

Land Allotment and Utilization Scrutiny Committee formed for ensuring systematic management of land utilization.
Kalewa Coal-fired Power Plant between Kalewa and Tamu regions under feasibility study [Amyotha Hluttaw, 15th day]

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July- The 15th day session of Amyotha Hluttaw continued at the Amyotha Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10.15 am today, attended by 208 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives including Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint. U Swe Aung of Yangon Region Constituency (12) asked whether there is a plan to consider benefit of farmers who really cultivate and produce crops in forest land. Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun replied that although the country has 57 per cent of forest coverage around 1980, it declines to 46.96 per cent based on the calculation in 2011. Thus, emphasis is being placed on designation of forest reserves and protected forests for effectively conserving the forests and for realizing State forest policies to extend 30 per cent land of State as forest reserves.

Since their establishment, the forest lands had not caused losses of houses and property of local people. The present situations are based on squatter activities after designating the forest lands.

With regard to squatter activities as residence, cultivation and slash-and-burn farming in the forest lands, action should be taken against those offenders under the existing forest laws. However, they are local people residing near the forest reserves and they are working their tasks as their owned lands for cultivation. Therefore, the ministry considers in all aspects not to occur unacceptable problems.

Thus, the ministry does not take action against the local people for their activities of entering the forest lands and organizes the local people to establish community forestry through crops plus forest patterns and private forests. Arrangements are being made for applying effective plans not to occur extension of more squatters in the forest land. Action was taken against the persons in some cases under forest law, forest rules and Flora and Fauna Conservation and Environmental Conservation Law.

Okkan, Magari, Thabyu, North Hline Yoma, Hline Yoma hilly forest reserves and South Hline Yoma forest reserves adjacent to Mingala Ward, Chingon, Thanatchaung, Uppon, Phalon Station, Kinpati, Yedwington, Tabu Yaythoe, Kywebok, Sanywa, Chaungsauk and Hsinsakhan village-tracts of Taikkyi Township were established on 159394 acres of total lands between 1875 and 1880 years.

According to the statistics, a total of 305 acres of squatter, farmland, cropland and others are located in the abovementioned forest reserves. A total of 5992 acres of private teak and hardwood forest plantations and 37225 acres of other crops are allowed on the forest reserves. The Land Allotment and Utilization Scrutiny Committee was formed for ensuring systematic management of land utilization in the nation by implementing land utilization policies and land utilization plans. On completion, land utilization tasks can be undertaken systematically for fulfilling the requirement of agricultural lands of local people and development of the State.

The officials from local authorities, Forest Department and related departments made field trip inspections, designation of borders for farmlands and putting records on map references in six forest reserves to inspect cultivation of farmlands of local people from village tracts of Taikkyi Township.

The team of authorities allows them to utilize the lands as farmlands only and does not allow them to utilize the lands through other ways and means. Not to extend squatter activity, they will give educative talks to the local people and supervise their tasks.

U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency No 9 asked whether there is a plan to establish coal-fired power plant in suitable place in coal-produced Kalewa-Tamu region.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myint Zaw replied that a study on deposit of coal was conducted to implement a 600-megawatt Coal-fired Power Plant Project in the place, seven miles north to Kalewa of Kalay District of Sagaing Region. The study showed that from 1.35 million tons to 1.89 million tons of coal must be used annually for operation of the plant and the adequate coal can be extracted from Paluzawa Coal Mine for the plant. The necessary survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Mines. Paluzawa Mine is one of two coal deposits in Kalay Township where Ministry of Mines has conducted surveys. The deposit has 55.6455 million tons of coal and there remains 55.4466 million tons of coal at the mine by June 2012.

As such, the ministry holds several meetings for ensuring least degradation of environment and for emphasizing technological issues so as to implement Kalewa Coal-fired Power Plant to be installed with 600-megawatt generating capacity between Kalewa and Tamu regions.

Moreover, feasibility study are being conducted. In case, construction of the power plant will be undertaken under procedures.

U Sai Tin Aung of Kachin State Constituency No 5 asked whether there is a plan to fully disburse agricultural loans to farmers who cultivate above 10 acres of paddy.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied that the government gives priority to disbursement of agricultural loans to the farmers who work under 10 acres of farmlands because they may face difficulty to spend money on agricultural tasks and increases disbursement of loans year after year. This year, K 50,000 per acre of loans is being disbursed to the farmers.

The government has no plan to disburse loans to farmers who own above 10 acres of farmlands, the farmers who own above 10 acres of farmlands can seek the investment by pawning the whole area of farmland or parts of it in accord with Section 9 (B) of Chapter III of the Farmland Law approved Hluttaws.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko submitted a proposal on the Bill Revoking Public Welfare Services Protection Act to be considered by the Amyotha Hluttaw. U Mya Ohn of Kachin State Constituency No 8 seconded the proposal.

The Hluttaw approved to consider the bill. The representatives wishing to participate in discussions may enlist, not later than 31 July.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko submitted a proposal on the Bill Revoking the Law Protecting the Peaceful and Systematic Transfer of State Responsibility and the Successful Performance of the Functions of the National Convention against Disturbances and Oppositions to be considered by the Amyotha Hluttaw. U Thein Hlaing of Sagaing Region Constituency No 8 seconded the proposal. The Hluttaw approved to consider the bill.

The representatives wishing to participate in discussions may enlist, not later than 31 July.

Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No 9, U Ohn Tin of Rakhine State Constituency No 10 and U Maung Aye Tun of Rakhine State Constituency No 9 With discussed the proposal on drawing new law for development of civil tenancy and revocation of 1960 Civil Tenancy Supervisory Act submitted by U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No 3.

With regard to the proposal, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko said that a large number of houses were destroyed in major cities of Myanmar the war time of Second World War. Due to internal insurgencies after regaining Independence, the people from rural areas resettled in urban areas. In consequence, rents of tenancy hiked excessively due to shortage of housings. Therefore, the Civil Tenancy Supervisory Act was promulgated as temporary act in 1946. The temporary act was amended in 1948 and then it was substituted with the 1960 Civil Tenancy Supervisory Act.

The act was not prescribed with equal terms of provisions for problems between landlords and tenancy. The provision that states it shall not collect deposit in addition to rent or the deposit more than onemonth rent is not conformity with the present time. As the provision was a hinderance to expell the tenants, the landlords lose the rights.

That is why the act is not conformity with the present system.

In sending a message by the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw to the President on 2 May 2012, the Ministry of Home Affairs is to seek approval from the Hluttaw, to amend or to substitute nines laws with new ones in line with the rules and regulations. The 1960 Civil Tenancy Supervisory Act is one of these acts. Thus, the 1960 Civil Tenancy Supervisory Act was revoked in accord withthe guidance of the President and the ministry coordinates with the Office of Attorney- General of the Union to be able to submit the Land Tenancy Law (Bill) in line with Section 156 of the Constitution, and he noted that the proposal should be withdrawn.

Proposer Hluttaw representative U Phone Myint Aung submitted his opinion to put the proposal on record, and the Hluttaw decided to record it.

The Hluttaw session came to an end at 11.35 am and the 16th day session will be held at 10 am tomorrow.

At the today's session, three questioins were answered, two bills submitted, one bill discussed and recorded.-MNA

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