

**FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
(TENTH SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

**FOR FIFTH SITTING ON MONDAY, THE 19TH MARCH, 2007
(Time 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM)**

PRESENT

1. Speaker at the Chair, Deputy Speaker, 12 Ministers and 25 Members were present.

QUESTIONS

2. Questions entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

3. **PU LALDUHOMA** to present to the House the following Report of Public Accounts Committee.
 - i) The 27th Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for The year 2000-2001 relating to Public Works Department.
 - ii) The 28th Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2002-2003 relating to Public Health Engineering Department.
 - iii) The 29th Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2002-2003 relating to Public Works Department.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS
BILL FOR INTRODUCTION**

4. **PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA** to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Clinical & Health Establishment (Regulation) Bill, 2006"

ALSO
to introduce the Bill

5. **PU H. RAMMAWI** to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Court Fees (Mizoram Amendment) (Amendment) Bill, 2007"

ALSO
to introduce the Bill

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION & VOTING ON SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR 2006-2007

6. Discussion & Voting on Supplementary Demand for the year 2006-2007.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bill for introduction, Consideration and passing.

7. **PU ZORAMTHANGA** to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2007"

ALSO
to introduce the Bill to move that the Bill be taken into Consideration

AND
to move that the Bill be passed.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET 2007-2008.

8. General Discussion on the Budget for the year 2007-2008 (to commence).

S P E A K E R : "If service, in over serving, who teacher in his teaching, he who exhorts in his exhortation, he who contributes in his liberality, he who gives aid, with zeal, he who does acts as mercy, with cheerfulness". Romans 12 : 7,8.

Starred Question no. 41 to be asked by Pu Lalhmingthanga.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask Starred Question no. 41. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Home be pleased to State -

When will appointment order be made against those newly interviewed IR Battalion ?

S P E A K E R : Let us now call upon Pu Tawnluia, Home Minister to furnish his reply.

**PU TAWNLUIA
MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, date of joining for their appointment will be 15th May, 2007.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. There is rumour that appointment has been delayed due to political reasons. How far is this true ?

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we have seen in the Governor's Speech that a special package of Rs.17 Crore has already been received from the Centre during the financial year of 2005-2006 for raising of IR Battalion. The financial year of 2006-2007 is now over. I would like to enquire how the Government has spent that special package. Again the speech of the hon'ble Home Minister delivered on 3rd April last had stated that the Home Ministry had sanctioned 25 crores for raising of a new 3rd IR Battalion of Mizoram. At the same time, the hon'ble Chief Minister in his Budget Speech stated that the Government had raised the 3rd Indian Reserve Battalion during 2006-2007. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask where this newly raised IR Battalion is based.

PU S. HIATO : Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to ask whether the headquarters for 3rd IR. Battalion has been selected.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as we all know, 2nd IR Battalion is deployed to Chhatisgarh. A number of IR personnel have died during service in Chhatisgarh. How will the Government declare the reasons for their death?

Secondly, it has been heard that the expenditure for bringing home the dead bodies of IR personnel has to be recovered from their pension. Is this a fact?

Thirdly, I would like to ask whether 9 MM Pistol is being lost in the 3rd Battalion Headquarters Khawzawl. If so, how has the Government reacted to this matter?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I will first react to the question raised by Pu Zodintluanga. The Government has not yet made selection for 3rd IR Headquarters. The matter is being processed and the Cabinet's decision is awaited.

So far 6-IR personnel have already died in Chhatisgarh.

As for the expenditure for bringing home the dead bodies I would like to inform the House that the Government will pay all the necessary expenditure.

Regarding the raising of IR Battalion the hon'ble Chief Minister has repeatedly urged the Central Government to sanction adequate amount of money. As a result of his efforts the Home Ministry has sanctioned 17 crores last year plus Capital lost upto 8 crores-altogether 17+8=25 crores. On March 2006 certain amount was released as the first instalment. Therefore, rapid step cannot be taken before the entire sanction is released.

As for the rumour that the appointment of IR personnel is being delayed due to political reasons, I would like to ensure that appointment will be made on merit basis. The Government has also made a decision to issue appointment order shortly so that training of recruits could be started from May. 15.

I would further like to add that altogether 1260 have to be recruited out of which 400 posts is reserved for ex-service, sports, Home guards, family and kin of police deceased, and rehabilitation, and the remaining 800 is for the general seat.

Fresh proposal is necessary to decide the training centre for the newly raised IR Battalion.

I regret to state that I cannot give answer to the question regarding 2nd IR Battalion as it would be more appropriate when Budget Demand is discussed.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call upon Pu Lalrinliana Sailo to ask Starred Question no. 42.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO

: Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask Starred Question no. 42. Will the hon'ble Minister i/c. Soil and Water Conservation Department be pleased to state -

Whether the Government spent BAFFACOS fund for 2004-2006 for the rightful purpose.

**PU AICHHINGA
MINISTER**

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to Starred Question no. 42 is that the Government has spent

BAFFACOS fund under Soil & Water Conservation Department for the rightful purpose.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO

: Mr. Speaker Sir, based on the list of beneficiaries of BAFFACOS under Soil & Water Conservation

Department published by 'Thupuan' News-paper dated 15th November 2006, 13 persons have lodged a complaint. These 13 persons have stated that their names appeared in the list of beneficiaries but have not received even a single paise from BAFFACOS. Can the Minister clarify this matter?

I would like to react to the statement given by the hon'ble Minister that BAFFACOS fund has been spent in an inappropriate manner for Tualte Village. Irrigation project has been reported to be taken up for the village with an amount of 10 lakhs. However, the irrigation work is found to be very poor that it fails to serve the purpose. It seems that the Government has plundered the share of the rural people..

PU P.P. THAWLA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, how does the Government make allotment of fund under BAFFACOS for each District?

