

**MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**RE-ASSEMBLED BUDGET SESSION**

**(BULLETIN)**

**TUESDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2010.**

The House met at 11. A.M. with the Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair, and transacted business till 3.25 P.M. The day was allotted for transaction of Private Members Business.

**1. Questions :**

Starred Questions No. 87 to No. 93 were disposed off till 12 P.M. On Starred Question No. 87, Supplementary Question were raised by Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition, Shri Ardent Basaiawmoit, MLA, Shri Purno A. Sangma, MLA, Shri James K. Sangma, MLA, Shri H. S. Lyngdoh, MLA, Shri J. M. Marak, MLA and Shri E. C. Bamon, MLA. On Starred Question No.88, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri Satto R. Marak, MLA, and Shri James K. Sangma, MLA. On Starred Question No.89, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA, Shri Purno A. Sangma, MLA and Shri James K. Sangma, MLA. On Starred Question No. 90, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition, and Shri James K. Sangma, MLA. On Starred Question No. 91, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri Omillo K. Sangma, MLA and Shri Nihim D. Shira, MLA. On Starred Question No. 92, Supplementary Questions was raised by Shri Manas Chaudhuri,, MLA, On Starred Question No. 93, Supplementary Question was raised by Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition.

**2. Call Attention Notice:**

Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA called the attention of the Minister in-charge Mining and Geology under Rule 54 (1) of the Rules of the Procedure and Conduct of Business to the news item published in "The Shillong Times" dated 3.6.2010 under

the caption “coal supply without Challan”. He spoke about the leakage of revenue, and said the people are complaining that they are not getting challan to pay taxes. He said that the Directorate of Mineral Resources and the Government should shed this lackadaisical attitude and the people responsible should be taken to task.

Shri B.M. Lanong, Deputy Chief Minister, replied that he was himself a fully qualified journalist, and stressed the need for newspapers to follow journalistic ethics. He said that the newspaper should have verified the facts before carrying the news item. He said that there is no iota of truth with the news report, and in fact the Department earned more. There is also no shortage of Challan.

### **3. MOTIONS:**

Shri James K. Sangma, MLA, moved Motion No.4 “This House do now discuss the poor functioning of Civil Hospitals in Meghalaya”. The Member said that the Civil Hospitals are not functioning properly despite having all the state of the art equipments. Most of the equipments are not functioning. He said that the city scan machine in Tura Civil Hospital which was purchased in crores or rupees has not been utilized because there is no Radiologist. The tread mill and the lift are also not functioning. He said that only one Radiologist is attending the whole State. He also spoke about the delay of the Civil Hospital construction in Baghmara, sanitation in hospitals and the need to provide good quality food for the patients. He also further said that medicines are never available in the hospitals, and felt that perhaps the Doctors and medical representatives are hand in glove. He requested that the Department should not play with the lives of the people, and we need to have compassion, to sensitize the medical staffs. Procurement of medicines has to be decentralized. The Member also said that no politics should be involved in Health Department. He said that seven Grade IV Staffs appointed by the MPA Government were terminated in 2009 by the next Government, which he felt is indeed very unfortunate. He also requested the Government to expedite inauguration of Mother and Child hospital at Tura and also to recruit adequate number of Radiologists,

Specialists, and if necessary even to appoint retired Radiologists on contract basis.

Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA, said that the relationship between a Doctor and a patient is like between a teacher and a student, and by the same analogy, a good school is dependent on good teachers. He said the performance of Doctors in the hospitals is not upto the mark. He also said that there should be a monitoring system for Doctors so that Doctors who are not performing can be transferred. Hospital Management Society has to be created in all Civil Hospitals to liaison with the people. He also praised the Shillong Civil Hospital and said that it is now clean and trying to compete with private hospitals. But he also stressed the need to have a trauma center and to cut down noise pollution near the hospitals.

Shri Rowell Lyngdoh, Deputy Chief Minister, replied and said that all the points raised by the Hon'ble Members have been noted and will be looked into. He said that there is no shortage of medicines, and the Mother and Child Hospital will be completed and inaugurated soon.

Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition, moved Motion No.5 "This House do now discuss the restructuring of the Ministers and Departments of the State Government". Initiating the discussion, the Member said while bringing this motion he does not have any ill feeling or communal consideration in mind. The Member read out statistics to prove his point that money meant for Garo Hills was not spent by the Government and instead diverted it to some other Districts. He said that the numbers speaks for themselves. The Member said that Government is Shillong centric and Garo Hills has been discriminated in every field. He said the Joint Directorates in Garo Hills is not functioning. The Commissioner and the Joint Director does not visit Tura even once a month. Therefore, he suggested that Joint Directorates must be set up for every Department; and a mini Secretariat should be set up where all Joint Directorates will sit and see that money meant for Garo Hills is utilized as it should be.

Shri Purno A. Sangma, MLA, said that the biggest danger is regional imbalance and it is the cause of many problems in the country, like the Naxalite

problem, the Maoist problem and the insurgency related problems. He said that we cannot afford to create regional imbalance, and the Government should try to decentralize so that the delivery system will work. He said the Ministers confine themselves within their respective District e.g. Khasi MLA's in Khasi Hills, Jaintia MLA's in Jaintia Hills and Garo MLA's in Garo Hills, which is not good for the delivery system to work. He said that he was surprised to learn that no Khasi dance was performed in Garo Hills and no Wangala dance in Jowai, and wondered what was the Department of Arts and Culture doing. The Member also cited the cases of States where Winter Session or Winter sections of the society of the State. In this connection, he mentioned States like Jammu and Kashmir which has Jammu as Winter Capital, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Manipur. The Member also said that West Khasi Hills is also the most neglected District in the State. He also stressed the need for immediate construction of the Raj Bhawan Annexe at Tura, which was initiated by him as Chief Minister in 1988. He also said that when the proposal came for setting up a Central Agriculture University at Shillong, he suggested that it should be set up at Jaintia Hills or Garo Hills as there is no more land in Shillong. The Hon'ble Member demanded that Winter Session should be held at Tura and also demanded that work for construction of Raj Bhawan Annexe at Tura should start immediately.

Shri E. C. Bamon, MLA, said that he is taken aback by the figures read out by the Leader of Opposition, and also said that there should be balance in the release of fund for all Districts.

Shri John Manner Marak, MLA, said that Directorates in Garo Hills like the Joint Director and Deputy Director have no financial power, and they cannot appoint even Grade IV Staffs. The D. I. cannot even transfer staffs. Therefore, he strongly supported the setting up of a mini Secretariat at Tura, as proposed by the Leader of Opposition, and also holding of Winter Session in Tura.

Dr. Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister, replied that the submissions made by all the Hon'ble Members are well taken. He said that it is a fact that our delivery

system has not been satisfactory and new initiatives are necessary. He also said that officers must change their mindset of wanting to be posted only in the State capital. He said the demand for Winter Session in Tura and construction of the Raj Bhawan Annexe has been for a long time. He said that he personally took initiative to see that the land meant for construction of Raj Bhawan Annexe has been acquired and the project will start as soon as possible. He said that Meghalaya needs to be developed in totality. As regards, the Garo Territorial Council proposal, he said that the proposal is being discussed at the Central Government level. It is at this stage with the Ministry of Home Affairs, and therefore, the State Government will not be in a position to comment on this as it is still at an early stage.

Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition, said that the Chief Minister did not clarify on the points relating to the setting up of mini Secretariat in Tura and holding of Winter Session in Tura.

Dr. Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister, replied that he has covered all the points raised by the Hon'ble Members in his reply and said that Meghalaya needs to be developed in totality.

The Hon'ble Speaker said that the Chief Minister has replied that development of the State will be in totality, and perhaps it has covered all the points raised by the Hon'ble Members.

#### **4. Adjournment:**

Since there was no more Business to be transacted, the House was adjourned till 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

**Dated Shillong,  
The 8th June, 2010.**

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

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