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.

Source: NLM 2011-03-25