

**No State-owned assets or enterprises sold in time of the incumbent government -
Commerce Ministry to reform its depts to effectively safeguard the consumers’
rights at border camps and ports [Amyotha Hluttaw, 16th day]**

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July-The 16th day Amyotha Hluttaw regular session was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 209 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency (9) on “auction, transfer and management of state-owned buildings and confiscated vehicles”, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw answered that there is no such selling of state-owned or confiscated assets and state-owned enterprises in time of the incumbent government.

The former government had sold 1482 state-owned buildings, with 1097 buildings left to be sold. The value of sold buildings is K 602.319 billion in which K 422.171 billion have been received and K 180.148 billion yet to be received.

A total of 775 state-owned businesses handed over by respective ministries have been sold by the previous government. Remaining 78 businesses will be reassessed by the new privatization commission. The value of sold businesses is K 665.599 billion in which K 500.381 have been received and K 165.218 billion yet to be received.

The remaining parts of payment will be extracted within designated period in accordance with rules and regulations. Myanmar Investment Commission has invited BOT tenders for transforming combined office of Yangon Region on Strand Road and Myanma Railways Head Office on Merchant Street in Yangon into hotels to cope with increasing number of foreign tourists, and for transforming historic buildings in Yangon-Ministers’ Office in Bo Aung Kyaw street and High Court near Maha Bandoola Park-into museums.

There is no sale of confiscated vehicles in time of the current government. A total of 682 vehicles were auctioned in January and February, 2011. More than K 15.013 billion have been deposited to Myanma Economic Bank. A total of 529 vehicles which could be repaired have been shared among Union ministries. Other 262 vehicles with bad conditions were incinerated. The similar approach will continue to be applied for the confiscated vehicles.

Regarding the question raised by U Aung Cho Oo of Bago Region Constituency (11) on “repair of primary schools in Minhla Township in Bago Region”, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu answered that the maintenance and construction of basic education schools are carried out yearly by the fund of the government, the combined fund of the government and the parents and donations of wellwishers.

Funds will be allotted in 2013-2014 fiscal year to repair Kywetalin Basic Education Primary School, Nigyawdayon BEPS, Taungsalegon Basic Education Post Primary School, Seintheya BEPS and Pantaw BEPS in Minhla Township of Bago Region.

Regarding the question raised by Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (5) on “upgrading Ningyan Basic Education Middle School in Lemyethna Township in Ayeyawady Region to Basic Education High School (Branch)”, the deputy minister answered that, as there are only 135 middle school students at Ningyan BEMS, it will not be upgraded into BEHS (branch).

Regarding the question raised by U Thet Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (8) on “upgrading Kyeinbinse Village BEMS (Branch) in Nyaungdon Township to BEMS”, the deputy minister answered that, as there are only 277 middle school students at the school, it will not be upgraded into BEMS.

Regarding questions raised by U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (6) on “work plan for procuring 1 million tons of rice reserve” and “launching investigation on consumer goods which illegally entered into the market”, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint answered that there is a fall in rice price of the world rice market as India sold two million tons of its rice reserve. Farmers faced unprofitable conditions as paddy and rice prices are declining when monsoon paddy is harvested. To stabilize domestic rice price, Rice Reserve Supervisory Committee was formed.

The government has planned to finance K 10 billion, Myanmar Rice Industry Association K 10 billion and Central Cooperative Union K 10 billion in procuring rice reserve. The committee has formed four sub-committees and purchased monsoon paddy at the price of K 330,000 per 100 baskets of rice equivalent to 46 pounds after careful calculation of appropriate rice price. But cent per cent success was not achieved.

The committee’s brokers purchased summer paddy at the price of K 320,000 per 100 baskets of rice equivalent to 46 pounds after careful calculation of the right price with respective organizations, rice entrepreneurs and rice specialized companies.

The longer the storage period, the lower the quality of rice by its nature. The summer rice has to be sold before the monsoon rice is purchased. A total of 37,284 tons of rice reserve have been procured to date.

To ease impact of fall in rice price on farmers, necessary steps will be taken to buy monsoon paddy. Amount of rice to be procured and period of procurement will be designated and publicized soon.

Trade volume at border trade camps in 2004-2005 fiscal year was US \$ 778 million, in 2011-2012 FY US \$ 3367 million. Goods illegally entered into the market with the estimated value of K 47.532 billion were seized in 11,475 cases from 2005 to 2011. Trafficked consumer goods, edible oil, medicines, drugs and gems were seized.

On 7 January, 2012, departmental combined teams of Yepukan and Mayanchaung Commodity Inspection Camps were dissolved and transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs. As of 16 January, 2012, duties and tasks of respective camps were transferred to relevant departmental organizations. Customs department and police force are mainly responsible for illegal commodity in world nations.

Regional authority, Customs Department and Myanmar Police Force are working in coordination under directive of the President Office in 2012 to stop trafficking of goods including oils and medicines that could cause dangers to the public.

The Ministry of Commerce is undertaking consumers’ rights protection tasks under ASEAN Economic Community Implementation Committee. The ministry will reform its departments to effectively safeguard the consumers’ rights at border camps and ports.

The Ministry of Finance and Revenue opens customs offices in border entries to stop trafficking.

Secretary U Tin Maung Win of Mandalay Region Constituency (3) and Member Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative Maj Myo Tun Aung of Amyotha Hluttaw Monetary and Revenue Committee submitted report of the committee.

The representatives willing to discuss the report could submit their name lists.

The Hluttaw will continue for 17th day on 30 July. At today’s session six questions were answered and one reported submitted.-MNA

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