

THIRD SITTING ON MONDAY, THE 22ND MARCH, 2004
(Time : 10:30 AM to 1: 00 PM and 2: 00 PM to 4:00 PM)

PRESENT

Pu Lalchamliana Speaker, at the Chair, Chief Minister, 13 Ministers and 23 Members were present.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

PU ZORAMTHANGA to present to the House "

1. Supplementary Demand for Grants for the year 2003 - 2004.
2. Vote on Account.
3. Annual Budget for 2004 - 2005 with allied papers.

S P E A K E R : "So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets".

Matthew 7 : 12

Today, we have applications for leave from two of our members; Pu K. Lianzuala, due to ill health and Pu R.M. Chakma, due to private affairs. Can this House grant their applications? (Members say 'yes') Now, we shall go to our business. Today we shall take Financial Business. Let us call upon the Chief Minister and Finance Minister to present :

- (1) Supplementary Demand for Grants for the year 2003 - 2004.
- (2) Vote on Account.
- (3) Annual Budget for 2004 - 2005, with allied papers.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I present before CHIEF MINISTER this august House the Second Supplementary Demand for Grants 2003 - 2004, Vote on Account for the months of April, May, June and July, 2004 and the Budget Estimates for the Financial year of 2004 - 2005.

2. Before I speak about budgetary matters, I would like to express my gratitude to the people of Mizoram for placing their confidence in my Ministry for the second time. I take this as a challenge to fulfill the aspirations and expectation of the people and I assure you that these aspiration will not be compromised. I am happy to share with you that my Ministry had executed many notable developmental works during the last five years and it is a matter of satisfaction that my Ministry will have an opportunity to complete its on-going works. I would like to place on record my gratitude to the Government of India, without whose support these developmental activities could not have taken place.

3. As we are all aware, any resource mobilised by us are meagre and do not represent even 10% of the requirement of the State. To improve its finances, the state government has drawn up necessary programmes in line with Government of India's guidelines in an effort to reduce expenditure and mobilise additional resources. One such scheme, amongst other, is the mandatory 5% annual improvement of our revenue deficit to culminate at a zero point in 2004 - 05, failing which the Government of India will withhold 15% of the Revenue Gap Grant recommended by the Eleventh Commission. No meaningful headway could be achieved due to the ever increasing maintenance expenditure of the existing set up to justify release of the withheld 15% Revenue Gap Grant. This has almost crippled the state's finances and has rendered managing the day to day functions of the administration and execution of developmental schemes and projects almost impossible. However, despite our inability to qualify for release of the withheld Gap Grants under normal course, the Government of India, appreciating our performance in the management of the State's finances, released as a special dispensation the equivalent amount of the withheld Gap Grant of the last three years amounting to Rs. 148.08 crore in the form of Special Central Assistance. As a result of the relentless efforts of the state coupled with the continued support of the Central Government, we have been able to manage the finances of the state without any stoppage of payment during the last five years.

4. I would like to inform the hon'ble Members that various measures have been taken by this government to narrow down the wide revenue deficit gap by way of upward revision of the existing resources like power tariff, water charges, bus fares and adaptation of the uniform floor rate of taxes. In addition to this, the Voluntary Retirement Scheme has also been implemented and so far 140 drivers/handyman/despatch riders have been given permission to avail this facility. At the same time in order to further reduce revenue expenditure, a scheme for Privatisation of Government Vehicles has been approved by the government and will be implemented shortly. Under this scheme, vehicle entitlement of officials has been reviewed resulting in a surplus of 500 vehicles. Disposal of these surplus vehicles will earn substantial revenue for the government and at the same time drastically compress expenditure on maintenance of vehicles. Further, installation of Electronic Energy Meters has been introduced and completed in some places. It is expected that this will go a long way in regulating power consumption whilst creating awareness of the need for energy conservation amongst the people. Another remunerative scheme scheduled to be taken up is the 100% Water Metering of private water connections, the implementation of which will double the present revenue. These two innovative schemes are expected to spearhead the state government's efforts of mobilising additional resources during the next financial year.

5. One of the most important policies and programmes of the state for uplifting the economy of the state is the economic utilisation of the state's bamboo resources. To achieve this, the Joint Venture Bamboo Processing Industry at Sairang was set up and is expected to be commissioned shortly. We are all aware that after a cycle of 50 years, bamboo flowering takes place in and around Mizoram. It is, therefore, expected that during 2007, this event will take place and cause untold damage. In anticipation of the occurrence of this menace, the state government intends to harvest all available bamboo within the state for its meaningful utilisation. This is expected to generate employment and improve the economy of the rural population. The state government will also set up a Tissue Culture Laboratory to generate improved varieties of bamboo seeds for replacement of the existing variety in various places.

6. I would like to inform this august House that due to non finalisation of the Annual Plan 2004 - 2005, I am constrained to retain the Annual Plan size of

2003 - 2004 for the 2004 - 2005 financial year. Therefore, the budget is interim in nature and I am seeking Vote on Account for the first four months of 2004 - 2005 to facilitate financial transactions of government departments. Further, I will be duty bound to seek the approval of this august House for the full budget for 2004 - 2005 following the finalisation of the Annual Plan outlay for 2004 - 2005 by the Planning Commission of India.

7. As I have already stated, our best efforts for improving the state's resources to arrest the growth of our deficit gap has been deterred by the ever increasing requirement of maintenance expenditure. The estimated closing deficit of Rs. 266.38 crore for the current financial year has deteriorated to Rs. 316.05 crore. Therefore, the estimated closing deficit for 2004 - 2005 now stands at Rs. 454.51 crore.

8. I may now highlight the achievement of various departments during 2003 - 2004 and their tentative programmes for 2004 - 2005 which will be subject to review following finalisation of the Annual Plan outlay for 2004 - 2005.

