

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

**LIST OF BUSINESS**

**FIFTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 18<sup>TH</sup> 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, 12 Ministers and 24 members were present.

**QUESTIONS**

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

**LAYING OF PAPERS**

3. **PU ZORAMTHANGA** to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the -
  - 1) Finance Accounts for the year 2006-2007 relating to Government of Mizoram.
  - 2) Appropriation Accounts for the year 2006-2007 relating to Government of Mizoram.
4. **PU ZORAMTHANGA** to lay on the Table of the House a copy of 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Report of Mizoram Khadi and Village Industries Board, 2005-2006.

**PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

**PU LALRINLIANA SAILO** to present to the House the Second Report of Subject Committee-III relating to Environment & Forests Department.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

**GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR,  
2008 – 2009.**

6. General Discussion on the Budget for the year 2008-2009 (to be concluded)

S P E A K E R : But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

Amosa 5 : 24

We will now call Pu Lalhmingthanga to ask Starred Question No.42.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister for Horticulture be pleased to state –

Has the government distributed Jatropha (burn medicine) seeds ?  
If so, how many persons have been given ?

S P E A K E R : We will now call hon'ble Horticulture Department Minister Pu H.Rammawi to answer the questions.

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble member's questions is, the government had distributed Jatropha (burn medicine) seeds to 36,814 persons.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, what is the total expenditure incurred for the distribution.

Pu Speaker, Horticulture and Agriculture Department adopted trial and error method. But it had not proved successful. Therefore, has the government carried out pilot project to prove it is profitable ? Has the government made its decision from the result of its project ? Also, had the government made any alliance with private firms ?

Pu Speaker, if we look at the Governor's speech, plantation of Kiwi fruit is mentioned. These are temperate zone fruits, Pu Speaker, we are in tropical temperature, thus, I would like to ask why the government had taken such decision ?

S P E A K E R : We will now call Pu Zodintluanga.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to know how the number 36814 is calculated and from what programme the fund is invested ?

I would also like to request the hon'ble Minister to clarify what is meant by 'Assistance to Jhum family for innovative activities' from the budget speech.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Speaker, Supplementary question.

From where is the seed imported ? What is the rate per quintal? What is the total expenditure spent for these 35814 families ?

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, Supplementary Question, The hon'ble Minister had declared Mizoram as an organic state, but now, why had the government purchased urea and that too with such a high rate. The government purchased at Rs.8.50, when it is available at Rs.3.43 and gave away at Rs.5.00 to the agent. What is the reason ? and what is the cost of M.D.P. and SSP ? Why is it purchased after declaring Mizoram an organic state ?

PU K.VANLALAUVA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Are all the families who received the seed really planted the seed ? Is there any area which had proved successful? Is there any proposal to purchase the seeds from the successful families and distribute it to the families who wish to plant the same ? Also, is there a way to re-enforce the families who had taken the seeds for planting ?

S P E A K E R : Let us now call the hon'ble Minister to answer whatever he can. Please switch off the microphone after use.

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, let me start answering from the last question. Pu Speaker, we have no proof whether they have planted the seed or not. However, while my stay at Imphal, I got the information that Jatropha seeds are purchased from Mizoram by Churachanpur Mizos and also by Burmese. This proved that all those who have received the seeds did plant it. Pu Speaker, we intended to grow Jatropha in compact area, so that we could supervise. However, due to pressure we are unable to do so.

M.O.U. had been signed with Godrej Agrovat and D-I company. Buyback is assured. Pu Speaker, in regard to the declaration of organic state mentioned by the hon'ble member, we have not declared Mizoram an organic state, but there is a provision in the Act which certified area wise.

In regard to the rate of Jatropha, it is based on the rate of Diesel as it is Bio-Fuel.

As for the question under what programme is the seed purchased, it is purchased from Mizoram government's fund and NABARD board fund.

In reply to question made by hon'ble member Pu Lalhmingthanga, Pu Speaker, since it is from 2006 – 2007, I cannot give the answer now. I will try to circulate the answer to all the members later.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, that means it is distributed as an annual programme ?

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, depending on the fund, the seeds is expected to be distributed to farmers. (Pu Lalhmingthanga : is the seed distributed every year?) previously it was not distributed every year. (Pu Lalhmingthanga : I just wanted to know total amount distributed)

S P E A K E R : Within this session, let all the members be given the answer.

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I will try and give the detail within this session.

In regard to pilot project in Mizoram it is a natural plant therefore no pilot project had been carried out by the department. However, in the previous term it had been tested in nursery.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, instead of the climatic condition, what regarded as the most important is, will it be acceptable as commercial item and is there any confirmation as to its worth as economy promotion ? I just wanted to know if there could be profit.

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, Kiwi had been tested in Champhai and Lunglei District. As for the bearing of fruits, there is modern technology which enables the plant to bear more fruit, this is known as pruning. The department gave the farmers training for this technology.

Pu Speaker, the U.S. President often stated that we have to give direction towards bio-fuel. As we are aware the world is facing the problem of crude oil. Being a bio-fuel potential area, we may also try it.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, the farmers are facing problem, can assistant be given to farmers ?

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, what about my question in regard to system jhumming innovation activities ?

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the free distribution of seeds itself is assistant. Pu Speaker, we all have to work for the success of Jatropha plantation. Mizoram had prospect to change from shifting cultivation to a permanent farming. In Burma Jatropha plantation is made compulsory or else it is death sentence.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, all I want to know is the viability of the project, as there are farmers who agree that they could earn only Rs. 20 to 25 per day. Whatever technology it may be, I request the hon'ble minister to give viability proved answer.

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, training is given by experts to the method of pruning. Godrej Agrovet company themselves are monitoring the farms. We believe it is an acceptable project. Shortly from now the project is expected to be carried out not only from Mizoram fund but from the return of the project.

S P E A K E R : The mode of answering questions is different. Anyway it is clear. Let us call Pu Lalthlengliana to ask Starred Question No.43.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister for Tourism be pleased to state – Is there any proposal to continue Reiek Tlang Tourism department project ?

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

PU Z.H.ROPUIA : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble  
MINISTER : member's question is – there is a  
proposal to continue the project. Under  
Reiek Tlang and Beraw Tlang Tourist  
destination project, the government of India Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned  
Rs.479.49 lakhs for the projects.

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalthlengliana.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, it is pleasing to learn that  
the project is to be continued. During  
Christmas at least 150 vehicles visit  
Reiek Tlang, thus, the cafeteria and other  
facilities available is not sufficient. Will the hon'ble Minister take steps in such a way  
that it can host meetings, such as NEC Meetings ?

S P E A K E R : There is no one else to support your  
view on Tourist Resort at Reiek Tlang.  
Let us now call the hon'ble Minister to  
answer the question.

PU Z.H.ROPUIA : Pu Speaker, it is under Reiek  
MINISTER : development scheme, ITDC is the agent.  
However, since the work is slow, we  
have suggested that it may be transferred  
to Mizoram P.W.D. The Ministry had issued order, thus we are expecting to speed up  
the process.

Reiek is taken up as Eco Tourism scheme in order to preserve  
the natural beauty whereas Beraw Tlang is categorized to host National level  
meetings and conventions and accommodation as well. Thus, there is no proposal for  
hosting conference at Reiek for the time being.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, there is enough space  
without destroying the natural beauty.

