

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY :::: SHILLONG
BUDGET SESSION, 2008
(BULLETIN NO 18)
THURSDAY, 8TH MAY, 2008.

The House met at 10.00 am on the 8th May, 2008 with the Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair. The day was devoted for the transaction of Private Members' Business.

QUESTIONS :

Starred Questions No 130 to 140 were disposed of and Starred Question No 131 to 150 could not be taken up for want of time.

PENDING RESOLUTION No.4 :

Shri F.W.Momin was in favour of implementing the State and centrally sponsored scheme in the border areas and Shri Ardent Basaiawmoit was in favour setting up a committee from both sides of the House to find a solution.

In reply, the Chief Minister stated that the inter State boundary dispute between Meghalaya and Assam as determined by the North Eastern Area Re-organisation Act 1971 has been the bone of contention from the day it came into being. Several meetings had been held right from 1971 at the Chief Minister level, Deputy Chief Minister in-charge of Home, Meghalaya and Minister of State Home, Assam and the Chief Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners, no concrete solution could be arrived at. In this regard, the Deputy Chief Minister in-charge Home had contacted the Government of Assam to fix a meeting. The State Government will also explore the need to involve the Government of India to find an amicable solution to this issue.

With leave of the House the Resolution was withdrawn.

RESOLUTION NO. 5:

Dr.R.C.Laloo moved – Resolution No. 5 :

“ This House do now resolve to urge upon the Government to make a comprehensive study/report on the merit and demerit of Uranium mining in the State”.

Initiating the discussion, the mover discussed extensively on the merits on mining Uranium as to how the whole country will benefit from it and also the aftermath of Uranium mining and its effects it will have on a small community. He was in favour of the Government to make a comprehensive report in order to enlighten everyone before any decision.

Shri F.W.Momin supported and fell in line with the mover.

Dr.D.D.Lapang while supporting the Resolution wanted the Government to revive the committee constituted by the previous Government. He wanted that the members of this committee should come with an open mind but the first priority should be the health of the people.

Shri Lahkmen Rymbui while supporting the Resolution was in favour of setting up an independent agency whether to go for mining or not.

Shri H.D.R.Lyngdoh while supporting the Resolution wanted the Government to find out whether there had been any radiation on mining so to remove the fear psychosis.

Shri R.V.Lyngdoh supported the resolution and suggested to the Government that any decision arrived at should not be influenced by internal or external factors.

In reply, the Minister in-charge of Mining and Geology stated that the mining of an ore processing operation and the environment will be regularly monitored. This will be periodically reviewed by the regulatory bodies like Atomic Energy Regulatory Board State and Central Pollution Control Boards and the Director General of Mines Safety to ensure safety at work place and in the environment. The UCIL had also intimated that it would establish a most modern open – pit mine to protect the environment around the site by taking adequate safety measures in all stages of operations.

Intervening, the Chief Minister assured that the Committee will be re-constituted within the next few days.

With leave of the House the Resolution was withdrawn.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 :

Shri H.D.R.Lyngdoh did not move.

RESOLUTION NO. 7 :

Shri R.V.Lyngdoh moved – Resolution No.7 :

“ Whereas the State from time to time has been favoured with some financial assistances from the Centre in the name of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Central Sector Schemes, etc. especially during the 10th Plan period”.

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“ Whereas it is found that the State Government has no proper monitoring of the implementation of the schemes sanctioned under the 10th Plan period.

Therefore, this House do now resolve to constitute an Assembly Committee to review and evaluate the progress and achievement of (1) Centrally Sponsored Scheme (2), Central Sector Scheme during the 10th Plan period.

Intervening, the Chief Minister stated that the requirement to constitute another Assembly committee at this juncture is not required since the Public Accounts Committee of the Assembly is there and which it can evaluate the progress and achievement of Centrally Sponsored Scheme and Central Sector Scheme during the 10th Plan period.

With leave of the House the Resolution was withdrawn.

RESOLUTION NO. 8 :

Shri Lahkmen Rymbui moved – Resolution No.8:

“ Whereas in Shillong there are two major institution namely North Eastern Hill University and Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Management and whereas there is a move to set up a Central University at Tura and also there is a Campus of Agricultural University with Home Science”.

Therefore, this House do now urge upon the Government of Meghalaya and the Central Government for setting up of the proposed Institute of Public Health by the Public Health Foundation of India at Jaintia Hills.

Initiating, the mover discussed at length on the need to have Public Health by the Public Health Foundation of India in Jaintia Hills District.

Shri R.V.Lyngdoh supported the Resolution and he was of the opinion that if this Institute is set up in Jaintia Hills, it can educate people on how to take care of themselves.

Dr.R.C.Laloo wanted that a balance of developmental works should be equalled where the feeling of closeness will be there. The land will be given free of cost for this purpose.

