

## **Poor prospects for building cement factories in Nayputaung and Gutaung-Kantaung due to low quality limestone**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - U Maung Aye Tun, a representative of Amyotha Hluttaw from Rakhine State constituency No.9 asked question whether the State has a plan to implement cement projects at limestone hills at Nayputaung and Gutaung-Kantaung areas in Taungup Township during today's regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

In his question, he said that Taungup Township has prospects for mass production of cement from 500 tons to 2000 tons a day as there are many limestone hills in the township. He suggested the State build a cement factory in the township, paving the way for creating job opportunities for locals and boosting production of the country.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung said the amount of limestone in the township is not enough to be supplied to a cement factory and the material in the area does not meet the standard for making cement. Besides, it has been calculated that there are only about 18 million tons of the stone at Gutaung-Kantaung limestone hill about 8 miles north-east of Kama Village, 20 miles south of Maei, Taungup, and the amount is just enough to produce cement at a cement factory for a few years. The quality of limestone in the township is same to the one of Nayputaung, meeting the standard for producing ornaments.

As the quality of limestone in Nayputaung does not meet the required standard for making cement, Ministry of Industry-1 used the limestone in the area to make ornaments. But, the production was not a commercial success and stopped in 2006.

Rakhine State Union Solidarity and Development Association made proposal to build cement factories in Nayputaung and Gutaung-Kantaung areas to create job opportunities for locals, Ministry of Industry-1 assessed prospects for producing cement in the areas in 2005-2006. It was found that there are poor prospects for building cement factories in the areas, the minister said.

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