PU Z.H.ROPUIA  
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the hon'ble member shows great keenness for his constituency. We will look into the matter.

PU P.P.THAWLA : Pu Speaker, Supplementary Question. I heard that there were a number of tenders floated in Saiha and Lawngtlai District. Is work order given for these tenders, if so when will the work begin ?

S P E A K E R : The question had moved from Reiek to Saiha anyway, let us now call the hon'ble Minister to answer the questions.

PU Z.H.ROPUIA  
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the work had been allotted, very soon work will be started.

S P E A K E R : We will move on to Starred Question No.44. Let us call Pu Sailothanga Sailo to ask the question.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister Power & Electricity Department be pleased to state –

What is the progress of Aizawl city re-electricification ? When will work begin ?

S P E A K E R : Let us call Power & Electricity Minister to answer the question.



PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble member's question is – Tender had been floated for re-electrification of Aizawl city with aerial bunched cable. In fact the cable had been acquired. (b) Accessories have been tendered, very shortly, I expect work will begin.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Pu Speaker, this is an important programme for the beautification of Aizawl. What is the period allotted for the completion of the work ? What is the total amount sanctioned for the work ? Is tender floated for the accessories ? Pu Speaker, what is the progress in regard to Power & Electricity entering into corporation ? Is there any time bound ? What is the advantage of corporation ? What is the plan for the Power Sector set-up ? and also for Bairabi Hydel Project and Tuirial Hydel Project ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, if the existing aerial bunch cable transmission system is changed, what would be the percentage of transmission loss? Will the bunch cable hanged be reduced ? Pu Speaker, after circuit transmission is changed, power supply is irregular, what is the reason ?

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, Supplementary Question. What is the progress of the plan to lay electric cable underground ? Is the plan still in progress ?

PU H.LIANSILOVA : Pu Speaker, it is pleasing to learn that there is a programme to alter electric cables of the city. But, I would like to state that, remote localities in the city, like in my constituency there are places where the cables had not reached. Therefore, my question is as the programme to alter the cables in the city is going on, will it be possible to cover these areas within this year where cable have not reached?

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

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, first of all, I will start answering from Bairabi Hydel Project. Pu Speaker, the main problem that we are facing in Bairabi Hydel Project is economic viability funding. We are looking into various possibilities to receive viability gap fund. As for Tuirial Hydel Project, there is a proposal to continue the project. Meetings had been held several times. The problem here is also the funding. We have given positive reply and positive comments. We expect to continue the project in course of time.

As for under ground cable, the project is intended to be carried out under Urban Development Project. There had to be a coordination between Electricity Department and P.H.E. Department . Proposal is on to carry out the project.

Regarding Line Extension mentioned by hon'ble member Pu Liansailova, tender had been floated under RGGVY in the year 2003, now that it is 2008 the rate had to be increased. In principle it had been approved but it requires higher rate. We are expecting that the fund could be sanctioned within this financial year. If the fund is sanctioned, it will cover the whole of Mizoram, not only line extension but, line improvement, and transmission improvement as well.

Coming to the main question, Electricity Act was passed in 2003. Under this Act, all the states in India had to enter into corporation. It is passed by Parliament, thus, whatever it may be, we have to follow. Preparation is going on to enter into corporation. However, I cannot give the exact time.

As for aerial bunch cable, I felt that LT line is unsafe, thus due to my persistence the manufacturers were approached. After, we were informed of their capability, we approached the NEC for fund. NEC sanctioned Rs.446.99 lakhs, out of which Rs.245 lakh had been sanctioned.

Pu Speaker, tender had been floated for the accessories, it is under process, it could be finalized within 2 or 3 weeks. As I have mentioned, underground cable is under JNURM.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, I want to know the existing transmission loss. Whether it will be higher or lower. I would request for clarification as to what is the reason for the change of LT line to area bunch cable. I am apprehensive of the alteration.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, the transmission loss in the  
CHIEF MINISTER whole of Mizoram is 34% and National level is 37%.

The reason for the change is because the wire is unsafe plus it is hanging too low. We expect it to be more profitable. There is an intention to enlarge the programme.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Speaker, what is the position of Tuivai Hydel Project ? Regarding 60 mega-watt Tuirial Hydel Project, due to faulty claim of compensation, the project had been abandoned. I received a letter from the Union Power Minister. I would like to know what is the real reason, because it is different from the Chief Minister's version.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, I could not recollect all the  
CHIEF MINISTER questions. Pu Speaker, we were questioned if we could purchase the power generated at the rate of Rs.3, Rs.4, we gave the positive answer. There was question which we gave negative answer, that is the 12% sacrifice we have to make.

Pu Speaker, we face difficulties in compensation, as there were double compensation. But with the Scheduled Tribe Forest Act that was passed by the Parliament, we expect to solve the problem. Under this Act there will be village and District level committee which will finalize the landowner thus avoiding double payment. As for the rate it is only 3% which is not high. Infact, Power Secretary himself stated to CMD, NEEPCO that the rate is not high in my presence.

As I have mentioned, we are expecting viability funding from Ministry of Finance for Tuivai Hydel Project.

S P E A K E R : Question and answer hour is over. We will move on to the next business. Members absence – Pu Lalduhawma, Pu Aichhinga and Pu F.Lal Thanzuala, can the House give leave of absence ? Now, we move on to laying of papers. Let us now call the hon'ble Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga to lay Finance Account for the year 2006 -2007 relating to government of Mizoram and Appropriation Accounts for the year 2006 – 2007 relating to government of Mizoram.

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission and the House I lay 'The Finance Account for the year 2006 – 2007 relating to government of Mizoram' and 'Appropriation Account for the year 2006 – 2007 relating to government of Mizoram'.

S P E A K E R : Now that the hon'ble Chief Minister had laid the papers, let the copy be distributed. Since the change of portfolio, the next paper which is to be laid by the hon'ble Chief Minister, had to be laid by hon'ble Industry Minister Pu B.Lalthlengliana. Now let us call the hon'ble Minister to lay, '21<sup>st</sup> Annual Report of Mizoram Khadi & Village Industries Board 2005 – 2006'.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission and the House. I lay the, '21<sup>st</sup> Annual Report of Mizoram Khadi & Village Industries Board 2005 – 2006'.

S P E A K E R : Let the copy be distributed. We will now call Pu Lalrinliana Sailo, Chairman, Subject Committee – III to lay, 'The Second Report of Subject Committee-III relating to Environment & Forest Department'.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, with your permission and the House. I lay, 'The Second Report of Subject Committee-III relating to Environment Forest Department'. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : It is very pleasing to know the earnestness of various committees. The report shows their activities. Let the copies be distributed.

Now, we will take up financial business and have general discussion for the budget 2008 – 2009. Eleven members had speech yesterday. We will try to finish it today. Let us call upon Pu Liansuama.

PU LIANSUAMA : Thank you hon'ble Speaker Sir. There is much to thank for this year's budget.

First of all, setting up of Youth Commission. Rs.40 lakhs is provided for it. YMA invites all political parties in the state and requests us to set up Youth Commission in the state. It is very pleasing to know that the proposal comes to be a reality.

Secondly, Health care scheme is provided in the budget. Mizoram had a population of about 10.6 lakhs. Out of which 50,000 people are employed in the government. The government servants spent about Rs.30 – 40 crores in a year. I highly appreciate this scheme. It is great that non-government servants could re-imburse their medical expenditure.