**PU AICHHINGA
MINISTER**

: Mr. Speaker Sir, I may not be able to furnish detailed answer to the question raised by Pu PP. Thawla as

it is not quite relevant to Starred Question. BAFFACOS fund has been allotted to each district according to the population.

Regarding the question raised by Pu Lalrinliana I would like to state that the beneficiaries of BAFFACOS in Samlukhai District are Sangluaia, Laltluangi, Lalhruaia, Rohmingliana, Sangthanga, Thangthuama, Rohmingliana, Lalvarha, Thanghuta, Chalthanga, Sangliana, Laldina and Lalmachhuana. Each beneficiaries received an amount of Rs. 5,000/- each.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to Starred Question no. 9 states that Rs. 20,000/- is given to each beneficiaries of BAFFACOS in Samlukhai. But the hon'ble Minister first stated that - the amount was only Rs. 5000/- (Pu Aichhinga : A Corrigendum was made to correct the errors.)

S P E A K E R : The copy of the Corrigendum should reach all the members. Let us now call upon Pu Sailothanga Sailo to ask Starred Question no. 43.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask Starred Question no : 43.

- (a) What is the main function of the Aizawl Development Authority ?
- (b) How many working staff are there in Aizawl Development Authority ?
- (c) The total amount spent for salary and office expenditure in a month.

PU H. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to Starred Question no. 43 are as follows.

- (a) The main function of Aizawl Development Authority is to make development plan for Aizawl city and ensure that the plans are implemented.
- (b) There are 17 staff under ADA.
- (c) The amount spent for salaries for a month is Rs. 1,42,673 and for office expenditure an amount of Rs. 7,52,493 is already spent so far.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question please. If Aizawl Development Authority and Municipality is constituted, will there be a conflict for power between the two bodies ?

Secondly, if Municipal Council is constituted will ADA be repealed ?

Thirdly, is there an intention to amend the Aizawl Development Authority ?

**PU H. VANLALAUVA
MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker, a Special Study Committee which comprised of members from

all political parties has carefully looked into the ADA Act and Rules and also Municipal Act and Duties. Therefore, the two bodies will not clash for powers. As the municipality is to be formed as prescribed by the Indian Constitution, it will have final decision over ADA.

Even if Municipal Council is constituted the Aizawl Development Authority would not be repealed.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 44 to be asked by Pu R. Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, I ask Starred Question No. 44. Will the hon'ble Minister i/c Printing and Stationery be pleased to state-

- (a) The amount of fund set aside for purchase of stationeries for various Departments for the year 2006 - 2007.
- (b) The amount already spent so far.
- (c) The amount of debt.

**PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA
MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker, I will now furnish the answer to Starred Question No. 44 asked by Pu R. Lalzirliana.

- (a) The amount allotted for purchase of stationeries for various Departments is Rs. 50 lakhs.
- (b) The amount already spent is Rs. 50 lakhs.
- (c) The amount of debts incurred for procurement of stationeries is Rs. 51 lakhs.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, Govt. Departments are expected to purchase stationeries from Printing & Stationery Department. However, some Departments have purchased stationeries from private firms and open markets. Can the Minister disclose the names of these Departments ?

We have heard from the hon'ble Minister that the financial provision made for the purchase of stationeries for Government Departments is 50 lakhs. How can only Rs. 50 lakhs cover the expenditure for all the Government Departments ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker, Printing & Stationery is supposed to cater stationery needs to all Departments. However, the problem seems to be that the stationery outlet is situated at Luangmual which is rather a long distance and cause inconvenience in case of urgency. If the Department opens a depot in the heart of Aizawl city it could be more convenient for the Departments. Another problem lies in the system of purchasing the materials from the outlet. The buyer has to make a cash deposit in advance which is a long process. If the concerned Department introduces coupon system it could be easier for the buyers. I would further like to suggest that Printing and Stationery Department can be more utilized if better coordination is made with all the Departments.

PU H. LIANSILOVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we cannot deny the fact that Printing & Stationery Department failed to receive its revenue target. Therefore, the Government should look into the performance of this Department.

I would further like to suggest that the Department should concentrate more on normal office stationeries like paper, pen etc. and other minor materials like petromax, lantern should be disposed of instead of entertaining many items only important materials should be taken into account.

The revolving fund allotted for the Department is also found to be rather meager. Therefore, the Government is requested to review the expenditure of the Department.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker, the function of Printing & Stationery Department has often been mentioned in the House. But, there is no visible improvement made in the Department. Hence, I would like to raise a suggestion that only Printing be entertained and stationery business be discontinued.

**PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA
MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the members for their constructive questions and criticisms concerning my Departments.

Since the establishment of this Department it has been going on without receiving due interest from the authority. The Budget provision has also been the same, that is 50 lakhs for many years. In spite of this, the Department has seen improvements.

For convenience of other Departments and the safe conveyance, sales outlet has now been set up at the ground floor of the Controller's Office. Steps have also been taken to improve the quality of stationery materials.

The number of items sold at the sales outlet has also been reduced by making decentralized items. Only daily office stationery needs have now been dealt in the sales depot.

As for the case of the budget allotment, the Government is expected to increase the amount now that the significance of this Department has been realized.

Regarding the suggestion raised by Pu Saikaphthianga that only Printing be dealt and abandon stationery matters. I would like to say that it cannot be entertained for now.

Realising the problem faced by the Department the Government has sanctioned Rs. 140 lakhs for the purchase of high quality machines like Image Setter and Offset printer. In this manner the Department has made quality improvement in its functions. We are now struggling to fulfill the programmes and policy of the Government through this Department.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Pu H. Vanlalthaliana to ask Starred Question No. 45.

PU H. VANLALTHALIANA

: Mr. Speaker, I ask Starred Question No.45. Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c FCS & CA be pleased to state -

- (a) The number of supply godowns in Mizoram.
- (b) Whether there are enough godowns to stock food stuffs to be supplied to rural people during the strike of Mautam.

S P E A K E R

: Let us now call upon the Minister i/c FCS & CA Pu K. Sangthuama.

