

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

AUTUMN SESSION

UNSTARRED

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Thursday, August 29th, 2024.

Measurement to Contain Price Rise of Essential Commodities

Shri HEAVING STONE KHARPRAN

Shri COMINGONE YMBON
(Minister in-charge Food Civil
Supplies & Consumer Affairs)

24. Will the Minister in-charge Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government has taken up any measure to contain price rise of essential commodities in the State?

Yes, Sir, steps have been taken up by the Government to contain the price rise. The Department from time to time has instructed all Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers to monitor the **District/Sub-division Vigilance and Monitoring Committee** to curb the tendencies of hoarding and black marketing and price rise.

Further, monitoring of prices of essential commodities through Price Monitoring Centres is done and action is taken there upon.

Meghalaya House, Guwahati

Shri HEAVING STONE KHARPRAN

Shri RAKKAM A. SANGMA
(Minister in-charge General
Administration)

25. Will the Minister in-charge General Administration be pleased to state whether the Government has any intention to extend the building of the Meghalaya House in Guwahati?

No, Sir.

Replacement of Electric Poles

Shri HEAVINGSTONE KHARPRAN

Shri A. T. MONDAL
(Minister in-charge Power)

26. Will the Minister in-charge Power be pleased to state the total number of Electric Poles which needs replacement from the last one year in the whole of East Khasi Hills District?

Sir, the total number of Electric Poles which needs replacement from the last one year in the whole of East Khasi Hills District is **1276 numbers**.

Umiam Bridge

Shri HEAVINGSTONE KHARPRAN

Shri A. T. MONDAL
(Minister in-charge Power)

27. Will the Minister in-charge Power be pleased to state the status of the Umiam Bridge?

Sir, the refurbishment of the Umiam Bridge has been completed on 29.07.2024. However, Retrofitting of Spillway Bridges of the Umiam Concrete Dam will be taken up after approval by Central Water Commission under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project - II & III.

Roads in Sohryngkham Constituency

Shri HEAVINGSTONE KHARPRAN

Shri PRESTONE TYNSONG
[Deputy Chief Minister in-charge
Public Works (Roads)]

28. Will the Deputy Chief Minister in-charge Public Works (Roads) be pleased to state whether there is any intention of the Government to construct roads under the following places :-

- i) Mawryngkneng to Mawpyrshong?
- ii) Kut to Nongjriong?
- iii) Mawryngkneng to Nongkroh?
- iv) Mynriang to Thadrang?

No, Sir.

v) Sohryngkham Mawutieng to Tynring Village through the Umkhen River?

vi) Nonghali Health Sub-center to Nonghali Khliehshnong?

vii) Mawkhanu Mainroad to Khappud?

Marten Dumping Ground at Mawlai

Shri BRIGHTSTARWELL MARBANIANG

**Shri SNIAWBHALANG DHAR
(Deputy Chief Minister in-charge
Urban Affairs)**

29. Will the Deputy Chief Minister in-charge Urban Affairs be pleased to state the present overall management of waste in the State in general and the present status of Marten Dumping Ground at Mawlai in particular?

Sir, the scenario for management of waste can be summarized as follows :-

1. In the State of Meghalaya, the quantum of solid waste generated in the Municipal and Shillong Cantonment areas of the State amounts to 184 tonnes per day. Out of this, 153.5 tonnes per day is collected by the Municipal Boards which includes 80.75 tonnes of segregated waste. Towns utilize several methods to process waste. Presently, 84.5 tonnes of waste is processed per day through the following :-

- 50 tonnes is processed through Composting.
- 5 tonnes is processed as Refuse Derived Fuel.
- 29.5 tonnes is processed as scrap.

