

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECRETARIAT
BULLETIN PART-I
No. 40

Thursday, the 8th August, 2024

The House assembled at 11:00 a.m. of Thursday, the 8th August, 2024 in the Assembly Hall with the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon'ble Chief Minister, 9 Hon'ble Cabinet Ministers, Hon'ble Chairman (Hill Areas Committee) and 38 Elected Members.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Hon'ble Chief Minister in the absence of Minister (Tribal Affairs & Hills) made a reply to Starred Question No.296 asked by Shri K. Leishiyo, MLA regarding infrastructures constructed in hills during the last 15 years.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister (Education) made a reply to Starred Question No.298 asked by Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA regarding pending salaries for teachers.
- (c) Hon'ble Minister (RD & PR) made a reply to Starred Question No.299 asked by Shri Kh. Loken Singh, MLA regarding PMGSY- III.
- (d) Hon'ble Chief Minister made a reply to Starred Question No.300 asked by Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA regarding Suspension of Operation (SoO).
- (e) Hon'ble Chief Minister (in-charge of Home) made a reply to Starred Question No.301 asked by Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA regarding illegal poppy plantation.
- (f) Hon'ble Minister (PHE) made a reply to Starred Question No. 302 asked by Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA regarding connection of water supply pipelines to Waithou-Sangomsang village.
- (g) Hon'ble Minister (RD & PR) made a reply to Starred Question No.303 asked by Sheikh Noorul Hassan, MLA regarding Bailey bridge construction at Bamon Kampu.
- (h) Hon'ble Minister (RD & PR) made a reply to Starred Question No. 304 asked by Shri Th. Shyamkumar, MLA regarding tenders for PMGSY Phase-III.
- (i) Hon'ble Minister (Power) made a reply to Starred Question No. 305 asked by Shri K. Leishiyo, MLA regarding district-wise revenue collection.

- (j) Hon'ble Chief Minister in the absence of Minister (Textiles, Commerce & Industries) made a reply to Starred Question No. 306 asked by Shri Th.Shyamkumar, MLA regarding developmental programmes under the department.

Answers to Unstarred Question No. 89 was laid on the Table of the House as written reply.

ZERO HOUR:

Shri Nishikant Sapam, MLA drew the attention of the House on the unfortunate incident where newsprint reels enroute Imphal were set ablaze in Kangpokpi District near Sapermeina. As per statement by the drivers 20-25 KNF cadres were responsible for the hijack and arson, he informed. Expressing disappointment on the report that the SP of Kangpokpi failed to respond to any phone calls at the time of the incident, he asked the DGP to look into the matter. He further requested for the newsprint reels that had not been set on fire, if any, to be returned.

Shri Kh. Joykisan, MLA sought the attention of the House to the indefinite roadblock called by the Lamdeng Apunba Lup due to the failure of the government to repair the road leading to the Lamdeng Solid Waste Treatment Plant which is in a deplorable state. This has led to the increasing piles of garbage along the Thangmeiband road, he informed. He also drew attention to the closure of all shops along the Thangmeiband-Assembly road in protest against intolerable monetary demands by various organisations.

Shri T. Robindro Singh, MLA drew the attention of the House on the hardships being faced by the people of Thanga constituency due to the flood caused by the incessant rain since last week especially farmers and fish farmers whose fish farms have been flooded leading to massive losses. He also highlighted that several places in Thanga have started developing cracks due to the incessant rains and that families nearby have had to evacuate their homes as precautionary measures. He therefore requested the Leader of the House and related departments to consider possible relief measures for the affected people.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Shri K. Govindas, Minister, Minister drew the attention of the House and subsequently requested the Hon'ble Speaker to expunge the allegation made by Shri Kh. Loken Singh, MLA on 2nd August, 2024 regarding misappropriation of funds for improvement of the NH-137 A (Mayai Lambi) by the Public Works Department from the proceedings of the House.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE:

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister laid the following reports on the Table of the House:

- (i) Annual Report of WAQF Board Manipur, 2022-23.
- (ii) Annual Report of WAQF Board Manipur, 2023-24.

