

**FOURTH SITTING ON MONDAY, THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2004**

**PRESENT**

PU LALCHAMLIANA, Speaker, at the Chair, Chief Minister, Deputy Speaker, 11 Ministers and 27 Members were present.

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

**PRESENTATION OF REPORT.**

2. **PU SAINGHAKA** to present to the House The Third, Fourth and the Fifth Reports of Public Accounts Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Bill for introduction

3. **PU H. RAMMAWI** to beg leave of the House to introduce The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill, 2004.

Also  
to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration  
to move that the Bill be passed.

**SPEAKER**

: And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favouritism with him.

We'll now take up Starred Question  
No. 57 to be asked to Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

**PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon'ble Minister Health & Family Welfare Department be pleased to state –  
Is there any proposal to fill up the post of X-Ray Technician and Dental Surgeon who were transferred from Tlabung Hospital.

**S P E A K E R :** Let me now call Health & Family Welfare Minister to answer the question.

**PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA :  
MINISTER** Pu Speaker, the answer to Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma's question is - at present, there is a proposal to fill up the vacant post due to shortage of staff.

**S P E A K E R :** Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

**PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA :** Pu Speaker, I would like to ask why they have transferred the existing staff if there is a shortage of staff?

**PU LALDUHOMA :** Pu Speaker, since last year, Laboratory Technician post in Darlawn has been lying vacant. I have reported the matter to the department several times, but the post is still vacant. I therefore would like to ask the hon'ble Minister if the post could be filled up by the same Technician?

Even though it may not be relevant I don't think it would be difficult to answer. It seems that Health Workers post are going to be filled up, the problem faced with Health Workers are that they are reluctant to stay at their assigned post. Therefore, in order to solve the posting problem they should give preference to those applicants who apply for the said vacant post in particular. Will the govt. be able to make such arrangement?

**PU S. HIATO :** Pu Speaker, thank you. Is there any proposal to upgrade Saiha Hospital? and will the govt. be able to fill-up the 6 specialists post which is vacant?

and I would also like to know if the post of Dental Surgeon and Asst. Matron could be filled up.

**PU LALHMINGTHANGA** : Pu Speaker, it may not be related but, I would like to know if there is any proposal to construct T.B. Hospital at Lunglei ? and why is the construction of Civil Hospital at Lunglei so slow, is it due to shortage of fund ? Is there a way to speed up the construction work ?

**S P E A K E R** : We'll now call Health & Family Welfare Minister to answer the questions.

**PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : MINISTER** Pu Speaker, the questions which are raised by hon'ble members are matters which are under consideration. For recruitment of X-Ray Technician, the policy of the govt. is direct recruitment, but there is no provision for the recruitment at present, therefore, we have made a proposal for the recruitment of 40 Health Workers and 20 Laboratory Technician, the hon'ble chief Minister is finding a solution for the purpose.

At the same time, as Doctors and nurses are directly recruited, Health Workers and an X-Ray Technicians should also be directly recruited. Even the Govt. considers this matter, and the Govt. is aware of the need to post X-Ray Technician at Tlabung.

As mentioned by the hon'ble member Pu Lalduhoma, Darlawn Laboratory Technician is also among our problem. Though we may not be able to cover all these, we are giving priority to remot area. Regarding appointment of Health Workers, 9 Health Worker has been appointed/recruited for urban areas under Urban health Project which is going to function, shortly another proposal we made is to recruit 40 Health Workers which will be done gradually. The Hon'ble member from Saiha mentioned about Nurse Matron . Matron here means Nursing Superintendent. Though there is a post, it can not be filled - up so a step is being taken to fill up this post as soon as possible.

There is an application to propose construction of T.B. Hospital at Lunglei which can not be done in our present condition. It can only be done if our financial condition improves. Slow construction of hospital will be looked into.

**S P E A K E R** : I now call upon Pu Saikapthianga to Starred Question No. 58.

**PU SAIKAPTHIANGA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No.58 is - Will the hon'ble Minister for Health Department be pleased to state -  
(a) Is there an intention to post a Doctor at Kawrtethawveng Hospital ?  
(b) For how long has Zawlnuam Hospital functioned without a Doctor ?

**S P E A K E R** : Now I call upon Pu R.Tlanghmingthanga, Minister to answer.

**PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 58 is (a) There are 23 PHC without Doctor and Kawrtethawveng is one of them. There is a proposal to recruit doctors as soon as possible to in these PHCs.

(b) Zawlnuam Hospital had functioned without a doctor for 1 yr. 10 months and 7 days and I would like to inform the House that a doctor had been posted at this hospital since 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2004.

