

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

**FOURTH SITTING ON MONDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2008
(Time 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM)**

PRESENT

1. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, SPEAKER at the Chair, Chief Minister, Deputy Speaker, 11 Ministers and 25 members were present.

QUESTIONS

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

LAYING OF PAPERS

3. **PU AICHHINGA** to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of
 - 1) “The Mizoram Municipalities (Election of Councillors) Rules,2007”
 - 2) “The Mizoram Municipalities (Procedure and Conduct of Business) Rules, 2007”

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

**DISCUSSION & VOTING ON SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR 2007-2008
AND 2002-2003 TO 2003-2004**

4. Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demands for the year 2007-2008 and Supplementary Demands for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 (Regularisation of Excess Expenditure)

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bills for introduction, consideration and passing

5. **PU ZORAMTHANGA** to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2008”

**Also
to introduce the Bill
to move that the Bill be taken into consideration
And
to move that the Bill be passed.**

S P E A K E R : Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked".
Psalm 82: 3 – 4

We will now take up Starred Question. Let us call Pu Lalrinliana Sailo to ask Starred Question No.21.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, thank you. My question is – what is the total expenditure for IWDP in Raifan till 2008 January.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call the Minister in-charge Pu Aichhinga to answer the question.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble member's question is – Rs. 60.121 lakh had been disbursed for IWDP Raifan.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, last year D.O. informed the beneficiaries farmers that there is 36 lakh fund. However, the fund was not available, later this year, it seems there is 14 lakh. My question is – will it be possible to release these fund as quickly as possible since the farmers had taken up the work in credit.

The total fund disbursed for IWDP during the year 2008 is 7532 lakh. Pu Speaker, everywhere partiality is shown in IWDP. The ruling party is given priority, M.N.F. Block President is the Chairman in Serchhip. I would like to request that IWDP fund not be manipulated for party campaign. Thus, my question is – can the Minister give assurance?

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the hon'ble member's questions are under DRDA. Under Soil & Water Conservation, the rightful beneficiaries are selected, I am not aware of such incident, I will, however look into the matter.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Speaker, Supplementary Question.

It is clear that IWDP is not handled by Soil & Water Conservation alone. The Committee is not constituted according to the norms laid out by the government. I would, therefore, like to ask if the government is willing to correct if we submit the facts & figures?

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, in my department we will definitely do so.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Speaker, beside Soil & Water Conservation, is there anyone else who can give the answer?

S P E A K E R : Only Soil & Water Conservation received the question. So, let us expect other departments will also follow what the hon'ble Soil & Water Conservation Minister had just stated.

I would like to state two point. One is the P.A. system is taken care of by Kolkata Engineer, but it seems they are still unable to fix it. Thus, I would like to request the hon'ble members to put off the switch after use as it is only temporary arrangement.

Regarding Starred Question No.21. the oral answer given by the hon'ble Minister and the answer that is distributed is different. In future not only Soil & Water Conservation Department but other departments as well should take the pain in making correction before the session begins.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, can you please distribute both the answers to the members since it is very important.

S P E A K E R : Yes.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I have the answer but I gave oral answer.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call Pu R. Lalzirliana to ask Starred Question No.22

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, Starred Question No.22

- (a) As per VAT norms, how is the Mizoram government to collect tax in contract work ?
- (b) Is tax collect as per VAT norms or by percentage from the contract work amount ?
- (c) If not collected as per VAT norms, why is the government not following the rules, what is the reason ?

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble member from Saitual is –

- (a) Tax is collected as per Mizoram VAT Act 2005 section 8, i.e. contractual transfer price.
- (b) Tax is collected after calculating the percentage from contractual transfer price.
- (c) Tax is not collected for contract works besides as per Mizoram VAT Act, 2005.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, how is the percentage taken in road construction.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, Supplementary Question.

As we are all aware, VAT is the main source of income of the state. Pu Speaker, it is surprising that Melbuk, Taxation check gate had not functioned till date. Hon'ble member from Tlungvel constituency asked a question in this regard in the last Budget Session. Why is the government willing to let go huge fund that could be collected through tax. I would, therefore, like to ask if the government could let this check gate function within this financial year? I would also like to ask if the hon'ble Minister could make an arrangement regarding the requirement of Chartered Accountant's signature since the fee for one signature is too high for smaller businessmen.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Speaker, our party opposed the uniform floor rate of collecting VAT. However, the government insisted on uniform floor rate. Is the government aware that the businessmen are facing great difficulty and if there is any proposal to review? Pu Speaker, I would also like to know how is the government going to tackle non-mizo businessmen who registered themselves only after receiving work.

PU H.LIANSILOVA : Pu Speaker, many of the questions I would like to ask had been covered. However, I would like to know if the government had review the problem faced by electrical goods businessmen's agitation in regard to tax upon tax. If the government had review on their problems, is there any proposal to rectify the system for collection of VAT.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, what is the revenue target of Taxation department? have they accomplished this target? Also, are non-mizos allowed to register before receiving work?

S P E A K E R : Let us now call the hon'ble Minister to answer the questions.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, first of all, I will answer hon'ble member Pu Lalthlengliana's question. The target of the department for this financial year is 60 crores. The department had collected tax till February, 64 crores, and 45 lakhs. We are expecting to collect Rs 70 crores by the end of March. (Pu Lal Thanhawla : Pu Speaker, no matter how much they surplus the target, if the system of collection is not correct there is nothing to be pleased about) Pu Speaker, collection is done as per provision of given rules. If we object this rules then it is something else.

As for the answer to the hon'ble member Pu Zira's questions – as per Indian constitution Amendment 46, constitution Act, 1982, tax can be collected from equipments of contract work. In accordance with this constitution, (Amendment Act) The Mizoram Value Added Tax, 2005 Section 2, Clause 27 clarifies the meaning of sold. In order to collect VAT from contract works, it is based on contractual transfer price. The contractual transfer price includes the equipments and the transportation of goods.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, it is not clear. For road construction, material component is not required, therefore, is VAT collected from earth Cutting ? Further clarification please.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, if there is no VAT item I suppose VAT should not be collected. (Pu R.Lalzirliana : Pu Speaker, it seems the hon'ble Minister accepted that there are certain cases where VAT is collected in this manner, it is due to this reason that I asked this question) Pu Speaker, if there are such cases, we will look into the matter.

Pu Speaker, regarding the question made by hon'ble member Pu Liansailova, the department is not aware of tax upon tax though businessmen mentioned about it. Value Added Tax is collected from the increased value. For example, if one takes goods from a wholesaler to be sold, one will need to pay VAT to the wholesaler for the goods. Thereafter, when the goods are sold VAT will be added to the goods sold and the retailer will retain the VAT given to the wholesaler and the balance goes to the government. This is what is known as input tax credit. There is no such thing as tax upon tax.

