

EP-2 Minister replies to question on supply of electricity from National Power Grid to all towns in Chin State in order to establish factories and workshops in Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March - At Amyotha Hluttaw session held today, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Zung Hlei Thang of Chin State Constituency No- 2 put a question about supply of electricity from National Power Grid to all towns in Chin State in order to establish factories and workshops in Chin State.

Regarding the question, Minister for Electric Power No-2 U Khin Maung Myint replied that although Chin State did not enjoy electricity from National Power Grid yet, arrangements have been made in two ways- building of small-scale hydropower stations and supplying electricity from diesel engines for supply of electricity to 12 towns including Haka, Chin State's capital, and Falam and Mindat, district towns.

Under the first way of supplying electricity to nearby towns and villages from hydropower stations, eight power stations were built with total installation capacity of 3013 kilowatts.

Libar power station with generating capacity of 600 kilowatts benefits Haka and its surrounding four villages and Thantlang and its surrounding four villages, Daungbar with 400 kilowatts, Haka and its surrounding two villages, Ngasitbar with 1000 kilowatts, Falam and its surrounding nine villages, Zarlwee with 400 kilowatts, Tiddim and its surrounding three villages, Htwehsuang with 164 kilowatts, Tongzan and its surrounding two villages, Chichaung with 260 kilowatts, Mindat, Namtlaung with 139 kilowatts, Matupi and Paletwa with 50 kilowatts, Paletwa.

Therefore, eight small-scale hydropower stations can supply 24-hour electricity to eight towns and 24 villages in Chin State during the seven months period from July to January. During the remaining five months, 19 diesel engines with installation capacity of 1119 kilowatts can supply electricity six hours a day.

Under the second way of supplying electricity through diesel engines, nine diesel engines with installation capacity of 423 kilowatts benefit Kanpetlet, Yayzwa, Reidkhawdah and Kyikha. As engines run on diesel allotted by the government, those towns can enjoy electricity two hours a day.

In calculating the cost of supplying electricity through diesel engines, the government is supplying electricity to Chin State at a loss of K 10.7 million a month or K 128.4 million a year.

Supply of electricity is being carried out by 15 Electrical Engineers' Offices with the strength of 197 officers and other ranks in Chin State. As 177 out of 197 service personnel are Chin national, 177 Chin national staff made up 89.85 per cent of all staff. The monthly salary for all staff is K 7.29 million.

Construction of eight hydropower stations in Chin State cost K 89 million and 28 diesel engines K 28.95 million. The government uses 3640 gallons of diesel per month worth K 14.25 million to generate electricity from the diesel engines. The government spent K 1535.667 million for extended construction of power lines and subpower stations and maintenance of hydropower stations and diesel engines in 2010-11 fiscal year.

Then the minister continued arrangements being made for supply of electricity from National Power Grid to all Chin State. He said that plans are underway to supply electricity from 40-megawatt Myitha hydropower station in Gangaw Township and 380-megawatt Manipur hydropower station in Kalay Township through Gangaw, Kyaw, Chaungku, Pakokku and Nyaungbingyi subpower stations and to

install and build 66 KV power line and subpower stations in Haka, Falam and Tidim in Chin State. Besides, arrangements are being made to supply electricity to Matupi through Gangaw and then Mindat through 66 KV power line. Plans are underway to build 33 KV power line linking Kyauktaw subpower station and Paletwa Township in Chin State and a subpower station in order to supply electricity from hydropower plant projects- 76.5 –megawatt Saidin, 500-megawatt Laymyot and 111-megawatt Thahtaychaung-in Rakhine State. Hence, the government has spent a lot of money on supplying electricity to Chin State on a nonprofit basis.

Source: NLM 2011-03-22