.

U Paw Hlyan Lwin from Chin State Constituency (9) changed his proposal to upgrade Rezwa Sub-Township in Chin State to a township to a question.

The session ended at 12 noon. The 12th-day session takes place on 21 March.
The Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No.8/2011
12th Waxing of Tabaung, 1372 ME
(16 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 the respective Hluttaw Election Laws and paragraph 77 of Rules, 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 respective Hluttaw Election Rules Paragraph 83 (a), designated them as election agents failed to submit the election expenses during the prescribed period, and in accord with the respective Hluttaw Election Law, shall not contest in the election as a Hluttaw candidate, declared as persons of distorted qualifications, in accord with the Section 88 of the Hluttaw Election Tribunal.

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 accord with the respective Hluttaw Election Rules Paragraph 83 (a), designated them as persons of distorted qualification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Hluttaw candidate</th>
<th>Election Agent</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>U Ko Ko Naing</td>
<td>Tamwary Township</td>
<td>Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>U Than Tun</td>
<td>Maung Win</td>
<td>Dagon Myothit (South) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<td>(c)</td>
<td>U Kyee Myint</td>
<td>Myaung Win</td>
<td>Dagon Myothit (East) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<td>(d)</td>
<td>Dr Min Myint</td>
<td>Kamayut Township</td>
<td>Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<td>(e)</td>
<td>U Tun Shwe</td>
<td>Thawtar</td>
<td>Kyauktan Township</td>
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<td>(f)</td>
<td>U Lone Sein</td>
<td>Tun Myint</td>
<td>Mayangon Township</td>
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<td>(g)</td>
<td>U Tin Lin</td>
<td>Kyauktan Township</td>
<td>Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<td>(h)</td>
<td>U Aung Kyaw Win</td>
<td>Daung Township</td>
<td>Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<td>(i)</td>
<td>U Thein Aung</td>
<td>Hmawby Township</td>
<td>Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<td>(j)</td>
<td>U Nyunt Shwe</td>
<td>Mg Mg Nyein</td>
<td>Hmawby Township</td>
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<td>(k)</td>
<td>U Khin Maung Htwe</td>
<td>Zaw Min Htwe</td>
<td>Hmawby Township</td>
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<td>(l)</td>
<td>U Saw Sai Nay Boi</td>
<td>Hmawby Township</td>
<td>Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<td>(m)</td>
<td>U Moe Tun (a)</td>
<td>Insein Township</td>
<td>Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<td>U Tun Min Latt</td>
<td>Insein Township</td>
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<td>U Kyaw Kyaw Min</td>
<td>Insein Township</td>
<td>Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<tr>
<td>(p)</td>
<td>U Tint Naing</td>
<td>Insein Township</td>
<td>Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. The Union Election Commission announced that the above mentioned Hluttaw candidates and their election agents are persons of distorted qualification according to Paragraph 84 of respective Hluttaw Election Rules after judging the decision of Election Tribunal.

5. It is hereby announced that Hluttaw candidates and 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

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 17 March, 2011
I&P Minister replies to question for some wrong descriptions of nationalities for Shan national races in CSC

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—At today’s session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Sai Mya Maung of Kachin State Constituency-10 said that wrong statement of nationalities were described in some Citizenship Scrutiny Cards issued to ethics of Shan national races. So, he asked how the wrong statements of nationalities as Bamar or other national races will be recorrected for offspring of national race parents who are no Bamar national.

In his response, Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo said that the applicant himself is to submit an application form and correctly fill in a report to change in a subject included in the personal history form (Naing) 2 of citizen to respective Immigration and National Registration Department, attached to one copy of original CV of applicant, one copy each of original and copied census inclusive of the name of applicant, one copied CSC of applicant, one copy each of identity card form (1) and CSC (Naing) 2, one copy each of CSC of parents and grandparents of both sides, one copy each of form (1) of identity cards and form (1)/(Naing) 2 of CSCs of parents and grandparents of both sides, one original endorsement copy of respective Ward/ Village PDC Chairman, one original endorsement copy of respective Township MPF, one original report (form 90/1/ NaNgaTha) and its two copies to change a subject included in the personal history form Naing (2).

The staff of respective Township INRD will examine the documents submitted by the applicant with office records. If it is correct, the head of Township Department will sign the documents and submit it to respective Region/State INRD.

