

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

**LIST OF BUSINESS**

**TWELFTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2008  
(Time 10:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M)**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

1. **Pu Lalchamliana**, Speaker, at the Chair, Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister, Pu C.Lalrinsanga, Deputy Speaker, 8 Ministers and 25 Members were present.

**QUESTIONS**

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

**PRESENTATION OF REPORT**

3. **Pu Liansuama** to present to the House the Thirteenth Report of Subject Committee relating to Horticulture Department.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

4. Resolutions

S P E A K E R : In his heart a man plans his course,  
but the Lord determines his steps.

Proverbs 16:9.

181. Let us invite Pu H.Rohluna to ask his Starred Question No.

PU H.ROHLUNA : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister  
in-charge Agriculture Department be  
pleased to state –

- (a) Is turmeric going to be bought by the Company they sign an MOU agreement with in 2008 ? Is the company with whom the government of Mizoram signed on MoU in 2008 going to buy turmeric ?
- (b) If so, what will be the rate per Kg.
- (c) Will it be at the same rate within Mizoram.
- (d) When will they start buying.
- (e) How many quintal is expected to be harvested in this year.

S P E A K E R : Let us invite the Minister in-charge of  
Agriculture and Horticulture Department  
Pu H. Rammawi to reply.

PU H.RAMMAWI : Pu Speaker, the answers to Starred  
MINISTER Question No. 181 are – As agreed this  
year, instead of buying, we are going  
to increase their harvest. (b) The rate  
will be fixed by the Company and the government's representative when the time comes. ( C ) This will also be in the hands of the Company and the government's representative. (d) The actual time of buying is going to be in a new season. (e) The exact quintal to be harvested cannot be predicted, but the department expects about 5 lakh quintals.

PU H.ROHLUNA : Pu Speaker, supplementary question. On August 2007, the government signed an MOU with Diamond Shipping Limited and Sunrise Spices Limited, Kolkata.

Will there be a problem if no buying is done as the growers are instructed to continue cultivating for another one year ?. Now, 5 lakh quintals had been expected to be harvested in the first year. I think the concerned department should have the round about figure according to the seed they planted. Turmeric is cultivated even in remote areas and I think the same rate should prevail when buying is done. Will that be possible?

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, supplementary question. I would be thankful if the government can tell us how much they spend on consultation fee. Regarding Farmer

Information Network, the name of the work order on Optimums Constituency Services had been cancelled according to the Minister. But from the answers given yesterday, the government already released an advance of Rs.10 lakh for DPR according to the document they gave us. In the new document, the cost for submission of detail Project are – Rs. 2 crore, Technical and Architectural Design – Rs. 3 crore, Mapping for the Department of Agriculture Department – Rs. 2 crore, Submission of Detail Process Study of Agriculture Department – Rs. 1 crore and 90 lakh. Does the government have to pay for all these ?

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE : Pu Speaker, as we all know they have an agreement with Diamond Shipping Company last year. Is there any development now ? Expectation is high with them. When can their drying machine be activated ?

Turmeric is going to be harvested this year whereas the company is not yet readied. Is there any fund for the government to purchase the harvest and how may quintal will they be able to purchase ?

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Speaker, supplementary question. According to the MOU it is going to be slow, but our farmers already harvested turmeric. Can the government purchase it for their welfare ?

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, according to the answer to unstarred question given today, about 64540 quintals are expected in the preliminary estimation. But below that it said 64540 metric ton, which one is correct, quintal or metric ton ? We have discussion in this regard for so many times, can the hon'ble House Leader find a solution to solve the problem with his cabinet ministers.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, supplementary question. It is important as 15 crore had already been used in turmeric. According to the answer given in unstarred question no.177, the government promised to buy it, but instead of buying they instructed to continue the cultivation, what is the meaning ? Secondly, depending upon the answer to unstarred question why cannot they buy half of their harvest if the whole can not be bought ? Our farmers are worried as they have no other cultivation and concentrate only in turmeric. Pu Speaker, I request the hon'ble Minister to give us a clear answer.

S P E A K E R : We have a discussion in this regard for a long time. Yesterday, we heard that they are going to buy it at the rate of Rs. 6/- per Kg and they are identifying the centre for buying. Only the quantity can not be predicted.

PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, our subject is important and that is why our hon'ble members participated very well. We are hoping that we can do better than engaging in shifting cultivation in this regard. I want to give my assurance to the House that this year we are going to buy as much as we can, there is nothing to be worried about. We have a back-up plan in this regard. We request the NGO to give their hand in the buying so that there will be no double buying.

Pu Speaker, the concerned questioner asked us about the condition of our MOU's agreement in continuing the cultivation, they agree with us in this regard for the betterment of the state. Regarding Pu Lalchandama's question about our development according to our agreement, 16 dehumidified will be there in April and we can give instruction to the farmer how to operate. Regarding solar dryer, they already have clearance for sanction, the fund will come from Renewable Ministry through ZEDA. As the model had already been privatized, Government of

Mizoram had nothing to spend in this regard, it will all come from the Central and we are taking initiative in this.

Regarding Pu Zodintluanga's question about the consultation fee, we don't have to pay consultancy fee to them, we are having MOU with them.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, about my question, is it quintal or metric ton because there is a difference between quintal and metric ton.

PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, according to our assessment, it is quintal not metric ton, we estimate about 5 lakh quintals.(Pu Lalduhoma : Pu Speaker, if that is the answer the minister needs to make a correction in his answer to the unstarred question)

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, can it be clarified that 5 lakhs quintal will be bought.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, I think the minister does not answer my question.

PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, regarding the hon'ble member Pu Lalduhoma's question we will make an upto date correction. Answer to the hon'ble member Pu Zodintluanga's question is that while we cancel the work order, making of DPR is another matter. After the DPR is made all will be analyzed.  
(Interruption)

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, after canceling their work order what about Rs.10 lakh they paid in advance for DPR, I request the minister to tell the House the exact truth, while Rs. 2 crore is not the exact amount for making DPR.

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, advance had already been paid for making DPR and after they submit the DPR we will examine and analyze it with an expert.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Pu Speaker, my question is that is it 2 crore they are going to use for making DPR.

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, if they want to make DPR (Detail Project Report) they can build the centre with that amount. The advance we paid had not been included in the project, DPR will first be made then comes payment.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Pu Speaker, let them say we are going to buy all your harvest. If not, it will become unsuccessful again. They make us cultivate it and we labored hard. So, let them buy all we cultivate.

S P E A K E R : Let us not expect to clarify more, they are trying to buy as much as possible.

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, as desired by the hon'ble members I would like to have a word in this regard. The cultivation of turmeric does not meet our expectation in quantity. But we will buy every harvest and fund had been put aside for this.

S P E A K E R : It is a pleasure to know that, it is not possible to know the exact amount to be harvested.. The figure 5 lakh quintals is the correct answer instead of 500 lakh quintals. (Pu H.Rammawi : Pu Speaker, that is the correct answer, I apologize to the House for the incorrect figure).

