

Pyithu Hluttaw

MPs urge gov't to develop labour intensive industry

By Mi Mi Phyo
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE MPs of Pyithu Hluttaw have urged the Union Government to make efforts to attract foreign direct investments (FDIs) and develop a labour intensive industry in Myanmar.

During the discussion in the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday, U Maung Myint of Minkin constituency suggested that the government must immediately develop a new industrial zone for cut-make-pack (CMP) garment factories, pointing out that the land prices in industrial zones were almost double those in other countries.

"Similarly, insufficient power supply is the biggest problem in our country. If possible, we should accept coal-fired power generation rather than generating power with diesel engines," he remarked.

"Actually, clean coal-fired

power plants should be established for the industrial zones," said MP U Maung Myint.

He also urged the government to consider the situation of CMP factories before it decides to increase the minimum wage from Ks3,600 to Ks4,800, warning that CMP factories might move to other countries if the minimum wage is increased in Myanmar.

"Meanwhile, we should not neglect the livelihood of workers who are experiencing rising commodity prices," stated the MP.

U Thant Zin Tun of Dakkhinathiri Constituency also urged the government to enact the industrial zone law as soon as possible to attract FDI.

The government allowed 138 FDIs in the 2016-2017 fiscal year (FY), creating more than 88,000 job opportunities, and 51 local investments, creating more than 10,000 job opportuni-



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

ties, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

In the current 2017-2018 FY, 178 FDI businesses have been allowed to operate up to December, and more than 74,660 jobs have been created, and in the same period, some

80 local investments were permitted.

U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, in his reply to the discussion of the MPs, noted that the Myanmar Investment Commission and region/state

investment commissions are implementing the motion discussed by the MPs and urged the Pyithu Hluttaw to document the motion.

The Pyithu Hluttaw put the motion on record, and the meeting came to an end. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses mobile towers, travel bill

By Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its ninth-day meeting yesterday morning in Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered and the Myanmar travel bill was discussed.

First, U Min Naing of Sagaing Region constituency (12) asked about the plan to authorise and assign departments and departmental staff to Mo Paing Lut, Sum Ma Rar, Htanparkway, Donhee and Pansaung sub-townships in Lahe, Leshi and Nanyun townships in the Naga Self-administered Zone, which were being renamed as towns. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe replied that the Naga Self-administered Zone of the Sagaing Region was formed with Mo Paing Lut sub-township and Sum Ma Rar sub-township in Leshi Township, Htanparkway sub-township in Lahe Township and Donhee sub-township and Pansaung sub-township in Nanyun Township. On 22 May 2014,



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

the sub-townships were formed into towns under the respective townships. In Leshi Township, there are Mopainglut and Summarar towns.

There are 17 departments in Mopainglut Town, of which 10 have their own office buildings, while seven do not have them. Some six offices were opened in staff houses. There are 13 departments in Sum Ma Rar Town, of which nine have their own office buildings and four do not. Some three offices were opened in staff houses. Of



Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. PHOTO: MNA

the four that do not have their own office buildings, funds to build the Information and Public Relations Department office building in the 2019-2020 fiscal year (FY) and funds to build the office buildings and staff houses for farm land management, the records department and the department of roads in the 2018-2019 FY will be requested from the related ministries, according to the response from the Sagaing Region government, said the deputy minister.

Responding to a question by

U Zaw Hein of the Taninthayi region constituency (7) on the plan to build GSM phone towers in the Taninthayi Region, Kyunsu Township. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said the Myanmar telecommunications department had opened a GSM station in seven villages of Kyunsu Township and two GSM stations on Pataw Island, totalling nine GSM stations. A GSM station on Katan Island, two GSM stations on Kanmaw Island and a GSM station on Pankhaung Island, totalling four stations, are being built and will be completed by the end of December 2018. Telenor Myanmar Limited had constructed three GSM stations in Pyingyi Village, Ward 3, and Patet Village. Ooredoo Myanmar Limited had constructed there GSM stations in Ward 2, Thinganshaung Village, and Patet Village Kyunsu Township.

Constructing mobile stations requires investment, and the feasibility of constructing related micro-wave, fiber and satellite communications networks and others depends on the availability of electricity, geographical

location, weather and population density. As such, there is no plan to construct mobile communications stations in nine village tracts of Kyunsu Township, said the deputy minister. However, plans are underway to set up a Universal Service Fund with funds provided by telecom operators to extend telecom services to regions lagging in development, and once this is set up, communication services will be provided to village tracts that meet the priority criteria and requirements, added the deputy minister.

The Myanmar travel bill was then discussed by Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency (7), Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of the Bago region constituency (3), U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State constituency (4), U Than Soe, also known as Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency (4) and U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8.

The 10th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 1 February. ■