

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT
BULLETIN PART-I
No. 37

Monday, the 5th August, 2024

The House assembled at 11:00 a.m. of Monday, the 5th August, 2024 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon'ble Chief Minister, 8 Hon'ble Cabinet Ministers, Hon'ble Chairman (Hill Areas Committee) and 38 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Minister (CAF & PD) made a reply to Starred Question No.264 asked by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA regarding scarcity of LPG.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) made a reply to Starred Question No.265 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding distribution of Urea.
- (c) Hon'ble Chief Minister (in-charge of Home) made a reply to Starred Question No.266 asked by Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding financial assistance to IDPs.
- (d) Hon'ble Minister (PHE) made a reply to Starred Question No.267 asked by Shri Th. Shyamkumar, MLA regarding Water Supply Schemes in Andro A/C.
- (e) Hon'ble Minister (Education) made a reply to Starred Question No.269 asked by Shri Kh. Loken Singh, MLA regarding funds under Samagra Siksha Scheme for the FY 2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (Medical, Health & Family Welfare Services) made a reply to Starred Question No. 270 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding posts in Manipur State Drugs Testing Laboratory.
- (g) Hon'ble Minister (Medical, Health & Family Welfare Services) made a reply to Starred Question No.271 asked by Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA regarding establishment of AIIMS campus in Manipur.
- (h) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No. 272, in the absence of Hon'ble Minister (YAS) asked by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA regarding construction of District Sports Complex at Senapati.
- (i) Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) made a reply to Starred Question No. 273 asked by Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding survey of paddy fields in the state.

- (j) Hon'ble Minister (RD & PR) made a reply to Starred Question No. 274 asked by Shri Th. Shyamkumar, MLA regarding number of man-days under MGNREGA.

Answers to Starred Question No. 268 and Unstarred Question Nos. 85 & 86 were laid on the Table of the House as written replies.

ZERO HOUR:

Smt. I. Nalini Devi, MLA highlighted that 118 displaced persons from Leimram area, due to the current crisis, who are not staying at relief camps are not getting the relief benefits from the government and urged for providing them the relief benefits.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BUSINESS:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Leader of the House announced the Business of the House for the week.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister laid the "Annual Report of State Vigilance Commission, Manipur for the year 2023-24" on the Table of the House.

CALLING ATTENTION:

Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA called the attention of the Chief Minister (in-charge of Home) on the denial by the District Authority, Bishnupur to bear the expenses of cremation of a deceased inmates residing at Relief Camp. He urged the concerned authorities to prepare a proper policy to bear the cost of cremation and religious rites considering the financial burden faced by the internally displaced persons.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister clarified that the government had been providing basic needs to inmates of the relief camps in addition to organising free medical check-ups and providing free medicines. He informed that an amount of Rs. 11,000/- and Rs. 30,000/- respectively are provided for cremation and performing religious rites of deceased inmate and further informed that those who had not availed of this benefit earlier could claim the amount.

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2024-2025:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved Demands Nos.: 6- Transport, 8- Public Works Department, 9- Information and Publicity, 16 - Co-Operation, 35- Printing, 37- Printing, 37- Fisheries & 44- Social Welfare Department for discussion & voting.

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA moving cut motion on Transport highlighted the State Government's failure to ensure safety to the transporter on the National Highways. He sought the attention of the government on the increase in air fare as air travel has become the basic means of travel for the people because of the ongoing conflict. He

stated the need for formulating a proper policy for increasing fish production in the state and further emphasised the need to increase the production of Phabou Fish. On Social Welfare department, he queried why the pensions of Old Age Pension Schemes are not released timely and further urged for selecting more new old age pension beneficiaries.

Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA mover of a cut motion, highlighted the deplorable condition of most of the roads in the state. Lamenting the deplorable condition of the Wabagai Lamkhai-Sugnu road, he urged the government to improve it at the earliest.

Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA raising cut motion queried whether there are plans for renaming Bir Tikendrajit Airport and also urged for speedy completion of ongoing developmental works at the airport. He highlighted the need to repair the Imphal-Yairipok-Ngariyan road at the earliest. He also expressed dismay as to why the annual work program under PWD is not prepared timely. Expressing concern on the deplorable condition of the National Highways, he urged the need for early completion of road projects undertaken under NHIDCL. Highlighting the problems faced by journalists, he expressed the need to take effective measures for the safety of media personnel.

Shri Th.Lokeshwar Singh, MLA raising cut-motion on Public Works Department pointed out that failure to award work order to the local contractors has led to an impact in the state's economy and also employment avenues as most of the companies from outside the state bring in their own machineries and laborers from outside the state. He queried why the work for Sawombung-Sagolmang-Keibi road was awarded through manual tender inspite of the departmental norm of floating e-tender for works above the estimate of Rs. 10 crores and also added that the quality is not maintained in this said work. He further requested to release the work programme of 2024-25 at the earliest and requested the government to release the pending payment of completed works at the earliest. On Social Welfare, he requested the government to disburse the pending old age pensions. With regard to Anganwadi centres, he queried whether it will merge with Education Department and if so which department will be responsible for giving salary.

Hon'ble Speaker Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 01:31 p.m. till 02:30 p.m. of the day.

The House resumed at 02:30 p.m. with Hon'ble Speaker Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh in the chair.

Shri Khashim Vashum, Minister (Transport) in his clarification stated that fortunately the number of accidents and deaths along the National Highways has decreased considerably and added that the department is trying its best to improve road safety in the state. He further appealed to the public to follow road safety rules. He also said that Special Highway Patrol Police has been working tirelessly to ensure safety along the National Highways. As for cost escalation of air travel, he mentioned that under the Air

Corporations (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal) Act 1994, fare control is not in the purview of the state government, however the Chief Minister has written a letter to the Ministry for consideration. Regarding the query on renaming Bir Tikendrajit International Airport, he stated that there was no such thing. With regard to the construction of terminal building at Imphal International Airport, he mentioned that it is under the purview of the Airport Authority of India and the state government has no say in it. For the convenience of students, 5 buses are plying on different routes from the 6th of October 2023, he said.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister in his reply stated that ever since the formation of the new government, several bridges along the National Highways have been constructed along with improvement and upgradation of National Highways. He said that delay in road construction along some section of Imphal-Jiri, Imphal-Ukhrul-Jessami Road is due to land compensation issue however he said that with the help of local MLAs the problem will be solved and the work will soon be completed. Regarding Imphal-Yairipok road, he said that funds has been sanctioned and work will be taken up soon after completion of the tender process. Regarding upgradation of Wabagai Lamkhai- Sugnu road, he said that a DPR of Rs. 45 crores has been proposed to RIDF and added that a sum of Rs. 2.95 crores has been sanctioned for urgent repair works which would be taken up within a year from now. He also mentioned that work program for the year 2022-23 was not made due to high liability, and no final decision has been taken for the work program of 2024-25. It was also added that construction of concrete road in greater Imphal is in the pipeline and ring-road within the city is underway. He informed that the government is committed in maintaining quality of work and completion of project within a stipulated time frame. Emphasis are given to local contractors while executing works under the state government, he informed. The tender process of Sawombung-Sagolmang –Keibi road was done through manual tender due to internet ban in the state during that particular time, he clarified.

Dr. S. Ranjan Singh, Minister (in-charge of Information and Publicity) clarifying on the cut motion said that the department had issued 106 accredited and 400 general cards to the journalists and curfew passes were also issued from time to time for allowing free and safe movement of media persons on duty. He mentioned that the department is closely tying up with the Home Department in ensuring the safety of journalist and that unfortunate incidents concerning with *The Imphal Times* and *Naharol Gi Thoudang* dailies are being investigated after registering respective FIRs. He added that appropriate action was taken against a police officer for behaving unprofessionally with an *Impact TV* journalist recently.