**PU SAIKAPTHIANGA** : Supplementary Question Mr. Speaker Sir. It is not enough to post a doctor at Kawrthah . There used to be 2 doctors in the post but one had been posted out. Since the formation of the present ministry, many people of the western areas died on their way to hospital. Posting of a doctor at Zawlnuam since 16.6.2004 will alleviate the problems face by the people of these areas to some extent However, I would like to point out that the answer given by the Minister is not enough considering the problems faced by the people of these areas.

It is quite disheartening to listen/know from radio that a team of doctors comprising of 25 doctors have special clinic at several places but not in the western areas while there is only one doctor in this areas. The people of these areas feel that they are totally neglected by the Govt. So I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to post more doctors in these areas as this is a matter of life and death. Though there is one doctor at Kawrthah C.H.C. I would like to inform the House that there is no other facilities and equipments. I would like to know whether is it possible to equip these hospitals at the expense of the expensive mobile clinics.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, one female Health Worker is posted at Maite but due to her ill health she has to be at Rul-chawm where there is a doctor. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to make arrangements for this.

Another point I would like to raise is that, construction work of one block of Civil Hospital is too slow. Is there a way to work faster than this as the present building can not accommodate us. I also would like to know whether the proposal to use ground floor of the on-going work as parking has been changed.

Thirdly, can we have permission from Central to open more Health Sub-Centres ?

**PU H. ROHLUNA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no doctors in my constituency villages like Mimbung, Rabung and N.E. Khawdungsei, which creates great problems for the people of these areas. At present, Ngopa doctor is looking after them. So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to post doctors in these areas as soon as possible.

At the same time, I would like to know the number of doctors attached to Health Directorate. It will be pleasing if the hon'ble Minister could tell when will a male and female health worker could be posted at Vaikhawthang. At Kawlbem there is Male Health Worker but no female Health Worker and in other centers if there is a female health worker there is no male health worker vice versa. I would like to know when could male and female health workers can be posted in health sub centers.

**S P E A K E R** : I now call upon Pu H. Lalsangzuala.

**PU H. LALSANGZUALA** : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. In my constituency village Suangpuilawn, there is no Doctor for awhile sometime and as a result, health workers have to function as doctor. I would like to know whether there is an intention to post a doctor.

It will be pleasing to know the steps taken by this Ministry during 2004 to equip Health Department as this Department is a life saving department.

Central Government makes norms for various hospitals, so doctors and nurses are appointed accordingly. I would like to know is if our hospital follow this norms.

**PU SAINGHAKA**

: Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question number 58, 65, 68 and 74 are about Health Department. the hon'ble member from Suangpuilawn mentioned that this Department concerns life and death. Therefore, it will be pleasing if the Chief Minister could give due importance to this Department.

The main problem in this Department is shortage of doctor and other workers. It will be pleasing if the Minister could inform the House their problems in principle. It seems the Health Workers used to remain at their station without visiting neighbouring villages which do not have health worker. It will be more benefiting for the people to instruct the health workers are given construction to visit their neighbouring villages regularly. Will the Department be able to give instruction in this way?

**S P E A K E R**

: The House is having it's practice, so it is not good to ask many supplementary questions before the main questions are answered. Now I call upon the concern Minister to answer supplementary questions.

**PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA :  
MINISTER**

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is pleasing to know that the members are giving interest to my Department. As Health Department concerns people's health, even the Government gives priority. Though other infrastructures are important they are secondary - the most important thing is about the health of the public. I may not be able to answer all the questions but I had noted down what had been pointed/mentioned by the hon'ble lmembers and necessary steps will be taken. It is wrong to think that there are plenty of doctors at Civil Hospital. The hospital on the other hand is to be given more equipment. When I visited rural areas, I came to realize that there is health centers in every 8 + 8 or 4 villages. Every Primary Health Centre is expected to have at least one doctor. But as we had already mentioned even if there is a doctor, there is no proper equipments or facilities for the doctor to exercise his skills and it is not possible to equip all these centers all at once. At the same time, we generally used to go to Aizawl Civil Hospital. As that is the case, it is not appropriate to post doctors at rural

health centers keeping Civil Hospital at Aizawl with few doctors. Knowing the insufficiency of doctors, 23 doctors with 7 specialists were recruited during the previous ministry which incurred huge amount of additional fund. In spite of this, our present condition/status is not solved. I, therefore, would like to request the hon'ble members to understand our situation even if we can not post doctor in every health centers or village. If we post doctors in every village our Hospitals at Aizawl, and other districts and CHC can not function as they should. Even the cases of sub-centres without male and female health workers are under consideration.

It is pleasing to say that due to the efforts made by the hon'ble Chief Minister, the Civil Hospital is being improved by installing various equipments and machineries. Yet, there are many steps to be taken - the quarters are unfit for occupation. So, as I had mentioned earlier, we are going to appoint Health Workers and more than 30 Health Workers are to be promoted to Supervisor which has to be done as direct appointment. I would like to inform the House that restriction of direct appointment is not applicable for health department and I would like to request all the members to give suggestion in the steps we are taking. Thank you.

