Education Minister replies to question on four skills of English Language proficiency

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March-At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, U Win Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No-2 put a question on arrangements to be made for new generation of today to be proficient in four skills- Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking- of English Language, saying that English Language plays a vital role in political, social and economic affairs. It is important for today’s new generation to know English in this world of Globalization.

Regarding the query, Minister for Education Dr. Chan Nyein replied that the Ministry of Education is encouraging teachers of Higher and Basic Education to be proficient in their four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and placing emphasis on use of more effective teaching methods and modern teaching aids and conducting English Language competitions.

For promotion of English Language Proficiency, English Proficiency Courses are being conducted for faculty members of universities and degree colleges. English language is being used in compiling and reading researches, except Myanmarsar.

For students of Higher Education, English language is being taught in degree and postgraduate courses. Arrangements have been made to improve the English language proficiency of students by establishing 57 multimedia lecture rooms and 93 language labs in 44 Universities and Degree Colleges. Besides, students are being nurtured to be proficient in their English by taking part in English Language competitions such as debate, roundtable discussions and essay contests which are held on significant days of the State.

English Language Proficiency Courses are being opened at Myanmar- India English Language Training Centre which was set up in 2009 and the centre produced 2000 trainees. Under Human Resources Development Programme of the ministry, National Centre for English Language was opened in 2005. So far, 12000 trainees have been produced from English Language Proficiency Postgraduate Course and English Language Proficiency Course.

Starting from 2006-07 academic year, English Language Teaching Refresher Courses for primary and middle school teachers have been opened for two times and English Language Teaching Refresher Courses and orientation courses for high school teachers for three times. Effective methods are being used in teaching English in basic education level.

In 2006-07 academic year, 1123 BA and MA (English) holders were appointed as SATs after taking Educational Technology Course.

To upgrade the teaching methods of English teachers, they were sent to attend courses and workshops held at home and abroad.

Township level, Region and State level and Central level English Language contests for primary and middle School students are held yearly starting from 2008-09. So far the competitions have been held for three times.
There were 35288 schools equipped with multimedia platform where English language is being taught effectively with the use of multimedia devices.

According to the above-mentioned ways and means, arrangements have been made for students of basic and higher education level to be proficient in four skills of English language.

*Source: NLM 2011-03-26*