

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

RE-ASSEMBLED BUDGET SESSION

(BULLETIN)

MONDAY, THE 31ST MAY, 2010.

The House met at 11 A.M. with the Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair, and transacted business till 2.45 P.M. The day was allotted for transaction of Private Members Business.

As soon as the House was about to transact its business, Shri P.A. Sangma, MLA, interrupted and drew the attention of the Hon'ble Speaker on the seating arrangement for senior Members inside the House. He informed the Hon'ble Speaker on the seating arrangement in the Houses of Parliament, where senior and former Prime Ministers, Speakers are allocated seats befitting their rank and status. He said that it is not appropriate for senior Members and ex-Chief Ministers like Dr. D.D. Lapang, Shri J.D. Rymbai, Dr. Donkumar Roy to sit in the back bench. Therefore, he requested the Hon'ble Speaker to make the seating arrangements as per the arrangement made in the Houses of Parliament. The Hon'ble Speaker agreed to the suggestion of the Hon'ble Member and said that he will look into it and make seating arrangement from the next session as followed in the Houses of Parliament.

1. Questions :

Starred Questions No. 1 to No. 10 were disposed off till 10:50 A.M. On Starred Question No.1, Supplementary Question was raised by Shri Satto R. Marak, MLA. On Starred Question No. 2, Supplementary Questions were raised by

Shri J.M. Marak, MLA, Shri T.D. Shira, MLA and Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition. On Starred Question No.3, Supplementary Question were raised by Shri Paul Lyngdoh, MLA, Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA and Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Leader of Opposition. On Starred Question No.4, Supplementary Question was raised by Shri J.M. Marak, MLA. On Starred Question No. 5 and 6, there was no supplementary. On Starred Question No. 7, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri Conrad K. Sangma, MLA, Shri James K. Sangma, MLA, Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA and Shri Paul Lyngdoh, MLA. On Starred Question No. 8, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri J.M. Marak, Shri Paul Lyngdoh, MLA and Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA On Starred Question No. 9, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri Satto R. Marak, MLA, Shri J.M. Marak, MLA, Shri Manas Chaudhuri, MLA and Shri Paul Lyngdoh, MLA. On Starred Question No. 10, Supplementary Questions were raised by Shri J.M. Marak, MLA, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, MLA and Shri E.C. Bamon, MLA.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON'BLE SPEAKER:

After Question Hour, Hon'ble Speaker informed the House that he has received a notice of adjournment motion submitted by Shri. Paul Lyngdoh, MLA relating to boundary dispute between the States of Assam and Meghalaya. He informed the House that Shri. Paul Lyngdoh had also submitted an adjournment motion on the same subject on 28.5.10 but later withdrew it. The Hon'ble Speaker said though it is an important subject matter and he is equally concerned, but declined to admit the adjournment motion as a Resolution on the same subject has also been admitted and it will come up on 3.6.10. He said that it can even be taken up on 1.6.10, after the Motions have been disposed.

3. General Discussion on the Budget:

Shri. E. C. Bamon, MLA spoke on water scarcity, pollution and environmental concern in the State and also further Central assistance for development of the State. Shri. T. D. Shira, MLA spoke on the surrender of fund by the State Government, leakage of revenue collection by the State, etc. Shri. James K. Sangma, MLA spoke on the need to complete the Shillong by-pass, law and order in the State and the weakness of the Government in tackling the matter, to increase plan outlay for disaster management as Meghalaya is in the high seismic zone 5.

Shri. Manas Chaudhuri, MLA said that presentation and discussion of the Budget has become a ritual exercise without giving much importance by the Government as can be seen from the empty seats of most of the Ministers. He said the speeches made in the House are not given any importance and simply ignored by the Government. He also felt that Members have to be briefed on the Budget Estimates prepared by the Government. He also spoke on the CAG Report ending 31 March, 2009 and referred to its observation on foreign travel by some Members, which also includes him and some officials. He said that he is personally not aware of the Kms claimed or the rate and it was the officials who prepared everything. As regards the accuracy or excess of claim, it is yet to be fully ascertained, and if there is any excess payment, Members will not hesitate to refund back. But he also said that the CAG has transgressed its authority and its observation/findings on the Assembly Secretariat should not have been reflected or published in the CAG Report. It involves the prestige and dignity of the House and its Members. Its finding on any anomaly is corrected and settled internally between the Assembly

Secretariat and the CAG. It is for the first time that the findings of the CAG on the Assembly Secretariat has been published, and he suggested that the CAG has to be informed on this and made known on the position and status of the Assembly Secretariat. He also spoke on the recommendations of the State Planning Board, and wonder whether they are accepted and implemented. On Police, he said that the image of the Police is not good at the lower level. On border problem, he said that there should not be delay in solving the contentious issue as it is harming the interest of the State. He also spoke on water problem education. He also dwell on the Warrant of Precedence and said an MLA is higher in rank and status than a Chief Secretary, but while the Chief Secretary can get 2 vehicles, an MLA is not provided even a single vehicle. He requested the Government to look into it as it involves the status and dignity of Members. He also suggested that there should be a Meghalaya House in Shillong and also for computerizing archery betting in the State.

4. Adjournment:

Since there was no more Business to be transacted, the House was adjourned till 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 1st June, 2010.

**Dated Shillong,
The 31st May, 2010.**

W. M. Rymbai

Secretary,
**Meghalaya Legislative
Assembly.**