Let us invite Pu Sailothanga Sailo to ask his Starred Question No. 182.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister in-charge Industries Department be pleased to state - Will PMRY loan be increased?

S P E A K E R : Let us invite Pu B. Lalthlengliana, Minister in-charge Industries Department to reply.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answer to the question of hon'ble member Pu Sailothanga Sailo is - during 2007-2008 the Government of - India increased Rs. 1,00,000/- into Rs. 2,00,000/- in business sector. In Industries sector from Rs. 2,00,000/- to Rs. 5,00,000/-. Therefore, the next increment cannot be said as it is in the hand of the Government of India.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Pu Speaker, thank you. I used to ask about PMRY loan in the past but I was never given the accurate answer. PMRY loan is one of the most important Central Government programmes for the educated unemployed, around ten thousand apply for this loan every year. They applied through DIC and the DIC forwarded the nominee list to the Bank. The Bank takes a long time to process and while processing it they reject some of the nominees.

Pu Speaker, about the interview system, is there a way to change the system, it is very troublesome for them to conduct the interview within three days. About the loan they sanction, in reality two lakh is hard to get, only one lakh had been sanctioned in general and from that they made a cut. The beneficiaries of PMRY loan faced many trouble in this regard, especially in the Bank. The recovery rate is bad and that is their main excuse and if that is the case, they should have a recovery drive. I want to ask the government to take an initiative in this regard by asking the RBI or Central Government to pave a way for the loanee to get the exact amount they applied for

Pu Speaker, regarding the Task Force Committee, is there a way to establish the Task Force more properly, right now it is very chaotic. Regarding the beneficiaries, is there a way to increase the beneficiaries more than the existing 700 ? Can the government urge the Bank to release the loan to the beneficiaries who already faced the interview on October, 2007 ?

S P E A K E R : Pu S.Hiato.

PU S. HIATO : Pu Speaker, thank you. This scheme is a good scheme but the one thing that blocked it to become successful is the selection system. It had been politicized. The Ruling Party appointed around three representative from their party. They made the selection from the party office. Can the hon'ble Minister change the system ? If not, it will never become successful.

S P E A K E R : Pu Liansuama.



PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, from the newspaper we learnt that some officials from the Bank demand money from the loanee, if that is true, can the government take step to stop this practice ?

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE : Pu Speaker, is it against the rule to reject the nominee forwarded by the DIC or not? If it is, on what ground they are rejected by the Bank? This is the Central Government Programme and the RBI instructed all the Bank to follow it. Regarding the state target, while in 2006 we have 1000 target. This year we have only 200, but the hon'ble Chief Minister requested them to increase the target and they gave us another 500. The reason they cut our target is that the recovery rate of our state is the second poorest in India and they sanctioned the target according to the recovery rate. In this regard how will the loan recovery drive be conducted through Industries department ? We have to find a solution for the future generation. What recovery programme do they have in this regard ?

PU B.LALTHLEGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, to answer the hon'ble member's question, the Government of India fixed the target according to the recovery rate of the previous year. That is why the 2006 and 2007 target are different. The recovery rate of our state is very poor, we are in the 7<sup>th</sup> position among the 14 state and U.Ts.

Regarding the recovery drive, right now I do not know what kind of programme we have, but I will look into the matter. As the Minister in-charge it grieves me to learnt that we are among the poorest in recovery rate, therefore, we will try to find a solution. Regarding the target, what the hon'ble member Pu Lalchhandama said is true, this year they gave us only 200 but due to the step taken by the hon'ble Chief Minister they gave us another 500 and that's make it into 700. We distribute the target to different district according to the population and the strength of the Bank and the applicant.

Regarding rejection of the beneficiaries, while it is the Central Programme, the Bank controls the money as it is theirs, we cannot interfere in their work demanding to release the exact amount we sanctioned. But I will take a look into this. Regarding Pu Liansuama's question, it is the first time I know that kind of practice being done by the Bank. But recently I learnt that someone made a demand using some Board member's name, and we investigated this and caught him. Another

person also made a commission from this, but we investigated this also. Regarding the Bank official, if there is a malpractice among them we will have a talk with their officer.

Regarding Pu S.Hiato's question, we will take a look into the selection system and also the appointment of the Board members. We will consult the rules and regulation and have a review.

S P E A K E R : I like to have a few words regarding loan recovery. We neglected loan recovery whether it is the Bank or KVI or ZIDCO.

This cause many problems for future generation. If that is not the case, there are many loan to take in India. We need awareness campaign in loan recovery. Now, let us invite Pu Lalhmingthanga to ask Starred Question No. 183.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister in-charge Trade & Commerce department be pleased to state - What are the import and export of Mizoram through Zokhawthar ?

S P E A K E R : Due to the illness of the hon'ble Minister in-charge, the Minister authorized Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga to answer in his place. Therefore, Pu R.Tlanghmingthanga may answer.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, answer to hon'ble MINISTER is - the Government of Mizoram had no recognition regarding export through Zokhawthar Border Trade Centre as it is not yet formal.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, supplementary question. Trade had been going on for a long time at Zokhawthar and it is about time for the government to have formal policy. Also the people of the south eagerly are awaiting the function of border trade with Bangladesh as it is going to be beneficial for them. The government make excuses base on the relation between Bangladesh and the Central. But this does not convince me as our neighboring states have trade relation with Bangladesh freely. Therefore, I request the government to earnestly take step to have trade relation with Bangladesh as soon as possible. In this regard, can the government give me assurance.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, according to the Peace Accord, border trade should be set up for locally produced items. I am afraid we will miss the target. Right now it appears that our export are not local made before this is formalize. When it become formalized, are we going to be the route only. Does the government take step in this regard so that we can participate in export and import?

S P E A K E R : Let us invite the Minister in-charge to reply.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, in this regard our House MINISTER Leader will have a lot to say and I expect him to deliver a few words in this respect. Regarding formality, the concerned department - Trade and Commerce is doing their best to have a formal trade relation as soon as possible. The exact time and date cannot be predicted but it would not be far. Works had been going on non stop and Rs. 224.62 lakh had already been used in this regard. For ongoing works Rs. 209 lakh had been estimated and had been already sanctioned.