Thirdly, the worst famine breaks out in the state due to bamboo flowering after 20 years of statehood. It is a burning topic in the state. Many people have no money to purchase goods. Meanwhile, as appeared in the economic survey, the per capita income of the state is Rs.27437. That means there is much difference in the income of the poor and the rich. 70% of the population of the state are engaged in agriculture and allied services and contributed 15.23% of the state's income. That is why, the economic condition of the agriculture and allied services needed upliftment. This budget displays the scheme made by government for the upliftment of agriculture and allied services which had market linkage and increment in market production. To achieve more production and market linkage, it is necessary to encourage compact farming. Anyway the Bank's contribution for upliftment of

agriculture and allied services is not enough. The Banks in the state also should achieve their own responsibilities.

Agriculture marketing is under the control of Trade and Commerce. Now, the budget provision for Trade and Commerce is reduced by Rs.15 lakhs. I feel that it is important to remember this when revise estimate is made.

Next to this, what I want to say is that the budget provisions of the state did not reach to the upliftment of agriculture and allied services like Women Representation Bill in India.

I also used to expect performance budget. Performance budget and Right to Information Act have co-relation. Before, the budget provision of the state is regarded as confidential. According to Right to Information Act, the publicity of budget provision is not enough. Everyone should know the budget provision of the state. In fact, even a Minister could not figure out the amount of budget under his charge in plan. If so, non-plan is not totally unknown. I, therefore, do hope to have performance budget after 20 years of statehood.

If we look back the budget provision since U.T. budget, it seemed that the House always passed government servants' budget. A political party formulated an election manifesto to form a government. If such party want to fulfill the election manifesto, it sets up various forms like UPA government had done. It is my greatest desire to have performance budget. Without which, the progress of the state will never be there. Decentralisation of power is the most important role played by the performance budget. Article 243 of the Constitution of India provides fulfilled functioning of local government. The performance budget encourages bottom to top budget rather than top to bottom budget. If we could follow such budget system, the state's development will be running equally among the people.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble Deputy Speaker wants to say about the Demand, let's call upon him.

P U C . L A L R I N S A N G A : Thank you hon'ble Speaker Sir. First of all, I would like to thank God for His guidance to be able to say what I give importance on this day of the last session of this ministry.  
D E P U T Y S P E A K E R

As we know the first plan budget is Rs.235 crores in 1999. After 10 years, it becomes Rs.750 crores. The plan size is Rs.1000 crores which is very pleasing. Regarding this plan size, I do highly appreciate the activity and devotion of the hon'ble Chief Minister. He had done his best and now we get this budget figure properly. Not only that, even the Mizoram Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill had been passed by the House in 2006. Under this Act, fiscal policies, strategy statement, medium term fiscal policies statement and fiscal management had been chalked out. It is very pleasing and we thank the Finance Department.

Secondly, Planning Department prepared a very good economic survey. But I feel it is not an ideal one because it is not detailed enough. And the educated youths who would be the leader of the nation will not know about fiscal management properly. In my opinion, Economic and Statistic Department is a very important department. But they could not prepare statistical data properly. I, therefore, expect the government to have reliable data so that the educated youth may know financial procedure of the state government. Any way, in the method of budgeting, structural adjustment of loan and medical refer case other than government servants etc. appeared in the budget. It may be regarded to be good enough, under this is Rs.1000 crores plan size budget.

Today, I will not concentrate only on the budget provision but also on the back side of the pages. As provided under article 202, sub section 1, we are now discussing the budget provisions. After a few days, the budget will be used in the state in different ways. State's monthly expenditure is about Rs.110 crores out of which 50 – 70 crores will be used for salaries of government servants. Rs.30 – 40 crores will be used for development.

What I want to say is that as most of our daily requirements are coming from outside the state, the daily expenditure of Aizawl city for such requirements is estimated to be around Rs.1.5 crores. It seemed that there is no exchange from the state production. The fund for purchasing such requirements is also coming from the central government. Porks and Beef are also coming from Myanmar. In such way, we used to spend large amount of money outside the state.

Similarly, the daily consumption of Lunglei is also very high. It is estimated to be about Rs.75 lakhs. Those requirements are also obtained from outside Mizoram. Any way, if the educated unemployed youths studied other venue carefully they can see that they will attain self sufficiency even without government jobs.

Korean government made restriction to import automobiles from other countries as the state had its own production. Any way, it seemed that this government too tried to have concentration on the state's own resources for example, Hitech Green House to attain self sufficiency in tomato, AH & Vety Department for self sufficiency in beef, pork and poultry in the state. And I feel that it is desirable to

commission Passion fruit processing unit at Chhingchhip. I hope this will lift up our state's economy if the packaging is done. I hope the success of the processing will flourish like water of the state enters into Bay of Bengal.

Thank you.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Thank you hon'ble Speaker. Since our business is a general discussion I will speak in general.

This budget is generally praiseworthy as it is prepared according to the frame work of Fiscal Policy and Budget Management Rules. We can see that there are some informations that had never been provided in the budget. It contains over view of micro economy, medium term fiscal policy, statement, strategy of fiscal policies etc. Besides these, there are some important informations like statement on salary and employments and economic survey. It is informative and progressive in its presentation.

If we see budget amount, it is Rs.2625.03 which is quite enough if it is used properly. Plan fund also increased by Rs.150 crores, It is a great progress. But if it is compared with other state it seemed that Mizoram budget is the least budget. It does not mean inadequacy of the Finance Department. It is clear that Mizoram needs to try its best to achieve better budget provision.

In regards to budget presentation even other states talked about surplus or deficit. It seemed that it is deficit by Rs.30.036 crores.

Regarding state's debt, it is increased by Rs.150 crores. The state's debt this year is Rs.3201.47 crores. If so, the state's debt will be Rs.3509.47 in the year 2010 – 2011. It is clearly shown in the statement of fiscal policy. To recover the debt, the state needs to spare Rs.178.92 crores and Rs.180.58 crores for interest. So, the state will have to pay Rs.359.50 crores. I am very sorry to spend such a huge amount of fund for debt. It seemed that the debt should not be despised. Due to huge amount of debt MoU had been compulsorily signed by the state during 1999 – 2000. As a result of it, employment opportunities have been banned in the state, various stakes had been imposed by the state. That is why, there is nothing to be pleased with it. By adding loan issued by the state government the state's debt will be Rs.522.14 crores. It is clear that the state's debt will be increasing more and more, which is not good. The hon'ble Finance Minister said that those expenditures are used for productive assets. It is right to use for productive assets. But all buildings could not be regarded as productive assets if it is not income generating assets. This budget is grievous for the people because income generating assets have not been mentioned.



That is why, care should be taken in using fund from capital account. It is to be used only for income generating assets.