PU H.LIANSAILOVA : Pu Speaker, in Mizoram we do not manufacture consumer goods, especially electrical goods are imported from other states. When purchasing goods, tax is not collected from the value added but from the original price list, due to this the businessmen claimed that from the margin project the government take away all the profit and thus it is like running the business for the government. Therefore, I would like to ask what relief the government is proposing for this matter?

PU B.LALTHLEGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, tax upon tax is clarified. If ITC purchased from whole sale dealer with Rs.4/-, the person who purchase the goods from ITC in turn pay Rs.2/- VAT to the government. Thus one person does not pay double VAT.

As for electrical goods, the businessmen came to meet me at my office. Pu Speaker, we discussed their problem with department officials and after careful study, we realised that the companies had created great difficulties. As requested by the dealers the rate was decreased from 12.5 to 4%, this was how we solved their problems.

Regarding Melbuk check gate suspension asked by hon'ble member Pu Zodintluanga, if it will be possible to stop the suspension within this financial year. Pu Speaker, it had a long history like I've mentioned earlier, goods do not stop entering, thereby which causing problem to Indian goods dealer. It is due to this reason that we are opening check gate at Zemabawk.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, Supplementary Question. If check gate is constructed near the city, it is a well known fact that the city traffic will be effected, thus why can't the check gate be posted elsewhere?

PU B.LALTHLEGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, let us expect that check gate will be constructed not to effect the city traffic. As for the construction of check gate elsewhere, Custom Department had constructed check gate near Tiau bridge. The present system of VAT collection can be monitored through computer. The check gate at Melbuk is suspended as we are observing for now.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, goods entering from Champhai or Myanmar is a Union List, it could also be concurrent list once it enters Mizoram. Pu Speaker, if check gate is posted at Zemabawk, many of the goods could reach Lunglei and elsewhere before reaching Zemabawk, therefore will it be possible to have check gate before reaching Champhai?

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we have done that, we are not intending to suspend forever, we are observing it for the time being.

Regarding Chartered Accountant we will look into the matter I cannot give the answer now as to how the matter could be solved.

As for the uniform floor rate of tax collection, it is the implementation of UPA Government's Empower Committee. We agreed with the higher authority of central government.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Speaker, it is wrong to accept whatever the central government declares. We should have the courage to reject what is inappropriate. It is for the welfare of the businessmen that I mentioned it is inappropriate to implement uniform floor rate.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, if it is for the development of the state we should have the courage to implement. We have attained statehood for 20 years.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Speaker, tax is decreased item wise for those they favour, what is the meaning?

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the
MINISTER problem faced by the firm the case
had been decided without any
partiality. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I do not
believe that the contractor registered themselves only after getting the contract work.
That is not the method of registration in taxation. We will enquire the matter.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, as this House is
not a place to give wrong
information, I just said what I know.
And I also want to inform the
government that the non-Mizos have no difficulty to have ILP for two years
continuously.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA : If the concerned authority issued
MINISTER such ILP, Taxation Department had
nothing to do with it. If the hon'ble
member knows about such case, let
him inform me and I will enquire the matter.

S P E A K E R : For real last, Mr. Andrew Lalherliana.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, my questions are –

- (a) VAT reduction order had been issued for some commodities, will the state government be pleased to issue VAT reduction order by 4% to the sellers of motor parts?
- (b) Can the hon'ble Minister enforce registration to non-Mizos before a contract agreement had been made with the Government of Mizoram?

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon the hon'ble Minister to
answer.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, most of the
MINISTER contractors give VAT. If there are some
contractors who did not follow VAT
registration we will see the matter and
take necessary action.

In regards to sellers of motor parts, I did not receive any
information about it, we will see the matter and actions according to the case.

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon Pu N.K. Chakma to ask
Starred Question No.23

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA : Thank you hon'ble Speaker Sir. Will
the hon'ble Minister Food and Civil
Supplies and Consumer Affairs
Department be pleased to state – will
government of Mizoram really work for the people of Tlabung constituency?

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon Pu K. Sangthuama,
Minister.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir,the Government
MINISTER of Mizoram worked hard for the
people of Tlabung constituency and the
government will continue the work in
reality. Even now, Government of Mizoram demanded construction of godown at
Tlabung from the central government.

The work under construction and the works to be executed
under BADP are –

- (1) Construction of playground at Zodin, Tlabung.
- (2) Construction of retaining wall at Tlabung playground.
- (3) Construction of cemented foot bridge within Lamthai to Tlabung approach
road.
- (4) Completion of community hall at Zodin, Tlabung.

PU N.K.CHAKMA : Thank you hon'ble Speaker. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister if the work is done properly. What I want to ask more is-

- (a) Will he give food security for the people?
- (b) Whether he could inform me the position of rice stocked within Tlabung constituency?
- (c) When was the godowns in my constituency closed?
- (d) Whether repaired godowns can be reopened?
- (e) Why Tlabung – Lunglei road had not been maintained with BAFFACOS fund.
- (f) How will the Government of Mizoram take action if carrying contractors refuse to carry rice?

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, will the hon'ble minister inform the House the exact position of rice in the state?

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, can the Government of Mizoram give rice on credit to the poor people who have no money to purchase rice? Some people who do not have money to purchase rice few days back came to Aizawl. Can these people get rice from godown on credit as mentioned by the hon'ble Supply Minister.

Secondly, the quality of rice supplied for BPL families is too low in quality which is unfit for human consumption. Will the hon'ble Minister provide better quality than this?

PU K.LALRINLIANA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it is learnt that rice had already been stocked for the month of March, is it really true.

Secondly, it is stated that 2,00,000 qtls. of rice to suffice our needs for monsoon/rainy season had already been stocked. Is it really true? Thirdly, what is monthly expenditure of government of Mizoram to purchase rice?

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, who will certify the poor people who qualify to purchase rice on credit?

Secondly, regarding the people of Cherhlun village who came to Aizawl, what document do they have? If they have no document from Gazetted Officer, will you accept such case?

PU S.HIATO : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, we know that a severe famine broke out this year in Mizoram. Some villages dug out wild yam in the jungle. Will the hon'ble Chief Minister form a team to have spot visit to various places be it Tlabung, Chapui, Phungdungsei and Lokicherra to know the exact position.

S P E A K E R : Let's call upon the hon'ble Minister to give answer.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : Thank you, Hon'ble Speaker Sir, most of the questions are not so relevant.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Government of Mizoram set up a committee in each district to identify famine. Are the committees made useful?

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, about the development of Tlabung constituency will not be answered. Instead, food supply will be answered.

Regarding food supply, what I want to say is that 182690 qtls. of rice have been purchased in January, 120170 qtls out of 200000 qtls have been left out. The rest of monsoon stockings have been carried out. The central government allotted us 116400 qtls of rice for one month.

8522 quintals of rice have been sent to Lawngtlai & Lunglei on the 7th – 11th and 45 truck trips on 13th, 14th and 15th of this month and some quintals are again sent to Saiha. That is the position of food supply. We are keeping daily record of rice.