CALLING ATTENTION:

(i) Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA called the attention of the Education Minister on the failure of the government to ensure conflict-free zone in and around educational institutions. He said that frequent monetary demands made to educational institutions and teachers is leaving a negative impact on the mental health of the teachers as well as the students. Emphasising on the role of Education in building any nation and the need to safeguard its sanctity, he urged the government to chalk out ways and means to solve the issue. He appealed to all concerned not to impose such demand on educational institutes.

Shri Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, Minister (in-charge of Education) in his clarification stated that reports of such incidents were rarely heard of prior to the ongoing conflict and that the demands being made were unreasonable and having an adverse effect on the students' learning process. He informed that all necessary steps are being taken to provide security especially to the educational institutions. While seeking suggestions from all the Members of the House, he suggested the DGP and Security Advisor to direct the OCs (Officer in-charge) of all police stations to conduct patrolling of schools and colleges in their respective jurisdiction during school/college hours. They should also meet the Principals/Headmasters, take information from them and take actions accordingly, he added.

(ii) Shri Leishiyo Keishing, MLA called the attention of the Chief Minister (in-charge of Home) on the long standing demand for removal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 from Manipur. He stated that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act is a draconian law that violates all human rights and questioned as to why such an Act was still in force in the state. It would not be wrong to call AFSPA a catalyst of breeding insurgents in the Northeast region of India, he added. Pointing out that most of the hill districts have been violence-free for the past 10 (ten) years, he urged that the "disturbed area" status under AFSPA be removed and the Act be repealed from the Hill areas at the earliest.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Home) while lamenting that the people of the state, both in the Hills as well as the Valley have been suffering for decades as a result of AFSPA, informed that certain agencies have been appealing for AFSPA to be re-imposed in the valley since the outbreak of the ongoing conflict. He also informed the House that the government is planning to appeal to the central government to replace the Act, if not repealed, with a more humane Act. Stating that the power to repeal or

re-impose AFSPA lies with the central government, he informed and added that the State Cabinet's decision alone is not sufficient and both the Ruling and Opposition Members of the House need to work together to convince the central government, he added.

Hon'ble Speaker Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 01:10 p.m. till 00:00 p.m. of the day.

The House resumed at 02:00 p.m. with Hon'ble Speaker Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh in the chair.

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

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved Demands Nos: 7- Police; 24-Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Department; 31-Fire Protection and Control; 32-Jails; 33-Home Guards; 34 - Rehabilitation; 36 - Minor Irrigation; and 48-Relief and Disaster Management for discussion & voting.

Shri K. Ranjit Singh, MLA raising cut-motion on Police, queried plans for compensating the loss of property and belongings of the IDPs. Seeking clarification on whether NRC was implemented or not, he sought the notification to be placed in the House if it was implemented. The allegation that NRC was opposed by the Congress is false, he added. He also mentioned that there is no clear explanation for the real root cause of the conflict and suggested for taking a resolution in the House for a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss the issue. He expressed disappointment over the government for not initiating all-political party meetings to deliberate on the conflict. He also highlighted the failure of the government to take action against the 10 Kuki MLAs. He questioned if the Home Department of the state is functioning under the Chief Minister or the Home Minister of India.

Shri Th. Lokeswar Singh, MLA moving cut motion pointed out that law and order has collapsed in the state and appeal the government to protect the state. He also stated that the State Police Force should be empowered and allow them to perform their duties well. The government, he said should also check the duties of the Central Para Military Force to see whether they are here to protect the law and order of the state or to watch the situation unfold. He also added that proper screening of illegal immigrants in Kamjong district is needed. Highlighting the comendable service provided by the VDFs, he urged for increase in honorarium of VDF personnel and to provide them with required weaponry. On Relief and Disaster Management, he questioned the amount sanctioned by both the centre and the state for the year 2024-25 and the list of districts that received assistance.

Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MLA also raising cut-motion highlighted that the government needs to take responsibility for failing to protect the lives and properties of the people of the state. He also added that the government has failed to explain the core

issue for the cause of the conflict. He mentioned that there seems to be no co-ordination between the state and the central government. A concrete road map is needed to bring peace in the state, he added. He also added that due to the inability of the government to take timely action, the aggrieved youths have taken up arms to fight. He further suggested for making a law for enabling the IDPs get their lost properties after the end of the crisis. He stated that the Central Forces seem to be biased towards one community. He further questioned that even though the conflict has been mentioned in the European Parliament and also by the U.S. Ambassador, why is the Prime Minister still silent.

Shri Surjakumar Okram, MLA moving cut motion highlighted the suffering of the IDPs and suggested that top priority should be given to rehabilitating them in their original homes. For this to happen, a proper roadmap was needed to solve the crisis, he added. He stated that the U.S. had given a level 4 travel advisory to its citizens not to visit Manipur and that this would harm tourism and the economy. Drawing the attention to the firing taking place currently at Torbung, he urged the need for the security forces to take swift action whenever such incidents take place.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Police) clarified that the concerned District Administration are executing relief measures to the IDPs under a proper guideline of the government. He stated that out of the promised Rs. 1 lakh for construction of houses for IDPs, Rs.25,000/- had been released as a first installment. He informed that 135 families have been rehabilitated at their original homes in Jiribam and that the process to rebuild the houses of those affected from both communities had already begun. Regular medical checkups and counseling are being carried out to relieve mental stress among IDPs, he informed. He further clarified that NRC has not been implemented in the state but that a Cabinet Sub-Committee had been constituted to detect and deport illegal immigrants and in accordance with the Foreigners Act, collection of biometric data had begun. He also informed that a press release of the Kuki Inpi stated that they would accept the implementation of NRC under the supervision of the Supreme Court. He clarified that the HC directive to give ST status to Meiteis was the immediate cause of the crisis but the core issue was the mushrooming of new illegal villages, unnatural increase in electors in the Electoral Roll and the mass influx of illegal immigrants. He informed that 4 Committees had been formed by the Supreme Court to look into the causes of the conflict and added that speaking about it would be sub-judice. He stated that during the early days of the crisis Central Forces were used to relocate those affected by the violence, as safety of the citizens comes first. He added that there are no buffer zones but that vulnerable and sensitive areas have been given security coverage. He reiterated that Article 355 has not been enforced in the state but that the Chairmanship of the Unified Command had been entrusted to the Security Advisor probably because he, the Chief Minister belonged to one of the conflicting communities. Regarding the comments from

foreign countries, he stated that it would be inappropriate to discuss such matters in the House. On the purported silence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, he informed that the Prime Minister had spoken in length about the crisis in Manipur on three separate occasions. Steps such as holding meetings between representatives of both communities, the three meetings between all political parties and constituting a House Committee have been taken up to bring peace in the state, he informed and added that any suggestions from all members were welcome. He further expressed his hopefulness that the Centre might initiate talks between the two communities after the Parliament session ends.

Shri Awangbow Newmai, Minister (Relief and Disaster Management) in his reply stated that three natural calamities had struck Manipur recently and provided a detailed list of the various relief measures taken up by the department for the affected, including the payment of Rs.4 lakhs each to the families of the deceased. He stated that a total of Rs.58,00,16,000/- had so far been utilised from the State Disaster Relief Fund and added that proposal for additional funds has been made to the Centre. He stated that there are no irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries.

Shri O. Ibobi Singh, MLA participating in the discussion stated that the current crisis could be resolved only if the Centre initiates talks between the two conflicting communities. He further stated that the Opposition is always ready to extend its support to the government in bringing a solution to the crisis.

Hon'ble Chief Minister made the necessary clarifications.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister (in-charge of Finance) moved Demands Nos. 7, 24, 31, 32, 33,34, 36 & 48 for passing.

Demands Nos. 7, 24, 31, 32, 33,34, 36 & 48 were passed unanimously by the House.

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Th. Satyabrata Singh adjourned the House at 5:47 p.m. till 11:00 a.m of 9th August, 2024.

(K. Meghajit Singh)

Secretary,

Manipur Legislative Assembly
