

Ruckus in the house: BJP MLAs walk-out Questioned on how A/A is being given before the passing of supplementary demands

IT News
Imphal, Feb 23: The 3rd day of the 13th session of the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly witnessed a huge ruckus as BJP MLAs Khumukcham Joykishan and Thongam Bishworjit staged a walk-out off the house while passing the demand for grants for Public Works Department as Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, who is also in-charge of Finance department failed to clarify on how work orders for two works along the National Highways have been issued without following CPWD works manual. During the general discussion on supplementary demands for grants, BJP MLA Kh. Joykishan moved economy cut motion to the demands for grant for Public Works department on account of

utilizing state funds for development of National Highways even though it is to be funded by Central Govt. Moreover, Joykishan bombarded with a series of questions regarding the works being taken up along the national highways before sanction for the works are being passed by the house. Joykishan drew the attention of the Finance minister to clarify on how the 3.33 km long stretch of road in between Singjamei to Kakwa and between Manipur High Court to Newly constructed secretariat complex is being taken up without following the norms of CPWD works manual. According to the CPWD works manual, to sanction a work order administrative approval (A/A) is needed first, to be followed by Expenditure Sanction (E/S) and then

Technical Sanction (T/S) and after looking at the availability of funds the work order should be issued. The state Public works department in its order had already stated that the CPWD works manual will be adopted. While clarifying the matter, Okram Ibobi Singh, who is also in-charge of finance, said that the works had been allotted after giving administrative approval. Joykishan further enquired on how the department could give A/A when the said work has not been included in the budget. "How could A/A can be given for the said work when the said works has not been passed in the supplementary question?", Joykishan enquired. The speaker of the house tried to scuttle the issue, but Joykishan insisted with his arguments and prayed to the house to stop passing the

demand for grants of PWD until the matter is clarified to the satisfaction of everyone. Later, the speaker allowed the leader of the house to move other demands for grants. When the demand for PWD was raised the BJP MLAs strongly opposed in passing it but as the speaker called for voice vote, Joykishan walked out of the house. He was accompanied by another BJP MLA Thongam Bishworjit. Talking to reporters outside the house both the MLAs-Joykishan and Bishworjit said that they will not allow misleading false practice in the house. Joykishan said that Rs. 7020.00 lakhs was passed as budget for PWD for the year 2015-16. In this amount, the said two works were not included and questioned how the state government could accord administrative approval.



One day Assessment Camp for Visually Impaired/Blind and Leprosy Affected People at Ideal Blind School, Takyelpat

No help from government so far says earthquake victims

IT News
Jiribam, Feb 23: Family members of the victim deplored the state government's attitude towards the needy victims of earthquake that quake the state on January 4. A girl identified as Bheigyamoti Namasudro (17), daughter of Rupendro Namasudro of Chandranathpur village ward no. 3 under Lalting Khal G.P of

Jiribam. Speaking to this reporter, father of the victim girl said that the quake damaged various dwelling houses, properties and injured many. However, none of the earthquake victims of Jiribam area have received compensations from the side of the government. "None of the people of this area are not aware about the Rs 5 lakh

compensation announced by the state government for the victims of the earthquake", said Rupendro Namasudro. However, some of the family received Rs 10,000 from local MLA Th Debendro through Pradhan Rohtag, he added. He also appealed the state government to award compensations to the grieved family members of the earthquake.

Fire gutted down building

IT News
Imphal, Feb 23: Property worth Rs 2 lakh has been reduced to ashes after fire engulfed a building located at Paona Keithel today morning around 9.30. According to reports from police, the building is located at the second floor of SSI Building at Paona Keithel and it burnt down all the properties. However, a team of fire tender dozes off the blaze before the fire expand to other buildings.



