

## **Rail Transportation Minister responds to question on arrangements for the convenience of passengers on Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina railroad in all seasons**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March -At the session of Amyotha Hluttaw held today, U Khet Htein Nan of Kachin State Constituency No-1 said that running of one-day trains on Mandalay-Shwebo- Myitkyina railway is convenient for public transportation. He was delighted to see and thanked the government for construction of Katha- Bhamo and Myitkyina- Bhamo-Momeik-Namhsan railroads. But the accidents in which trains derailed and overturned happen along Meza-Bonchaung railroad section on Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina railroad in Indaw Township in Sagaing Region. So he asked about arrangements made for the convenience of passengers on Mandalay-Shwebo- Myitkyina railroad in all seasons. Regarding the question, Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min said that about 200,000 passengers are provided with 400 rail services of Myanmar Railways of the ministry daily. Depending on the maximum transportation of passengers and goods, Yangon-Mandalay railroad stands first on the list of priorities. Mandalay- Myitkyina railroad is second, Yangon- Mawlamyine-Ye is third and Yangon-Pyay is fourth.

More emphasis was placed on Mandalay- Myitkyina railroad section as people heavily relied on the railroad. In 2010-11, erosion of the banks between Namhkam and Bonchaung destroyed railroads after Nange creek was eroded by rainwater caused by heavy rains. The first time lasted from 26 to 29 September 2010 and the second time from 6 to 8 October 2010. Railway schedules were suspended for seven days.

According to the guidance given by the Head of State on cut of travel time from 24 hours to 16 hours on Mandalay- Myitkyina railroad, upgrading of railroad was carried out on 12 December, 2009. 60 pounds rail tracks were substituted with 75 pounds ones on 357 miles long Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad. 33% or 291312 out of 873936 wooden sleepers laid along Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad were substituted with concrete sleepers and substitutions are underway.

Repair works for maintenance of bridges were carried out and 1577900 cubic feet of paving stones were filled.

Watercourse of Nange creek was changed in order not to occur erosion of the banks of Nange creek between Namhkam and Bonchaung. Retaining walls totaling 245 feet long were built in three places and widening of the area on both sides of railroads and heavy maintenance works are being carried out. He said that upgrading of Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad is gearing up for the convenience of passengers in all seasons.

***Source: NLM 2011-03-15***