**PU H. ROHLUNA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, will the hon'ble Minister give the number of doctors attached to Directorate of Health Services ?

**PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, 7 (seven) doctors are being attached to the Directorate.

**S P E A K E R** : Though the Minister has stated the steps taken by the Govt., it will be good if the Govt. give more priority to improve Health Department.

Now I call upon Pu Lalhmingthanga to ask Starred Question No. 59.

**PU LALHMINGTHANGA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 59 is - Will the Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forests Department be pleased to state - (a) Is it true that Govt. of India gives permission to saw 2.44 lakhs cubics of Timber. (b) Is it true that this work will be done by the Department.

**S P E A K E R** : I now call upon Dr. R.Lalthangliana Minister to answer.

**Dr. R.LALTHANGLIANA MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 59 is (a) Yes (b) Yes.

**PU LALHMINGTHANGA** : Supplementary Question. Mr. Speaker Sir, If I am not mistaken, Forest and Environment is under the concurrent List. But to ask the Central Govt. to give permission to saw timber will create bad precedence for our State. So I would like to know whether there is a way to do this by State Govt.

In addition to this, Supreme Court issued an order restrictively saving of timber by privates in Mizoram, If we carefully studied Supreme Court order, the restriction was made for all the states to make working plan so as to have good ecological balance. We are facing a problem in our state as the state Govt. did not make proper working plan. Can the State Govt. make the said proper working plan to avoid the problem we are facing ?

At the same time, sawing of timber by the Department in my opinion is not good for our State. Because as far as my knowledge is concern, whenever business or other major projects are taken up by a corporation or department, there never have been profit and I am sure there will be many corruptions. While privatization is Govt's policy what is the meaning to departmentalise sawing of timber, I feel that this policy is against the policy of the percent Ministry. I therefore, would like to suggest to give the permit to private controlling the volume in the permit. I also would like to suggest to plant more trees according to the working plan. Thank you.

**PU SAIKAPTHIANGA** : Supplementary Question Mr. Speaker Sir. Has the Department calculated the value of rotten teak at the road side ? I also would like to know whether the timber to be sawn by the Department are from natural forest or private plantation.

**Dr. R.LALTHANGLIANA MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, as this matter is public interest we must clearly know about it. The Supreme Court issued strong order on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1998 for all states and State Government. We are asked to submit working plan and scheme within 2 yrs. We then made working plan which is valid upto



31.10.2002 which is difficult to operate. At present, permission had been given for 4 divisions, we can not do as we wish. It is to be done in accordance with the permissions given by Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India and as per the order issued by Supreme Court. In the permission order issued by Supreme Court on 4<sup>th</sup> June for 4 divisions, it is clearly written that it should be done departmentally. Therefore, we should know we have to comply with the Supreme Court's order.

Besides, terms and conditions are also clearly written in the order. We all knew that these are being included in the order to safeguard/protect ecological balance. I, therefore, would like to inform the House that we also include necessary working schemes without which even the Ministry of Forest & Environment can not give permission.

In regards to the question raised by the hon'ble member Pu Saikapthianga about teak lots, there are teak lots in various divisions. As I had mentioned in our last session, Abdul Gatur from Pondicherry had bid the auction but till today he had not removed these lots. A reminder had been sent to him many times. So we decided not to negotiate with him any more since the logs will get rotten. Hence the Govt. decided to sell them off by auction and a notice had been sent to the DFOs in this regard and we expect to settle this matter very soon.

**S P E A K E R** : What about the question asked by the Hon'ble member from Kawrthah Constituency.

**PU LALHMINGTHANGA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, can we have the copy of the permission mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister.

**Dr. R.LALTHANGLIANA  
MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, in some areas, we have problems because of the working Plan and working season. For example in Kawrthah Division, privates had planted teak within the areas of forest protected areas since long time back and we can not give permission for such private plantation. As that is the case, we requested the Centre to review carefully about the matter of Kawrthah division. We even make a fresh working plan/scheme to degenerate even beyond forest protected areas.

In regards to the question asked by the hon'ble member Pu Lalhmingthanga I can give permission copy from Ministry of Forest & Environment.

- PU SAIKAPTHIANGA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not answered whether the timber will be obtained for saving from natural forest or private plantation.
- Dr. R.LALTHANGLIANA MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, while it will be prom private in some areas it can also be from natural forest in some areas, depending on the division covered by the permission. As it is difficult to distinguish this, proper verification had been done as permitted by the rule.
- S P E A K E R** : I now call upon Pu H.Vanlalthaliana to ask Starred Question no. 60.
- PU H.VANLALTHALIANA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No.60 is - Will the hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Department be pleased to state (a) Steps taken by the Govt. of Mizoram to attain self sufficiency in fish. (b) The intention of the Govt. to look after the existing fish seed farms.
- S P E A K E R** : I call upon Pu B.Lalthlengliana, Minister to answer.
- PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 60 is - (a) Fisheries Department had given financial aids, fish seeds and fish foods to fish farmers under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. In addition to these, fisheries training had also been conducted under the said scheme which is very helpful for fish farmers which is to be continued
- Also fish seeds and fish foods had been distributed to fish farmers under NEC Scheme which increased the product of fish farmers. Even this scheme is planned to continue. We expect to have sufficient fish if these two schemes are taken up smoothly.

