NAY PYI TAW, 24 March-First regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for 14th day at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today. It was attended by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

After taking the position, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint announced the validity and start of 14th-day first regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as 654 out of 656 representatives attended the session, accounting for 99.7 per cent of attendance.

Members of union level organization Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo, Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Attorney- General U Aye Maung, Minster for Electric Power No.1 U Zaw Min and Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein answered queries raised by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than of Shan State Constituency No.2 on “growing summer paddy”, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon Constituency on “supervision for ensuring quality fertilizer”, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Zung Hlei Thang of Chin State Constituency No.2 on “suspension of building Falam-Reed motorway”, Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No.7 on “multi-party democracy system”, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency-6 on “electricity generation and power supply project” and Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Thaung of Taungtha Constituency on “whether there is scholarship programme to launch in education sector”.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Htay Oo of Hinthada Constituency submitted proposal on“Pyidaungsu Hluttaw opposes economic sanction on Myanmar”; Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ye Tun (a) U Min Tun of Hsipaw Constituency, “to do extensive study by forming commission including outside scholars to carry out necessary reform in order to implement market-oriented economic system and call on the government to form an union-level commission in order to assist the government by compiling suggestions and papers”; Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency, “to collect macroeconomic index that plays an important role in the country’s economic management through accurate information and call on the government to form national commission for economic management in order to accurately calculate GDP and call on the government for extension of special economic zones.” Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sought the approval.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the end of the 14th-day first regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the 15th-day first regular session will be held at 10 am on 25 March (friday).

The session came to an end at 1 pm.
EP-1 Minister answers question about electricity generation, power supply projects

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March – Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency-6 raised a question at today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session. He said it is learnt that at the confluence of the Ayeyawady River, the largest hydropower project with 6000 megawatts of installation power is being implemented. It is also found in news that a number of hydropower projects are being implemented at Maykha-Maylikha basin, Thanlwin, Chindwin, Sittoung and Rakhine State. So, he added he believed Myanmar will enjoy adequate electricity in a few years. He would like to know about electricity generation and power supply projects in detail, he said.

The farmers and people of Ayeyawady Region engage in agricultural, economic and social affairs relying on the Ayeyawady River. He is concerned that Ayeyawady Myitsone project may affect the areas along the downstream of the river. This is why he wanted to know what kind of loss and damage the project might cause. And if so, he asked what measures would be taken and how the people would have to prepare.

In response, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min said as for the first question, the ministry is mainly responsible for implementing power supply projects in order to generate electricity. When the Tatmadaw government started assuming State duties in 1988, there were two hydropower stations and seven gas-fired power stations totalling nine with 529 megawatts of generating capacity in Myanmar. Now, the country has 16 hydropower plants, one coal-fired power plant and 14 gas-fired power plants totalling 31 with 3285 megawatts of generating capacity. Therefore, more 22 stations have been built with more 2756 megawatts of generating capacity. The government has been implementing a 30-year long-term strategic power project since 2001. Large-scale projects usually take five to ten years to complete due to complicated technology, geological conditions, mechanical requirements and budgets. However, with the projects being implemented on a yearly basis, a project or more are completed every year.

With the aim of generating more electricity in a short time, the government is implementing the projects in three ways – projects implemented by related ministries, projects implemented companies of national entrepreneurs and projects jointly implemented by ministries and foreign companies by inviting foreign investments. There are altogether 68 projects with 45568 megawatts of generating capacity being undertaken– 15 by EP-1 Ministry, nine by national entrepreneurs and 44 by joint-venture. These projects will significantly increase electricity generation of the nation.

Concerning the second question, the minister said the issues of natural environment and relocation are considered as a special matter. At the site of Myitsone project, there are 91 inches of annual rainfall. The average flow of water to the river is 128.52 million acre feet per year. The dam to be constructed is of concrete face rock-fill type with 4300 feet in length, 458 feet in height and 9.788 million acre feet of water storage capacity. The amount of storage is 7.6 percent of the flow into the river. So, 92.4 percent of the flow will keep flowing to the river. The water stored in Myitsone Dam will flow to the Ayeyawady River through a drain when generators start running. Thus, agricultural, economic and social matters relying on the river will not have any effects. When there is less water flowing to rivers as they are dammed, especially in the hot season, the amount of flowing sea water increase and agricultural works can be affected. As Myitsone Dam is a hydropower project, generator will be running in the hot season and the water from the drain will regularly flow into the river. When electricity is generated upon completion of the project, the water level of Ayeyawady River will rise 1.5 to 2 feet even in summer. That is why the flow of salt water can be prevented more and watercourse will be better.