2. With regards to Shillong, the management of waste in Shillong Municipality is categorized in three processes, namely “Collection”, “Transportation” and “Processing & Disposal”.
 1. The collection of waste from door-to-door is being undertaken every alternate day for residential localities and every day from commercial areas. Two vehicles are sent on each of the 37 routes to collect the segregated waste. As mandated by the SWM Rules 2016 for source-segregation, about 70% of the residents of the city are segregating the waste at source. 31674 households were provided with two color-coded bins for each household for storage of segregated waste, whereas commercial establishments have been notified to procure their own bins. There are also intermediate storage bins for markets and commercial areas which are collected by the SMB vehicles two or three times daily. The timings for collection is between 6:00 am to 9:30 am for residential areas. For commercial areas the waste is collected during opening hours, evening between 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm and in some market areas like Jail Road, Laitumkhrah, Polo and Motphran the collection is also being undertaken at night between 9:00 pm and 10:30 pm. The SMB also undertakes sweeping of about 185.61 kms of roads and footpaths in the city.
 2. For the purpose of collection and transportation of waste, the SMB uses 29 primary collection vehicles covering 37 routes. 7 Hydraulic Compactors with capacities ranging from 7 cubic meters to 11 cubic meters are used for transportation of the waste to the processing and disposal site. All vehicles are covered during transportation in accordance with the SWM Rules 2016.
 3. For processing of the Bio-degradable waste, 170 TPD Compost Plant at Marten, Shillong is utilized and efforts are being made to optimize the operation of the Plant. The organic rejects and plastic waste from the plant are baled and collected by the cement production companies for co-processing. The waste is used as RDF (Refused Derived Fuel) in the cement plants as a supplementary fuel in their kilns. SMB has executed an MoU with Dalmia cements for this purpose. The recyclables are collected by the registered waste sorters at Marten for sale to the recycling facilities. The inert rejects, are then disposed in the sanitary landfill which was developed over an area of 15000 square meters.

4. To undertake the above activities the SMB employs 487 waste workers which include sweepers, drainage cleaning personnel, lorry attendants, machine operators and drivers. Besides these 76 informal waste sorters at Marten have also been formally recognized as part of the waste management process by registering and issuing of identification cards. The waste sorters have also been assisted by SMB with protective equipments and efforts are being undertaken to organize them into Self Help Groups, thereby to improve on their income generating capacity.

Status of Marten:

The site at Marten is the city's only site for disposal of garbage and was established by the SMB since 1938. The area of Marten is 18 acres and the land was leased from the Forest Department. The site is located at about 7kms from the city and was part of the Riathkwan Reserved Forest. The land was leased to SMB by the Forest Department *vide* Order No. 2391-G-S-8 dated 19.05.1938 which was further regularized and extended till 2026 *vide* notification No. FOR.76/99/16.

The site takes in about 160 metric tons of Solid Waste from the Shillong Urban Agglomeration and adjoining villages.

The facilities for processing and scientific disposal of waste at Marten are :-

1. 170 TPD Compost Plant at Marten, Shillong is utilized and efforts are being made to optimize the operation of the Plant.
2. For scientific disposal of waste a sanitary landfill site was developed and commissioned over an area of 15000 square meters.
 - a) *A sanitary landfill is an engineered disposal site for the rejects. The bottom of the landfill consists of a 900 mm layer of compacted clay or geo-synthetic clay and a layer of an HDPE Geo Membrane, which would prevent the seepage of the liquid into the ground which would have contaminated the ground water.*
 - b) *All such liquid will be collected through engineered piping and bedding system and collected in a holding tank where it will be treated up to effluent standards of Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board Standard.*
 - c) *A layer of 300 mm coarse sand covers up the top. Thereafter the rejects of solid waste are deposited in layers. After depositing the rejects of solid waste a layer of earth is spread*

on top of the waste each day This process prevents any pollution and odour coming from the waste deposits. Highly scientific way of transporting the waste to the landfill site is adopted where the vehicles coming to the landfill site are completely covered compactor vehicles that are non-polluting vehicles. After the life-span of 8 years the landfill site is proposed to be covered up and reclaimed for plantations, parks etc., thereby creating a new landscape.

3. For treatment and disposal of Bio-Medical Waste (BMW), a Common Bio Medical Waste Treatment & Disposal Facility (CBMWTDF) was installed and commissioned at Marten, Shillong over an area of 2009.06 sqm where biomedical wastes generated from different health care unit are collected and transported to this facility for treatment. The CBMWTDF consist of 100 kg per hour incinerator for disposal of yellow category of BMW, 50 kg per hour Autoclave for disinfecting Red & Blue category of waste and a 50 kg per hour Shredder.

These facilities shall cater to the entire Greater Shillong area.