(b) At present, Fisheries Department has 12 seed farmers in Mizoram but we have not produced fish seeds as yet. However, the Department is making great efforts to produce fish seeds as much as possible. It will be a great development for fish farmers when these farms can produce fish seeds. We intend to privatize some farms due to the shortage of the workers.

**S P E A K E R** : Question Hour is over now. We shall proceed to our next Business. I call upon Pu Sainghaka, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee to present the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Reports of Public Accounts Committee to the House.

**PU SAINGHAKA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission Sir, and with the permission of the House, I present to the House the 3<sup>rd</sup> Action taken report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Power & Electricity Department; 4<sup>th</sup> Action taken report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Agriculture Department and 5<sup>th</sup> Action taken report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Public Health Department.  
Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : Let the copy be distributed. I would like to thank the Public Accounts Committee for submitting its 5<sup>th</sup> Report. Our next business is Legislative Business in which we have one Bill to be considered. I now call upon Pu H.Rammawi, Minister for Agriculture to ask permission of the House to introduce The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill, 2004, in the House.

**PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad that today we can have time to introduce and discuss my bill in the House without begging leave of the House (SPEAKER : You better ask the permission of the House to introduce stating the purpose of the Bill). If so, Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission I beg leave of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram organic Farming Bill, 2004.'

**S P E A K E R** : The Minister had asked permission of the House to introduce the Bill, Do we all agree? (Members agreed) A copy

of the Bill had been given to you all four days ago. I now call upon the Minister to beg leave of the House to move the Bill in the House for discussion/consideration.

**PU H. RAMMAWI  
MINISTER**

: Mr. Speaker Sir, a copy of 'The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill, 2004' had been given to the members. I will explain the text, section wise later.

I would like to point out the motive of this Bill. First we intend to exadicate usage of poisonous substances for our various crops through chemical-synthétic chemical and pesticides.

Secondly, if the product of the agriculturists and farmers were organic the product will have value which will open the way for selling such products. That's shall be explained later.

Thirdly, from time immemorial, we practiced shifting cultivation in our State. If we follow organic Farming, the big farms and companies will give ear to our cash crops for their business. At this juncture, our State farmers and agriculturists will enter into contract farming and will have initial support from them. That means, the customers will appear from the time of sowing seeds.

As a result of green revolution in India, pesticide and chemical fertilizers were highly used for high yielding varieties. But after 30 years hence, the experts founded its bad effect to our health, because the chemical portion stayed in the crops that have adverse effect on human beings. Not only that, but also the chemical destroyed the fertility of soil. It is said that such soil is very difficult to make it fertile again. It is now condemned in India as well as in the world. Government of India now take steps to do away with usage of such chemical fertilizers.

Further, the chemical fertilizer and pesticide not only remain in the soil, it enters into the interior of the soil and flows out again. If animals drinks it the chemical still has poisoning effect. In fact, we can look after the crops without chemical fertilizers. Government of India is aware of it.

Pu Speaker, regarding pesticide, we sent an officer to Israel to have training on how to look after the crops without pesticide. He had returned from Israel. Now we have also trained officers from Bangalore who had training in pest management. Now, the crops are now looked after by means of biological control. The Government of India has new programme of National programme for Organic production from 2000 under the Ministry of Commerce. Not only that, the F.A.O. of UNO requests all nations to take step in a way of organic farming. Pu Speaker, I have had eye witness that the Europeans are at home in the organic farming and encourage the organic food and organic products.

This organic farming is the system practiced in the State, it means that it is just like improvement of our farming system.

In section 1 of the bill there is short title and commencement wile, section 2 is definitions. Principal act begins from section 3 section 3(1) is its general programme. Section 3(11)(a) provides that notified areas for organic farming and where such farming is going to be started. This provision is very important. Accordingly the areas are to be specified and the specified areas will be looked after by the Department. Those areas shall be certified by the certifying agency. In such way, different areas will be specified one by one to cover the whole areas. And the products will be organic food. We should remember that we could not specify the whole areas.

In some States. There is conversion period of two or three years. I was contactul by two or three companies if we are to practise organic farming in the State.

But we are to take care about the agency. It is necessary to have a reliable agency for we are por and need initial support.

