

Amyotha Hluttaw 22 January, 2015

Amyotha Hluttaw Recompense for farmlands affected by highway construction underway

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Jan — U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister for Construction, at the Amyotha Hluttaw session here on Thursday responded to a question of paying compensation to people affected by the construction of the Yangon-Mandalay highway.

The ministry in the 2013-2014 fiscal year paid nearly K1.486 billion to 976 farmers in recompense for the loss of 2,402.75 acres of their farmland, with the deputy minister saying that arrangements are underway to compensate over K1.182 billion to 797 farmers in four townships of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for the loss of 1,864.04 acres of their farmland in the 2014- 2014 FY. He added that over K124m has been earmarked for spending on affected farmland in Bago Region, whose area is still being measured.

The compensation could be made, following an approval by the local government, he said, adding that funds of K10 billion have been appealed to recompense affected farmers in the regions of Yangon, Bago and Mandalay as well as the Nay Pyi Taw council area in the 2015-2016 FY. U Than Swe, Deputy Minister for Culture, dealt with a question of whether donations are allowed for the effort to maintain the World's Biggest Book, a stone inscription which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The deputy minister explained cooperation between Myanmar and Australian researchers and archaeologists in preserving the pages of stone inscriptions, collecting data and upload digitalized photos of stone inscriptions online. Reckless acts of some people have caused damage to some stone pages, with the deputy minister saying that the damage is due to chemical reactions of correction ink, whitewash and metallic ink. Such acts have now been prohibited and donors are welcome to contribute to re-inking the inscriptions, according to the deputy minister.

The Amyotha Hluttaw approved a bill that revokes “the Agricultural Produce Markets Act” submitted by Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and agreed to discuss a proposal that calls for the government to open a sport institute in Myitkyina, Kachin State. --MNA

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