The respective Region/State INRD will check the submitted file with the office records. If it is correct, the file will be signed in the form 90/1/ NaNgaTha and then it will be submitted again to the INRD (Head Office).

The above-mentioned file will be checked with office records of National Registration and Citizenship Branch of the head office of the department. If it is correct, the director-general allows the case to change type of nationality. The permission will be replied to respective township through respective Region/State INRD together with the case.

After connecting with the applicant, the respective township department recompiles necessary forms and amends the old forms under the permission of the department (head office) and then cancels the old CDC of the applicant. New CSC will be issued to the applicant after filling original number and necessaries with amendment of nationality. The old CSC will be inserted as a document into the personal history file of applicant.

Those wishing to amend nationalities, date of birth and names of parents and add the name are to contact respective INRDs for their applications.

Construction Minister replies to question about maintaining and upgrading of Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—At today’s session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Kyaw Soe Lay of Mohnyin Constituency put a question about the Government’s plans for maintenance and upgrading of Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway.

He said that residents in Mohnyin and Myitkyina townships have to rely on railways and motorways. Mandalay- Shwebo-Myitkyina motor road, in spite of having provided smooth transport between
Mandalay and Myitkyina for a certain period, is now damaged beyond repairs, causing delay in commodity flow and traveling.

In his response, Min- ister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint said that Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina Road is 359 miles in length and is the extension of Mandalay- Shwebo Road to Myitkyina from Shwebo.

The road came into existence in 1962 as earthen facility, and then was upgraded to gravel and then finally to 12-ft wide tarred road in December 1996. As soon as the tarred road was in commission, it has become the major road in the region and was recorded standard facility.

Although maintenance works were carried out yearly by superintending engineers of Shwebo, Katha, Mohnyin, and Myitkyina districts and townships under close supervision of the superintending engineers of Sagaing Region and Kachin State, the withstanding power of the road was decreased due to weak earth foundation, heavy rain, transport of heavy machinery to Phakant, and over-loaded trucks carrying timber logs.

To upgrade Shwebo- Myitkyina Road, Ministry of Construction is working in partnership with national private companies under B.O.T (Build, Operate, Transfer) System. Four partner companies- Shwetaung Co, Suhtupan Co, Khaingmathaw Pandaing Co, and Lido Highway Co are undertaking maintenance and upgrading works under B.O.T System. The first one is undertaking the road section between mile posts No. 27/0 and 77/4, the second one 140/0 and 168/0, the third one 168/0 and 257/0 and the last one 257/0 and 289/0.

Those companies are responsible for maintaining the original 12-ft wide tarred road, widening the road to 24-ft wide one with withstanding power of 60-ton load and constructing retaining walls, small and large bridges, conduits and box culverts.

Nine private national construction companies and two district-level construction groups of Public Works are undertaking the repair of 62 miles and 4 furlongs long Minwuntaung section from mile post Nos 77/4 to 140/0, the worst damaged road section on Mandalay- Shwebo-Myitkyina Road.

In parallel with road works, 428 bridges, large and small, are being upgraded. Zawchaung Bridge was commissioned in January 2011 as 180-ft long two-way broad crest type facility. Nankwing Bridge is also being upgraded to 350-ft long two-way RC type facility with withstand-ing power of 60-ton load and will be inaugurated soon. In addition, Manyut bailey bridge is being upgraded.

Whether a road can be used up to its full lifespan depends on how much the road users abide by law and have a sense of duty.

With over-loaded vehicles passing everyday, the road whose estimated lifespan is 10 years will be damaged just in two or three years. It is loss not only to the State but also to the locals. The minister asked locals via the representative to maintain the Union Highways in the region for durability.

The minister concluded that the ministry is upgrading Mandalay- Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway with added momentum as it is important to the State and the region.

He asked the representative to urge locals to maintain already-built infrastructures for their durability.
Health Minister responds to U Steven Thabeik's proposal

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March-At today’s Amyotha Hluttaw session, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint responded to the proposal “to form a board with the participation of experts for adopting the best system for health care service as it is weak” submitted by U Steven Thabeik of Chin State Constituency No.4.