Section 4 provides the National and International standard but not required to clarify as the system is not different from our practices. Pu Speaker, I am very sorry for I cannot give the xerox copy to the hon'ble members. But I'll give them again later on. And section 5 provides the incentive and organic farming.

**PU LIANSUAMA** : Pu Speaker, section 81 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business provides that general discussion should be held before detail discussion. But the hon'ble Minister introduced the Bill and explained it. Is it enough? Shall we have general discussion with detail discussion?

**S P E A K E R** : That's right. Detail discussion is to be had when winding up the Bill.

**PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, I had explained the bill as requested by the hon'ble member in detailed. Section 6 and 7 is still left out. Section 7 profides credibililty and regulation of section 6(1). But this will be clarified later on. I therefore, request the House to consider "The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill, 2004" Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : The hon'ble Minister had now moved 'The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill, 2004' with the permission of the House with a request to consider it and moved at once. We will do for each member. Who will start the discussion?  
Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, we have a large area of uncultivated land till date. If we could implement organic farming, we may break record in India as well as the world at large. I am very happy for we can start this organic farming system.

I feel that we need not say much about its merit than that of chemical fertilizer. But, I think we need to be careful. In fact, I am afraid that we will fail in its implementation as was the case in NLUP and MIP.

Regarding the bill, State Government has to formulate policy and programme of its own. But National Policies and programmes are adopted. But I feel that it may not be appropriate to apply National Policy and Programme in regards to manufacturing. I feel that it is better to formulate policy and programme of our own.

Secondly, I feel that it is required to take care of the allotment of Agricultural land. Before, the agricultural land has been wasted away under the policy of NLUP. That's why we should be careful from the every beginning.

And I give importance to its incentive scheme. Of which, I feel that marketing is the most important. It is pleasing that we have local market, National and International market will be sought for the beneficiaries. But I am sorry to state that contract farming is not provided in the bill.

Next to this, I feel that it is important to supply infrastructure and material to the farmers or cultivators. I think it's good to seek the way of social recognition of such production.

Again, I would like to speak about the Committee system. Various Committees and sub-committees are to be set up. I feel that we need not include NGOs like YMA, MHIP, MUP etc. as committee member. But it will be wise to include like AMFU who are interested in the policy matter.

**PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, we have not yet set up the Committee.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, I have the copy. It was Published in the Gazette.

**PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, is it the Committee of MIP ?..

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, No, it is a State level Committee an Organic Farming.

**PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Organic Farming ?

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Yes, it is technical sub-committee on Organic farming.

**PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, Yes, it is a State level committee set up at the official level. That may be reviewed in accordance with its necessity. It will be reviewed from high level. The MIP programme shall be formulated in compliance with this organic farming programme.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, I mean that it's not good to include NGO having no interest but better to include AMFU, workers union having interest in it and MLA having interest in th programme. I am also very interested in marketing committee if it will to be set up. I have desire to solve marketing of our productions.

I wonder if this Bill will not incur additional fund. In my opinion, through this, we should try to invest our budget and obtain funds from International Organisation and NEC. If it is passed, we will med laboratory, fertilizer plant and all these have to be computerized. For this a big scheme has to be made and reflect it in the budget. As such, there are some points to be verified before it is passed, I therefore, would like to suggest that it should be refer to Subject Committee to have further studies about the Bill. Thank you.

**PU LALTHLENGLIANA** : Thank you. Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad that the hon'ble Agriculture Minister had moved an interesting bill on organic farming. It can be said that the death rate due to the usage of chemical fertilizer is higher than that of drug abuse in Mizoram. It is also said that Mizoram has the most cancer patients in India on

population basis. These are the results of the usage of chemical fertilizer. The poisons spread to the crops vegetables through chemical fertilizer can not be destroyed by cooking which greatly effects our body. As that is the case, chemical fertilizer is being opposed in various parts of the world. When we contacted, prospective buyers outside the state for passion fruit, the question they ask is whether chemical fertilizer is being used in the cultivation. The variety of passion fruit we are cultivating is the best in the world and the juice we extracted is number one, but they do not like the presence of even a slight amount of chemical in it's preservation; according to international standard it should be without any chemical. So, it is a pity that we can not export the most valuable fruit juice due to the presence of chemical. Bearing this in mind, we requested the hon'ble Chief Minister to give us a new machine and he sanctioned 151 lakh rupees for this. When we get this machine, we can do antiseptic packing without any chemical.

