

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds eleventh-day meeting

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its eleventh-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where asterisk-marked questions were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, a bill tabled and a motion discussed.

Q&A Session

Replying to a question raised by Dr. Tin Htay Aung of Yesagyio constituency on plans to expand and assign more ward/village land record personnels in the Settlement and Land Records Department, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said Settlement and Land Records Department was renamed and



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

reformed starting from 1 June 2015 under the permission of Union Government Office so that duties and responsibilities assigned according to the 2012 Farmland Law and Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law could be performed. Once the new organisation set-up with 20,702 personnel is ap-

proved, more personnel can be assigned and the department's works can be implemented more quickly than now, explained the Deputy Minister.

Next, U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency asked when the Hlinethaya-Hinthada railway line can be restarted with systematic management

to benefit the people and the state. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo said the railway line runs parallel to a road that can be driven anytime and took only about three and half hours of travel time. Travellers from downtown Yangon need to take about an hour and twenty minutes of travel by car to reach the Hlinethaya car gate and some more time to reach Hlinethaya station. The train from Hlinethaya station finally reaches Hinthada at 8 pm, and due to this there wasn't much people using the train service.

The Hlinethaya-Hinthada railway line was implemented under the instruction of higher authorities and proper feasibility study was not conducted and as the railway track was laid over land retaining much water, the train can travel only up to a speed

of 15 miles per hour, making it inefficient, compared to road travel by cars. Income did not match the expenditures for operating it, and the Hlinethaya-Hinthada railway line ceased to operate since 10 June 2016.

If people really need a safe, speedy, timely and comfortable railway travel along this route, under the systematic management to benefit the people and state, depending upon availability of fund, a higher speed electric railway line that starts from Yangon through Hlinethaya to Hinthada will be constructed after proper projects are drawn up and implemented, but at the moment, there is no plan to repair and reconstruct the Hlinethaya-Hinthada railway line and restart the railway operation, said the Deputy Minister.

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AT the eleventh-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session held yesterday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall, asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered, two reports read, Major Bridge bill tabled and a motion debated.

Asterisk-marked questions

In the asterisk-marked questions asked, Dr. Khin Maung Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 11 first posed a question on plans to construct a Thai-Myanmar trade bridge over Pachan River in Taninthayi Region, Kawthoung Township. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that there was no agreement between Myanmar and Thailand to construct a bridge over Pachan River yet, and thus at the moment, there is no plan to do so.

Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11 then said 22-wheel heavy trucks from a neighboring country was carrying bananas on the Bhamo-Myitkyina-Kanpakti route in Kachin State, reducing the strengths of roads and bridges along the route and asked if there is any plan to prevent damages to the roads and bridges. Depu-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

ty Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered that discussions had been conducted with Kachin State government to ban 10-wheel and above heavy trucks on this route during the rainy season. In this rainy season, notices will be posted banning 10-wheel and above heavy trucks on this route and overload prevention groups are systematically formed to prevent violation of the ban, said the Deputy Minister.

Finally, replying to a question raised by U Myo Htat @ Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12 on a plan to construct a motorcar road in Chin State, Paletwa Township, Sami town ward 3-Pi Wa- Ah Lon Bway-Phaung Pike Kone-Ta Lon Kone-Tat Chaung villages, Depu-

ty Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said funds to construct an earth road and to widen the road width on 6-mile Sami-Pi Wa section and 8 miles 3 furlongs Par Htan-Tat Chaung section will be submitted to Chin State government in fiscal year 2019-2020 and work will be done depending upon fund allocation.

Chin State government is to submit to the Union Government office for Ministry of Construction to take over the 5-mile 5-furlong Pi Wa-Ah Lon Bway-Par Htan road section and once permission is granted, it will be included in the list of roads under the Department of Rural Road Development and fund requested according to procedure, said the Deputy Minister.

Myanmar Travel Bill

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the Myanmar Travel Bill approved by Amyotha Hluttaw being returned by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Hluttaw decided to approve the amendment of the Pyithu Hluttaw and an announcement was made, accordingly.

Second Bill amending the Myanmar Pearl Law

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Sai Tun Aung read and explained the bill committee report on the 2nd Bill amending the Myanmar Pearl Law approved and sent with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the bill.

Major Bridge Bill

Following this, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin submitted the Major Bridge Bill to the Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Brig-Gen Tint Lwin read and explained the bill committee report on the bill. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced

for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

Discussion on a motion tabled by U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8

Later, a motion tabled by U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8, urging the government to control and manage the management committee, development committee and farmland management committee to ensure that there is no corruption, because plots were formed on many farms and plantation lands and sold off illegally, causing losses of farms and plantation lands and lands set aside for expansion of towns and villages were also lost in a similar manner, was discussed by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11, Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency 5, U Min Oo of Bago Region constituency 6, U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 and U Aye Bo of Yangon Region constituency 11.

