

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

**NINTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 25TH MARCH, 2008
(Time 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM)**

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Pu Lalchamliana, Speaker at the Chair, Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Pu C.Lalrinsanga Deputy Speaker, 11 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 AICHHINGA** to lay on the Table of the House a copy of “ The Aizawl Development Authority Regulation, 2007”.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

4. **PU Z.H.ROPUIA** to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Youth Commission Bill, 2008”.

Also
to introduce the Bill.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

5. **PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
6. **PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
7. **Dr. LALZAMA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

S P E A K E R : Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.

Proverbs 3 : 27

Hon'ble member Pu H.Rohluna may ask his Starred Question No.121.

PU H.ROHLUNA : Mr. Speaker, will the Hon'ble Minister for Planning and Programme Implementation Department be pleased to state –

- (a) Amount spent from BAFFACOS fund during 2004 – 2008 February ?
- (b) Year – wise expenditure during this period?

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon the hon'ble Chief Minister i/c Planning and Programme Implementation to furnish the answer.

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Mr. Speaker, answer to Starred Question No. 121. – (a) is Rs.115,27,000.00 and (b) is from 2004 – 2005 – Rs. 20 crores ; 2005 – 2006 – Rs.40 crore ; 2006 – 2007 – Rs.30 crore ; 2007 - 2008 – Rs.25 crore and 27 lakhs.

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon Pu H.Rohluna.

PU H.ROHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, for the coming famine, comprehensive action plan had been formed to assist farmers to combat bamboo flowering and famine and aim to increase purchasing power among the rural poor families. According to this plan, 80% of the fund should be reservd for the farmers. From the hon'ble Chief Minister's answer to my Starred Question, we learnt that the expenditure from 2004 – 2008, February is Rs.11,527 lakhs from the original estimate of Rs.12,500 lakhs. This

shows that from 2005 Rs.2000 lakhs, Rs.4000 lakhs, Rs.3000 lakhs and Rs.3500 lakhs had been distributed to 8 districts for district administration and the remaining fund of Rs.9570 lakhs had been used in other area like Bamboo Industries and road laying. While the main objective of comprehensive action plan appears to be to alleviate the poor farmers from famine and strengthen their purchasing power, it is not so and why is Rs.9570 lakhs been used for other projects ? From BAFFACOS Rs.11,527 lakhs had been used and Rs.11,219 lakhs from MIP had also been used and the total fund already used is Rs.22,746 lakhs. But we all know the situation of the poor farmers and families, they are not relieved. In this regard, I want to ask a question. Does the government think that the poor farmers receive their share ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if I am not mistaken BAFFACOS fund is not highlighted in our present budget while it is going to be the most severe year of famine. What is the reason ? Secondly, does the government prepare a place for bamboo cultivation, if not, why ?

PU LALDUHAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, preparation had been there under BAFFACOS to face the coming famine. The sitting of Emergency Relief Committee learnt that there is not enough fund and it is hoped that it will be included in this budget. Are we going to depend on the existing fund in this year of severe famine ? Only NREG Scheme had been highlighted in the budget speech which is very different from BAFFACOS. NREG Scheme had been applied in every state within the country.

Secondly, the main aim of Action Plan is to alleviate the rural farmers from famine. In this regard, action had not been taken to improve marketing of their products. While giving support price, transport subsidy will help a lot. For this, the concerned department Trade and Commerce does not get any fund from BAFFACOS, what is the reason ?

Lastly, within my constituency there is misappropriation of BAFFACOS fund among the V/C. I request the government to take an enquiry in this regard.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding BAFFACOS I want to ask a few question. First, while the hon'ble Chief Minister said Rs.125 crore had already been used, today if I am not wrong there is a difference in the figure, what is the reason ? Is the fund used according to comprehensive Action Plan prepared by the Planning department ?

Mr.Speaker Sir, why is Rs.100 lakhs had been put for clearing liabilities of Mizoram Venus Bamboo Project Ltd ? In total Rs.600 lakhs had been used for clearing liabilities while BAFFACOS is for the farmers.

Lastly, for equity participation and contribution of share, lakhs had been used. In spite of all these, does the government still think BAFFACOS is a success ?

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

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, to answer our hon'ble members question – amount already spent highlighted are from 2004 – 2008 February, but the actual allotment is not yet completed. As I have already said, BAFFACOS is for preparation to combat famine, it is not solely to generate employment. Because of this the fund had been divided to alleviate the rural farmers by laying new road, building godown and distributing machinery and renovating jeep road etc, beside these there is a portion for employment. Regarding foodgrain, non-plan fund will be used for purchase and unavoidable circumstances make us use small amount of fund from BAFFACOS. In some cases, the original plan may be altered, but over all it had been used as projected.

For employment alone thousand of lakh had been used. Besides, fund put aside for liabilities and machineries are for preparation to further industrial product.

This year BAFFACOS is not included in the budget on the advice of the Planning Commission as its preparatory period is almost over and new scheme is introduced i.e. NREGS. The people's need will be met through NREGS. We increase state share in NREGS and this will help us in creating many job than the previous year. Almost Rs.200 crore will be there for this.

In MIP Rs.20 crore had been put for purchase of turmeric and other products. This year we are giving priority for buying foodgrain. Foodgrain we

purchased at Rs.141/- had been sold at the rate of Rs.9.50/- to the people, this means about Rs.30 crore is needed for subsidy per month and Rs.36 crore every year. This had been discussed with Planning Commission and we urge them to subsidise the rate and they agreed on a condition that they will transfer the fund to supply department instead of putting it at plan fund. Because of this, it is not reflected in the budget, nevertheless we will receive our required fund.

The other question regarding putting fund in Trade and Commerce department, the government thinks that it is not necessary to put fund as they are not a big department, they can get their needs through MIP.

Regarding the hon'ble member Pu Duhoma's question on misuse of fund by Sunhluchhip V/C, we will look into the matter.

The hon'ble member Pu Lalhmingthanga's question on planting bamboo to replace the destroyed bamboo forest is not done as it is known that in the destroyed area it will grow again in a few year. Besides, certain variety of bamboo seed are cultivated by the Forest department.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, one question please. Regarding BAFFACOS and NREGS – is NREGS the policy matter of the present government or the central government which is enjoyed by every states in the country ? The hon'ble Chief Minister put NREGS and BAFFACOS as the same policy in his discussion while it appears different. NREGS is derived from Act of Parliament while BAFFACOS is the state's own policy to combat famine.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in recent year NREGS
CHIEF MINISTER cannot be enjoyed by the whole districts in our state. It is enjoyed by the southern district. But as we increased the state matching share into 20 crore, every district within the state can enjoy it now and from this many job are created. Rs.20 crore had been put specially for the purpose of creating job for the people during famine and that is the state's policy. So, it is according to our interpretation whether it is the state policy or not.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if we are trying to put them in the same category, it can be done. But we have to remember that NREGS is not for famine, it is for the non-government households to have an earning by working 100 days a year throughout India. So, if they want to put it like that they should at least say that we are putting fund in order to combat famine through NREGS.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker Sir, what I want to ask is about Venus Bamboo's liabilities and the role of the government in this joint venture. Are they going to pay the debt of their partner ?

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me time. Our main problem in our discussion seem to be BAFFACOS and NREGS fund. We all know that NREGS is central scheme. If we are going to increase the state matching share in NREGS, are we going to get enough fund to create many jobs for our people ? Whatever name we give does not matter if we can do this, is it not ?

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon the Chief Minister.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as the hon'ble CHIEF MINISTER Opposition Leader said, NREGS covers all of India and will come into effect from April. Because of this, instead of putting fund in BAFFACOS we are increasing our share in NREGS as its interest is tenth times the original amount. So we put Rs.20 crore and we will get Rs.200 crore, it will be very beneficial for the people.

Regarding the hon'ble member Pu Lalrinliana's question, in joint venture we are working with two or three partners. If one of the partners have liability, it is the duty of the other partners to solve that problem. In bamboo development programme we are working with Venus Bamboo Ltd. and built bamboo factory at Sairang and used BAFFACOS fund to run it.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in joint venture are they suppose to contribute share ? What is the purpose of clearing their debt ? What is there to gain for the people?
They are using lot of funds from BAFFACOS.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we are contributing
CHIEF MINISTER whatever we have. They contributed their machine which cost a crore and we in return contribute our land and money as it is necessary.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it means that they clear their debt for them to contribute their machine.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, from the beginning we have a mutual agreement. While the government acts according to the agreement the other party fail. Paying their debt after accepting their machine as cash they have to contribute, the government had gone too far in this respect. Is there some motive behind this ?

PU H.LIANSILOVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, according to the answer to my question the capital contribution for this joint venture is 40 – 40 – 20. If 40 is their contribution, why use another 40 of BAFFACOS fund to pay their debt ? Is there going to be a solution in this respect ?

S P E A K E R : Let the Chief Minister clarify.

PU ZORAMTHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, in joint venture everything cannot be done at once. The original share may be 40 – 40 – 20, but according to the need, we can increase it at 50 or 60. If our share increased, the share we get from its production increased. Everything is in record so that we will get what is worth for our share.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, how many production do they have from this? What is their profit margin?

PU ZORAMTHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, right now our profit is not much. We do not get enough raw-material because of bamboo flowering. But we hope that from this year we will have enough income from the production.

S P E A K E R : Now, let us call Pu Lalduhoma to ask his Starred Question No.122.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No.122 is - will the hon'ble Minister for Higher & Technical Education Department be pleased to state :-

- (i) How many college Principal whose terms are extended ? Who are they
- (ii) What is the reason ?

S P E A K E R : Let us invite the hon'ble Minister for Higher & Technical Education Department to answer.

Dr. LALZAMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer to Starred Question No. 122 are as follow – the term of two Principals are extended namely Pu R. Zatlai, Principal, Hrangbana College and Pu Sangthanga, Hnahthial College. The reason are different, in the case of Pu R.Zatlai, it is extended while his replacement is being searched. In the case of Pu Sangthanga, it is extended so that he can get a pension. Beside this, they are the concerned Principals who are in working position to face the NAAC Assessment during that time.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question – in Higher & Technical Education there is a court case regarding the Director post as the junior supercedes the senior most. To have a good administration, the High Court issued list of seniority to follow. If it is followed there will be no problem in the administrative set-up.

It is not good to have trouble in the highest department as they are the main body of resources for development. Some seniors from Lunglei also feel displeased as their juniors show no sign of respect. Also, I want to know the reason why the Minister appoints his relative under this department. In future, practice of nepotism should be banned.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I presume it is relevant regarding pension. The central government issued notification regarding the pension age of its servant from 62 yrs to 65 yrs on March, 2007. But it has not been followed by this government specially in colleges and Higher Education. Negative answer was given to the central in this regard. While we follow every norms of UGC why not follow in this respect ? What is the reason ?

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question. Recently some colleges are provincialised, but their staff are not given regular appointment. Can the government give time for their regularization?

PU H.LIANSILOVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary Question regarding Aizawl North College Principal. His case had already been cleared, why is he still not re-assigned as his replacement has not been done? What is the department plan in this regard ?

Dr. LALZAMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, amendment had been made regarding seniority list as there are different grade. Regarding recruitment of staff – as it is a deficit college we recruit them as they are qualified for the post, no law had been broken in this regard.

Regarding pension, it is still under consideration. While following UGC norms we cannot fulfill every norms. Last year the hon'ble Chief Minister advised us to fill up post in different stream, we cannot meet the UGC norms as many candidates we interviewed do not go through NET and SLET as required. So, we make some relaxation so that the institution will not have to suffer.

Besides this, we have to make amendment in many aspect like R.R. etc., consideration had been given to deficit college staff and Aizawl North College Principal will be re-instated in a super-annuation post soon.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker Sir, one thing is not clear – Is the seniority list to be prepared afresh or not ?

S P E A K E R : He said they are preparing it. Pu Andrew Lalherliana.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it appears that we are trying to find trouble. We follow the central order regarding benefit and it shows in the salary of our government servants. What reason is there in this regard not to follow the central order. If there is no reason why not follow the central order.

Dr. LALZAMA
MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to make clarification regarding seniority list, it is under preparation. As we provincialised deficit colleges, we have to count their services and need time for that.

Then, we have to know the exact meaning of centrally funded institution. Mizoram colleges are under the Mizoram government. So in order to enjoy the central government order, we have to study the practice of other states and make inquiry to UGC.

S P E A K E R : Let us invite Pu Liansuama to ask his Starred Question No.123.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, my Starred Question No.123 will the Hon'ble Minister for Horticulture Department be pleased to state (a) What is the expenditure for purchase of turmeric seed during last year ?
(b) How does the government prepare for its market ?

S P E A K E R : Let us invite the hon'ble Minister i/c Horticulture Pu H.Rammawi to answer.

PU H.RAMMAWI
MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer to the hon'ble member Pu Liansuama's question are as follows : (a) Rs. 15,25,01,567.00 (b) MoU had been signed on 24th August, 2007 with Diamond Shipping Ltd. and Sunrise Spices Ltd., Kolkatta for its marketing and National Research Development Corporation and Mizoram government will be included. The producer and grower farmer company will also be included later.

S P E A K E R : Let us give favour to Pu Liansuama as he is the questioner.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, who are the supplier during 2007? Do the marketing consultants involve in the supply? What is the rate for this year? How will it be fixed? Last year the purchase rate outside Mizoram is Rs.17/- while within Mizoram it is Rs.8.50/-. Can it be purchased at this rate again? Last year turmeric seed had been delivered at free of cost, can ginger be also delivered free of cost?

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Last year the Minister said that this year will be the harvest time for turmeric. So, many farmers harvested about 20 to 30 qtls, but only one quintal can be bought by the government according to the DFO. They are now very desperate and do not know what to do. Can the government solve their problem?

S P E A K E R : Now, after Pu Thlenga, we have to pass our time a little if we want the Minister to answer.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, last year the government spent Rs.15 crore to purchase turmeric. This year within my constituency many farmers harvested about 100 qtls. Can the government purchase it? If not, it will be a waste.

S P E A K E R : Let us invite the Minister i/c to answer and we have to pass our time if allowed, let the Minister reply the question.

PU H.RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer to Pu
MINISTER Liansuama's question is – last year the suppliers were Tribal Welfare Agency and Eastern Agro Marketing Agency and it is done with the approval of the State Purchase Board.