In our State, 75% of our cultivation is based on organic farming while only 25% used chemical fertilizer. One of the disadvantages of chemical fertilizer is, when it is used once, the land/soil where such chemical is used requires constant use of chemical fertilizer which means there can not be evergreen crop/plant without it. At present, only about 50 metric tone of chemical fertilizer is used in our state while Punjab and Haryana are using 10,000 metric tons. So it is not difficult for us to terminate the use of it, and I am very keen to pass this Bill. It can be assumed that it may not be perfect but the detail will be studied by the committee. What is important is that we the members give interest to it. Even the NDA Govt. at Central had started Organic farming since 2002 as the use of Chemical fertilizer is being Jhummed in the world. The present U.P.A. Govt. is also giving priority about this. So, it is the responsibility of the House to pass this Bill and make the public not to use chemical fertilizers. The Department can study the detail of the Bill gradually. It is not difficult to make manure by ourselves with rotten leaves and cow which is safer than chemical fertilizer. I, therefore, would like to request all the members to pass The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill. Thank you.

**PU R. KHAWPUITHANGA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister Pu H. Rammawi for moving this Bill in the House. I think our farmers will be pleased if we can pass this Bill in the House as chemical fertilizer is very expensive. Even in a subsidized rate many farmers can not afford it, hence the department has to allot huge amount to subsidy it. At the same time, crops, vegetables and fruits cultivated with chemical fertilizer are not favoured/advocated in the world. Besides, the main point why we do not favour chemical fertilizer is that there is poison in the chemical fertilizer.

It had been pointed out that there is a widespread of Cancer in Mizoram and we have to find out the reason for this. If we use more bio-fertilizer instead of chemical fertilizer I think the widespread of cancer in our state can be reduced and more funds to subsidise chemical



fertilizer can also be saved by the Department. So it is a matter of life and death. It is seen from the various books we receive that the harvest where bio-fertilizer is used is much more than where chemical fertilizer in the same area. With the advancement in Science and Technology there is better Communication between states and countries and human beings are more conscious of what they eat and the composition of our diet such being the case use of chemical fertilizer is not welcomed. Though it may be difficult at first, but it is good to pass this Bill since it is the policies formulated Nationally and Internationally. Hence, I request all members to pass this Bill. Thank you.

**PU SAINGHAKA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not mean to Object the bill we are discussing as it is important for us I would like to mention how it originate. I wonder if it is just because the Governor mentioned about it . In my opinion, though it is good, it can not be practiced immediately. As we all know, farmers/cultivators in Mizoram do not harvest/produce sufficient food grains and vegetables though they are using chemical fertilizers but not much in quantity. We have to import 36 lakhs metric ton of food grains from other states. As such if we are going to apply the Organic farming, it is clear that our production will be less. So it will be troublesome if we do not have concentrated area for a particular crop/vegetable for the organic farming. Sikkim is said as an organic State and it seems we are going to be the first organic state in North East India. Though the Bill itself is good I am afraid we may not get the desired result. If we are going to apply this, it is necessary to strengthen cattle rearing to have sufficient cow-dung to make bio-fertiliser and food grazing found. It is important to prepare the soil/land itself to produce such fertilizer otherwise we will not get enough bio-fertiliser. As that is the case, I do not think this is not an urgent matter. At first instance Govt. should have good and proper planning and make the people aware of th proposed farming system. As I had mentioned earlier, I am afraid the farmers/cultivators will be discouraged as their products will be less. In order to manufacture bio-fertilizer either from cow dung, pig wine or bone manure, we have to strengthen/increase our live stock rearing. So if we are nor selective, I am afraid we will not be successful. Hence, considering all these, it is better in my opinion to refer this matter to Select Committee.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, it seems even the Concer Minister is not yet ready to implement this Bill. If I am not mistaken, the aims of this Bill is that we want to give up chemical fertilizer in Mizoram as there is chemical components, and if we do so, it will be easier to market out crops and other products at international level. It is true that developed countries are conscious of their diets and they choosed vegetables cultivated without chemical fertilizer. However, though this Bill is good. I opine that we may not effort to implement it as under our

present condition. The Hon'ble Chief minister, while he was in charge of Agriculture Department said, 'to be a brave nation, we have to attain self sufficiency'. But in our case, even in the so called rice bowl of Mizoram i.e. Champhai area, the quantity of rice to be harvested in this year has fallen down as they do not use fertilizer this year.

It is known to all that biofertilizers are good but my question is from where the farmers will get these ? The involvement of fund for this is very high. Therefore, in my opinion, it is better to think first the alternative system before implementing the Bill. Otherwise the lifeline of many of our farmers will be spoiled. In the meantime, while the public/farmers are being educated by our officers from Agriculture and Horticulture Departments that the use of chemical fertilizer in a sight proportion will benefit the farmers, a sudden change will affect our products. I am sure the product of organic farming will be marketable. On the other hand, what research we have because of the use of chemical fertilizer. In India, all our food grains and other vegetables are being cultivated with chemical fertilizer and our state in particular is depending on the products of other states. I am afraid that there will be an induced famine in Mizoram if we totally give up usage of chemical fertilizer. Hence, I suggest to refer this matter to Select Committee for further studies. Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : We will have recess and resume our sitting at 2.00 P.M.