State quota is always allotted per month. But we used to make demands for monsoon stocking. Now we have to make more demand for monsoon stocking to central government. As mentioned by hon'ble members, in some godowns sufficient rice was not stocked. Sometimes, we used to face problem in transportation, rail wagon or FCI transportation which are beyond our control. However, if we have pressure and discussion with the authority our problems will be solved.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, let the hon'ble Minister comes to the point.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : The problem which the state is facing is the point. If you do not want to listen, the question will be meaningless.

S P E A K E R : It is 11:30 AM. Will we give him time to reply all questions. Yes, let him reply them all.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA by MINISTER : If we do not know the problem faced the government my answer will not be clear. Anyway, if we ask questions, we need to be patience in listening.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : He does not answer our questions. He only makes statement as he himself prepared it.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, as he does not agree with my answer let him reply as he desires.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : We may be sitting on that side, let him not charge me like that.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : You will give answer when you take seat here. Pu Nihara's question is about the problem of rice, we will do our best to stock for monsoon. We are afraid that we will have problem during monsoon season. That is why, we are now having concentration on some places where there will be no transport communication during monsoon period.

The road between Lunglei and Tlabung is PWD road. I have not much to do with it. I feel that PWD will maintain in time. Anyway I had visited the bridges which are not good.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister does not yet answer my question about stocked position of rice within my constituency.

S P E A K E R : Can you reply stock position of rice in Tlabung constituency.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : Stock position is not good at Chawngte, Lungsen and Tuichawng. Monthly requirement of rice at Chawngte is 29555 qtls. We had sent 7843 qtls within this year. It is believed that whatever is sent to Lunglei will be sent to these places. The reason is that Lunglei FCI could not meet the requirement. That's why, we told our contractor to carry (45 Truck trips) rice to Lunglei within three days. If FCI could meet our requirement we will have no problem.

Regarding credit, cabinet meeting had paged it and the Chief Secretary is entrusted for this. The severely affected areas can be known easily and the concerned. V/C will report to D.C. They will give rice to the poor on credit to be deducted from their wages under various schemes of the government. The decision of D.C. and Zonal officers will be accepted by the government.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, if a cabinet meeting passed like that by what means will the poor recover their credit ?

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : Any means of daily wage basis made by the government for them. Their wages will be paid back by the government.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Under what scheme will the government make proposal for that purpose.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : The state government will make proposal for such scheme.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it is not yet clear. If you make proposal from NREG, that is not legal.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, let the hon'ble members be not busy for that scheme. Let them wait for the result of the proposals.

Regarding the quality of rice for BPL, I would like to inform the House that it is good in general these days.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Zonuam retailer is also from MNF party, let the hon'ble MLA ask him.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA MINISTER : The Central Government gave us good quality of rice. However bad quality could arrive somewhere. Let us try to understand this.

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble member informed the House about bad quality of rice for BPL at Zonuam. Let the concerned department enquire the matter and take necessary action.

Now, question hour comes to an end. We will proceed to the next business.

Pu K.Lianzuala, MLA from Lungpho could not attend the House before on ground of medical check up in Vellore but now joins the session today. We do hope his continuous attendance in the House by the grace of God. Pu Lalduhawma, MLA of Ratu wounded himself and could not attend this session. He applied leave of the House. May we give him leave ? Yes, it's pleasing.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, you had given direction to a particular department. Does the department used to give report directly to you?

S P E A K E R : Report is rarely given to me. The executive body should remember that it is good to inform the House such report as it is the interest of the House.

Pu Aichhinga had to lay two Rules in the House. As the Rules have co-relativity let us call him to lay the two Rules at the same time.

LAYING OF PAPERS

PU AICHHINGA
MINISTER : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with your kind permission and of the House I lay on the Table of the House " The Mizoram Municipality (Election of Councillors) Rules, 2007 and The Mizoram Municipalities (Procedure and Conduct of Business) Rules, 2007".

S P E A K E R : The Hon'ble Minister lays two Rules on the Table of the House namely The Mizoram Municipalities (Election of Councillors) Rules, 2007 and The Mizoram Municipalities (Procedure and Conduct of Business) Rules, 2007. Let the copy be distributed.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Now, we will take up Financial Business. We will consider and have voting on Demands for the year 2007 – 2008 and Supplementary Demand for 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004 (regularization of excess expenditure). Supplementary Demand is usually voted. But we do not have spent much time for discussion. This Financial Business is already laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the Table of the House on 13.3.2008. Any member want to ask question for clarification ? May we pass it without any discussion.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : I would like to ask one question. That is the amount of an additional fund of Rs 41 lakhs required for furnishing of new office and conduct of examination for the post of Inspector of Taxes, MCS and MPS provided on page No.16 under (d), (h), (m) respectively is too much. We have to be careful to pass such excess expenditure without prior discussion.

S P E A K E R : MPSC is an autonomous body. Generally questions are also not admitted in the House in regard to its day to day administration. Let us now call upon House Leader if he had anything to say about it.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, this
CHIEF MINISTER supplementary demand contains three demands. One is supplementary demand for the year 2007 – 2008 and the other are Regularisation of Excess Expenditure 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004. In the Supplementary Demand explanatory notes are generally made under the demand.

Regarding the question raised by the hon'ble member, MPSC building is newly renovated. Furnishing only will not do. To conduct an examination is generally costly. Now we want to set up exam centres at Lunglei and Champhai for the posts of MCS, Inspector of Taxes & MPS. Anyway as it is a new building I think the expenditure was a bit high. Anyway we will enquire the matter, have I any more time ?

S P E A K E R : If there is any more clarifications to be made, let him clarify and ask the House to pass it.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I beg the House
CHIEF MINISTER to pass Supplementary Demands for 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004 (Regularisation of excess expenditure) and vote for Supplementary demand for the year 2007 – 2008.

S P E A K E R : Those who agree to pass Supplementary Demand for 2007 -2008, Rs 7,07,92,21,000/- and Supplementary Demand for the year 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004 (Regularisation of Excess Expenditure) may say 'yes' and who do not agree may say 'No'. (Members agreed to pass). Now Supplementary Demand for Rs.7,07,92,21,000/-, Supplementary Demand for the year 2002 – 2003 and 2003 –

2004 (Regularisation of Excess Expenditure) – Rs.56,41,50,000/- is unanimously passed by the House.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Thank you Hon'ble Speaker Sir.
CHIEF MINISTER

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

S P E A K E R : Now, we will take up Legislative Business. Let us call upon Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister to beg permission to introduce in the House 'The Mizoram Appropriation No.1 Bill, 2008 and The Mizoram Appropriation No.2 Bill, 2008'.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with your kind
CHIEF MINISTER permission I beg the permission of the House to introduce ' The Mizoram Appropriation No.1 Bill, 2008 and The Mizoram Appropriation No.2 Bill, 2008'.