Mr.Speaker Sir, last year turmeric seed was delivered to the farmer free of cost and demand was high. In the meantime, many farmer who claimed to be interested in the cultivation refused to continue their demand. To verify the area where such cultivation was done we invite NGO in order to have a clear record. When harvest we will buy them at the rate of Rs.6/- at their own place. For export we need to have organic certification first after that we will monitor international and domestic market with our partners and will fix the rate accordingly. If there is any interest we will make provision so that the growers and the government can reap the benefits.

PU H.LIANSAILOVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, while we need base year foundation, their speculation for its market seems vague.If they signed MoU with research company, can they predict the rate of dry turmeric at international and national market. What will be the rate of green turmeric ? How many quintal can they dispose of ?

PU H.RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, we all know that at international market, rate cannot be fixed, everyday rate fluctuates and we have to follow that.

Mr.Speaker Sir, now we are living in an advanced world. What prospect do we have for our farmers today we have to ask ourselves.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, he should clarify the point that only one quintal will be bought from a family. Our people are desperate and if this is their way of solving problem, it is not enough. We have to know the exact rate.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, what we all want to know is – can they purchase it at the rate of Rs.6/-. It is only ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ we want to know. In the minutes of the committee it was written that the government will purchase whatever they harvest for the first three years. Now they cultivate it but the government cannot give assurance in purchasing what they harvested, they suffered enough for this.

S P E A K E R : I heard that they make assessment now, if they can announce it during session it will be appreciated.

PU H.RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, yes, we are doing assessment. Let me rephrase what I already said, within organic certification Area, the land are certified and if we are going to vacate, we are going to face a problem on certification, because of this we have to do the cultivation in the same area.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, what we want to know is very simple. Can they act according to the MoU and buy all that had been harvested at the rate of Rs.6/- this year.

PU H.RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, we will have trouble for certified area if we make a purchase while assessment is being conducted.

PU H.VANLALTHALIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we are going to have trouble with the certifying agency and we will be losing the quality value edition.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, what the hon'ble Minister means is that they can do as they like as we are not going to be there to see it through. With that thought in mind, the farmers are not given guidance to plant in the organic area.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, while 39366 families planted turmeric, only the harvest of 7500 families can be bought. Does this mean the un-certified area cannot sell it? Can he clarify it more clearly ?

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, we will try to buy as much as we can even from the uncertified area, but we want the certified area to remain open.

Mr.Speaker Sir, I want to add that in passion fruit and flower, the infrastructure cost is so high that we cannot maintain it properly. But in turmeric, the cost is low and we can expose ourselves in India through this. With your permission Sir, I want to distribute the extract of its medicinal value to the hon'ble members.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker Sir, is it enough that they are selling the best quality of vegetable seed?

S P E A K E R : The copy may be distributed on the first opportunity. As the hon'ble Minister is the pioneer in organic farming, Certification is top priority for him. So, we have to understand as it is going to be important in the future.

Now, our question hour is over. Today, due to ill-health, the hon'ble member Pu K.Lianzuala cannot attend the sitting and asked for leave of absence.

Now, let us invite the hon'ble Minister Pu Aichhinga to lay on the table of the House a copy of "The Aizawl Development Authority Regulation, 2007".

PU AICHHINGA
MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and the House, I lay on the table of the House “The Aizawl Development Authority Regulation, 2007”.

S P E A K E R : The copy may be distributed. Now, we will go to Legislative Business. I invite the hon’ble Minister Pu Z.H. Ropuia to introduce “The Mizoram Youth Commission Bill, 2008”.

PU Z.H.ROPUIA
MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and the House I beg to introduce “The Mizoram Youth Commission Bill, 2008”.

S P E A K E R : With the permission of the House the Bill may be introduced.

PU Z.H.ROPUIA
MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I introduce “ The Mizoram Youth Commission Bill, 2008” to the House.

S P E A K E R : As introduced, the copy of the bill may be distributed, and we will have a discussion on the first opportunity.

Now, we will go to Discussion and Voting on Demand for grants of three Ministers. First, let us invite Pu R.Tlanghmingthanga, the hon’ble Minister to move his demand Nos.11, 24 and 29 to the House.

PU R.TLANGHMINHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation
MINISTER of the Governor of Mizoram and with
your permission, Sir, I move the
demand Nos. 11, 24 and 29 for
Rs.276,62,33,000/- only for meeting expenses during 2008 – 2009 in respect of the
following departments. Demand No.11 – Secretariat Administration Department
Rs.97,74,25,000/- ; Demand No.24 – Health and Family Welfare Department
Rs.156,99,45,000/- ; Demand No.29 – Social Welfare Department Rs.21,88,63,000/-
Total – Rs.276,62,33,000/-. Thank you sir.

S P E A K E R : Now, let us invite Pu B. Lalthlengliana,
the hon'ble Minister to move his
demand Nos.8, 18, 35 and 40.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation
MINISTER of the Governor of Mizoram and with
your permission Sir, I move the
demand nos. 8, 18, 35 and 40 for
Rs.50,49,75,000/- only for meeting expenses during 2008 – 2009 in respect of the
following departments. Demand No.8 – Taxation Rs.5,10,85,000/- ; Demand No.18 –
Printing and Stationery Rs.6,94,15,000/- ; Demand No.35 – Fisheries
Rs.6,23,40,000/- ; Demand No.40 – Industry Rs.32,21,35,000/- Total
Rs.50,49,75,000/-. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble Minister Dr. Lalzama may
move his demand nos. 7, 21 and 23.

Dr.LALZAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation
MINISTER of the Governor of Mizoram and with
your permission, Sir, I move the demand
nos. 7, 21 and 23 for Rs.55,37,000/- only
for meeting expenses during 2007 – 2008 in respect of the following departments.
Demand No.7 – Excise & Narcotic Rs.9,80,30,000/- ; Demand NO.21 – Higher &
Technical Education Rs.111,22,05,000/- ; Demand No.23 – Art & Culture
Rs.4,84,80,000/- , Total Rs.55,87,15,000/-. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, three Ministers moved their respective demands, we will start discussion. I want to make a suggestion regarding recess. Let us have break at 4:30 instead of 4:00 PM and resume at 5:00 PM so that we can have enough time for refreshment. If it is okay, let us start our discussion, who will be the first Pu R. Lalzirliana.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, first I want to speak about Taxation. According to the Mizoram VAT Act 2005, Sec.14 sub-sec 8(d), ITC cannot be given on import, resulting to high cost and the suffering to the people. Cannot the government reduce the percent as they do in electrical goods ? If not, why not follow the consensual sales tax rule as practiced before.

On demand No.7, the pay scale of Excise police is very low comparing to Police Department while their nature of works are very similar. We have to upgrade it.

On demand No.40 – Industry – loyalty taken from sandstone, rock etc., should go to Industry Department not to Forest Department. It should be put under Geology and Mining so that a large amount of tax will not be lost. It had already been passed by this House and we should follow it.

Geology and Mining Department should be strengthened and give full directorate with IAS or MCS as a Director. The natural wealth of the country is in their hand. The government will also receive revenue from this department. Meanwhile a land had been given to some party workers by the Industry Minister which belongs to the government. This kind of practice should not be repeated.

On demand No.24 – Health Department, they used to be very clean in corruption before, but within the past four to five years, they become the most corrupted department. When they started dealing with big money, even the culprit responsible for the lost machine is not given any punishment, to this is the result of having unfaithful Minister. Now, there is misappropriation of Rs.3.5 crore and an inquiry had been going on in this regard. If our Minister use his utmost ability in this we will give our full co-operation.

Regarding the duty roster of our nurses, they used to have eight days off in a month before, but now it is being cut down into four days. As their duty is different, they are not to be envied. Many lives depend on their hands. They work hard and keep up punctuality. The government should not cut down the number of their original day-off. Mr.Speaker, thank you.

S P E A K E R : Thank you, now Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. First I want to speak about demand No.7 – Excise & Narcotic. They are the main force behind MLTP Act and work hard with the help of NGO to maintain prohibition. The department functions with minimum strength of staff, only about 553 staff are in this department. The government should review their pay as it is not fair to have different pay in our forces. Last year we amended MLTP Act so that grape and guava juice can be made and built winery, what is the government's progress in this regard.

On demand No.21 – Higher & Technical, many development can be observed from this department 12 Deficit Colleges had been provincialised and 2 colleges had been given deficit status. Can the government put two of our Law Colleges under the government and built their building as soon as possible.

Regarding scholarship, I want to request the Minister to look into the provision for commercial pilot's scholarship as it is very expensive for them.

I also request our technical wing to work harder so that we can have our own Engineering and Medical College.

Pu Speaker, on Demand No. 8 – Taxation I want to praise the minister and staffs for their hard work. We can see from the Governor's speech that they almost meet their target within January. In march ending they can have about a revenue of 10 crore. It looks like they are going to have a surplus in revenue. Can the govt. implement their proposal for check-gate at Bairabi and Kanhmun as soon as possible. Besides, we have to give priority to their demand for new staff.

On Demand No.18 – Printing & Stationery, it appears that other deptts., do not follow regulation regarding purchase of stationery items. We have to start purchasing from the concerned deptt., not the other way round.

On Demand No.35 – Fisheries, we are almost self sufficient in fish production with the help of BAFFACOS fund. What I want to point out is that our local fish farmers do not have place in the market to sell their products. In this regard the concern deptt., along with Trade & Commerce deptt., should look into the matter and find a solution to solve this problem as soon as possible.

On Demand No.24 – Health & Family Welfare we can see many changes especially in the nursing care in rural and urban hospitals. The recruitment of Doctors, Nurses, Technicians and Health Workers solve the problems

we used to face in the rural areas. Now, in PHCs and Sub-Centers doctors, nurses and health workers are posted everywhere. The deptt., and its Minister are praise worthy in this regard.

Besides opening six new District Hospital, Civil Hospital had been upgraded to 500 bedded. DPR had also been prepared for Champhai and Saiha hospitals. The department's budget had been raised to Rs.8464 lakh so that the people can have better health care. For rural areas and non-government servant families, provision of Rs. 1 lakh a year is provided under health care system. I want to ask the Minister when can this be started ? What is the department progress ? Regarding family card – how will it be conducted ? Can it be done in credit before April this year?

On Demand No.29 - Social Welfare, their hard work can be seen now. They give support to handicapped and socially disgraced women. Besides, they also give a pension worth Rs.250/- pm to old-ageds. From National Family Benefit Scheme they give Rs.10,000/- as relief fund for those losing their means of support. In rural areas they give nutrition through ICDS programme. We can also see a good building of Anganwadi Centre in many villages. Is the govt., going to built a new building in remote rural villages also.

Lastly, regarding physically handicapped, there is a commission at national level. In Mizoram when can we have such the commission. Can the nodal department give importance so that a commission could be formed as soon as possible. It is about time to apply 3% reservation for physically handicapped in recruitment of govt.employees. I hope that we pass our three hon'ble Ministers demands, thank you.

S P E A K E R : Let's invite Pu Sailothanga Sailo.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Pu Speaker, thank you. I want to give credit to Social Welfare department for their hard works. First of all I want to discuss about our Social problems. We are facing social problems in drugs, alcohol, AIDS, commercial sex workers and raping of under age. We are also facing a great problem in unemployment. We have to find a solution to solve all these problems by doing research and studying what trigger all these.

On Demand No.24 - Health & Family Welfare we have to strengthen our infrastructure. Our Sub-Centre, PHC and CHC need upgradation in many places. I also want to request the hon'ble minister to find a way to upgrade Kawnpui PHC as soon as possible. This ministry give importance to Family Welfare and I am very thankful for that. They maintain a good Maternity Health Centre and

Child Health alongwith RCH. In RCH it would be appreciative if they can find a way to use flexible pool more useful than this.

Regarding the duty rooster of nurses at Civil Hospital, it is hard for them that the government change their 8 days off to 4 days. I want to make a request for them in this regard, can it be change again as before. They are heart broken in the government's decision. I also want to add that their initiative in National Rural Health Mission is also very praise worthy.

On Demand No.23 - Art & Culture, we have to release more fund for them to show to the world our culture. The festival of Chapchar Kut and Cheraw dance alone do not complement our real culture to the world.

On Demand No.7 - Excise, as they are the force to maintain MLTP Act we have to give them priority and see to their problem in their pay.

On Demand No.21 - Higher & Technical Education, we used to say that within India we are the best in literacy rate. But our infrastructure is weak, we have only Polytechnic Institution and this also need upgradation.

Pu Speaker, on Demand No.8 – Taxation, all our tax collection goes to non-plan for payment of our debt. In this regard the government is too greedy. Collection of VAT needed rethinking, the basis on which uniform rate is fixed is not applicable to all items.

On Demand No.35 – Fisheries, we are not self sufficient in fish production yet. Beside the govt., had to find a place in the market for our fish farmers to sell their product.

On Demand No.40 – Industries, the ONGC had done some excavation to know whether oil is there or not in Hortoki. On my last contact with their leader, I was told that they expected to find oil in the said area. We are very happy and I want to share this with my fellow members.

Lastly on Demand No.18 – Printing & Stationery, there is so much to say about this department. They are well equipped in machineries but we have to find a way to make use of them. I also want to request the minister to look into their debt and find a way to repay.

PU K.LALRINLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. First of all Demand No. 24 – Health & Family Welfare. I am thankful that district hospitals are upgraded and this strengthened the PHC and CHC. It solves many of our problems. We can receive proper treatment from them and do not have to go to Aizawl which saved us lot of

money. Now CHC patient can receive a specialist treatment as they are posted in every district hospitals. Besides, every CHC received Ambulance and medicines are now available. These help us a lot, for patients from remote areas, medicine is now within their reach. I want to request the hon'ble minister to find a way for Kolasib hospital to have a child specialist. As we do not have one this year, we lost 9 children in Kolasib.

We can see progress in TB and Malaria control and Cancer hospital. Special programme had been made for TB patients and medicine had been delivered free of cost. I hope this programme will soon wipe out TB in Mizoram. In malaria we have to work harder in order to wipe it all out. The ongoing programme needs support from us in this regard.

In Kolasib and Serchhip Trauma Centre had been set up. In Kolasib the building is finished and I want to know when can they open it. We wait in anticipation for the opening of the centre. Beside this, when can the district hospital be upgraded into 100 bedded. We are trying to repair the existing building with fund from PWD and I request the Minister to give us priority in this.