Sitting adjourned at.

2:00 P.M.

**S P E A K E R** : We shall continue our discussion. Now Pu Liansuama.

**P U L I A N S U A M A** : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Agriculture Minister for preparing and moving this Bill. In my opinion, it is good to pass it without much discussion. As mentioned earlier, Sikkim had been declared as an Organic State and we are also aiming this. While the agricultural scientists are saying the advantage of fertilizer since long time back, we must know how to say adversely. In my opinion, we should go against and give up the use of pesticides and insecticides rather than chemical fertilizer. As pointed out by the hon'ble member from Saitual Constituency, even if we use bio-fertilizer to cultivate rice/food grains which is not sufficient for us it is meaningless if Punjab,

haryana and Andra Pradesh from where we purchase rice/food grains are using chemical fertilizer. In the same manner, other crops and vegetables we are importing from the neighbouring states are cultivated with chemical fertilizers. If we do not use chemical fertilizer in our state, I am afraid there will be a long transit period before we are capable of manufacturing and using bio-fertilizer. While that is the case, only about 10 lakh rupees has been allotted for fertilizer in the Budget. If we are really going to do this, I think even the Govt. should allocate more fund get this. At this time, iskut growers at Sihphir area could export 500 sacks of iskut to other states every day but since restriction has been imposed on usage of chemical fertilizer they can not export even 100 sacks. The farmers now feel the need to compensate for this and worried about their future. It will be pleasing if the hon'ble Minister could point out in his wind up speech whether there is any proposal/plan to compensate these farmers.

Meanwhile Chawngtlai, Dulte, Hnahlan and Reiek had already been notified for initiation of organic farming on passion fruit, multi-crop, grape and spices respectively without the knowledge of the respective MLAs. Which means it is not necessary to pass this Bill. Since executive decision had been taken in this matter and since a State Level Committee had already been formed, I feel it is quite enough if the executive decision is published in gazetted notification.

So, if we give up the use of chemical fertilizer and restrict it's import, the quantity of our production sill decrease. It will be pleasing if the alternate system can be mentioned in the Rules. It will be pleasing if the hon'ble Minister could explain Govt's policy in this matter so that we can pass it unanimously. Thank you.

**PU K. VANLALAUVA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, in view of the principle and the policy of this Bill, I do not think it is necessary to put forward to be Select Committee. The concern Minister as well as the Department are well aware of the condition and there is nothing to feel uneasy with this Bill. As far as my knowledge is concern. I believe this matter is of an utmost important. I, therefore, express my support in favour of the Mizoram Organic Farming Bill, 2004. Thank you.

**PU H. VANLALHLANA** : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I first of all have to express my appreciation of the Mizoram Organic Farming Bill, 2004 put forward by the Minister for Agriculture Department. As we have known, majority of the people of Mizoram depends on agriculture products. Yet, due to poor condition of soil, enough production could not be made. It is pleasing that the hon'ble Minister have now put forward organic farming bill with a view to improve our agricultural production. We, the members too seem to give interest in this matter. But, in my opinion it is

suggestive not to make immediate change as we need sometimes to make adjustments with the situation. We may need to study the adverse effects of using chemical fertilizers and also determine a substitute to be introduced for the transit period. In this way, I believe this important Bill could be passed unanimously. Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : I now call upon the hon'ble House Leader to have his speech.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA  
CHIEF MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, we all seem to understand from the speeches of various members the merits and demerits of using chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides. We have also learned that most of the cancer disease in Mizoram is caused by our habits of smoking and our consumption of vegetables fed with chemical fertilizers. It is, therefore, high time for us to popularize utilization of bio-fertilizers and organic farming and I strongly desire this bill to be passed unanimously.

Regarding the idea of having preparation before passing of this Bill. We still have preparatory periods as it is supposed to be implemented area-wise.

Large amount of money has been spent for purchase of chemical fertilizers and insecticides every year. But now, we proposed to have bio-fertilizers manufactured in our state. This will surely reduce expenditure besides better impact it will have on our health.

Besides, after having certified for our product the prospect of market will then be opened and improvement will surely be made.

In this connection, I am happy to mention that there is a plan for processing bamboo charcoal in our State. We could make the best use of bamboo which has been wasted for many years. It is to be noted that India have imported thousand metric tons of Activated Carbon every year. Hence, the Central Government assures us to locate carbon manufacturing plant in our state, if we could give accommodation for its maintenance. In doing so, the Govt. will acquire favourable resource as it will be possible to synchronise with bamboo products.

It is, therefore necessary for us to take immediate step in this regard as it will not cost large expenditure to initiate the project since the central Govt. have interest with this project. I strongly believe that favourable achievement could be made. Not only this, this will improve our economy as well as our health if it is passed. Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : I now call upon hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to wind up the discussion and also to make clarification wherever necessary

**PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, As soon as I became the Minister for Agriculture Department, the importance of Organic Farming came into my thought.