S P E A K E R : The Hon'ble Chief Minister begged the House the permission to introduce 'The Mizoram Appropriation No.1 and No. 2 Bill, 2008'. The House agreed with him. Let him beg the House for consideration and pass it.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Thank you Hon'ble Speaker. The two
CHIEF MINISTER Appropriation Bills – No.1 Bill is to appropriate Rs. 9,82,63,99,000 for the year 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004 respectively. The Appropriation No.2 is Rs.7,22,341,000 for regularization of excess expenditure for the year 2007 – 2008. No discussion is required, I therefore, beg the House to pass it.

S P E A K E R : Now all those who agree to pass 'The Mizoram Appropriation No.1 Bill, 2008 and 'The Mizoram Appropriation No.2 Bill, 2008' say 'agree' and those who disagree say 'disagree'. The House had now passed 'The Mizoram Appropriation No.1 and No.2 Bill'.

Let us now call the hon'ble Minister Pu Aichhinga to introduce 'The Mizoram Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission and the House, I seek the permission to introduce 'The Aizawl Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2008 in the House.

S P E A K E R : Do we all agree ? Let us now call the hon'ble Minister to introduce the bill.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission and the House.

I introduce 'The Aizawl Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble Minister had introduced 'The Aizawl Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2008. Let the copy be distributed. The Bill will be discussed later.

We will now start general discussion on the Budget for 2008 – 2009. As per BAC Report, there will be two days of Budget discussion. Each member will be allotted 15 mins, and Group Leader will be given extra time. Do we all agree ?

The presentation of this year's Budget to me looks much easier to understand. Alright, who will begin the discussion ? Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today it is a privilege that I begin discussion. First of all, I would like to thank the hon'ble Finance Minister for being able to present full-fledged Budget for the past four years and for being able to implement fiscal reform. Also, for supplying materials for better understanding of the Budget.

Pu Speaker, it is worth giving thanks to the government for its efficiency in financial management which resulted in the smooth running of treasury. The implementation of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act which was passed in 2006, the half yearly review by under Finance Minister, Micro Economic Framework statement and Proper Economic Survey Report are all new stepping stones of the budget system of previous years.

It is pleasing to note the 2008 – 2009 budget overview. The expectation of Gross Fiscal Deficit to fall at 3% is noteworthy. Also, the opening deficit which is 86.65% this year is expected by 2008 – 2009 to surplus budget of 54.29 crore. Pu Speaker, it is an achievement to expect revenue surplus of 184 crore.

The Finance Minister speech highlighted priority sectors. It is a relieving sight for the general people. These priority sectors indicate that this budget is for the people.

Under Agriculture, assistance to Jhumia families for innovative activities and the joining of National Agriculture Insurance scheme and market intervention projects was highlighted which could prove to be beneficial to the farmers.

Pu Speaker, I would like to mention about education. It is pleasing to note that the fund allocation for education had increased by Rs 1000 lakhs, and Rs 500 lakhs for Higher & Technical. I feel this is worth giving thanks.

The fund allocation for Medical & Health had also increased by 8464 lakhs. Pu Speaker, this signifies that the government is keen in the health of people and its welfare. Under Health Department there is a Grant-in-Aid of 50000 lakhs, after enquiring the authorities I realised it is the Health Insurance scheme for the people. Under this scheme non government employees will be able to re-imburse medical bill as that of government employees. Thus this budget is an acceptable budget.

Sports & Youth Services – Youth Commission is highlighted in the budget, in fact Youth Commission Bill is expected to be passed within this session. This proves that this budget is also for the youth.

I would like to thank for NCC Air Wing. It is crucial for our youth's curricular activities. It is pleasing that the budget had increased by 1085 lakhs. After this budget book was readied, Sports Association negotiated with the

hon'ble Chief-Minister, the hon'ble Chief-Minister agreed to an additional of Rs 40 lakhs provision for sports budget and Rs 155 lakhs under sports plan budget. Calculating with TFC the total increased in sports budget is 70% and without TFC it is 9.29%. Pu Speaker, I want to highlight these points since it is noteworthy.

The fund allocation for Mizoram Intodelhna Project (MIP) is Rs 20 crores. I believe this will turn out to be a blessing for the farmers under MIP.

It is satisfying that the budget had been laid without additional burden in the collection of tax.

It is a relief to learn that Structural Adjustment Loan from Asian Development Bank had been agreed upon with the central government as guarantor. This will relieve many of the deficit.

I would like to thank for M.L.A's LAD fund inspite of being the year of famine. Overview of the budget, it is a budget for the people, specially the farmers the poor and the youth. Thank you.

PU H.LIANSILOVA : Pu Speaker, thank you. The hon'ble Chief-Minister had laid the budget. As we have heard, Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management, Bill had been passed in 2007, there by which the financial management is carried out according to this Rules. The budget is accompanied with essential documents. It is pleasing to note that there are positive sides in the financial management.

The budget speech begins with the overview of the economy of the state, from the speech there is development in the state's economy. However, from the economy development and the domestic product increased in various sector are highlighted, Agriculture and Allied sector which is the main source of income of the people is satisfying as per record, but in reality the record would be much lower. If 70% of the population is unmoved by the economic development, there can never be economic stability in the state. The government should implement programme / policy to reach the mass population. As if now social-gap is growing larger not only in the city but in the rural areas as well. The government should give serious thought to this matter.

Regarding revenue expenditure and revenue receipt, due to Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management and the Department's efficiency from the record there seems to be improvement. However, careful thought had to be given in the revenue surplus. The outstanding liability of the government and Gross Revenue ratio as well as the Fiscal Deficit and Gross Domestic Product ratio should be calculated. From the result of ratio experts it is still above the sustainable level,

which means it is not satisfactory, it is only the beginning of improvement. However, the financial management that comes from central government is getting larger. Thus, it seems there could be gradual improvement, I feel there could be some expectation from the Budget laid.

In regard to Revenue, it is delighting to know that the department accepted the suggestion to decrease tax. However, in the city there are permanent citizens with permanent income whose tax paying capacity is higher than that of the lower section of the people. As it is with the present state system it is not possible to increase the tax rate as it is the provision of the constitution. Thus, a system to categorise tax payee should be resolved.

Last year loan was taken for irrigation, I feel that loan should not be taken for these projects for the time being.

Regarding bamboo, the government is expecting high revenue from bamboo. But our present system needs alteration as the government is more keen in the construction of bamboo – link road. According to experts 3000 crores revenue could be expected from bamboo in a year. If this is so, it could be more wise if step is taken in this regard rather than investing in the construction of road.

Lastly, I believe the government is taking loan from Asian Bank. What I would like to say is, will it not be a problem for Finance if there is no scheme to meet the revenue expenditure? These are the few points I wanted to highlight. Thank you.

PU K.LALRINLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. It is pleasing to note that today we are able to discuss a new budget. The budget may not be perfect, but it is an appropriate budget for the present. I would like to thank the hon'ble Chief-Minister. Looking at the budget, Agriculture is given top most priority, it is good to know that Rs 20 crores is allocated for MIP. It is a relief for farmers and I believe farmers will benefit to attain self-sufficiency.