Therefore, the project cannot produce any negative effects at all, the minister concluded.
Construction Minister replies to question on suspension of upgrading Reed-Falam road

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March- At Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session today, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Zung Hlei Thang of Chin State Constituency No-2 said that Chin State and Chin nationals had the benefits from Falam-Reed motorway, a border trade route. But the road was damaged beyond repair by landslide, erosion and heavy traffic.

Indian and Myanmar governments had made agreement to upgrade the road as a border trade road by the Indian side.

Road Department of India sought a road axis from Reed to Falam commencing from July 2005 and the road work was completed on April 2006. But it was a mere axis road. He said he would like to know the reason why the road construction was suspended.

Regarding the question, Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied that the government is endeavouring not only to ensure allround developments in States and Regions but to facilitate border trade links for development of border regions.

There are two roads- Falam-Reed road and Falam-Tiddim- linking between Falam and Reed in border area.

Chief Secretary of Mizoram State of India and officials of Ministry of Construction held discussions on upgrading of Falam-Reed road into border trade road in Monywa in 1994.

Although land survey work was completed, the ministry is making coordination with India government to continue road work.

The downhill 64-mile and two-furlong long Falam-Reed road could not be used as trade route and it is being used as inter-township road. Upgrading and maintenance works are being carried out by Falam District Construction Group of the ministry.

Falam-Tiddim-Reed road is 107 miles and five furlong long. The 54 miles and seven furlong long road section was upgraded to tarred one and the remaining were gravel and earth ones. It is all-weather road for jeep and mini-buses can run on the road in open season.

It is found that Falam-Tiddim-Reed road gives more benefits for local people than Falam-Reed border trade road. Both roads have same driving time, but the Falam-Tiddim, Reed road with gentle slope contributes towards smooth and secure of transport. So priority was given to upgrade Falam-Tiddim-Reed road.

Plans are underway to upgrade the road section of Falam-Tiddim-Reed by Myanmar national races companies in cooperation with India. Upgrading works are being carried out by the ministry while paper works are underway to get cash assistance from India. Road Maintenance groups are assigned to tackle transport problems in rainy season.

He continued he would like to present yearly- collected index of the ministry.

The index is based on collected data through thousands of people, total length of road and number of vehicles.

With regard to the index based on figures collected in 2010, the ratio of the population to the length of roads in Chin State was 1000 people:2.02 miles of roads and the ratio of length of roads to number of vehicle was one vehicle:3.49 miles of road.

Mandalay Region has 1000 people: 0.17 miles of roads, and one vehicle:0.02 mile of road; and Yangon Region has 1000 people:0.09 mile of road, and one vehicle:0.01 mile of road.
It is found that Chin State is better in index compared with other Regions.

According to the index of the ministry, the government is carrying out for development of Chin State in all sectors.

Plans are underway to upgrade Tiddim-Reed road as a first priority. As a second priority, upgrading of Falam-Tiddim road is under coordination with the Indian government. The people from Falam may travel to Reed along Falam-Tiddim-Reed road. Arrangements are being made to upgrade Falam-Reed road by the ministry depending on the fund of the ministry.

A & I Minister replies to question about quality control of fertilizers

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March-At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Tun of Kyaungkon Constituency said that fertilizer is necessary for boosting per acre yield of crops, and asked what the government will do to make sure that fertilizers meet the standards.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo in his reply said that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation enact Fertilizers Law on 1 October 2002, and Procedures on Fertilizers on 1 July 2007. The Fertilizers Committee has been formed with the deputy minister for Agriculture and Irrigation as the chairman, and Fertilizer Technical Group. The ministry issues registration cards and licences for producing, importing or exporting fertilizers. It also examines samples of fertilizers on market.

The ministry is taking measures for designating the amount of fertilizers for an acre of land and giving talks on use of fertilizers.

The government established Myaungdaga Urea Fertilizer Plant in December 2010 and Pathein Urea Fertilizer Plant in January 2011 in addition to Kyawswa, Sale and Kyungyaung urea fertilizer plants to satisfy the domestic demand. More urea fertilizer plants will be built according to the conditions.

Imported fertilizers and local organic and inorganic fertilizers are examined for quality control.