While border trade with Bangladesh had been going well in our neighboring states, Mizoram is also a promote area for Bangladesh, but due to the political problem existing in Bangladesh our progress had been slow. As the hon'ble member Pu Lalduhoma pointed out, locally produce item is the main focus in this border trade. But right now we cannot practice this procedure. At Zokhawthar, State Bank of India and Myanmar Economic Bank had to sign an agreement (MOU) and settle banking transaction as agreed in the Border Trade Agreement'94 and step had

been taken to sign the MOU. After that we can formalize the trading system. Regarding Bangladesh, imbalance of trade and the security problem in the area between Bangladesh and Thekamuk had to be solved in order to open Land Custom Station (LSC). Talk had been going on between India and Bangladesh in this regard. Besides, the state government urged the central to upgrade border trade into normal trade and the centre had a talk with Myanmar in this respect. That is all I can said for the time being, I think the hon'ble Chief Minister and House Leader can make clarification in this regard more clearly Pu Speaker.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, it is unbelievable that border trade cannot function properly because of the relation between India and Bangladesh. But from what the Minister said the House have a new information regarding border trade and that is for Bangladesh the area around Thekamuk is not safe for them to open Land Custom Station (LSC). But the government have to find a solution in this regard as this had been put in the Peace Agreement in written and it is humiliating for us. Therefore, I demand the Chief Minister to have a statement in this regard and give us his assurance. If possible, we want to be there when they have a talk with the Centre as witness. Can the Chief Minister give his answer in this regard.

S P E A K E R : Does the hon'ble Chief Minister want to say anything.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. It is true that border trade had been put in the Peace Accord for the benefit of the Mizo people in order to export their own handiwork. But as we all know, there is a problem from Bangladesh side. In order to solve the problem, I went to Dhaka with the Chief Secretary and had a talk with their Prime Minister and Commerce Minister. We pointed out that they can process our agriculture product as they have many processing unit within the country especially our fruit products. If they are afraid of trade imbalance, they can add value added tax in order to avoid it. In this regard I had a talk with their other ministers and other business associations. Their own delegation on commerce came to Mizoram for this purpose. But as we said before, they are very careful for the route to Tlabung is an infected insurgents area. Besides this, Bangladesh faced a political problem of their own. The government changed before we finalize our talk, but we also had a talk with the new Prime Minister Khalida Zia when she visited New Delhi and invited us to visit Bangladesh to have a talk in this regard. Their trade with our neighbouring

state had started way back which is the reason, why they have formal trade relation while it is only the beginning with us. We requested the Centre to put pressure on Bangladesh to finalize our talk, but it looks like the Centre is a little disheartening in this regard. On the otherhand they focus on Kolodyne project in order to attract their attention. If Kolodyne project runs smoothly, the Bangladesh side will open up and that is the only alternative we have right now.

Regarding Burma, we also think that Zokhawthar Trade is still too small to do formal trade, so we asked the Commerce Minister Pu Jairam Ramesh and the Foreign Ministry to develop this into International Trade. In order to develop this we build Land Custom Station and the work is almost finish, but we cannot do this alone, the other side have to participate in this regard. To participate they also have to build Land Custom Station but they still remain silent. The other day the Foreign Secretary told me that they offered to build the station for them and the Burma government agreed and started paving a way for this from fund released by Central through BRTF. On 2<sup>nd</sup> April, the Burma Senior Vice President and their No.2 in the government and Pu Pranab Mukherjee will sign an agreement on Kolodyne project and we hope that during their talk they will discuss the ongoing works on the border. Besides, we hope this will motivate the Bangladesh side to open their side immediately.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Question hour is over. Today we have Distinguish visitor PU Vanlalzawma M.P. Lok Sabha and Pu Hiphei Ex Speaker and Member of Rajya Sabha.

Members absent – Minister Pu Aichhinga and Minister Pu H. Vanlalauva due to illness. Pu Dr. R. Lalthangliana to attend meeting in Delhi. Today Pu Andrew Lalherliana seeks permission for Special Mention on the need to protect Rights of Physically Disabled persons. As per the All India Presiding Officers' meeting special mention is admissible only if the incident occurs after last evening's sitting till this morning sitting. However since we have not adopted, I have admitted the special mention since it is recent incident. Let us now call the hon'ble member.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today's special mention is the need to protect the Rights of Disabled Persons. Last evening at around 5 : 00 P.M, I received from Physically Disabled Society Chairman. Thus, I seek this Special Mention to inform the House.

Under the Indian Parliament law i.e. The persons with disabilities should have equal opportunities, (Protection of Rights and full

Participation) Act 1995 section 33, there is 3% reservation for physically disabled persons on all vacant post of the government. Pu Speaker, this law is for the whole nation, however, this reservation at the verge is of violated by Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department in its appointment of 12 junior grade vety doctor. If this is not reviewed, then there is going to be a violation of Parliament law. Let me clarify – Advertisement was made by MPSC on 24.7.2007 for the vacant post of 12 junior grade vety doctor. Application was submitted by disabled person as per rules of 3% reservation. With perseverance of the application, the Deputy Secretary noticed the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department to identify the disabled person reservation of 3% from the 12 post vacant and to seek provision from Finance Department, vide Memo No. A 12026/11/91 – MPSC Dated 3.1.2008. The Deputy Secretary, Veterinary Department earmarked 1 post of the junior grade Mizoram Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services. Also, financial concurrence was obtained from Finance Department on 18.2.2008 Vide I.O.No.FIN(E) 813/2007. This identified post and financial concurrence was submitted to MPSC. Vide Memo No.A/14012/1/97. After all these were cleared on 25.2.2008, one disabled person was called for interview. At present there is an intention of refusing the said person without solid reasons. This incident should not be taken as an individual, but if carried out, it will be the violation of Parliament law, i.e “Persons with Disabled Act, 1995” Physically Disabled Society had long pleaded the government to implement this law. The society have met the Governor on this regard, central government Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities visited Mizoram on October 2007 and held a mobile court. The Chief Commissioner called on the representatives of the Mizoram government and gave notice that the 3% reservation should be observed. Mizoram government had issued office memorandum way back in 1998 without actual implementation. If this vety doctor post is allotted to the said person, it will be the first reservation post being filled by the government and a triumph day for physically disabled persons.

I want to request the hon’ble minister to save the situation and protect the rights of physically disabled persons.

Pu Speaker, there is wrong interpretation by the officials in regard to physically disabled. According to Chief Commissioner it is 40% or more.

I want to thank the hon’ble Minister because he had returned the file twice as he is in favour of appointing the disable. Pu Speaker, I want to highlight this point, hoping that the House give its support and take step. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We will now move on to the next business. Let us now call the hon’ble Chairman of Subject Committee - V Pu Liansuama, to present the 13<sup>th</sup> Report of Subject Committee-V.

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, with your permission and the House I present the 13<sup>th</sup> Report of the Subject Committee-V. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : I thank Subject Committee-V for the 13<sup>th</sup> report on behalf of the House. Let the copy be distributed. As per rules 17 today's Business is Private Members Resolution. Resolution Ballot had been notified on Bulletin Part-II No. 219 March 20<sup>th</sup>. The first resolution is Pu K. Vanlalaiva's resolution, i.e. 'It is appreciating that steps had been taken for the construction of approach road from Mizoram to Sitwe Akyab sea-port. For speedy implementation, let central government be urged'. Now let us call the hon'ble member to move the resolution.

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today is the first private member's resolution day during this session. Since other Fridays are state holiday. I am grateful that my resolution is first in the balloting out of the 18 resolutions.