The minister said that Ministry of Health is implementing development of health sector under the leadership of National Health Committee which is the highest health organization of the country, in line with one of four social objectives; that Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council acts as chairman of National Health Committee and the Committee is formed with 15 members including nine ministers and two deputy ministers from ministries related with Ministry of Health and two from other departments that policies and duties have been drafted; that the Committee is the highest organization relating with health affairs and adopts policy and laws to follow and; that to be able to solve health problems, Myanmar Academy of Medical Sciences is formed with experienced practitioners and gives advice on health problems.

He also said that other medical associations such as Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Dental Association and Myanmar Health Assistants Association are providing public health services in collaboration with Ministry of Health; that to implement tasks for development of health sector, two objectives has been laid down; that to be able to achieve these two objectives, health care services covering urban and rural areas as well as border areas, are being provided based on primary health care and National Health Committee is disseminating knowledge on seasonal diseases.

He explained that in Chin State, two 200-bed hospitals, two 100-bed hospitals, one 50-bed hospital, four 25-bed hospitals, 15 station hospitals, 57 health care centers, 9 maternal and child health care centers, two school health organizations and eight traditional medicine centers are proving health care services. In addition, nursing training school is nurturing the nurses; that five rural development tasks have been laid down and development of health sector in rural areas, which is one of five tasks, is being implemented by forming Rural Areas Development Supporting Committee.

The National Health Committee issues laws, bylaws and provisions on health from time to time.

In order to implement the objectives, treatment, public health care, disease prevention and control and prevention and epidemic control are being undertaken.

The minister explained that the representatives would understand his explanation, and so there is no need to continue to discuss the proposal. After that, U Steven Thabeik of Chin State Constituency No.4 said he would like to take decision only by vote so as to withdraw his proposal.

Afterwards, Hluttaw took decision by ballot with 20 favors, 172 against and 19 abstentions, and announced that Hluttaw declined to approve the proposal.

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

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March - Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint responded to the proposal approved to be discussed ‘to issue Sa Ma to graduated Chin male doctors as soon as possible and assign them to the regions of Chin State which are in need of doctors’ made by U Paul Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency-9 at the Amyotha Hluttaw session today.

The minister said that in the past, Universities of Medicine issued registrations of doctors (Sa Ma) to those who graduated with set qualifications only after they had performed their medical duties as service personnel for three years.
Since 2009, Sa Ma has been conferred on graduated doctors after they have been trained at refresher courses. Now, a total of 5498 doctors have obtained Sa Ma and 898 dental surgeons, Tha Kha after taking refresher courses. Arrangements are being made to issue Sa Ma soon to those who graduated after 2010 by conducting refresher courses for them. So, Sa Ma is being issued on a regular basis to all doctors, including Chin male doctors, who have graduated from Universities of Medicines with set qualifications.

At hospitals in Chin State, required specialists and assistant doctors have been appointed depending on the strength of doctors and health staff under the Ministry of Health. Doctors with various branches of medicine are being appointed at two People’s Hospitals (200-bed) and two People’s Hospital (100-bed).

Measures are also being taken to appoint more doctors at other hospitals.

Doctors who want to serve in Chin State are sent there only for a certain period and then they are assigned duties in the regions they like. When it comes to promotion, doctors carrying out their duties in Chin State are being promoted as a special right even before a prescribed duration of their service.

Plans for overseas study tours and performance of duties in foreign countries under the government-to-government programme are being prioritized for doctors who used to serve in Chin State.

Moreover, assistance is being rendered for entrance exams to take postgraduate courses. These plans are being made by the ministry as a special matter to make doctors willing to go to Chin State.

If regional bodies are to arrange meals, accommodation and transportation, health staff will be able to perform their public health duties more happily. Plans are under way to appoint 2014 assistant doctors and 185 dental surgeons soon in the whole nation. When appointments come, required doctors will be appointed in Chin State.

The midwives currently serving in the villages of Chin State have been sent by the ministry.

In addition, doctors are assigned duties in their own regions and states. There is no Chin national doctor from Chin State who is assigned duties in other states or regions. For ensuring the willingness of doctors to be in station hospitals, they are assigned duties in rotation for three months. As the clarification is perfect and complete, the proposal should be withdrawn, requested the minister.

U Paul Hlyan Lwin said he thanked the minister for his clarification. Yet, station hospitals and rural health centres in Chin State are short of doctors and health assistants. Due to climatic and geographical conditions, doctors from other regions find it difficult to live in Chin State. So, it is more suitable to appoint local doctors. Regarding the proposal, it will take the decision of the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker.

