Aung Ye Thwin, 
Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th Regular Session held its 3rd day meeting at the meeting hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

On the matter of using Ks28.14 billion from the emergency fund of the 2017 Union Budget Law sent by the President, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing said the Ministry of Electricity and Energy is implementing works to provide electrical power to meet increasing usage as well as to deliver electrical power to far-off places where ethnic nationals live.

These works includes the 230 KV and 66 KV transmission line and substation projects that will support the socio economic development of ethinc Rakhine nationals. Starting from December 2014, 155 villages in 11 townships of Sittway, Ponnagyun, Maungtaw, Kyauktaw, Kyaukgyi, An, Yankhe, Thandwe, Ngapale, Taungup and Maei were provided with electricity.

As for now, with an aim for regional security and development in Rakhine State, there is a requirement for 65.02 miles of power line along Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw and 36 KV substations to provide 24 hours electricity to the remaining townships of Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships. The plan is to supply electricity by completing 22.6 miles of 66 KV Ponnagyun-Yathedaung power line and Yathedaung substation on March 2018, 33.5 miles of 66 KV Yathedaung-Buthidaung power line and Buthidaung substation on June 2018 and 8.93 miles of 66 KV Buthidaung-Maungtaw power line and Maungtaw 66 KV substation before end 2018.

An estimated Ks50.35 billion will be used for the 66 KV power lines and substations projects. Ks4.74 billion for the 66 KV power line and substation to be constructed in this fiscal year were being applied to be included in the emergency fund. Once the hlttaw approves the request for emergency funds, construction work will be implemented quickly, said the Deputy Minister.

Once these 66 KV power line reach Buthidaung and Maungtaw, Ks5.75 billion had been requested from the emergency fund to connect 17 villages in Yathedaung Township, 11 villages in Buthidaung Township, 15 villages in Maungtaw Township, 45 villages with 107 miles of 11 KV power line, 45 miles of 400 volt line and construct 53 units of 11/0.4 KV 100 KV transformer as well as to transport and install a 300 KVA diesel generator in Zedipyan Village, Yathedaung Township.

A maximum of about nine months is required for tendering, material collection and construction of these works. A request for emergency funds was made as these works are to be completed by March 2018. Once these works are completed Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw towns as well as 44 nearby villages will have 24 hours electricity and will support the regional security and development and thus the request for an emergency fund was made said the Deputy Minister.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin then explained further about using Ks281.36 billion from the emergency fund.

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced Hluttaw putting on record the allocation of Ks281.36 billion for four works: one for Ministry of Electricity and Energy; two for Ministry of Construction and one for Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Refilling the deficit of the State Budget
U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance said, “Refilling the deficit of the State Budget with local and foreign loans is a procedure exercised by global countries. In Myanmar also, successive governments reflled additional budget defficit with local loans after calculating foreign loans and subsidies. Previously as well, annual loans were received for the Central Bank of Myanmar, but it was decided and managed by the Government only. Now, if the Central Bank of Myanmar wants to lend money to the Government, the Central Bank of Myanmar has to lend the money with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under section 91 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law, hence the submission to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the approval of the Hluttaw.”

He added, “Borrowing money from the Central Bank of Myanmar will not affect directly making the monetary volume and national circulation money amount increase directly, but rather indirectly. However, getting loans from external institutions can directly affect making monetary volume and national circulation money amount reduce. For this, to refill the deficits of the Union Government’s Allocation Account for FY 2017-2018, the programme to borrow Ks1.2 trillion from the Central Bank of Myanmar was put forward so that it can be approved.”

In regard to the submission, U Soe Thein, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar continued to discuss.

Following that, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw got the decision of the Hluttaw by the use of buttons for voting, announcing that Hluttaw approved the matter with 263 votes in favor, 5 votes against and 5 failures to vote. Afterward, U Soe Thein clarified concerning the report of implementation of monetary policy, FY 2015-2016 and the report of stability of monetary system, followed by the announcement that Hluttaw put on records, discussions of Hluttaw representatives and clarifications of the CBM including the reports. In addition, U Hset Aung, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance explained about the report of performances of Myanmar Investment Commission from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

After that Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the approval of clarifications of the respective Union-level organization member and discussions of parliamentarians including the report of the performances. Then parliamentarians discussed concerning Myanmar’s signing BIMSTEC Convention sent by the President of the State.

Concerning for Myanmar to sign the third multi-lateral investment treaty’s amendment, Daw Hla May of Rakhine State constituency said: “The treaty was signed in February 2009 and approved on 29th March 2012, with a view to creating a free, frank, smooth, transparent and competition-accessible environment in ASEAN region and strengthening the benefits of investors based on ASEAN region. ASEAN Multilateral Investment Agreements are of great importance for ASEAN circle, and Myanmar. As the ASEAN Economic Community, different types of South East Asia was designed to become a Single Market, become a strong competitive economic zone, upgrade fair economic development in the region and to take part in global economy. Multilateral Investment Treaty should be assessed in comparison with economic policies of ASEAN countries.”

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the approval after taking the decision of Hluttaw.