Pu Speaker, this is my resolution – 'It is appreciating that step had been taken for the construction of approach road from Mizoram to Sitwe Akyab seaport. For speedy action, let central government be urged'. The Mizo people are not aware of this Kolodyne Multi Model Transport Project. This project began in 1991. It is a project to develop the business transaction between India and Myanmar. The project from Indian side was started by Surface Transport Ministry. Pu Hiphei M.P was Consultative Committee member at that time. It was indeed due to his effort that the project reached its present stage. I also thank the then C.E PWD Pu Ramhluna for his effort and the present M.P.

Agreement was signed between the two countries in Rangoon in 1998. After which, RITES consultancy firm under Railway Ministry was appointed to make the detail project report by External Ministry of India. This firm began investigation and survey from Kolkata seaport to Myanmar en routing the North East states. DPR was submitted on March, 20<sup>th</sup>. As per the recommendation of the report of RITES, between Akyab and Sitwe it will be waterway and between Sitwe and Myanmar, a highway. The expenditure for the highway/waterway for the Indian side is expected to be 93 crores and 10 crores for Myanmar. The total estimate expenditure estimated for the project is 469 crores and 52 lakhs. Pu Speaker, as per the report of RITES the length from Kolkata to Akyab sea route is 720 Km, Akyab to Kalewe – 222 Km sea route. As for the National Highway; Katua to Indo Myanmar border is 62 Km and Indo Myanmar border to National Highway 54 is 117 Km. Indo Myanmar to

National Highway 54 Lawngtlai is handed over to Ministry of Transport, Government of India, which, in turn handed back the implementation to Mizoram PWD under the Ministry's funding. Pu Speaker, with the help of this road, goods with cheaper rate will be imported from Kolkata and various seaports of India. And our product will be exported from this route as well. Business transaction can be carried out not only with Myanmar but countries like Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, China and Japan. With this route, we will no longer need the Assam - Meghalaya route.

Pu Speaker, as per RITES report the Kolodyne Multi Transport Project is expected to be shorter by 566 Km than the waterway. Pu Speaker, thus for the success of Kolodyne Multi Model Transport Project I request all members to support and pass the resolution. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now that the mover had moved the resolution, as usual practice, private member's resolution is discussed till 4 : 00 P.M.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, let the hon'ble House Leader start the discussion.

S P E A K E R : Wait, it is private member's Resolution, if the House – Leader feels the need to wind – up after the members' discussion, he will do so, but let us try not to cross 4 : 00 P.M. We will now call Pu P.P. Thawla and watch if he is for or against the resolution.

PU P.P. THAWLA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I thank the hon'ble member from Khawbung is for the resolution. It is a resolution which every one should agree and pass.

Pu Speaker, in 1996 December, when Pu B.Sukla commission visited Saiha, we presented an Indian map drawn by us. In this manner we have taken step in order to acquire this waterway in our own way. I thank the hon'ble M.P for his effort as mentioned by the mover, and the Mizoram government who had held 2 terms in the government for various steps they had taken. Pu Speaker, I feel that



Chhim(southern) being mentioned as Zoram developmental entrance is coming true. Pu Speaker, it is a welcome project for Chhim people, thus I give my support and expect this House to pass the resolution. Thank you.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. Today's resolution on the whole is an important resolution. However, it is the central government's on going policy. Thus, I feel that it could have been better if there was a resolution in connection with the present crisis like famine due to bamboo flowering and welfare of the youth.

Anyway, since we are discussing the resolution today I would like to say few words. Pu Speaker, with or without this resolution the project is going to go on, the thought for the project Look East Policy had originated way back in 1947 during Nehru's term in Asian Relation Conference. This policy was taken up by Nehru keeping in view the gradual raising of European countries. However, due to China war and Pakistan war the policy could not kick-off. As time passed by, in the year 1990 the policy was taken up by the next generation of Nehru.

As we have heard, the road will be constructed as four lane corridor, Pu Dy. Speaker, the most important factor is how are we preparing ourselves. I personally have great interest in this project, thus I have visited the foreign External Ministry Under Secretary Pratibha Parker and various other offices in this connection. The main factor we discuss is the need for good governance and how we are going to handle the economic revolution that this Look East Policy will bring in. There will come a time when the ILP, RAP, PAP will have no meaning. Thus, a government with good governance is required to tackle the different factors that this policy will bring in. With this I give my support to the resolution as it is an important subject for the state. Thank you.

PU R. KHAWPUITHANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. It is fortunate that out of the 18 resolutions. Pu K. Vanlalauva's resolution came first in the balloting. It is an important resolution. It was a vision of the Mizos to have this inland water transport. Pu Dy. Speaker, it looks like this vision is turning into reality.

As we have heard, the mover mentioned that the project had started in 1998, one can assume that the project is a little slow. Pu Dy. Speaker, anyway as this project is seeing light it will open the corridor for business not only in waterway but in highway as well. Border trade with Myanmar will also bloom. This road will not only be important for the state but the whole of North-Eastern states.

Guwahati highway, which is our life-line now, in the future, will in turn claim this highway as their life-line.

The present government had taken steps to develop Indo-Bangladesh border trade. The hon'ble Chief Minister visited Bangladesh in this regard, but it may be destiny that this project had come up as the success of Indo – Bangladesh trade seems unattainable unless a mighty agreement is signed between the two countries. Pu Dy. Speaker, this road will be benefited by the North Eastern.

As we have heard, the supporter of the resolution mentioned that agreement was signed in 1998. However, I would like to point out that it was revived in 2006 by the hon'ble Chief Minister. Thus for speedy action central had to be approached. In a democracy government there is a difference between urging and not urging the government. Therefore, if we do not urge the central government the project may lie dormant again for many years.

Thus, as it is an important project it is necessary that we pass in the House to urge the central government. Thank you.

PU LALDUHAWMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, we have to be very careful with today's resolution. We know all the prosperity it will bring to us. When the agreement was signed in 1991 no Mizos participated, it was only when RITES company prepared the DPR we came to realize the project. I took great interest in the project. The Indian Govt is keen in the project, thus, there does not seem to be the need to urge the central government. As we have heard this morning from the hon'ble Chief Minister, agreement will be signed with Myanmar next week. Pu Dy Speaker, what is the need of passing this resolution . The central government is taking initiative without our contribution. Instead, a resolution such as the construction of border road between Myanmar and Lawngtlai with superior quality should be passed . The central government had handed the construction work of this road to Mizoram PWD. It is very likely that the performance on our part will be below the standard as we have seen in the implementation of PMGSY roads.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the need at present is economic road within the state. Like bamboo road a separate scheme is needed for economic road. Ministry of Transport have notified for the construction of four lane road from Silchar to Aizawl. Pu Dy. Speaker, the people of the state wants to know what is the progress of the work, why is it not highlighted in the budget speech.