It is pleasing to note that fund allocation for Fisheries Department had increased by Rs 400 lakhs. It is good to learn that the government gives priority to fish farmers and agricultural farmers.

It is a pleasure to state that the government had allocated Rs 2000 lakhs for NREGS. The state is under the grip of famine as a sequel to the periodic bamboo flowering, knowing this it is pleasing that the government give priority to the upliftment of the people. The House should be aware of this and so thus the people of Mizoram.

I would like to thank for the additional fund of Rs 60 lakhs for special area programme, Sinlung Hills Development Council.

It is pleasant to note that Serlui 'B' Hydel Project and Tuivai Hydel Project will be taken up.

I would like to thank the government for giving priority to Industry and for the fund allocation of Rs.723 lakhs.

The fund allocation for Education Department had increased by Rs 1000 lakhs. I believe this will suffice the problem met in teacher's pay.

It is a big relief for families without government employees as they will now be able to enjoy medical re-imburement. The government had allocated Rs.50 crores for the purpose.

The increased in the fund allocation of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department by Rs.800 lakhs indicates that the government is keen in the upliftment of the people of urban areas and district headquarters.

Overall, it is pleasing to note that the central government trusted the Chief-Minister and its financial management that it crosses the expectation and proposals of the state. Today we have Rs.1000 crores budget. Thus, it is a fact that the central government approved the work implementation of the government and its financial management, the House should, therefore, accept as well. Pu Speaker, it is pleasing that Asian Development Bank had granted hundred and fifteen million dollars loan. I believe this will help enormously in the upliftment of various problems of the state. Thank you.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today we are going to discuss the various developmental programme laid out by the government. The people of the state are patiently looking forward to the laying of the budget, as to how the budget will have its impact on their lives. Whether it will lead them to proverty or development.

After careful study of the budget with a heavy heart, I would like to state that there is no new vision or achievement to attain. If we look at the liabilities of the government it is increasing in crores. This signifies the mismanagement of finance. Next year new ministry will be formed, with the present liabilities, the new ministry's developmental programme will also face a setback.

Pu Speaker, it is a well known fact that the people are facing famine due to periodic bamboo flowering, as we have watched in Doordarshan and Local T.V. news channel. NGOs' and Churches have moved forward in helping out the famine effected people. What had the government done for these people ? We have heard members stating in the House that there is no food grain and that, there is no fund for the purchase of food grain.

In the budget speech, bamboo flowering is highlighted vaguely. The government proclaims that BAFFACOS is implemented successfully, however. Pu Speaker, it is the rural people who are confident and sure that it is not successful as the fund does not reach them. In the speech NREGS is highlighted as an agent for famine combat. But will it be sufficient to combat famine due to bamboo flowering ? Pu Speaker, NREGS is implemented in the whole country even where there is no famine. It is the brain child of Rahul Gandhi, it is not the project of this government. NREGS is implemented by the Central Congress Government. Pu Speaker, if BAFFACOS fund that comes from the central government is implemented accordingly I do not think we will be in the situation that we are in today. It is unfortunate that we are using NREGS as the only means to combat famine. Pu Speaker, very soon we will be facing monsoon, I would suggest that foodgrain should be stocked first in remote areas.

The next point I would like to highlight is regarding Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex. It is surprising that nothing had been mentioned in the Governor's speech as well as the Chief-Minister's budget speech. It is a huge project which the youth are looking forward to. Pu Speaker, I was surprised at the answer given by the hon'ble Chief-Minister to USAM. After floating tenders for the project and speaking about the project to newspapers, why is the Chief-Minister still requesting USAM to speak to Pi Sonia Gandhi and Prime-Minister. All these indicate that this government does not give priority to our youth.

The functioning and the economy of the state begins from the budget, it could be due to this reason that social crime had raised in the state. Lately we heard from newspapers and T.V. channel about various awkward incidents everyday. All these lead to the fact that our state is no longer safe. The job of maintenance of law and order, investigation and prosecution of crimes and internal security of the state is not effective. For instance, Pu Speaker, how can investigation be carried out correctly. When the drawing produced by police in the case of Rev.Chanchinmawia was upside down. Pu Speaker, thus we need a budget that reaches the people. If we have a budget for the people, every one of us will be contend and the crime rate will eventually fall. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We will now have break. Meeting will resume at 2:00 PM.

2 : 00 P M

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will continue with the discussion Pu F.Lal Thanzuala. Be seated, all the members to take their seats as our atmosphere is gloomy. Let us call upon Pu F.Lal Thanzuala.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, our budget presented by our Finance Minister is very satisfactory. I want to discuss in general how our government takes step for the welfare of its people. Our government's policy had a goal for its citizen. We may have different view in achieving our goal. The most important thing is in the goodness of the goal. Like Communist, if the goal or our aim is clear, how we achieve it does not matter to me. Because we can make amendment accordingly.

In Demand No.46, we see Agriculture as well as Allied Rural Development with particular emphasis on self-sufficiency in food production, employment generation and poverty eradication and priorities of Annual Plan 2008 – 2009. Here, Poverty eradication takes my mind most. Though a poor state we are a happy tribe. In 1969, a B Sc from Kerela came to teach in Hnathial High School, what he found intriguing is that everybody are always happy and laughing and said he never saw a tribe like this. Because of this attitude many of us have no inkling to compete the more advanced state inspite of our poor condition. But we will have to uplift each and everyone of us. I am very thankful that priority had been given to Poverty eradication. Some may think that it is not enough while other thought it good enough.

Our budget target is right as it is prepared for the eradication of poverty for the coming mautam famine which sow its seed in many rural areas now. Many schemes had been made for the upliftment of the poor, but many of rural areas are not benefited due to various problems and problems arising from the government servants. Because of this, many schemes vapourised.

Within my constituency, cultivation of rice, orange and others are not profitable without government aid. We set our mind on having a Vineyard and its plant had been supplied free of cost but only a small number of us try to accomplish it. We said broom gardening is good, but no one gives thought to it.

What is most important for eradication of poverty is to convince ourselves that we must work hard to achieve our goal. Many members voiced out their opinion regarding unemployment of our educated. Besides Home

Department, recruitment had been made by many departments both for gazetted or non-gazetted posts. So, it is very pleasing to know that our government had a good vision in regard to employment generation as shown in the budget.

Secondly, I want to say about our road. Priority had been given to construction of road and now we construct many roads, we can see its outcome now. Once when I had to go on tour to my constituency I had to go through 2 or 3 other constituencies now I can go through it directly. Also, construction of road in the south gives us the southerners a chance to make income.

I think it is a dream come true to know that medical reimbursement can be done by non government servants whether they are from rural or urban areas. This shows that our budget is made for the upliftment of the poor.

Regarding mautam, it is very assuring to know that “the government will always ensure that enough foodgrains are available to the people. At the same time it will also ensure that purchasing power is created to enable the people to have excess stock of foodgrains. As the department and the authority take great measure we now have enough stock. But transportation problem is still there to supply the stock to remote areas.