MLA Imo demands to book NSF leaders for inciting communal tension

IT News
Imphal, Feb 23: Terming the statement of Naga Students' Federation (NSF) to ban "movement of all Meitei/Manipuri owned vehicle in all the Naga inhabited areas" as unfortunate MLA of Sagolband, RK Imo has raised the issue in the Zero hour of the ongoing 13th session of the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly. The NSF in its emergency meeting held on Monday, it had decided to ban Meitei/Manipuri owned vehicle in all the Naga inhabited areas with effect from February 24. RK Imo Singh said the statement is very unfortunate and a very communal one which could create disharmony in the state. The MLA also demanded to book NSF leaders under appropriate laws of the state for inciting communal tension and disharmony.

Construction of residential quarters for RMSA staffs delayed

IT News
Imphal, Feb 23: The State Government has completed construction of 44 residential staff quarters for employees under RMSA. It was informed by Education Minister, Moirangthem Okendro Singh in his reply to a question asked by MLA of Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency, Th Joykishan Singh during today's question hour in the 13th session of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. Out of 74 residential staff quarters 44 have been completed and 30 are yet to be completed, replied the Education Minister. In his response, the Minister

said that the construction of the quarters have been delayed due to various factors such as non-finalization of site, change of specifications and design in respect of remote and inaccessible site. In his reply to the question asked by MLA of Andro Assembly Constituency, Th Shyamkumar Singh regarding the programmes undertaken by Department of Labour in Manipur, Minister of Labour and Employment, I Hemochandra Singh informed the house that 25 labour laws providing provisions for registration of trade unions, settlement of industrial disputes, regulation of

employment and conditions of service, regulation of payment of wages and bonus and payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers have been administered. Regarding the one percent (1%) labour cess from the development programmes of the department, the Minister replied that the department has not deducted one percent (1%) labour cess, but departments/undertakings deducted one percent (1%) labour cess from the bills paid to the contract employers by way of levying and collection of cess under Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996.

House passes 35 demands for grants

IT News
Imphal, Feb 23: 3rd day of the 13th session of the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly passed 35 demands for grants. Of the 35, a sum of rupees 3,04,70,000 was passed for state legislature, a sum of Rs. 11,77,000 was passed for Council of Minister, a sum of Rs. 45,13,93,000 was passed for Finance Department, a sum of Rs. 3,04,73,000 was

passed for Transport, a sum of Rs. 65,79,27,000 was passed for Police, a sum of Rs. 148,20,41,000 was passed for the PWD on voice vote, a sum of Rs. 115,86,31,000 was passed for education, a sum of Rs. 41,51,38,000 was passed for Medical, Health and Family Welfare department, a sum of Rs. 19,76,42,000 was passed for Municipal Administration, Housing and

Urban Development, a sum of Rs. 1,83,59,000 was passed for Labour and Employment, a sum of Rs. 9,65,78,000 for Tribal Affairs, Hills and Scheduled Castes development, a sum of Rs. 30,66,18,000 for Agriculture, a sum of Rs. 44,90,31,000 for Community and Rural development, a sum of Rs. 44,90,31,000 for power department among others.

AMMGSU condemns banning of veil

IT News
Imphal, Feb 23: All Manipur Muslim Girls Students' Union (AMMGSU) has condemned authority of Brighter Academy for banning of wearing veil by students inside the premise of the school campus. Speaking to media persons, President of AMMGSU, Rukshar Chaudhury said that wearing of veil by Muslim women is compulsory as per the custom of the religion. However, the Principal of the School has imposed ban on wearing veil by Muslim

students of the school. She warned that if the Principal failed to revoke the prohibition order on or before,

the Union will take action against the Principal in consultation with concern authority of customary laws.

Ultrasound Screening

IT News
Imphal, Feb. 23: A free ultrasound screening cum stone detection camp was organized at Shija Clinic Thoubal, Kshetri Sanglen today. A team led by Dr. Jugindra Sorokhaibam, Consultant General & Laparoscopic Surgeon, Shija Hospitals and Dr. Rocky Laishram, Sonologist, Shija Hospitals provided free ultrasound screening and free consultation during the camp. Detailed examinations along with free ultrasound screening were conducted for 30 patients. The camp was organized as a part of Shija Outreach Camp.