Yet, it is not good to take immediate step in that regard as it is more appropriate to put forward for discussion in the House. In my opinion, it is not appropriate to continue with this matter unless it is laid here in the House for further discussion. Discussion had already been taken place of how to deal with this bill keeping in mind the difference of its political back ground and the theory. And for this reason this has to be dealt with sponteneousity.

Matter concerning allotment of land, I agree with the needs for careful determination as pointed out by Pu Lalduhoma. It is often learned that certain plots of lands which had been allotted by the department were not being used purposely. It may be wise for us to determine whether it is suggestive to apply the rule which we have to pass. Regarding the suggestion for inclusion of contour Farming in the bill. Obviously, it will automatically come as soon as Organic Farming is initiated. Yet there is a possibility to take up contour farming while doing organic farming. Although we have been pressed to apply organic farming, we have made aremark that priority will be given to those farmers who give initial support to this project. In this connection, I have to inform the House that Organising Committee will also be reset by including those members who are having interest in the project to contribute their ideas for the implementation of the project.

About the suggestion made by Pu Sainghaka of the selection of the area for the project, it may be necessary to take up area-wise as it will be much complicated to choose large area of land for the initial stage.

**PU SAINGHAKA** : Mr. Speaker sir, supposing a farmer is planning to start his project of growing passion fruit by next year from where will the seed be collected? will the local products chemically fertilized seeds be acceptable?

**PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker sir, in regards to plantation of Grape and Passion fruit, I don't there it will be harmful to use locally produced seeds as it's been a decade

since Horticulture Department stops using chemical fertilizer and these two particular fruits happened to be the most concern of the department. Anyhow, it will be necessary to check all the concern crops due to the fact that conversion period may also take certain times. As for this reason. It may be wise to carry out the project as soon as possible.

In this relation, I would also like to inform the House that this bill will automatically bring the need for rearing of cows and pig for the maintenance of the project.

About the problem of utilizing Bio-fertiliser in certain areas of Champhai as reported by Pu Lalrinliana, the department is giving instruction to the concern farmers to use Bio-fertiliser only in plain area of cultivation and not in the area where passion fruit and grapes are growing.

Likewise instruction has also been given to the people of Sihphir to be careful in using DAP and Urea of which the department supplied for the existing season of squash plantation. Awareness has also been given regarding the harmful effect of using the said fertiliser and mixing with organic manure, it is not much productive on its own.

Mr. Speaker sir, effort could not yet be made in regard to this project since the bill for application of organic farming is yet to be passed. The department will then be able to take courageous step for implementation of this project if the bill is passed and we will need ideas and suggestion of the members and those who are having interest in this regard.

This project could not be made to cover Chhimtuipui for the time being as it is District Council areas. Yet it is hopeful for then to be able to adapt with the application if it is first initiated by the government of Mizoram.

Mr. Speaker sir, in this connection, we have to keep in mind that some sorts of problem is bound to involve in transition period of any substantial project. We must also be ready to face some kind of reactions while taking substance step. With a view of what the future would bring for the development of the Mizos. I invite each of the member to vote in favour of this Bill "The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill, 2004"

Thank you.

**PU LIANSUAMA**

:

Mr. Speaker sir, as it is done with the concern growers of squash of Sihphir and the neighbouring areas, it may be necessary to stock fertiliser at Govt.

Godown for other growers. It will be pleasing if the said is kept in the departmental store for disposal as necessary.

**PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker sir, In determining public reaction towards distribution of the said fertiliser, the department deems this storage system to be unnecessary except for those concern growers of Sihphir. Order for the control of this fertilisier has not yet been issued as the bill is yet to be passed. Anyhow, it is hopeful that we would be able to adapt with the situation within a year or so of this transition period.

**S P E A K E R** : We already have had enough of discussion of this bill and discussion will soon be made by taking vote of the members. The members who are in favour of passing the bill "Mizoram Organic Farming Bill 2004" (clause 3 - 11) may say 'Yes' and those who are not may say 'no'.

This House unanimously passed 'The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill 2004' (clause 3 to clause 11). Again, member who agree to pass clause 2 of the same bill may say 'Yes' and those who don't may say 'no'.

The House has now unanimously passed clause 2 of 'The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill 2004'. The members who agree to pass the formula and title of Preamble and Acting to that effect may say 'Yes' and those who don't may say 'no'.

The members has now unanimously passed formula and title of preamble and Acting of the Mizoram Organic Farming Bill 2004' we have now passed the entire Bill of 'The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill 2004' unanimously.

**PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER** : Thank you Mr. Speaker sir,

**S P E A K E R** : We have now finished our business For today. The House will now Adjourn and we will resume on Tuesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2004.

Sitting Adjourned at 3:00 P.M.