

## **EP-1 Minister replies to question on generating of hydropower from Htakhachaung Waterfall**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March- At today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U N Phon Hsan (a) U N Htu Phon Hsan of Machanbaw Constituency of Kachin State said he has learnt that the authorities concerned have conducted feasibility studies for many times to generate hydropower from Htakhachaung Waterfall in Machanbaw Township of Kachin State. He asked whether a project has been set to generate hydropower from Htakhachaung Waterfall and he would like to know when the project would commence.

In his response, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min explained that hydropower projects are to be submitted at first to the Special Projects Implementation Committee for approval. Then, feasibility studies on annual rainfall, year-wise inflow water, geological condition, possibilities of the project at upstream and downstream of the creek are to be conducted for the project. Generally, it is necessary to take 18 months for the studies.

Based on the report of studies, the detailed observation is to be conducted. Sometimes, feasibility studies are to be conducted at three or four places. Of them, the best place is to be chosen and then the detailed observation is to be carried out. Later, the detailed design for the project is to be created by taking 12 months. As such, it is necessary to take 30 months for conducting feasibility studies and creating the design. Depending on the size of the project, construction tasks take three years to 10 years.

The nation has 34 small-scale hydropower projects and plants and 16 medium- and heavy-scale hydropower projects and plants. Since 2001, the 30-year electric power long-term plan has been implemented in the nation through the ministry, national entrepreneurs' companies and foreign investment. At present, there are 68 implementing projects and studying projects that can generate 45,000 megawatts.

The Htakhachaung Hydropower Project raised by U N Htu Phon Hsan has sought approval from the Special Projects Implementation Committee. The project is under observation and it will be a small-scale project to be implemented by one national entrepreneur company.

With regard to the electric power sector, Paragraph (4) (a) on Page 189 in the schedule two, Section 188 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states "Medium and small scale electric power production and distribution that have the right to be managed by the Region or State not having any link with national power grid, except large scale electric power production and distribution having the right to be managed by the Union". Therefore, private entrepreneurs and cooperative societies have the opportunity to invest in regional small-scale hydropower projects under the supervision of the State government.

**Source: NLM 2011-03-24**