Replying, the Minister in-charge of Health stated that proposal for setting up of the Institute at Shillong and India as a whole is still at its nascent stage. Shillong is fortunate to have been selected for establishment of Public Health Foundation of India, this being the only one in the North East. Once the institute is established the Government will explore the possibility of setting up campuses in the Districts headquarter.

With leave of the House the Resolution was withdrawn.

RESOLUTION No. 9 :

Shri H.D.R.Lyngdoh moved Resolution No. 9 :

“ Whereas, most of the lands within the State of Meghalaya are owned by people of the State who have their respective customary laws and land tenure systems.

And whereas, the India Registration Act was not applicable in the State of Meghalaya till the notification No-ERT(T) 62/81/4., 22nd July, 1982. Whereby all lands were required to be registered with effect from 1st September, 1982.

And whereas, land transaction made prior to the aforesaid notification are also now required to be registered.

Therefore, this House unanimously resolve that the question of excluding the schedule Tribe Community of the neighbouring States and deliberated in detail and the concern laws be amended so as to safeguard the interest of the local Schedule Tribe Community of the State of Meghalaya. The Government of India may also be prevailed upon to amend India Registration Act accordingly for the State of Meghalaya.

Initiating the discussion, felt that large purchase of land by Schedule Tribe from the neighbouring State should be banned since the tribe from Meghalaya were not allowed to do so. He was in favour to amend the concern laws in order to safeguard the interest of the local Schedule Tribe Community of the State of Meghalaya.

Dr.R.C.Laloo while supporting the Resolution, felt that the Government should look into this issue seriously.

Shri F.W.Momin supported the Resolution and was of the opinion that the Government should examine the India Registration Act.

In reply, Shri Manas Chaudhuri Minister in-charge stated that in 2001 a draft legislation was brought in the House for amendment of the Land Transfer Act to exclude some communities. On second thought felt that detailed consultation should be undertaken to illicit public opinion on this. On receipt of information, the matter would be examined by the Government.

RESOLUTION No.10 – Shri M.M.Danggo, MLA was absent.

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RESOLUTION NO. 11 :

Dr.R.C.Laloo moved – Resolution No.11.

“ Having regard to the fact that the National Highway – 44 from Shillong-Malidhar which fall under the State of Meghalaya is being managed and maintained by the State PWD and the Border Road Organisation of the Central Government”.

This House, therefore, do now resolve to urge upon the State Government to take over immediately the portion of the road that are maintained by the Border Road Organisation, so that the whole length of the road within the State will come under the management, maintenance and administration of the State PWD.

Initiating the discussion the mover felt that the National Highway from Jowai to Malidhar should be taken over by the State PWD from the Border Road Organisation since it is having good officers and engineers to manage and maintain the road.

Shri Lakhmen Rymbui supported the Resolution.

(After 2 p.m.)

MOTION NO. 9 – the mover was absent.

MOTION NO. 10 :

Dr.R.C.Laloo moved – motion No. 10:

“ This House do now discuss the need to treat the Deficit College Teachers at par with the Government College Teachers with respect to salary, allowances and pensions benefits with special reference to the implementation of the 6th Pay Commission recommendations of the Central Government as and when accepted”.

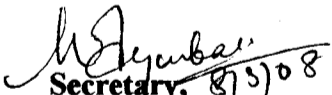
Initiating the discussion, the mover was of the strong view that the salary, allowances and pensions benefits for the deficit College Teachers and the Government College Teachers should be at par. The Deficit College Teachers, once they retire will not be entitled to any pensionary benefit.

Shri F.W.Momin, Shri R.V.Lyngdoh, Shri Lakhmen Rymbui and Dr.Friday Lyngdoh supported the motion and discussed on the lines that teaching jobs should be made more attractive in order to attract good teachers to produce good students.

Replying to the motion the Minister in-charge of Higher and Technical Education informed that 90% of the Education Department Budget was spent on salaries of teaching staff alone and in view of the constraint of fund, the Department will not be able to give better pay. However, the Government will examine the possibility of paying allowances to the teachers. He also stated that the Government will take every sincere action to see that some of these contentious issues are resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned. The 6th Pay Commission of the Central Government applies to Central Government Employees and it is premature and speculative to discuss the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and whether they can or should be made applicable to Deficit College Teachers.

ADJOURNMENT :

The House rose at 2.50 p.m and will meet again on Friday the 9th May, 2008 at 10.00 am.


Secretary, 8/5/08

Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

Memo No.ED.3/MLA/2008/18,
Copy forwarded to :

Dated Shillong, the 8th May, 2008.

1. All Members, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.
2. Library, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.


08/05/08

**Officer-on-Special Duty,
Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.**