Another point I would like to mention is that according to the budget book, BAFFACOS is not meant to combat the coming mautam famine because the hon'ble Finance Minister mentioned NREGS for the same. The most important thing in budget is proper management instead of the size of the budget (amount). It is clearly mentioned in Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management that proper review is necessary to have proper management. The way our budget is managed in Mizoram is regretting as finance review is done by few government servants with the Minister in charge. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management is passed by the Parliament according to which quarterly review should be made and the necessary amendments would be made with the permission of the Parliament after the review report is laid on the table of the House. Accordingly, if we are to implement the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management in our state in its true spirit the review is to be done by the House so that we can have actual / true transparency.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, Pu Saikapthianga

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Thank you hon'ble Speaker Sir, for sparing me time. As it is general discussion I will speak in general. This budget book is standard in form and it is clear. It is pleasing to have such amount of more than Rs.260 crores. However, Public share is not that much after deducting salaries of government servants and the total amount earmarked to repay state debt. But let us hope that there will be more fund in the budget from Revise Estimates, centrally sponsor schemes etc.

In Education, it is very pleasing to add Rs.10 crores for School Education and Rs.5 crores for Higher Secondary Schools.

In Agriculture Department, it is very pleasing to see National Agricultural Insurance Scheme if the fund is used properly.

Regarding Youth Commission, it is supposed to be set up for the progress of the youths for which I feel the need to stress its importance in general discussion of our budget.

As known to us all, bamboo flowering causes famine in our state. Looking back the past, Mizoram became U.T. in 1972 and full fledged state in 1986. Since then, the Congress party ministry spent Rs.194 crores for NLUP while MNF spent Rs.150 crores for MIP and Rs.125 crores from BAFFACOS yet our economy is still in a backward position. This indicates that officials and political leaders failed to uplift the economy of the state. In fact, the budgeting system of the state does not make any improvement since the period of District Council. No remarkable achievement is seen in various departments particularly in agriculture, the production of Potato and Jatropha could not meet the expenditure for the seed. While en masse destruction of orange in Mamit district is not yet taken into account, it is time for us to maintain appropriate budgeting system so as to meet the desire of the people. We know that the per capita income of the state is high, but it only extends gaps between the rich and the poor.

In AH & Vety Department too, various kinds of meat have been imported. It is now time to seek self sufficiency to produce meat of every kind. It is therefore, time for us to have new budgeting system to accord the interests of the people.

Thank you.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I do support the opinion of my colleague. The hon'ble Chief Minister informed the House that underground road will be constructed between Vaivakawn and Bethlehem and fly over bridge between Kulikawn and Bawngkawn. It will be of an outstanding achievement if this is implemented.

Regarding the demands of PHE, Budget provision is usually inadequate every year and as such 5% of the budget of other convenient departments is regularly pulled. The total amount of plan and non-plan of the budget during the previous year is Rs.4682.52 lakhs where only Rs.3711.85 lakhs is being allotted. What is the reason ?

Regarding Sports & Youth Services Department, Rs.48 lakhs is allotted for establishment of Youth Commission, thanks to the manifesto of MNF party in the last general election. But it is regretting to learn that this provision is only meant to deceive the youths. It is, therefore, necessary to review the matter. In this connection, Rs.1625 lakhs is allotted for construction of Aizawl Sports Complex for the year 2008 – 2009. It is further learnt that on 31.3.2008, Rs.625 lakhs is allotted at R.E. I would like to request the House Leader to clarify for what purpose the Rs.625 lakhs is used where as no construction had yet been started.

Regarding state debt, it is Rs.297850 lakhs upto February this year. It will be more than Rs.300000 lakhs at the end of this year. It seems that fund is

not appropriately used even though it is supposed to be used for income generation. It is important for the government to practise careful utilization of capital expenditure under JNNURM, Rs.1477 lakhs is received and the fund is going to be used after municipality election and for what purpose this fund will be used ?

In Agriculture Department, MIP (Mizoram Intodelh Project) seems to be a failure though Rs.2070 lakhs had been provided in this budget. I think it is better to use for free supply of rice to poor cultivators in remote areas. I would like to advise the hon'ble Minister to use for that purpose.

In this connection, KVK under Indian Council of Agriculture Research had already functioned for a long time. But their functioning are not well known. The fund provided, therefore is not beneficial for the state.

In Power & Electricity, it seems that the state government is going to make Power & Electricity Department a Corporation as provided in Indian Electricity Act, 2003. But the Corporations in India are not successful at all. It may be much better if the project is handed over to some private companies like German Engineer who visited Mizoram and confident to produce sufficient power. May this government please to consult him for such purpose ?

The budget provision of the state moves upward and increases more and more. But comparing to the budget provision of the adjoining states in the North East, there is nothing to be pleased with. Ours is the least budget provision in the North East. The budget of Assam increases by 31.85%, Manipur by 28.13%, Arunachal by 56.44%, Sikkim by 44.07% and Mizoram is only by 17.06 crores so there is nothing to be pleased with it. Rs.125 crores from BAFFACOS had been fully spent. But famine becomes severe day by day. The leaders of the state government need to revive themselves. The Chief Secretary, DC and BDO voluntarily contributed rice and disbursed it to the poor. This indicates that this government lack the confidence of the people.

Lastly, Rs.1 crore had been spent for KVI and construction of building at Saitual Constituency. But the government discontinued the project which is much regretted. If there is sufficient amount of provision from BAFFACOS, please continue this project if you really give importance to the poor cultivators.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We will now have recess, we will resume our business at 2 : 00 PM

**2:00 P.M.**

PU C.LALRINSANGA : We will resume our business.  
DEPUTY SPEAKER

PU D.THANGLIANA : Pu Deputy Speaker Sir, we have seen from the budget statement that the existing growth rate is 1000 where as in the previous years it was 100 and this indicates Mizoram is progressing with its budget at its own level. Besides, this year marks increase of our budget amount from 3 digits to 4 which certainly is a blessing from God.

It is again much appreciated that MLA Area fund will also be raised with the increase of our budget. I opine the House Leader and Finance Minister deserve appreciation of each member of the House for this opportunity of 20 lakhs rupees at our disposal.

Not only this, that remarkable achievement had been made by the government with the opportunity provided to each family to re-imburse their medical expenses respectively. This will certainly alleviate the problem especially of poorer section of our society. This House, therefore owes appreciation to our Chief Minister and to his government for achieving this medical re-imburement for all family concerned.

One thing I would like to mention from this budget statement is of PWD, which is a priority list. It is to be noted that PWD concerned with maintenance of road communication which is essential for transportation of foodgrains. It is much appreciated that there is a plan for construction of truckable road for 250 villages.

Pu Deputy Speaker Sir, we have seen in para 70, 71 and 72 of administrative initiative that there is a plan for bifurcation of minor irrigation from Agriculture Department and it is much appreciated. This will certainly give rise to self sufficiency in the product of staple foods. Not only this, keeping in mind of the need to catch up the knowledge of information technology of today's world, that there is a plan to set information technology as a full fledged department which will certainly be one of the remarkable achievements.

Again, it is a great opportunity for Mizoram for having the chance to set up the 4<sup>th</sup> IR Battalion, the plan which is now being processed. The said newly department will surely solve unemployment problem in Mizoram to a certain

extent as number of talented youths will then be absorbed in respect to their specialization.

Again, it is much appreciated that there is a plan to set up bill for Youth Commission which will be the first in the whole state of the country. This will pave the way for development of our youths in the field of sports and for establishment of their respective careers.

Pu Deputy Speaker, it is to be noted that Mizoram is having remarkable achievement with the attainment of 4 digits budget for the first time from this budget 2008 – 2009 and is much appreciated. It is also a great opportunity for Mizoram to be able to utilize provision from NREGS to combat bamboo related famine that lies ahead.

