

Pyithu Hluttaw 25 November, 2014:
Car substitution programme extended to March 2015

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Nov — Deputy Minister U Chan Maung of the Rail Transportation Ministry said a program aimed at taking aging vehicles off the roads will be extended from the end of 2014 to March 2015 at Tuesday's session of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House).

Under the programme, the owners of cars over 20 years old, locally made autos and three-wheeled cars can exchange their vehicles for a permit that allows them to import a car with the registration fee waived. During the 34th day of the Amyoth Hluttaw (upper house), the deputy minister said that many old cars remain on the roads despite this programme, not because of the ministry but because of the owners' preference.

Under this programme a total of 14,000 locally made cars, more than 500 three-wheelers and over 130,000 old vehicles have been exchanged for permits. Responding to a question by a Seikkan Township parliamentarian, Dr Win Myint, deputy minister for health, said expenditures on state health care services come from the budget of the ministry, at a cost of US\$11 per citizen, excluding operational costs such as salaries for staff, accommodation, electricity and fuel.

The deputy minister also said that the World Health Organization has suggested the standard cost should be between \$30 and \$45 each year. He noted that the budget allocation of the health ministry for the 2014-2015 fiscal year is K652 billion, or 3.84 percent of the overall budget, which is 0.94 percent of GDP. Each person in Myanmar is required to pay from 65 to 80 percent of health care costs.

Dr Win Myint also said that the country will need a public healthcare insurance system in the future, and the country is expected to see overall health care services of population coverage, service coverage and cost coverage in 2030.—MNA

Source: *The New Light of Myanmar*, 2014-11-26