**PU K. SANGTHUAMA
MINISTER**

: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Starred Question No. 45 is (a) - There are 188 supply godowns under Food &

Civil Supplies Department. These godowns are equipped with adequate supply of foodstuff

PU H. VANLALTHALIANA

: Mr. Speaker, I ask if there is proposal to make Damdep godown functional.

PU H. ROHLUNA

: Mr. Speaker, it is learnt that the Government has not yet made special provision for distribution of rice to

famine affected people besides normal allocation. In this regard I would like to urge the Government to make special allocation of fund for supply of rice to Mautam affected areas.

Another important matter I would like to mention is about the weighing system used by the supply retailers. In Hnahlan village there are three supply retailers. They used empty cerelac containers as an unit of weight. Does the Government approve of this system ? If not, can action be taken against these retailers ?

PU LALDUHOMA

: Mr. Speaker, in the previous Session I have already mentioned that BPL members did not receive their quota of 35 Kgs of rice. I would like to remind the Government that there are many BPL families who have not received their quotas in full. How has the Government reacted to this ?

I would further like to ask the authority to take steps for BPL and AAY families so that they may be entitled to receive APL quota of rice as well.

Does the Government intend to privatize weight bridge ? How far has the Government taken steps in this regard ?

PU H. LIANSILOVA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is said that number of beneficiaries under BPL and IAAY within Aizawl will be reduced. If so, what is the reason ? whether the economic condition of the concerned families is improving or it is done so as per instruction of Central authority ? How will the concerned Department deal with the problem that comes out of this reduction ?

S P E A K E R

: I now call upon the concerned Minister to give his answer.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, certain members asked the question relating to construction of godown. In this regard, it is to note that it is the desire of the Government to locate godown in every convenient place, yet it is impossible to do so considering the strength of staff. As of godown at Damdep, we have now determined the possibility of it.

The question of Pu H. Rohluna relating to allocation of more stock of rice as measure for precaution against the coming famine, we have discussed the matter with the Chief Minister and the concerned Department Officers and they accepted this insufficiency which is 35 Kgs per family. We have approached the Central Government to supplement this allocation but in response, we were informed that it cannot be done as it is done as per Central norms which is being applied in every states, and we may rather purchase the requirement amounting to 30,000 quintals per month at the rate of 9.50 here in Aizawl and then issued to the public at the same rate. It is to be noted that it is the main concern of the Government to provide enough food to the people.

Regarding the point raised by our fellow member about improper measurement of rice, it is mostly practiced in rural areas due to lack of money for purchase of measuring scale. Instruction has already been given by the Department yet

there are few retailers who do not follow the instruction. In this regard necessary action will be taken.

As of allotment of 35 Kgs. of rice to BPL families, we have been informed of that shortage and instruction is given in that regard, action has also been taken against those who are not following the instruction. I assure that the Department will take necessary action for improvement of the system. In this connection, it is to be noted that BPL families too are entitled to deliver the supply for APL families for which an awareness in our respective constituency is important.

The Department is now planning to introduce standard weigh bridge to be maintained in private. Financial concurrence has already been obtained for purchase to that effect.

Point raised by Pu Liansailova relating to reduction of allotment of rice to BPL and AAY families, it is to be noted that the policy of the Central Government is to reduce the amount every year as supplementing the amount means our condition is deteriorating, and we are not making improvement to the effect. The Government therefore, determines to keep up the existing system.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Question hour is over. Pu Lalduhoma, Chairman, PAC will now present 3 reports, No. 27, 28 and 29.

PU LALDUHOMA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and of this House, I now present to this House, 27th Report of PAC relating to Public Works Department, 28th Report relating to PHE, 9th Report relating to Public Works Department.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Let the copy be distributed. I now call upon Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga to beg leave of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Clinical and Health Establishment (Regulation) Bill, 2006.

**PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA
MINISTER**

: Mr. Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I now beg leave of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Clinical and Health Establishment (Regulation) Bill, 2006.

S P E A K E R

: Do we agree? If so, I now call upon Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga, the Hon'ble Minister to introduce the said Bill.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and of the House, I now introduce 'The Mizoram Clinical and Health Establishment (Regulation) Bill, 2006 here in the House.

S P E A K E R : We still have another Bill to introduce i.e. The Court Fees (Mizoram Amendment) (Amendment) Bill, 2007. I now call upon Pu H. Rammawi, the Hon'ble Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce the said Bill.

PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg leave of the House to introduce 'The Court Fees (Mizoram Amendment) (Amendment) Bill, 2007'.

S P E A K E R : Do we agree? If so, let me call upon The Minister to introduce the said Bill.

PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and of the House I now Introduce 'The Court Fees (Mizoram Amendment) (Amendment) Bill, 2007' here in the House.

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble Minister for Law has now introduced the Amendment Bill, 2007 and the copy may be distributed to the Members.

We will now take up Financial Business i.e. The Demand for Grant for the year 2007 which has already been laid by the hon'ble Chief Minister the other day. Generally, the Bill is passed without discussion. But now, we prefer to give time for explanation of the concerned Bill for which 5 minutes each will be allotted to each member. To start with, let me call upon Pu Lalrinliana Sailo to make his speech.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker Sir, according to the Demand, amount allotted against Medical treatment is Rs.1188.01. Here in the explanatory note of R.E, amount required for Government Health Insurance Scheme is shown as Rs. 107,525. If we look into fund allotted for medical treatment of various Departments, the amount is hardly satisfactory. I would like to know if most of the case is being referred to ICICI Lombard. It may be appreciated if it is explained in detail.

PU H. ROHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, for favour of clarification by the concerned Department, I want to state that Rs. 849 lakh is allotted for construction of Saitual - Saichal - North East Bualpui road as shown in Demand No. 45 Sub. Head 3 and in Sub. Head 3, Rs.249 lakh for construction of Saitual - Saichal -Ngopa rises which seems to be of the same road but shown in separate Sub. Head. It would be appreciated if the concerned Minister clarifies the whole position.