Pu Dy. Speaker, like the PMGSY as per the instruction of Prime Minister, roads should connect all villages of houses above 250, by 2008. But in Mizoram this is not going to happen. Therefore, there are so many other

meaningful issues for resolution. I have my reservation for this, I prefer to stay silent as it will be wiser. Thank you.

PU K. LALRINLIANA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I would like to thank for Pu K. Vanlalauva's resolution. I share the opinion of hon'ble member Pu P.P.Thawla in regard to what have been foretold about Chhim district. It may be the will of God that this resolution came first in the balloting out of the many resolutions.

Pu Dy. Speaker, we are not stating that the project is not taken up by central government but we are highlighting the need to urge the government to speed up the project.

The hon'ble member from Ratu mentioned the reservation he had on Mizoram PWD work quality. But I feel they are reliable from the work done, like Seling to Ratu road. Likewise, the central government too trusted Mizoram PWD after seeing the construction work they have completed. I fear for the quality on the Myanmar side. Thus, Indian government should supervise the work.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the neighbouring state would prefer to ply on this road as it will be cheaper and shorter in length. I believe that the central government will appreciate the resolution.

We have heard Akyab Sitwe seaport will be constructed by Indian government. With this project, trade with Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, China and Japan will be much easier, goods will be carried at cheaper rates. Pu Dy. Speaker, it is appropriate that we urge the central government to speed up the project. Henceforth, all members should unite and support the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Sailothanga had been raising his hands for quite sometime. Now let us call Pu Sailothanga.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. First of all I would like to highlight the back ground of the project.

Pu Dy. Speaker, Indian government's vision is to be among super power by 2020. The country had now attained 4<sup>th</sup> position in terms of

purchasing power in the world. In Asia agreement is signed by various countries for trading with one another. This association is known as Association of South East Asian Nation for Trade. The Indian government joined this association. The Look East Policy may have originated from the step taken in this regard. The North Eastern states had been neglected for quite sometime. But with this policy it is believed that the economy will improve.

National Highway Authority of India is intending to invest Rs.50000 crores to up-grade North Eastern states under the on going Look East Policy. Pu Dy. Speaker, as for four lane, it was from the time of P.C. Ministry that we have urged the central government and is not successful till date.

Pu Dy. Speaker, with the waterway of the project, we will be able to reach West Bengal in just 12 hours and other various seaports of the country within 24 hours, the length is going to be much shorter. If we are able to reach Vishakapatnam in such short span of time, product like ginger could be exported without any preservation, which in turn will generate employment. Also, our state will be the gateway of North Eastern states as goods will be imported and exported at cheaper rates.

Pu Dy. Speaker, once this resolution comes to reality, business transaction through bank will increase, capital formation will also rise and let us expect tourism to grow. The crucial point is how we are to handle this development. We will need a ministry with appropriate vision and capable of administering the situation. The government should start training the youth in various fields to be prepared for the coming development which Look East Policy will bring in. Pu Dy. Speaker, it is time that this government neglect persons who refused to earn their livelihood without hard work. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is 8 minutes left for break. Should we continue and add few minutes before break. If we prefer to have break now, we shall do so. Meeting will resume at 2 : 00 P.M.

**2:00 P.M.**

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will continue discussion and as I have already invited Mr. Lalchandama beforehand, we will let him begin the discussion.

LALCHHANDAMA RALTE : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Over 30 resolutions have been submitted today and fortunately Mr. K. Vanlalauva's resolution – 'to pressurize the central government to take quick and efficient measures to build a route along the river as well as a road to connect Mizoram and Sittwe (Akyab)' had been selected for discussion in the House. The Hon'ble Member, Duhawma opined earlier that there is no need to discuss this further as it is an ongoing Central Programme, but this project is capable of shaking the very foundations of our economy for the better and I feel that it is our responsibility to express our gratitude and discuss how further actions should be taken. It is important to continually pressure the central government because already existing central programmes like four laning of road from Silchar had been left untouched till today and hence a project being a 'central programme' does not mean we should take it for granted that it would actually be implemented.

I am deeply pleased by the speech of the Governor in his address to the House where he stated that, "Kolodyne Multi Model Project envisage to link the North East States with Sittwe Port in Myanmar and triangular road connectivity with Myanmar through Zokhawthar is being pursued vigorously by my government to bring accelerated economic vibrancy in Mizoram." I am grateful that the Governor acknowledged the full support and assistance given to the Central Government programme by the Government of Mizoram. All the necessary requirements like geographical location, length of the route, role of Mizoram government, etc. had been discussed at length by my Hon'ble fellow Members. As the PWD will be taking charge from the RITES Company, they are conducting their own survey and I am pleased that our very own Engineers will be doing the survey because I consider their result more trustworthy than that of RITES. The qualities of works undertaken by the PWD are better and the Lawngtlai people and the Council are eagerly looking forward to enjoy the fruit of their labour.

As the Hon'ble Members pointed out earlier, this is one of the vital steps for the successful implementation of India's Look East Policy. As we will become a diversion route from the Siliguri corridor which is considered a bottleneck pass between the North East States and Mainland India, we will no longer be a remote, neglected region but assume a place of high importance. The Government of India cannot but take interest in our ventures and development will inevitably be heaped upon us. As our regional importance grows, the problem of road blocks at Silchar in times of quarrels will soon be of no consequences and we will be able to step forward in tune with our neighbouring states. It is my opinion that the Look East Policy is an imitation of the European Union. After the European countries have unified and shared the same currency, their economy grew so much that in a short period of time the value of Euro exceeded that of the Dollar. India had also followed the same strategy and I am extremely grateful to be able to witness a strong economy in the making.

In the meantime, Mr. Deputy Speaker, such a colossal programme is bound to be accompanied by negative effects and demerits. If we become the main corridor, it will surely attract people from other states and it will be a big problem to safeguard our regional homogeneity. It is important to plan ahead as we don't know if we will be able to enforce the Restricted Area permit and other such likes.

The Railway Budget passed recently included laying of railway track up to Sairang and it would appear that the Central Government is interested in connecting as far as Akyab with a railway route. If it is difficult to preserve our small population with an Inner Line Permit before, it would be even more difficult once the railway track is completed. Therefore the legislators need to ponder upon this carefully and devise an effective method to strengthen our guard, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to request the House to pass the resolution unanimously, thank you.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, this resolution is unnecessary. India is moving forward at a fast pace and is planning a security infrastructure in the North East.

We are simply one of the components and even if we pass a resolution telling them to stop making these kinds of programmes, it will still be implemented. The Government of India had set a big ambition to develop its defense in this part of the region so that it might capture and control the trade market with Myanmar through the Akyab. It had taken steps to develop the Economic Expansion Programme and Defense so far as to set up a port capable of receiving an aircraft carrier. We are therefore only a small part of a big programme and there is no particular need to make a resolution.

