

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
RE-ASSEMBLED BUDGET SESSION
(BULLETIN)
MONDAY, THE 7TH JUNE, 2010.

The House met at 11. A.M. with the Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair, and transacted business till 3:40 P.M. The day was allotted for transaction of Government Business.

1. Questions :

Starred Questions No.66 to No.71 were disposed off till 12 P.M. On Starred Question No.66, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri Paul Lyngdoh, MLA, and Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA. On Starred Question No.67, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition and Shri Purno A. Sangma, MLA. On Starred Question No.68, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri James K. Sangma, MLA, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition and Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA. On Starred Question No.69, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition, Shri James K. Sangma, MLA, and Shri Purno A. Sangma, MLA. On Starred Question No. 70, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri T. D. Shira, MLA and Shri Marcuse N. Marak, MLA. On Starred Question No.71, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri James K. Sangma, MLA, Shri Nihim D. Shira, MLA, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition and Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA.

2. Demand on Grants:

The House passed Grant No.1, 2, 3 and 4.

On Demand No.5, Cut Motion was submitted by Shri Manas Chaudhuri.

Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA said that he has not brought this cut motion on any personal or political consideration but only highlighting the difficulty faced by the genuine citizens of Meghalaya in getting the forms for enrollment in electoral roll, as only the birth certificate is insisted as proof, when there are other documents like passport, driving license, ID issued by the Government, etc, which can also be accepted. He also said that the Rangbah Shnong/Headman issues certificates only to whom they favour, and also some of the Magistrates have a bias mind. Therefore, he said that MLA's should be allowed to issue certificates to genuine citizens, and if there is any wrong, the concerned MLA should be hauled up.

Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition, expressed concern that some people who are not genuine citizens of India may obtain papers from Assam, and then enter Meghalaya. Therefore, he said that the issue cannot be taken lightly, and the officers should be allowed to work freely.

Shri E.C. Bamon, MLA, said that Headman in rural area gives form only to those people whom he favours. Therefore, he suggested that enumerators should give form to all households. But at the same time, he cautioned against enrollment of suspicious citizens in areas like Lad Rymbai, Bapung, etc.

Shri J. A. Lyngdoh, Minister, replied that the points raise by the Hon'ble Members have been taken care and will be looked into. He said that proof of documents is not only birth certificate but also includes bank statement, passbook, passport, driving license, etc. There is also provision for appeal on any grievances. He also said that a complaint can be given against a rejection by a Magistrate. The Minister also said that it is not advisable for MLA's to issue certificate as an MLA may develop interest for his own advantage.

Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA, requested the Government to publicize the documents which are accepted. He said that it is the lower officials who are to be blamed for the difficulty faced by the citizens.

(The cut motion was withdrawn by the mover on the assurance of the Minister)

On Grant No.6, cut motion was moved by Shri Omillo K. Sangma, MLA and Members who participated were Shri James K. Sangma, MLA and Shri T. D. Shira, MLA.

Grant Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 were passed and there was no cut motion.

On Grant No.14, cut motion was moved by Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA. The Member highlighted the difficulties faced by the genuine citizens of the State in getting permanent residential certificate (PRC) for undertaking higher studies outside the State. He said application for PRC should be accepted directly by the Deputy Commissioner as in earlier days, as the lower officials or assistants in DC's office always harass with unlimited demand for certificates or papers despite having submitted the required genuine documents.

Dr. Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister, replied that he would look into it and requested the mover to give him the names of the students which he has mentioned.

(The cut motion was withdrawn by the mover on the assurance of the Minister).

Grant Nos.15, 16 were passed and there was no cut motion.

On Grant No.17, cut motion was moved by Shri James K. Sangma, MLA

Shri James K. Sangma, MLA spoke about petty criminals languishing in jail for a long period and the mental agony that they are suffering. He also

said that there is congestion in the jails, and therefore, prison reform is very much needed to ameliorate the sufferings of the small time criminals who are kept languishing without any trial for many years. He also said that vocational training can be given for them.

Shri Augustine D. Marak, Minister, replied that he has taken note of the points raised by the Hon'ble Member and steps will be taken accordingly. He also said that a new Prison Act and a Jail Manual will also be brought out.

(The motion was withdrawn by the mover on the assurance of the Minister).

3. **GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS:**

The Hon'ble Speaker allowed discussion on the Resolution.

Shri James K. Sangma, MLA, said that kidnapping of MDC's and criminalization of politics is a matter of concern for the State, and it is not a good trend. He said the mandate in the last Garo Hill District Council election was with the NCP. 19 MDC's were elected democratically and the NCP has the legitimate right to form the Executive Committee.

Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition, said that the Garo Hills District Council only is the forum for election of the CEM and the MDC's are the ones who have to decide on the election and formation of the Executive Council. He also wanted to know whether there is any proposal to have a Territorial Council in Garo Hills?

Shri H. D. R. Lyngdoh, Minister, replied that he agrees that the NCP have 19 MDC's and one nominated Member, and therefore, had a comfortable majority on its own to form the Executive Committee. He said that it was undemocratic for the Chairman of the District Council not to allow four Members of the Council to vote and suspend the voting right of two Members. He also said that there is no proposal to have a Territorial Council in Garo Hills. The Minister further said that nothing can be done if the shepherd cannot keep his sheep intact, and some of the sheep are snatched away by wolves. He said that the Government is however assessing the situation and will consider revoking the order of the Governor at an appropriate time when the atmosphere is conducive.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Since there was no more Business to be transacted, the House was adjourned till 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 8th June, 2010.

W.M. Rymbai,
Secretary,
Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.
