

Pyithu Hluttaw

Farmers can study modern farming technology: Ministry

THE Agricultural Mechanisation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is planning to help farmers implement modern farming methods with the use of modern agricultural machinery.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw was replying to a question raised by Dr. Daw Khin Soe Soe Kyi of Pyay Constituency at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting yesterday.

Daw Khin Soe Soe Kyi asked the ministry if it planned to supply more agricultural machinery

to the Agricultural Mechanisation Department to provide agricultural services to farmers under the mechanised farming system.

Currently, the Agricultural Mechanisation Department has more than 2,800 tractors, more than 800 harvesters and 170 planters providing agricultural services to farmers through 2,137 workers.

To provide land repairing services, harvesting and winnowing, which are major challenges for farmers today, the Agricultural Mechanisation Department will require more

than 8,660 tractors, 123,772 power tillers, more than 29,650 harvest-cum-winnowing machines, more than 36,280 harvesters and more than 5,870 winnowing machines, according to the Deputy Minister.

"The cost of the machineries required to fulfil the needs of the farmers is too high, and the government also needs to employ more workers," said Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw.

Meanwhile, the ministry has helped farmers buy machinery by paying in installments from companies.—Kyaw Thu Htet, Mi Mi Phyto ■



U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA



Dr. Daw Khin Soe Soe Kyi.

Amyotha Hluttaw

Census, ethnicities discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw



U Thein Swe. PHOTO: MNA



U Shan Aw. PHOTO: MNA



U Sai San Aung. PHOTO: MNA



Dr. Maung Maung. PHOTO: MNA



Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

THE results of the 2014 population and housing census have not been completed because Myanmar's ethnic groups have not been accounted for, it was learnt at yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw meeting.

The delay was revealed when U Shan Aung from Chin Constituency (2) asked when the complete results of the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census (MPHC) would be made public.

The Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe replied that they were unable to publish the findings of the 2014 MPHC due to a requirement for ethnic recognition. The census was carried out based on the previous census conducted in 1973, which documented Myanmar having 135 ethnic lineages.

The Union Minister said that there was a space in the

2014 census form asking participants to fill in their ethnicity, and the data from there was compiled without any alteration to the spelling or name of the chosen ethnicity. The Union Minister said this has led to confusion and requests for modifications from State and Region Governments and Hluttaws and the Union Election Commission. Some of the requests asked for certain ethnicities to be recognised as a separate ethnicity and not as a sub-ethnic group, while other requests asked to change their affiliation from one ethnic group to another. Some examples were claims that there are only six sub-ethnicities of Kachin instead of 12, or that the Chin people do not have 53 sub-ethnic groups.

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For the most recent census, the Union Minister said they need to first document all the ethnics in Myanmar and to verify their ancestry in Myanmar.

"This requires a lengthy

procedure meeting with leaders and representatives of ethnic organisations, the different committees for ethnic affairs, historians, cultural and demographic scholars, and filing reports to the President's office and the Union Government", the Union Minister said.

The 2014 MPHC can be completed only after a verification list of ethnic lineages recognised by the state has been announced, he said.

Also during yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw meeting, U Sai San Aung of Shan Constituency (12) asked if township and village-tract administrators will have their funds increased, to which Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major General Aung Soe replied that there is no plans for increasing funds due to current national situations and the state of the national reserve fund.

Next, Dr. Maung Maung of

Yangon Region Constituency (6) asked whether there will be changes to issue renewed passports with the same serial code instead of a new code, to which Maj-Gen Aung Soe replied that ordinary passports will be renewed with new serial codes only.

Afterwards, Daw Ohn Kyi of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read the reviews and comments of a Bill for Myanmar Tourism. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and U Mya Min Swe of Magway Constituency (9) voted for the bill.

After a majority of votes, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the bill had passed with no amendments.

The next session of the Amyotha Hluttaw will be on 23 February.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■