9. **AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

9.1 During 2003 - 2004, in its continued endeavour to sustain productivity in agriculture to improve the standard of living of farmers and to restore ecological balance, the department has undertaken various projects and schemes. Under land and hill slope development, 104 hectares was developed at the cost of Rs. 55 lakhs. Construction of 38.3 km of Agriculture Potential Area Connectivity at an estimated cost of Rs. 115 lakh is also progressing well. Cultivation of different crops such as paddy, pulses, oilseeds, maize, vegetables and commercial crops covering 99,534 hectares is also underway at an estimated cost of Rs. 112 lakh and so far 83,644 hectares has been covered during the current kharif. An extensive plan prepared for promotion organic farming to reduce the use of fertilisers like neem cake was procured. In anticipation of the rodent widespread, leaflets were distributed to farmers alongside awareness campaigns and survey of bamboo flowering areas to ensure prompt precautionary measures against such occurrence. The department during 2003 - 2004, proposed to replace 30% of local varieties of crops with high yielding varieties and 50% of the target was achieved during the current kharif. Achievement of the total target is expected by the end of the current financial year. Cultivation of red oil palm for vegetable oil production was introduced in certain parts of Mizoram and 10,000 seedlings were distributed for setting up of plantations. Agro-processing units such as rice - huller, oil expeller and rice polisher were set up at key villages at a no loss no gain basis in the interest of farmers in the post harvest processing of their agriculture produce. Under Watershed Development Programme, two schemes namely - National Watershed Development Programme under Rainted Areas (NWDPR) and Watershed Development Programme for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), 151 Projects were taken up within an allocation of Rs. 760 lakhs.

9.2 During 2003 - 2004, 20 Minor Irrigation projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) - IX with NABARD's financial assistance were taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.20 crore to be completed in four years, Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), 5 on-going projects are being continued. The ongoing Mizoram Intodelhna Project was also continued and 21,467 families were selected to take up land development, piggery, rain water harvesting dams and community nurseries. For this, the Planning Commission of India has approved the Rs. 20 crores project report of the State Government.

10. **HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

10.1 During 2003 - 2004, construction of District Horticulture Offices at Lunglei

and Kolasib Phase - I were completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakh. Staff quarters at various places were also constructed at the cost of Rs. 23.5 lakh. In addition to this, new Horticulture Divisions at Kolasib, Serchhip and Lawngtlai were opened. 110 km of Horticulture Potential Area Connectivity and bridle paths for plying tractors with trailer were constructed at various places for which expenditure of Rs. 60 lakh was incurred.

10.2 During 2004 - 2005, the department proposes to take up construction of a District Horticulture Office at Lawngtlai and construction of staff quarters at Thingsai, Lawngtlai and Tlabung and also extension of District Horticulture Offices at Kolasib and Lunglei at an estimated cost of Rs. 21 lakh. Extension of cold storage at Serchhip is also expected to be taken up Rs. 49.5 lakh has also been proposed for continuing the ongoing project of construction of Horticulture Potential Area Connectivity roads. The department also proposes to continue its programme of supply of organic manures, plant potential materials, equipment, vegetable seeds, flower seeds, plantation crops and mushroom spawns to farmers. To ensure public awareness as also the well being of horticulturist, it is proposed to publish department magazines, booklets and leaflets during the year.

11. POWER AND ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

11.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department took up the works of improvement of sub - station and distribution network within Aizawl and Lunglei town at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,413 lakh and Rs. 1,180 lakh respectively. The 22.92 MW Heavy Furnace Oil generating plant at Bairabi was completed. This power plant is expected to provide base - load power to the state and it will also be used for supplying power for construction of the proposed Bairabi Dam Project. Construction of 132 KV line spanning 28 km from Bairabi to Bawktlang was undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 456 lakh. This line will be utilised for evacuation of power from Heavy Furnace Oil based Thermal Power Plant, Bairabi. Construction of 12 MW Serlui 'B' Hydel Project continues and funds for the 80 MW Bairabi Hydel Project are being arranged. The 3 MW Tuipanglui Small Hydel Project, 500 KW Lamsial Small Hydel Project, 3 MW Kau Tlabung Small Hydel Project are expected to be completed by 2004. With a view to improving power supply and also to reduce transmission losses, construction of 132 KV lines from Saitual to Darlawn (66km), Khawzawl to Lungdar 'E' (50 km), Khawzawl to Ngopa (70 km) were continued. 132 KV Sub - Station at Bawktlang was constructed to receive power from ongoing Tuirial Hydel Project, Bairabi Thermal Project and Serlui 'B' Small Hydel Project.

11.2 To improve distribution of power to the northern areas of Mizoram, the upgradation of EHV sub - station at Saitual was taken up. Augmentation of Luangmual sub - station which serves as the nerve centre for 50% of the power supply within Aizawl town was also completed. Upgradation and augmentation of Champhai sub - station and 33 KV incoming bay of Khawzawl were also completed.

12. INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

12.1 During 2003 - 2004, 6.75 lakh tea seedlings were planted in Ngopa and Biate covering 60 hectares. Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 9.52 lakh was given to tea growers to cover the cost of raising tea seedlings. The pilot project to Bamboo Processing Industry at Sairang with Government of India's funding at Rs. 400 lakh under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources and Rs. 371 lakh from the state government is expected to be completed during the current financial year.

