

**Five Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives
discuss proposal of U Maung Nyo of Sittway Constituency
Minister for Electric Power No.2 replies**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March -At the session of Pyithu Hluttaw today, five Pyithu Hluttaw representatives held discussions on the proposal which is approved to discuss “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” raised by U Maung Nyo of Sittway Constituency.

Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathaedaung Constituency said that there was no argument on the clarification of the Electric Power No-2 Minister to the question raised by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ye Tun of Thandwe Constituency. But there were other points to think. She said there was a great difference between K 25 and K 50 a unit charged for electricity from power grid and K 450 or K 500 a unit charged in Rakhine State. Instead of taking financial point of view on this public services, other political, economic and social points of view should be taken.

Although the Ministry of Electric Power No-2 is an enterprise, it is a service industry by nature. All national race voters residing in the Union should have equal rights and harmonious development should be guaranteed in all parts of the Union.

K 200 per unit will be a reasonable rate for the regions where electricity is being generated from diesel engines. By doing so, the rate of electricity bill will be equal in the regions that has not got electricity from national power grid before the completion of hydropower projects. There were many governmentfunded programmes.

Hydropower projects-Thahtaychaung in Thandwe, Saidin in Buthidaung and Laymyot in Minbya-being implemented in Rakhine State will not be completed within few years. She called on the government to render assistance to more electricity supply in Rakhine State that gets electricity from 6 to 10 pm.

In his discussion, U Gyi Phon Sah of Naugmon Constituency said that regarding the proposal to charge for electricity bill at equal rate, it is required to study the nature of generating and supplying electricity logically.

Like Rakhine State, rates of electricity bill are different in Kachin State. Systems of supplying electricity from hydropower station, from diesel engines, from neighbouring countries and from committees for availability of electricity made differences in charging for electricity bills. According to cost of production and the length of time electricity supplied, rates of electricity bill will vary. For instance, electricity users are charged K 800 per unit in Phakant region in Kachin State and K 160 in Myitkyina. It is learnt that the government lost K 100 million a month on supplying electricity through diesel engines.

The government could not afford to bear the cost in all sectors. It is difficult to fulfill the requirements of a particular region. The government is trying hard for ensuring equitable development in all corners of the nation. The proposal should be reviewed as it is impossible to charge electricity bill at equal rate from the political, management and economic points of view.

Next, U Tun Aung Kyaw of Ponnagyun Constituency said that the amount of electricity received in Rakhine State and electricity bills is making it difficult for businesses to run in full swing and the region is witnessing losses rather than profits.

Being an independent state formed with Union system, development of the whole Union calls for development of Regions and States and economic infrastructures.

Electricity insufficiency, increase in cost of living and closure of factories due to high electricity bill will lead to high unemployment and hard living.

He seconded the proposal submitted by U Maung Nyo because he believed in honesty that regional development can contribute towards peace and stability and perpetual existence of the Union.

Next, U Sai Tun Sein of Mongping Constituency said that supplying electricity at a loss through diesel engines to the regions with lack of hydropower. It is difficult to see the proposal logically.

Like Rakhine State, it is difficult to charge for electricity bill at equal rate in Shan State. There are different systems in supplying electricity in Shan State.

He expressed his firm belief that the State is striving to supply adequate power to all regions. Due to differences in production cost, geographical situation and supply duration, unit prices cannot be the same in the whole country. Equal unit charges will be possible when the country has national energy security to the full. Hence the proposal should be reviewed.

Dr San Hlaing of Taungup constituency said the State is implementing plans for the whole nation to equally enjoy the benefits of national grid. He thanked the government for building hydropower stations in Thahtay creek, Saidin, An and Laymyo of Rakhine State. He expressed belief that after completion of the stations, most of the towns in state will get power from the grid and that unit price will be the same in the whole nation. At present, diesel and husk-fired generators are distributing power to regions outside the grid. Unit prices will vary to a certain degree depending on production cost, transport charges and fuel prices. The unit price in Taungup is K 450.

Equal development is not possible yet. Logically, the government cannot take all the responsibilities in market economic system.

Then, he discussed that the proposal should be reconsidered with positive view as it is unlikely that the electricity bills are paid at equal rate.

Regarding the proposal, Minister for Electric Power No.2 U Khin Maung Myint said the State is supplying electric power to the public through five ways – power supply by building national power grids, power supply by building small-scale hydropower plants, power supply from diesel engines, power supply from diesel engines after formation of electric power supply committees with local authorities and townspeople, power supply by building smallscale hydropower plants and power supply to some regions adjacent to neighbouring nations through purchase of electricity from those nations. The electricity bill rates in the regions being supplied through the investment of the ministry are 25 kyats per unit for household meter and 50 kyats per unit for commercial meter. But, the regions which are supplied electricity with private investments have different rates.

