

State Assembly Session : House Passed demands for six departments

IT News
Imphal, Feb 20

Ongoing Budget Session of the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly today passed demands for grants for 6 more departments amidst policy cut by opposition MLAs. A sum of Rs. 81,71,91,000 has been passed as the demand for grants for Labour and Employment department. Oppositions MLAs K.Ranjit Singh, Th. Lokeshwar Singh, Md. Abdul Nasir, Kh. Joykishan Singh and Surajkumar Okram moved Policy Cut motion on the ground of Negligence of Labour rights and failure to provide job to unemployment, Lack of transparency in the distribution of sewing machines in Khundrakpam A/C, Irregularities in the functioning of Lilong ITI, Failure in the discrepancies of Manipur Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board and Failure to generate employment and to introduce state labour policy.

A sum of Rs. 9,11,72,74,000 has been passed for the Department of Tribal Affairs and Hills Development but the opposition MLA K.Ranjit Singh, Kh. Joykishan Singh, Alfred Kannangam Arthur and Surajkumar Okram disapproved it on the ground of irregularities in delivering government facilities to underprivileged hill people, Failure in making policy to promote Tribal languages, Inability to implement provisions of Rule of Law in the functioning of the Autonomous Districts Councils, negligence and lack of development between hills and valleys and Poor implementation of Tribal Welfare Scheme. Moving the policy cut motion MLA K.Ranjit drilled the TD department on the whereabouts of the sum of Rs. 29 crore 67 lakhs which is missing from the account of the TD. He also question on what action has been initiated against the officer involved in the missing of the huge

amount of public money. A sum of Rs. 769,45,04,000 has been passed for Environment and Forest but opposition MLAs K.Ranjit, Ak. Mirabai Devi and Alfred Kannangam Arthur disapproved policy cut on account of inability to check deforestation in the Hills, Negligence in the conservation of forest cover areas and inability to curb the forest offences and Non-adherence to policies and rules in the implementation of programs and projects. For power department the demand for grant passed today is Rs. 3,61,01,38,000. Opposition MLAs K.Ranjit Singh, K. Meghachandra Singh and Kh. Joykishan Singh moving policy cut motion on account of Failure to disconnect the power supply system and to produce power by the Solid Waste Management Plant, Lamdeng. Failure in construction of powerhouse sub-station of Yairipok and failure in extensions of A-B cables to the left out area of 32- Wangkhem

A/C. and Failure in having state's own Electricity Regulatory Commission and failure to have a clear agreement with Loktak Hydro Electric Project. As for the Art and Culture department a sum of Rs. 3,440,63,000 has been passed. Opposition MLAs K. Meghachandra Singh, Ak. Mirabai Devi, Kh. Joykishan Singh, Rk. Imo and Surajkumar Okram moved policy cut on the ground of Delay in development works of Arts and Culture department, failure to implement Manipur Culture Policy and Manipur Film Policy and delay in the opening office of culture for the hilly area. Failure in honouring and giving incentives to renowned persons in Arts and Culture and Lack of proper plan to save Thong-Nambonbi and Failure to implement cultural policy. A sum Rs. 12,41,96,000 has also been passed for Information and Technology.

Total number of unemployed youth registered in Employment Exchanged reduces to half in 4 years

IT News
Imphal, Feb 20

As per record maintained by the Directorate of Employment, Govt. of Manipur, the total number of unemployed youth registered decreased to half in 4 years. A written statement tabled by Labour and Employment Minister Th. Radheshyam, while replying to a question by MLA Surajkumar Okram during question hour of the ongoing state assembly session today, the number of

unemployed youths registered in the Directorate of Employment is 721824 in 2014. The number of unemployed youth registered in 2018 is 346690 in 2018. As per the data, the number of unemployed youth registered decreased to nearly half the number in 4 years. 2016 recorded the number of unemployed youth registered as 812811 in 2016, which is the highest from 2014 to 2019. In 2017 the number reduced to 364686 and in 2018 the number again decreased to 346690.