Pu Deputy Speaker, the members siting here today have many reasons to give credit to the achievements of the government such as opportunity for the people to bill their medical expenses; provision of supply of foodgrain the amount exceeding norms of the central government; achievement of 4<sup>th</sup> IR. Battalion; attainment of two-newly departments; increase of MLA LAD fund to 20 lakhs; increase of budget estimate to 150 crores; orientation of our budget not to cause burden to the concerned businessmen. These will not be achieved without the effort of the hon'ble Chief Minister and his government and he truly deserves praise.

PU R.KHAWPUITHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I am glad for the to be able to sit here in the discussion of last budget of this term where as some members could not make it due to their respective problems.

Pu Deputy Speaker, I hardly find negative point here in the budget as the budget showed increase for most of the departments. It is much appreciated that we are having good amount of revenue receipt and capital receipt with consolidated fund of 2625.03 crore which is much reasonable comparing to budget of the neighbouring states.

As seen in a budget speech, we have some amounts of surplus which indicates progress of the budget. There is a remarkable achievement as it is increased by 22.38 crores compared to last year.

Again, as seen in para 13, opening deficit of our budget for the year 2008 – 2009 is amounting to 84.65 crores rupees which resulted from last year expenditure. This amount may not be reduced to O base at the present situation yet, it is pleasing that it stands now at 30.36 crores rupees thanks to the efficiency of the government in financial management.

As for an outstanding amount of our budget, it is to be noted that increase rate of loan is bound to go higher with the increase of the amount of budget. Yet, it is clearly shown that payment should be made at the rate of 9.16% plus 189.19% against structural adjustment loan from ADB (Asian Development Bank).

In regard to priority list of our budget allocation, we have seen progress in various departments. For example, 1000 crores rupees is allotted in respect of Education Department where as allotment in the preceeding year is only 10 crores rupees. It is to be noted that without that increase, our state will never achieve first position in literacy rate and this further indicates efficiency of the government in financial management.

Not only this Mr.Deputy Speaker Sir, It is learnt that the total length of road constructed under P.W.D. during 2007 – 2008 is 5225 kms which exceeded last year's construction by 634 kms thanks to the efficiency of this government. Besides, number of vehicles registered upto October, 2007 reaches 58613 and this indicates the progress of this government. Still, there are more achievements of this government to be pointed out yet, it is not convenient to do so due to limit of time. I opine it is important for the member to appreciate the achievements of this government.

Thank you.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Thank you Pu Deputy Speaker. I first of all want to extend my thanks to the concerned officials who are involved in preparing this budget but sad to learn that it hardly contained points on which the people could rely upon. The progress of our budget may be determined in comparison with the neighbouring states like Sikkim whose budget increased by 300 crore rupees even though its population is barely 5 lakhs, Manipur by more than 226 crores and Assam by 645 crore rupees. It is, in a way, appreciative that our budget too had its own progress but not as much as the said neighbouring states.

As shown here, capital expenditure of our budget for the year 2008 – 2009 is amounting to Rs.2,62,503 lakhs out of which Rs.59,014 lakhs for building up assets and the rest Rs.6,000 for purchase of food stuff. It is doubtful that there is a possibility of building up assets with this few amount allotted for that purpose.

Reviewing last year's estimate, expenditure for purchase of foodgrains and others during the year 2007 – 2008 was 15,932.61 crore rupees where as allotment from this budget for the same is much lesser. This indicates the provision is not fully spent for the purpose, which is deeply regretted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, while 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission is gratefully welcomed it is doubtful that expenditure of the provision was made purposely. For instance, allotment of 5 crore rupees for Heritage conservation for the year 2005 – 2006 had been spent only from 2006 – 2007. In regard to Grant-in-Aid for maintenance of roads and bridges also, we are being allotted 42 crore rupees only where as in the neighbouring states – Meghalaya, allotment for the same is 86.40 crores and Nagaland 120.80 crores. It is important to determine the reason for the difference of this provision in the North-Eastern region. In my opinion, our lack of efficiency in fiscal management compels us to produce fake utilization certificate for the work which further prevents the central authority from giving us any provision willingly.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it will be pleasing if the concerned Minister in his wind up speech could explain the reason why Mizoram received food subsidy of 4.45 crore rupees only while the neighbouring states Meghalaya and Nagaland received 11 crore rupees and 9.50 crore rupees respectively. Mr. Speaker Sir, Mizoram seems to be placed at the lowest position in all respects due to our lack of efficiency in fiscal management and our ignorance to make appropriate planning.

In reply to the question relating to BAFFACOS, it is regretted that wrong information had been given by the hon'ble Chief Minister who stated that link road was not constructed during the year 2004 – 2005. But the Achievement Report on BAFFACOS shows here that maintenance of 15 kms link road that had already been constructed during 2004 -2005 and expenditure of Rs.36.68 lakhs for construction of bamboo link road under R.D. Block Reiek was shown. It will be much appreciated if the concerned officials feed the hon'ble Chief Minister only information based on fact. I am, therefore, convinced that all such malpractices in financial dealings of our government come out of ignorance and lack of appropriate planning. Our government, therefore, seriously needs to examine itself in dealing with financial matters.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next, Pu Lalhmingthanga

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Thank you Pu Deputy Speaker Sir. To start with, I must say that there is no reason to appreciate the government for preparing this budget in accordance with Fiscal Responsibilities and Budget Management Act as they are doing what they are supposed to do as the act itself is a mandatory.

Secondly, Leader of the House stated at para 96 of page 20 that this year budget is within a comfortable position for which I have to criticize the point since we are not as he had stated. Our Chief Minister further stated at para 93 of page 19 that the existing amount of our debt is amounting to 3026 crores and 59 lakh rupees where as the total amount of our budget this year is 2625 crores and 3.62 lakhs. It indicates that our budget for this year alone cannot cover our debt and hence we are not in a comfortable position with our budget for this year.

In the meantime, I would like to state negative effects brought by our debt. The budget speech of our Chief Minister clearly indicates that out of non-plan expenditure, rupees 708 crores and 37 lakhs will be spent towards payment of salary of government employees where as Rs.359 crores and 50 lakhs for recovery of principal and interest of our debt. It means that barely 495.55 crores is left for non-plan expenditure and is the main reason for escalation of financial problem of our state since various development projects such as construction of building for schools and offices, annual repairing works as per norms of PWD could not be done from this provision. Not only this, maintenance of Electric LT line for rural areas cannot be carried out due to the same problem and there is not provision for purchase of diesel for pumping water in the major towns such as Serchhip, Lunglei and even for Aizawl. It is, therefore, hard to say that Mizoram is being placed at a comfortable position as it is only meant to misguide the people. It is regretted to learn that the government dare not reveal to the people its actual financial position.

Moreover, Mr.Speaker Sir, if we examine plan fund of various states being finalized with Planning Commission, it is learnt that growth rate in respect of states in the North-East region like Arunachal, Assam, Manipur and Sikkim are considerably high with percentage of 56%, 32%, 21% and 45% respectively where as ours is only 17.65% which is hardly agreeable. In this regard, it is to be noted that the central government does not deliberately ignore our state but our resource and financial condition compels them to do so. The statement of our Finance Minister at para 43 of page 9 indicates that our resource is less sufficient to make expected amount of recovery to be made.

It is felt that there is more prospect of revenue from Public Sector than from departments of government but collection from Public Sector is not much as expected, due to lack of appropriate management.

