

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Zon Hlyal Htan puts question about construction of border trade routes linking Chin State with India and Bangladesh. Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint replies

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March-At today's Amyotha Hluttaw session, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State Constituency (2) put a question about construction of border trade routes linking Chin State with India and Bangladesh.

He said that Chin State is expected to experience economic growth if its need for particular infrastructure would be satisfied. Chin State is rich in fertile soil and thus produces bumper harvest. He asked whether the Government would be able to build Mandalay-Gangaw- Falam-Reedkawdah Road, Kalay-Tiddim- Reedkawdah Road and Pakokku-Matupi- Paletwa-Myeikwa Road through Chin State to link it with India and Bangladesh in order that local products can be transported to any directions.

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied that current roads linking Chin State with plain regions of the nation and India and Bangladesh are Mandalay-Gangaw- Falam-Reedkawdah border trade route (394 miles 2 furlongs long), Kalay-Tiddim-Reedkawdah border trade route (88 miles long), Pakokku-Matupi-Paletwa-Myeikwa border trade route (377 miles 1 furlong long).

Of those routes, the first one is made of 285 miles 4 furlongs long tarred road, 62 miles 6 furlongs long gravel road and 46 miles long earthen road, totaling 394 miles 2 furlongs.

The second one is made of 36 miles 6 furlongs long tarred road, 42 miles 7 furlongs long gravel road and 8 miles 3 furlongs long earthen road, totaling 88 miles.

The last one is made of 200 miles 2 furlongs long tarred road, 2 miles 1 furlong long gravel road and 174 miles 6 furlongs long earthen road (alignment), totaling 377 miles 1 furlong.

The Government is currently unable to construct Matupi-Paletwa section of the last road for it needs a large sum of cash due to geographical features.

Nevertheless, Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) of India and Max Myanmar Co Ltd of Myanmar are already carrying out pre-engineering works for construction of 41 miles 7 furlongs long Paletwa-Kaletwa (Myeikwa) Road of Paletwa-Kaletwa (Myeikwa)-Pakokku border trade route with the assistance of India, as part of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.

Upon completion of Paletwa-Kaletwa (Myeikwa) Road, India- Myanmar trade route will be connected with Pakokku via Kyauktaw- An-Padan. Of the two roads linking India and Chin State which are Falam-Reedkawdah Road (67 miles 6 furlongs long) and Tiddim- Reedkawdah Road (32 miles 3 furlongs long), Myanmar and India have agreed to upgrade Tiddim- Reedkawdah Road as first priority and are already surveying the alignment.

The road currently is earthen facility and Public Works will upgrade it phase by phase.

To link Chin State with Bangladesh, a road is under construction from Paletwa to Kyauktaw of Rakhine State, to complete Paletwa-Kyauktaw- Sittway-Buthidaung- Maungtaw border trade route.

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