

## **Representative of Yangon Region Constituency-4 Dr Myat Nyana Soe raises questions**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March - At today's session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency-4 said according to surveys, Yangon has a population of more than 7 million. Among them are over 3 million commuters. There are over 200 bus lines, 8000 vehicles, 240,000 private cars and 130,000 circular train users.

It is learned that in the circular train system, there are 21 railway coaches, 200 daily railway schedules, 18 diesel locomotives and three RBEs. Train fares are low enough for the convenience of grassroots. However, it can still be found that trains are running on untimely schedule with weaknesses in sanitary and maintenance services. So it is necessary to upgrade the circular railway system, the most common public transportation, in order to solve the problem of traffic congestion.

Then, Dr Myat Nyana Soe questioned whether or not new circular railroads can be built in the commercial capital Yangon for the convenience of service personnel, students and public commuters; whether or not new circular railway schedules can be extended; whether or not enough locomotives and railway coaches can be provided; whether or not services can be provided to improve the standards of railway coaches in accord with the characteristics of a commercial capital; and whether or not departure and arrival time of trains can be exact to meet the international standard.

In response to the questions, Minister for Rail Transportation said there are two systems – circular trains and sub-urban trains running to Hlawga, Thanlyin, Oakposu and Thilawa in connection with circular railways.

Before 1988, there were about 100 daily railway schedules with nine coaches. But now there are about 200 daily railway schedules with 21 coaches to transport more than 0.1 million railway passengers.

With the increasing area of Yangon, survey work has been carried out to build a new outer circular railroad from Toekyaunggalay, Dagon University and Pale Myothit to Hlawga.

In building a new circular railroad, a point should be considered in order not to cause traffic congestion. The Yangon circular railroad is 30 miles long and there are 65 level crossings. When a road is blocked for a circular train to pass, about 300 cars have to stop. So to solve this problem, 24 overpasses have been built and plans are under way to construct 41 others. For transportation of more passengers, arrangements are being made for trains to run with more carriages without necessity to extend the existing circular railway schedules.

In order to manufacture quality locomotives and coaches locally, plans are under way to build a locomotive shed in Nay Pyi Taw and a coach factory in Myitnge with the parts from the People's Republic of China. Construction of factories has to take about two years. Upon completion, locomotives and coaches of high standards can be provided.

Moreover, diesel motorized units will be imported for improving the standard of locomotives and coaches, the minister added.

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