What is more important is that since we are going to be the gateway to Akyab port anyway, how will we prepare ourselves to benefit from it as much as possible? The massive 2020 Vision of India is in the process of becoming a reality and as I have requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the last Budget Session, we should try to capitalize the Look East Policy and request for a good power project in the state using the Kolodyne River. We could urge them to do the investigation quickly because all these projects will rely heavily on electricity and such an opportunity should not be missed. The Central Government is fully aware of the necessity of good power infrastructure and a resolution should be made to seize the chance to grab hold of extra benefits for the state. I am pleased to see that several new banks have been opened as part of the preparations. The Central Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Excise Bank and the ICICI Bank had recently been opened to cope with the booming business of the future. In the meantime, we need to be extra cautious because these big business establishments could easily milk us dry and hence we need to strengthen and reinforce the Restricted Area Permit, ILP

Regulation and the Protected Area Permit in order to avoid assimilation by the business establishments. At the same time we need to ensure that our state is not run over by sheer power of money by creating a competent law.

The Government must also create a law which will prevent greedy land-owners from claiming excessive compensations when these projects are started. These people could ruin the project completely in pursuance of their personal gains and the Government need to create a good set of laws to make sure the project would proceed as planned. All the while, it must also ensure that the benefits of compensations are received by our own people and preserve these areas so that rich business companies from other states do not acquire them for their own purpose. This resolution does not include those required agendas and it appears to be more or less an unnecessary discussion.

Having said that, there is no purpose in refusing to pass the resolution, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I will raise my hand in support even if I am not completely convinced. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Although we normally restrict the Ministers, we will let Mr. Z.H. Ropuia take the next stand.

PU Z.H. ROPUIA, MINISTER : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think I am one of the happiest persons that the Kolodyne Multi Model Project resolution had been approved for discussion in the House. I am among those who dedicated themselves to this project as much as possible from the previous term and I have personally spoken with the Hon'ble MP, Sita whom I think I mentioned to the Central leadership.

This was one of the first agendas of our Government when we resumed power and as the Vice Chairman of the High Power Committee, I have discussed it with the Hon'ble Chief Minister who went down and talked to the concerned authorities in the Union Ministry of Commerce. He also went to Bangladesh where he was received cordially and they even sent the Union Minister of Republic of Bangladesh, Kalparangan Chakma whom I accompanied as far as Tlabung to inspect the sites.

We all want immediate implementation of this project and hence a resolution is very much necessary to press our demand. It is a fact that the Central government needs to be continually pressured and as the Programme had

been shifted from Union Ministry of Commerce to Union Home Ministry we should seize the opportunity to push our demands.

I have introduced construction of dam at Kolodyne River as a private resolution during the first term. The government also realized the importance of the project and asked an extension of time for survey and as stated in the resolution, the Chief Minister even decided to provide around Rs. 150 lakhs to make up for the shortage of fund.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to request the opposition to pass the resolution so they will be able to say later that they played a hand in the success of this project. Even before the Look East Policy was initiated, the Chief Minister and I have discussed the prospect of constructing a waterway which will be accessible by bigger boats when the water level goes up and also introduce flat-bottom boats which will easily navigate the rivers during dry seasons. As a result, the Look East Policy may be considered as a successful implementation of our Policy and we are responsible for its quick and effective realization then. We have to prepare ourselves to become an International Trade route and as this project could mean change for generations to come, I would like to request all of you to pass the resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Looks like even the Ministers are excited about this. As he hails from the area around the project site, let us give a moment to Mr. H. Vanlalthaliana.

PU H. VANLALTHALIANA : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am thankful that we are discussing a resolution involving a huge project that could impact the economic condition of the whole of the North East. I sincerely hope that we will pass the resolution unanimously because this is an extremely important step for our economic development. Some of the Hon'ble Members have said that there is no further need to pass a resolution as it is an ongoing Central Programme and they are correct to an extent. However, precisely because it is an ongoing programme, this is the most opportune time to push for quicker implementation. I am grateful that the task of constructing roads had been handed over to PWD by the RITES who have already completed a survey. I'm sure the PWD's are more attuned to the needs and requirements of the state which is already evident from the manner in which they have conducted their survey so far. As indicated in the RITES survey, the length of the road to reach the river trade point would be only 465 kilometers and we can easily



estimate the cost of transportation while maintaining that this road will be critical for almost all the business transactions.

We are truly blessed that the Government of India had decided to launch the Look East Policy and at the same time, it would be a serious mistake to just sit back and let the project unfold by itself. It is essential to pass the resolution to ensure that our state will benefit from it as much as possible.

In the meantime, I'd like to request the PWD to construct top grade roads for the sake of all the villages in the Lawngtlai area. Instead of running through Nalkawn, it would be more advisable to construct the road along Lawngtlai-Diltlang-Khankawn. Constructing the road along this route will ensure that all the cultivable areas for fisheries are covered. After it passes the Ngengpui River, without running through the second largest village of the Area, Bungtlang, it should head towards the West until it connects with the Zokhawchhuah road surveyed earlier by the RITES. I believe this is the route that all the PWD authorities prefer in any case, and they are presently weighing the odds.

This road could become a key factor because it is the shortest route to traverse the state of Mizoram through Lawngtlai, Lunglei to Buarpui and it could also be accessed easily from Bairabi train station. The importance of this road as I have briefly highlighted, is sufficient evidence of the necessity to pass this resolution. The central government had its hands full with numerous huge projects and programmes throughout the country and it falls upon us to push for quick implementation of the project for our own good. I am sure that if the resolution is passed at the Legislative level, the pressure will be more intense and our demand will be paid more attention. Therefore, I request all the Members to pass the resolution unanimously, Thank you.

PU H. LIANSILOVA : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The resolution is indeed an important step for the future of our state and its significance and magnitude is evident from what we have heard so far. However, I personally feel that it should be a simple expression of gratitude for the construction of road and waterway to connect Sittwe port. The part of the resolution that demands quicker implementation is hardly necessary as it was already announced that it would be completed within 3 years.

From the previous speeches of the Members, it is obvious that the first priority is security to deal with the setbacks and unwanted elements that will definitely accompany the project. The project itself is undoubtedly a positive step towards development and indeed we should be thankful, but we need to lay emphasis on the basic infrastructure and preparations first of all.

However, I have been wondering if we would be ready by three years when the project is completed. We may have enough stock of turmeric to trade with but the rest would be imports rather than exports. If goods arrive at huge quantities, we might not be able to deal with it and they could easily go to waste if we do not have appropriate stockrooms. This is why we need to prepare ourselves to accommodate the incoming goods.

It would be extremely sad if the people of Mizoram find ourselves sitting at the roadside or the river banks watching the goods come and go while we ourselves have nothing. It would be even more terrible if we can be bought with money. Therefore, our system of education should also be modified to enable the younger generations to cope with this new development. Their education should be banking, financial management, etc. oriented so that they will be able to compete, not only at the state or national level but at the South East Asian level.

