

**Second regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw continues for third day.
Questions raised and answered, proposals and bills submitted for approval**



NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug-The second regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the third day at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 387 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

At the session, Union Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Thein Htay replied to the query on Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College raised by U Kyaw Myint (a) U Po Tok of Momeik Constituency.

The Union Minister said that Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College prioritizes the eligible national race youths from border areas with lack of development to attend the courses. The degree college is striving for nurturing more youths year after year. Priority is given to selection of the youths who passed matriculation examination from remote areas and from 29 national youths and border region development training schools.

The degree college prescribes the qualifications for the youths who must be national race and is fluent in ethnic language, must pass the matriculation examination.

They must not be over 20 years on 30 June in academic year.

They must be single.

They must be citizenship scrutiny card holders. The candidate to the degree college must not be pursuing higher education of universities including University of Distance Education. They have to enter the personal test of the scrutiny board.

The students must pass the medical test. The entrance scrutiny board chaired by the Deputy Minister for Border Affairs is systematically carrying out the tasks. In 2011-2012 academic year, arrangements have been made to admit 200 more arts and science students and 200 more engineering students.

Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min replied to two queries on Myanmar Railways raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

With regard to the question on Gokhtaik railroad viaduct raised by U Kyaw Myint of Nawngkhio Constituency, the Union Minister replied that according to the inspection of JICA and Myanmar Railways, the bridge is in good condition.

If the bridge is maintained regularly, the facility can be used for the long term. Myanmar Railways is carrying out annual inspection and maintenance for the bridge.

Moreover, specific technician teams of Myanmar Railways check the bridge.

Not to be stopped the runs of train, a reserved railroad has been constructed downstream of the Gokhtaik Viaduct.

Yearly, funds will be allotted for the facility and regular inspection and maintenance will be undertaken.

The Union Minister then replied to a query raised by U Myint Thu of Dagon Myothit (East) Constituency on upgrading passenger coaches, railroads and stations. He said that arrangements have been made to buy passenger coaches and these facilities will arrive here within two years. At that time, the passenger coaches, railroads and stations will be of higher standard. At present, efforts are being made for betterment of passenger coaches, railroads and stations year by year. If fares of passenger ticket and charges of commodities can be increased reasonably, Myanma Railways can earn increased income to be able to upgrade train facilities. Private entrepreneurs are invited to carry out sanitation of railway stations through tender.

Priority is being given to maintenance of railways built before independence era.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung also replied to the question raised by Dr Nay Lin of Seikkan Constituency on construction of quarters for workers who are discharging duties at Yangon Port and keeping Yangon River and Port pleasant for environmental conservation. The Union Minister said that if the ministry receives funds from the State, plan will be adopted to build worker quarters in the vacant lands of Myanma Port Authority. Yangon Region government assigned Yangon City Development Committee to keep Yangon River pleasant and beautiful. Other necessary organizations will be formed for pleasantness of the port and environmental conservation.

U Aung Kyaw Khin of Kyauktan Constituency asked about upgrading the remaining 15 miles and 6 furlongs long section of Pandaw-Kamakalok- Mingalun-Khanaung-Tadamyo Road of Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region, to asphalt or concrete facility. His one more question was to construct 8 miles and 7 furlongs long Pandaw-Bawgaluk-Chaungwa- Meepya-Zwebakondan-Thande road section as gravel or concrete facility in Kyauktan Township.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied that Kaddapana-Khanaung-Kamakalok-Pandaw Road was paved on the seawater embankment.

Due to heavy rains, infiltration of water into the embankment and weak foundation of road, if the road is built as asphalt facility, it will be damaged in a short time. Moreover, there is no plan to build it as concrete one because of large amount requirement of funds.

Gravel roads in model villages will be upgraded to the asphalt sections and wooden bridges to RC facilities depending on the allocation in 2012-2013 financial year.

Being a seawater embankment, Pandaw- Meepya-Kamakalok road will be built as a road for all season use facility. There is no plan to build it as concrete road. Upgrading of gravel roads and bridges to RC ones will depend on the funds in 2012-2013 financial year.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun replied to two questions raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

With regard to question on reopening of Myanma Economic Bank in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region raised by U Nyan Win of Hlinethaya Constituency, the Union Minister said that the ministry would demand the funds. If the fund is received, the MEB will be rebuilt in 2012-2013 financial year.