The speaker then declared the withdrawal of the first part of the proposal “to issue Sa Ma to graduated Chin male doctors as soon as possible” as it has been completely clarified by the minister and approval of the second part “to send Chin male doctors to the regions of Chin State which are in need of doctors” as it is in progress and it will continued to be implemented.

Proposal of Amyotha Hluttaw representative changed to question

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—At the today’s session of Amyotha Hluttaw, the Hluttaw Representative requested to change his original proposal to be submitted to the Amyotha Hluttaw into the question.

With regard to the proposal “to upgrade Rezwa Sub-Township of Chin State to Township level”, U Paul Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency-9 said that Rezwa is at the centre of Chin State and it was
designated as a subtownship under the border region development plan in 2002. The sub-township which is 105 miles from Gangaw, 45 miles from the Indian border, 105 miles each from Haka and Thantlang and 66 miles from Matupi.

The sub-township is located on about 9,000 acres. The successive governments undertook it to be designated as a township. At present, Rezwa, being a subtownship, is facilitated with depart-mental office, basic education high school and station hospital, and about 2,000 people are residing in the urban areas. So, it would not be difficult to designate the sub-township as township level.

As the Union Government and the State Government have emerged according to the Constitution, the abovementioned case must be submitted to the Union Government through the Chief minister. Therefore, he requested to change his proposal to be changed to the question.

Later, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw announced the change of proposal submitted by U Paul Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency-9 to the question.

Construction Minister replies to question about plans for construction of all-weather motor road between Sumprabum and Putao

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March-At today’s session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Yaw D Dwe of Putao Constituency put a question about plans of the Ministry of Construction for upgrading of motor road between Sumprabum and Putao to all-weather facility.

He said that in Kachin State, hydropower projects are under implementation along the waterways of Maykha and Malikha rivers to satisfy the energy demand of the nation. Those projects will not only provide electricity to the nation but also satisfy the energy demand for production industries, contributing to economic growth of the nation. Local residents who have faced difficulties in traveling for ages are overwhelmed with joy as 132 miles long motor road between Myitkyina and Sumprabum will be upgraded to concrete one for hydropower projects.

Residents of Putao have to rely on Myitkyina- Putao motor road and flights to travel and transport commodities to other regions including Myitkyina. But, motor roads are out of commission in monsoon, causing great inconvenience to locals.

The motor road between Myitkyina and Sumprabum is 218 miles long and 132 miles long section will be upgraded for the hydropower project, but 86 miles long road section is still in critical condition. He asked the Construction Ministry how the ministry has planed to upgrade the section to all-weather facility.

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint said that the ministry has laid down plans and working road by road, section by section and phase by phase to improve transportation service in Kachin State.

With one state superintendent engineer’s office, four district superintendent engineer’s offices, 20 township superintendent engineer’s offices, and nine subtownship engineer’s offices, road works are carried out in Kachin State.

Five special road construction groups, and one special bridge construction groups led by deputy superintendent engineers are assigned to improved the condition of roads and bridges in the region.

Myitkyina-Sumprabum- Putao Union Highway which is connected with Sumprabum- Putao Road is 218 miles long and since 1991, maintenance works were carried out with one special road construction group and Putao District Public Works. In 2005-2006 fiscal year, constriction groups of Public Works and local entrepreneurs could build the 24-ft wide hardcore road.
The road was then severely damaged due to heavy rainfall and three-axle trucks. So, the Ministry of Construction assigned six special road construction groups and two district Public Works which were fully equipped with manpower and machinery to upgrade Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Road in the 2006-2007 fiscal year. 100 engineers, 33 staff, 35 technicians, 460 drivers, 1600 temporary workers, and 233 units of heavy machines constituted the eight construction groups which have so far 41 miles 4 furlongs long tarred road, 162 miles 4 furlongs long gravel road, and 14 miles long hardcore road, totaling 218 miles and 726 under-50-ft bridges, 26 bridges between 50 ft and 100 ft in length, 10 bridges between 100-ft and 180-ft, and 11 above-180-ft bridges, totaling 773.

The ministry has also planned to upgrade 520 feet long Mulashidi Suspension Bridge which currently can cope with light vehicles to two-way broad crest type facility in coming fiscal year.

Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Union Highway has been upgraded to tarred one phase by phase. Now, China Power Investment (CPI) which is implementing hydropower project in Myitsone has proposed to construct a concrete road from Myitkyina to Sumprabum and Ministry of Construction will undertake Sumprabum and Putao sections.

So in the years to come, Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road will be better, said the minister who requested the local residents not to drive three-axle vehicles and over-loaded vehicles on the road.

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**Energy Minister responds to question on distribution of fuel**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March - At the session of Amyotha Hluttaw held today, Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No-4 said that it is found that although fuel stations were privatized in accord with the standards of market economy, only motor vehicles were allowed to buy fuel, and purchase of fuel with the use of containers once was banned. Although the Ministry of Energy issued a set of directives on purchase of fuel with the use of containers, it is found that some fuel stations did not follow the set of directives. Fuel is used in generators, engines used in cottage industries and farm machinery.

As fuel needed in cottage industries and farming is to be bought from vehicle owners, the black market has become large, making wide price gap. He asked a question about whether or not a system of direct distribution of fuel to customers can be introduced for ensuring decline in commodity price, swift flow of commodity and development of cottage industries and agriculture sector.

Regarding the question, Minister for Energy U Lun Thi replied that 260 fuel stations in States and Regions were transferred to private sector by National Privatization Commission, and the opening and sale of fuel at the stations started on 10 June 2010. The private-owned stations distributed fuels to motor vehicles and motorbikes. Now, the Ministry of Energy ordered the private-owned stations to sell diesel and gasoline to other sectors. Starting from February, the stations are selling fuels to other sectors freely.

He continued that the public can buy fuel which is sold at floating price as they wish. The Ministry of Energy is selling gasoline produced from our own oil refineries to the public at a low price through the stations.

About 10 million of gallons can be produced monthly and about one million of gallons went to state-owned sector and nine million of gallons to private-owned sector. It is noticeable that as the government is selling gasoline at a low price, it is cheaper than the street price of gasoline in world market. Nine million of gallons cannot meet fuel consumption in private sector. So the government planned to import needed gasoline.
Entrepreneurs were allowed to import 92 Ron gasoline and to sell it freely. So the public can buy the 92 Ron gasoline as they wish.

However, users preferred to more use home-made gasoline because it is cheap and common. It was found that owners of modern cars bought 92 Ron gasoline. Daily sale of 92 Ron gasoline has risen from 382 gallons in June 2010 to 49582 gallons on 15 March 2011.

Now, the number of stations has increased to 332. The government is encouraging to open more private-owned fuel stations in line with the laws at the necessary places in States and Regions in order to distribute fuels to the public directly across the nation.

U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State Constituency (2) asks if government preparing to allow foreigners to enter Myanmar through border-crossing points and stay for at least two weeks

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March-At today’s session of Amyotha Hluttaw, U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State Constituency (2) put a question about the length of stay permit for foreigners who come into Myanmar through border gates.

He said that currently, foreigners are only allowed to enter Myanmar with permit of respective committees, which causes restriction on number of visitors to Myanmar. At present in Chin State, foreigners are allowed to enter Myanmar through Reed Gate for a dayperiod.

But, if foreigners are allowed to stay in Myanmar for two weeks, it would contribute business and jobs in hotel industry, transportation service, and tourism industry. He asked whether foreigners are allowed to enter Myanmar through border gates and allowed to stay in Myanmar for at least two weeks.

Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo replied that although Myanmar and India have not reached an agreement on border-crossing, the two nations have understanding that those residing in border regions can cross the each other’s border legally. Myanmar-India border gates were commissioned in Tamu of Sagaing Region, and Falam of Chin State in 1989 and entries and departures are permitted through those gates with certain charges for crossing the border. According to direction of Announcement 066/1(2)-1/SLORC dated 7 February, 1995 issued by State Law and Order Restoration Council, foreigners are allowed to visit Myanmar for a day- period since 22 February 1995 with border-crossing permit.

Myanmar has singed agreements with her neighbours such as China, Laos, and Bangladesh for crossing borders.

Entries and departures are permitted in compliance with border regions management and cooperation agreement signed with China on 25, March 1997.

Visitors are allowed to make six-night seven-day trips through entrances/exits at Muse, Kyugup, Chinshwehaw, Kanpeikti, Mongla, Lwejel, Yanlonkyaing, and Namhkam covered by the agreement to border district, relevant-ministry-permitted citizens of the neighbours and third countries are permitted for 13-night 14-day trips through the border crossing, visa-holders are allowed depart from other exits other than the border-crossing points they have entered with the recommendation of the relevant ministry and the permission of the department concern.