4. The **design life** for the above mentioned landfill sites is about 3 years for the Phase 1 and 7 years for the Phase 2, **on the assumptions** that the rejects going to the landfill shall be only **10% of the waste generated**. The current waste generation of the city is estimated at 196 TPD and at present the percentage of rejects going to the landfill is about 60 -70%. With the optimization of the functioning of the Compost Plant, the percentage of waste disposed in the landfill is expected to go down.

A plan for bio-remediation of the legacy waste is also being formulated by the Government.

Diengiei PHC

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Dr. M. AMPAREEN LYNGDOH
(Minister in-charge Health & Family
Welfare)**

30. Will the Minister in-charge Health & Family Welfare be pleased to state the reasons that after 6 months since March 2024, the DHS has not shifted Diengiei PHC which wrongly falls in Myllichem BPMU and is to be transferred to Mawphlang BPMU?

Sir, prior to the Commissioning of Sohiong C&RD Block, Diengiei PHC was under the jurisdiction of Myllichem C&RD Block and attached to Myllichem BPMU (NHM).

Diengiei PHC and its Sub-Centres are being mapped under Myllem Block for reporting of Health Programme in different IT Platforms like Health Management Information System (HMIS), Non Communicable Disease (NCD) App, Health and Wellness Centre (HWC) Portal, Integrated Health Information Portal (IHIP) etc.

The State is seeking approval from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for mapping of Diengiei PHC and its Sub-Centres to Mawphlang BPMU. This should be done in due course.

ANM in Sohiong Block

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Dr. M. AMPAREEN LYNGDOH
(Minister in-charge Health & Family
Welfare)**

31. Will the Minister in-charge Health & Family Welfare be pleased to state :-

(a) The current sanctioned strength of ANMs in the various health facilities types under Sohiong Block?

(a) Sir, facilities under Sohiong falls under Mawphlang Block.

(b) The total number of vacant sanctioned ANM posts that are still lying unfilled under Sohiong Block?

(b) Sir, the total number of sanctioned post is 9 and there is no vacancy.

Staff Nurses in Meghalaya

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Dr. M. AMPAREEN LYNGDOH
(Minister in-charge Health & Family
Welfare)**

32. Will the Minister in-charge Health & Family Welfare be pleased to state :-

(a) The current sanctioned strength of Staff Nurses in Meghalaya?

(a) Sir, the Current sanctioned strength of Staff Nurse in Meghalaya-1246.

(b) The total number of vacant sanctioned Staff Nurses posts that are still lying unfilled?

(b) Sir, the total vacant sanctioned post of Staff Nurse - 164.

(c) When will these vacant Staff Nurses posts be advertised?

(c) Sir, the vacant posts of Staff Nurse was advertised *vide* MMSRB letter No.HSM/MMSRB/Nursing/12/24/19. Dated.30.7.2024 is as per Statement placed on the Table of the House.

Staffers in the Office of Information & Public Relations Department

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Dr. M. AMPAREEN LYNGDOH
(Minister in-charge Information &
Public Relations)**

33. Will the Minister in-charge Information & Public Relations be pleased to state :-

(a) The name of the places where the Offices of the Information & Public Relations Department are located besides Shillong?

(a) Sir, there are 15 Nos. of Subordinate Offices of Information & Public Relations Department viz,

1. Office of the Assistant Director of Information & Public Relations, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong.
2. Office of the Assistant Director of Information & Public Relations, West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai.

3. Office of the Assistant Director of Information & Public Relations, West Garo Hills District, Tura.
4. Office of the District Public Relations Officer, Ri-Bhoi District, Nongpoh.
5. Office of the District Public Relations Officer, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin.
6. Office of the District Public Relations Officer, East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat.
7. Office of the District Public Relations Officer, South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat.
8. Office of the District Public Relations Officer, East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar.
9. Office of the District Public Relations Officer, South Garo Hills District, Bagmara.
10. Office of the District Public Relations Officer, North Garo Hills District, Resubelpara.
11. Office of the District Public Relations Officer, South West Garo Hills District, Ampati.
12. Office of the Sub- Divisional Public Relations Officer, East Khasi Hills District, Sohra.
13. Office of the Sub- Divisional Public Relations Officer, Eastern West Khasi Hills District, Mairang.
14. Office of the Sub- Divisional Public Relations Officer, West Garo Hills District, Dadenggre.
15. Office of the Sub- Divisional Public Relations Officer, West Jaintia Hills District, Amlarem.