He replied to the question raised by U Tha Win of Yankin Constituency on raising basic salary of State service personnel that considering the circulation of money, inflation rate, price of commodity and GDP, the basic salary of the personnel will be raised at an opportune time.

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye also replied to four questions raised by four Hluttaw representatives.

With regard to a question on requirement of 890 sets of desks at basic education primary schools in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region raised by U Nyan Win of Hlinethaya Constituency, the Union Minister said that a total of 890 sets of desks will be shared to 12 BEHSs in Hlinethaya Township within 2011-2012 financial year.

The Union Minister replied to the question on extending one more academic year for existing basic education high school that although curriculum of basic education school is being compiled to meet international standards, assessments are being made where academic years should be set three years. It is necessary to take two and a half years for making preparation to extend one more academic year at the basic education high school level. As the funds for such work will be contributed by the State, the question can be replied after holding coordination in the Union government by calculating the tasks and costs.

Regarding the question raised by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency about reading and discussing poems and biographies of martyrs in basic education schools, the Union minister replied that preliminary activities were reduced as propaganda campaigns regarding the martyrs' day were conducted in order to damage the stability of the State in 1988 and later years; though, background event of martyr's day and independence struggle are still included in Myanmar's history lessons; and activities in advance of martyrs' day such as poem recitations, essay contests and talks will be encouraged.

Regarding the question raised by U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency about the interruption of lessons for matriculation on MRTV-4, the Union minister answered that lectures on MRTV-4 were of big name tuition teachers who are working as private teachers and instructors in private schools and training centers and not from the Ministry of Education; if the television channels want to air lectures, those should be from the Ministry of Education; broadcasting TV programmes will have to be coordinated with the Ministry of Information; and it will go on as the decision of the two ministries.

Regarding the question raised by Hsai Bo Aung of Muse Constituency about smoking cigarette and tobacco-related products restriction law, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin replied that education building, classroom, office, school compound and other buildings in the compound except gymnasiums, playgrounds, staff quarters and bed rooms in the school compound are places where smoking is prohibited; abiding the prohibition not to smoke in no smoking areas will make the areas with no smoke, so that there is no need to include "No smoke area" in the law; Cigarette and tobacco product factories are subjected to Provision 7 (b) like others factories and workshops which have to designate smoking sites; the Industry Supervision and Inspection Department of the Ministry of Industry-1 is conducting fieldtrips to ensure private industries are abiding the private industry law regarding public health, environmental pollution and depletion; related ministries are drafting environmental conservation law; and after completion, the environmental conservation measures will be more effective.

Six Hluttaw representatives discussed the report of Pyithu Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee submitted to the Hluttaw yesterday. The Hluttaw approved the report presented by Committee Chairman U Win Sein.

Three Hluttaw representatives discussed about the proposal regarding "tax exemption from all exports for boosting import and export and speeding up economic growth" and three Hluttaw representatives discussed about the proposal regarding "establishing a watchdog to replenish the budgets in the same fiscal year" submitted by U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency yesterday. Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun made clarification.

As U Kyi Myint requested the withdrawal of the proposals, the Hluttaw agreed the withdrawal.

Three Hluttaw representative discussed about the proposal regarding “an order to be issued for the Myanmar Medical Council as a professional body” and six Hluttaw representatives discussed about proposal “promulgation of necessary laws and rules to form Medical Protection Society” made by Dr Maung Maung Wint of Bahan Constituency. Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin made clarification.

The Hluttaw approved the proposals of Dr Maung Maung Wint.

U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa Constituency submitted proposal “establishment of education funds by parents and wellwishers Region-wise, Statewise and Township-wise in implementing compulsory primary education system as prescribed in Section 28, Sub-Section (c) of the Constitution ” and U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency submitted proposal “revoking the Contempt of Courts Act, Act XII, 1926”.

As the Pyithu Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal, the date 25 August (Thursday) was set for discussion and Hluttaw representatives who want to participate in discussions were to enlist this evening.

The third-day First Pyithu Hluttaw second regular session was concluded at 4.10 pm today and the session continues for fourth-day on 25 August (Thursday).

Source: NLM 2011-08-25