

Construction Minister replies to question about plans for construction of all-weather motor road between Sumprabum and Putao

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March-At today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Yaw D Dwe of Putao Constituency put a question about plans of the Ministry of Construction for upgrading of motor road between Sumprabum and Putao to all-weather facility.

He said that in Kachin State, hydropower projects are under implementation along the waterways of Maykha and Malikha rivers to satisfy the energy demand of the nation. Those projects will not only provide electricity to the nation but also satisfy the energy demand for production industries,

contributing to economic growth of the nation. Local residents who have faced difficulties in traveling for ages are overwhelmed with joy as 132 miles long motor road between Myitkyina and Sumprabum will be upgraded to concrete one for hydropower projects.

Residents of Putao have to rely on Myitkyina- Putao motor road and flights to travel and transport commodities to other regions including Myitkyina. But, motor roads are out of commission in monsoon, causing great inconvenience to locals.

The motor road between Myitkyina and Sumprabum is 218 miles long and 132 miles long section will be upgraded for the hydropower project, but 86 miles long road section is still in critical condition. He asked the Construction Ministry how the ministry has planed to upgrade the section to all-weather facility.

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint said that the ministry has laid down plans and working road by road, section by section and phase by phase to improve transportation service in Kachin State. With one state superintendent engineer's office, four district superintendent engineer's offices, 20 township superintendent engineer's offices, and nine subtownship engineer's offices, road works are carried out in Kachin State.

Five special road construction groups, and one special bridge construction groups led by deputy superintendent engineers are assigned to improved the condition of roads and bridges in the region. Myitkyina-Sumprabum- Putao Union Highway which is connected with Sumprabum- Putao Road is 218 miles long and since 1991, maintenance works were carried out with one special road construction group and Putao District Public Works. In 2005-2006 fiscal year, constriction groups of Public Works and local entrepreneurs could build the 24-ft wide hardcore road.

The road was then severely damaged due to heavy rainfall and threeaxle trucks. So, the Ministry of Construction assigned six special road construction groups and two district Public Works which were fully equipped with manpower and machinery to upgrade Myitkyina-Sumprabum- Putao Road in the 2006- 2007 fiscal year. 100 engineers, 33 staff, 35 technicians, 460 drivers, 1600 temporary workers, and 233 units of heavy machines constituted the eight construction groups which have so far 41 miles 4 furlongs long tarred road, 162 miles 4 furlongs long gravel road, and 14 miles long hardcore road, totaling 218 miles and 726 under-50-ft bridges, 26 bridges between 50 ft and 100 ft in length, 10 bridges between 100-ft and 180- ft, and 11 above-180-ft bridges, totaling 773.

The ministry has also planned to upgrade 520 feet long Mulashidi Suspension Bridge which currently can cope with light vehicles to two-way broad crest type facility in coming fiscal year.

Myitkyina-Sumprabum- Putao Union Highway has been upgraded to tarred one phase by phase. Now, China Power Investment (CPI) which is implementing hydropower project in Myitsone has proposed to construct a concrete road from Myitkyina to Sumprabum and Ministry of Construction will undertake Sumprabum and Putao sections.

So in the years to come, Myitkyina- Sumprabum-Putao road will be better, said the minister who requested the local residents not to drive three-axle vehicles and over-loaded vehicles on the road.

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