Finally, we keep talking about good all-weather roads and rail tracks but it would be of immense benefit if our inland water transport is upgraded first. I was told that they are able to travel from kawlwah to Darzokai even during dry seasons. If we clear some of the rapids the villagers would be able to utilize the rivers for transportations all through the year and it would ease much of their problems. We could also transport our bamboos at lower costs and more people will be able to use it for their livelihood. Let us be thankful for the resolution but instead of pushing for immediate implementation, let us lay more emphasis on preparation. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear what Mr.Rohluna had to say.

PU H. ROHLUNA : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Indeed our resolution, as the other Members have said, is very important yet I feel that instead of urging the 'central government to take quick and efficient measures to build a route along the river as well as a road to connect Mizoram and Sittwe (Akyab)' it should be changed to 'urge the government of Mizoram to make efficient preparations for the successful implementation of the project'. The Central Government is presently doing a very good job of fulfilling its role and it is a mere waste of time to press for unnecessary demands.

This project was actually initiated back in 1990 during the government of Mr. Lal Thanhawla. The RITES conducted their investigations and surveys in '93 and '94 and Border Trade was discussed by the then Chief Secretary, Lalfakzuala along with Engineer in Chief, Ramhluna Khiangte and other officials

with representatives of Myanmar at Rangoon. Agreements were signed by both parties and in accordance with the agreement, the RITES completed their investigations and survey and submitted their report in 2001. Therefore, to claim it as this government's brainchild as the Hon'ble MLA of Tawipui had done, would be hardly acceptable. It remained neglected when the NDA government assumed power at the Centre but the Congress led UPA Government revived it once again through the Look East Policy when they came to power. It was neglected for around 8 years but now that it had been reintroduced, its benefits have become more and more evident.

Our House Leader is fully aware of the efficient measures taken by the Central. The DoNER Minister came on February 12<sup>th</sup> and went to the project site in a helicopter. He also traveled along the river and examined all the proposed trade points first hand. The Government of India and Myanmar will also meet next month to discuss this project and the Union Cabinet had approved a sanction of 355 crores and 31 lakhs for the same just yesterday. Furthermore, the Cabinet had also directed the Land Waterways Authority of India to take up the project. Therefore, the central government needed no further urging and stress should be laid instead, on how the government of Mizoram should capitalize on the opportunity to lift the condition of the people.

We should be thankful that the central government had taken such an interest in constructing roads and water ways for the development of the state. It would be very helpful if the PWD could be advised to find the shortest and most convenient routes before they submit their final survey report. The central government is trying to set us up as the main corridor for trade with the South East Asian Countries and is trying to complete the whole project within 3 years. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wonder if it is necessary to press further for quicker implementation through such a high level of state authority like a resolution, Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The mover of the resolution ought to want some time to address the House and the House Leader might have something to say. I am sure the Members have much to say but we will allow only three more Members to take the stand so that we can conclude this sitting by 4:00 PM. Mr. Lalhlengliana may address the House next.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am profoundly grateful about today's resolution and the steps taken by the central government. This is an exciting Phase in the development of our state and I feel that the predictions of the spiritualists have become a reality. The importance of cooperation from the state government is evident from the surveys conducted by the two agencies. The RITES have left around 36 blind curves in their survey but after the PWD took over, they found better routes and shorter paths to construct the roads. If the resolution is passed it would be much easier for the central government to implement the project without having to mind the opinion of the central opposition. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't know why the opposition had tried to twist and distort everything the government had done. They should be brave enough to support its endeavours when it is good for the state. If we pass this resolution, it would mean that we are setting a task for the central government while ensuring that the project will still be a huge priority in case of instability in the central leadership. Therefore, it would be in the interest of everyone if we pass the resolution. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear from Mr. Hiato next as he is from the area around the project site.

PU S.HIATO : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Chhimtuipui River is called 'Beino' by us and 'Buimu' by the Lai's, some others also call it Kaladan or Kolodyne. It had more than once been referred to as 'the river of sorrow' because 4/5 people are drowned each year. However, it had become a source of blessing for the villages along the river and the whole of the state today. Earlier, any friction at the Bagha border results in hardships faced by the whole state, but with the implementation of this project we will have free and better commercial route and I am sure we are all very grateful. In the meantime, I don't see any reason to push further for faster implementation. The Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Tourism Minister had virtually claimed this project as their brainchild. If that is so, why is it necessary to trouble the Legislative Assembly and pass the resolution? Doesn't it merely expose the weakness of this government and their empty boasts?

We have already read that India and Myanmar are going to sign a trade pact this April and a certain amount of fund had been allocated for the project. India is trying to become a super power in the world by 2020 and to achieve that target, it attempts to promote development at every level. We are one of those backward areas that require an economic uplift. Hence, we are included in the Look East Policy. However, it is important that we ask ourselves if we are genuinely

prepared for such an immense project. The project may generate over 40000 employments once it is completed but we have to keep in mind that there are thousands of Burmese in Aizawl alone and unless we make appropriate preparations, what is to stop these Burmese from moving to these trade points and obtaining a large number of these jobs?

In the meantime, I would like to request the Ministers and MLA's to visit the project site less because we are afraid that you will buy all our lands and use it as an opportunity to receive large amounts of compensations afterwards. Please remember that we are a region that requires preservation and special development packages.

In any case, the DoNER Minister had already visited the site without any urging from our part. The Hon'ble MP, Pu Zawma also accompanied him on his travels and they went as far as Zawngsarep on a boat. It is apparent that the central is doing its best to complete this project early. They said that they will sign the pact in April and will finish the whole project in 3 years. Therefore, incessantly pressing for quicker implementation could be misread as our lack of faith in the central leadership. The whole state is excited by the prospect of being a trade corridor and we should let it rest at that. The central should not be wrongly considered as a weak government that needs to be pushed forward with resolutions. They are fully aware of our condition and they're doing their best to develop us. As the Hon'ble Member before me have said we might not be fully prepared if it was implemented too suddenly and that could take a huge toll. The Southern region will soon become the main gateway and it will become the hub of trade and commerce. We are afraid that the general populace of the state would move to our areas and buy us out. Therefore I would like to request for a special reservation for the areas as well. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.  
MINISTER This is a resolution that had been pushed for quite sometime by those who genuinely wants the development of the Southern areas. When the then Vice Chairman of Planning Commission, Manmohan Singh visited Saiha along with his adviser, Smt. Trivedi in 1981, we submitted an all-party petition to construct a sea-outlet along the Chhimituipui River but it was to no avail.

The effort of the government of India in this project is extremely praiseworthy because the Myanmar government was unable to provide the initially agreed 10 per cent for the implementation of the project. But the Indian government would not be deterred and they said that they would shoulder the total cost. Even then the Myanmar government made trivial excuses and were unable to meet expectations. Yet, India kept its promise and proceeded in accordance with the

original agreement anyway. This colossal effort of the Indian Government is included in the first sentence of the resolution and as we are all in agreement to our gratefulness, I think it is a very appropriate resolution.