(b) The total number of staffers of all Grades that are currently being employed in the Department?

(b) Sir, 168 Nos.

Function of the Information Technology and Communication Department

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Shri CONRAD K. SANGMA
(Chief Minister)**

34. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

(a) The function of the Information Technology Department?

(a) Sir, the function of the Information Technology Department.

The Government of Meghalaya (GoM) created the Department of Information Technology (DIT) in May, 2001 with a view of making available the benefits of Information & Communication Technology to all citizens, businesses, Government employees and all other stakeholders. The functions allocated to DIT are :-

1. To formulate a policy on the use of Information Technology in the State of Meghalaya.
2. To formulate and implement a plan for induction of Information Technology in the Meghalaya State Administration at all levels, in co-ordination with the concerned Government Departments; and
3. Give technical advice to all Government Departments regarding, adoption of suitable Information Technology Systems and for making appropriate arrangements to maintain the same.

As per the orders of the Government, the role assigned to the Department of Information Technology is that of a facilitator and the primary responsibility for the implementation, operations, management and use of computer systems, system software, and services rests with the each State Department concerned. The Department is also responsible for developing State-wide policies, technical standards and procedures.

The vision of Information Technology Department is to effectively leverage ICT (Information and Communication Technology) for the State's overall development and focus on IT dissemination and usage as a crucial engine of economic growth and as a tool for increasing productivity, effectiveness, speed & transparency in Governance leading to improved quality of life for the common man, businesses and internal Governmental agencies.

The Major Objectives of the Department are as follows :-

- i. Leverage ICT to make G2C (Govt. to Citizens), G2B (Govt. to Business), G2E (Govt. to Employee), G2G (Govt. to Govt.) services easily accessible to the common man and to ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs.**
- ii. Stimulate investment and growth in the IT/ITES and high-end Technology Sector through suitable policy initiatives.**
- iii. Bridging the digital divide by ICT dissemination among the State citizenry.**
- iv. Developing Human Resources for IT & ITES.**

(b) The total number of staffers of all Grades that are currently being employed by the Department?

(b) Sir, the total number of staffers of all Grades that are currently being employed by the Department :

(A) Administrative Department:

The Department is currently manned by the following Officers and staff :

- 1. Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya**
- 2. Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya**
- 3. Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya**
- 4. Ministerial Staff consisting of**
 - 2 UD Assistants,**
 - 2 LD Assistants &**
 - 1 Peon**

(B) Directorate of Information Technology & Communications:

The Department created the Directorate of Information Technology & Communications (DITC) in 2016. The following are the Officers and staff of the DITC:

- 1. Director (1)**
- 2. Joint Director (1)**
- 3. Senior Informatics Officer (2)**
- 4. Junior Informatics Officer (4)**
- 5. Superintendent (1)**

6. GIS Manager (1)
7. Assistant GIS Manager (1)
8. Superintendent (1)
9. Lower Division Assistant – (2)
10. Driver – 1
11. Peons – 2
12. Chowkidar - 1

(c) The detailed efforts that have been undertaken for the last 20 years to promote Information Technology in Meghalaya?

(c) The detailed efforts that have been undertaken for the last 20 years to promote Information Technology Department in Meghalaya.

Meghalaya is one of the few States in North-Eastern India to have the Core infrastructures operational. And this makes us better positioned to provide more e-services for the benefit of both the Government Officials and the citizens. These include the following :

- a) **MSWAN (Meghalaya State Wide Area Network):** It provides data, voice and video services to the Government offices till Block Levels. It was funded by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) for a period of 5 years from 2011 till 30th June, 2016. Thereafter, the Project was taken over by the State Government and is being run by the State. However, funding is a challenge, which needs to be addressed for its sustainability.
- b) **MSDC (Meghalaya State Data Centre (MSDC):** It provides a shared, reliable and secure infrastructure services for hosting and managing the e-Governance applications of the State and its constituent Departments. It acts as a central repository and provides a platform for hosting applications for all Depts. in the State in the Cloud-environment. The Project is being funded by MeitY till September, 2017.

The Project is being funded by the State Government thereafter. Currently about 80 applications and websites from across Government Departments are hosted at the MSDC.