12.2 To create employment opportunities, 60 educated unemployed youth were sent to Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore to attend a 2 week food processing training and 4 persons were sent to Jorhat to undergo a 5 month

Tea Technology course at TRA. 44 small tea growers were also sent on a study tour to visit the tea gardens at Darjeeling, Jorhat and Dibrugarh. The department coordinated participating Corporations and Industrial Units sold material worth Rs. 11.14 lakh. To promote indigenous handloom weaving and self employment in the form of cottage industries, 137 persons were given training in handloom weaving and 184 artisans in knitting and tailoring. These trainees were provided necessary equipment for self employment on subsidy. A Bamboo Common Facility Centre was also set up at Zuangtui Industrial Estate with funding from the Central government. The department organised Special Handloom Expo and district level Handloom Fair during the year. Implementation of E-governance for Mizoram Secretariat with an approved project cost of Rs. 380 lakh has also been initiated. Besides undertaking various infrastructure development activities like construction of guest house, industrial sheds, staff quarters and laboratory buildings, the department undertook construction of the Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre (IIDC) at Pukpui at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 crore and the work is expected to be completed within the stipulated time.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

13.1 In pursuit of its aims at providing adequate safe drinking water supply and appropriate sanitation facilities for improving over all public health in the state. The department, during 2003 - 2004, has provided safe drinking water to 60 habitations under its Rural Water Supply Programme. Construction of major Water Supply Schemes at North Kawnpui, Aizawl, Champhai, Mamit and Lengpui are also progressing in full swing under the Urban Water Supply Programme. These schemes are funded under NABARD, Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme. Under Rural Sanitation Programme, 100 pour flush sanitary latrines were constructed during 2003 - 2004 and so far, 2,862 latrines have been constructed under this programme. With financial assistance from Department of Development of North Eastern Region, execution of Drainage Project Phase - I for construction of artificial channels in Aizawl was undertaken. Projects for Total Sanitation Campaign for Mamit and Saiha Districts at an estimated cost of Rs. 106.02 lakh and Rs. 113.5 lakh respectively are being taken up during the current financial year.

13.2 During 2004 - 2005, the department proposes to continue its on - going Rural Water Supply Programme. It is also expected to complete and commission the Greater Mamit Water Supply Scheme, Greater Champhai Water Supply Scheme and Composite North Kawnpui Water Supply Scheme.

14. HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

14.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department with a view to providing health care to even the most remotely villages, took up construction of 2 Community Health Centres and 5 Public Health Centres under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Yojana (PMGY). Construction of 15 sub - Centres and 15 Type - I quarters at various places is also in the pipeline. Construction of Public Health Centre building at South Vanlaiphai was completed and sub - Centre buildings at Sesawng and Type - I quarters at Darngawn Sub - Centre were also taken up under Border Area Development Programme. Construction of 2 Regional Diagnostic Centres at Champhai and Lunglei were continued under Eleventh Finance Commission awards. Construction of Out - Patients Department block at Civil Hospital at Lunglei is also well in progress. Under Reproductive Child Health Project (RCH), 111 Sub - Centre buildings and 5 Bachelor quarters for doctors were constructed. Alongside its pursuit of improving and augmenting health facilities, the department has also placed great importance in the well being of its employees. Therefore, during the year, 45 quarters with an outlay of Rs. 1,200 lakh were constructed with Central Assistance under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Yojana (PMGY). In order to make modern medical facilities easily accessible to people in far - flung

areas, 3 mobile clinics and 20 mobile toilets were purchased.

14.2 During 2004 - 2005, the department will lay emphasis on upgradation of their existing hospitals at 6 places in various Districts. The department also proposes to set up a mechanical laundry at Aizawl and Lunglei, an Accident Trauma Centre at Civil Hospitals in Lawngtlai, Kolasib, Mamit and Serchhip and a State Medical Library at Civil Hospital, Aizawl.

15. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

15.1 During 2003 - 2004, the Public Works Department has taken up various infrastructure building and maintenance of the assets of the State. Under its Roads Sector, the department has made a significant achievement and some of the notable schemes that were taken up are the Rs. 350 crore major improvement of 184 KM of state roads, rehabilitation and maintenance of 520 KM of road under the World Bank funding and construction of Aizawl - Reiek - West Lungdar road and Rawpuichhip - Buarpui Road financed by NABARD. Construction of 9 roads in various places have been taken up with fund Under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources. Construction of 3 roads with an outlay of Rs. 1,493.31 lakh under Economic and Inter - State Roads Scheme have been started with 50% central and 50% state share. To ensure improvement of riding quality, development and maintenance of National Highway - 44 A Sairang - Mamit - Manu Road, National Highway - 150 Seling - Tipaimukh Road and National Highway - 154 Bilkhawthlir - Bairabi - Panchgram Road were taken up and are expected to be completed during 2004 - 2005. Another notable achievement is the recently completed improvement of Sairang - Lengpui sector of National Highway 44 A which has resulted in a 10 KM reduction of the distance between Aizawl and Lengpui Airport. 21 schemes under Prime Minister's Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) were taken up with a view to improving rural connectivity. Under Building Sector, construction of Mizoram House at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, staff quarters at Guwahati and Assembly Annexe building at Aizawl were started. Under Eleventh Finance Commission awards, construction of Raj Bhawan at Khatla and 3 new Secretariat buildings under New Capital Project are in progress. Construction of Deputy Commissioner's office, bungalow and staff quarters in 5 new districts was also taken up under Eleventh Finance Commission Grant under Upgradation of Standards of Administration.

15.2 During 2004 - 2005, construction of 12 new roads to connect unconnected villages with a population of more than 1,000 is contemplated.

16. FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

16.1 During 2003 - 2004, 89,931 metric tonne of rice under various schemes like Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Midday Meal and 8,216.4 metric tonne of sugar were lifted and distributed to various supply centres throughout the state. Under Targeted Public Distribution System, the department has taken up special schemes under BPL where 35 kg of rice per beneficiary per month was distributed to 52,650 families. Under Annapurna scheme, 10 kg of rice per beneficiary was distributed to 1,000 persons over the age of 65 years. Under AAY, foodgrains at a special subsidised rate of Rs. 3 per kg was supplied to the poorest of the poor families. 5,587 inmates of SC/ST Residential Hostels were supplied 15 kg of foodgrains per resident at BPL rate. Under Midday Meal, 2 kg of rice per student per month for 10 academic months was also distributed. The department has also taken active part in the implementation of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) in lifting and transporting the foodgrains component of the scheme. Due to the earnest efforts of the department in monitoring procurement and distribution of LPG, the days of waiting in long queues to exchange LPG cylinders are in the past and home delivery has now become a part of our lives.

16.2 Construction of 3 godowns and 2 staff quarters at various places were taken up under Plan. Under BADP, various construction works with a special emphasis on improvement of approach roads to various godowns were taken up with an outlay of Rs. 6 lakh. Fencing of 12 supply department complexes within the state was completed at the cost of Rs. 2.25 lakh.

16.3 Under Legal Metrology Wing, 20 sets of verification tools and also different instruments for checking the quality and quantity of POL and other products were purchased. 26,067 weight & measure instruments, 58,500 gas cylinders, 25 dispensing pumps, 1,012 tank lorries carrying petrol, 1,557 tank lorries carrying diesel, 9 weigh bridges were checked and verified. 1,734 underweight cement bags were seized and 79 cases registered in court, Rs. 3.77 lakh was collected as verification fee.

17. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

17.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department spent Rs. 29.58 lakh for expansion of coffee and large cardamom plantations on 216 hectares of land. 78 units of water harvesting tanks were constructed. Rs. 32 lakh was expended for raising quality seedlings of coffee, rubber and large cardamom. 4 Integrated Wasteland Development Projects were also implemented at Champhai, Lawngtlai and Reiek.

17.2 During 2004 - 2005, the department will give priority to expansion of coffee and large cardamom plantations and nursery multiplication activities. Hillside terrace development, construction of soil erosion control works and 40 water harvesting ponds will be taken up. The department also proposes to complete and implement 2 on-going IWDP programmes and 2 new ones at various place.

18. SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

18.1 The Social Welfare Department continued to implement various welfare activities in the field of women empowerment, upliftment of women and children, the aged, the disabled and social defence. Under National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD), state and district resource centres were established under 3 non-government institutions with an amount of Rs. 110.68 lakh. Women Empowerment Programme has scaled new heights with the implementation of a scheme for the socio-economic upliftment of women under the centrally sponsored Swayam Sidha Scheme for which 3 blocks have been selected and various training programmes on account keeping, legal literacy and leadership training were conducted in these selected blocks. Vocational training centres at Kolasib, Serchhip and Lunglei have been imparting training to tribal youth on self employment in 5 different trades. 2 new vocational training centres were constructed at Champhai and Saiha and are expected to be operationalised soon. Fund to the tune of Rs. 240 lakh earmarked by Government of India under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution is slated for utilisation on various infrastructural works. Construction of 220 Anganwadi centres under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) were undertaken with an expenditure Rs. 250 lakh.

19. TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

19.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department, realising the need to cut down the high cost of maintenance of old and over aged buses, purchased 5 buses at the cost of Rs. 56.87 lakh. Rs. 11.63 lakh was expended for purchase of essential machines to modernise and augment its department workshop. The use of smart cards was introduced to improve the standard of issue of driving licenses at District Transport Office, Aizawl for which Rs. 11 lakh was spent. A new District Transport Office at Serchhip was opened to ensure better enforcement of Motor Vehicle Acts and Rules in the District. A weigh bridge at Vairengte checkgate is being installed and vertical extension of State Transport Authority building was completed. With

financial assistance from North Eastern Council, the department started construction of an Inter - State Bus Terminus at Chaltlang at an estimated cost of Rs. 901.4 lakh.

19.2 During 2004 - 2005, it is proposed to construct Mizoram State Transport Booking Offices at Vaitin, Saiphai and Kanhmun. Vertical extension of Mizoram State Transport offices at Lunglei and Kolasib and construction of repairing shed at Lunglei MST Office is also envisaged. Construction of residential building at Kanhmun, vertical extension of District Transport Office and staff quarters at Kolasib, construction of check gate at Bairabi and District Transport Office at Lunglei is proposed. In order to improve efficiency, the department also proposes to impart training to enforcement officers and staff during 2004 - 2005.

20. **TOURISM DEPARTMENT**

20.1 During 2003- 2004, the department, addressing the need for building tourist infrastructure to achieve its aim of promoting tourism, constructed Tourist Homes and Cottages at Lunglei, Thenzawl, Berawtlang, Thingdawl, Kolasib, Rungdil and Bairabi. Thalfavang Kut and Chapchar Kut were also successfully celebrated at Aizawl. The department also participated in the Surajkund Mela at Haryana and the Food Festival at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.

20.2 During the year, construction of 5 Tourist Lodges at Vawmbuk, Saipum, Mamit, Ngopa and Pangzawl, wayside amenity at West Phaileng and 10 cottages and typical Mizo House at Reiek were completed and will be commissioned during 2004 - 2005.

20.3 During 2004 - 2005, the department will continue its programme of infrastructure building with the construction of Tourist Lodges at Zokhawthar, Sakawrdai, Khamrang, Saichho, Kanhmun and Tlabung. Construction of Tourist Reception Centre at Berawtlang and development of Eco - Tourism at Reiek is also programmed.

21. **LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**

21.1 During 2003 - 2004, Rs. 478.41 lakh was spent for construction of 9 markets at different places under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources. Rs. 46 lakh Local Bodies Grant under the Eleventh Finance Commission's recommendations was utilised for construction of 1390 running metres of pedestrian pavements within Aizawl. In addition to installing high mast lights at various places in Aizawl, District Local Administration Office at Lunglei and 2 swimming pools at District Park, Lunglei and Kolasib were constructed. During the year, the circle offices at Champhai and Kolasib were upgraded to district offices and new district offices at Mamit and Serchhip were opened. Construction of retaining walls and public steps was undertaken in various district headquarters under Urban Development Scheme.