Mr.Speaker Sir, in reply to the question regarding GSDP, constant price level during the year 1999 – 2000 is reported as 1885.19 crores where as our Finance Minister in his budget speech stated the same as 2163.14 crores and there is discrepancy with the report of the amount. The concerned Minister may clarify the fact in his wind up speech.

Regarding contributing sector of GSDP, Agriculture & Allied Sector is renamed as Primary Sector and Industries & Allied Sector as secondary sector and the newly names seem to be more befitting than the previous one



comparing Agriculture Allied Sector or Primary Sector and GSDP, it indicates that per capita income of Mizoram including infants seems to be of Rs.2600 where as the condition of 80% of the population is not so. This figure shows absence of equitable distribution to the owners of the budget. It will be much appreciated if our budget try to find solution to the problem of desparate Agriculturists as 10,000 crore rupees is allotted by the central government for writing-off the debt of Agriculturists.

It seems that central government have a mind to ignore the needs of any state government who are not having Fiscal Responsibilities and Budget Management Act lately and formed Revenue Committee. Yet, the committee needs some sort of reviews as it consists of only our Finance Minister as its Chairman where as rest of the concerned people are not included in the committee. It may be appreciated if a reform of the committee is considered.

Last but not the least, it may be pleasing if the government immediately determine employment generation so as to enable each family free of bamboo flowering related famine that covers the whole Mizoram.

Thank you.

PU C.LALRINSANGA : Pu H.Lalsangzuala  
DEPUTY SPEAKER

PU H.LALSANGZUALA : Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. I first of all have to remind the member the importance of discussion on budget here in the House as most of the family carefully watch this meeting from their TV with the hope of betterment for their respective families and communities.

We all are aware of growth of our budget size this year ; thanks to the efforts of the government and its concerned officials but sad to learn that no remarkable growth of plan size is to be found as already pointed out by other members. Obviously there is nothing much left for the public as larger portion of fund will be spent for the salary of government servants.

Last year, before Christmas, I had a meeting with Smt.Pratibha Patil, President of India to submit memorandums and thereby stressed the need of our youths to have a qualified stadium at the site of A.R.ground Aizawl. In reply, the President stated her confidence to achieve that need. But Mr.Speaker Sir, considering the vagueness of the dialogue between our government and the authority of Assam Rifles plus, our small budget size for this year, achievement of the said stadium is

doubtful. Not only this, it is sad to learn that no adequate fund is given for promotion of sports enthusiast youths to expose their skill.

In regard to allocation of fund for implementation of Sinlung Hill Development Council (SHDC) I find no reason to appreciate decision of the government as no improvement had been made for the last 15 years. It is, therefore, important for the government to show its concern towards SHDC.

Thank you.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Thank you Pu Speaker. At the outset, it is much appreciated that closing of Treasury Office had never been heard during the two terms of this ministry thanks to the efficiency of our Chief Minister. Again, within these two terms budget statement had been laid four times whereas the latter one happened to be the highest since the time of UT government. Considering budget size of our neighbouring states like Assam and Arunachal, one may not find the reason to appreciate our budget. Yet, it is to be noted that budget is allotted on population basis and we are in a favourable position.

One of the remarkable achievements of our government is introduction of Health Insurance Scheme in which 5,000 lakhs is allotted. In order to improve the status of today's youths, Youth Commission is being set up. In order to obtain self-sufficiency in food-stuffs, 20 crore rupees is being allotted for MIP and sufficient passion fruit is produced in some areas and I give thanks for steps taken by the government towards infrastructure.

Regarding road communication, construction of 2427.81 kms road is completed during this term and 500.17 kms is yet under construction of PWD.

As far as my opinion is concerned, the government under this ministry is making the best assets for the state. Not only this, speaking of the budget size of our government, the present budget happened to be the largest whereas the previous budget size barely reached 300 crore rupees.

As for an outstanding amount of our budget, it is to be noted that major position of it is inherited from the previous ministry and it is not fair to lay the blame on one particular party for the mounting of debt.

Speaking of quality of rice distributed to BPL family, allegation made by certain members is absolutely wrong as I have brought here few to present here in the House. Regarding NREGS, it is to be noted that the scheme is meant only for the areas where bamboo related famine is concentrated. But now, it is made available to each and every district, thanks to the effort of the hon'ble Chief

Minister. We, therefore, have many reasons to praise the government for making number of assets for the state and introducing various schemes to uplift the condition of poorer section of our community.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Pu Lal Thanhawla

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Speaker, to begin my speech, I have to point out that the budget size is bound to increase every term and it is ridiculous to compare the amount with that of the previous terms. But the point is that the budget allocation for our state is hardly agreeable comparing with the size of the neighbouring states. It is known to us all that Sikkim is a protectorate state and it always comes after Mizoram in budget size. It is sad that we are now behind Sikkim despite strong effort rendered by the present leaders.

Pu Speaker, Our budget for this year is good in general and let us hope to see the reality in the coming years. It is pleasing that we are having favourable budget as central government / Finance Commission insist on Mizoram to have its own Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management. Particular items included in Micro Economic Framework are of great achievement and I truly appreciate it.

As of GDP, it will be much appreciated if items shown in the project is achieved. According to this project, Growth rate in Mizoram is 6.74 whereas 8.7 for all India. I am afraid this will not be possible considering the component of our debt. Yet, it will be much appreciated if this ambitious project terms out as incentive for the concerned officials so as to achieve the target. Growth we witness now will be a fortune for us. While there is a great competition in the field of Information Technology it may be too late for the government to create Information Technology Department. DOEACC is not utilized fully by the government to develop our youths. As already pointed out, it is time for us to have call centre as it will help in creating employment for our youth. Thankfully privatisation of government vehicles is implemented for the welfare of government servants as an economic Measure.

Regarding medical re-imburement, though it is good for us, our economic and financial condition may not accommodate it as we practised now. While ICICI covered government servants, intellectual and upper class, this scheme will cover the poorer section and will have to be operated cautiously.

The P.M. announced scheme for BPL and Health Insurance for the people. Some states are already benefited by this. In Punjab and Haryana while 25% is state's contribution 75% comes from the central. Our state can also enjoy this if the government put fund in the budget. Right now, it appears fund for medical reimbursement for non-government servants is taken from ADB (Asian Development Bank) and agreement had already been signed. But this too was denied the next day. I hope they will clarify this later. I want to request the government to take great care in the implementation.

As we heard from the hon'ble member of Mamit, due to our health problems we have to find ways and means for payment, and if Referral Hospital had been given more priority many of our problems will be solved and it will be our great assets.

Mr.Speaker, while we are pleased to have our budget increased, its execution is important as well. There are lots of fund in BAFFACOS, but inadequate distribution results in disappointment to the beneficiary. Because of this I want to repeat that while there are lots of fund in our budget, importance should be given to implementation, creation of IIIrd Battalion I.R. and IVth Battalion I.R. give employment for the youths. If we are to create another battalion, we have to be more careful in the recruitment as nepotism had been practised in the previous recruitment. So, if we practise it accordingly we will be benefited.

We see a healthy budget in central which never occurred before as about Rs.60,000 crores had been put aside for loan. Funds have been put in our budget to improve education and uplift the workers and it is hard for critic to criticize. On the otherhand, while it appears good, implementation may be difficult, our farmers may suffer and we may witness more suicide from farmers. Mr.Speaker, while the work progresses, suicide committed by farmers are also heard from many states. So, let us follow the good practice so that our farmers can have the benefit.