- c) **Common Service Centres:** CSCs was launched in Meghalaya in 2009 with a target to set up 225 numbers. Currently, about 2000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been set up across the State through the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). The VLEs play a

pivotal role in delivery of Government and other services to the citizens close to their doorsteps. Many e-services are being offered by the CSCs including popular e-Governance services like ST & SC Certificates, Residential Certificates, Marriage Certificates, etc.

- d) **e-District:** The e-District was launched in East Khasi Hills District on the Meghalaya Day in 2016 (21st Jan'16) with 6 e-services. These include (i) Certificate for Recruitment into Armed /Paramilitary/Police Forces, (ii) Income Certificate, (iii) Permanent Residential Certificate for Higher Education, (iv) Residential Certificate, (v) Scheduled Caste Certificate and (vi) Scheduled Tribe Certificate. Presently, it has been rolled-out to all Districts in the State.

About 30 e-services are being provided digitally to the citizens of the State.

- e) **NEC Scheme:** Under the Scheme of North Eastern Council (NEC), the Department was implementing various Projects like the Digital Classroom and the IT Education Infrastructure Projects. More than 100 numbers of schools have been benefitted from the above Schemes.
- f) **Capacity Building (CB):** The State Government sponsors IT based training for the youth of the State through reputed training partners like Aptech Arena and NIIT. The State was also leveraging the CB Scheme under Digital India where CB trainings were provided to the State Government Officials.
- g) **STPI & NIELIT:** The Government have been supporting/ facilitating the Software Technology Park of India (STPI) for setting up its office at Shillong. The office is located at Forest Colony, Lumjingshai, Shillong. STPI houses some of the reputed IT/IITeS companies like Chilli Breeze and others.

The State Government has allotted 10 acres of land at Shillong for setting up a permanent campus of National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT). The construction work has been started and expected to be completed by 2025. This will boost the technical capacities of the youth of the State.

h) Laptop to meritorious students :

To promote and encourage Academic Excellence for young talents, the Department of Information Technology has been awarding State-of-the-Art Laptops to students who topped in the MBOSE, ICSE, CBSE and ISC Board Examinations; every year since the Academic Year 2007.

i) Telecom and Connectivity:

The Department is actively facilitating the initiatives of the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India to improve the mobile and internet connectivity in the entire State. Towards achieving this end the State Government had approved and notified the “Meghalaya Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2018”. This Policy aims to radically enhance the telecom infrastructure and its operations in areas under its jurisdiction and to facilitate equitable access to telecom services to all. The Policy has been made effective from 15th Jan’ 2019. The State has subsequently notified the Meghalaya Telecom Infrastructure (Amendment) Policy, 2024.

j) Technology parks:

(i) Shillong Technology Park – Phase I

Technology Parks play a crucial role for the IT/ITeS Sector by generating jobs in the State. The first Phase of the Shillong Technology Park Building is now fully operational. 5 (Five) Multi-National Companies are operating from the Phase-I Building and they together provide direct employment to about 1000 youth.

(ii) Shillong Technology Park – Phase II

With the success of the Shillong Tech Park Phase-I Building, the Phase II Building of the Project was started with the same Objective of employment generation by constructing the State of the Art ICT Infrastructure for attracting investment from the IT/ITeS Sector and in return create employment for the unemployed youth of the State. About 50% of the construction has been completed. The target completion date is by mid- 2025.

The park will provide about 2000 jobs directly.

(iii) Tura Technology Park

To continue with the efforts to create more and more jobs in the IT/ITeS Sector, the Government has started the construction of the Tura Technology Park. This will also provide an impetus to the employment generation process in the State beyond Shillong.

The construction work started in April, 2024 and the expected date of completion is by mid-2026.

- k) **IT/ITeS Policy** : To provide further impetus to the IT and ITeS Sector in Meghalaya, the State Government has notified the Meghalaya IT/ ITeS Promotion Policy in March 2024.

The Vision of this Policy is “To provide an **environment** which will attract **investors** to the **State of Meghalaya** and generate **sustainable employment** for the citizens of the State and the North Eastern region in the **IT / ITeS Sector.**”

- l) In addition to the above, the Department is also actively facilitating and hand-holding various other line Departments in the implementation of IT initiatives.

Self Employment Schemes and Training Programs

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Shri SHAKLIAR WARJRI
(Minister in-charge Labour)**

35. Will the Minister in-charge Labour be pleased to state :-

(a) The various Self Employment Schemes and Training Programs that are currently being run by the various State Government establishments to ensure that all unemployed youths are effectively being self employed?

