

## **EP-2 Minister replies to question of Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ye Tun from Thandwe Constituency**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March-At the session held today, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ye Tun from Thandwe Constituency in his question said that the township electric power supply committee was formed in 2003; that then users are charged from 450 to 1000 kyats for a unit, which means locals also have to share charges for the electricity used at the departmental rate by governmental departments; and that he wondered whether there is a plan to equalize electric power charges between Rakhine State and other Regions and States.

Minister for Electric Power No-2 U Khin Maung Myint responded that Rakhine State has not got electricity from the national grids yet; that but, a state office, four district offices, 18 township offices, three sub-township offices, and two town offices totaling 28 electrical engineer,s offices with 16 officers and 307 other ranks have been established to supply electricity.

Twenty-eight townships in Rakhine State including state capital Sittway, and three district level townships have 100 generators for which the government uses 29,590 gallons of fuel a month or 355,080 gallons a year; that the government also spends 1776.72 million kyats in 2010-2011 fiscal year for salaries of staff and generators, pylons, power stations, maintenance and other structures; that the government fund shows a loss of 453.6 million kayts a year to supply electricity to the townships in Rakhine State including 13 townships that get electricity two hours a day; that charge rates on a unit of electricity are various according to own programmes such as K 400 in Sittway, Kyaukpyu, MraukU, Manaung and Taungup, K 500 in Kyauktaw, Minbya and Yanbye, K 550 in Gwa, and K 600 in Thandwe; that there is no township in Rakhine State where electricity users are charged K 1000 a unit; that overall, K 400 a unit is a reasonable rate, but if fuel price goes up, the charge rate will also goes up; that when ongoing hydropower projects in Rakhine State are completed, the rates will go down to K 25 a unit for households and K 50 for enterprises; that the profit the ministry makes from electric power supply is very low; and that the government is carrying out non-profit projects in the national interests in that regard.

The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker said that U Ye Tun's question carried a fact that Rakhine State has to share charges for the electricity used at the departmental rate by governmental departments; and that responsible persons should review that point.

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