Shri H. Dingo Singh, Minister (in-charge of Social Welfare & Fisheries) clarifying on the cut motion said that the department is trying to streamline the process of selection of pensioners under the Old Age Pension scheme and as such the selection are now

transparently done from those who applied in the 'Go To Village' program. He informed that there are 83,945 beneficiaries under Manipur Old Age Pension scheme and 55,060 beneficiaries under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension scheme presently which is a significant increase from 2017. The department is making efforts to issue pension cards to new beneficiaries from the pending 17,000 applicants, he added. Regarding construction of new Anganwadi Centres, he stated that the Centre had implemented a new guideline wherein the Social Welfare Department have to tie up with MGNREGA with a capital share of Rs.2 lakhs and Rs.8 lakhs respectively. With regard to Fisheries, he informed that production of fish in the state is less than the demand but the department has been able to scale up the production by taking up new initiatives. The department is also trying to make a policy for sustainable production of fish, he added.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved Demands Nos. 6, 8, 9, 16, 35, 37 and 44 for passing.

Demands Nos. 6, 8, 9, 16, 35, 37 and 44 were passed unanimously by the House.

CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF GOVERNMENT BILLS:

- (i) Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved:
that "*The Manipur Contingency Fund Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 9 of 2024)*" be taken into consideration.

After Clause by clause consideration, Hon'ble Chief Minister in charge of the Bill moved for passing the Bill.

The Bill was unanimously passed by the House.

STATEMENT BY THE CM:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister expressing regret on the mis-interpretation of his casual meeting with the CM of Mizoram at the sidelines of NITI Aayog meeting by several media house and social media handlers, said that the media fraternity should only publish news items after proper verification and fact checking.

CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF GOVERNMENT BILLS:

- (ii) Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved:
that "*The Manipur Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of Caste Certificates) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 15 of 2024)*" be taken into consideration.

After Clause by clause consideration, Hon'ble Chief Minister in-charge of the Bill moved for passing the Bill.

The Bill was unanimously passed by the House.

(iii) Shri Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, Minister (in-charge of Education) moved:

that “*The Dhanamanjuri University (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 13 of 2024)*” be taken into consideration.

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA participating in the discussion said that the ‘Statement of Objects and Reasons’ of the Bill is not defined clearly. He queried why a Senior Administrative Officer is required when there is no such post in other universities. He also stated that the amendment in the Bill which mentions the removal of the VC from office on grounds of incapacity, misconduct or violation of statutory provisions is quite unfortunate as ‘opportunity of being heard’ would not be applicable to the incumbent. He stated that the Bill needs amendment as it needs to incorporate clause for affiliation of any college other than the cluster colleges, lack of service binding between the existing faculties of respective colleges and the newly recruited faculties under the university, among others.

Shri Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, Minister (Education) clarified that the clause which mentions the removal of VC is not an extraordinary provision and is even followed in other Universities. He informed that during the establishment of a new university, several administrative duties is required during the transitional phases for streamlining and smooth functioning and as such there is a need for a Senior Administrative Officer who will be functioning under the VC. He mentioned that this amendment is not final and suggestions from the Hon’ble Member can be incorporated in future amendments.

After Clause by clause consideration, Minister (Education) in-charge of the Bill moved for passing the Bill.

The Bill was unanimously passed by the House.

(iv) Shri Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, Minister (in-charge of Education) moved:

that “*The Manipur Private School (Registration and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 14 of 2024)*” be taken into consideration.

Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA participating in the consideration of the Bill opined that Section-2(m) of the Principal Act needs to be amended. He also suggested that a proviso under Section-4 needs to be inserted for de-recognition of existing private schools which could not meet the criterion laid down under the said Section after a specific period of time.

Shri Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, Minister (Education) clarified that the current amendment being proposed to the Principal Bill includes only three amendments viz., substituting the start of schooling age from 6 to 3, omission of ‘tutorial home or coaching institute’ and definition of ‘elementary education’ which were vetted by Law Department and as such there are no ambiguity in the Bill.

After Clause by clause consideration, Minister (Education) in-charge of the Bill moved for passing the Bill.

The Bill was unanimously passed by the House.

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 04:30 p.m till 11:00 a.m of 6th August, 2024.

(K. Meghajit Singh)

Secretary,

Manipur Legislative Assembly
