

Farming lands on a manageable scale by individual peasants makes substantial contribution towards improvement of socio-economic status of farmers.
First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continues for seventh day



NAY PYI TAW, 10 March - The first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the seventh day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today.

It was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint announced the validity and start of the seventh-day session as 221 or 99.1 per cent of 223 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives were present.

Of the questions submitted under Amyotha Hluttaw Rule 116 by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, permitted ones were raised, and members of respective Union level organizations responded to the questions.

U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State Constituency- 6 said that Myanmar's over 1000-mile long coastal areas have suffered increasing impacts of the global warming, vising cyclonic storms, high tides and rising sea level year after year.

He asked whether there would be plans for building long barriers along the coastal areas in a bid to prevent tide as the areas play an important role in socioeconomy of the country.

Afterwards, U San Tun of Kachin Sate Constituency-11 asked about any plan for completion of Paungnat Dam project in Shwegu Township, Bhamo District, though the 10- year long project started in the 2002-2003 fiscal year, it has completed only 24.13 per cent in the 2009-2010 fiscal year after seven years.

Afterwards, Dr. Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No.4 said Myanmar is an agrobased country and has many acres of farmland.

While land reclamation is being carried out, fertile land should be integrated and transformed into mechanization of agriculture so that agricultural machinery become widely available in the country.

In accordance with Sub-section (a) of Article- 23 the Chapter-1, of the Constitution which establishes rights for peasants, it is necessary to help peasants not to become landless ones due to unsystematic expansion of business by entrepreneurs. Besides, it is necessary to transform the farmers' traditional agricultural system into the mechanized farming without losing their rights of land owners while transforming the existing farmland into integrated farmland. Besides, it is necessary to attract foreign investment and technical assistance from foreign countries.

Only then, will the value of crops be boosted, he said. He asked the responsible personnel whether Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation can work together with farmers and those at home and abroad who want to do investments in the agricultural sector to coordinate on the integrated farming system in an effort to boost the economy of the country.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo replied queries of the three questions. In his answer to the questions of U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State Constituency No-6, Minister U Htay Oo said the State have already constructed dykes in coastal areas to prevent flow of sea water to farmland. There are 14 dykes at a total distance of 54.31 miles in Taninthayi Region, 18 dykes in Mon State at a total distance of 50.63 miles, 32 dykes in Rakhine State at a total distance of 207.89 miles, 23 dykes in Yangon Region at a total distance of 239.55 miles, 24 dykes in Ayeyawady Region at a total distance of 611.77 miles. There are a total of 111 dykes in the coastal areas, reaching 1164.15 miles in total.

The dykes are designed to be suitable to the geographical position of the respective areas.

However, they can prevent flow of sea water in the usual way, there were damaged by natural disasters. The State has planned to repair them as soon as possible when they were damaged. A total of 31 dykes at a total distance of 485.31 miles in Ayeyawady and Yangon regions were damaged by the Storm Nargis. During the emergency period, they were repaired in time to grow crops, and work on repair and reconstruction have been carried out and so far, 63 per cent of the damaged dykes have been reconstructed.

Similarly, Storm Giri damaged some dykes in Rakhine State. In Kyaukpyu Township, Nga-la-pwyay dyke was damaged at seven portions at a total length of about 10,755 ft and 63 per cent of damaged portions have already been repaired.

Ngamanyegyun Dyke in Myebon Township have been damaged by Storm Giri and over 70 per cent of the damaged portions of the dyke at a total length of 45860 ft have been repaired. Kyunthaya dyke in Myebon Township was damaged at 50 portions at a total distance of 3400 ft and 100 per cent of the damaged portions have been repaired. The storm also broke Pinkha dyke in Myebon Township at 10 portions, damaging at a total distance of 3585 ft, and all the damaged portions have been repaired. Sanwinkyun dyke in An Township was damaged at 15 portions at a total length of 10450 ft and 54 per cent of the damaged portions have already been repaired.

All damaged portions of six dykes in Pauktaw Township were have already been repaired. Dawrahta dyke in Yanbye Township was damaged at 67 portions at a total length of 4580 ft and one sluice gate was totally destroyed, and 33 per cent of the damaged portions have been repaired. Over 3450 ft long damaged portions of Kyikyun dyke in Rathedaung township are being repaired and 58 per cent have been completed.

In some coastal areas, new dykes are being constructed to reclaim farmland.

Thanks to Paiksi-ma-yan dyke in Thongwa Township, Yangon Region, there would be more about 2300 acres of farmland in the region.

Moreover, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is assisting in repairing of dykes by farmers while Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is working with international agencies to help repairing of dykes by farmers.

It also built dykes for prevention of floods for 1.36 miles in Kayin State; 35.96 miles in Sagaing Region; 356.77 miles in Bago Region; 27.27 miles in Mandalay Region; 106.88 miles in Yangon Region; and 729.79 miles in Ayeyawady Region, totaling 1258.03 miles.

Maintenance tasks are carried out yearly, and upgrading tasks, based on the size of funds.

In response to the question raised by U San Tun of Kachin State Constituency (11), Paungnet Dam Project was launched in 2002- 2003 to put 5000 acres under monsoon paddy fields and 2000 acres under summer paddy and other crops; so far, the project has been completed by 25.02 percent; and that the project will continue according to the funds from the government.

