NAY PYI TAW, 28 March - At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, U Hla Maung (a) U Naing Hla Maung of Chaungzon Constituency put a question about whether or not there is any plan to be implemented for consuming electricity at low price by the multiparty democracy government like the Parliamentary Democracy Government and when the plan will start if there is, saying that local people of Chaungzon Township in Belukyun of Mon State had made some progress in their cottage industries to a certain extent as the region fully enjoyed electricity in the time of the Parliamentary Democracy Government. Now, electricity insufficiency had weakened the cottage industries, leading to a decline in their living standards.

Regarding the question, Minister for Electric Power No-2 U Khin Maung Myint replied that Chaungzon Township Electrical Engineer’s Office was opened on 23-12-1955 in the time of the Parliamentary Democracy Government and supplied electricity to four urban wards with the population of 815 through 80 KVA diesel generator two times a day- from 7 am to 1 pm and 6 pm to 12 pm.

With installation of four more transformers, the region enjoyed more electricity starting from 8-9-1957.

As part of drive for more electricity supply, three more diesel generators with the installation capacity of 150 KVA installed in 1968, 1980 and 1983 together with the 80 KVA diesel generator supplied electricity to Chaungzon and five villages. On 4-8-1987, 608 KVA diesel generator was substituted in the places of old ones and it supplied electricity three hours a day. A 350 KVA diesel generator was installed as an extra generator on 27-11-1997.

In 1955, the price of a gallon of diesel was K 1.50 and the production cost for a unit of electricity was K 0.15.

Now the government saw a loss of K 294 in generating a unit of electricity due to high production cost.

With the installation of more transformers in the township, electricity is being supplied to five urban wards two hours a day and to nine villages every two days, benefiting 1978 households with the population of 9891.

The numbers of electricity users has increased ninefold compared with that of in the time of the Parliamentary Democracy Government.

For availability of electricity in Chaungzon, the government uses 22800 gallons of diesel a year, distributes electricity at a loss of K 67.03 million a year and spends K 7.2 million a year for the salary of 10 employees of Chaungzon Township Electrical Engineer’s Office.

The government spent K 13.88 million on maintenance of diesel generators, power lines, subpower stations and building in 2010-11 fiscal year.

It is witnessed that the government is operating electricity supply service at a loss in Chaungzon Township.
More electricity is being supplied to towns in Mon States that want to extend the duration of the two-hour electricity supply by forming the committees that paid for the cost of diesel.

So it is necessary to understand the goodwill of the state on supplying electricity to Chaungzon Township.

*Source: NLM 2011-03-29*