21.2 During 2004 - 2005, it is expected to continue market construction in various places and continue the on - going projects of construction of pedestrian pavements. Disbursement of Composite Cash Loan (HBA) to 2558 government employees and Housing Loan to 445 families is also on the agenda of the department.

22. **TRADE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT**

22.1 During 2003 - 2004, Border Trade at Zokhawthar was inaugurated. The New Market Building at Aizawl was also renovated. Market offices and market sheds at various places were repaired. Financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakh was given to MAMCO.

22.2 During 2004 - 2005, the department proposes to set up district offices at Kolasib and Mamit and also to continue ensuring the proper maintenance of various

markets in the state.

23. **HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

23.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department as a measure to ensure and maintain the standards of higher education, provincialised the Hrangbana College. With a view to giving the youth of Mizoram good employment opportunities, 2 new job - oriented courses namely - Bachelor of Computer Application and Bachelor of Science (Computer Science) were introduced at the Government Zirtiri Residential Science College under North Eastern Council funding while a beauty culture and cosmetology course was introduced in the Women's Polytechnic, Aizawl with World Bank assistance. During the 2003 - 2004 academic session, 15,998 students were given post - matric scholarships for which Rs. 369 lakh was utilised under Centrally Sponsored Schemes. 193 students were also given post matric merit scholarships and 44 research scholars were paid fellowship. Incentive cash award was also given to 11 successful Civil Service and Army examinations. The on - going construction of College of Teachers' Education building as also the Mizoram Hindi Training College complex under Centrally Sponsored Schemes are in progress. Site preparation of Government Zirtiri Science Residential College at Mualpui was started and fencing of Boys' Hostel at Luangmual was completed. Construction of the Directorate of Technical Education at Chaltlang with an outlay of Rs. 51.33 lakh funded under Third Technician Education Project by the World Bank has been completed and has since been occupied by the State Project Implementation Unit of the Higher & Technical Education Directorate. Construction of Mizoram Polytechnic, Lunglei and Women Polytechnic, Aizawl also under Third Technician Education Project are progressing well and likely to be completed soon.

24. **SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

24.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department in an endeavour to enhance the development of human resources, started giving importance to Teachers' Education and Training and 148 in - service teachers of various categories were imparted training during the year. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 1,60,776 students were distributed free text books at the rate of Rs. 150 per student. Construction of 6 Block Resource Centre Buildings at Aibawk, Chhinga Veng, Saitual, Lunglei East, Lunglei West and Champhai were completed and another 5 buildings at Kolasib, Mamit, Lawngtlai, Saiha and Serchhip are under construction. Construction of 5 Primary School buildings at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.09 lakh was taken up under Eleventh Finance Commission grants. Under Non Lapsable Centra Pool of Resources, 1,651 school buildings were reconstructed and renovated. Pre - Matric Scholarship was also given to 17,016 students.

24.2 During 2004 - 2005, the department will concentrate on improving infrastructure by setting up of mini District Institute of Educational Training at Kolasib, Mamit, Champhai, Serchhip, Lawngtlai and Saiha districts with an outlay of Rs. 450 lakh. Under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Yojana, the department proposes to supply duplicating machines and typewriters to 100 middle schools and stationery materials to 1250 elementary schools. Free uniforms will also be given to students of elementary schools. To ensure all round development of students, the department proposes to promote sports by organising various sport activities like, zonal sports, district sports and school games for school children.

25. **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND VETERINARY DEPARTMENT**

25.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department concentrated mainly on the improvement and upgradation of existing infrastructure for the upkeep of livestock health, control of livestock and poultry diseases as also availability of good foundation stock for local farmers. The department has also undertaken construction of 12 buildings at a cost of Rs. 49 lakh. These buildings include veterinary hospitals, veterinary

dispensary buildings, rural animal health centres and staff quarters. Rs. 12 lakh as assistance in the form of grants - in - aid and 50% subsidy was given to poultry, piggery societies. A total of 1,85,279 animals were given medical treatment and 1,55,256 animals vaccinated during the year. One time assistance was also received for establishment of Turkey Farm at Selesih, Poultry Breeding Farm at Lunglei, preservation of indigenous pigs and establishment of fodder bank. The department also conducted training for 26 Veterinary Field Assistants at the School of Veterinary Science at Lunglei.

25.2 During 2004 - 2005, the department's programme includes construction of staff quarters, office building, laboratory and library buildings at School of Veterinary Science, Lunglei. Grants - in - aid to societies, chicks and breeding boar subsidies, financial assistance to 50 sheep goat rearing families and 25 hill cattle rearing families along with free distribution of 20 young breeding bulls is on the agenda of the department. Construction of 200 units of biogas plants will also be taken up.

26. **RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

26.1 During 2003 - 2004, in keeping with the spirit and objectives of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Yojana Schemes which is provision of housing for rural poor families, healthy development of their habitat by ensuring good drainage, sanitary and drinking water facilities, 2,000 new houses were constructed and 1,440 houses upgraded. Internal roads, urinal sheds and Drainage systems were also constructed at the cost of Rs. 42 lakh. Under BADP, construction of jeepable, truckable and link roads were undertaken as also extension and repair of roads. 58 community halls, 15 bridges, 25 playgrounds and 45 buildings were constructed. Pavillions, bus waiting sheds, retaining walls, urinals, pit latrines, side drains and culverts were also constructed. Under Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana Stream I & II, a programme popularly known as 'Food for Work Programme', a number of durable community assets have been created and in addition to this 10.5 lakh mandays were generated. Under both the Streams, 44,440 quintals and 33,650 quintals of foodgrain respectively have been released by Government of India.