Way One in distributing electricity includes:

- (1) The national power grid supplies power to 10 out of 14 cities where region and state offices are seated and four other states and regions are supplied electricity through the other ways.
- (2) The national power grid supplies power to 42 out of 67 towns where district offices are seated and 25 other towns are supplied electricity through the other ways.
- (3) The national power grid supplies power to 224 out of 330 towns where township offices are seated and 106 other towns are supplied electricity through the other ways.
- (4) The said ten Region/state capitals, 42 district capitals, 224 townships, 26 sub-town and towns and 1393 villages get power from national grid through self-help means. The remaining 4986 villages get power through other means. Hence 6379 villages get electricity on self-help basis.

The price is K 25 per unit for households and K 50 for business purposes. In the second way, the EP- 2 Ministry has 32 mini hydropower stations. They with 33.237 megawatt-capacity are supplying power to 31 towns and 42 villages round the clock for seven months from January to July and diesel generators distribute power six hours daily to them during the remaining months charging the same unit price as in the places covered by the grid. A total of 568 stateowned generators are supplying power to 309 townships not inclusive in the previous two methods. The annual consumption of diesel is 1400,448 gallons.

But the generators can run only two hours with the fuel provided by the ministry. Per unit price is K 25 for households and K 50 for businesses. The cost for the State is K 300 for diesel plus K 19 for transport charges for every unit. If other costs are added, the State is distributing electricity at a loss of K 294 per unit.

The State is supplying power to Kachin State, Chin State, Rakhine State, Shan State (North), Kayah State and Kayin State at an annual loss of K 1807.35 million. Annual revenue is K 84690.397 million meaning average income per unit is K 33.25 of which every K 20 goes to the EP-1 Ministry and only K 13.25 to EP-2 Ministry. If other costs including maintenance, tax, fuel are subtracted the ministry gets a per unit profit of only 63 pyas.

Concerning the fourth way, towns and villages which want to have electricity more than two hours daily are forming region-wise committees and bearing the extra fuel cost. Depending on duration and cost, unit price goes between K 400 and K 600. There are 47 power distributor groups.

Kachin State has one group supplying six hours daily at K 800 per unit. Sagaing Region has one group supplying 13 hours daily at K 550 per unit.

Rakhine State has 12 groups supplying 13 hours daily in Kyauktaw at K 500 per unit; 12 hours daily in MyaukU at K 450 per unit; 10 hours daily in Taungup at K 400 per unit; five hours daily in Myinbya at K 500 per unit; four hours daily in Thandwe at K 600 per unit; three hours daily in Kyaukphyu and Manauang at K 300 per unit; four hours daily in Gwa at K 550 per unit; four hours daily in Sittway (four groups) at K 400 per unit.

Shan State (South) has one group supplying 12 hours daily at K 700 per unit. Moreover, two hydro generators with 375 kva are distributing four hours daily at K 275 per unit.

Mon State has two groups supplying round the clock to Ye at K 500 per unit and 10 hours daily to Kawza at K 500 per unit. Taninthayi Region has 30 groups. Two are supplying from 18 to 24 hours daily to Dawei at K 430 per unit; one is supplying four hours daily to Myitta at K 285 per unit; two are supplying four hours daily to Yebyu at K 450 per unit; two are supplying 14 hours daily to Maungmakan at K 500 per unit; one is supplying four hours daily to Launglon at K 450 per unit; one is supplying four hours daily to Kaleinaung at K 300 per unit; eleven are supplying 24 hours daily to Myeik at K 300 per unit; one is supplying 24 hours daily to Palaw at K 450 per unit; one is supplying five hours daily to Palauk at K 450 per unit; one is supplying five hours daily to Taninthayi at K 450 per unit; one is supplying 24 hours daily to Kawhtoung at K 400 per unit; one is supplying three hours daily to Khamaukgyi at K 450 per unit; one is supplying 15 hours daily to Bokpyin at K 470 per unit; one is supplying four hours daily to Pyigyimandaing at K 450 per unit; two are supplying three hours daily to Karathuri at K 450 per unit. There are 47 groups in the whole nation charging from K 300 to 800 per unit.

Per unit cost is K 319 (K 300 for diesel+K 19 for transport). If K5 for Royal Fee is subtracted, they have K 76 for maintenance and other expenses. So, K 400 per unit is a reasonable price. But it depends on the price of fuel.

There are 14 groups distributing power with minihydropower stations. Buga Co is supplying to Myitkyina and Waingmaw 24 hours daily at unit price of K 160 for households and K 300 for small industries with three 3.5-megawatt stations; one group is supplying 24 hours daily to Chipwe at K 200 per unit with 200-kv station.

Shan State (North) has three groups. One group in Kutkai is supplying 24 hours daily at unit price of K 200 for households and K 300 for small industries with 640- Kv station; one group in Tangyan is supplying eight hours daily at unit price of K 250 for both the households and small industries with 75-Kv station; One group in Manton is supplying 24 hours daily at unit price of K 250 for first 50 units, K 200 for second 50 units, K 100 for 100 units and above.

