

# Pyithu Hluttaw discusses sluice gates, farm lands

Thura Zaw

THE 11<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday morning in the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, where questions were raised and answered, a motion tabled and the amendments to a bill amending the Caste Disabilities Removal Act was confirmed.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied to a question by U Khin Maung Latt of Myanaung constituency on the plan to install sluice gates at the 26 mile 3 furlong point of the Ayeyarwady embankment in Myanaung Township to discharge rainwater from the fields into the Ayeyarwady river. The deputy minister said studies and measurements were being conducted on matters such as the water level of the Ayeyarwady river, elevation of the fields from which the rainwater is discharged into the river, distance between the embankment and the river, and the possibility of embankment erosion due to the construction of sluice gates.

At the highest water-level mark of the river, the water level is higher than the field's elevation making it impossible to discharge water from the field into the river,

while the distance between the embankment and the river is only 1,000 feet, increasing the chances of embankment erosion with the installation of sluice gates.

The main channel for water drainage in the area is the Ma Mya creek, which is full of silt, so arrangements are being made to dredge the creek and improve the drainage of rainwater into the creek, replied the deputy minister. Next, Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency raised a question on the kind of actions being planned for housing projects and the new town project that were developed without transparency and which are not in accordance with the rules and regulations. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said that the development of a new town project and a housing project in it for Taungup Town was found to have been permitted in principle by the (Rakhine) state government in 2014.

Htawara Aung Myay Company was designated as the developer, and the company had purchased farmlands in the planned new town project from farmers through mutual agreement. It had applied to use the farmland, as well as vacant and fallow lands, totalling 123.2 acres



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA

for other purposes. The designation of the land as a new ward for the town will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the state government, explained the deputy minister.

Permission to use the farmlands as a new ward will be based on the assessment of the state farm land management group, led by the Rakhine State Chief Minister as the chairman, and as per the designation of the Central Farm Land Management Body, according to (relevant) laws.

Similarly, the application to use vacant and fallow lands in the new town project will be assessed by the (Rakhine) state vacant, fallow and virgin land management committee, led by the Rakhine Chief Minister as chairman, and as per the decision of the central

committee for the management of vacant, fallow and virgin land, said the deputy minister.

Responding to a question posed by Dr. U Lin Lin Kyaw of Myittha constituency on the plan by the department of agriculture to release a plot of land owned by the department in Myittha Town, where there are only dilapidated warehouses, so that the land can be used to build offices for five government departments that did not have any land in the town, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw said the 8.253 acres, owned by the department of agriculture in Myittha Town, Butar Ward, housed three 100 x 60 x 15-cubic-foot warehouses, one 70 x 30 x 15-cubic-foot warehouse, a factory building and 25 shops that have been paying rent to the government. Behind the shops is empty land, measuring 275 x 200 square feet, or 1.26 acres, on which the five government departments can construct an office building, and this land can be released, said the deputy minister.

If the Mandalay regional government sends their request for land requirement for the five government departments, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation can release the land, according to the rules and regulation, added the dep-

uty minister. U Hla Kyaw also responded to questions raised by U Sai Ngaung Hsiang Hein of Maukmai constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency, Daw Mi Kun Chan of Paung constituency and U Tin Hla of Danubyu constituency. A motion urging the government to increase the momentum to establish one-acre plots for the rapid implementation and success of a mechanised farming system was then tabled by Dr. Daw Khin Soe Soe Kyi of Pyay constituency and supported by Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint requested the Hluttaw representatives to enrol their names to discuss the motion. Later, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint took the consensus of the Hluttaw on confirming the amendments to the bill amending the Caste Disabilities Removal Act and announced the approval of the Hluttaw, according to the report of the bill committee. The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker added in his announcement that the matter would be followed up according to the Pyithu Hluttaw's rules.

The 12<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled for 5 February. ■

# Amyotha Hluttaw discusses sale of food products, health clinic

Aye Aye Thant

(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 11<sup>th</sup>-day meeting yesterday morning in Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered and the Civil Service bill was approved.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Region constituency (4) raised a question on the plan to prevent the sale of restricted food products in the market, despite the restrictions imposed by the Food and Drug Administration; the sale of foreign food products labelled only in foreign languages; and the control of food products using excessive chemicals and artificial colours. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that we conduct market inspection. If foods are found unfit for consumption it is confiscated and destroyed. Actions against manufacturers are also made in two steps. The first is to give warning through

administrative methods and the second is to take legal action and stop the sales. This is according to the 1997 law. After amending the law in 2018 it was still found to be inadequate and process of amending it again is underway. For imported foods we need labs at the entry point on the border. At the end side, we educate the teachers and students at the school. We need to work together with school health. Ministry of Education is also drawing up plans. We need to educate those who sell to not to look at profit only. The main thing to do here is to educate. We are now advertising in the newspaper. We are also starting in Sagaing Region. All states and regions will be covered one by one. But this could not be done only by FDA. It could not be done the school and the teachers. All need to participate. Education must be provided to the home. FDA will provide the expertise and the lab. Media need to work with us. Media is important. Mainly it is



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. PHOTO: MNA

the schools that include students, parents and the teachers. We designated 2017 to conduct market survey which will continue in 2018, 2019, 2020. There will be surprise spot checks and if food not fit for consumption is found, action will be taken. Consumer affairs department, municipal committee and FDA will jointly conduct the spot checks. There is no law against food labeled only in foreign languages. This is an important thing that we alone couldn't do. Hluttaw representatives and relevant associations and groups need to suggest on

how to handle this. In conclusion, this is affecting the health of all the people in the country. Those who sell need to maintain good ethic and not look at profit only. Ministry for Health and Sport is making this as a priority work for 2018 said the Union Minister.

In response to a question by Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency (11) on the status of constructing a sub rural health centre Bago Region, Monyo Township, Shahdaw Village, Dr. Myint Htwe said the work was signed as completed 100 per cent on 15 March 2016. It was signed by the township doctor and officer from road department. A week later, it was transferred by Gongyishin Company director and was accepted by head of the region.

In response to a question raised by U Tin Wei of Taninthayi constituency (6) on the plan to release a plot of school land taken over by the department of traditional medicine in Myeik Township, Myothit Ward, back to the ministry of education, Dr. My-

int Htwe said the department of traditional medicine constructed a 16-bed hospital on the said land of 0.223 acre in 1995 which was opened in March 1998. In 2011, a staff house was built on it. There is still some space left. After it was constructed the hospital was extended to 25-bed and the hospital was built in a new location. The earlier 16-bed hospital was turned into a house for the district head. No one is staying in the staff house because present staffs are locals from the town. When staffs are transferred from other places, they may need to stay in that place. We would like to give priority to education and transfer the land back to the school because the school is quite crowded. In fact education is more important than health. But if the land is transferred back to the school, we will need a place to build the district office. If a land is made available for this, the subject land can be transferred to education department.

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