

MPs agree to discuss promulgation of new comprehensive Social Security Insurance Law

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March - At today's Pyithu Hluttaw (People's Parliament) session MPs discussed whether new proposals were acceptable to the Hluttaw for further discussions.

First, U Maung Nyo of Sittway Constituency submitted a proposal "to level power charges of Regions and States covered by the national power grid and Regions and States not covered by it yet at equal rate".

The motion was seconded by Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency. The Hluttaw accepted the proposal.

The proposal will be discussed at the twelfth day session on 21 March (Monday). MPs wishing to discuss the topic may register themselves at the deputy director-general of the Pyithu Hluttaw this evening.

U Pwint Hsan of Mayangon Constituency tabled a motion "to make necessary arrangements for drawing a new international level Social Security Insurance Law (draft) and to submit it to the second regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw".

U Pwint Hsan referred to the Section 96 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which says "The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall have the right to enact laws for the entire or any part of the Union related to matters prescribed in Schedule One of the Union Legislative List".

He said that subparagraph (q) of the Paragraph (9) 'Social Sector' stated the promulgation of a social security insurance law.

The MP cited the Section 24 of the constitution "The Union shall enact necessary laws to protect the rights of workers"; the Section 26 (b) "The Union shall enact necessary laws for Civil Services personnel to have security and sufficiency of food, clothing and shelter, to get maternity benefits for married women in service, and to ease livelihood for welfare of retired Service personnel"; the Section 28 (a) "The Union shall earnestly strive to improve education and health of the people"; Section 31 "The Union shall, to the extent possible, assist to reduce unemployment among the people"; the Section 32 (a) "The Union shall care for mothers and children, orphans, fallen Defence Services personnel's children, the aged and the disabled"; and the Section 351 "Mothers, children and expectant women shall enjoy equal rights as prescribed by law".

He went on to say that the existing Social Security Act, 1954, covered sickness, maternity, employment injury benefit and funeral grant for only the insured workers; and that the financial value of the benefit was small when compared with current commodity prices, adding, they were the two possible reasons behind the failure to win appropriate trust of the majority of employers and employees. Of the worker population of Myanmar only over 500,000 were covered by the Social Security Scheme, he said, calling for the promulgation of a more comprehensive law.

Accordingly, the MP said that he was in favour of enacting a new Social Security Insurance Law covering disability due to sickness, old age pension, lump sum survivor's benefit, unemployment benefit, skill training and employment schemes, health care inclusive of both the fee-payer employers

and employees apart from the existing benefits as in the social security projects of 150 countries including some member states of the ASEAN and neighbouring countries.

The proposal “to make necessary arrangements for drawing a new international level Social Security Insurance Law (draft) and to submit it to the second regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw” was submitted to fulfill the abovementioned requirements, U Pwint Hsan explained.

The motion was seconded by U Tin Myint of Taze Constituency.

The Hluttaw accepted the proposal.

The proposal will be discussed at the twelfth day session on 21 March (Monday). Those wishing to discuss the topic may register themselves at the deputy director-general of Pyithu Hluttaw this evening.

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