27. **FISHERIES DEPARTMENT**

27.1 During 2003 - 2004, in continuation of its programme to promote fresh water aqua - culture, 523 hectares of additional water area for fish culture for augmenting fish production was covered under Fish Farmer's Development Agency in which 1,962 fish farmers have been assisted and 2,430 fish farmers were imparted training in fish culture technology. Under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 108 metric tonne of ice blocks was produced. Construction of 4 fish seed farms were taken up at Tamdil, Thenzawl, Ngengpui and Saikhawthlir, 268 lakh fish seeds and 88 metric tonne of fish feed were distributed to fish farmers under North Eastern Council Scheme for enhancing fish production in the State.

27.2 During 2004 - 2005, an additional water area of 300 hectares is to be brought under fish culture through Fish Farmers' Development Agency. The department proposes to impart training to 1,000 fish farmers and it is also proposed to establish a Fish Farmers' Training cum Awareness Centre with North Eastern Council funding to augment the on - going march towards self sufficiency in the production of fish. 300 hectares of additional water area is also envisaged to be brought under fish culture by supplying fish seed and fish feed to the pisciculturists of the state.

28. **HOME DEPARTMENT**

28.1 (a) **Police Department** : The department, during 2003 - 2004, implemented a vigorous exercise of improving police housing. To this end, construction and repair of 26 buildings of various types was undertaken. Various Forensic Science Laboratory equipment critical for crime investigation are to be purchased during

the year with fund from the Eleventh Finance Commission grants. Construction of one Fire Sub - Station, Type II & III quarters and purchase of one fire tender are proposed during 2003 - 2004. It is also proposed to construct 2 police station buildings and purchase various security equipment and weapons.

28.2 During 2004 - 2005, construction of different types of buildings totalling 82 in number of various places is on the agenda of the department. In its continuing endeavour to modernise the police force, the department proposes to provide its forces with forensic science laboratory equipment like new low cost crime light, chemicals, instant fingerprint lifting pad, fingerprint lifting with ridge and magnetic magnifier with ridge coupling plate.

28.3 (b) **Prisons Department** : During 2003 - 2004, modernisation of prisons was one of the priorities of the department and toward this goal a New Non Plan Scheme was introduced for which the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs released Rs. 266.25 lakh for construction of 3 district jails at Serchhip, Mamit and Lawngtlai and also for expansion and renovation of existing jails, construction of staff quarters and improvement of sanitation and water supply.

28.4 During 2004 - 2005, it is intended to renovate the Directorate office building, construct 3 new jails, expand and renovate 6 existing jails, construct 5 staff quarters in addition to continuing its endeavour to improve sanitation and water supply in various jails.

29. **PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT**

29.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department completed construction of departmental building at Deputy Commissioner's complex, Kolasib and acquired a new site for establishing a Printing & Stationery Department Office at Lawngtlai District. An amount of Rs. 42.25 lakh has been realised as on 29.2.2004 against the target of Rs. 55 lakh as revenue.

29.2 During 2004 - 2005, the department envisages procurement of web offset in order to replace the old outdated letterpress for colour printing works.

30. **ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT**

30.1 The main thrust of the department during 2003 - 2004 has been afforestation and reclamation of degraded lands alongside scientific management of existing forest resources. In this regard, afforestation of 10,980 hectares through 16 Forest Development Agencies covering 249 village Eco - Development Committees was taken up under National Afforestation Programme. This programme has enlisted the participation and involvement of the people at the grass root level and provided employment to a large number of people. Another priority of the department is the protection of forests and wildlife of the state for which the existing infrastructure of the department was improved by constructing offices, residential buildings and undertaking survey and demarcation of protected areas and reserve forests, forest fire control and management. To this end, training and awareness campaigns were conducted through Non Government Organisations. In an effort to secure public cooperation in the protection and conservation of wildlife, free LPG connections, piggery, poultry, water storage tanks in addition to free medical aid and communication facilities were given to the inhabitants of villages situated in the fringe areas of 8 Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks.

30.2 To exploit its extensive bamboo resources for development and sustainable utilisation, a bamboo policy was framed and the Bamboo Development Agency constituted. Programmes for fast track harvesting and utilisation of bamboo, hand in hand with creation of plantations of improved and superior species of bamboo are

being implemented to deal with gregarious flowering of bamboo anticipated in 2007. The department has earned revenue of Rs. 2.28 crore by way of sale of various forest product mahals during the current year upto 27.2.2004.

31. SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT

31.1 With a view to creating more income generating opportunities to sustain the rural community of the state, the department has concentrated its energies in developing the trend of cocoon and raw silk production which has shown a tremendous increase. More than 5,000 families are involved in sericulture activities and the number is expected to double in 5 years. 2.50 lakh silkworm seeds were produced and 44 metric tonne of cocoons in addition to 2.35 metric tonne of raw silk were produced. 1,630 acres of new plantations were set up and 1,630 farmers were given training. Projects on development of mulberry sericulture under SGSY with a total project cost of Rs. 51 crore was implemented in the Lai, Mara and Chakma Autonomous District Councils. 33 lakh mulberry saplings were also distributed to 600 beneficiaries.

31.2 During 2004 - 2005, more than 3,000 families are expected to start mulberry plantations. 51 lakh mulberry saplings will be distributed to 900 beneficiaries in all the three District Councils. An Integrated Sericulture Development Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.16 crore covering all the Districts in Mizoram has been prepared and submitted to the Government of India and is expected to be approved during 2004 - 2005.

