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.

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