

## **PBANRDA Minister replies to question on drinking water supply project in Sittway**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March- At today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Maung Nyo of Sittway Constituency said that the people of Sittway, the city of Rakhine State, are facing problem of drinking water. He asked whether there is a water supply plan to solve the difficulty of drinking water in Sittway or not, and he would like to know when the plan will be implemented if it is true.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Thein Nyunt replied that the Development Committees Law promulgated as Law No. 5/93 by the State Law and Order Restoration Council was issued on 1 April 1993 so that the Development Affairs Department is to carry out beautifying of urban areas and developing of rural areas. Section 9 of the law is mentioned to undertake 31 points and supervise them.

Therefore, the department levies revenue and tax in the respective townships as income according to the law and spend the income on the beautifying of urban areas and developing of rural areas under permission of the ministry.

Due to lack of income through tax and revenue, cash assistance is yearly provided by the State to Sittway Township for carrying out urban water supply tasks.

A total of 2.55 million gallons of water is being supplied to Sittway through 410 million gallon capacity Kandawgyi Lake, 14 rainy water tanks, 12 wells of Development Affairs Committee and 10 wells of other departments, and 992 private-owned artesian wells.

On his inspection tours of Sittway on 24-1-2009, 16-1-2010 and 17-5-2010, the Prime Minister gave instructions to provide assistance for supply of water to Sittway as the Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council presented a report that Sittway was facing difficulty of drinking water.

Under the instructions of the Prime Minister, the Ministry undertook three plans of water supply.

The first plan is to clean the water pipelines of urban water supply system. Cast Iron pipes of Sittway were decayed and blocked due to long-term use. Some parts of pipelines were damaged. In 2009-2010, the pipelines were cleaned and 8500 feet long new pipelines were laid for the areas where water was not supplied. Three water pumping stations and one water collecting tank were built for smooth supply of water. In so doing, the State spent K 69.62 million on maintenance of water pipeline, installation of new pipelines and building of water pumps to supply residences of Sittway through 2760 water taps and 120 public water tanks.

As the second plan, the local authorities in cooperation with the local people have been supplying 1.2 million gallons of water daily from Aungdaing Fresh Water Tank to Kandawgyi Lake through two 50-HP water pumps since 1995. In so doing, the work was contributed with K 161.23 million by the people and K 204.47 million by the State. Moreover, K 79 million was spent on rebuilding the 4700 feet long embankment of Kangawgyi Lake to store 40 more million gallons of water. As such, about 3 million gallons of water is being supplied to Sittway daily.

As the third plan, 6400 feet long and 15 feet high earthen dam is being built by damming Kanpaing Creek, 4200 feet north from Sittway. The facility will store 130 million gallons of water to supply 400,000 more gallons of water to seven wards of northern Sittway. The construction will cost K 195.22 million. On completion, Sittway can consume 3.4 million gallons of water daily.

On his inspection tour of Kandawgyi Lake on 16-3-2010 and 17-5-2010, the Prime Minister heard reports presented by the minister and the chairman of Rakhine State PDC. So, it is known to all the State has managed supply of water for people from Sittway.

According to Section 254 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Chief Minister of State is allowed to spend tax and revenues of the Township DACs under the State Budget Law in line with the Development Committees Law. Therefore, Chief Prime of the State will continue tasks of water sufficiency spending the funds of the State and carry out supply of water for Sittway step by step, he replied.

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