(a) Sir, the training programme for self employment is taken up through job roles under PMKVY Scheme, SANKALP Scheme & ADB assisted Project “Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya” (SHCDM) and under Craftsmen Training Scheme through courses run by ITIs & Meghalaya State Skill Development Society.

(b) Whether the Government applied the new labour laws 2020 of the Central Government?

(b) No, Sir.

Checking of Fake Weights and Fake Measurements

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Shri KYRMEN SHYLLA
(Minister in-charge Legal
Metrology)**

36. Will the Minister in-charge Legal Metrology be pleased to state :-

(a) The efforts that have been undertaken by the Department in checking the fake weights and fake measurements in the entire District Headquarters?

(a) Sir, the Legal Metrology Department regularly undertakes the following steps to check fake weights and measures :

Regular surprise inspections are carried out by Inspectors of the Department for at least ten days in a month. The areas selected for surprise inspections are randomly picked to ensure success of the surprise inspections.

Calibration of dispensing pumps in petrol and diesel pumps is checked once in twelve months. Electronic balances used by traders are verified once in twelve months.

Weights used by traders are verified once in twenty four months.

Weights and measures used by shopkeepers, traders, etc., that do not comply with the specifications provided in the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 are seized by the Inspectors of Legal Metrology.

Cases booked against such shopkeepers and traders are prosecuted by the Department before a Competent Court by the Controller of Legal Metrology.

(b) Whether they check in the Blocks and Sub-divisions?

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The staff strength of the Department of the staffers for involvement in inspection?

(c) Sir, except for East Khasi Hills District which has two Inspectors, the rest of the Districts have one Inspector. The Inspectors are each aided by one Manual Assistant for the purpose of inspection.

Drugs Users And Sellers Arrested

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Shri PRESTONE TYNSONG
[Deputy Chief Minister in-charge
Home (Police)]**

37. Will the Deputy Chief Minister in-charge Home (Police) be pleased to state :-

(a) The total number of drug users that have been arrested from 2018 to 2024?

(a) Sir, the total number of drug users that have been arrested from 2018 to 2024 is 307.

(b) The total number of drug sellers that have been arrested in 2018 to 2024?

(b) Sir, total number of drug sellers that have been arrested in 2018-2024 is 1258.

Prison Reforms

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Shri SNIAWBHALANG DHAR
(Deputy Chief Minister in-charge
Prisons and Correctional Services)**

38. Will the Deputy Chief Minister in-charge Department of Prisons and Correctional Services be pleased to state :-

(a) The efforts that have been undertaken in prison reforms over the years?

(a) Sir, nomenclature of the Department has been changed. The nomenclature of certain posts also have been changed to suit their job responsibilities. New posts of Counsellor have been created. The post of Deputy Inspector General of Prisons & Correctional Services has been created. The new Meghalaya Prisons & Correctional Services Act, 2024 is under process for legislation. The Meghalaya Prisons & Correctional Services Rules, 2024 also have been framed and is under

process for approval. E-Prisons Project is being implemented in all the District Prisons & Correctional Homes.

Construction of new prison buildings to scale up the existing capacities including water and electricity connections have been undertaken. CCTV installations have been completed in all the District Prisons & Correctional Homes. High speed internet connectivity is being provided to prisons.

Skill Development Programmes are also being implemented which include preparation of fast food, tailoring and candle making, etc. Craft and Carpentry Instructors are in place in all the District Prisons & Correctional Homes. Indoor games and sports facilities are provided for the inmates. Television sets with DTH connections are also provided for recreational purposes.

(b) The steps taken that has been done to decongest the prisons in the State especially at District Jail in Jail Road?

(b) Sir, to ease the congestion, a new District prison at Nongstoin is being constructed and will be completed soon.

The extension of the District Prison & Correctional Home building at Shillong has been completed. 180 prisoners have been shifted to the new building.

The Department has also been allotted a plot of land at the New Shillong Township for the construction of a Central Prison, with modern infrastructure.

Free legal aid is provided to the Under Trial Prisoners who cannot afford to appoint defense Lawyers to facilitate their release on bail.

The Central Government has introduced a scheme to support poor prisoners, under which their surety bail and fine amount can be assisted by the Government.