Upgradation of Aizawl Civil Hospital makes me very happy. We now acquired new machines which we never had before. We have a new OPD building and the hospital become cleaner than before.

On Demand No.18 – Social Welfare I want to express my thanks for opening Anganwadi centre in many villages and for renovating old building and good nutrition had been delivered to children regularly.

On Demand No.8 – Taxation, after the collection of VAT from 2005 we surpassed our target in lakhs from 2004 to 2008. Besides, the department showed their appreciation to great distributor by honouring them. At Bairabi and Kanhmun they are going to open check-gate also. I want to know when can they start Bairabi check-gate.

On Demand No.35 – Fisheries, they are funding farmers through BAFFACOS, FFDA and centrally sponsored scheme. Around 2740 farmers are funded from 2004. Besides, they repaired fish pond and distributed fish seed and food. Kolasib is a potential area for fish farming and I request that District Office be opened as soon as possible. Besides, we are now self sufficient in fish and the need for its marketing grow higher every year. The government should as soon as possible try to find a place for them in the market. The staff capacity should also be increased as the area they covered is vast.

In Industries, I want to discuss about Geology & Mining Wing. Upgradation is very important for this department. It seems that the department expects to make new discovery in natural resources. Therefore we have to prepare them to work faster. Besides, I am very thankful that we have a joint venture with

Venus bamboo and Zo Mat Ply. This way the farmers and the govt., share the benefit from the industries.

Art & Culture is one of the most important deptts,. Now we have a well equipped State and District Library and Museum. Around 20,000 to 10,000 books are placed in every library. In many rural areas also we have new library with the help of the NGO. Pu Speaker, today I hope we will all pass our demands unanimously, thank you.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Our time is very limited to discuss all the demands. Therefore I am going to say only what I think important. First of all I want to say about demand No.7 – Excise. During this ministry large number of constables are recruited, among them are physically in-eligible but favoured by the ministry. This will effect their services while they are the one to maintain law and order and enforce MLTP act. I also request the Minister to give his promise to see to their problem in their pay.

Coming to Demand No. 24 - Health & Family Welfare department. Pu Speaker, the Minister of this department is someone whom I respect and give great regards. There are significant achievements made in the various department he had taken up. But it is unfortunate to mention the numerous crisis that had cropped up recently in the Health department. For example the missing of a flat in OPD building, and the crisis of college of nursing. I would therefore request the hon'ble minister to take steps to solve these crisis as it is an important department.

Pu Speaker, Demand No. 8 - Taxation. The main resource of the state revenue is VAT. But the system of the collection of tax needs to be reviewed like cutting of 2% from contractors which was discussed in the House and the rate collected from electrical goods. Pu Speaker, the rates which directly effect the people should be cut down. Like wise, the department should look into the problem of unorganized sector of business so that they can purchase goods at cheaper rates.

Demand No. 37 - Fisheries, few words regarding this department. It is time to change the system of fish farms, it is not productive. Pu Speaker, in the present system the fish farmers do not profit from their farms, thus, it is time to change the system. Thank you.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I will start with Higher & Technical department. In the present world Human Resources & Development is given top priority since industries are knowledge base industry. But I regret to state that priority is not given. It is the norms of the central government to invest 6% of the budget in this department. However, in our state only 2.09% is invested in Higher & Technical Education. The short fall is 426 lakhs. Due to agitation of Mizoram College Teacher Association 425 lakhs was granted. If we look at the current financial year there is fund allocation of Rs.2290 lakhs. Pu Speaker, with the provincialisation of 12 colleges, a shortfall of Rs.2135 lakhs is expected in the current financial year. Thus, I am pleading the government to sanction the required additional fund for the department.

Moving on to Health & Family Welfare department. Pu Speaker, in my constituency Khawzawl which had 2000 houses is still under Primary Health Centre. In the year 2000 there was a proposal to up-grade to CHC. However, due to problem created by the two hon'ble minister, Pu Tawnluia and Pu Aichhinga in the shifting of PHC to a smaller area at Dinthar veng, the case was stayed as it did not meet the norms and guidelines for CHC due to its area. Pu Speaker, I give my support to the perseverance of the NGO coordination and political leaders of Khawzawl constituency. I would further like to demand compensation due to 18 women in regard to sterilization by the department.

I would like to mention just one point in Industry department. Pu Speaker, I request the MNF General Secretary to return the Industry land site which had been allotted to him by the government. It is unjust to allot government's land site to private persons.

Taxation. Rates for certain items had been reduced by 4%. However, the rates of other items is still collected on basis of uniform floor rate. Pu Speaker, it is unwise to collect tax on uniform floor rate, it should be collected according to situation of the economy of the state. By reducing the rate, the volume does not decreases, but it increases.

Lastly, coming to Social Welfare, last year Planning department cut the state share of Rs. 37 lakhs for supplementary nutrition programme. Pu Speaker, I request the government to raise the fund allocation this year. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : It is now time for break. Meeting will resume at 2 : 00 P.M.

2 : 00 P.M.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will continue with the discussion.
Pu Lalhmingthanga.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I will start with Health & Family Welfare, Demand No. 24. After reviewed by the government, ICICI Lombard's contract had been terminated. It is a welcome gesture for the government employee's. However, ICICI Lombard had left pending works at various hospitals in the country. Above this, the people are facing problems in regard to pending bills. Thus I request the authorities to solve this problem as soon as possible.

Pu Speaker, Civil Hospital Aizawl is like a referral hospital for rural areas of the state. Likewise, Lunglei hospital is the same for Chhimituipui district. I would therefore request the government to equip the hospital in every department from this budget provision.

Demand No. 29 – Social Welfare. It is the responsibility of the department to look into the reservation of quota for qualified physically handicapped persons in acquiring employment. I would request the department to take step in this regard.

Geology & Mining Wing. It seems the central government had deployed exploration company to explore Mizoram if hydro carbon and natural gas is present. From their findings from satellite ultra-sound photograph, hydro carbon the potential of petroleum deposit and natural gas deposit is very high, the state is divided into three sections, each section's potential is enormous. Thus, I would like to request the hon'ble minister to give full details of the exploration and how the state government is expecting to take steps.

Higher and Technical Education - Demand No. 21. Pu Speaker, the present system and curriculum of Higher and Technical Education is not sufficient any longer for student to compete in national and inter-national level. Thus, I would suggest the government to take new policy/decision towards attaining this goal.

Regarding VAT, due to the favour of party workers, VAT for bulldozer, JCB etc had been reduced inspite of stating that, uniform floor rate cannot be altered. Thus, if VAT rates of such items can be reduced, the rates of other VAT items which have direct impact on the people should also be reviewed. If tax rate is rationalized the government does not lost from the total collection. The total collection amount will still increase. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now call hon'ble member Pu Liansuama.

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Dy. Speaker, Demand No. 24 – Health & Family Welfare Department. There is an increase of 70 crores in the plan budget for the department since it is for medical re-imburement and health services. I am grateful for the increased in the budget allocation.

I would like to request the hon'ble minister to fulfill the CHC provision made for Phuldungsei during this coming financial year.

Social Welfare Department is an important department as it deals from pregnant women to old age. I feel the budget allocation for the department is inadequate. Pu Speaker, the government should look into the case of stagnant officers who remain in the same post for 20 years. Will it be possible to up-grade their post to that of MCS who are of the same seniority. Further, if engineers are posted in Secretariat, why can't these officers' door be opened as well? The promotional scope of this department is too limited, Pu Speaker, I just wanted to mention this point in the House.

Pu Speaker, Budget allocation for Printing & Stationery, Art & Culture and Technical Education had been decreased. Why had the budget allocation for these departments decreased. It is a well known fact that additional fund had to be sanctioned in revised estimate. Pu Speaker, as a matter of fact, Technical Education department is a department which looks after the youth and future of Mizoram.

It is appreciating that the Budget allocation for Fisheries department had been increased by Rs. 10 lakhs. The potential of the department is high with a large scope. But it is amazing that inspite of mentioning many times by the members in regard to the market allocation for local fish farmers, it is disappointing that the government had not fulfilled seat allocation for local fish farmers till date. I would, therefore, request the hon'ble minister to look into the said matter in this new year.

Pu Speaker, there is a provision to pardon farmer loanees in central government's budget which was presented in February. Can this be extended to our ginger farmers loanees.

In regard to unit Industries, it is time we move out the unit Industries from the city to Industrial Estate, Zuangtui. Or else our city will very soon be similar to that of Kolkata Bakri Bazar.

Coming to Art & Culture. It is my opinion that top priority should be given to this department as it is the department which safeguards the culture and heritage of the state. Pu Speaker, I give my support and suggest that the budget is passed unanimously. Thank you.

PU H. LIANSILOVA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I will not be able to discuss all the department. I will try and point out certain points which I feel is important. Hon'ble members before me mentioned about the need to up-grade the remuneration of Excise department employees. I give my support and request the government to speed up the process in up-grading their remuneration.

From the speech delivered by the hon'ble members in regard to VAT collection, I presume that due to the system of collection of VAT, lower section of businessmen are facing problem which in turn had its impact on the people. Thus, I suggest the system of collection of VAT should be reviewed item wise, and ITC is still inapplicable in our state as there are hardly any businessmen who meet the terms and regulation of ITC.

Demand No. 24 - Health Department. Doctors have been showing agitation for quite sometime in regard to their cadre/post. I would like to thank the doctors for limiting their agitation keeping in view the problem that could arise for the patients. I sincerely pray that the government fulfill their demand.

Pu Speaker, as Nursing college had been up-graded, the government should speed up the process of filling up the Principal and lecturer post.

It is appreciating that a new Health Insurance Scheme had been introduced by the government. However, I would like to suggest that in regard to its implementing rules, the rules should be legislate in the House.

Pu Speaker, on my way to Lunglei, I visited Rawpui sub-centre. Party leaders have requested me to point out the condition of the sub-centre. I, therefore, request the department authorities to please take note that the sub-centre building needs immediate repair.

I would like to highlight few words in Industries department. Pu Speaker, in our state we should have Agro-forest based industries in order to utilize the local raw materials.

Lastly, from the media report I presume that there is an intention to bifurcate Information Technology and Industries Department. I would

suggest that the government adopt equal measure for the new and old employees. So as to become a productive department. Thank you.

PU SAIKAPTIANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today We are discussing three Ministers' demands. I will start from demand No. 7 - Excise. Due to non-existence of Excise department, the people of khawthlang area are facing great difficulty. In spite of my raising the issue several times, nothing had been done. However, lately from the information I received it seems that it had been discussed in the Cabinet meeting. I request that the issue be given priority and speed up the process.

Demand No. 35 - Fisheries Department, I have raised the issue of fish market for local fish farmers several times, Pu Speaker, if the matter is not given priority there could be misunderstanding between the local fish farmers and imported fish dealers. As a matter of fact, priority should be given to the local fish farmers as the product of local fish is growing. Further, I would like to request the government to make a quick decision in regard to privatization of fish farm.

Demand No. 40 - Industries, Pu Speaker, our concept in Industry department had remained narrow and rigid for quite sometime. It is time we review the IPL and take steps towards development in Industries department with our natural resource.

Demand No. 18 - Printing & Stationery. It is time the government come up with a decision to make use of Printing & Stationery department. If it is not possible for other department to purchase stationery goods from Printing & Stationery department, in my opinion it is time to concentrate on Printing.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I am pleased with the whole of demand No. 29 - Social Welfare. The various programmes under this department is worth giving praise, there may be loop hole here and there, other wise, it is worth giving praise. Last budget session, I requested for an additional Anganwadi centre, but we have not been given till date. I would, therefore, take this opportunity as a reminder.

Health & Family Welfare department. There is great improvement in this department. It is appreciating to learn about the health care scheme for rural area. As I give appreciation for the scheme, there is one more point I would like to highlight is that the cooperation of the various diagnostic centres and the doctors should be checked to safeguard the extra expenditure that could be incurred.

Pu Speaker, there are still many points I would like to highlight since there is no time left, lastly I would like to plead for district office at Mamit and Kolasib district as it is potential area. Thank you.

PU S. HIATO : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I will start with demand No. 7 - Excise department. In my constituency at the border of Burma, there is a memorial stone of two constables who had laid down their lives in an encounter with drugs peddlers. Pu Speaker, this department, inspite of being a tiny force had done a significant work to the extent of laying down their lives. But, lately we've heard of forgery cases like the Durtlang incident. I would request the minister to take up the case seriously and inform the House the names of persons involved during this session.

Art & Culture, Pu Speaker, it is pleasing that the department publishes books of writers from rural areas. But I would like to request the department to publish the different language spoken in Mizoram and not only Mizo language. Also, take step towards the safeguarding of custom & tradition among the youth.

Higher & Technical. Pu Speaker, I have mentioned about Saiha College building to the hon'ble minister from the beginning of his ministerhood and the answer I received had remain the same till date, that is the proposal is still with DONER. Further, I would like to request the hon'ble minister to grant the proposal that have been submitted for geography, commerce and public administration department for Saiha College. Also to fill up the five vacancy posts in Arts department.

Health & Family Welfare - Demand No. 24, National Rural Health Mission is worth mentioning. But it is unpleasing to mention that out of the 20 appointment of doctors on contract basis, non had been allocated for our PHC. Thus, it is hard for us to completely be happy. In regard to medical re-imburement and referred case, I request the hon'ble minister to take adequate steps to avoid misuse by official staff and party workers. Pu Dy. Speaker, in my constituency in Chhualung there is PHC staff quarters that was constructed in 1993. The building had remained vacant since then, but recently there are some occupants, however, it seems that they have received a notice to vacate the quarter. I would, therefore, request the hon'ble minister to look into the matter as it is better off to have an occupant for the maintenance of the building instead of keeping it vacant.

Regarding Malaria eradication, is there any alternative rather than DDT spray? Will it be possible to study what other states are using.

Since my time is over I will not ask for extra time. Thank you.

PU R. KHAWPUITHANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you, I will start with demand No. 24 - Health. First of all it is pleasing to note that Mizoram is among the topper as per India Today's list in Primary Health. Huge development had taken place in this department in terms of up-gradation of district hospitals and infrastructure.

