Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Feb—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed national referendum bill on constitution amendment and debated voting rights of white card holders, before presenting a report of Public Accounts Joint Committee at the start of session Monday. Tatmataw MP Lieutenant Colonel Ye Naing Oo suggested if Pyidaungsu Hluttaw assigned Union Election Commission for holding national referendum, it translated Hluttaw is dominating the election body, urging for independent decisions of the commission.

During a debate on voting rights of white card holders, U Shwe Maung, an MP of Buthidaung Township constituency, said if the holders of temporary identification documents are not allowed to vote, a total of 1.5 million people in the country will lose the voting rights.

U Sai Paung Nup, an MP of Shan State, said many mountain tribes in far-flung areas do not have national identification cards, likely to lose voting rights while their citizen scrutinizing process is very difficult. He support the remark of President U Thein Sein that temporary identification documents are enough for white card holders to vote.

Opposing President’s remark, Daw Khin Saw Wai, an MP of Yathedaung Township constituency, said white card holders are not entitled to privileges of citizenship to get voting rights in important matters, especially in sovereignty of the country, saying that the remark is contrary to international citizenship laws.

U Tun Aung Kyaw, representative of Ponnagyun Township constituency, said temporary identification card holders are noncitizens, and cannot get voting rights in national referendum. —MNA

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