Today I learned that some people come over from Cherhlun which is within my constituency for food. I do not know the detail but this shows that we used our poor condition to gain favour. Employment under BAFFACOS had been raised regularly saying there is no employment while the people are the executive.

But within my constituency there are many employment under BAFFACOS than the last two years. The D.C. executes the work, but some of us still cannot accept this in their heart and found criticism.

It is very pleasing to know that minor irrigation had been promoted to a full-fledge Directorate. It is written here that “Will provide necessary fund to enable functioning of the department”. As Mizoram is a land of mountain we need good irrigation system to cultivate our land. During monsoon we have heavy rainfall and in summer time we faced scarcity of water. We are now facing global warming and it is important to have systematic irrigation to ensure our cultivation future.

While our budget reflects many important aspect for the people it is also beneficial for the government servant by introducing a new motor loan system at the rate of 5.5% only. This shows that our government care for the welfare of its servant and revised in pay may also be introduced.

Lastly, I want to say about public sector, many corporations have no source of income and depend on government aid, that is why the government needs to call for introspection whether that corporation is reliable to function

continuously. To learn that our government shows bravery in suggesting the merger of profitable and the unprofitable is commendable.

Overall, I think our budget covered the welfare of the government servant and the people and is very assuring for the coming mautam. Thank you.

PU H.VANLALTHALIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, thank you. As we are having a discussion on our 2008 - 2009 budget, we may have different opinion in governing and making plan for the welfare of our people. I opine that our budget contains advancement of its people and the state. Our opinion may differ in different aspects while some concentrate only in provisions, it is easy to go ahead without contemplating infrastructure. Our hon'ble Chief Minister's plan for Mizoram is a step we have to follow as it is made according to our geography.

Construction of road is always a priority list as our land is a steep range of mountains and our climate differ from other parts of India. Our roads are inadequate for transport, development cannot progress. I am very grateful that our government gives construction of road its top priority. Almost all rural areas are now approachable by motor and I hope that it will all be approachable shortly as put in our budget.

My constituency and Chawngte constituency are the poorest in this year's mautam. While we are in this situation, by God's grace and step taken by our government in construction of road we have less to complain as there are only 17 small villages which are unapproachable, but people in these villages have to carry by themselves from along distance. So, I think it is very important that our government have to take steps in construction of road throughout Mizoram for development of rural and urban areas.

It is a great relief for the southerners that Aizawl to Thenzawl to Lunglei road had been under the project of World Bank. Now, only 5 hours is needed to travel between Aizawl and Lunglei. Steps taken by Mizoram government for development go in the right way now. If it goes on like this, after 5 years even rural areas where only 70 / 80 houses stand, can be approached by motor and our economy development can take effect.

Next, I want to say about social services. The Education Department almost get criticized. In committee they are said that they are ignorant in their budget allocation. Their budget now increased to 10 crore and it will be beneficial for students in the rural areas. This is encouraging for the teachers and the

department. It shows our budget reached to our people. 5% increase in the budget of Higher and Technical will also be beneficial for education and infrastructure.

Next, I want to discuss about Health care. It is wonderful to know that our Chief Minister takes an initiative so that all non-government servants can claim re-imburement of their medical bills. Being an MLA, I was approached by different people suffering from complicated diseases, inability to help them sometimes make me sad. Last week three of them died from cancer and seeing their situations and not able to help them is heart wrenching. But when they learnt about this scheme, they are happy and joyful.

Next, regarding the future of our youths, our government takes an initiative, we have Youth Commission in the national level, but if I am not mistaken no state in India have this commission. Mizoram youths are very fortunate. In our thought we are thinking how they can grab other ways and means. We are intelligent and it is a blessing from God. To quench our thirst in sports and economic development there is a proposal to form Youth Commission. It may not be stable in the beginning but in the long run it will be developmental and beneficial for our youths. It is wonderful to know that our government takes step for the development of youths.

As I said we have a government that reached out to its people. In Health care, Youth Commission, in development and in construction of road, the initiative of the government is unquestionable. Somewhere we may find fault in the implementation, but overall we can see that we have government with a vision for development.

My other point regarding mautam we suffered, frightened and do not know what is right or wrong. What is there for our government to take initiative other than this ? Emergency Famine Committee was formed with the help of different party, Legislature party and NGOs and set up District and Village Level Committee to study and survey the condition of the villages. If a starving family is found in a village, the Famine Committee of that village will report back to BDO or Supply Department and make arrangement to deliver food on credit according to their family member. It is reassuring to know that there is food for starving family.

Practice of free distribution is one obstacle in our country's development. While they have no means to support themselves, our government's policy to provide food on credit is very useful. If they have nothing to eat for a day they can get food on credit which is recorded in a register by the Storekeeper. The recipient will repay from what they earn from the work provided by the government. This system will reform our moral and I am very thankful.

Going like this, we can confront Mautam without hardship with help from the government and proposal coming from the central through NREG. Rs. 200 lakhs can be used for labour from Rs.20 crore put in our budget through NREG.

This means that without taking account to what we already used, we can provide another 100 days for the poor family to earn their wages.

We all agreed that MLA LAD fund was rightly provided to us and we execute it well specially in Aizawl and Lunglei. But in the south region, as we are mixed with District Council, implementation cannot be done as we desired. As it was increased to 20 lakhs instead of 15 lakhs as recommended by the GPC, all members whether they are opposition or ruling can develop local areas and villages under their constituency according to their needs.

Lastly, I want to discuss about Public Sector Undertaking. As Chairman of ZENICS, I, sometime, think it is better for the government to terminate the public sectors. While it may be beneficial for the people, with our country's situation there are many factors which we cannot shoulder in PSU. If possible, arrangement can be made for the existing staff to go into other department according to their service. I think it is good to see that the working sector are going to be reinforced and developed gradually. Mr. Deputy Speaker, thank you.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Mr. Deputy Speaker, a state budget shows government allocation of fund for a year and the ministry's aims and objects. Interest had been given in the more advanced state. Our 2008 – 2009 budget is going to be beneficial for the people.

First of all, improvement in infrastructure, micro-electricity and transportation is not seen. Hospital and Health Care are not given priority – Enough importance is not given to Education, self-sufficiency in the production of foodgrains. Our budget is not made for the upliftment of cultivators and labourers and is not made for the well being of our youths and women, businessmen, industrialists and the people in general. As it is the year of mautam, it is very discouraging that foodgrains for the rural people and farmers are not mentioned at all.

Misappropriation of BAFFACOS fund cannot be looked over, the people blame the ministry. Our sport persons and sports associations are not satisfied with our budget.

I do not believe priority had been given to agriculture as there is no pipe bundle to distribute when asked.

I want to say about public sector and private sector. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as important is not given to my words, I cannot accept our budget as a good budget. There is no development in our economic status, no asset had been made for revenue resources, and it is not going toward economic development, if it is going like this we will always have budget deficit, it's a long way for us to have a

surplus budget. Let us all accept that this is a deficit budget and we have to stand together Mr.Deputy Speaker.