Pu Dy. Speaker, as members have mentioned earlier the death rate due to cancer had gone up in Mizoram. It is appreciating that the department had given priority in this regard as various infrastructure had sprung up. But there is one point I would like to mention, that is, the department should organize awareness campaign among the people as to the cause of cancer.

Few words in Social Welfare department. I would like to thank for the 3% reservation for handicapped persons, and the Rs. 250/- allowance for handicapped.

Taxation - Demand No. 8, the revenue collection in VAT had increased gradually which is a significant sign. I would like to request the government to up-grade this department.

As mentioned earlier by members before me, I would like to request the hon'ble minister to give detail reports of investigation of Geology and Mining.

Higher & Technical Education, under this department there are 22 colleges and various institutions, 12 colleges had been provincialised. Pu Dy. Speaker, in order to promote student to obtain Ph. D, M. Phil degrees incentive cash award/stipend should be increased and the fund allocation for the purpose should also be raised.

Demand No. 23 - Art & Culture, this department up-hold the custom and tradition of the state. It is also the department which safeguards the unity and integrity of the Mizo tribe.

PU H. ROHLUNA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. First of all I would like to speak about demand No. 75, my unstarred question was- what is the capital expenditure of ZOHANCO and the answer was – Rs. 180.83. Pu Dy. Speaker, it is unbelievable. If this is not correct I would request for a corrigendum. In my opinion, step had to be taken as to why this corporation is not making profit. Pu Dy. Speaker, from the information I received the staff of ZOHANCO had not received their pay for February.

I would like to move on to Mizoram KVI Board. I feel that the system of margin money through MKVIB & KVI needs rectification as there is some embezzlement of fund. Pu Dy. Speaker, under REGP, market lineage scheme also

needs proper supervision. I would request the hon'ble minister to clarify to whom the oil-palm machine at Saitual belongs.

Demand No. 7 - Excise, in regard to Excise constable remuneration, the hon'ble minister mentioned that it is under active consideration, I resume that by next session it will be accomplished. Pu Dy. Speaker, I would like to request for Excise outpost at Ngopa which is Manipur border. I would also like to point out that the Excise department needs better equipment and facilities.

Demand No. 24 - Health. I would like to thank for Public Health Care Scheme, however, I would suggest that the system of its implementation should be legislated.

Regarding Rabung PHC, it is taken care of by a lone pharmacist, I, therefore, would like to request for a doctor and a health supervisor. Will it be possible to attach a specialist doctor in CHC though it may not meet the norms?

Social Welfare Department is the nodal department for 'The Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Recognition of Forest Right Act, 2006. As we are aware there are LSC, periodic patta, and village council pass within forest area, thus the people are facing problem due to this reason. As per order from the Ministry of Environment & Forest, no land settlement certificate/land settlement pass shall be valid on any forest area. Therefore, it is only the scheduled tribe Act which can rectify. So, Social Welfare department being the nodal department should act to solve the problem in coordination with Forest and Land Revenue Department.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Demand No. 35 - Fisheries Department. We are at a verge of attaining self sufficiency in fish production. Mamit district is the most potential area in fish farming. Thus, I would like to request the government for district fisheries, and if possible a cold storage be installed in different areas for fish farmers to store their fish.

Demand No. 7 - Excise & Narcotic. I would like to ask if it will be possible to create Excise out post in Mamit.

Demand No. 40 - Industries Department. I thank the hon'ble minister and Chief Minister for their able guidance. It is due to their effort that ginger loanees under ZIDCO are pardoned. Besides the ginger loanees, all loanees before 1997 are pardoned of the interest of their loans. Pu Speaker, the people are happy and so is the opposition members.

Demand No.29,it is appreciating that physically handicapped persons are given assistance at the rate of Rs 250 and apart from this, old age pension allowance which had been raised from Rs.100 to Rs.250 is indeed fortunate to have a govt who look into every detail of the welfare of the people .

In Health deptt it is appreciating for the rural areas that an additional 57 PHC, 366 sub-centers and 45 sub-center clinic had been completed . I would like to thank for the posting of health worker in the rural areas according to the population of the village. Also, the recruitment of 412 health workers, 4 specialists, 22 medical officers and 10 Ayush doctors under National Rural Health Mission . Pu Speaker, it is also worth mentioning that our hospitals are now well equipped, we cannot expect an over night development, thus the development that had occurred in Health department is extensive compared to the past 10yrs. Therefore, the opposition bench should also join hands in giving appreciation and passing the 3 demands. Thank you.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Demand No. 29 - Social Welfare Department. The staff of Social Welfare Department are worth giving praise for the various achievements attained by the department. However, there is one point I would like to highlight, we have just heard members speaking about physically handicapped persons. Pu Speaker, if we look at central level,at last year State Commissioners' meeting the mercy shown at physically handicapped persons in other state is much higher than Christian state of Mizoram. The percentage of employment allotment is above 3%. The table is laid out in other state such as Commissioner, Joint Commissioner and several assistant. As we are aware the promotional channel in Social Welfare department is limited. Pu Speaker, at least Jt. Commissioner level should be created for physically handicapped persons. The hon'ble minister may be aware of this but I wanted to highlight the point since I feel it is very important.

Fisheries department. After I personally surveyed the market I discover that 10,000 qtls of fish is imported from Andhra Pradesh per annum. Which means 10 crores is invested. Pu Speaker, the government should take step towards upgrading the farmers. Budget allocation for the department should also be increased in the coming financial year as the potential is high.

Almost all the members spoke about Excise, as we are all aware their work is heavy as we have heard. I request the minister to agree without any hesitation.

Pu Speaker, the budget allocation for Higher & Technical Education is too meagre. When the National Accredited and Assessment Council visited Mizoram, they stretched on our lack of infrastructure. The student lacks facilities due to unavailability of fund. The government should give its thought in this matter.

Industries Department, I regret to state that there is no progress in this department. I feel that this had to do to a certain extend that the Chief Minister hold too many departments under his portfolio.

Health Department - Demand No. 24, I would like to praise the Civil Hospital staff for their dedication and hard work. Why had the tender for the supply of materials not been allotted to the lowest tenderer which was approved by the Departmental Purchase Advisory Board? Pu Speaker, Mr. Ravi Arora was given the supply. MZP had warned the said Non-Mizo supplier for supplying an inferior quality product to Higher Education, also, the youth front of the ruling party. However, the hon'ble minister seems to protect this supplier. Infact, the water filter of the hon'ble minister,s swimming pool is constructed by the said supplier. Pu Speaker, it is unfair and unjust that a non paying tax supplier is being protected by the minister.

Lastly, the appointment of lecturers in Higher Education last year on contract basis was according to the required qualification and norms. Therefore, will it be possible to confirm these lecturers? Thank you.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Pu Speaker, Demand No. 24 – Health Department, the service delivered by the department is amazing, it is worth mentioning that in the year 2004 there were 26 PHC without a doctor. Pu Speaker, it is now reduced to 6 PHC.

The implementation of National Rural Health Mission is also quite remarkable. The rural people benefited from the National Rural Health Mission like the placing of specialist doctors, Health worker at every sub-centre. Above this, it is pleasing that the rural people will now be able to make MR bill. Also, under NRHM doctors are able to attend to emergency duties at rural are by vehicles provided by NRHM. The patients have the privilege of attending city hospital.

I would like to request the hon'ble Health Minister to give priority to regularization of nurses employed on contract basis.

Demand No. 8 – Taxation. It is pleasing to know that the tax revenue is increasing each year. It is my believe that if the people realizes the importance of tax, the development of the state will gradually be stable.

Fisheries Department, Pu Speaker, it is unjust that we encourage fish farming and unable to provide fish market for local fish farmers at government market buildings.

Pu Speaker, Demand No. 21 - Higher & Education – Due to the effort and hard work of the minister and staff, 12 colleges had been provincialised. It

is indeed a great achievement. I would also like to thank for ICFAI institution as it broadens the horizon of our youth. There is a point I would like to highlight in regard to Post-Matric Scholarship. Pu Speaker, the system needs to be monitored strictly. Otherwise, it is inculcation of corruption among the students.

There is one more point I would like to highlight in Higher & Technical Education. It is essential that proper research is done as to who are our ancestors.

S P E A K E R : Pu H. Vanlalthaliana.

PU H. VANLALTHALIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today we are discussing three ministers' demand. I will start with demand No.11-SAD. Secretariat building, at New Capital Complex is completed. I visited the buildings it is indeed a great achievement. With the completion of the building, the government will save Rs.17,18,052 lakhs which it invest for house rent. The said amount can now be implemented for other meaningful purpose.

Demand No - 24 Health & Family Welfare. The various developmental programmes that had arised in the department is praise worthy specially the medical re-imbursement for non-government servants. Pu Speaker, we are very grateful for the blood bank in Lawngtlai hospital, we no longer have to go to Lunglei hospital for blood requirement. I thank the hon'ble minister and the department. Meanwhile, there is one point of grievances in regard to nurse day-off. The day-off had been reduced from 8 days to 4 days. I request the hon'ble minister if this could be reviewed. I would like to thank for the 17 ambulance for all the district and 9 CHC.

Demand 29 – Social Welfare Department. Pu Speaker, with your favour we have visited Delhi for various seminars. At these seminars child welfare and motherhood is given top priority. Thus, this department should be given priority in all respects. The government should look after the welfare of the staff and the various requirements. In fact we are among the top in N.E in Social Welfare Department. I would like to thank the staff for the effort they have rendered for the implementation of the various duties and programmes.

Demand No. 8 - Taxation Department. It is appreciating to observe the various developments that had sprung up inspite of being a young department. With the introduction of VAT the revenue figure had swelled up. To be a responsible citizen one had to pay tax as it is the duty of a citizen. I would like to thank for the district office at Lawngtlai. It solved various problems faced by the people. Pu Speaker, due to certain reasons there is some problems in regard to VAT

collection. I, however believe that there will be improvement soon due to sincere efforts made by the department authorities.

Coming to Fisheries Department, the potential is high plus the people are keen in fish farming. Last year, with the help of BAFFACOS there was great improvement in fish farming. Pu Speaker, it is unfortunate that the department does not have a full fledged Director. If this department functions under its own Director I believe there will be better improvement in the department. I would like to request the authorities to take note that Lawngtlai is potential area as is Kolasib and Mamit district.

Industries, first of all I would like to thank for the IT wing. Under the able minister I expect various corporations will revive. If that is warning bell I will move on to the next demand, i.e, Higher & Technical Education. I thank for the 12 colleges that had been provincialised. Also, the institution of NAC for quality control.

Lastly, I request the authorities to review the remuneration of Excise & Narcotic Department staff. With this I request that these demands be passed. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Pu D. Thangliana

PU D. THANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I will start with Taxation Department. This department is revenue earning department, thus it is required to equip properly. I just want to highlight that this department is worth giving praise for the huge raise in revenue.

Fisheries, as we have heard is to attain self sufficiency in fish product and the department took enormous step. Khawthlang (western area) members highlighted that khawthlang had great potential but I would also like to point out that khawchhak (eastern area) too is potential area in fish production. Pu Speaker, the fund allocation is too meagre thus additional fund allocation is required for the department. Further, the government should provide fish market for local fish product.

I find it very pleasing that we have all given importance to Excise Department i.e. Demand No.7. Our Excise force have been working day and night to check narcotics and they maintain a good co-operation with the YMA and NGO as well and considering the efforts they gave in their work, I think they deserve a raise in their salary as well.

Social Welfare Department i.e. Demand No.29 is very important. It is a department that takes care of child from a mother's womb till their death. The staffs and officer's dedication in their work shapes the environment of our community and also helps to decrease the rate of miscarriage. People from rural areas also received medical aids from them. So, it is important to give more attention to the administration of this department and tend to their needs for the betterment.

Developments made by Health Department is also very remarkable. They have upgraded the district hospital and if development could start from the rural areas, people living at the border could have more advantage. Health Sub-Centre had also been constructed at Lungkawlh but the workers are not provided with quarters and it is hard for them to remain in their post without it, so, I kindly beg the government to fulfill this requirement and the steps they have taken regarding medical re-imburement is also very remarkable.

Steps they have taken for prevention of malaria is also very effective. Their fight against cancer is also very remarkable and we hope that cancer detecting equipment will be provided to us at the earliest. Thank you Mr.Speaker.

PU A.B.CHAKMA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to highlight a few points regarding Demand No.24 – Health & Family Welfare Department Chawngte is a malaria prone area and we have one Community Health Care Centre (CHC) manned with one doctor and staffs. Due to different programmes organized by the department, the death rate due to malaria is also decreasing 10,560 nos of people infected with malaria were detected in the year 2006 and this was decreased by 60% in the year 2007 having found only 6320 nos of people infected with malaria. Apart from malaria we also face problems with jaundice since many people are infected with it. Since we are not equipped with blood storage facility, we have to go all the way to Lunglei and sometimes we face transportation problems and due to this many lost their lives. If trainings could be conducted by doctors for the proper storage of blood, we will be able to save many lives. So, I want our minister to give importance and solve this matter.

We are also equipped with X-ray machine with a technician but our machine is not working for quite a long time. So, I kindly request the hon'ble minister to replace our X-ray machine.

Apart from these, they have also placed two oxygen and if trainings could be conducted for one or two day, they will be able to operate it. Now, we have one Sumo Ambulance in CHC and it will definitely prove to be very convenient for us.

Our Health Workers under Health Department do not enjoy the advantage of promotion and they render their service in the same post for 27/28 years.

If possible I think the government should look into this matter and create a chance for them for their promotion.

Increasing the old age pension from Rs.100 – Rs.250 by Social Welfare Department is indeed very remarkable. It may sound petty but the walls of our Anganwadi centre is made of an GCI sheet and in a hot temperature like Chawngte, it is unfearable. So, next time if Anganwadi centre is constructed, I hope tiles or a plank of wood would be used instead of a GCI sheet.

We are thankful to our minister for putting our private college at a deficit status.

Our college building is Assam type building with a small capacity and it is also in short of rooms. We will be grateful if the government could extend the building, or reconstruct it with 2 or 3 more rooms. Beside these, we are not manned with enough lecturers as well. Though only an art stream, our subject is quite limited and the demand for other subjects are growing higher. Since we are equipped with only one English Lecturer, I kindly request the hon'ble minister to provide us more English lecturer. Thank you, Mr.Speaker.

S P E A K E R : We still have few minutes left, would anyone care to say a few more words?
Mr. Lal Thanhawla.