Assessment Camp for Visually Impaired and Leprosy Affected People

IT News
Imphal, Feb 23: "We focus on the future of the children" said Dr Shalemi K Tarao, Program Manager of World Mission India at the One Day Assessment Camp jointly organised by World Mission India. Handicapped Development Federation, Manipur and Social Welfare, Government of Manipur, for visually impaired/blind and leprosy affected people today at Ideal Blind School, Takyelpat, Imphal. Speaking to the media persons, Dr Shalemi K Tarao said that

the program is being organised mainly for the differently abled people of the state specially who are blind and needs special care for the students and old aged persons. The program is taken up under the AP Area Development Program with the assessment of Artificial Manufacturing Co-operation, India (ALIMCO) for the differently abled persons in order to provide some facilities, study materials and other facilities for the students and the old aged people. Shalemi further said that today's program is focused on

the blind people and support sticks will be provided for them. A mega camp will also be organised on March 5th, 2016 but the place have not been decided yet. On this day all the differently abled people are welcome and their required materials will also be provided. World Mission India have been organizing such program and have organised a mega camp last year for all the differently disabled persons and this is the second time to be jointly organised with ALIMCO with the focus on blind persons, she added.

Indian economy a haven of stability, says President

PTI
New Delhi, Feb. 23: Describing India as "a haven of stability" in a turbulent global economy, President Pranab Mukherjee today said the government has simplified procedures for approvals, repealed obsolete laws and put in place a non-adversarial tax regime to attract investments. Addressing the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget session, the President listed out achievements of the Modi government, saying India has jumped 12 places on the ease of doing ranking of the World Bank while foreign investment inflow has risen 39 per cent. The government has taken to reforming institutions, simplifying procedures and repealing obsolete laws, besides unlocking infrastructure development opportunities as well as focusing on clean energy and cutting subsidy leakages. "India is a haven of stability in an increasingly turbulent global economy. GDP growth has increased making India the world's fastest growing economy among large

economies," he said. Mukherjee said inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit have all come down and the country recorded the highest ever foreign exchange reserves in 2015. "The government has taken a number of measures to put in place a simplified, progressive and non-adversarial tax regime by incorporating internationally prevalent best practices in tax administration," he said referring to taxpayer-friendly facilities like e-filing of returns, electronic processing and retrieval of documents and online grievance redressal. Also, procedures have been simplified to improve ease of approvals, and dedicated commercial courts and commercial divisions in high courts have been established. "For speedy resolution of commercial disputes, the long overdue amendments to the Arbitration Act have been made," he said. Stating that employment generation was the government's top goal, the President said job creation is being driven through initiatives like Make-in-India,

Startup India, Mudra and Skill India. Mukherjee said the government has taken several measures to improve the quality of governance. "Close to 1,800 obsolete legislations are at various stages of repeal," he said. NITI Aayog, the new avatar of the Planning Commission, is engaged with states in policy formulation in spirit of cooperative federalism. Also, 500 e-governance services through public-private partnerships in 12 states have been taken up. "Robust infrastructure development unlocks opportunities for all," he said, adding that the Smart Cities programme envisages city development in a challenge mode. As many as 20 cities have been selected in the first phase of the Smart City programme after intense competition among 98 cities. "Second and third phases of the programme are on the anvil," Mukherjee added. To enhance availability of clean energy, the government plans to increase renewable energy capacity to 175 gigawatt by 2022 through offshore wind farms, bundling

thermal power with solar power and setting up solar parks in states. Solar power capacity has almost doubled in the last 20 months and crossed 5,000 mw. "Today, under my government, solar power is affordable and accessible to thousands of people," he added. Since the government assumed office, energy shortage has reduced to 2.3 per cent from 4 per cent. "My government is committed to providing electricity to all the census villages by May 2018," he said. Mukherjee said that while the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) seeks to turn around the financially sick power distribution companies, 83 per cent of generation capacity addition target of 88,537 mw for 12th Five Year Plan has already been achieved. Also, the government will commission major transmission projects for reducing congestion in transmission. Besides, critical amendments in the Tariff Policy have been introduced to ensure availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable and competitive rates, he said.