S P E A K E R : I now call upon our Chief Minister to make clarification of this supplementary Demand and move in this House for favour of passing.

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I first of all want to say that it is not possible to make clarification of the whole Demand due to limit of time. It may be appreciated if the members pointed out what he felt to be necessary for clarification.

Regarding point raised by Pu Lalrinliana Sailo, it is to be noted that allotment of 30 - 40 crores for medical reimbursement is hardly sufficient and we are therefore compelled to put into Supplementary Demand.

As of the question of Pu Rohluna, the first one is Saitual - Saichal road and the other is Saitual - Saichal upto Tuivai river and a separate road.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as we all know, any financial sanction including centrally sponsored scheme which is coming as additional cannot be utilized without permission of the House, and for this reason we are now compelled to pass this Supplementary Demand. The total amount as we have seen here is Rs. 59,145,31 where-as actual amount which need to be passed is Rs. 55,335,39. I, therefore, move the House for favour of passing.

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble Chief Minister laid on the table of the House Demand for 2006 - 2007 for passing. Members who agree to pass it may say 'yes' and those who don't may say 'no'.

(Members : Yes)

This House has unanimously passed Supplementary Demand for Grants 2006 - 2007 amounting to Rs. 591,43,31,000/-

We will now move to Legislative Business. Permission for utilization of Supplementary Demand for Grants which we have just passed is needed. I now call upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister to introduce "The Mizoram Appropriation No. 1 Bill 2007" for the same.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER**

: Mr. Speaker Sir, I now beg permission of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Appropriation No. 1 Bill, 2007 so that the Demand we have just passed may be utilized.

S P E A K E R

: Do we agree? (The Members : Yes) I now call upon the hon'ble Chief Minister to move this House for passing of the said Bill.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER**

: Mr. Speaker Sir, I just have introduced 'The Mizoram Appropriation No.1 Bill, 2007' and the copy may kindly be distributed. There is nothing much to explain. I, therefore, move the House to unanimously pass 'The Mizoram Appropriation No. 1 Bill, 2007.

S P E A K E R

: The hon'ble Chief Minister has now moved the House to pass "The Mizoram Appropriation No.1 Bill, 2007". The members who agree to pass may say 'yes' and those who don't may say 'no'. (The members : yes) This House has unanimously passed 'The Mizoram Appropriation No. 1 Bill, 2007'.

We will now move to our last Business for today, that is Financial Business. Regarding general discussion on the Budget for the year 2007 - 2008, as usual, 15 minutes will be allotted to each member. To start with, let me call upon Pu Zodintluanga to have his speech.

PU ZODINTLUANGA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, if we look into our Budget, nothing much is seen for the benefit of the people keeping in mind the coming Bamboo Flowering Famine. In short, I must say that our Budget is not having appropriate direction. Even though the amount is increasing, no appropriate plan for self sufficiency for the State is found.

On the other hand, the members on your right will surely speak in appreciation of this growth of our Budget without realizing of how it will be utilized. For instance, allotment of Budget for major Department such as School Education Department is increased by 3139.7 lakhs but the rate of increase of salaries is only 3100.7 which means 98.78% is gone to salaries & wages and nothing much is left. The same happened with other major Departments like Home Department and therefore, nothing much remain for the benefit of the people as a whole.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the speech made by the House Leader & Finance Minister indicates the weakness of this Budget. As he has pointed out Mizoram Financial condition of 1998, a major operation is needed. Almost a decade has now passed and the only thing he can say is that as

compared with the estimated real growth rate of 6% by the Twelfth Finance Commission this growth is seen as satisfactory given the poor basic infrastructure. His statement indicates our weakness in financial management even though this is of the 9th Budget.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I also have to say that it is hardly acceptable to exclude public sector revenue as it is determined as 'minus'. It should have been put at least as 'zero' so that public sector may make improvement.

Last but not least, if we determine the total amount of our Budget, 40% has gone to salaries & wages of Government servants which is only 4% of the total population not to speak of other charges and office expenditure. It is sad that the amount left for the benefit of 96% of our population is very poor. I, therefore, have to say that this Budget is not of an ideal Budget but of the one which cannot be benefited by the poorer section.

Thank you.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO

At the outset Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to express my appreciation to those who prepare this Budget as the result of their hardwork brings this Budget. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Central Government and Planning Commission for achieving this Budget, yet, I have to make few comments.

Firstly, it is appreciated that the State GDP rises to 4.84 yet, it seems that the Government is not willing to show per capita income due to poor performance. Our revenue surplus too is increasing by 27.78 crore and no overdraft is made during the last two years. Not only this, our Budget deficit too is decreasing by 27.78 crore. As a result, the closing deficit is expected to fall by 6.25 crore. It is further stated that our revenue too is increasing in compare to last year and in this regard, I opine that it can still be increased if we ignore the problem with the concerned people. It is sad for the people that VAT will soon be applied to taxable as well as non-taxable goods.

Not only this Mr. Speaker Sir, it is further stated regarding excessive increase of capital expenditure and receipt expenditure. The same is also with Plan and Non-Plan and is much appreciated but not by the member of the Opposition.

As of BAFFACOS and MIP project, achievement of the Government is appreciated yet, it will be much desirable if the sanction is use appropriately. Not only this, achievement of the Government with other projects such as JNNURM and Urban Development too is highlighted here. Financial control of the Government in connection with such projects too is appreciative.

On the contrary Mr. Speaker Sir, management of our Government with various development schemes, in my opinion, is based on political favouritism as there is no opportunity for non-supporters of MNF party to benefit PMGSY, IAY or food for work project. Not only this, partiality arises among Government servants too so as to supplement grievances in connection with their services.