P U L A L T H A N H A W L A : Mr. Speaker, members of the ruling party have conveyed their gratitude to the Social Welfare Department but I have inquired about it to our MLA's and they do not receive or enjoy the kind of advantage that the ruling party MLA's have mentioned.

Though not mentioned in India Today, department like Fisheries, Sericulture and Co-operation are very important and they have no doubt made a development. At the same time our local fisheries are growing and we must give importance to the marketing place and I support the hon'ble member in this regard.

We are dealing with Drugs in the Excise & Narcotic Department and I suggest that the disposal of these seized narcotics should be verified by our officers. At the sametime, decreasing the pay structure of the Excise Department lower than the Fire Service or the Police is indeed very discouraging since they enjoy the same advantages before. So, I request the government to restore the status of the Excise Department again. Apart from these, help should be rendered

to different NGO's like YMA and others since they contribute a great deal in decreasing narcotics in our state.

Furthermore, when Boot-legger's are arrested, instead of putting the real culprit in jail, they send others in their place and action should be taken in this regard.

Mr.Speaker, regarding Taxation, VAT is no doubt a good source for the government and is practiced by 120 countries. But our procedure for VAT in Mizoram is unacceptable. We are taking VAT from imported goods which creates problems both for the businessmen and us consumers. Considering our status it is best that we practice taking conventional sales tax which will definitely be less taxing for the people.

The administration of our Nursing college should also be revised as this effects their standards.

Mr.Speaker, we have received a huge amount of sanction from National Health Mission and if these sanction is utilized properly, we will no doubt have a progress in our health condition. The hon'ble Minister had also taken a keen interest in making Mizoram a free tobacco zone. Signs of prohibition could be seen in different corners but in public places like our hospitals people smoking could be seen in different corners. So, prohibition laws should be enforced more strictly. Our doctors should be ready and willing to conduct an awareness in health matters as well. Serchhip district have the highest rate of cancer and this shows our status of health which is indeed very low. Mr.Speaker, let this be a reminder to the department to take steps in this regard.

Though there are many doctors who are very dedicated to their work, there are some who are devoted to their part time jobs rather than fulfilling their duties as a government servant. Though the service they render may be useful to the upper class families, the need for their service is much higher by the lower class. So, this should be amended and steps should be taken for improvement in this regard.

Mr.Speaker, considering the amount of expenditure we have used for Falkawn Referral Hospital, our utilization of the said hospital is not in proportion to our fund. I have a record of the expenditure here with me.

Though we have many doctors who are devoted to their work and duty, in some cases there are doctors who give more time and attention to their part time job in other private hospitals. The service they render may be very useful but the majority of the people who are in need of their service are commoners and lower class people who cannot afford private hospitals. In this regard the Government should take steps and measures to improve this.

Mr Speaker, a huge amount of sanction had been utilized for the construction of a Referral Hospital at Falkawn and we are aware of the fact that such a hospital will prove to be a treasure for our state as well. I have here with me the Bill highlighting the expenditure and it is unfortunate that such amount had been wasted since the sanction had been wrongly utilized.

Apart from these, the disappearance of OPD at Aizawl is not surprising at all. I heard from reliable sources that the estimated sanction for the building amounts to Rs 371 lakhs and the contractor is Mr Sapnela and Mr H.Sangchhunga of Vaivakawn who did the work of construction and the real owner is Mr Hranglawma and his friend. While the estimated bill amounts to Rs 371 lakhs their actual bill amounts to Rs 236 crore, so it is clear that even before the construction work starts Rs 135 lakhs had been lost. Such is our condition that it is impossible for us to expect satisfactory results. While questioning the doctors by the press in this regard it is shameful for those who have the feeling of ownership. So, it is clear that this matter had to be cleared and action had to be taken.

Mr Speaker, policy for reservations of physically challenged people had been practised in India but this policy had not been practised in our state. At this time the Supreme Court had given directive to this policy and this had to be practised in every state in India. In the meantime it is unfortunate that we are still facing problems in recruiting Vety doctors. This policy had been practised in different parts of the world and even in public places the government made arrangements for physically challenged people to suit their convenience even in public toilets and it is unacceptable that we are still discriminating them because of their disability.

We have also made development in different areas in the Industries Department. Mr Speaker, regarding the discovery of natural resources, it is fortunate that the true owner, the Central Government called for a global tender and during our times we hired the ONGC and they inspect Vairengte, Thingdawl and Aizawl West area, and it was planned that inspection should be made at Bukpui and the nearby areas but this plan was not carried out after we cease to hold the government. Regarding this, I expect and ask the government to facilitate them in any ground so that development could be achieved in greater measures. Mr Speaker, I would like to request the Government to be on alert to whatever obstacles may arise in their way and be well prepared for it. Thank you.

SPEAKER

: We will now have a short recess and we will resume our sitting at 5:15 P.M.

5: 15 P.M.

SPEAKER : Will anyone care to say a few more?
Mr. Lalduhawma.

PU LALDUHAWMA : Mr Speaker, I want to highlight a point or two in the Industries Department. As we have heard earlier, Industry land owned by the Department at Lungmual West area had been given to 255 number of people for the construction of their own houses. It is indeed fortunate that these lands are given to the people who are really in need of it like retired Reverend etc. At the same time, while there exist industries like Weaving Training Centre, it is surprising that this land is given to one MNF Party leader and it is clear that we all feel discontented in this conclusion.

We are now exploring our natural resources hiring prominent Oil and Gas Companies and it is our duty to promote them in any possible way. It is a must to put them in a separate Directorate but for the time being, chances of promotion are very low. But in the near future it will no doubt prove to be a department to promote us economically. While development is in the process and while our hopes are high, it is unfortunate that the estimated budget this year is slightly more than fifty percent of last year budget.

I will now move on to demand on Health Department. Convicts from Police Department sometimes get sick and when their conditions get critical and had to be admitted in the hospital, it is not a pleasant sight for other patients to see their fellow ward mate to be guarded by police carrying their weapons. So, I request the government to make a different ward for them.

I have asked a question regarding DDT and the reply was, "It is now rejected in different parts of the world as it is believed to cause cancer, and have the case been studied?" and the answer was not specific and now we have keen interest in using DDT once again. I, therefore, request the government, hiring efficient resource persons to give us an awareness on the use of DDT. We also find different slogans for public notice and if it proved to be hazardous we will no doubt make a very big mistake. If India Today wrote that it is hazardous it is the duty of the government to ban the use of DDT. It now looks like we are using India Today as our official document with our Governor.

A construction committee was formed under the chairmanship of our Minister and we are all excited to know the kind of progress they are making and what steps needs to be taken as it had already been one year.

Apart from these, different departments have a separate budget for medical treatment and the estimated budget for SAD in their medical treatment alone amounts to Rs 40 crore. Considering the number of employees they have, I was wondering if they made a mistake in their budget and I hope that this will be reconsidered as I believe that this amount is not proportionate to the number of employees.

I also want to comment regarding Ravi Arora. He had supplied Science equipment and had a bad name in his process and even the MZP had destroyed his car. And the youth of MNF had given him a tough instruction as well. He was also put to jail for stealing his partner's documents with whom he worked. Even in such critical conditions he can still supply goods amounting to crores in the Health Department and it hurts the students because they have a strong believe that he and our ministers are close acquaintances, and there are rumours that he provided our minister with different goods and I believe that this kind of rumours needs to be cleared. And I request the Govt. to clear the situation by telling us if he paid taxes as well.

10 years back, in 1998 Election Manifesto, our Ruling Party had a manifesto stating that BPL members will be free of charge in Medical treatment. We are now in the running 10th year. I also have asked questions in this regard and my questions was, ' Shall we have Universal Health Insurance Scheme like GOI under the New India Insurance Company?' and their answer was, ' No, but we have a better plan under NRHM.' We have waited for 9 whole years and this project could be put into action if they wanted to but it looks like this was not carried out simply because they neglected it and only brought up the project again only in the near end of their term. We could also think that they are only using this project as a bait to look for a vote. Under the Universal Health Insurance Scheme rent for room, mess fee, the fares for getting to the hospital can be billed again. For BPL family premium subsidy will be provided by the Government under the scheme called Health Insurance for poor families (Swasthya Bhima Policy). Bajaj Alliance Insurance Company have 500 branches in India and Aizawl is also among them. They offer different policies and Health Guard Policy is also among them and in this policy 60 days before and 90 days after being hospitalized can be included in the bill. Ailments like Cancer, Lung problem, Paralysis are included in their critical illness policy on the condition that the person produce documents proving that he/ she is infected. They also offer Silver Health Policy and this is for the elderly. Star package policy is also available and in this policy, after the father paid the premium the mother had to pay only 50% and their children had to pay 25% only. Our main concern should be which policy should we buy and which should suit our convenience.

Mr Speaker, I want to highlight a few things about Ayush and it is my believe that medicinal herbs which we find in Mizoram will prove to be very useful for us. 32 nos of medicinal plants have been approved by the Central Board for plantation in Mizoram but none of the herbs have been planted yet, in the meantime financial aid had been given to 17 NGO's and private planters. If such amount is not utilized for planting these herbs what is the purpose of giving them financial aid. Way back in the year 2006 the Central Minister sent a letter to our Chief Minister stating

that, 'Ayush under the NRHM is the key strategy and we will provide 100% financial assistance and you must have a different Directorate. Why had the utilization certificate of 2002 not been submitted? If you do not set up a Health Society you will not be assisted financially, open a separate account.' After a while the Health Secretary sent a letter to our Chief Secretary saying that he was summoned before the PAC and Parliamentary Standing Committee because of our late submission of U.C and for not updating your register, he was scolded and that we must make haste in submitting our register and our U.C as well. We should also man ourself with a full time Director and if we do they will provide us with a one time grant and we must also submit all our requirements as well.

After a short while the Director sent a note to the Principal Secretary stating that Utilization Certificate had not been submitted between the year 2000 – 2008 and attached the actual amount which is Rs 4,27,50,000/-. Have they submitted the new proposal demanded by the Director as well.

The Joint Secretary made an order to organize a Licensing Authority and they did. In the meantime we see lots of people marketing homemade herbal medicine. It is mandatory to control the quality and to provide them with a license. Since we have a Drug Testing Laboratory, have these herbal medicines under go our Drug Testing Laboratory. Is the rumour true that Allopathic medicines are tested in our laboratory? If so, there is a huge amount of sanction for this under the NRHM and I appeal the Government to increase the tempo of their work in this regard. Thank you.

PU K.VANLALAUVA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a lot of demands to discuss but since our time is limited I will highlight only a few. I want to emphasize on Demand No.7 – Excise & Narcotics Department. I trust that this department is worth taking care of in the best possible way and in the meantime, they must also equipped and polish themselves to the best possible manner.

In the Excise Department, they have an efficient female badminton player but she usually participates under the name of other departments and I believe that the Excise Department should also recruit staffs in terms of their competence in sports.

Secondly, Demand No.24, the disappearance of OPD proved that this is only a tall tale and that this OPD does not disappear at all.

I also suggest that parking place should be constructed opposite to the Casualty ward and I believe two floors could be used for parking lot and I trust that the expenditure for this could be included in the demand which amounts to 156

crore,99 lakhs forty five thousand. On the bank of river Tiau, construction of PHC building had been completed and is unoccupied. But in this new term I hope this building could be occupied before we hurt the feelings of our people and this is also needed by the constituency of Khawbung.

Demand No 23 - The Art & Culture Department which is considered to be a small department is actually the only department which highlights our true cultural heritage to India and different parts of the world. So, I think it is wise to permit them to do what they want and provide them with whatever demands they have. The people of Khawbung are also pleased to know that the Department plans to renovate the local museum as well.

Lastly, Demand No-18, i.e Printing & Stationery is not a large department but the government set up this department so that every government department could acquire their stationery needs from this branch and the fact that it owned a press and a four colour printer is indeed a pride for the government. Since this branch is set up by the government with the intension to earn revenue for the state, I believe that we should give importance in purchasing stationery goods from this sector.

Mr Speaker, last but not the least, Demand No.29 - Social Welfare Department. Is the Director of this Department still taking charge only, if he is, I suggest that he is given a regular appointment in his post. They are the department who takes care of different NGO`s and without their recommendation in the Central Department it is impossible to set up any kind of Homes which foster drug users, etc. There are certain works which could only be done by female and some which could only be carried out by males. So, they carry out their duties as desired and necessary. They may have many setbacks but the way they carry through their work is remarkable and I believe that this department needs attention they truly deserves.

SPEAKER : Since most of us have highlighted our Demands, I will now request the Minister to wind up and request the House to pass his Demand. I will now call upon the Hon`ble Minister Mr Tlanghmingthanga.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Thank you, Mr Speaker. First I want
MINISTER to thank the hon`ble Speaker for keeping
a pleasant environment under his calm
chairmanship. Mr. Speaker, since our
time is limited I will speak of only some important points.

Firstly, on Demand No.29 - Social Welfare Department. The main objective is to look after the people in the society concerning human development. The department takes care of people from the mother`s womb till their grave. I am also pleased to hear that my fellow members give great importance to physically challenged people and at the same time it is hard for us to be efficient in every aspect since it covers a very wide area. The ICDS Project under the Central Programme is still operating smoothly and under this programme nutrition is regularly provided from 0 – 3 months but we are expected to provide nutrition from 0- 6 months and this is very tough for us yet, we are improving to achieve this target step by step. In the meantime our position in this case is still better than our neighbouring states. I also want to mention that we are among the best in India in carrying out this nutrition programme till date from the year 2001 – 2002.

Under the Welfare of Women we have a programme called Socio Economic Programme for Poor & Destitute women and under this women are trained to become skilled in different trades like tailoring, weaving etc under the Residential Training Institute for Distress Women. Apart from these we have SYAMSIDHA involving about 10 women working for the betterment of the society. This programme is carried out in different districts like Lunglei, Serchhip and Thingdawl Block and more than 300 Self Help Group had been organized and they take steps in being dependant on themselves and they are looked after by The Steering Committee and District level Steering Committee. We are still engaging The Women Commission which started in the year 1997 and for this we have passed a Women Commission Bill and we are in the process of transcribing its Rules. We are also starting a project called Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act in our state. Protection Officer are posted in different districts and they are also helped by different voluntary NGO`s like YWCA, Fernando Integrated Women Development etc. Under the Child Welfare Committee Pre –school and Creche Day Care Centre are set up and we have more than 38 centres. And we provide financial aid to 20 different orphanage .