Shan State (East) has two groups. One group in Kengtung is supplying 24 hours daily at unit price of K 60 with 3480-Kv station; One group in Tachilek is supplying 24 hours daily during high water level and two hours daily during low water level at unit price of 6 Baht or K 195 with 50-Kv station.

In Shan State (South) one group in Kunhing is supplying 24 hours daily at unit price of K 60 with 175-Kv station.

Taninthayi Region has five groups. One group in Kyunsu is supplying 24 hours daily in rainy season and five hours daily in summer at unit price of K 250 with 150-Kv station; three groups in Taninthayi are supplying four to nine hours daily at unit price from K 480 to 500 with 124-Kv stations; one group in Malikyun is supplying six hours daily at unit price of K 500 with 192-Kv station.

Small hydropower plants are charging 60 to 500 Kyats per unit of electricity.

There are 12 units for accessing electricity which are buying electricity from neighbouring countries in some regions adjacent to neighbouring countries as the fifth method. Lwalkyal of Kachin State is buying electricity from China and supplying electricity 24 hours a day. One unit charge is 145 Kyats. There are seven units in Shan State (North) buying electricity from China and supplying electricity 24 hours a day. One unit charge is 1.2 Ywans in Chinshwehaw; 1.5 Ywans in Monekoe; 1.2 Ywans in Manhero; 1.2 Ywans in Hopang; 300 Kyats in Nantphatka, Khomone, Mongyulay; 1.4 Ywans or

about 210 Kyats for both ordinary household metre and small industrial use metre in Kunlong and 1 Ywans for 150 Kyats for ordinary household metre and 1.2 Ywans or about 180 Kyats for small industrial use metre in Laukkai.

In Muse, Namhkam and Kyugok, one unit charge is 1.2 Ywans or about 162 Kyats. Now, the State is charging 120 Kyats per unit electricity supplied by Shweli Hydropower Plant. The State charges 120 Kyats per unit because it has bought the electricity from Shweli Hydropower Plant with Ywan.

Tachilek in Shan State (East) is buying electricity from Thailand and supplying electricity 24 hours a day.

One unit charge is 6.25 Bahts or about 200 Kyats for ordinary household metre and 7.5 Bahts or 240 Kyats for small industrial use metre.

One unit charge in No (1) Ward of Myawady in Kayin State with 24-hr electricity supply is 4.5 Bahts or about 144 Kyats for ordinary household metre and 6 Bahts or about 192 Kyats for small industrial use metre; that in No (2) Ward of Myawady is seven Bahts or about 244 Kyats for ordinary household metre and 9 Bahts or 280 Kyats for small industrial use metre; that in Phaya Tonezu of Kayin State six Bahts or about 192 Kyats for both ordinary household metre and small industrial use metre.

It can be seen that Committee for availability of electric power supply are supplying electricity by using every possible way; that the committee could serve interest of the people depend on its ability; that the government is doing it without taking any profit, that there could be different electricity charges across the nation at the time when electricity can not be distributed from national power grid and that now it is not impossible to equalize electricity charges nationwide.

The government does not neglect regions that have no links with national power grid. The 26 hydropower projects (3035 MW) and a coal-fired power station (six MW) are being implemented with the private sector investments and 36 hydropower projects (36360 MW) and two coal-fired power station (870 MW) are under implementation with the foreign investment.

Upon completion of the 65 projects (40271 MW), electricity would be supplied to regions and surrounding areas through national power grid. Then, electricity power charges can be equalized. Of 65 projects, Thahtay Chaung Hydropower project would generate 111 MW, Laymyo hydropower project, 500 MW, Saidin Hydropower project, 76.5 MW and An Hydropower project, 10 MW respectively. Electricity will be supplied to 17 townships of Rakhine State and Paletwa Township of Chin State through national power grid. Electricity charge per unit will be the rate fixed by the government.

Due to natural barriers, privileges and rights would never be same.

So, the proposal submitted by U Maung Nyo is good with benevolent attitude. But it is less possible and impossible to take action under current situation.

Now, it is impossible and very difficult to have equal rights across the nation. So, he discussed that U Maung Nyo should review his proposal and it is a proposal not to continue to discuss.

The Hluttaw Speaker said that five representatives and the Minister for Electric Power No.2 fully discussed the proposal submitted by U Maung Nyo of Sittway Constituency; that discussions on the proposal are beneficial not only to region but also to the State. So, it will be put on record at Hluttaw

and taken into account in the future. He asked U Maung Nyo's option of whether or not his proposal should be submitted to the Hluttaw.

U Maung Nyo said that I thank for submitting aspiration of the people at the hluttaw on behalf of the people; that the detailed explanations of representatives and the Minister are resonable. But the State should put into consideration at opportune time and he postponed his proposal.

Pyithu Hluttaw announced the postponement of U Maung Nyo's proposal was agreed.

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