

## **PBANRDA Minister replies to question on less developed regions**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March-At today's session of the Pyithu Hluttaw, U N Phon Hsan (a) U N Htu Phon Hsan of Machanbaw Constituency asked whether assistance will be provided to the regions of national races that lag behind in development and whether the State will send an observation team to less developed national races or regions for giving priority to development of the national races or regions.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Thein Nyunt replied that border areas of the Union of Myanmar had lagged behind in development due to internal insurrection and poor transport before 1988. The Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development was formed on 25 May 1989 under the order No. 23/89 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council for gaining development momentum in border areas of national races. On 27 October 2004, the central committee was reformed with the participation of 16 members chaired by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services as chairman under the notification No. 74/2004 to supervise progress of border areas of national races. To be able to implement the instructions of the central committee, the Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races was formed with 17 members on 31 May 1989 under the notification No. 24/89 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council. According to the notification No. 32/2006 of the State Peace and Development Council on 14 July 2006, the work committee was reformed with 23 members headed by the Prime Minister which is effectively carrying out progress of border areas and national races. As the government has been placing emphasis on national reconsolidation since 1989, a total of 17 major armed groups and over 20 small groups have returned to the legal fold.

In consequence, the regions could restore peace and stability and undertake development tasks with momentum.

Deputy Ministers of relevant ministries are taking chairmen at 18 subcommittees for Progress of Border Areas and National Races with participation of departmental heads. These subcommittees were:

- (a) road/bridge subcommittee
- (b) transport subcommittee
- (c) health subcommittee
- (d) education subcommittee
- (e) agriculture subcommittee
- (f) forest subcommittee
- (g) livestock breeding subcommittee
- (h) trade subcommittee

- (i) energy subcommittee
- (j) public relations subcommittee
- (k) mining subcommittee
- (l) communications subcommittee
- (m) house construction subcommittee
- (n) management and finance subcommittee
- (o) statistic inspection subcommittee
- (p) religious affairs subcommittee
- (q) home affairs subcommittee
- (r) social welfare and cooperative subcommittee.

To be able to closely supervise tasks in border areas, 11 regional work committees were chaired by commanders of respective military commands and chairmen of State PDCs on 13 June 1989. They were;

- (a) Kachin State Regional Work Committee
- (b) Shan State (North) Regional Work Committee
- (c) Shan State (East) Regional Work Committee
- (d) Shan State Regional Work Committee
- (e) Kayah State Regional Work Committee
- (f) Kayin State Regional Work Committee
- (g) Mon State Regional Work Committee
- (h) Taninthayi Region Regional Work Committee
- (i) Sagaing Region Regional Work Committee
- (j) Chin State Regional Work Committee

(k) Rakhine State Regional Work Committee.

The government formed the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on 24 September 1992 under Announcement No. 54/92 with a view to supervising progress of border areas and national races.

The Central and Work Committees for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs implemented the development tasks on priority submitted by township, district and regional work committees.

From 1989-1990 to 2010-2011 financial years, the State has spent K 130,040 million through the border areas funds and K 214,233.97 million through the funds of relevant ministries, totaling K 344,273.97 million on development of border areas and national races across the nation.

These undertakings were:

(a) A total of 4397 miles long earthen roads, 3133 miles long gravel roads, 473 miles long asphalt roads were constructed and 3587 miles long roads maintained. Likewise, Public Works built 119 large bridges, 1462 small bridges and 63 suspension bridges.

(b) A total of 888 primary schools, 92 middle schools and 94 high schools were opened in the education sector.

(c) A total of 100 hospitals, 96 dispensaries, 94 rural health centres and 202 rural health branches were opened in the health sector.

(d) A total of 31 agricultural office and 118 agricultural camps were built in the agricultural sector, and 17 measured dams, five canals and 11 tractors constructed.

(e) A total of 20 breeding farms and 41 veterinary offices were opened and 73 cows and 38 donkeys distributed in the livestock breeding sector.

(f) A total of 11 forest reserves, 14 planned forest reserves, four sawmills and 14 forest nurseries were established in the forest sector.

(g) A total of 113 TV re-transmission stations were built in the public relations sector.

h) A total of 54 post offices, 47 telegraphic offices and 86 telephone works were established in the communication sector.

(i) A total of 276 generators and 51 hydropower plants were constructed in the energy sector.