Following the advice and under the supervision of the Central Government, Adoption Cell had been set up under the supervision of Social Welfare Department whose main objective is to protect the welfare of the child and adoption is permitted only on condition that the foster parents want to develop and protect the welfare of the child. Under the Welfare of Handicapped, grant is provided to 810 number of physically challenged children and artificial limbs are also provided to 40 number of students.

Disability Pension is provided to 200 people at the rate of Rs 250/- per month. They are provided these pension under the condition that if they are not provided a job after two years of their registration , they are permitted to enjoy the Disability Pension.

Handicapped Training Centre is set up for physically challenged people and under this center, they are trained to learn different skills like tailoring, weaving etc. And notification had been given under DP & AR stating that under Group ABCD 3% is reserved for physically challenged people. In the month of Nov, 2007 DP & AR came to learn about PWD Act, exercised in 1996 and reminder order was given to different departments notifying that advertisements should be made for reservation of vacant post for physically challenged people.

Juvenile Special Remand Home is set up for children committing crimes who are under age and this kind of Home is also set up at Lunglei and the construction for Shelter Home is still going on.

Earlier under the ICDS, we have 21 projects which had now increased to 23 projects. We are now supervising 1682 nos of Anganwadi Training Centre and we hope to set up more in the near future. Grant-in-Aid for voluntary had gone down and we hope to increase this in the present year. Under the Tribal Welfare, Article 275 sub section – 1, we construct drains, steps and bridges etc. Apart from these, to uplift the people from rural areas, using Israel technology we construct a High-Tech Green House in collaboration with Horticulture Department which amounts to Rs 60 crores in the valley of Chite. Vocational Training Centre is also set up at Kolasib, Serchhip, Champhai, Lunglei and Saiha. In these centres, training is conducted in such a way that they can depend on their skills to meet their economic needs. From the grant we received from Tribal Affairs, Aclavia Model Residential School Centre is set up in Lunglei for BPL family. This is for children who cannot attend schools and hostel is also provided free of charge. That's all I want to point out from the Social Welfare Department.

In Health Department, we have note down different important points and under this department we have upgraded our hospitals. We have 26 hospitals in different villages and some of them are not even manned with one doctor. Even in Aizawl Hospital we are in lack of sufficient manpower and as our need for them is increasing, it is impossible to transfer them. There are many obstacles we faced in this regard, so, with the approval of our Chief Minister and Finance Department, 55 vacant post of doctors (Specialists) are created as permitted by the Central government. Last year, there are 55 specialists who are post graduate but are unable to fill the post of specialist and have served as M.O for about 10 years, taking this as an advantage we created 55 nos of post. Fortunately, the Central Government dissolve the restriction of post creation and with the approval of the Cabinet, 55 nos of post was created and after the creation of this post our P.G Degree holders who are working as M.O will be promoted and as permitted by the Cabinet, 5 new regular post will be vacant. If 55 along with another 5 vacant posts are filled up, we will have

110 doctors. We hope we could promote more than 50% of them. And the resultant vacancy will be filled by M.O on regular basis.

Under the Rural Health Mission we have engaged many doctors in rural areas and those who are working under this project may have advantage in the recruitment of M.O. And like doctors we are also in lack of nurses in CHC, it is in the norms that it should be manned with 4 doctors and due to our lack of sufficient manpower we are unable to abide by this law. Last year, 26 nos of Allopathic doctors were recruited however as we have to go by the norms of the Central Government, we are unable to post our newly recruited doctors in PHC. Now we have only 6 hospitals where the post of doctors are lying vacant. As mentioned earlier, we are also in lack of nurses and this I believe is mainly because of the number of days they are entitled to have day – off and so arrangements are made to suit the needs of the hospital, in the meantime different departments are set up and from a few days back operation had to be done in alternate days in departments like ENT and OPD, so, after the arrangements of the duty of our nurses operations could be conducted regularly. To suit our convenience we have cut down the number of day – off our nurses have, i.e from 8 days to 4 days which is still more than other states and at the same time we also provide them with nursing allowances.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr Speaker,for your clarification please, the number of their days-off which had been decreased to 4 days does not make much difference from their 8 days – off. They make arrangements among themselves and if their working hours are also increased they do not mind much. So, the rules which are favoured by them was said to be unseen which I do not believe. There is a Secretary`s order in this regard, so, will you grant them again? I also want to request the hon`ble Minister on their behalf as well. If not, our fellow members who will occupy his seat later will no doubt grant them.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : The hon`ble member said that nurses
MINISTER came to him and that he agreed to grant their wish when they come to power. That is one kind of corruption because he is trying to win their vote and favour by making such commitment.

- SPEAKER : He seems like he is going to stand his ground. So, let it be done if there comes a chance to exchange your seats.
- PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : We are not trying to treat our nurses who take care of our patients less than what they deserve. But we are stressing on the advantages that our patient will enjoy if our nurses have less day – off.
- PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Decreasing the nurses day-off does not lead to better equipments or treatments at the hospital, when their duties are carried out without satisfaction, the patients suffer.
- PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Mr. Speaker please, there seems to be less chance for the members to react. If such are the conditions, had the CHC of Khawzawl been up-graded? Will 4 doctors be posted?
- PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Mr Speaker, we plan to up grade CHC and I already made my points clear and I announced that last year. (Mr. Andrew : It had been mentioned in the year 2000 but steps had not been taken in this matter) I do not know who had mentioned that in the House, but I know that I made my statements last year only. And now steps had been taken in this regard.
- PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Mr Speaker, please, I request the hon'ble Minister not to stand on his ground because our nurses carry out their duty with ache in their hearts.

PU TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker, if they are disappointed they will come to me with their grievances.

SPEAKER : This is an Assembly House, have respect for the House and address the Chairperson.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Mr Speaker, our nurses came to me with their grievances and I told them to take the matter to the officials which they did and the officials had come up with some arrangements. Regarding Malaria control, in the year 2006 the number of infected with malaria are 16050 and in the year 2007, it had decreased to 6320 which means the percentage goes down to 60 %.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker, before our Minister move on to other subjects, how are they going to react regarding the renovation of Lunglei Hospital which I had mentioned earlier.? What about the credit by ICICI Lombard and the problems regarding cash credit facilities at Vellore and Mumbai Cancer Institute, how will the Government solve the problem?

PU LALDUHAWMA : Mr. Speaker, problem was not caused or made by the MLA of Khawzawl constituency regarding the land bought for Khawzawl Hospital. Two of our Ministers wanted to change the place of the Hospital which was opposed by the people of Khawzawl. Now the respected MLA of Khawzawl Constituency takes steps so that Hospitals could be constructed in a larger and better area. If our opposition leaders could shift the Hospital in the same place, why not leave it in their hands?

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker, the people went to the
MINISTER Health and Horticulture Minister and they made arrangements, but our experts inspected the area and said that it was impossible to construct Hospital in the area and that the place would only be adequate for PHC. So, the V.C and other leaders concluded that the hospital should be shift back to the former place and if it could be done, we discussed about how steps could be taken in this regard, and I hope work could be started in the place of the old CHC. Furthermore, I am putting this as my priority and earmark about Rs 345 lakhs.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Mr. Speaker, please we have mentioned Kawnpui PHC in every Session in the House and had it been up-graded?

SPEAKER : Silence please, if you want to highlight points from our discussions, do repeat it. But do not ask questions which came up from the present discussions. While we are discussing hospitals, would it be convenient to discuss Lunglei Hospital ?

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Yes, Mr Speaker, as mentioned by the
MINISTER hon'ble MLA I have high hopes and the Medical Superintendent gave order to put the A/C at a higher level which was not in the plans of the PWD,so, I gave directions from here and the officers of PWD finished the work after we discussed the situation. (Mr Lalhmingthanga : Do they provide them with better equipments and manned them with Specialist Doctors, what about the credit at ICICI Lombard) Mr Speaker, we are giving priority to develop the Hospital and for that there is an upgradation scheme and we chose Lunglei for the implementation of the scheme.

Regarding ICICI Lombard, they stated that there are many things which they believe should be done and cleared by the Government and if these things are not cleared, they will not accept cases referred by the Government. Our Department heads from the Finance Department are still in contact with the ICICI Lombard and we are also taking steps in this regard and at the same time we also want the single window clearance. They said that they did not want to give credit opportunity because when patients from different departments get treatment, they neglect to pay their bill and we are also taking steps in this regard as well Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, we mentioned different topics like Ayush, our nurses and we had submitted the Utilization Certificate of our Drug Testing Laboratory and under the wing of Ayush we had sanctioned Rs 350 lakhs and Rs 125 lakhs had been given and Rs 122 lakhs is still left.

Staffs and experts should be recruited at the Drug Testing Laboratory and we recruited 20 nos of Ayush doctors and they are posted in different districts. We are operating on laboratories where they could carry out their work and other office establishment.

Regarding Blindness Control, steps are taken to put the Wing in Civil Hospital Building to suit the convenience of eye donors and training will be attended by our staffs in this regard. We also organized blindness camps and I will conclude by stating that we have developed in the field of Ayurvedic and Punavi sita Homeopathic Aryas.

PU LALDUHAWMA : Mr. Speaker, can the hon`ble Minister tell us if the pending Utilization Certificate amounting to more than four crores been cleared?

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker, I do not know any pending utilization but since the hon`ble member had mentioned it, I will check on it.

PU LALDUHAWMA : Mr. Speaker, to make my questions clear, on August 2,2007 Mr Sanjiv K.Shada, Director sent a note to the Principal Secretary and in his note he gave the detailed amount and if the hon`ble minister does not recognize this, let this be a reminder.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Mr Speaker, under the Rural Health Mission, 412 staffs were recruited among which 4 were specialist, 2 doctors, 10 Ayush doctors, 230 Health Workers, 47 Account Clerk, 17 Laboratory Technicians, 17 X-Ray Technicians. But we still lack sufficient man-power in our Sub-Centres and arrangements are made in

the posting so that every Sub – Centre could be manned with staffs in proportion to the number of residents in the village. The Medical Mobile Unit provided by the Central Government was much too large in size so it was hard to reach remote areas due to the undersized road in different areas. So, it was made obligatory that Medical Mobile Unit under the Rural Health Mission must not be bigger than TATA 407. Two Mobile will be used for accommodation and one will be used for staffs. So, Mobile Medical Unit with consisting of three motors could be stationed in every District Hospital.

For these purposes, we called for tender and we hope to receive Bus for Mobile Medical Unit within this month. Among the candidates who applied the tender quotations, the company qualified to supply the Medical Mobile Unit was The Indian Instrument and Manufacturing Company (IIMC) and Medilab. Diagnostic facility amounting to 18 lakhs will be supplied by IIMC and goods amounting to 50 lakhs will be supplied by Medilab.

I have come to learn about what the hon`ble member said only through T.V, a tender was called for to supply the Shooting material by Health & Family Welfare Department on the 17th Sept,2007...(Mr Lalrinliana Sailo : Please Mr Speaker, we are discussing about the dressing material here). Among the applicants, MS Stevenson, Tuikhuahtlang was recommended as their rate was the lowest among all the applicants. Then DPAB, on 22nd Nov,2007 filed a complain stating that their firm was the only one eligible to supply Ethicon brand which is approved and authorized by the principal company Ms Johnson & Johnson . Then the Department forwarded this complaint to the Principal Company Ms Johnson & Johnson and after going through their complain, a file was sent to me for my approval stating that since they are the authorized dealer, they should be given the work order and question was raised if Stevenson was also an authorized dealer and the reply by MS Johnson & Johnson was that no other firm was authorized including Stevenson and it was suggested that the Indian Instrument Manufacturing Company should be given an approval. But since this matter had to be taken seriously, I do not give my consent. So a fresh tender was called for and in the meantime our doctors refused to use any other than ethicon since an accident happened once (Mr Lalrinliana Sailo : Mr Speaker, while hon`ble member is saying, I think I should say something in this matter to make the points clear, please Mr Speaker, let the hon`ble minister listen while we are....) authenticity is..(Interruption) I do not lie, Mr Speaker, I respect the House too much to lie or to be manipulated by anybody (Interruption).

SPEAKER : Silence please, lets make some arrangements here, let Mr Rina raise his point first since he stood up first.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Thank you, Mr. Speaker, procedures in which a tender was called for was all true and appropriate, and authorization was given to Stevenson and Ethicon Company. But Ravi Arora, being very powerful went to the Minister and in the end he monopolised the situation and captured the supply.

SPEAKER : Mr. Zira, how do you want to raise your clarification?

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, instead of questioning the people who have filed the complain, why not question Stevenson about the authorization given to them?

SPEAKER : Mr. Duha, what is it?

PU LALDUHAWMA : Mr. Speaker, Arora is not a reliable person and he is someone who easily runs from something. Will he be able to complete his work? Will he create problems for the government?

SPEAKER : You were interrupting while he was standing, so... (Interruption)

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker, Ravi Arora is purchasing on emergency terms and I know this is a fact.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr Speaker, it is not wise to tell a
MINISTER tall tale. Anyway all the documents could be seen by using RTI if they do not believe what I said.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr. Speaker, then I will read out the
names. Mr J. C. Ramthanga,
Commissioner Chairman, Mr
Saingura Sailo, Mrs Liankhumi and
Dr Lalrinliana Sailo are the names included..

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr Speaker, during that time, we were
MINISTER in short of our operation materials, so,
instead of waiting, we permitted the
same supplier to provide us with the
materials we need since we do not want to lack operation equipment and in the
meantime we call for a new tender.

PU LALRINLIANA : Mr. Speaker, please, Stevenson have
supplied goods before in the department.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, can they answer our
question? Our discussion revolves only
around Ravi Arora and since we have
to know both sides of the story we
should also question Stevenson.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr Speaker, maybe he does not
MINISTER file any complain.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, he does not need to file a complain since he had already been selected and we are only discussing about Ravi Arora since he was the one who had a complain. It is clear that you intentionally put ICICI Lombard to be taken-care-of by your daughter and the same goes for Ravi Arora.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker, I do not understand what he is saying.

