

## **EP-1 Minister responds to query about “hydropower projects in Maykha Malikha river valley at the confluence of Ayeyawady River”**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March - Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Zakhun Ting Ring of Kachin State Constituency-4 revealed that seven hydropower projects are being implemented in Maykha Malikha River valley at the confluence of Ayeyawady River; residents from five villages which are included in the area of projects have been moved to better places equipped with roads, electricity, potable water, hospital, school and religious buildings; and local people are enjoying higher living standard and emerging job opportunities. He asked which arrangements will be made for people who inhabit in basin areas in the upper part of Myitsone hydropower project.

He also questioned on the situation of electricity supply of the hydropower projects and present opportunities and future prospects for local people depending on the projects.

In response to the query, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min answered that, regarding the first question, five villages in the area of Myitsone Hydropower Project which have been relocated are Tanphe, Kyeinkaram, Myitsone, Khappa/ Aungjayan and Daungpan villages, with the total 410 households and a population of 2146. The former three villages were moved to Aunmyintha new model village and the latter to Maliyan new model village. Roads of the villages were of concrete type and each household was provided a plot of land.

The villages have 410 two-storey wooden houses, one high school with two extended school building, three primary schools, one police station, one post office, one general administration office with fire station, 16-bedded hospital and four religious buildings.

Two-storey houses are Kachin traditional houses and of RC type, with water system and electricity. The newly-established model village is situated on Myitkyina-Myitsone concrete road.

Compensation for farmlands and perennial crops were given to locals with the negotiation of local authority and the reclamation of lands was carried out.

Local people who live in basin areas in the upper part of Myitsone hydropower project will also be relocated to better places and a community with higher social and economic status will be established systematically.

Regarding the second question, eight hydropower projects will be implemented in Maykha Malikha River valley at the confluence of Ayeyawady River, namely Myitsone, Chepwe, Chepwenge, Wusauk, Khaunglanphu, Yinan, Phizaw and Laiza. Total installed engine power is 18499 MWs. The projects will be completed within 15 years. The installed engine power of Myitsone project is 6000 MWs. First engine will start running in 2018 and all others in 2019.

Current opportunities for locals depending on the projects were job opportunities in stone and sand production, building and road construction, civil engineering works in the projects and food supply business for tens of thousands of workers of the projects. Only a food supply business is a huge business.

For future prospects, all-weather 261-mile motorway from Myitsone to Yinan and 170-mile motorway from Myitsone to Laiza, seven bridges which can withstand 80 tons of load will emerge on completion of the projects. Construction of Ayeyawady river-spanning bridge south of Myitsone is underway and will be finished in 2011.

The emerging roads and bridges will contribute towards development in socio-economic status of local people and enhance regional friendship.

Local youths and educated persons will enjoy job opportunities at power plants upon completion of the projects. Kachin State will experience huge improvement in electricity supply and industrial enterprises using electricity, social, education, economic and transportation sectors will become developed with added momentum.

***Source: NLM 2011-03-22***