It is sad to learn that grant sanctioned by the 10th Finance Commission is being spent up inappropriately and half of the amount to be sanctioned for the coming 11th Finance Commission too has already been utilized. It is desirable to keep the rest of the sanction beyond the reach of those who are responsible for that misappropriation.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we all know very well that favourable achievement can be generated from such sanctions if it is used ideally. I am afraid that our system of management is causing problem for other schemes that will come in the future.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would also like to state that I fully support the idea of allocation of Budget in favour of the benefit of farmers, so that truckable road is made available for transportation of their products. Not only this, it is highly necessary for the Government to determine solution to the problem of the youths today. In relation, it may be important to concentrate more on the programme of Human Resources Development keeping in mind increasing number of educated unemployed youths as there are only few who could be absorbed in private sector employment.

It is much appreciated that pay of our Government servants is increasing yet, it may be important to consider of what has been done for the benefit of our farmers and poorer section of our society. It is, therefore, necessary for the Government to consider to prevail equality in dealing with Rural Package otherwise our problem will be increasing.

Last but not least Mr. Speaker Sir, I have to stress the need of clean competition among the members in power to achieve any commitment which has been made so far by setting aside party - wise favoritism. I, therefore, want to appeal the party in power to give up any practice which is harmful to our society and to the people of Mizoram.

Thank you.

PU D. THANGLIANA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to discuss our Budget for the year 2007 - 2008.

Considering achievement of the Government which has been highlighted here in the Budget speech of our Chief Minister, I have to say that it is also the result of efficiency of central UPA Government and is much appreciated. Nonetheless, we are fortunate to have a Chief Minister who is having good quality of leadership and deep concern for the welfare of his people as a whole.

At the outset, I have to mention that Area fund of MLA is being increased from 10 lakh to 15 lakh during this term which is much appreciated and it sets an example for leaders for many years to come.

Generally, our Budget is increasing every year but not a standard of education is improving. In the same way, our state can be mentioned as the most peaceful state in the country due to increase of employment under Police Department not to mention of pay benefit of the concern Government employees.

We have further learned that the Government, in support of market for locally produced vegetables and fruits etc. signed MOU with some company. In fact, the people seem to have much confidence in this Government headed by Pu Zoramthanga knowing its performances in dealing with these matters.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker Sir, some may criticize the Government for using its funds beyond the reach of poorer section. But the performances of the Government indicates its issue or concern for the welfare of the farmers, whereas link roads of agriculture area and potential connectivity is almost achieved. Besides, there are number of achievements of the Government which deserve appreciation but cannot be pointed out in detail due to limit of time. Yet, inclusion of

Agriculture and Allied activities and Rural Development in priority sector deserves much appreciation as it will pave the way for the concern people to start their livelihood.

Not only this, sufficient amount of fund is allotted for Flood control and Irrigation which will surely be benefited in the coming years.

Last but not least, I want to extend my appreciation to the Chief Minister for fulfilling our request for furnishing the Legislator's Home where four or five MLAs are now living.

Mr. Speaker Sir, there are number of points to raise regarding favourable performances of this Government but it cannot be done in full due to limit of time, yet the performance that cannot be ignored is achievement of separation of Judiciary which happened to be included in the election manifesto of most of the parties.

As a whole, this Budget comprises of matter relating to most important matters that can be counted as the asset of our State and therefore, may be called A Budget full of good things.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Discussion for morning Session is now finished. We will now have a recess and the meeting will be resumed at 2 : 00 P.M.

PU K. LALRINLIANA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, there are number of distinctive features to be seen here in the Budget Speech and is much appreciated. I strongly believe it will bring about good benefits to all level of our society. The most remarkable feature of them all, in my opinion is publication of State Economic survey as it is important for determination of our potentiality. As for the performances of this Government, the people of Mizoram shows their confidence in this Ministry in the General Election and By-Election of MLA. It further indicates that the Government is efficient enough in financial management.

Certain members criticized the Government as being wasting large amount of fund on pay of Education Department on which I opine it is necessary to determine the reality. It is necessary to determine the reality. It is to be noted that with the increase of employment under this Department, the existing growth rate ie. 91 Crore is exceptionally higher than that of all the previous Ministries. This high growth rate indicates efficiency of our government in financial Management.

As shown in the hon'ble Chief Minister's Budget speech, at page 10, Sl. No.27, it is highly appreciated that the Government is giving importance of Agriculture & Allied Department that concern mostly of farmers for which 76.25 crore is allotted. This surely is one of the remarkable achievements of this Government.

Not only this Mr. Speaker Sir, concentration is given to development of rural areas much to the appreciation of the concern people. It indicates that the main concern of

this Government is upliftment of the poor and the farmers particularly in rural areas for which our budget is set in that direction.

Again Mr. Speaker Sir, step taken by the Government towards Mizoram Intodelhna Programme (MIP) is worth mentioning as substantial amount of fund i.e. 20 crore is allotted. This project is criticized in the previous year as being inactive, but now various improvements can be seen since introduction of new guidelines and Rules.

As a scheme for fighting the coming famine caused by Bamboo flowering, the Government has wisely made provision so that the people earn their livelihood by an alternative means for which 35 crore is allotted for this year.

We have further seen the newly Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, a new Department introduced by MNF Government to take up maintenance of the problem of the poor and well-to-do families within the city. It is much appreciated that the Government is preparing schemes and projects to that effect.

Besides, it is worth mentioning of the Government's decision for allocation of fund for Government servants from Non-Plan fund. Whereas in the previous years various Departments pull this provision from Plan-fund. This indicates efficiency of this Government in fiscal management.

One of the remarkable achievements of this Government is its ability to maintain financial dealings without any stoppage of payment from Bank or Treasury which frequently happened in the previous ministries. This performance indicates efficiency of the Government headed by hon'ble Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga.

AFTERNOON 2 : 00 PM.

DEPUTY SPEAKER

: We will continue our business. Before calling upon members I would like to state that many seats in the Official Gallery are empty. I, therefore, request the Government Officials to occupy their seats from now on. Now, we will call upon Pu H. Liansailova to start discussion in the afternoon session.

