

Pyithu Hluttaw 25 November, 2014:

Pyithu Hluttaw raises questions on bill[s] on discrimination against women, vehicle import policy

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Nov — The Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) session on Monday raised questions on the enactment of a law protecting females from violence and the vehicle import policy.

Concerning the law protecting females from violence, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint said that females are protected from physical, mental and sexual violence by their fundamental rights in accordance with the state Constitution, existing laws, and traditions. Myanmar signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1997 to cooperate with the international community in women's affairs, according to the deputy minister.

In addition, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is drafting a bill to protect females from abuse and gender- based violence due to socioeconomic conditions, conservative traditions and conflicts in cooperation with ministry officials, parliamentary representatives, representatives of political parties, legal experts, CSOs and NGOs working for gender equality and representatives of the United Nations Gender Theme Group, the deputy minister added. The bill has been completed up to chapter 9 and it will be submitted to the parliament upon completion.

Regarding the vehicle import policy, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint said that while the ministry has permitted the public to import vehicles regardless of whether they are left-hand drive or right hand drive since 2009, it is taking measures to allow only the importation of left hand drives of the previous model year in 2015.

The Ministry of Commerce issues import permits for vehicles while the Customs Department levies import duties and the Directorate of Road Administration registers the vehicles, according to the minister. However, the union minister said the ministry has no plans to inspect imported cars as to whether they meet international standards. – MNA

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