In the area of Kachin State Regional Work Committee, one excavator, 12 bulldozers, six road rollers and eight dump tippers are being operated.

In implementing the plans for progress of border areas and national races, the subcommittees gave equal term of opportunity to Kachin State. In doing, a total of 725 miles long earthen roads, 309 miles long gravel roads and two miles long asphalt roads were constructed and 272 miles long roads maintained. In addition, a total of 12 large bridges, 319 small bridges and 24 suspension bridges were built in the state by spending K 2780.59 million through the border area development fund.

In the education sector, a total of 173 primary schools, 13 middle schools and 10 high schools were opened in Kachin State. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the 3- Rs course has been jointly conducted for adult illiterates and over-age national children in cooperation with the Ministry of Education since 1996. In consequence, a total of 4228 people- 439 people in 2002, 835 in 2005, 286 in 2006, 855 in 2007, 728 in 2008, 278 in 2009 and 807 in 2010-became literates in respective townships.

In the health sector, border areas of Kachin State has been facilitated with 12 hospitals, 30 dispensaries, 17 rural health centres and 27 rural health branches.

In the agriculture sector, the state has two dams, two agricultural farms and eight agricultural offices.

In the livestock breeding sector, four livestock breeding offices were opened and one breeding farm built.

With regard to the public relations sector, Kachin State has provided with 15 TV re-transmission stations.

In raising communication tasks in Kachin State, three post offices, five telegraphic offices and six telephone exchange were opened.

In the energy sector, a total of 22 generators are supplying electricity to 17 towns and villages. And, one hydropower plant is under construction.

The minister explained progress of human resources development for national race youths who faced lack of learning opportunity as the border areas could not restore peace and stability in the past. In undertaking development of border areas, it is necessary to ensure local food sufficiency of national races residing in the border areas for the first phase.

After that, it is necessary to build social-economic infrastructure for the local people. And then, it is necessary to place emphasis on human resources development for achieving sustainable development.

Arrangements have been made to create learning opportunity for the children from border areas who lost the learning opportunity in successive eras. In so doing, a total of 29 border areas national races development schools were opened along the border areas for the national race youths. Of them, one training school is opened in Putao, two in Myitkyina and one in Bhamo.

The trainees who are qualified for the prescribed regulations of the training schools are admitted at the boarding to attend the high schools.

From 1999-2000 to 2010-2011 academic years, a total of 561 students of 612 who passed the matriculation examination attended the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges in Yangon and Mandalay, 24 students at University for Development of National Races, eight at nursing courses, 10 at midwifery course and nine at education college.

In 2000, Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges were established in Yangon and Mandalay.

To be able to turn out technicians, the Department of Education and Training was formed under the permission of Government Meeting 21/99 on 17 June 1999. At present, two Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges (Yangon and Mandalay), 29 border areas and national race youth development training schools, four border areas and national race youth technical schools and 39 vocational training schools for the women are being kept open for the national races.

The national race youths from border areas who passed matriculation examination were scrutinized to attend the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges (Yangon and Mandalay) for learning arts, science and engineering courses. In addition, the outstanding students are admitted to attend master's courses, BE and ME courses.

From 2003-2004 to 2010-2011 academic years, 380 students got BA degrees, 688 BSc degrees and 445 AGTI diplomas. Arrangements were made for outstanding students to pursue master's courses, MRes course, Prelim course, PhD course, BTech, BE and ME courses. Up to 2010-2011 academic year, a total of 44 MA and 67 MSc graduates, eight ME, 117 BE and 182 BTech graduates have been turned out. A total of 1068 BA/BSc graduates and 445 diploma holders have been appointed at ministries.

Of 39 vocational training schools for the women, four training schools were opened in Putao, Bhamo, Dunban Village of Phakant Township and Dawphonyan in Kachin State. The schools open training basic domestic training schools, advanced tailoring course, knitting course, weaving course, mosaic course, wickerwork (rattan/bamboo) course, embroidery course and cookery course to the trainees.

From 1992 to date, the training schools produced 38489 trainees. In Kachin State, 2410 trainees attended four schools.

In reviewing the clarifications, undertakings of the State can be seen for progress of the less developed regions of national races.

The minister said that as the Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development has formed the work committee, respective regional committees and the township work committees, everybody can know progress of border areas and national races through step by step presentations.

Therefore, task for progress of border areas and national races will be carried out with momentum.

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