Less had been shown in self-sufficiency in foodgrains and social reforms is not given much importance. Mr.Deputy Speaker, as we don't have enough revenue resource, let us try to cut our expenditure otherwise the government will always have deficit as it is now.

Mr.Deputy Speaker, during the last ten years, the government gave Rs.4291 crores, 9700 lakhs, 12000 for our debt. Because of this we faced problem in non-plan. Alongwith our Annual Plan, loan taken by us reached Rs.594.74 crores during ten years. We have to use Rs.806 crores, 3000 lakhs, 50000 for last year and this year's repayment of loan. So, our actual plan fund during ten years is Rs.538.52 crores per year. This year it looks like we are having Rs.1000 crores, while the actual amount is Rs.966 crores after we minus Rs.34 crores. And last year, it appears that we have Rs.850 crores, but after we minus Rs.34 crores the balance is only Rs.816 crores. It shows that we take many loans inside our plan.

So, Mr.Deputy Speaker, we receive not much grant-in-aid from central and manipulate the people saying our Annual Plan increases while omitting our debt. Every year we borrow heavy loan from different Financial Institutions with high interest. What we see are incomplete because we want to show only the loan we take for Annual Plan. Our repayment of loan increased every year. It is a state's debit as well as the people. As repayment had to be made from Annual Plan, progressive in development is hindered. As all our debts had been marked by RBI and A.G., we have to pay it on time. If we go on like this, in the end we will lose all our heritage, forest and others.

So, Mr.Deputy Speaker, time will come when we have to terminate all our government servant, they may not have pay to draw. Without nothing to say about development we will be humiliated in the end.

What we received from the Finance Commission and tax collection is used for payment of our debt, then huge amount of crore had been used for the government servants, we have nothing to spend for the following I am about to point out. Repairment of pavement within Aizawl city, repairment of road between Kawnpui and Hortoki, repairment of road within Kawnpui constituency. Repairment of electric wire and stand, government building, water pipe line and tanky, water-hole, school building and road to our farm land.

Mr.Deputy Speaker, as our debt is high, we have to find a solution. Because of this, our development cannot go smoothly as we have to use Non-Plan money for repayment.

Let us try to find ways and means to receive grant-in-aid from central than the existing amount. It is a must Mr.Deputy Speaker.

While 70% of Non-Plan fund go, the remaining 30% is used by the authority to manipulate their favours and coerced the contractors and suppliers to contribute for the coming election's expenditure. This results into the suffering of the people.

So, it is very regretful that Non-Plan cannot cover repairment and other things. Mr. Deputy Speaker, lastly I want to say that let us try to get more fund in CSS and grant-in-aid and get hold of various loans offered by the central government.

I want to request the government to give instruction to all the banks in Mizoram to give out Agriculture loan, Education loan, Motor loan, Student loan, PMRY loan and an individual loan and business loan.

PU S.HIATO : Mr. Deputy Speaker, thank you. As it is a general discussion, I want to discuss in general. As we increased into Rs.850 crores, it is my opinion that with the increase in our money we will now have enough to spend. If the interest increases, it will be enough for execution. It is our last budget for this year, will the four year's budget we listened will meet its end ? Will it become real, How will they execute ? Are the people content ? This year's budget looks like for preparation of the coming election as it is election oriented budget.

What the people expect in a good budget is to suffice the needs of the poor, downtrodden, orphan, homeless and labourers. Many incidents occurred which we never experienced before in politic in our state. Mr. Deputy Speaker.

It is amazing to witness the birth of Poor Organisation in which 70% of our workers organized rally. This clearly shows that our fund does not reach them. It only reaches the MNF whether it is BPL or in labouring, there is no place for others. So, our budget of four years like this one is very unsatisfactory. So is the people satisfy ? While having an unlimited budget and knowing we are going to face mautam and prepare ourselves through BAFFACOS scheme it appears we failed in all our preparation and we have to accept this. All our funds are manipulated for our own good and some department benefit from this, because of this it cannot be effective as it should be.

We repeatedly voiced out our poorness, we all know it in our mind and witness it. In some places there is no foodgrains and even where there is foodgrain they have no money to buy it. Our Chief Minister repeatedly console us in his budget speech that we will not go hungry, are the people in our constituency fed ? Some of us are provided through NREGS, under which they earn some wages labouring under 100 days labour scheme. In Saiha and Lawngtlai district they did

only 14 and 27 days but they can complete 30 days in March. BAFFACOS fund is not distributed among the people before, now under some scheme it is being distributed and I am very thankful. I am thinking that if we distribute it well we may not face this problem.

What makes our Churches demand the government to explain themselves ? why are they making noises ? Are they not happy while we say we are all happy. Questions have been raised in connection with execution of BAFFACOS fund, corruption, our spirituality and harassment at gun-point.

Regarding law and order, investigation for the murder of our respected Pastor takes only four months for conclusion whereas it takes 6 to 7 years for other case of murder or rape case for conclusion. It is very suspicious. Our Pastor was alleged to have killed himself but the report greatly contradicts what the medical term as 'suicide' in medical journal.

While the death of one of our most celebrated Ministers is investigated speedily, is there something to conceal, does someone make a threat ? This confirms that rape case, murder case and hostages cannot be solved. When the Chief Minister told us that there are insurgents nearby, the coming election looks gloomy.

Are we, the minor tribes safe in this budget ? Our District Council Affairs Minister is very concerned with us but only in making the government. During election he stayed with us with cash and contractors. But he failed in Saiha and Chawngte. Thinking that we, the minority can be bought makes me feel sad and our future is blocked for fund coming from central like BPL, BADP etc.

Are government servants and our youths safe ? Notice of tender had been issued but in reality the work cannot be done. Why not clear the way and issue tender so that our youths and the people will be satisfied. It is embarrassing for our efficient and powerful Chief Minister to ask the help of our youths and sports authority to see Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh. Why not make all the arrangement before hand and then proceed to implement it.

It appears that he is going to introduce a bill concerning our youth. We already discussed the first bill thoroughly, so let's wait and see about this one, is it also election oriented ? Regarding the government servants are they contend in this ministry? They conducted many strikes. They have no power now as all the powers had gone to the ministry. I want to say one thing that when Pu Hawla was the Chief Minister, our present Chief Minister used to ask me often whether our leader was coming back from Delhi". But now he is the one who repeatedly travel including our Education Minister. It is good as they are doing important work while staying there, but why make such a fuss when our leader traveled in the past.

Now, why do we have so many debts? is it because of our loan and its interest. It looks like we are going to have huge liability and is this what a good budget should be? Bigger country and state have bigger debt, while we say Mizoram is the best in spending budget, why do we left behind so many debts ?

Mr.Deputy Speaker, while we are very thankful for construction of road, those who take 3% may be the happiest. While constructing road I wonder how much will they collect from this. The contractors are not satisfied now, there is no work to be done by Class-II contractors and Class-III contractors. This makes circulation of money very scarce among the people. Only some families from MNF who are in the right position received money now. As this is the case, our budget cannot be said a good budget.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Our time is well spent. Now
Pu A.B.Chakma.