Revenue from the Department

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Shri CONRAD K. SANGMA
(Chief Minister)**

39. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

(a) The total amount of revenue that the Mining Department has collected for the year 2023-24?

(a) Sir, the total amount of revenue that the Mining & Geology Department has collected for the year 2023-24 is ₹322,81,76,457/-.

(b) The total amount of revenue that the Government has collected from taxes of coal?

(b) Sir,
Bid amount = ₹21,98,00,070/-.
Royalty = ₹31,89,14,478/-.
Cess = ₹14,11,52,916/-.

(c) The total amount of revenue that the Government has collected from coal auction?

(c) Sir, same as at (b) above.

(d) The total amount of coal in Metric Ton that is left to be auction by the Government and the estimated amount of the coal to be auctioned?

(d) Sir, the total amount of coal in MT that is left to be auctioned by the Government is 6,84,456 MT.

(e) Whether the Government earned revenue from sand and stones export?

(e) Sir, it does not arise as Sand and Stone export is outside the purview of the Mining & Geology Department as the above minerals are listed in Schedule III of Meghalaya Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 2017 under the administration of State Forest Department.

(f) If the reply at (e) above is in the affirmative, the total amount collected from water sand, hill sand, rocks of all sizes respectively?

(f) Sir, it is not applicable.

(g) Whether the Government have a most recent Mining Policy to overcome the rat hole mining?

(g) Yes, Sir. Standard Operation Procedure dated 5th March, 2022.

(h) If the reply at (g) above is in the negative, the reasons thereof?

(h) Sir, it is not applicable.

Function of the Housing Department

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Shri MARCUISE N. MARAK
(Minister in-charge Housing)**

40. Will the Minister in-charge Housing be pleased to state :-

(a) The functions of the Housing Department?

(a) Sir, the Housing Department implements different Housing welfare Schemes introduced by the Government for providing shelter and qualitative up-gradation of the existing houses to the homeless & landless citizens which are durable and cheaper from time to time.

- Bridging the gap of accommodation faced by the Government employees who are posted in the different Districts.
- Upgrading the assets owned by the Department in different Districts of the State.
- Formulate policies at the State Level on matters relating to Housing.
- Draft Acts, Rules, Laws, Bye-laws, etc., relating to Housing.
- Recovery of housing loans and maintenance of recovery records.

(b) The Central or State Schemes that is being implemented by the Housing Department?

(b) Sir, the Government implements:
1. Chief Minister's Housing Scheme (CMHAP) for the general public.
2. Rental Housing Scheme for the Government employees.

Both these schemes are under the State Scheme.

(c) Where are the offices of the Housing Department located besides Shillong?

(c) & (d)

Sir, is as per Statement placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The total number of staff of all Grades that are currently being employed by the Department?

Civil Defence and Home Guards Personnel

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Shri COMINGONE YMBON
(Minister in-charge, Civil Defence &
Home Guards)**

41. Will the Minister in-charge Home (Civil Defence & Home Guards) be pleased to state :-

(a) The total number of Civil Defence and Home Guards personnel that are currently present?

(a) Sir, the total number of Civil Defence and Home Guards personnel:

1. Uniform Staff:

(i) Sanctioned Strength - 1483

(ii) Present Strength - 678

2. Ministerial Staff:

(i) Sanctioned Strength - 102

(ii) Present Strength - 52

(b) The total number of non permanent Civil Defence and Home Guards personnel?

(b) Sir, there are 1989 numbers of non permanent Home Guards and Civil Defence volunteers currently engaged with various requisitioning agencies.

(c) Whether the non permanent Civil Defence and Home Guards personnel are getting their EPF?

(c) Sir, the Civil Defence and Home Guards volunteers receive their EPF as per the prescribed criteria and eligibility under Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952 and are enrolled accordingly. However, not all volunteers are enrolled under the EPF scheme.

(d) If the reply at (c) above is in the negative, the reasons thereof?

(d) Sir, the reasons for not all volunteers being enrolled under the EPF scheme:

(i) As per the EPF & MP Act, 1952, the minimum number of employees in an organization should not be less than 20 (twenty) to enable them to register for EPF. As there are some agencies whose requisition of Home Guards and Civil Defence volunteers is less than 20 (twenty), these volunteers are not eligible for enrolment under EPF.

