

Electric Power No.1 Minister discusses proposal for building heavy hydropower station at Bontala Waterfall in Matupi

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March - The proposal “to build a heavy hydropower station in Bontala Waterfall” submitted by U Paul Lyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency No.9 was seconded by U Paul Than Htai of Chin State Constituency No.3 and discussed by Minister for Electric Power No.1 U Zaw Min at today’s session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

U Paul Than Htai said using water power at Bontala waterfall, 15 miles from Matupi, Chin State, will benefit Chin State and it is expected that the fall would provide hydropower enough to produce electricity. If a heavy hydropower station is build at the fall, it can supply power not only to Matupi but also to villages in neighbouring townships including Mindat, Haka, Thantlang, he said.

Afterwards, Minister for Electric Power No.1 U Zaw Min discussed the proposal. He said the State had already built 33 power plants which are not linked with the national grid till 2008. Of them, the small plants are equipped with generators which can generate 0.12 megawatt while the big plants are equipped with generators which can generate 5 megawatt. A power plant which can generate 10 megawatt is considered as the small one, he added.

He continued to say that according to the survery, waterpower at Bontala waterfall can be used to generate at least 1.8 megawatt. A hydropower plant at Bontala waterfall can be the small one and can generate only for the local community. It is not a heavy hydro power station, the minister said.

According to the Section-188 in the 2008 Constitution, Schedule Two, Page 189. Paragrapg 4 (a) says “Medium and small scale electric power production and distribution that have the right to be managed by the Region or State not having any link with national power grid, except large scale electirc power production and distribution having the right to be managed by the Union”.

Therefore, building a small hydropower plant is within rights of a respective state government and the proposal should be put forward to the Chin State government. Besides, private and cooperative sectors are allowed to invest in building power plants and selling the electricity. Therefore, the proposal for building a heavy hydropower plant at Bontala waterfall in Matupi Township should not be brought to Amyotha Hluttaw as the proposal is not eligible to be carried out by the Union. Therefore, the proposal should be withdrew.

After the discussion, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw rejected the proposal.

Source: NLM 2011-03-23