

Industry-1 Minister replies to question

“whether or not there is a plan to build a pulp factory in Buthidaung Township where a large number of bamboo plants are naturally grown”

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - At the session of Amyotha Hluttaw held today, U Maung Aye Tun of Rakhine State Constituency No-9 said that a large number of bamboo plants that can make pulp are naturally grown in mountainous region of Buthidaung Township. If a pulp factory was built, local people would enjoy job opportunities, contributing towards better living standards. Besides, the nation can see greater industrial production. So he asked “whether or not there is a plan to build a pulp factory in Buthidaung Township where a large number of bamboo plants are naturally grown”.

Regarding the question, Minister for Industry- 1 U Aung Thaung replied that it was found that Saidin bamboo forest in Buthidaung and Ponnagyun regions can be used to produce raw materials for a factory with the production capacity from 200 to 500 tons of pulp a day.

The establishment of a pulp factory requires chemical plant, chlorine dioxide plant, generator and boiler plant, cooking and digesting plant, pulp sheet making plant and recovery plant.

Inputs to the plants are from about 0.3 to 0.75 million tons of bamboo per year, from 20 to 50 megawatts of electricity, from 30,000 to 75,000 tons of limestone, from 90,000 to 300,000 tons of salt and from 10 to 25 million gallons of water a day.

Only if these inputs are fulfilled can the pulp factory be built.

Lack of sufficient electricity supply at the present time, capital and technical problems hindered to build the factory.

Although five field trips were made with the participation of foreign companies, progress could not be made due to electricity supply, energy and other problems.

With future prospects of energy sector in Rakhine State, there are good prospects for the establishment of a pulp factory by local organizations and foreign investors.

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