Though there is good thing to be achieved I want to point out few points for more improvement. It is very humiliating for the state that Seperation of Judiciary is not yet implemented. As I have a case, I know well enough that it is not yet implemented. The way they treat the Judges and Prosecutors clearly prove this. So, for the welfare of the people, I urge the government to implement it as soon as possible.

Discussion on BAFFACOS is one of our popular topics because of the suffering of our people. If we look at our funds, we don't have to worry about fund in Mizoram but it is in its implementation we are facing hardship everywhere. The hon'ble members already voiced out their demand in this regard. So, the government had to take great measure in accommodating the people, come monsoon, our people will suffer a great deal. As the central government give, they expect the state government to do likewise for its people.

Let us not mix up BAFFACOS and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). NREGA is introduced by UPA for the benefit of rural people who have no government servant in their household to earn their wages for 100 days. It is not Mizoram Rural Employment Guarantee Act, it is national and the programme of UPA. Its meaning is that government should create work for workers who have no place to work. As it is for non-government servant it does not include government servant. As UPA government gives priority to rural areas, Saiha and Lawngtlai Districts are among the first in India from the 200 districts selected. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Champhai and Lunglei are added. From this April it will cover all districts in India. So, NREGA is not meant to combat famine while BAFFACOS is meant for it. Let us keep in mind that these two are not related.

Mr.Speaker our government had not mentioned much about Look East Policy. It appears that we think of it as Look-North-East India from the central. The opening we are going to have at Chhimituipui's Akyab was started back in 1997 when the agreement was signed by the government of Burma and India and joint survey had already been conducted for transportation route. It remained untouched for a long time but this Look East Policy re-awaken it and the central government plans to finish it within 3 years.

The central government had taken great initiative as the project will be beneficial for the north east especially with its look North East Policy. Many airports are to be constructed and our government should grab this opportunity.

It is regretting to learn that we cannot compete our neighbouring states in the development of Economic, Infrastructure and in trade between our brother in South East Asia. We learnt from the newspaper that in Bangkok conference, our neighbouring states submitted many demands for their benefit while we, the most peaceful state in the N.E. have none.

It is hard to differentiate who maintain law and order, is it our government or YMA and in the case of liquor and drugs.

So, in order to maintain Law and Order we have to improve the machineries, if not, our state will be humiliated and gruesome killing will take place. We already have unsolved cases like incident occurred in Phaileng's gun running and many more where no FIR is filed.

Regarding crime rate, we have to know that because of the government's attitude no one is confident enough to report crime which resulted in low crime rate. In the case of Isaac Hmar, who tried to run bamboo project in Bairabi, his killer had not been found to this day. And our respected Minister Rev.Chanchinmawia's murder case was also still unsolved. Therefore, our efficient police personels are needed to provide with well equipped machineries to solve their cases. If we go on like this the most peaceful state will never be peaceful again.

S P E A K E R : Our time is up, how will we do? Will we have a break and continue? Our current discussion is coming to an end let's just finish it and invite the hon'ble House Leader to deliver a speech.

P U L A L T H A N H A W L A : Mr. Speaker, I almost finish. As a whole, our current budget is the best so far. But time will tell whether it is going to be sufficient or not. Today as our Governor already said our government have to take step in helping 70% of its people from famine and hardship. I want to offer my help in this regard. For example, in Serchhip District some of our leaders try to visit the remote area but are warned not to go as they have no food to feed them. Today I want us to consider the fate of less privileged people. They are the ones who are honest and hard working inspite of many varied hardships and problems that may prevailed at some level. We have a provision of fund to use for further development. If well spent, our budget may see us through to be in tandem with our neighbouring states in development.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : As our general discussion for 2008 – 2009 Budget come to an end let's invite our House Leader to wind it up.

P U Z O R A M T H A N G A  
C H I E F M I N I S T E R : Thank you, Mr.Speaker. First of all I want to express my thanks to all members. During our budget general discussion our members participate well and our discussion and preparations are mature and House proceeding is praise worthy.

In our current budget, we put highlight on the performance of every department of the previous year, and our Governor delivered his speech in this regard. I want to point out general feature of our budget in particular. So, we have to discuss in detail. There may be some mistakes but we are still learning. Printing mistake like 2007 – 2008 should be 2008 – 2009. I pray our hon'ble members to understand it. Mr. Speaker, as we are going to have demand wise discussion later, we will not dwell on questions and answers right now. Our budget may not be perfect but we are very happy with it. As instructed by the central, we prepared our plan to increase by 10% as we practised every year. While the amount is to be around Rs.935

crores, in reality the central gave us Rs.1000 crores. Compare to other years we have 17% increase in our budget and we are very thankful for that.

On the otherhand, it is easy to say that we are wholly supported by the central government as we reinstated ourselves with their money. On the otherhand we can say that as the central had no land and no people of its own and manage its economy with state's contribution and then distribute around it, hence there is nothing to be proud of. The central also cannot go on without the states for a day.

So, let us say we are very thankful to the central government as we all have to learn to be thankful. To put it on the wrong side, we can say that they are giving us less then our neighbours who are under a state of discard. Who is responsible for this? If we are to throw accusation on political ground many of us can point a finger. But it is not wise to go in that direction. On the otherhand, let's say that why are Arunachal and Sikkim whose budget management never meet our level now are above us, is it because they bordered China. If we are also near the border, we may get higher fund and what with the trouble brewing across the border, the central may want to please those who are in the border. But this may not be the way of their minds, they may give them just because they thought they need it. So, we are also 17% high which we never have and we are going forward in four digit and we think it is very wonderful.

What our hon'ble member Pu Hminga said about our GSDP is right. It is our project, but cannot meet the enact, difference can be seen between Central Statistic Organization and State Figure in GSDP. Small alternation can be seen as we have to see about fiscal with the central for actual estimate. And we have Provisional Estimate which is collected, data sorted out, but not yet reconciled. In Budget, we have Revised Estimate and Budget Estimate and in GSDP we have Advance Estimate and Quick Estimate. So when new year comes new data and clearer situation arise and the figure in GSDP needs some change.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker, that is the point I'm asking about. While the figure in his answer is Rs.1888 crore, according to the same base as he said the figure is above 200, why is that so ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA  
CHIEF MINISTER

: Mr.Speaker, anyhow I will look into the figure again otherwise mistake can be made if we are not sure about the enact figure. Last year GSDP's constant

price is only Quick Estimate while this year it is Advance Estimate. So, our current GSDP Advance Estimate will differ to next year Quick Estimate. Our GSDP for 2007 – 2008 is projected as 6.74. Figure on the project which is base on calculation of growth rate made by the state may differ after consultation with the central. Anyway, we will look into the figure more clearly.

Now, I want to highlight the nature of our budget. We are facing two types of difficulty i.e, Mautam and natural calamity during monsoon. Our main supply route i.e., railway had been damaged for about 3months. Keeping this in mind, we adjust our budget to meet the people needs as good as we can and hope that the members will understand it while at the sametime, we try our best to meet the requirements of the people.