32. ECONOMICS AND STATISTIC DEPARTMENT

32.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department conducted surveys in 7 different sectors like farm harvest price survey, personal service survey, trade hotel and restaurant survey, agricultural census survey, annual survey of industries, imported essential commodities survey and building survey. Collection of data for Statistical Handbook, 2004 was also completed and is ready for publication. Price situation of over 231 commodities was studied and the wholesale prices of 22 commodities in Aizawl, Kolasib, Champhai, Serchhip, Mamit, Lunglei, Saiha and Lawngtlai were also collected. Field operation of the 59th round National Sample Survey commenced on 1st January, 2003 and continued upto December 2003 covering land and livestock holdings, debt and investment, Situation Assessment Survey of Indian Farmers (SAS) and annual survey of consumer expenditure and employment/unemployment were conducted.

32.2 With the introduction of Registration Birth and Deaths Act, 1969 in Mizoram and the subsequent implementation of the Mizoram Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 1978, coverage of births and deaths by 688 local Registrars of Births and Deaths is showing an encouraging increase. Annual training for Registrars, an on-going project of the department, was conducted at Aizawl, Champhai, Mamit, Kolasib, Serchhip, Lunglei, Chawngte, Lawngtlai and Saiha.

33. LAW AND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

33.1 The Law and Judicial Department during 2003 - 2004, continued its projects under Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes under which construction of District Court buildings and residential buildings at various district headquarters were taken up. Construction of District Court buildings at Aizawl, Saiha and Kolasib, Junior and Senior Judge's quarters, District and Session Judge's bungalow at Aizawl and Judicial Officers' quarters at Aizawl, Lunglei, Kolasib and Saiha were undertaken.

33.2 Land for construction of District Court building and Judicial Officers' quarters was purchased with funding from centrally sponsored scheme. The one-time grant from the central government has facilitated construction of the Consumer Court build-

ing at Aizawl. Computerisation of various Courts and Tribunals is one of the priorities of the department and so far 15 courts have been computerised. Fast Tract Courts established at Aizawl and Lunglei under Eleventh Finance Commission grants have ensured expeditious disposal of long pending cases.

33.3 During 2004 - 2005, the department proposes to complete all on-going construction projects and construct court buildings in the headquarters of the three Autonomous District Council for which all three councils have agreed to make the required land available free of cost. Reconstruction of the High Court Judges' bungalows and extension of the building for housing the Aizawl Bench of the Gauhati High Court are envisaged. Establishment of family courts, during 2004 - 2005, is under active consideration following the request of the Government of India.

34. **INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

34.1 With a view to creating public awareness of government developmental activities and implementation of various programmes, the department has propagated the activities of the government through 'Tunlai Chanchin' and 'Zoram Thlirna' at Aizawl, 'Khawvel' at Lunglei and 'Kaladan' at Saiha. Day to day functioning of the government has also been issued to all media channels. Information and Public Relations Office buildings at Saiha was completed and inaugurated on 25.9.2003. Construction of office building cum quarter at Lunglei and Mamit are still going on. A documentary film entitled 'Vawiin a Zoram Hmel' was produced in 2 episodes. A seminar for 30 members of North East States' pressmen with local journalists was conducted in the Information and Public Relations auditorium. The Mizoram Editors' Conference on economic development was conducted and a media workshop was jointly organised with the Central YMA. A campaign on the development programmes of the state government was launched at Saiha, Lawngtlai, Lunglei and Kolasib. The deliberations of the State Legislative Assembly Sessions were telecast live through local cable TV operators.

34.2 During 2004 - 2005, the department will continue to inform the public of the functions and activities of the government. On going construction of office building cum quarter at Lunglei and Mamit will also be taken up. Seminars, conferences and campaigns on important issues of public interest will be conducted. Further, the department intends to participate in the Republic Day celebrations at New Delhi and conduct Bharat Darshan and Aizawl Darshan for members of the Mizoram Upa Pawl.

35. **LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT**

35.1 During 2003 - 2004, the department with an approved outlay of Rs. 635.12 lakh under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, set up Industrial Training Institutions at Lunglei and Saiha and strengthened the existing ITI at Aizawl. Pursuant to this, 10 vocational trades consisting of 11 units with a capacity to train 180 persons at a time began functioning from August, 2003. 3 Industrial Training Institute buildings at Aizawl and 5 buildings each at Lunglei and Saiha are under construction.

35.2 During 2004 - 2005, it is envisaged to open an additional 8 vocational trades consisting of 12 units with a seating capacity of 200 trainees. Completion of the on-going construction of 13 Industrial Training Institute buildings in various districts is also one of the programmes for 2004 - 2005.

36. **ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING INSTITUTE**

36.1 The institute, during 2003 - 2004 conducted 29 training courses and 727 government employees of various categories successfully completed these courses. The department also identified land measuring 3 bighas for construction of a new Administrative Training Institute at Khatla which was recently vacated by the Assam

Rifles. Construction of the Rs. 9.37 crore project will commence from the next financial year and the National Building Construction Company (NBCC) will be the construction agency for this project. 31 State Government and Government of India sponsored programmes were conducted by the Administrative Training Institute. With funds provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), training of core government functionaries and Non Government Organisations on disaster management is to be conducted. Training of middle level and entry grade of Mizoram Civil Service Officers in New Delhi with particular emphasis on project formulation and management is one of the agenda for 2004 - 2005.

37. **LAND REVENUE AND SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT**

37.1 During 2003 - 2004, 1,184 cadastral house site Land Settlement Certificates and 2,106 non - cadastral Land Settlement Certificates were issued, 2,415 House/Shop passes and 20,039 garden Periodic Pattas and Wet Rice Cultivation Periodic Pattas were issued, 83 Departmental Land Leases and 151 Miscellaneous Land Leases were also issued. 758 House site plans were approved and cadastral survey of non - agricultural lands in 13 villages was completed alongside summary survey of Agricultural Land Reforms Programme in 16 Rural Development Blocks. Agricultural Land Development Survey for bamboo plants was conducted in 17 villages and 93 km of submergent area survey of Tuirial Hydel Project was undertaken. Further, 4 record room cum staff quarters were constructed.