PU H. LIANSILOVA

: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. First of all I would like to mention that there is a little progress in the Budget for this year. We seem to be able to pass full Budget for the whole year other than Vote on Account.

As we had heard from the speech of the hon'ble Chief Minister, economy of India has grown much under the UPA Ministry in the Central Government. Mizoram is also one of the beneficiaries of this growing economy of India. The annual plan of our state is also increasing year by year. If I am not mistaken, I am aware that the total amount of our plan fund during the 5th Five year Plan was Rs.45 crore. But, now-a-days our Plan fund approved for the 11th Five Year Plan has become Rs. 4500 crore. This means that our annual plan will approximately be Rs. 900 crore every year. I, therefore, appreciate such great increment of Plan fund.

I am not a budget expert. So, I do not have much points to raise in detail. However, from the Report of Economic Survey, we can know that the gross domestic product of our state is greatly increased and our per capita income has also been increased beyond Rs. 20,000/- This means that a family with five members has an annual income of Rupees one lakh. If so, there would be no poor family in Mizoram. Meanwhile, most people need to work very hard every day for their livelihood. It is, therefore, true to say that the annual budget of our state does not reach the target group. The amount of money to be set aside in the Budget might be too much, However, its implementation seemed to be more important than its amount.

We talk about passion fruit cultivation also. Our farmers are also interested. But adequate assistance cannot be provided to them as they require livelihood even before harvesting their crops. That is why the said scheme is in failure. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I wish the Budget to be implemented fairly.

Thank you.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Our Budget for this year as reflected in the Budget book can be said as a good Budget. Demands for Grants are also very much increased by Rs. 286 crore from last year. We now have Rs. 2322.92 crore this year. We know from the Budget speech of the Finance Minister that he tried his level best in the matter of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management. I, therefore, express my thanks in this regard. We know from his speech that our liabilities from NCDC, Rural Electrification Corporation and LIC are consolidated. This means that the said liabilities are postponed for 20 years, it is called Debt Swap and which can bring about a profit of Rs. 60.99 crores. However, I would like to raise one important point. The hon'ble Chief Minister, while speaking about financial reform, said about writing off our liabilities but we see no provision of such measures in the Budget Book. The interest rates of various loans are merely reduced to some extent.

We also listened that the opening deficit is Rs. 104.17 crore, however, we will have a surplus of Rs. 83 crore in the closing balance. In this regard I would like to mention whether such amount would really be surplus or not. If we look at the first page of Financial Statement there are detail amount of total receipt and expenditure of Revenue Account and Capital Account, Receipt and Re-payment of loans as public debt. In which the actual expenditure would be greater than the total receipt by Rs. 26.18 crore. If so the total deficit at the end of this year would rise to Rs. 130.35 crore. There would be no surplus. But to conceal the actual financial position of our state, the Government assessed all Provident Funds contributed by the Government servants as a source of revenue in the receipt side. This makes a surplus of Rs. 83.31 crore in the Budget. However, GPF contribution are not really Government's income. There is, therefore, no surplus in this Budget. Our liability is still increasing. But I do not deny that there is a little progress in Fiscal Reforms.

It is further said that the Domestic Product of our state is also risen by 4.84%. Do we really grow ? Our Plan Fund is growing on year by year due to the growth of economy at the centre. The growth rate as stated in the Budget speech is due to the increased volume of our State Plan Fund. The actual Domestic Product of the State does not really increase. In fact. Our Plan Fund is accompanied by loans, the more we have Plan Fund the more we have liabilities.

The liability of our state in the beginning of 2006-2007 was Rs.2792 crores it was increased to Rs.2808 crores at the end of the year. Again it will be increased to 3011 crores during the year 2007-2008, and upto 3245.15 crores in 2008-2009, and 3484 crore in 2009-2010, which will be much more than our annual budget. This can clearly shows that the Gross State Domestic Product does not grow. Meanwhile, we do not want to make Revenue Earning Investment. Animal Feed Plant at Tanhril is not run to make much income, Tuirial Hydel Project and Referral Hospital are now in failures. I am sorry for we cannot make any Revenue earning unit. I, therefore, request the present Ministry to be careful from now on in looking after the State economy. When we have Revenue earning units we can rightly say that the economy of Mizoram is growing on.

Thank you.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA

: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. I appreciate the system of this Budget presented by the hon'ble Chief Minister and Finance Minister. I, therefore, convey my thanks to him as well as to the staff and officers of the concerned Department. First of all, in regard to fiscal deficit, I opine that deficit will be there if we work more, which is the financing system of the Central Government. I am happy to know that our deficit of Rs.104.17 crore in the opening balance would be reduced to Rs.20.86 crore by the end of this financial year.

The hon'ble member from Khawzawl Constituency had said that the G.P. Fund contributed by Government servants would not be included in the assessment of annual budget. But, in my opinion it does not matter to include it in the Budget provision if the money is managed by the Government. It would be reflected in the Budget.

Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, our Budget is good. However, the system of its implementation is much more important than the Budget itself. I, therefore, want to emphasize how it affects the people. We can say that there is great progress in Aizawl and other big towns. But such rapid progresses in the urban areas can lead to backwardness in rural areas. So, we need to care for Rural Development and Agriculture & allied activities as they are reflected as priority sectors in 27th para of the Budget. At the same time, I would like to raise about various problems in my constituency.

As we know that Kawrthah Constituency is orange cultivation area since a very long time. But all our orange plantation are hampered by a great problem called Citrus Decline recently. We are still waiting for Horticulture Development for the alternative of orange cultivation. Most people who have failed in orange cultivation want to start Arecanut plantation. I, therefore, request the Government to take steps in this regard for development of the western part of Mizoram. Now, we talk about turmeric cultivation to prevent famine due to Bamboo flowering. I do not believe that turmeric cultivation would lead us to a great development. Passion fruit cultivation and Grape cultivation might be successful in the eastern part of Mizoram. But in the western areas beyond the river Tlawng, Agricultural development is very poor.