I am particularly thankful, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the predictions of spiritual leaders like Rev. Chhawna and Mr. Saikhuma are in the process of coming true. Dr. Sun-Yat-Sen remarked when they first established a provincial government that they will not follow the Western system but they will uncover the hidden wealth of China and build a country no less great than the Western countries. It would have been very difficult to visualize the heights China had reached today when Dr. Sen made this remark and such is our situation today. Therefore, as my Hon'ble fellow Member, Liansailova pointed out, we must be fully prepared at all costs.

It is necessary to press for quicker implementation because when the foundation stone for Kawlchaw Bridge was laid some years back, the then Governor Saikia announced that it would be completed within 3 years at the cost of 3 crores. But it was completed after 10 years at the cost of over 10 crores. It is our responsibility, therefore, to make sure that we do our part to ensure its immediate implementation. This is an opportunity to elevate the economic condition of the Mizos and we must pass this resolution to if we want the best for our home state. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We obviously all have much to say but unfortunately we are running out of time. The Home Minister may say a few words in regard to this resolution and then we will dismiss the House for today.

PU TAWNLUIA, MINISTER : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am deeply pleased that we are all concerned about the project which is evident from the speeches of the Hon'ble members. It appears that we are all in agreement about the first section of the resolution which states, 'we are thankful that a river and inland route to Akyab port had been proposed for construction' but our opinions deviate in the section that calls for exertion of pressure on the central government for speedier implementation. Pressuring the central government is essential because it would be a statement of our eagerness and excitement and the central government needs to be informed of this.

As we are all aware, the desire of both Myanmar and India to have a peaceful and profitable relationship led to border trade and other economic

relations, and the border states have benefited from this in many ways. The construction of a river and inland route to Akyab port is one of the components of India's Look East Policy and as it will be a huge leap towards development for Mizoram, I would like to request for the resolution to be passed unanimously, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Today's resolution certainly invites many interesting opinions and suggestions yet we can only entertain so much. We will now request the House Leader to say a few words.

PU ZORAMTHANGA,  
CHIEF MINISTER : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am glad that the Members have shown so much interest in the resolution introduced by Mr. K. Vanlalauva. That was indeed an enlightening discussion.

This project is a result of several factors with its roots firmly fixed in the central planning. The cooperation between India and Myanmar, the subsequent meetings between representatives of the two countries, the contribution of the UPA, etc. all resulted in the successful culmination of this project.

On our part, the Government of Mizoram as well as the previous government led by Mr. Lal Thanhawla had also done whatever we could for its success. During the government of the NDA, we urged the central leaders to find an alternative trade avenue for the North East as Bangladesh raised too many issues at the time and the Central leaders were very enthusiastic about our suggestion. Now that the UPA had decided to realize that ambition, it is our duty to express our gratitude, as the first part of the resolution had stated. After this project is completed, goods can be transported at the price of 1 Rupee per Kg but for the bigger ocean liners to arrive at our doorsteps there would be some places along the river which would require deepening of the river bed. With further developments, we can even construct a route for a 50 metric ton capable ship up to Hruitezawl and as far as Kawlchaw for smaller boats.

The Gurkha's demand for a separate state could result in an agitation in and around Darjeeling while the Siliguri 'chicken neck' pass is surrounded on both sides by Bangladesh insurgents and Chinese militants. This means that the North East could be cut off at any time. But with the implementation of this project, we will no longer have to be afraid of such threats.

The Government of India had embarked on this project with single-minded determination because they are willing to shoulder the cost cent per cent and had agreed to all the Burmese demands. The funding for the Myanmar side of construction would be provided through the External Affairs Ministry while the Ministry of Road Transport had been set the task of constructing the road on our side. After they completed their surveys the PWD was instructed to re-examine their work and they found several locations which they felt should be re-routed because this is not a PMGSY project which aims particularly at connecting villages.

The road is to be used by the whole of the North East therefore we have informed the villages that we are looking to build a good grade road and it will not necessarily pass through their villages if it is more convenient. The PWD also wanted to build good double lane road if they are to manage the task of construction anyway. We have requested the External Affairs Ministry to convey to the Ministry of Transport that around 300/400 crores would be required for the construction and they must be ready to sanction the fund when the DPR is released so that work can commence efficiently without delay.

Apart from the various facilities this project will bring about, our neighbouring states like Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland and the rest of the North East states would be extremely grateful because we will be able to trade with both sides directly. Therefore, the central government must be informed of our gratefulness, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In the meantime, the project cannot be implemented successfully without the total cooperation of the state and the central government is fully aware of this. They have enquired incessantly about our opinion and they are very sensitive to our demands. The Burmese delegations have also realized our role and they urged us to pressure the central government to commence the work as soon as possible.

The pact will be signed very soon and as the concerned state's Chief Minister, I have been invited to attend the meet. Hence, it is important that we remind the Central government of our eagerness and open-mindedness at the meeting through this resolution. I am certain that the central would welcome this resolution because it is an indication of our united support. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to request the Members to pass this resolution without further ado, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, we have only 5 minutes left and if the Mover of the resolution is not given the amount of time he would have desired, I appeal to his understanding and forbearance beforehand. Let us invite the Mover of the resolution, Mr. K. Vanlalauva to wind up the discussion and request the House to pass his resolution.



PU K. VANLALAUVA : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I regret the fact that we have run out of time since I know for sure that there are still many Members who have lots of insightful observations to make. I don't believe there is much left to be clarified in this wind-up and I welcome all the points that the opposition had made because they were honest concerns for the welfare of the state.

I am full of concern for the Member's observation that the PWD will be handling the construction of 117 kilometers of road within the state boundary and their counsel for carefulness. I would also like to assure the Members that we will do everything to ensure that compensation issues will not hinder our objective.

One of the points I'd like to clarify in this wind up is that this resolution is part and parcel of the establishment of the Youth Commission because this project will inevitably engender thousands of employment opportunities and the youths need to prepare themselves thoroughly.

Finally, the tireless effort of our Lok Sabha MP, I believe, had begun to bear fruit and we are profoundly indebted to him. We should also thank our state Ministers, Foreign Minister, Home Minister and DoNER Minister profusely for their dedication and vision. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know there are some incorrect wordings and errors in the resolution yet I would like to insist that it be passed with all its inaccuracy. Hence, I request that the House pass my resolution, 'We are grateful that the central government had decided to build a route along the river as well as a road to connect Mizoram and Sittwe (Akyab), in the meantime, we should press for speedier implementation' unanimously. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Mover had explained his resolution and requested the House to pass it unanimously. Those who accept the resolution, please say 'I accept' and if you don't please say so.

Very well, Mr. K. Vanlalauva's resolution, 'We are grateful that the central government had decided to build a route along the river as well as a road to connect Mizoram and Sittwe (Akyab), in the meantime, we should press for speedier implementation' had been passed unanimously by the House.

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, we were able to conclude this week's session without any inconvenience and have finished today's business smoothly. The session will be resumed on Monday i.e, 31<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 AM onwards.

Sitting is adjourned at 4:00 P.M.