Education Minister elaborates on government’s plans for progress of national education

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March- At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No (12) put a question about government’s plans for harmonious development of national education and the potential role of private sector in future education system.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein replied that his ministry has been implementing 30-year long term education promotion plan in connection with 24- Special Development Region Project, Project for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, and rural development schemes being implemented by the government.

With a view to turning out highly-qualified human resources for the nation and particular region and covering access to education, the Ministry of Education has been undertaking such works as upgrading degree colleges to universities, opening new degree colleges and universities, recruiting lecturers and instructors, organizing new learning programmes in states and regions across the nation. In 1988, the nation saw only 32 universities and degree colleges, whereas the number has risen to 161 now, five times more than in 1988.

It means learning opportunity has increased five times in higher education sector.

More learning programmes have been organized and the number has tripled from 79 in 1988 to 215 in 2010. Before 1988, number of lecturers and instructors at universities and colleges was over 5600 and now has doubled, reaching more than 12,000 including over 3000 Ph.D holder faculty members.

As a result, number of undergraduates pursuing higher education has risen from over 110,000 in 1988 to over 500,000 now. Regarding basic education sector, over 40900 basic education schools were opened in 2010-2011 academic year.

Over 274,000 teachers are training over 8.05 million students. The number of basic education schools has increased over 7100, teachers over 100,000 and students over 2.81 million in comparison with 1988. 1074 basic education schools have been founded in border areas, providing over 2.1 million students access to education.

Every one ward and five villages in the nation have three basic education schools in general and the approximate distance between the school and the home is about 1.4 miles.

In basic education schools, pre-primary education classes were opened and opportunities to pursue education have increased as a result of school-enrollment week activity in the third week of May prior to new academic year to ensure that all children at school-age go to school and extended opening of post primary schools to encourage children who have finished primary education continue learning at basic education middle schools.
Due to those efforts, school enrollment rate of basic education school has increased from 67.13 percentage in 1988 to 98.37 percentage in 2010-2011 academic year, net study rate at basic education schools has risen from 74.7 percentage to 84.61 percentage, and continue-to-study rate at middle schools has reached to 77.61 percentage from 45.6 percentage.

Myanmar is practising free basic education system, bringing benefit to over 5.15 million students at primary education level. The free basic education system is in compliance with United Nations Millenium Development Goal and Subsection (c) of Section (28) of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and is the programme No (2) of the 30-year long-term education promotion plan.

Regarding private role in education system, private schools were allowed to run in the past and now tuitions are permitted in accord with tuition law.

The Ministry has been drafting bills and making plans to cooperate with private sector in future education system.

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