Congress MLA Surajkumar was seeking details of the unemployed youth registered in the last five years. Replying to the MLA Radheshyam said that break up data for 2019 could not be produced as compilation is being processed. In another reply, the Labour and Employment Minister said that the number of vacancies notified through Employment Exchange is 3643. He said in the last 3 year total number of placement made is 980 including 274 females.

SCERT embeds Assembly session as an excuse for disregarding Manipur Information Commission

IT News
Imphal, Feb 20

In yet another case of state government machineries dishonouring the Right to Information Act 2005, and disrespect to the directives of the Manipur Information Commission the State Council Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Manipur has taken excuse for not able to abide by the directives of the Manipur Information Commission due to the preparations of the ongoing budget session of the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly which began from February 14. One Thingujam Snjit Singh sought information through the SPIO of the Directorate of SCERT on July 9, 2019, to provide information of the

name and number of DIET Centers including the year of establishment of each Centers in the state of Manipur. The information sought through the SPIO under the RTI Act also included to provide information about the sanctioned amount for each center and also about the number of students enrolled in each center along with the utilization certificates for each center since the establishment of each DIET center. As the SCERT authority didn't provide the information which should be made available to the person under the RTI Act 2005, the matter was taken to the Manipur Information Commission and as per the directives of the Manipur Information Commission,

the SCERT authority was supposed to inspect the Centers on 5-2-2020. In today's hearing representatives of the SCERT in his submission in favour of the SPIO SCERT submitted that the inspection could not be done on 5-2-2020 as the SPIO was engaged in the works for the preparation for the ongoing Assembly Sessions and Financial year. The appellant in his submission had submitted that the SPIO SCERT had failed to allow inspection of record repeatedly and the inspection that was fixed on 5-2-2020 at 2pm was also failed as the SPIO absent without giving any reason. The Commission later fixed 11 am of February 29 as the next hearing.

Schools at interior district neglected - AMSU

IT News
Imphal, Feb 20

As a part of "Campaign for Total Education" promoted by All Manipur Students' Union, a team led by HRD Secretary Prikeshwor Moirangthem of AMSU Bishnupur District Committee today conducted a survey at Sadar Patel High School, Nagaithoukhong.

According to a press statement of the student body, the schools located at interior place of Manipur have been left out without proper management by the Government. The Patel school has been facing problems of teachers as the school needed 26 teachers but they had only 7 for 135 students from class 1 to 10 of

2020-21 session and the classrooms did not have proper desk and benches but only 40 were there. The AMSU further said that the Government had been launching lots of Schemes for the betterment of schools but it seemed like the benefits of the schemes has not seen much. Giving the entire conditions

of the schools, he further said that even the rice for mid-day meal for last year have arrived only this year and due to the lack of maintenance of the school's kitchen the teachers had been contributing to manage the kitchen. And there were no filters in the school for the students to provide hygienic drinking water.

18th Raising Day of UFO East Manipur

IT News
Thoubal, Feb 20:

The 18th Raising Day of Universal Friendship Organisation (UFO) East Manipur Bn. H/Q No. IV Thoubal Kshetrelaikai was celebrated today at Kshetrelaikai, Thoubal district. The celebration, which was held on the theme "Universal Love and Peace" began with the hoisting UFO flag at the

premises of UFO Thoubal Kshetrelaikai by the chief guest followed by paying of floral tributes and respect to the late members of UFO. Scores of UFO members from different parts of Manipur attended the celebration. Shedding lights on the underlying theme of holding the function, Commander Naokhomba shared that altogether 227 Satjal Academy had been opened and raised

38 Battalion so far in Kangleipak adding that Satjal Academy believes in peaceful co-existence and respect other culture and religion. He further said that Kangleipak used to be an independent nation having her own scripts, religion, culture, rule of law, and self-sufficient kingdom for a long period of time and added that the episode of Puya Meithaba some 200 years back was the

most unfortunate incident happened in the history of Kangleipak. The function was also attended by Social Worker Leitanthem Basanta, All Manipur Nupi Samaj Imphalgi President Thokhom Raman Leima, Social Worker Laishram Domen and Register Officer of Manipur Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board I. Subhashchandra as Presidium Members.