PU A.B.CHAKMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, if we study carefully of this budget statement laid down by the hon'ble Chief Minister, it is much appreciated that it also concerned the people of the remote corners and minority. It is much pleasing to hear that the government is not allowing any member of the citizen to suffer from depreciation of famine. I, therefore have to ask his assurance for construction of appropriate road which links Lai District and Chakma District as it will resolve much problems of the concerned people which may be brought as a result of bamboo flowering related famine. In this connection, I, have to extend my appreciation to the government for achieving road communication of LADC area beyond our expectation.

Mr.Deputy Speaker Sir, I have to mention that the area beyond Damdep hardly needed supply of rice from the government as they always produce their requirement. But due to the upsurge of rats most of their products are destroyed and they have no alternative sources other than depending on the supply from the government.

On the other hand Mr.Deputy Speaker Sir, there is no convenient place for storage of the supply as godown of this area is under construction. The concerned authority may please resolve the problem by alternative means before monsoon season arrives.

Besides, Mr.Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to point out that within Chakma District, land development under Agriculture & Allied Activities and Rural Development is being taken up from RSBY fund. The work is now in full-swing as

JCB and Bull-Dozer covers the area of our cultivation and my people are proud to be the first to avail such opportunity. Moreover, let me add that daily wage of labour in my area is Rs.50/-. But since the application of NREGS any member brings home Rs.91/-, Rs.103/- and now being revised at Rs.110/- much to the relief of poor people in this area. I must say that the people in this area may not survive unless this scheme is existed.

Again Mr.Deputy Speaker Sir, it is highly appreciated that the government makes provision for the poors the opportunity to avail medical reimbursement bill. I must say that this is one of the remarkable achievements of the government as it concerns mostly of the poorer section of our society. In this connection I would like to inform the House that there is only one Community Health Centre of 10 bedded for a population of 30,500 which is now being upgraded to 30 bedded with a plan for remodeling of the hospital. I, on behalf of the people of my constituency, express my heartiest appreciation to the government for its concern to the poors in the remote places of our state.

Besides Mr.Deputy Speaker Sir, the government in determining the welfare of government servants makes arrangement that Group A 227 posts and Group B 600 posts maintained under plan fund will now be moved to non-plan fund the fact of which is much appreciated.

Again Mr.Deputy Speaker Sir, it is much pleasing to hear that there is a plan for corporisation of Electricity as it will certainly improve Power Sector of Mizoram. Not only this, Local Area Development Fund in respect to MLA is now being raised in such a way to develop their constituencies.

Again, it is appreciated that 20 crore rupees is allocated under Annual Plan as a provision for Mizoram Intodelh Project as this will greatly benefit the poorer section of our society. In the same manner, 50-50 sharing pattern under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme for upgradation of families who are engaged in Agriculture will surely be one of the most beneficial schemes.

Last but not the least, this budget concerns the welfare of our cultivators as it covers construction of link road to the areas of cultivation.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Rohluna

PU H.ROHLUNA : Thank you Pu Deputy Speaker. Let me start with GSTP of this budget. It seems that there is no improvement in regard to 4th para – Agriculture Sector, 5th and 6th paras – Industries Sector and Service Sector whereas improvement is expected in regard to service sector and Industries Sector.

In respect of priority sector, Agriculture and Allied is placed at No.1 as in the previous years. Here, I would like to stress the need to improve the system as it does not reach the main target in comparison with the budget provision and relatively its expenditure. I opine it is important to give concentration to priority sector from the next year's budget. Otherwise our main purposes such as self-sufficiency in food production, employment generation and poverty eradication will not be achieved.

In regard to Rural Development, Plan budget is never too much and most of the funds are of centrally sponsored scheme which covers mostly of rural areas. Even though the department is placed in a priority list nothing much is done. For example, in the areas where NREGS is applied, only 48 days work is allotted out of 100 days despite central guideline to provide the work for not less than 100 days. It is obvious that our people will be in a grave situation if they have to depend on this scheme alone which had not been applied successfully. It is desirable if the government determine meaningful application of the scheme and our people then could benefit the scheme throughout the long period of famine.

Again, in regard to Health where priority is given, 5000 lakhs is allotted to Public Health Scheme and is much appreciated. Yet, it may not be appropriate if the provision is utilized as the existing Grant-in-Aid system. I opine it is necessary to carry out the scheme by following law which may be legislated for execution of this scheme so as to achieve favourable outcome.

As of Sports Department, it is learnt that provision had already been made for construction of Stadium for which tender had already been floated. Here, it is regretted that selection seems to be made on election oriented which is degrading for the ruling ministry.

Pu Speaker, it is in a way pleasing that there is a plan to take up construction of Tuivai Hydro Electric Project as Public Private Partnership (PPP), yet the plan had long been delayed. May the government take immediate step in this regard.

Coming now to law and order problem, it is the most repeated statement of the government that crime rate in Mizoram is being reduced despite that the percentage of rape case is comparatively high. It may, therefore be necessary for the government to exercise law and order more strongly so as to evade law and order problem during the coming General Election. The saddest part, Mr.Speaker, is that

there is no mentioning of case relating to mysterious death of one of the most eminent leaders of the Church whose body was allegedly found in his own quarter.

The case may be reported as of suicide but the majority find it hard to believe. It may, therefore be wise for the government to refer this case to CBI so as to win back confidence of the people for the coming election. The government should also determine security of our state by exposing the truth with this case. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu K.Vanlalauva

PU K.VANLALAUVA : Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. It is pleasing to see that the total amount of budget laid down by our Finance Minister exceeds last year's budget and this indicates that our Chief Minister himself had given relentless effort for the welfare of our state. Members from the opposition raised certain points of weaknesses of the government and it can be taken for granted as no one is perfect. For example, there is an allegation that the people are being misguided by the government in the case of construction of stadium at the premise of Assam Rifle playground as no paper document is found for the construction and the majority of the people believed it to be true. Pu Deputy Speaker Sir, it is known to all of us the existence of the said document since a copy is given to each member. It is, therefore, important for the people to know how to differentiate the truth.

Some of us may have a question for not including minor irrigation at the major head of our budget even though it is upgraded to a full-fledged department. In this regard, it is to be noted that it is not yet convenient since the department is still functioning under Agriculture Sector and therefore it is shown in the budget under sub-head.

In the same manner, I.T. wing too will function as a full-fledged department by next year, thanks to the effort of the hon'ble Chief Minister. So Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I dare say that MNF parties if not No.1, but the best party to run the government machinery considering achievements and assets for the people which had been made so far.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time now is almost 4 : 00 PM I think it is better to resume our discussion tomorrow. So, I may now close the discussion and the meeting will be resumed as stated at 10 : 30 AM tomorrow.

Sitting Adjourned at 3 : 50 PM.