Entries and departures are permitted in compliance with border regions management and cooperation agreement signed with Thailand on 16, May 1997. Visitors are allowed to make six-night seven day trips through entrances/exits at Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung covered by the agreement to border district, relevant-ministry-permitted citizens of the neighbours and third countries are permitted for 13-
night 14-day trips through the border crossing, visa-holders are allowed depart from other exits other than the border-crossing points they have entered with the recommendation of the relevant ministry and the permission of the department concern.

Entries and departures are permitted in compliance with border regions management and cooperation agreement signed with Laos on 29, March 1997. Visitors are allowed to make five-night six-day trips through entrance/exit at Wanpon covered by the agreement to border district, foreigners holding visas and passports are allowed to enter Myanmar for a day-period.

Entries and departures are permitted in compliance with border regions management and cooperation agreement signed with Bangladesh on 19, December 1980. Visitors are allowed to make six-night seven-day trips through entrances/exits at Maungtaw and Sittway covered by the agreement to Maungtaw, and Bangladeshi traders holding visas along with recommendation of the Bangladeshi Traders Association under the permission of Foreign Policy Committee Meeting No (6/2004) are permitted for 13-night 14-day trips to Sittway.

So, regarding entries and departures through border-crossing points of Myanmar, citizens of neighbours residing at border areas and third countries are permitted to enter and depart according to MOUs between Myanmar and neighbours, and there is no discrimination against regions or states. India and Myanmar are still negotiating in detail to reach agreement on border-crossing and thus the representative's proposal would be considered only after the two nations have reached the agreement.-MNA

**Government and Ministry of Finance and Revenue will review and deal with pension rates in line with the constitution, existing laws and procedures**

Proposal of U Soe Win from Sangyoung Constituency judged

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March -At today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session, five representatives discussed the proposal of U Soe Win from Sangyoung Constituency: to increase previous pensions in proportion to present consumers’ prices.

U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw Constituency in his discussion said that despite increases in salaries, pensions of old pensioners have not increased, and in consequence, previous pensions are no longer proportionate to present consumers’ prices; that so, old pensioners should be provided with additional cash in proportion to their salary rates; that in a developed country, the government is responsible for caring for the aged; and that therefore, he is in support of the proposal.

U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency said that the proposal of U Soe Win is the same as the question asked by Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn of Namkham Constituency on 10 March, and the Union level organization member concerned has answered the question; that what should be done is to boost spirit of workmanship of new generations, technology and capitals; and that if salaries and pensions are increased indiscriminately, the outcome is nothing but inflation.

U Thein Yi of Htantabin Constituency said that Minister for Finance and Revenue responded to the similar proposal at the seventhday session of Pyithu Hluttaw on 10 March; that according to Article 26 (b) of the constitution, the new government is responsible for such social affairs; that according to Pyithu Hluttaw Rule 28 (j), a case already decided shall not be submitted again; and that U Soe Win’s proposal should not be under further discussion.
U Tha Sein of Kyauktaw Constituency said that today’s pensions are of two types: old and new; that some pensions are as low as 200 to 300 kyats, which is not enough for even bus fare; that commodity prices are going up and the government is the only organization that can ease the suffering of old pensioners; and that he is in support of the proposal.

U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Palaw Constituency said that the minister has already explained the matter; that it is to take into consideration undesirable effects of salary increase; and that so U Soe Win’s proposal should not be submitted for discussion yet.

Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun said that from 1948 onwards, the government increased salary rates and pension rates in accordance with the existing laws in 1972, 1989, 2000, 2006 and 2010; that the government granted cost of living allowance and additional cash assistance to pensioners in 1977, increased pensions by 25 percent in 1993, and doubled pensions in 2000; that it implies that with national development, the government adopted plans to improve the living conditions of service personnel; that the government will consider increasing pension rates based on national development, inflation rate, revolving funds, commodity prices and GDP; and that he requested the resource person withdraw this proposal.

The speaker said that the proposal is nearly similar to the previous one, but he allowed discussions about it in the hope of broader views and comments; that he thanked the resource person and participants; that the government and the ministry will review and deal with matters related to pensions in line with the constitution, existing laws and procedures based on subjective conditions; and that he asked U Soe Win about his stance.