SPEAKER : We are all members of the House and the dignity of the House is in our hands, so lets respect each other and know the limitations in what we are discussing.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Mr Speaker, it is impossible to highlight every nook and corner and I also appreciate the contributions made by the hon`ble members. We have 44 Departments under SAD and they lay a hand on the transfer of staffs from UDC to Assistant under the supervision and approval of the ministers and department heads. Apart from occupying Civil Secretariat Treasury Square Block 'A' 'B' 'C', five buildings are rented and the house rent amounts to Rs 1,484,21 per month. The construction of New Capital Complex is still going on and since all of us will not fit in the newly constructed building, we will still occupy Block A and C.

The number of staffs we employ, including Co – terminus staffs rounds upto 1322 numbers. The salary of our ministers amounts to Rs 163.60 lakhs, in Secretariat general service the amount is Rs 3763.61 lakhs and other services amounts to Rs 4756.81 lakhs. The monthly salary of Chief Minister amounts to Rs 25,000/- and the Cabinet Minister amounts to Rs 23,500/-, the Minister of State amounts to Rs 22,500/-, the Vice – Chairman amounts to Rs 21,000/- which is the salary of MLAs. I also want to point out that the salary of Under Secretary is higher than the ministers.

PU LALDUHAWMA : Mr. Speaker, is the sanction for medical treatment for SAD which amounts to more than 40 crores includes other departments? If so, is there some mistakes in this matter because other departments have their own sanction? Parking is also a problem for us, the MLAs, would it be possible to keep the temporary arrangements enjoyed by us?

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker, I do understand the critical conditions faced by our MLAs and we hope this problem could be solved after we move to New Secretariat Complex.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for us, the Congress Legislature Party, to agree the Demand made by the Minister because it is obvious there are certain conditions which is unacceptable. Why is there partiality in the tender called by Health Department, why do they questioned about the authorization about Ravi Arora only to Ms. Johnson & Johnson and not Stevenson? The disappearance of OPD is also reason enough for us not to agree to pass his Demand.

SPEAKER : We shall weigh his statement. Mr.R.Tlanghmingthanga, hon`ble Minister asked to pass his Demand which is Demand No.11 - Secretariat Administration Department Rs 977,42,5,000/-, Demand No. 24 - Health & Family Welfare Department Rs. 156,99,45,000/-, Demand No. 29 - Social Welfare Department Rs.21,88,63,000/- which amounts to Rs 276,62,33,000/-. All in favour of passing the Demand say 'Yes'. Shall we pass the Demand without having to raise our hands? The Demand proposed by hon`ble minister Mr R.Tlanghmingthanga, Demand No. 11,24,29 which amounts to Rs. 276,62,33,000/- is passed by the House.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Thank you, Mr Speaker.
MINISTER

SPEAKER : Car parking is one of our vital needs and the 2nd and 3rd floor of our annexe building is for the parking lot for MLAs and staffs. We are also asking them to increase the tempo of their work so that it will be done by the month of May. I will now call upon Mr B.Lalthlengliana to wind up and ask to pass his Demand.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA : There are three departments to be wound up from our discussion such as Taxation, Printing & Stationery and Fisheries Department and let me start with Taxation Department.

As known to us all, this department is headed by Ex-officio Secretary as Commissioner with his office at Aizawl state capital. Under this secretariat, there are three administrative zones with their respective commissioner such as Aizawl North Zone, Aizawl South Zone and Lunglei Zone there is a plan to set up Aizawl Central Zone and the office will soon be opened. Under each zone, there are circle superintendent at Serchhip, Champhai, Kolasib, Mamit, Lawngtlai and Saiha circle. There are departmental check gate at each circle. Since Vairengte check gate is the most important one, it is placed under the maintenance of superintendent.

Check gate at Melbuk is now under suspension due to certain problems and as an alternative, there is a plan to set up check gate at Zemabawk. As of the one at Tlabung, it is put under the maintenance of its Inspector. Besides, we also have a check gate at Lengpui Airport and for Kanhmun and Bairabi Rail Station, it will soon be completed.

With computers and other related materials supplied from the central the work of installation is now going in full swing and will soon be inaugurated.

Under Taxation Department, there are 330 employees and the main function of the department is collection of taxes such as commercial taxes including VAT, Petroleum tax, Central tax, Professional tax and Entertainment tax.

Pu Speaker, I am proud to mention that the department though small have made a remarkable achievement by crossing their target during the period 2005-2006 by Rs.9,29,39,000/- ; 2006 – 2007 by Rs.437.96 lakhs ; 2007 - 2008 by 463.96 lakhs. Out of the total collection 7% is spent for pay and T.A./D.A. of the concerned employees.

In the meantime, the urgent need of the department is office building. Since the department is not having plan fund, PWD is supposed to serve their needs. It is somewhat difficult to make improvements without plan fund where

as the need for office buildings is very high as most of the offices except Vairengte, Kolasib and Lunglei functioned at rented buildings. Considering the important role of the department, priority may be given by the government in every aspect of their needs.

Pu Speaker, Pu Liansailova pointed out about presumptive payment of VAT for which 1% is fixed in respect of those merchants whose annual income ranges from 3 lakhs to 10 lakhs but Book of Account had not been maintained in detail. This presumptive payment will therefore, alleviate the problem of the concerned businessmen.

As of Uniform Floor Rate of VAT, we are not intending to exercise rigidly but may relax as per instruction of empowered committee. Since revision of rate concerns with the state government, we may make revision if necessary. As for reduction of VAT in respect of electric goods, bulldozer, JCB etc it is done so after verification of norms of other states and rate with other items may also be determined so as not to cause burden to the people.

Regarding suggestion made by Pu Lalziriana for reduction of the said rate with school uniforms and medicine. Since school uniform is included as exempted item, it is necessary to take 4%. And as pointed out earlier, it will also be taken from housing materials.

Regarding deduction of 2% from contractor, it is true that 2% of tax deduction is made as per instruction of the government. If deduction of more than the said amount is made, the department have no knowledge about it and we may look into that matter.

Regarding Printing & Stationery Department, I must say that revenue source of the department is decreasing due to failure of our departments to submit document for typing. Yet the department somehow crossed its target as the total amount of revenue collection during the year 2007 – 2008 is 65 lakhs where as the target is 60 lakhs. In this budget, the total amount of allotment for publication of all the departments under plan and non-plan is amounting to Rs.282.90 lakhs out of which atleast 40% of the total allotment of each department is exceeded even if 100% is unexpectable and we have no control over all the departments.

In this connection, I would like to inform the House that an approach had been made to the central authority for setting up of Regional Institute of Printing Technology for which detail reports and other related documents had already been submitted to NEC and a fruitful outcome is expected. I would also like to highlight the norms of stationery wing that approved items are divided into centralized item and de-centralized item. Since most of the departments are in the habit of making indentation from outside directly, it is somewhat difficult for stationery department to make outstanding achievement. However, in co-operation of Finance Department, government's notification is issued and the number of customer too is increasing since then and hopefully the situation will get improved.

Above all Pu Speaker, I would like to inform the House that office building of Stationery Department is now becoming old as it was constructed back in 1984 and is now turning into a danger to the staff and the people in the areas around. We, therefore urgently need fund for construction of new building. We already made a report to Disaster Management & Rehabilitation Department and to Safety Hazard Cells of PWD of poor condition of this building and is now verified. We have no knowledge of how to proceed with this since then. I, therefore, earnestly request the concerned authority to take immediate action before disaster happen.

Coming now to the demand of Fishery Department, it is known to us all that the department is not yet having full-fledged directorate for which cabinet memorandum had already been passed. I strongly hope the concerned authority issue a positive outcome.

Presently, there are 7279 fish farmers in Mizoram and it is the concern of the department to provide assistance to those farmers as necessary with the scheme of National Fishery Development Board, fresh fish farm of 295 hectare had also been set up and 243 hectare being repaired. Besides, hatchery had also been set up in two places where as training is being given to 400 fish farmers which includes Fishery Education, Fresh Water Prawn Farming, integrated Farming Live Stock with Fishes and the system of Fish Farming with the help of cheaper quality of soil. The department had also determined construction of houses to 118 fish farmers with provisions to benefit wells from the area around for which selection of beneficiary is being done. Not only this, the department so as to improve production provides seedlings, fishing net, fish food and soil at a subsidized rate of 75%. In order to maintain appropriate marketing for fish farmers the department set up cold storage at Bawngkawn, Kolasib and Bilkhawthlir from which retailers delivered at a subsidized rate of 50%. Yet the main problem is quality of our fishes as most of the consumers favour imported fishes to our local products. The department and the concerned Minister therefore, put relentless effort so as to improve the quality of local production.

Mamit and Kolasib being potential area there is a plan to put District Office for which memorandum had already been submitted to the cabinet meeting. As for Serchhip, Champhai and Lawngtlai step will be taken from the coming new year.

Pu Speaker, most of the departmental farms have been set up from central fund and there is intention to privatize those farms except farms at Lengpui, Zobawk and Tamdil due to financial problem and memorandum had already been prepared for discussion at the cabinet meeting.

- PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, I would like to know whether our cold storages are in good condition.
- PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, cold storages at Bawngkawn and Kolasib are in good condition.
- PU R.LALZIRLIANA : That is the point I would like to know. It means that rest of the cold storages are not in a proper condition.
- S P E A K E R : By the way, what is the condition of cold storage / ice plant at Bilkhawthlir?
- PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, condition of the said storages do not remain the same and the period cannot be give accurately.
- PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, one question is marketing place for locally fish products. The concerned retailers were being pushed out from their place in the market recently. Whether the concerned authority determine any alternative to that effect. If so, which place ?
- PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we have discussed the matter with the Minister for Trade & Commerce and it may be allotted in Bara Bazar building which is now under construction.

Regarding suggestion for construction of Ice-Plant at Zawlnuam, it depends on the volume of production and regularity of power supply.

Coming now to Industry, there is intention to bifurcate Geology and Mining and is now being processed. In this connection, let me point out that eminent company in India in their exploration for natural wealth comes to the conclusion that the whole area of Mizoram is embedded with mineral wealths and is proven from their satellite views. Pu Speaker, Directorate of Hydro Carbon under (PU LALDUHOMA:- Pu Speaker, let me interrupt the speech of the hon'ble Minister. In regard to allotment of the said marketing place, is there any particular place being reserved to that respect ?) the government of India calls a global tender for exploration of oil and natural gas in Mizoram and other states for which licence is to be issued by NLEP. The work is then allotted to ONGC and Oil company where as the main operator is ONGC. An effective effort was then made by those companies and the work of Geological investigation and Geo-chemical investigation is now being completed with Geo-physical survey to be done by 31st March. Since machineries required for the work are 40 to 60 tonne, a reliable widened road is needed for which the Government of Mizoram is not in the condition to provide it instantly. Approached had been made to ONGC to prepare road for themselves. ONGC, giving importance to our request now takes step for construction of road from Kawnpui to Hortoki which is 18 kms long from their own expenses.

As a second Phase and as Block-II within Mizoram, a tender was then floated again in 2007 for Block No.MZONN2004/1 of 3203 sq km i.e. Aizawl to Hnahthial and Block No.MZONN2004/2 of 3619 sq km, Hnahthial to Saiha. The work was then allotted to Shivani Oil Exploration Limited and Sunetra, a Russian company. Where as the main operator is Oil India Limited. Those companies then start the work immediately with the help of cooperation from Asian Oil Field Service Limited and Geo-Physical Institute of Israel and exploration is now in full swing by using Canadian made instrument, which is highly developed technology.

To highlight more in details Pu Speaker, it is necessary for the concerned company to submit revenue of land lease to the state and the rate is as follows:-

- a) Rs.50 per sq.km for the 1st year
- b) Rs.100 per sq.km for the 2nd year.
- c) Rs.500 per sq.km for the 3rd year.
- d) Rs.700 per sq.km for the 4th year.
- e) Rs.1000 per sq.km for the 5th year.

And successive years.

In regard to royalty, share of the concerned state is 12.5% on gas and 10% on oil if it is found. Besides, according to the recommendation of Finance Commission the rest will be shared by central and state by 50-50. In case sufficient amount is produced, the concerned company or companies may also be given priority. If this project is successful, hopefully enough oil and gas will be made available for our state. As of collection of royalty from this existing project for the period 2007-2008 (with effect from the beginning of their exploration) is amounting

to Rs.46,96,600/-. This amount may be considered as small since it is for Block MZ-ONN2004/1 and MZ-ONN2004/1 and only of the first payment.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, land lease to be taken per sq. km seems to be less. What is the criteria of that fixation?

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, that is for the area leased by those companies and not for their field of exploration.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, the southern portion of my constituency remain untouched even though it is identified as the area of oil potentiality and should be included in the work of the first Phase.

In this connection, it may also be important to change our educational system in parallel with this huge project as the time will come for us to take-over its maintenance after completion which will require large amount of manpower. If so, I wonder why the size of our budget is narrowed down.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Thank you Pu Speaker. As already pointed out, the department of Geology & Mining may become one of the most important departments in the years ahead. It is, therefore, important for the concerned authority to give priority to maintenance of the progress of work as there are works which had already been reported as being completed but nothing is done.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the member may point out location of that work.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, according to sanctioning letter, it is supposed to be at the approach road to the office of Geology & Mining. It will be pleasing if immediate action is taken.

S P E A K E R : Exchange of information is now becoming very fast and the Minister himself may not be aware of that work as he is new to this department.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, the area pointed out by MINISTER Pu Lalduhoma may not be of a potential area as shown in this map. Anyway, Global tender will soon be floated for this area too.

Regarding allotment of duplicate LSC in the area of Geology & Mining, the department provided plots in this area to those who do not have house site by issuing notification. There are 804 plots in the area and one of it is allotted to Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo, the same plot being allotted to Pi Lalhmingthangi (w/o Pu Puia Addl. S.P.earlier in 1987) without competent authority. However, LSC of Pu Lalrintluanga was then cancelled and then decided to remained in favour of Pi Lalhmingthangi.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, the plot is of Industry Department and the quarter of Handicraft Training too is still standing. Why did the concerned authority allotted this site to the private ?