The ministry is rendering assistance for production of natural fertilizers such as leaf humus fertilizer, vermicompost fertilizer, cow dung and bat guano. It will take measures for taking action in accordance with the law against those who produce substandard fertilizers, imitate fertilizers and disqualified fertilizers.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives submit proposals

Approval sought at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to discuss proposals

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March-The regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw today sought approval for accepting new proposals submitted Hluttaw representatives to discuss them.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htay Oo of Hinthada Constituency submitted a proposal that this Hluttaw objects the economic sanctions imposed against Myanmar. He said that all the persons wishing to serve the interest of the nation and the people do not accept the sanctions against Myanmar. Therefore, he opposed the sanctions in accord with the wishes of the people. He said that he welcomes positive activities for development of social-economic status of the State and the people and all the people are to strive for successfully overcoming the obstacles and sanctions through collaborative efforts.

Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay of Launglon Constituency seconded the proposal.

The Hluttaw sought the approval to discuss the submitted proposal and decided to discuss it.
The Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the proposal are to enlist at the Director-General of the Hluttaw Office after today’s session.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Ye Tun (a) U Min Tun of Hsipaw Constituency said that although he wanted to submit the proposal “to urge the government for forming a Union level commission with the participation of outside scholars to be able to support the government with wider observations, suggestions and papers so as to carry out necessary reformation in realizing the market-oriented economic system in conformity with the new system of the State”, he knew arrangements have been made for formation of Hluttaw committees and joint committees to submit executive and legislative matters, national races affairs, economic, financial, social and foreign affairs and others. Therefore, he said that he did not want to submit his proposal to the Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency-4 submitted a proposal that “he called on the government to collect special important microeconomic index into country’s economic management through accurate information and to form a national commission for economic management to accurately calculate GDP”.

U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency-3 seconded the proposal.

After making clarification on his proposal, Dr Myat Nyana Soe submitted that he would like to amend his proposal. According to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule 73 (a), the amendment of the proposal is to be sent to the Hluttaw at least three days ahead. So the proposal of the representative was not in line with the rules.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sought the approval to discuss the submitted proposal and announced that the proposal was cancelled as the Hluttaw disagreed to the proposal because the proposal was not in line with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw rules and the matters related to the proposal are being undertaken by the State at present.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency-4 submitted a proposal that “he called on the government to extend special economic zones”.

U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State Constituency-2 seconded the proposal.

In seeking the approval at the Hluttaw, the government has promulgated the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law, and the Dawei Special Economic Zone Law. At present, the government is undertaking the tasks to extend special economic zones and has the completed plans to successfully carry out the tasks.

Afterwards, the Hluttaw took decision by vote with 139 for, 435 against and 60 abstentions that Hluttaw declined to approve the proposal.

**Attorney-General replies to question on multi-party democracy system**

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March-At today’s session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency-7 asked whether the government’s party and opposition party will be separated in realizing the discipline-flourishing democracy in line with the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; whether all the political parties should cooperate among them based on same policies and goals; and whether it should form the multi-party government based on the above-mentioned questions.

Attorney-General U Aye Maung replied that Section 7 in the Chapter-I Basic Principles of the Union in the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states that the Union practices genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system. Section 405 in the Chapter-X Political Parties states that a
political party shall accept and practise a genuine and discipline-flourishing multi-party democratic system. According to the provisions, a political party must accept and practise a genuine and discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system; and Hluttaw representatives from political parties of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region and State Hluttaw are working in concert for realizing the national politics at respective Hluttaws, upholding Our Three Main National Causes. At the respective Hluttaws, two Pyithu Hluttaw representatives of National Unity Party, one of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, and one of Unity and Democracy Party (Kachin State) (Sa Da Ka) were elected in Kachin State; one of Kayin Peoples Party and two of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party in Kayin State; two of Chin Progressive Party and two of Chin National Party in Chin State; three of NUP in Sagaing Region, two of NUP in Bago Region, one of NUP in Magway Region, one of NUP and three of All Mon Region Democracy Party in Mon State; nine of Rakhine National Development Party in Rakhine State; eight of National Democratic Force in Yangon Region, two of NUP, 17 of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, three of Pa-O National Organization, two of “Wa” Democratic Party, one of Inn National Development Party, one of Taung (Palaung) National Party and one independent representative in Shan State; one of NUP in Ayeyawady Region.