37.2 During 2004 - 2005, cadastral survey of non agricultural lands in 15 villages and summary survey of agricultural land for reforms programme in 6 Rural Development Blocks is also proposed. Further processing of 1,000 sq.km. of aerial photographs for Aerial Cadastral Survey of Aizawl District as also agricultural land development survey for bamboo plants in 17 villages and construction of another 4 record room cum staff quarters is contemplated in the coming financial year.

38. **COOPERATION DEPARTMENT**

38.1 During 2003 - 2004, the Cooperation Department extended financial assistance to 10 state level societies. Through its network of state level societies, 30 lakh litres of fresh mil, 1,700 quintals of compound feed, 330 metric tonne of fertilizers were distributed to various productive societies and private sectors. The performance of the Cooperative Banks with regard to recovery of loans was satisfactory and Rs. 2,191 lakh was disbursed by the MC Apex Bank as loan while MUCO Bank disbursed Rs. 37.61 lakh. The availability of essential commodities like petrol, diesel, kerosene oil and filled cylinders ensured by the MIZOFED has also been greatly improved.

38.2 Strengthening the cooperative movement in the state for the socio - economic upliftment of the people will be the main thrust of the department during 2004 - 2005. To this end, it is proposed to assist various types of cooperative societies in the form of grants - in - aid.

39. **SPORTS AND YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

39.1 During 2003 - 2004, sports and games particularly football has progressed in leaps and bounds among the youth of today. During the year, many outstanding performances and achievements were seen. The Subroto Mukherjee Cup Football Tournament held at Delhi for Under 14 and Under 17 boys were both won by our boys from Mizoram - a first in the history of the tournament. Mizoram was also the joint champion in the North East Sports festival held at Aizawl. The brilliant performance of Ms. Jenny R. Lalremliani won her a string of medals in boxing competitions held at the National and International level. The 1st Mizo battalion of the National Cadet Corps was opened during the year. 39 members of the Mizo Bharat Scouts & Guides participated in the 4th SAARC Jamboree held in Bangladesh.

39.2 To create more opportunities and to nurture the talents of our youth, construction of Ramhlun Indoor Stadium, Kolasib Playground, Ramhlun Sports Complex, Zotlang Playground, Zotlang Basketball Court at Aizawl are being started.

39.3 During 2004 - 2005, the department will continue its programme of promoting sports and construction of sports infrastructure. Opening of the Mizoram NCC Girls Cadet Coy and establishment of Women Hockey Residential Scheme under Sports Authority of India (SAI) is under consideration.

40. **DISTRICT COUNCIL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

40.1 During 2003 - 2004, development works taken up by the Autonomous District Councils comprised mainly of construction of link roads, water tanks, quarters, maintenance of the Councils' existing roads and buildings with funding under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources and Border Area Development Programme. Self sufficiency in fish and family oriented development schemes were also assigned importance. Bye election to the 23 - Vathuampui MDC constituency was conducted satisfactorily. To ensure an efficient and organised administration, 15 Acts, Rules and Regulations were notified for the District Councils. With a view to streamlining the system of release and utilisation of various grants - in - aid, a new Grants - in - aid Rule was framed in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. During the year, the District Council authorities have collected Rs. 32.56 lakh as revenue.

41. **TAXATION DEPARTMENT**

41.1 During 2003 - 2004, in compliance with the new tax policy formulated at the national level, the department took steps to prepare for substituting the traditional sales tax regime with the new Value Added Tax policy. For this, computerisation of the Taxation Department is being started subject however, to financial assistance from the Government of India. Drafting of the VAT Bill has been completed and is under consideration for legislation. The department deserves to be lauded for its performance in collection of tax during 2003 - 2004 wherein the total amount of tax collected as on 31.1.2004 is Rs. 2,480.59 lakh against a target of Rs. 2,260 lakh.

42. **EXCISE DEPARTMENT**

42.1 The Excise Department has been relentless in its endeavors to control drug trafficking and drug abuse in the state. During 2003 - 2004, 1,024 drug traffickers and abusers were apprehended. The Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act continues to be enforced and 2,993 persons were arrested for contravention of the said Act.

43. **ART AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT**

43.1 Promotion of art and culture and protection of the cultural heritage and monuments of the state being the main function of the department, several cultural programmes, competitions, seminars, symposiums and art exhibitions were organised during 2003 - 2004. Construction of an auditorium at the Multipurpose Cultural Complex, Berawtlang is in progress.

43.2 During 2004 - 2005, it is envisaged to construct an extension of the State Museum at New Capital Complex, Khatla. It is also proposed to continue the present programme of promoting Mizo Culture by organising various seminars, cultural exchange programmes and symposiums.

44. **RELIEF AND REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT**

44.1 The department, during 2003 - 2004, addressing the need to create public awareness in the management of unforeseen disasters conducted various awareness campaigns through local newspapers and magazines. As a precautionary measure, various implements have been procured and stocked for immediate relief of victims

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble Chief Minister and Finance Minister now presents the Supplementary Demand for Grant 2003 - 2004, Vote on Account for the month of April, May, June and July, 2004 and Annual Budget for 2004 - 2005. Let the copy be distributed.

Today, a meeting of Business Advisory Committee will be held at Speaker's Chamber at 12 : 00 noon.

Now, we have finished our business for today. We shall have a break and meeting will be resumed tomorrow i.e. 23.3.2004 at 10:30 a.m.

Sitting adjourned at 11 : 40 a.m.