In regard to taxation, I do not mind normal increase of water tariff and Electricity Bills. But, I do not support introduction of new taxes on irrigation until we can achieve much development like double cropping.

In the sphere of Education there is great progresses. Now, much fund can be received under S.S.A. I opine that better coordination between SSA and the normal Education Department is greatly required to achieve better development in this sphere.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. I would like to raise another problem faced in the western areas. Felling of our Teak plantation is strictly prohibited by Forest Department. Our major cash crop is completely in failure. In addition to this problem, we are not permitted to sell our teak. Our people are therefore, very poor in the said area. The Government has to take rapid steps to obtain permission for felling of our teak. Special attention should be paid to this area to overcome the said problems.

Thank you.

PU S. HIATO

: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

We talk about our budget for this year as good or bad. In my opinion, there will be points of merits and demerits. I used the following criteria to say the Budget is good : (1) Does it reach to the poor ? (2) Are the poor people safe ? (3) Does it provide livelihood to the poor people ? (4) Does it control inflation ? Today, if we look at the volume of our Budget it seemed to be too much. But, the first necessity for the people is economic self sufficiency. The hon'ble Chief Minister, in the beginning of the previous Ministry, talked about self sufficiency in food within three years. But now, eight years had already passed but we are not self sufficient. I, therefore, want to raise about poverty in various rural villages. Many steps have been taken to cultivate ginger, passion fruit, bamboo, etc. But we have not yet achieved economic self-sufficiency. Nowadays turmeric cultivation becomes the on-going step taken by the Government. I would like to raise a question that are we really self sufficient in food ? Priority seemed to be given nominally. But no practical steps have been taken. So, we cannot stop to depend on the rice dealt by F.C.I.

In regard to Power and Electricity we all want to have sufficient supply of power. But we have provision for such project in the Budget. Only Serlui 'B' Hydel project which can generate 12 Mega watt is reflected. If we do not have sufficient supply of power, we will not achieve great development and progress. In this regard, Bairabi Hydel Project, Tuirial Hydel project, Chhintuipui Phase I Project are all now in failure. We always favour Mini Hydel Projects only.

The other basic need of the people is drinking water. But scarcity of water remains a big problem everywhere in Mizoram. In regard to Housing also the Government is very weak to provide housing to the poor.

Coming to Education now, I would like to raise only one point in education. The Government is very fast to issue permission to open private English Medium School. Many private schools are commercial schools, they run the school without playground and good environment. This can make the quality of education bad. I, therefore, request the Government to be careful in issuing such permission.

Lastly, I would like to speak about District Council Affairs. The ruling Party in the State Government always try to form District Council which makes the moral of the people deteriorated. Our District Councils are strongly controlled from Aizawl. There are many malpractices but action had never been taken. Development funds

are not utilized rightly. Elections are not generally free and fair. I, therefore, request the State Government not to interfere too much in the District Council Affairs.

Thank you.

PU ALOK BIKASH CHAKMA

: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. The Budget for 2007-2008 in general is good because it is clear

that the Budget is for the public considering its priority sector. From the steps taken by the Government within Chakma District Council under Agriculture & Allied Activities and Rural Development it can be seen that this Government is working for the people. We can see that vast areas had been flattened for wet rice cultivation and a number of Rural Agriculture Link Roads had been constructed. The Government also metalled Rotlang - Chawngte road through world bank and construction work is going on for Diltlang - Chawngte, Borapansuri - Kamalanagar, Kamalanagar - Ajaysura roads under PMGSY. These show that the Government is really working in Chakma District Council in road project.

It is also clear that steps had been taken in Education and Health under SSA, RSV Yajana and State Plan Fund. I would like to tell the House that the people of Chakma District Council are grateful to the Ministry for upgrading Kamalanagar College to deficit status. It is pleasing that many Health Sub-Centres with quarters had been built/constructed. I also support the proposal of recruitment for some posts from non-plan fund.

It is also pleasing that LAD fund had been increased by the hon'ble Finance Minister from 10 lakh to 15 lakh. In the meantime I would like to point out that there is no partiality in this ministry. It is worth to mention that Chakma Autonomous District Council has been developed in road communication, education, etc. during MNF ministry. We are happy that we are going to have permanent bridge shortly where we used to have suspension bridge. Implementation of NREG programme provides employment opportunity enabling the people to earn their livelihood. Hence, it is right to say that this Budget is good for the people.

Thank you.

PU H. VANLALTHALIANA

: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. The economic condition of Mizoram under the Chief Ministership of Pu

Zoramthanga has greatly been improved. While it is difficult to have good financial management we are fortunate to have a Government/Ministry who could manage our financial problem. Even the Budget we are discussing now is good and we can see many achievements regarding financial management. The statement of the hon'ble Chief Minister in his Budget Speech which stated that 'the period of stoppage of payments from the Treasuries due to mismatches in the Government's accounts that were very much prevail some years back, have now become a thing of the past' clearly shows the commitment of the Government to fiscal management.

As we are all aware, being a relatively late starter that we are, we have a lot of ground to make up. Though the state has limited resource base and that we predominantly depend on the devolution of resources from the Centre, I appreciate the efforts of the Government to catch up the overall development. In my opinion, the most important infrastructure for development is to have reliable road communication. In this

connection, the efforts taken by this Government is quite remarkable and we can say that this Government knows the basic need of our state.

As we all know, bamboo flowering is anticipated to peak during this year. But I believe that the Government has made sufficient advanced preparation to meet any eventuality arising out of the impending Mautam and is fully equipped to handle any eventuality.

Introduction of MLA Local Area Development Scheme for all round development in the state is worth mentioning. According to this scheme, the elected members of the Legislative Assembly are assigned more and more roles in the developmental processes and enable them to priorities schemes within their respective constituencies. Hence, there will be no grievances even for the opposition MLAs in fund allocation for developmental works.