The twelfth-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 23 August, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Signing Memorandum Cooperation in environment field and joint workshop on waste management

MINISTRY of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Japan's Ministry of Environment signed the of Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in environment field and a workshop on waste management on 20 August in Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the event, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and Japan's Environment State Minister H.E. Tadahiko Ito delivered speeches and signed the MoC.

Next, a bilateral meeting of senior officials led by the two ministers on cooperation in environment field was conducted followed by a joint workshop on waste management.

In the bilateral meeting matters relating to waste man-

agement sector, work process on assessing environmental impact, reducing carbon emission and joint crediting mechanism, work on plastic pollution in ocean to be undertaken under the ASEAN-Japan cooperation program, controlling air pollution, controlling water quality, climate change, protecting and maintaining the Ozone layer, development of nature based tourism, maintaining bio-diversity, waste management, providing environmental information and knowledge to the public and cooperation in assessing effect on the environment were discussed.

In the workshop, works conducted on policy in one of Japan's waste management system the recycle work and good practice in 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) were discussed.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Ohn Win and Japan's Environment State Minister Mr. Tadahiko Ito sign the Memorandum of Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Electricity supply system at Hluttaw buildings to be maintained



Speaker U T Khun Myat and Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than chair the work coordination meeting on maintaining the electric supply system at Hluttaw buildings. PHOTO: MNA

The central committee on holding Hluttaw meetings and working committees concerned held their 2nd work coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to maintain the electric supply system at the parliamentary buildings.

The meeting was attended by Patrons of the Central Committee on holding Hluttaw meetings Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, and Vice Chairman of the central committee Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung, Deputy Minister for Electric and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, officials of the Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Transport and Communications and departmental officials.

The meeting was opened with address by the patrons of

the central committee.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing discussed findings from the check to the power supply system and made suggestions.

Officials of the work committees concerned took part in the discussion and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Speaker.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo also replied to a question raised by Dr. San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency about plans to provide convenient and cheap internet access for e-learning, in order to obtain knowledge, technology and reference for research works. In his reply made after consulting with Ministry of Education, the Deputy Minister said that under the Ministry of Education there are 123 universities and colleges with internet access while 10 still do not have it. There were 55 schools with e-library, 53 that do not have it and 25 under the process of having an e-library. Depending upon the number of students, government funds are requested and depending upon funds made available, internet access is being provided, said the Deputy Minister.

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications is conducting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) together with relevant departments and in education sector, it is providing internet data access through fiber, ADSL and mobile system. Directorate of Telecommunications is also conducting CSRs by urging and pressing the relevant companies to provide internet access cheaply said the Deputy Minister.

Questions raised by U Ohn Lwin of Nyaungdon constituency, U Sai Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency and U Aung Hlaing Win of Mingaladon constituency were also answered by Deputy Ministers U Hla Kyaw and U Kyaw Myo.

Tabling and report read on 2018 Gambling Bill

After the Q&A session, Pyithu Hluttaw Public Affairs

Management Committee tabled the 2018 Gambling Bill and Bill Committee member U Pa Htan read and explained a report on it. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to submit an amendment motion to enroll their names.

Discussing and approving a motion to increase Myanmar fruit production

A motion tabled by U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency to implement in states and regions projects that support and increase Myanmar fruit production was then discussed by U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency, U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency, U Aung Kyi Thein of Chaungzon constituency, U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk constituency, U Nan Mon Htin of Machanbaw constituency, U Kham Khant

Htan of Tongzang constituency, U Sai Tun Sein of Mongpyin constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency and Daw Wint War Tun of Shadaw constituency.

In his discussion in support of the motion, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said the ministry's plantations and private plantations are producing and distributing seeds and saplings and permission to import seeds and species are being granted after inspection under the seed law. Information and education on good agricultural practice (GAP) system is being provided continuously, added the Deputy Minister.

Furthermore, in the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session, a motion by U Hla San of Amyotha Hluttaw representative urging the union government to implement the GAP system was approved and

the department had conducted trainings and courses (on GAP) and questions on agricultural matters are being answered in a timely manner at call center 067-410139 and 01-2399555.

Emergency rehabilitation program project jointly conducted with World Bank mainly includes providing seeds and saplings to fruit farms, establishing model sapling farms and providing cold storages in Bago and Sagaing regions, said the Deputy Minister in his discussion in support of the motion.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw approving the motion after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

The twelfth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session is scheduled for 23 August. — Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■