State CPI remembers Govind Pansare

IT News
Imphal, Feb 20

Progressive Writers Association [PWA], Manipur organised 5th Death Anniversary of Govind Pansare at Irawat Bhawan today.

Speaking to media persons, Rk. Jitendra, joint secretary of PWA said that the 5th death anniversary was celebrated to remember the life of Govind Pansare who was a writer and politician and an advocate of socialism, press freedom. Govind Pansare was shot

down while on morning walk in front of his wife but still no justice has been delivered so far. The anniversary program was attended by Ex. MLA. Dr. M. Nara and Adviser L. Iboiyama and other PWA members.

United College performs pledge

IT News
Chandel, Feb 20

Under Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) Cell & Government of Manipur, the students, teaching staff and non-teaching staff of United College, Lambung, Chandel, performed a pledge on disuse of plastics to keep our environment free from pollution today

Seventh Indian tests positive for coronavirus on cruise ship off Japan coast All the 645 passengers returned from Wuhan tested negative, discharged

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 20

Even as 621 out of the 3,711 people on board luxury cruise liner "Diamond Princess" have tested positive, one more Indian aboard a quarantined cruise ship off Japan's coast was found to be infected by the new strain of coronavirus, taking the total number of affected Indians on the ship to seven, said the Indian Embassy. There are total of 138 Indians on the ship, including 132 crew and 6 passengers. One Indian crew who tested positive for COVID19 among 88 new cases on Diamond Princess shifted to hospital for treatment," said a tweet by the Indian embassy on Wednesday. The tweet read as

"Indian crew who tested positive for #COVID19 among 88 new cases yesterday on #DiamondPrincess taken to hospital for treatment. Indians receiving treatment responding well. From today, disembarkation of passengers only started, likely to continue till 21 Feb. @MEAIndia".

The Indian Embassy said that it was in discussions with the Japanese government and the ship management company to affect de-boarding of all the Indians after the end of the quarantine period.

Passengers on the ship began to leave with the first batch of 500 de-embarked on Wednesday after a two-week quarantine period failed to stop the spread of the virus. The cruise ship



arrived at the Japanese coast earlier this month and was quarantined after it was found that a passenger who had got off the ship in Hong Kong in January was infected with the deadly virus that has led to an international alarm and over 2000 deaths in China alone. In another development 645

passengers who were kept at Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)'s facility at Manesar (Haryana) after their return from Wuhan province, by Air India's 747 Boeing aircraft on February 1 and 2 in two 747 Boeing Air India aircraft, were allowed to go home on Wednesday, after all of them tested negative. They included

36 passengers from Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, 69 passengers out of 71 passengers admitted to different hospitals have been discharged and only two passengers remain under observation at Kasturba Hospital in Mumbai. In all 41,208 passengers were subjected to thermal scanning at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport till Wednesday. Major airlines have suspended flights to China and banned arrivals from the country in the effort to contain the spread. In the meanwhile the Union Health Ministry has denied that a person named Sakthikumar (42) from Kothamangalam Village in Tamil Nadu died of COVID-19 disease on Saturday. The ministry released a statement in which it

clarified that the death occurred due to End Stage Liver Disease and not due to COVID-19. According to the statement, the deceased was known case of chronic liver disease with jaundice manifestation due to alcoholism and was under treatment for the past three years. Also he was admitted and treated for his ailment during August 2019 at a private hospital at Tanjore. Sakthikumar, who ran a small restaurant in China, had gone back to China, due to manpower shortage to run his eatery there despite his illness. However he returned to India on 4 February, due to jaundice and underwent treatment initially in his village and then in a private hospital at Madurai.