(ii) The EPF registration of the Home Guards volunteers deployed for traffic duty has been taken up accordingly and is under process.

(e) Whether the revenue of non permanent Civil Defence and Home Guards personnel will be regularised?

(e) Sir, the Home Guards & Civil Defence volunteers are requisitioned on voluntary basis as and when the need arise and are paid wages in accordance with the Labour Department's Notification from time to time. Since the requisitioning is purely on a voluntary basis (as per rules, terms and conditions governing their engagement), regularization is not permissible to the Home Guards and Civil Defence volunteers.

(f) If the reply at (e) above is in the negative, the reasons thereof?

(f) Sir, as at (e) above.

Regional Committees of Meghalaya and Assam

**Shri SYNSHAR KUPAR ROY
LYNGDOH THABAH**

**Shri CONRAD K. SANGMA
(Chief Minister)**

42. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) Whether the Regional Committees of Meghalaya surveyed all the disputed sites with public hearings and finalised reports from Meghalaya's side for the areas that are to be resolved with Assam?

(a) No, Sir.

(b) If the reply at (a) above is in the negative, the reasons for the delay?

(b) Sir, underlying factors such as law and order situation in the inter-state border areas and preparation for the General Election to the Lok Sabha 2024 by the respective Deputy Commissioners has impeded the works of the Regional Committees.

(c) Whether the Regional Committees of Assam surveyed all the disputed sites with public hearings and finalised reports from Assam's side for areas that are to be resolved with Assam?

(c) Sir, no information is available.

(d) If the reply at (c) above is in the negative, the reasons for the delay?

(d) Sir, does not arise in view at (c) above.

(e) The reasons for the delay in starting of dialogue and resolution with Assam?

(e) Sir, the Government is awaiting submission of reports by the Regional Committees which will lapse on the 30th September, 2024.

Upgradation of Rambrai PHC to CHC

Shri REMINGTON G. MOMIN

Dr. M. AMPAREEN LYGDOH
(Minister in-charge Health & Family Welfare)

43. Will the Minister in-charge Health & Family Welfare be pleased to state :-

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(a) The status of upgradation of Rambrai PHC to CHC (Process & timeline)?</p> <p>(b) The status of upgradation of Athiabari PHC to CHC (Process & timeline)?</p> <p>(c) The status of upgradation of Mallangkona Sub-Centre to PHC (Process & timeline)?</p> | <p>(a) Sir, proposal for upgradation of Rambrai PHC to CHC is under examination.</p> <p>(b) Sir, proposal for upgradation of Athiabari PHC to CHC is under examination.</p> <p>(c) Sir, proposal for upgradation of Mallangkona Sub-Centre to PHC is under examination.</p> |
|---|---|

Upgradation of Mallangkona Veterinary Centre

Shri REMINGTON G. MOMIN

Shri ALEXANDER LALOO HEK
(Minister in-charge Animal Husbandry & Veterinary)

44. Will the Minister in-charge Animal Husbandry & Veterinary be pleased to state :-

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>(a) The status of upgradation of Mallangkona Veterinary Centre to Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Dispensary?</p> <p>(b) The number of Government Dispensary & Veterinary Centres in Rambrai-Jyrmgam area?</p> | <p>(a) Sir, proposal for upgradation of Mallangkona Veterinary Aid Centre to Veterinary Dispensary submitted to Government for conveying approval and sanction.</p> <p>(b) Sir, Veterinary Dispensary-1 (one) No., State Veterinary Dispensary, Rambrai.</p> |
|---|--|

New Building for Mallangkona Sericulture

Shri REMINGTON G. MOMIN

**Shri PAUL LYNGDOH
(Minister in-charge Textiles)**

45. Will the Minister in-charge Textiles be pleased to state :-

(a) The status for construction of a new building for Mallangkona Sericulture?

(a) Sir, construction of Training Hall Weaving Workshop for Weavers at Handloom Demonstration-cum-Production Centre, Mallangkona has been accorded sanctioned for an amount of ₹69,22,200/- under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) Trench XXIX during 2024-25 and works will be started in due course.

(b) The time/duration set to complete the building infrastructure?

(b) Sir, time schedule format for completion of the building infrastructure is targeted to be completed within current Financial Year from the date of issuing of Work Order.