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, as per notification of MINISTER Revenue Department, the concerned area was then cleared up and number of allotments without LSC are being reclaimed by the government. Due to notification of the department that V/C can no longer allot any site within Aizawl city, most of the allotments during 1980-1990 too were made as being allotted in the year before 1972. As officers of the department

examined such allotments, obviously the said quarter of industry too seems to be constructed as per instruction of the concerned V/C and without issue of permission from competent authority.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, one more question for clarification. Whether any objection had been made by Industry Department since the quarter in question is still standing and being occupied by their staff.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the said notification is of the previous term and a report should have been made to the department in due time otherwise ownership cannot be claimed. There is no reason for revenue department to take this matter for granted just because it concerns government department.

Pu Speaker, answer given to unstarred questions No.1, 4 and 5 involved typing mistake and capital expenditure of ZOHANCO amounting to Rs.180 lakhs may be corrected as Rs.180.83 lakhs.

To conclude my speech, I ask this august House to pass the demand of my departments such as :-

1. Demand No.8 – Taxation	-	Rs.5,10,85,000/-
2. Demand No.18 – Printing & Stationery	-	Rs.6,94,15,000/-
3. Demand No.35 – Fisheries	-	Rs.6,23,40,000/-
4. Demand No.40 – Industry	-	Rs.32,21,35,000/-

Total - Rs.50,49,75,000

(Rupees fifty crore forty nine lakh and seventy five thousand) only.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Pu B. Lalthlengliana after winding up the discussion asked permission of this House to pass the demand of his departments such as :-

1) Demand No.8 - Taxation	-	Rs.5,10,85,000/-
2) Demand No.18 - Printing & Stationery	-	Rs.6,94,15,000/-

3) Demand No.35 - Fisheries	-	Rs.6,23,40,000/-
4) Demand No.40 - Industry	-	Rs.32,21,35,000/-
	Total	Rs.50,49,75,000/-

(Rupees fifty crore forty nine lakhs and seventy five thousand)only

Members who agree to pass may say 'yes' and those who do not may say 'no'. Alright, the members agree to pass the demands.

I, now call upon Dr.Lalzama, to wind up discussion of the demands of his department and ask the House to pass it.

Dr. LALZAMA : Pu Speaker, let me start with Excise & Narcotic Department. I am glad that 15 members participated in the discussion and most of them emphasized on the need to raise their pay. In this regard, let me point out that pay of Police and Excise Police were in the same category in 1973 and by 1986, only pay of the police were raised. Hence, Excise Police remains at lower position and were further superceded by Firemen Police by the year 1996. Considering work loads of Excise Police, they truly deserve the same status of other Police and Firemen. I, therefore, want to do my best for them and approach the concerned authority for which co-operation of the members may also be necessary.

The hon'ble member Pu Lal Thanhawla pointed out the need of Excise Department in safe keeping of local and imported liquor seized. Staff frequently disposed off illegally. If mishandling of such liquor is reported, immediate action will be taken.

The point raised by Pu S.Hiato regarding Pu Lalhmingliana Excise Inspector, here is the detail report.

Pu Lalhmingliana was arrested by Excise & Narcotic squad at Selesih on 8th February, 2008 along with 1296 capsules of proxyvon. The same day, he was sent to Central Jail by the court. It was his fellow excise officer who prosecuted him and refered his case to the court. After spending few days at Jail he was released on bail and consequently, he was suspended after filing of cases against him. As of the existing story published in daily News Papers, it is true that he was released from jail with the help of release order from counterfeit Magistrate signature arranged by him before his arrest. In this regard, it is to be noted that action is taken by the department against anyone including its own staff if criminal case is involved.

PU S.HIATO : Pu Speaker, how about the court case involving seizure of money which had not been submitted?

Dr. LALZAMA : Pu Speaker, the case is going on and
MINISTER will soon be solved. Pu Speaker as known to us all, the Government of Mizoram put Excise & Narcotic

Department as the nodal department under which the department exercises NDPS Act. Commissionerate office of the department is located at Aizawl under which there are district offices at Aizawl, Lunglei, Saiha, Kolasib, Champhai and Serchhip with Excise and Narcotic Station at each district. Besides, Excise & Narcotic station had also been located at Vairengte with check point of RCC building in which our staff are on duty for 24 hours.

Out of the total post of 592, 551 had already been filled up including newly created additional post of Deputy Commissioner which had already been filled up by promotion on 18th January. As already suggested by certain members, there is a plan for opening of District Office at Mamit and permission had already been obtained from Finance Department for creation of 30 new posts.

Office building of Commissionerate is now under construction near Tennis Court and construction work is divided into two Phases and is planned for four storeyed building.

The department received in-kind assistance from central such as Gypsy King, Motor Cycle, Motorola Radio Repeater, Motorola handset, Wireless set, Fax Machine and soft top Jeep – the total amounting to Rs.3,01,26,500/-. Again for the current year assistance, the total cost amounting to Rs.13,00,000/- is on its way including 3 nos. of soft top Jeep and Fax machine. Assurance had also been made to provide TATA vehicle for the period 2008 – 2009. Pu Speaker, I am so proud to mention that the department uses the said provided items satisfactorily in combat against narcotic drugs and alcohol related drinks.

To highlight revenue collection of the department for the period 2007 – 2008 upto 15 March, Rs.160,28,212 is collected; thanks to the efforts and co-operation of YMA and other NGOS. Hence, incentive cash award is being given to various groups of YMA and the total expenditure of the department to that effect amount to Rs.1,68,000/-. With the help of relentless efforts rendered by YMA, it is pleasing to learn that number of drugs related death is decreasing this year where as in the previous years the number reached 143 and above.

Keeping aware of the nature of work and insufficiency of staff, the government, therefore, made provision for creation of 40 posts besides 30 posts created for Mamit District.

Coming now to the demand of Art & Culture Department, 7 members participated in the discussion and suggestion they have made for the progress of the department is much appreciated as it indicates their concern for the welfare of the department.

Under this department, there are various sections such as Museum, Archive, Public Libraries, Tribal Research Institute, Institute of Music & Fine Arts and Publication Board. We are fortunate that Indian Museum of Calcutta from its own expense refurbished our museum which greatly attracts visitors from outside and inside Mizoram since then. Presently, there are 2921 items in our collection including contributions made by some interest persons. Our museum is have number of visitors last year including Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India and Minister of State for Railway and Chairman of INTAC, Russian Ambassador to India and Minister of Tribal Development, Government of Maharashtra. Another museum at Saikuti Hall, Lunglei which is also refurbished by Indian museum of Calcutta. Currently, there are 364 items in our collection here. Besides, there is an intention to set up a larger museum at New Capital Complex.

Pu Speaker, the department used to participate in the national and international level of exhibition. Annually, the department submits Rs.20,000 from its collection of entry fee.

As of the function of Archive, the department keeps here important historical records and documents of not less than 3537 much to the benefit of students and research scholars. There is a plan to keep such records in micro-film. As of the state library, the building is now under construction at New Capital Complex, Khatla with Rs.1.15 crore funded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation. There are 57,824 books in our collections. Not only this Mr.Speaker Sir, the department is having District Library at 5 Districts such as Aizawl, Lunglei, Saiha, Champhai and Kolasib and the total number of collections from these 5 Libraries is Rs.9065 books. Besides, there are 430 nos of rural library under the maintenance of YMA for which the department spends Rs.20 lakhs for supply of books and furnitures every year. Under Research wing, Tribal Research Institute concerns with publication of history of various types in Mizoram. Publication of Pu Buanga Dictionery is now being taken up and so does History of the Maras written by Pu Mylai Hlychho.

Furthermore, Pu Speaker, I am proud to mention that Sanglet Natak Academy, the highly regarded Award in performing Arts is won by Pu J.Lalhluna of Tlangnuam, Aizawl in the category of folk music and Pu Lalthangfala Sailo in playwright. This award which includes citation and cash prize of Rs.50,000 is distributed by the President of India at New Delhi.

The department also organized cultural programme more than 30 times to entertain visiting VVIP and VIP and our cultural troupe already participated more than 20 times in cultural exchange programme in the country and abroad. Under the policy of Heritage Preservation, Rs.60 lakhs had already been spent for preservation as well as exploration of places having historical value and Rs. 55 lakh is there to spent further.

Under the Institute of Music & Fine Arts, more than 23 youths have already undergone training which is greatly benefited by the youths in their respective localities. Drama competition had also been, organized by the department in co-operation with National School of Drama, New Delhi and one of the plays which had been prepared in parallel with the mizo culture was incredibly successful and was been shown in the International 10th Theatre Festival at New Delhi on 8.2.2008. The same drama troupe is now being sent to Guwahati by the invitation of the Government of Assam.

Besides these, Pu Speaker, I would also like to point out that publication board of the department have already published more than 27 books within the period 2007 – 2008. It indicates that talents of the mizo writers are satisfactorily utilized.

Not only this, I would also like to point out that provision of 75% subsidy to various NGOs for purchase of cultural dresses, Darbu, Darkhuang and even P.A. sets is widely benefited and 10 lakh rupees had already been spent for that purpose. Multipurpose cultural complex had also been constructed and was inaugurated by Minister DONER in May last year. The capacity of this hall is 270 seats. Furthermore, there is a plan to construct the same kind of complex at Sazaikawn, Lunglei at the cost of 2 crore rupees.

To mention the project of the government outside Mizoram, Mizoram is being allotted 5 stalls at Silpugri Guwahati established by NEZCC in which the mizo handicraft and handloom productions are being displayed and sold as necessary.

Coming now to the demand of Higher & Technical Education, it is known to us all that number of Government Colleges in Mizoram is increasing lately whereas Mizoram Law College and Kamalanagar College are of deficit college. The hon'ble member Pu AB Chakma pointed out insufficiency of staff in Kamalanagar college and is to be noted, no file had been processed for creation of new post as necessary.

In this connections, I would like to point out that International organization for standardization had also been implemented at Mizoram Polytechnic, Lunglei and Women Polytechnic, Aizawl and were known as certified Institutions of ISO with a quality of agreed standard at international level. There was once an intention to upgrade most of our colleges to that status and efforts were made but to no avail as only few responded the tender.

In regard to development of our colleges as pointed out by some members, approval of DoNER had already been obtained for construction of the following college buildings such as Saiha college, Lunglei college, Serchhip college, Zirtiri Residential college, Post Matric students hostel and Law college and DPR had already been submitted. Technical approval and CPWD is now being applied and hopefully it will soon be sanctioned. Deputy Secretary of DoNER even came to Mizoram to verify the situation and he seems to be satisfied as he further assured us that the same may be sanctioned for construction of other colleges by the coming year.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, it's been a couple of month since DoNER officials came for verification. What is the result? Whether the newly provincialized colleges such as Khawzawl college will surely be given the said provision ? Is there any information from DoNER concerning this matter ?

Dr. LALZAMA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the said provision had also been applied for Mizoram Hindi Training College and sanction of Rs.5,10,000 had already been there.

For construction of Phase-II, half of the amount applied for strengthening of Hindi Training College had also been sanctioned. Moreover Pu Speaker, regarding quality Assurance cell, there are 9 accredited colleges in Mizoram and is the highest number in the north-eastern states. There is one officer in-charge in the quality Assurance Cell. Since the concerned authority is giving priority to quality improvement for college lecturers, most of the lecturers too are working hard to achieve this policy and self-study report of each of the concerned lecturer had been put forward to higher authority.

As suggested by our fellow member Pu Lalhmingthanga, it is time for us to determine technical study for our students. Keeping in mind of the necessity, step is now being taken to open opportunity to our students to study abroad. In regard to the study of computer technology, ICFAI is now being set up with a new building soon to be constructed at Durtlang Vengthar at the cost of Rs.115 lakhs. The study of BBA, BCA and MBA had already been opened and now it is intended to open B.Sc Computer Science, Information Technology and Mathematics.

Regarding scholarship study, a new scheme for post matric scholarship for minority community had already been introduced in November, 2007 in which Mizoram is allotted with 341 quotas of seats and any students obtaining 50% marks can apply for it. According to the latest information, the allotted seat for

Mizoram may be increased to 1336 with the student whose family income ceiling is not more than 20,000 rupees per annum.

With the approval of Home Ministry, Rs.8 lakhs is sanctioned to Mizoram Scholarship Board for setting up of Information & Technology as already pointed out, it is necessary to obtain recognition under 2F & 12B UGC Act so as to apply financial assistance from the central. Hence, step is now being taken by the concerned authority to bring about the said recognition.

Pu Speaker, there are 93 lecturers being appointed on contract basis and 5 on regular basis and MPSC is now preparing for the appointment of 9 lecturers. Besides, advertisement had already been made for the appointment of 31 lecturers on contract basis. As already mentioned during question hour, we are not in the condition yet to follow UGC norms fully as relaxation is made on certain cases since the demanded number of posts cannot be fulfilled by the applicants holding NET certificate.

PU H.LIANSAILOVA : Relating to NET Pu Speaker, Examination for Arts streams can be conducted here in our university but as of science streams, it is necessary to go to Guwahati. Is there any way to conduct the said examination at Mizoram University as it is a problem for the concerned students to go to Guwahati for that examination ?

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, considering number of newly recruited lecturers, allotment of budget seems to be insufficient. What is the reason for this short fall while the total requirement is known beforehand ?

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, those who had not been selected last year be assumed as qualified for recruitment for this year or selection to be done a new ?

Dr. LALZAMA
MINISTER

: Pu Speaker, new advertisement will be made for the appointment of this year since sufficient number of qualified persons could not be found last year.

As for NET examination centre, it is not our concern this may be determined by the university.

Lastly Speaker, I beg leave of the House to pass the demand of the three departments such as Demand No.7 – Excise & Narcotic – Rs.9,80,30,000/- ; Demand No.21 – Higher & Technical – Rs.41,22,05,000/- ; Demand No.23 – Art & Culture – Rs.4,84,80,000/- Total – Rs.55,87,15,000/-

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Pu Lalzama, the minister had now begged leave of the House to pass the demand of the following departments such as –

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| 1) Demand No.7 - | Excise & Narcotic - | Rs.9,80,30,000/- |
| 2) Demand No.21 - | Higher & Technical - | Rs.41,22,05,000/- |
| 3) Demand No.23 - | Art & Culture - | Rs.4,84,80,000/- |

Total : Rs.55,87,15,000/-

The members who agree to pass may say ‘yes’ and those who do not may say ‘no’ (The members : yes)

Alright, the House had passed the demand of Dr.Lalzama the Minister.

Our discussion for today is now finished. It will be resumed tomorrow the 26th (Wednesday) at 10:30 AM.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 PM.