At the Amyotha Hluttaw, three representatives of NUP, one of SNDP, one of UDP (Kachin State) (Sa Da Ka) and one independent representative were elected in Kachin State; one of Kayin Peoples Party, one of Kayin State Democracy and Development Party, one of All Mon Region Democracy Party and three of Phalon (Sawaw) Democratic Party in Kayin State; four of Chin Progressive Party and two of Chin National Party in Chin State; one of NUP in Sagaing Region, one of NUP and three of All Mon Region Democracy Party in Mon State; four of NDF in Yangon Region; two of SNDP, one of Taung (Palaung) National Party, one of Pa-O National Organization and one of “Wa” Democratic Party in Shan State. At the Region/State Hluttaws, four national race representatives, 11 of NUP, four of SNDP, two of UDP (Kachin State) (Sa Da Ka) and one independent representative were elected in Kachin State; one national race representative in Kayah State; three national race representatives, two of KPP, one of KSDDP, two of AMRDP, four of Phalon (Sawaw) Democratic Party and one independent representative in Kayin State; five of CPP, five of CNP and one of National Races Development Party in Chin State; two national race representatives, eight of NUP and one of CPP in Sagaing Region; one national race representative and one of NUP in Taninthayi Region, one national race representative, five of NUP and one of KPP in Bago Region; one of national race representative and four of NUP in Magway Region; one national race representative, one of Democratic Party (Myanmar) and one of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party in Mandalay Region; three national representatives, two of NUP and seven of All Mon Region Democracy Party in Mon State; one national race representative, one of NUP, 18 of RNDP and two of National Progressive Democratic Party in Rakhine State; two national race representatives, eight of NUP, two of Democratic Party (Myanmar), four of NDF, one of KPP, one of RNDP and one of 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) in Yangon Region; seven national race representatives, one of NUP, 31 of SNDP, two of Kayan National Party, four of Taung (Palaung) National Party, three of Inn National Development Party, six of Pa-O National Organization, one of Lahu National Development Party, three of “Wa” Democratic Party and two independent representatives in Shan State; two national race representatives and six of NUP in Ayeyawady Region.

Therefore, the government’s party and opposition party are not separated at the Hluttaws.

In forming the Bill Committees, the Public Accounts Committees and the Rights Committees at the respective Hluttaws, the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee comprises Daw Nan Wah Nu of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, U Thaung of NUP, U Ba Shein of Rakhine Nationalities Development Party, U Ngun Moun of Chin National Party and Daw Dwe Bu of Unity and Democracy Party (Kachin State) (Sa Da Ka) in addition to USDP members. The Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee
The Union government is an organization that is forging the national politics in accord with the Constitution and relevant laws. According to the Constitution, eligible persons from Hluttaw representatives and non-Hluttaw representatives can be appointed as Union Ministers or Region/State Ministers under the agreements of respective Hluttaws. In realizing the national politics, the prescription of provision is aimed at appointing not only the Hluttaw representatives but also outside scholars. According to the provisions, the President can appoint the eligible persons as ministers under the agreement of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

A&I Minister answers query on “summer paddy cultivation”

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March - At today’s session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than of Shan State Constituency- 2 asked whether or not the State is aware that farmers from almost all regions of Shan State are bearing burden of the cultivation of summer paddy and whether or not to inspect real situation by forming inspection team, stating that he learnt that the summer paddy cultivation is an important policy of the government.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo said in response to query that Myanmar’s staple food is rice which is the important crop of the nation. So, the State sets sight on regional rice sufficiency as it covers the entire nation.

A total of 116 million baskets of monsoon paddy were harvested from 1.472134 million acres of farmlands in Shan State in 2009-2010. It is difficult to extend cultivation of monsoon paddy for rice sufficiency of entire Shan State. So the cultivation of summer paddy in potential farmlands in various ways is focused. A total of 80000 acres of farmlands have been put under summer paddy now. As the weather condition in some places of Shan State is unfavourable for cultivation of summer paddy, the ministry is trying hard for developing cold-resistant paddy strains.

It is necessary to inform respective authorities and staff of Myanma Agriculture Service if the difficulties are met in the cultivation of summer paddy. They will help change the crops after in-depth analysis of success.
Education Minister replies to question about scholarship

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Thaung of Taungtha Constituency said that up to 1962, Myanmar practised scholarship system. At that time, scholarship examinations were held for 4th, 7th and 10th standards.

Winners were granted scholarships and came to study harder than ever. The system led to competitive spirit among students as well as among teachers. He asked if the upcoming government will practise scholarship system or not, when it will practise it if it has a plan, and why it cannot practise it if it does not have a plan.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein answered the queries, saying that the Ministry of Education presents awards to outstanding students at the higher education level, and provides cash assistance for about 1500 students yearly.

The scholarship system helps increase the number of outstanding students. To launch the system calls for promulgation of policy, procedures and rules and regulations. So, the system should be dealt with the forthcoming government.