U Soe Win of Sangyoung Constituency said that he is glad to know that pension rates will be under review and discussion in future; and reported that he does not want to carry on his proposal.

The Hluttaw accepted his report, and declared that there is no need to continue the proposal.

**Commerce Minister responses to proposal of U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Constituency**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March – Four Hluttaw representatives responded to the proposal approved to be discussed to draft a bill that would allow farmers to keep their crops at government organizations and private warehouses at reasonable prices, paving the way for farmers to earn stable price from crop production, made by U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Constituency at today’s session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

First, U Myo Thant of Yedashe Constituency said it is difficult to draft such a bill for various reasons such as difficulties in dealing with the staff, sorting various strains of a single crop, the weight and quality of crops that can decease with the passage of time, standardization of them and getting warehouses to stockpile crops from across the country, the possibility of damage to crops due to natural disasters, difficulty in dealing with different kinds of crops despite manageable keeping of them in some regions and other difficulties like services and transportation.

U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency said other points should be considered such as purchasing of crops at unreduced price with public budget without interest, bearing some of the warehouse keeping costs and purchasing of crops when prices are going up.

This point is not in conformity with Para-35 of the constitution ‘The economic system of the Union is market economic system.

A small nation like Japan, when engaging in cultivation at a high cost for massproduction, seeks cash assistance. Japan uses such a system for national food security fearing that Japanese would no longer engage in paddy growing although importation is double costeffective.
But that system is not suitable for Myanmar.

As prescribed in Para-23 of the constitution saying ‘The Union shall assist peasants to obtain equitable value of their agricultural produce’, the State will employ suitable methods to address the issue.

U Saw Thein Aung of Hlingbwe Constituency said by nature, farmers are content with their reasonable profits. They lack competitiveness to trade openly in accord with the market economy system.

Speculators can only play markets. So, minimum prices for crops are necessary and it is required of farmers to keep their crops to get stable prices. Therefore, it is necessary for peasants to keep their crops at State- or private-owned warehouses legally. By doing so, both sides will get benefits and markets can easily be sought. Hence, he seconded the proposal of U Aung Zin, added U Saw Thein Aung.

U Ko Gyi of Aungmyethazan Constituency said although the aim of proposal is visionary, there are some points to be considered. Myanmar is a multi-crop producer and will get regular export earnings when exporting its crops. If stockpiled, the flow of export of those crops will cease. Besides, commodity flow of domestic brokerages will stop. With the passage of time, their quality will wane and they will become old crops. In the global market, prices of old crops are far less than those of new crops. So, the cost of warehouse keeping will increase and there will be more expenses than profits.

Rather than keeping crops in the long term, exportation of finished products with value added is more effective for peasants to earn more. Therefore, the proposal of U Aung Zin is not appropriate to be approved.

Regarding the proposal, Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein said the first point of the proposal is to draft a bill that can guarantee the insurance of annual paddy crop. According to Myanma Insurance under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, crop insurance is not adopted yet in Myanmar. It cannot be accepted as there are difficulties in assessing value, being vulnerable to damage and assessing the level of damage. So, the proposal is not in conformity with the insurance laws and procedures.

Regarding the second point of the proposal, in accord with Para-35 of the 2008 constitution, the State will practise the market economy system. So, the government will not interfere with private assets and businesses. Only the private sector will trade freely in accordance with the market economy system. At present, regional millers, brokers and peasants are engaging in keeping, storing and trading in crops and price-accessing.

It is hoped that U Aung Zin might have made such a proposal in the interest of peasants because in doing so, they will get no worthy prices due to low prices given by brokers, market monopolization and malpractices.

Section 23 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar says that the Union shall enact necessary laws to protect the rights of the peasants and assist peasants to obtain equitable value of their agricultural produce. The proposal of U Aung Zin is suitable to the rights of the peasants prescribed in the Constitution. But only if there is an agreement between a giver and a receiver in accord with their wish and pledges should the matter of keeping crops of a peasant at the government or organization be carried out. Government’s intervention in the matter could lead to malpractices of government’s rice purchasing center and warehouses, resentment of peasants, loss and wastage and crimes we experienced in the past. Besides, it would be required to appoint many staff to manage warehouses in order to keep a large amount of crops without having any loss and wastage.