In response to the question of Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency (4), he said that on average, a farmer owns three to five acres of lands; that farming lands by individual farmers helps boost agricultural production; that a farmer running some acres of land can get per acre paddy yield of 100 baskets, but he finds hard to get that per acre yield if he runs over 100 acres of lands; so, agriculturists suggested that peasants farm a small area of land each; that therefore, peasants are not allowed to farm a large area of lands; that peasants are naturally willing to run a land by their own, and even if entrepreneurs offer assistance to farm stretching lands of farmers, they are in no mood to accept the assistance; that therefore, it is impossible to run collective farms; that for mechanized farming, the government is encouraging use of farm implements and machinery; that mechanized farming means replacing of labour and cattle with farm implements and machinery based on conditions, not running a large area of farmlands with heavy machinery; that with gradual increase in outputs of crops, farmers get farm implements they like; that the present types of farm implements and machinery are effective in the farms of developing countries including Myanmar; that so the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank is selling farm implements and machinery by installment; that now farmers own 159,221 power-tillers and tractors, 21,613 reapers and 44,111 combine harvesters; that the government is giving encouragement to private production of farm implements and machinery; that farming lands on a manageable scale by individual peasants makes substantial contribution towards improvement of the socioeconomic status of farmers, so they should cooperate with the ministry.

U Mya Ohn of Kachin State Constituency said that the government gave green light for running jade mines in Phakant Township, Kachin State, which created jobs and local people are enjoying better living conditions; that but throwing wasted earth into the Uru Creek in Phakant has caused floods every year; and that he wondered what the government will do for conservation of the creek.

Member of the Union level body Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint responded that SPDC issued Water Sources Conservation Law on 2 October 2006; Article 11 (c) of Chapter V prohibits gold miners from

throwing wasted earth into water sources; that the ministry is supervising tasks in cooperation with local authorities to take action against offenders; that the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems is dredging and conserving the creek from the mouth of the Chindwin River to Nanbo Aung; that arrangements are underway under the supervision of local authorities to enforce the rules and regulations; that a team of experts led by the ministry examined the Haungpa, Phakant, Hsankha section of the waterway from 26 October 2010 to 1 December 2010 to avoid environmental degradation due to maintenance of the creek; that the ministry gave green light for running gems mines to national entrepreneurs and companies in gems lands including Phakant in line with Myanmar Gems Law and Rule according to Order 8/95 issued on 29 September 1995 by the State Law and Order Restoration Council; that now mining gems carried out with machinery; that the minister and deputy ministers are making field trips, allotting lands and taking measures to avoid environmental deterioration; and that regarding floods in the rainy season, maintenance tasks are being implemented under the aegis of local authorities with the technical assistance rendered by the ministry to conserve the Uru Creek.

Next, the session stopped for a break.

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives discussed the proposals submitted to Amyotha Hluttaw.

In discussing the motion tabled by U Stephen Tha Beik of Chin State Constituency (4), U Phon Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency (3) said that today, all-round education should be put at the forefront in the education sector; that there should be changes in the examination system; that private schools for matriculation education should be allowed; that textbooks should be printed with two versions: English and mother tongue; that media system should be applied on a wider scale for distance education; and that he hoped that the nation's education system will be improved if teachers, parents and students work in concert.

U Sai Thant Zin of Shan State Constituency (4) said that he is in support of the motion; that education programmes to improve moral conducts should be prescribed to improve the youth's reasoning power; that private education should meet encouragement; that there should be suitable education policies in which both the government and entrepreneurs get involved.

U Zon Hlyan Htan of Chin State Constituency (2) in discussing the motion tabled by U Paw Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency (9) said that he is in support of the motion to open two colleges in Chin State, but Falam is preferable according to the geographical conditions and transportation; that a college should be established in southern part of Chin State; and that if it will not be convenient to set up two colleges, there should be an education university in the state.

In discussing the motion tabled by U Stephen Tha Beik of Chin State Constituency (4), U Gam Sai of Kachin State Constituency (2) said that Waingmaw Township in Kachin State enjoys better health care, but station hospitals are in no position to do so due to shortage of medicines and absence of medical staff; that many border towns in Kachin State do not have access to better health care; and that so, a board should be formed to help providing health care services to the people.

In discussion the motion put forward by U Paw Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency (9), Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency (4) said that the government posts doctors to Chin State, but some are not willing to work in Chin State; that therefore, incentives should be offered to doctors who

want to work in the state; that he thinks that cooperation between Chin State government led by the chief minister and the health department of Chin State is more effective than undertaking by the Union Health Ministry along; that State Scholar System should be revived; that for the time being, Chin State government should persuade doctors to work in the state to achieve the long-term plan; that Chin national doctors should be posted to Chin State; and that in that regard, enticements should be offered to achieve the goal.

The speaker announced that the four motions will be assessed by members of Union level organizations tomorrow.

U Paw Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency (9) tabled a motion to upgrade the road between Gangaw and Yayzwa to an allweather facility and the suspension bridge linking eastern Gangaw and western Gangaw to a facility that can cope with vehicles.

It was seconded by U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency (12).

Amyotha Hluttaw approved it for discussion.

The speaker announced that representatives wishing to hold discussions were to sign up at the deputy directorgeneral of the Hluttaw Office.

U Paw Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency (9) tabled a motion to build a road linking Paletwa and Matupi as soon as possible.

It was seconded by U Whay Ying of Chin State Constituency (11), which was then approved by the hluttaw.

The speaker announced that representatives wishing to hold discussions were to sign up at the deputy directorgeneral of the Hluttaw Office.

U Kyun Khe of Chin State Constituency (1) tabled a motion to build low-cost housings and sell houses to non-officer civil servants through monthly installment.

It was seconded by U Pon Hle Htan of Chin State Constituency (2), and approved by the hluttaw.

The speaker announced that representatives wishing to hold discussions were to sign up at the deputy directorgeneral of the Hluttaw Office. The speaker announced the conclusion of the seventh-day session, and the eighthday regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw takes place at 10 am tomorrow.

The session ended at 12.30 pm.

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