The efforts taken by the Government to provide better health care and education to the people of the State is commendable. It is pleasing to know that approval had already been taken to implement the resolution we had passed last year. All these shows that the Government is giving high priority to social services besides development infrastructure, and I am glad that there is Budget allocation for this.

The steps taken by Agriculture Department in Land Development is noteworthy. Under this scheme, development of potential flat land and minor - irrigation have been taken up in order to attain self-sufficiency in food products. I am happy to inform the House that Chamdur area had been flattened for cultivation by Agriculture Department enabling many families to cultivate.

From these few points, it is undeniable that this Government is really working for the development of Mizoram and the various steps taken by the Government are quite remarkable. We can see many developments even within Aizawl town / City which shows that there is good governance.

Thank you.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO

: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. It seems we do not have enthusiasm in our budget

discussion. As pointed out by some of the hon'ble members, it is not necessary to idolize our Budget. In the meantime. I would like to commend the endeavor rendered by Finance Department to prepare the budget, reflecting as a surplus Budget which, in fact, is not surplus. In the meantime, I would like to ask the hon'ble Chief Minister who is also the Finance Minister whether the GSBP is a fact, what is our actual domestic product?.

According to my calculation, Budget provision for last year for all Departments before the revision was 3650/3000 lakhs, and I think that is why the ICICI is assigned intentionally to deal about the medical reimbursement for Government servants. The ICICI Lombard seems to be taking advantage of the illness of Government servants. However, agreement is made for one year and I would like to urge the Government not to extend the agreement. It can be seen that a sum of rupees 420 lakhs and 70 thousand and a sum of 4082 and 44,000 rupees had been allotted for office expenses for last and the current year respectively. At the same time, Budget allocation for other expenses for last year and the current year is 6281 lakhs, 52 thousand and 15463 lakhs 68 thousand

respectively. I wonder why such a large amount had been allocated while Budget allocation for Agriculture sector and Horticulture is not that much.

In the meantime, I would like to know whether the report of economic survey according to which there are 25,3790 BPL in Mizoram is true or not. If this is the case, I wonder why Budget allocation for Agriculture & Allied Departments has been decreasing.

Regarding MLA fund, though we, the members are pleased to have MLA fund, I feel it is too meagre because fund allotted for the MLAs is much less than the fund allotted for one Department's other expenditure. Even the members from Meghalaya had one crore rupees each. So it is good to study how other states are doing about this.

Regarding fund allocation for Irrigation, according to the report of 12th Finance Commission, while Nagaland and Meghalaya are allotted 39 crores and 38 crores respectively we have only 4.39 crores for irrigation not to mention other big states. I would like to know the reason for this while we are very much in need of irrigation.

Another point I would like to mention is about food subsidy which I had mentioned here, while Nagaland has 9.95 crores and Meghalaya has 11.55 crores we have only 4.45 crores. We have seen that while we expect 881 crores we are getting only 754.37 crores. Can all these mean that we are not competent in finance management as per the report of the 12th Management Commission.

Last but not the least, I would like to point out that we used to think our Plan Budget is good if we do not compare it with other states. Though it looks good in writing, it is not good if it does not reach the people. It is important how we spend / utilize our Budget. Even in the case of Serlui 'B' how did they spend as Rs 38,275,000 for jungle clearance alone. So I would like to urge the Government to utilize / spend our Budget even for the people of remote areas.

Thank you.

PU H. ROHLUNA

: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir.
Today I feel the ruling members
are not keen enough in our

budget discussion. Anyway, it is pleasing that economic survey is being done by Economics and Statistics Department. It is also commendable that a new prospect of the state Economy and Medium Term Fiscal Policy has been started since we have Mizoram Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2006. In the meantime, I wonder whether the policy and survey will be reliable because it is mentioned that our GSPD has increased upto 4.84. In fact, if we look at the situation of our farmers in rural areas, we do not see such improvement.

Though I do not understand our Budget technically, I can understand that the total amount of our liability is much more than the amount of our whole Budget-plan and non-plan Budget. The amount of our liability is increasing every year though we are saying that we have surplus in revenue side. It is said that our Budget is increasing by 12.14% which is a normal increment so there is nothing to be proud of here. The most important thing is how we spend the amount we are having. Does it reach the poor farmers and labourers? It will be meaningless even if our Budget increases but the share of the poor decreases.

While the situation of our farmers and wage labourers is worse, we are affected by Mautam famine. They are eagerly waiting for BAFFACOS which never reach them. Instead BAFFACOS funds are distributed to few persons who are not farmers or daily wage labourers. Now the ginger growers are in trouble because there is no proper rate to market their products. In the same manner, passion fruit growers are facing problem as there is no market. Now they are talking about turmeric for which they are purchasing the seed from Mizoram at the rate of Rs. 8/- per kg while they are purchasing it from outside Mizoram at the rate of Rs. 16/- per kg. This is the way how we look after our farmers/labourers. We manifest plan or scheme to the people which can not be materialized in reality.

Regarding taxes, the hon'ble Finance Minister said in his Budget Speech that the rate of water tariff will be revised as it improved service but it has not been revised till today. Even the Aizawl Greater Water Supply Scheme is not commissioned till date. Hence, there is no reason to revise the rate of water tariff and no reason to say it improved service. There is also an intention to collect tax from minor irrigation from the coming financial year. I would like to say that our farmers are not in a situation to pay tax.

Coming back to para no 35 BAFFACOS, the hon'ble House Leader the Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech stated that we are not going to allow any member of the citizen to suffer from the deprivation of famine. I am afraid we are consoling the people just in word. It is my wish to let the relief fund reach the people as it is meant for and I would like to urge the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Though we have 5 minutes left, we will adjourn our sitting for today as we are a bit tired. We

will resume our sitting tomorrow i.e. Tuesday the 20th March, 2007 at 10:30 AM.

Sitting adjourned at 3.55. PM.