As state-owned warehouses have been privatized, there would be difficult for the governmental department.
Consideration should be given to the issue of management on arguments, unwanted wastage and malpractice. As efforts are being made to get good prices for crops which took four or five months to grow by as value added products in international, consideration should be given to the matter of keeping crops for a long time because it could not get good price due to low quality, falling price and loss and wastage. In the market, commodity flow and capital flow are important for economic progress. So the more we facilitate commodity flow and trading, the more benefits we get.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, it seems that selling rice in good price after keeping them at the government and organization at reasonable price contributes to rural economic growth. But there would be difficulties such as lack of enough warehouses, storage space for various kinds of crops and capital, taking time to earn trust of peasant, uncertainty about crop price and difficulty in keeping crops not to meet loss and wastage.

That’s why he discussed the proposal should not be approved because, in practical terms, there would be many difficulties.

The speaker said all have understood well as the four representatives and the minister had made it clear to the proposal. In holding discussions, the constitution must be respected and the public interest must also be considered. So, the stance of U Aung Zin is to be known.

Then, U Aung Zin thanked the participants and the minister for clarification and submitted the withdrawal of the proposal.

The speaker approved the withdrawal with the consent of the Hluttaw.

**MPs agree to discuss promulgation of new comprehensive Social Security Insurance Law**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March - At today’s Pyithu Hluttaw (People’s Parliament) session MPs discussed whether new proposals were acceptable to the Hluttaw for further discussions.

First, U Maung Nyo of Sittway Constituency submitted a proposal “to level power charges of Regions and States covered by the national power grid and Regions and States not covered by it yet at equal rate”.

The motion was seconded by Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency. The Hluttaw accepted the proposal.

The proposal will be discussed at the twelfthday session on 21 March (Monday). MPs wishing to discuss the topic may register themselves at the deputy director-general of the Pyithu Hluttaw this evening.

U Pwint Hsan of Mayangon Constituency tabled a motion “to make necessary arrangements for drawing a new international level Social Security Insurance Law (draft) and to submit it to the second regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw”.

U Pwint Hsan refered to the Section 96 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which says “The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall have the right to enact laws for the entire or any part of the Union related to matters prescribed in Schedule One of the Union Legislative List”.

He said that subparagraph (q) of the Paragraph (9) ‘Social Sector’ stated the promulgation of a social security insurance law.

The MP cited the Section 24 of the constitution “The Union shall enact necessary laws to protect the
rights of workers”; the Section 26 (b) “The Union shall enact necessary laws for Civil Services personnel to have security and sufficiency of food, clothing and shelter, to get maternity benefits for married women in service, and to ease livelihood for welfare of retired Service personnel”; the Section 28 (a) “The Union shall earnestly strive to improve education and health of the people”; Section 31 “The Union shall, to the extent possible, assist to reduce unemployment among the people”; the Section 32 (a) “The Union shall care for mothers and children, orphans, fallen Defence Services personnel’s children, the aged and the disabled”; and the Section 351 “Mothers, children and expectant women shall enjoy equal rights as prescribed by law”.

He went on to say that the existing Social Security Act, 1954, covered sickness, maternity, employment injury benefit and funeral grant for only the insured workers; and that the financial value of the benefit was small when compared with current commodity prices, adding, they were the two possible reasons behind the failure to win appropriate trust of the majority of employers and employees. Of the worker population of Myanmar only over 500,000 were covered by the Social Security Scheme, he said, calling for the promulgation of a more comprehensive law.

Accordingly, the MP said that he was in favour of enacting a new Social Security Insurance Law covering disability due to sickness, old age pension, lump sum survivor’s benefit, unemployment benefit, skill training and employment schemes, health care inclusive of both the fee-payer employers and employees apart from the existing benefits as in the social security projects of 150 countries including some member states of the ASEAN and neighbouring countries.

The proposal “to make necessary arrangements for drawing a new international level Social Security Insurance Law (draft) and to submit it to the second regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw” was submitted to fulfill the abovementioned requirements, U Pwint Hsang explained.

The motion was seconded by U Tin Myint of Taze Constituency.

The Hluttaw accepted the proposal.

The proposal will be discussed at the twelfth day session on 21 March (Monday). Those wishing to discuss the topic may register themselves at the deputy director-general of Pyithu Hluttaw this evening.