Reconstruction and maintenance of irrigation facilities, equal learning opportunities discussed [Amyotha Hluttaw 28th day]

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug-The Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the 28th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Building of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10 am today, attended by 211 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives including Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied to questions on irrigation sector raised by three Hluttaw representatives.

U Soe Aung of Mandalay Region Constituency No 11 asked whether there is a plan to repair Omatway Dam of Mwe Village-tract in Meiktila Township. The deputy minister replied that Omatway Dam is being maintained by Omatway Village of Meiktila Township, and it was built there in 1960-61 under the arrangement of the village. The embankment is 800 feet long and 12 feet high to irrigate 60 acres of farmland. Due to lack of proper designs, the dam has narrowed storage area of water and spillway. That is why when larger volume of water flows into the dam, the embankments breaks down. The Irrigation Department and villages repaired the dam in 1974. One more repairing of embankment, conduit and spill of the dam was undertaken with the use of village development fund in 1993-94. In September 2011, the embankment of the dam was damaged by the heavy rains. However, the local people were unaffordable to repair the dam. Moreover, the dam is being maintained by the village, so the maintenance work is not included in the plans of the Irrigation Department in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

To be able to repair the dam, the fund is to be demanded in coordination with the Mandalay Region Government, and if the approval is received, the dam will be repaired.

Dr Khin Maung Lay of Bago Region Constituency No 8 asked whether there is a plan to reconstruct Hmanbinkan Dam near Panipin Village of Pyay Township.

The deputy minister replied that Irrigation Department dammed the Inyon Creek to build Hmanbinkan Dam near Panipin Village-tract of Pyay Township in 1994-95 and handed it over to Pyay Township Peace and Development Council for assigning duty to the village to maintain the dam. The dam can irrigate over 1300 acres of farmlands in Wethtigan, Hnawkan, Panibin, Myoma and Laba villages. However, the dam has been damaging its facilities gradually before 2008, and the local farmers maintained it as much as they could. At present, the bed of the dam and walls were eroded and became improper status for use. Thus, a new dam should be built.

This fiscal year, the Irrigation Department chose the plot for construction of new diversion weir, conducted feasibility studies, drew the design of diversion and calculated estimated cost.

Depending on the estimated cost, the fund will be demanded in 2013-2014 fiscal year, and if the approval is received, the construction of the diversion will start.

U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No 12 asked whether there is a plan to maintain two valves of Yonsu Dam in Nyaungdo Village of Wundwin Township of Meiktila District. The deputy minister replied that Yonsu Diversion Weir is located 3.5 miles downstream of Alaungsithu Lake, west of Yonsu Village of Wundwin Township, and it was built by local farmers on a self reliant basis. The dam was built on Kanpetle Creek, downstream of the spillway of Alaungsithu Lake to supply water to the small lakes. Due to silting, Alaungsithu Lake cannot control a large volume of its water that flows into Yonsu Diversion Weir.

The watershed area of Yonsu Diversion Weir is about 40 square miles. Volume of its inflow water is not equaled to the size of the present diversion weir and durability. Whenever rain water flows into the diversion weir, the embankment and canals are damaged annually.
In 2013-2014 fiscal year, the fund was demanded to build Chaungzon Dam, which is located upstream of Alaungsithu Lake, as the water supporting lake of the latter.

Alaungsithu Lake gets being dredged. Only when the dredging would have been finished, would a construction of diversion weir be started with the computation of amount of water that flows to Yonsu diversion weir from Chaungzon Dam and Alaungsithu Lake, and amount of water from the water-flowing area of the weir. If the Yonsu diversion weir were under repairing before the works incomplete, it would keep damaging for the sake of the heavy flow of water. Therefore, the plan to repair the weir had been temporarily suspended.

Afterwards, member of the bill committee of Amyotha Hluttaw U Thein Win read out the report on the State’s service personnel bill sent by the bill committee.

Hluttaw Representatives U Win Naung from No. 5 Constituency of Yangon Region, U Khin Maung Yi from No. 6 Constituency of Ayeyawady Region, Daw Khin Wine Kyi of No. 1 Constituency of Yangon Region participated in the discussions about the bill by presenting amendments, revoking and reviewing on the paragraphs and subparagraphs including chapters of the bill.

Concerning the discussions made by the three representatives, the Hluttaw urged the bill committee to hear the bill again.

Afterwards, U Aung Nyein from No. 2 Constituency of Magway Region submitted the proposal on “Requesting that those at student level from anywhere in Myanmar must have same opportunities for learning, that must be a national duty,” to the Hluttaw.

With an agreement on making discussion about the proposal, those representatives wishing to participate in the discussion about the proposal may register at a time when the meeting was over, announced the Hluttaw.

Today’s meeting came to an end at 11:45 am and the 29th meeting continues tomorrow.

There were three queries raised, one bill discussed and one proposal submitted at the today’s session.

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