Now, the government had taken massive steps to combat the coming famine. Knowing that we are going to have hardship we console our people as it is a year of great famine. While there are many poor family without facing mautam famine the coming of mautam famine will double their misery. But it is very pleasing to know that our churches, NGOs and others made contribution to help and relieve the people by organizing concert and games. In this regards, our government give thanks, all from the bottom of our hearts. On the otherhand, it can be said that the government is in disgrace. But as it is a year of famine, if one wants to think like that, he/she can do so. But, a government is formed by the people, without back-up from churches and various organizations it cannot stand on its own. We hope and pray that we will unite and continue to do so.

Regarding foodgrains, there is truth in our problems. Difficulties in transportation is faced because of monsoon. Damaged of railroad and landslide caused us immense hardships. From Halflong, meter gauge had been replaced by broad gauge to carry foodgrains into Bairabi, But our station in Bairabi cannot accommodate it and replacement had to be made in the middle. For 3months railroad had been damaged and caused insufficiency in our food stocks. After the damage we urged the FCI (Food Corporation of India) to speed up in stock. The state government helped in transportation of foodgrains for the southern district. Right now, the FCI cannot carry large quantity to meet the requirement of the people living in those area. Let's say that the government is humiliated in stocking foodgrains because of the incompetence of FCI. The central government give responsibility to the FCI and they failed us.

Because of FCI failure, the state government faced problems. We are still buying foodgrains through hardship. We used what there is and try to meet the demand of the concern department, whether the price is high or low. I want to point out that regarding BAFFACOS, it is not meant for purchase of foodgrains as



in 2004 – 2005 we have not yet faced famine. But is it meant for facing the coming mautam famine. We divided Rs.125 crores during 2004 to 2008 for preparation to fight mautam and the fund was given to various departments in 20,30,35 and 45 crores per year. What we most fear is that the fund will not reach remote villages which are only reachable by Jeep and which may not yet suffered badly. Because of these, we prepared connectivity and repaired godowns and built new ones.

So, I want to highlight how we spent our funds. We prepared ourselves to create means of wages for the people. We urged various departments like Agriculture, Sericulture, Fisheries etc., to make plan to meet our people needs and in doing so, we received many complain in the distribution. But we are doing our best to facilitate our people for the coming mautam widely creating other means of livelihood besides what they are doing.

Foodgrain had been purchased from non-plan fund, hence, the said fund is put aside for labour wages. Many areas are not covered by the NREGS, so step had been taken and about Rs.1000 lakhs had been put aside for this purpose.

Our current budget is Agriculture oriented in the making. But, because of mautam we cannot prepare satisfactory to meet the people needs but we are trying our best in this regard.

In Education, budget had been increased to Rs.10 crores 1000 lakhs than last year and in Higher Education Rs.500 lakhs. Regarding Sports, due to miscalculation, the increase in budget is not high after deducting their year marked sector. But we are going to give them another 70 lakhs so that they will increase to Rs.130 lakhs in Sports Council and Rs.130 lakhs in Sports promotion.

In our hon'ble member Pu Lalsangzuala's point of view, regarding Chhinlung Development Council Budget, I think there is a misunderstanding. Last year in R.E. they have 141 lakhs, but this year they have 200 lakhs and it is increased to 60 lakhs which means the increase rate is 40%. If we look more carefully, we can see that the increase rate is the highest.

On the otherhand, our budget is people oriented, we are putting 2000 lakhs in MIP for their disposal. For example, for purchase of foodstuff we are putting 200 lakhs in MIP this year.

As our opposition leader said, we are very grateful to central government for initiating implementation of NREGS in every district of India. But we have a problem in state matching share. Last year we are short in our contribution and we have to struggle this year too as we are facing famine. In order to create work we have to deposit Rs.20 crores and 2000 lakhs and put aside some if necessity arises. When we make a deposit of Rs.20 crores it became 90.10% and the total amount we can relieve is Rs.200 crores. If we can use up this for labour cost it will be very satisfying. So, in order to pull up the relief fund for labour cost we are putting

Rs.2000 lakhs in matching share from Rs.20 crores. If this can relieve it, we can still put in more fund from our reserve fund if necessary.

Regarding pay of the government servants the central already enjoyed new pay so, our state will also enjoy it shortly after our Pay Commission finish structuring the pay body. For a long time we have a disorganized pay scale which needs reconstruction, but now we almost finish the structure regarding Group A,B,C and D. When we finish, even group D will enjoy a much higher pay.

Regarding Public Health Care what our opposition leader said was true that the central government already made scheme in this regard. But we cannot follow their scheme as it is only for BPL family while in our state we want to cover all the non-government servant. I also request Pu Chitambaram to release Rs.50 crores in advance to start this scheme. But luckily this year we have Rs.100 crores in our plan and from this we put aside Rs.50 crores for this scheme. As our hon'ble members said, we are going to start this scheme in order to avoid problems and we are doing our best to be careful. Problems we already have with ICICI Lombard opened our eyes and help us in structuring the system carefully. All members are witness to the suffering? Our people and this scheme will help them immensely as it is people oriented.

On the last part, we are putting enough fund in our budget to cover our people's needs in cultivating grape, passion fruit, flowering culture, bamboo and red oil palm etc. We are blessed in every way including in our hidden wealth in oil and gas. We are engaging International Company in extracting oil and gas. From satellite view they believe that we are rich in oil and gas, the upper layer being gas and the lower layer being oil. As soon as we have sufficient road to carry equipment to the site, the ONGC are ready to take up drilling.

Lastly, Mr.Speaker Sir, as our opposition leader said regarding Kaladan multi model transport project, this is going to be our good fortune as we all know and have seen in Newspaper that the Gorkha Council in Darjeeling demand state while the central aim is Autonomous District Council and there is agitation and I.B., SIB and RAW advised the Home ministry to be careful as Darjeeling is bordered by China, Bangladesh and Bhutan where rebels are at large. If they started political agitation all of north-east main source of supply will be in disorder. This incident gives us an opportunity, for the central government is anxious to open another route for supply and Kaladan Project is the main factor.

Toward South, this project will shorten the route to Akyab. From Akyab to Kaladan river toward Saluchhuah and then back to Hruitezawl it will only take 12 hrs to reach Akyab. While the route from Kolkata cost Rs.6 per kg, this new route will only cost Rs.3 or 4 per kg to reach Aizawl. Export and import can be done at International sea port if this project is a success and will surely transform the economy of Mizoram. The ministry of Transport take initiative to construct link road from Lawngtlai to Burma border which is about 110 kms and urge our government to take initiative as BRTF are slow. The state PWD is entrusted to do surveying and they

pursued vigorously and will finish it in about a month. After this, construction of road will be started from Lawngtlai and from the border the Burma government will take up. (Pu Lalrinliana Sailo :- Mr. Speaker Sir, are they doing survey or are they going to accept it or re-do it). Some points are going to be accepted but our PWD survey show that the grade is not good enough, so we have to make some diversion to get better grade so that heavy vehicles can run smoothly. The length of the road may be longer than 117 and it may also be shorter after new survey.

However, we are receiving blessing from God in every achievement and we are delighted. Our budget may not meet our satisfaction but we prepare it considering our people's interest and to meet their needs. So, we think it is good enough to our standard Mr.Speaker. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, our meeting for today is over we will meet again tomorrow, the 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 at 10 : 30 AM.

**Sitting is adjourned.**

**4 : 40 P.M.**