

## Myanmar enjoys GSP with retroactive benefit for exports

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct—Pyithu Hluttaw continued its second day of the fifth regular session at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex, here, today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 389 MPs.

At the meeting, six questions were answered, one proposal, recorded and one report, submitted.

At question-and-answer session, Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin answered the queries raised by two Hluttaw representatives on health sector. Regarding the query on **“If there is any plan to appoint an eye specialist at Kyaukpyu District Hospital and there is any restriction on appointment of eye specialists at any hospitals (100-bed),”** raised by U Ba Shein from Kyaukpyu Constituency, the Union Health Minister answered that appointment of eye specialists is out of the organizational structure of the 100-bedded hospitals. But mobile eye specialists groups are making field trips to needy areas and assistant eye specialists are being appointed.

With respect of the query on **“if there is any plan to add medical ethics subject, an extended subject, into the courses of Universities of Medicine, Universities of Nursing, University of Pharmacy, Universities of Medical Technology,”** presented by Defence Service Personnel Representative Major Myat Moe, the Union Minister answered that medical ethics subject had already been taught in the universities under the Medial Science Department.

In response to the query on **“if there is any plan to Government Technical High School in Momeik Township for Mabein and Momeik Township,”** Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo said that at present, the ministry is in the process of promoting capacity building of universities and colleges under the ministry, and of producing skillful engineers and technical experts. Therefore, there is no plan to build a Government Technical High School in Momeik. But that plan will be on the list at an opportune time.

Regarding the query on **“How much benefit sanctuaries would being to regions and the State”** raised by U Hla Tun from Khamti Constituency, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun said that the benefits are preservation of ecosystem, sustaining favourable environmental conditions, minimizing land disputes, reducing conflicts between human beings and animals, recording and conducting research on biodiversity, recording habitats of the wild animals, saving endangered species, curbing illegal trade of animals, developing ecotourism, facilitating socioeconomic development of local people and acquiring technology and fund from local and international organizations and handing down these sanctuaries to the next generation as natural heritages.

With respect to the query on **“Is there any plan to give permits, as a special programme, to the owners of unlicensed vehicles that were seized by the Government in 2005?”** presented by U Thein Tun from Amarapura Constituency, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan answered that the Government is issuing import permits to the owners who swapped. And all citizens who have letter of credits have been given rights to import each small luxury car.

With respect to the query on **“Can the 22-wheel vehicles with six axis regain a chance to load a total of 55 tons (vehicle+cargo) in line with ASEAN standard?”**, presented by U Myint Soe from Pyawbwe Constituency, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung answered that

allowing those to carry cargos while restricting overloaded vehicles was a relaxation. According to ASEAN standard, the 22-wheel vehicles with six axis would be relaxed till a total of 48 tons. But at present, those in the country are allowed to load till a total of 50.5 tons like those in Thailand, one of the neighbouring countries. In 2015, those in the country would be allowed to load till 48 tons in line with ASEAN standard.

Though U Soe Win from Sangyaung Constituency had decided to submit a proposal to ask the Hluttaw for GSP to Myanmar in a consensus among the public, he withdrew the proposal due to the current situation. The Hluttaw decided to record his proposal.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan presented reports on the present conditions of Myanmar about Generalized System of Preference (GSP). Before 1997, Myanmar enjoyed GSP given by EU. At present, after the new Government has been in office in Myanmar, ILO sees Myanmar in a positive sense due to progress of reforms. As a result, EU has allowed Myanmar to regain GSP. That case was agreed at the EU Commission Meeting held on 17 September. Therefore, from the beginning of the year 2013, Myanmar will be enjoying GSP, said officials concerned. Besides, Myanmar will be supplied with retroactive benefit for exports after the time when ILO eased bans on Myanmar on 13 June, 2012.

With respect to the bill on job opportunities and capacity building, sent by Amyotha Hluttaw, Member of the Bill Committee Dr Soe Moe Aung submitted the report of the committee to the Hluttaw.

The today's meeting came to an end at 11:45 am, and continued its third day's session at 1 pm on 22 October. *MNA*

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