

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses investment opportunities, farmer loans

Myo Myint,
Hmwe Kyu Zin

Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency has submitted a motion urging the government to create investment opportunities for the development of labour intensive industries.

She made the request during the fourth-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held yesterday.

While submitting her motion, Daw Cho Cho said Myanmar had the advantage of being a strategic country situated between two major global economic powers, and its natural resources and human resources, in terms of youth population, were an added strength for countries interested in investing in Myanmar.

Investments flowing into the least developed regions will help create job opportunities, raise the living standards, and reduce poverty and socio-economic disparity, besides ensuring sustainable development, she added.

For the regions to develop in tandem, good economic and investment environments must be created by setting up, support-

ing and implementing a trade and investment policy that is appropriate for ethnic nationals, systematically and effectively, noted Daw Cho Cho.

The motion was supported by U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency and the Hluttaw decided to accept and debate the motion. An announcement was made requesting Hluttaw representatives to enrol their names for discussion before 4 pm on 23 January, 2018.

Next, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Htun responded to a question raised by U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency on a plan to collect town entry fees in more appropriate ways. He said that in coordination with the governments of the states, Rakhine and Kayah states were no longer collecting town entry fees. The Kachin State government is issuing an instruction to stop the collection of the town entry fee, while the Taninthayi region government will stop collecting it in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The remaining states and regions have no plans to stop collecting it, stated U Aung Myin Htun.



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

Later, U Khin Cho of Hlaing-bwe Township raised a question on the plan to adjust the daily training allowance fees to a rate that is in accordance with the current market prices, as government employees going for training courses away from their assigned duty station were being paid only Ks500 per day under the travelling allowance law.

Replying to question, Ministry of Finance and Planning Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win said a daily allowance limit had been set at Ks1,700 per day from 2014, but the training allowance was still Ks500 per day. Currently, the daily allowance during the travel period is Ks3,000 per

day. It has been observed that there is a need to adjust the allowance rates for government employees attending long-term training courses away from their duty station, and the rate should be the same for all departments, said the deputy minister.

The Ministry of Finance and Planning will first review the rates and will arrange to propose them to the government after obtaining comments from the concerned departments and organisations, said the deputy minister. Replying to a question raised by U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency on the effectiveness of JICA two-step loans for small-scale farmers, Deputy Minister U

Maung Maung Win said Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank has been providing JICA two-step loans countrywide from the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Farmers who want to obtain these loans must apply to the township's Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank, and after an assessment by the bank is made in stages, those eligible will be provided the loans by the township branch banks.

Individual farmers who own up to 50 acres can apply for a maximum loan amount of Ks50 million, while farmers' associations and groups can apply for a maximum loan amount of Ks500 million. This loan is not for farming expenses but to support the transition to mechanised farming and is not based on a per acre rate but rather on an assessment of whether the loan applicant is within the rules and criteria set for the loan, and an appropriate amount has been loaned, said the deputy minister.

The interest rate of 8 per cent is a fair rate, and this interest rate supports the country's money circulation system, added the deputy minister.

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Amyotha Hluttaw discusses child care, English teaching

Aye Aye Thant,
Myo Thu Hein

IN the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 7th regular session fourth day meeting held yesterday morning in Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall, a bill and a motion was discussed.

A bill to amend the Early Child Care and Development Law was first debated by Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8, U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10 and Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10.

A motion tabled by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 urging the government to change the curriculum, teaching and examination system of English starting from grade 9 into 4 skills - reading, writing, speaking, listening system was then debated by Hluttaw representatives.

U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1 supported the motion and said possibility of success were observed in the currently conducted speaking and listening skill lessons in KG (kin-

dergarten) and KG+1 Grade 1. As they went on to higher grades and upon reaching Grade 9 and beyond until they complete the basic education, it is to be thought out whether there is a possibility of success.

The role of the teachers will become important. If the teachers are not well versed in the teaching methods and systems, only bright students will be able to learn well. Therefore teachers need to be trained so that they can teach future generation of Myanmar to be on the level of not only ASEAN but the world as well.

As English is becoming a bridge in the communication sector, technology sector, education sector and research sector, the motion is fully supported, said U Hla San. U Chit Htwe of Magway Region constituency 3 said the motion is related to KG+12 (2016-2021) national education strategic plan where KG, Grade 1 and Grade 2 will begin on 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively and Myanmar curriculum committee is said to complete the curriculum to Grade 12 by 2022.

The new curriculum will



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

include the English curriculum of the proposed motion such as teaching system and assessment system (examination) that is according to the four skills assessment system. Therefore, the motion is believed to be the same as the national education strategic plan that is being implemented.

Tatmadaw representative Major Khin Maung Cho next discussed about modern teaching method widely used being teaching by activity, sight and sound. Teaching and learning were done throughout the history of human being and teachers can teach to students according to their level and age only when they them-

selves are trained.

He added that there is no short cut in education and a result could not be achieved in a short while. To be skillful in four skills depend upon the skilled persons leading the Ministry of Education, parents, teachers and students.

U Min Oo of Bago constituency 6, U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State constituency 4 and U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2 also discussed the motion.

In discussing the motion, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said primary education is the basic foundation of the entire education system and for primary teachers to have

experience and to be of better quality, skill requirements and appointment system of primary, middle and high school teachers need to be modified. Grade 1 English language text book for education year 2017-2018 is prepared for the development of four skills.

Curriculum is drawn so that in the teaching of English subject, four skills are taught with participatory method and interactive method. In education year 2022-2023, Grade 1 to Grade 12 will be teaching under a new curriculum that is based on four skills said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister proposed to put the motion on record but Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 who tabled the motion requested for Hluttaw decision's to approve the motion. The motion was put to the vote, and there were 96 votes for and 102 against the motion, with 1 abstentions.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the motion will be put on record. 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 7th regular session fifth day meeting will be held in 23 January it is learnt. ■