

SPEAKER : "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand". Mathew : 12:25.

We will take up our business. Today we have to make obituary reference on the demise of Pu P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India. I now call upon Pu Zoramthanga, House Leader to make obituary reference.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is regretting to make Chief Minister obituary reference on the demise of the former Prime Minister Pu P. V. Narasimha Rao who died at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi on 23rd December, 2004 at 2:10 P.M. because of cardiac problem. Pu Narasimha Rao was the son of Pu Ranga Rao, he was born on 28th June, 1921 at Karimnagar, Banagara District, Andhra Pradesh and have 3 sons and 5 daughters. He got B.Sc degree from Ferguson College, Nagpur and LLB from Nagpur University, Maharastra. He was an Agriculturist, lawyer, freedom fighter and writer; he was among the freedom fighter for India. In 1951 he was inducted into AICC and during 1957 – 1977 held important offices in Andhra Pradesh State Government, he served as Chief Minister in the said state in 1971 – 1973. He was appointed as General Secretary of the Congress Party in 1974. He then became a member of the 6th Lok Sabha in 1977 and he was selected ten times continously in the Lok Sabha election. He held several cabinet posts while he was a member of Parliament. After Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991, Pu Rao was chosen to lead the Congress Party, and when Congress won the elections that year, Pu Rao became Prime Minister till 1996 May.

Pu Narasimha Rao was admitted to AIIMS, New Delhi on December, 2004 due to cardiac problem. Though he was given the possible best treatment he could not survive and died on 23rd December, 2004 at 2:10 P.M. He was survived by his 3 sons and 5 daughters. It is a great loss for India to lose a great politician and learned man. And it is our duty to show that we remember him and condole his death.

Thank you.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr Speaker Sir, it is regretting today to make obituary reference on the demise of Pu P.V. Narasimha Rao. The Hon'ble House Leader had pointed out many points so I will not take much time.

Pu P.V. Narasimha Rao had held important posts in All India Congress Committee. He became an M.L.A. of Andhra Pradesh at young age and became Minister and Chief Minister of the state. He was an intellectual man; it is said he could speak 13/14 languages. We had learned various posts he held at Central Government. He was among the first in the Central to understand the need to sacrifice in order to bring peace in Mizoram. He visited Mizoram twice for he paid attention to us. He had done many things for our state during his Prime Ministership. He was the first with Pu Arjun Singh to agree for our state to have University of our own. Due to his initiative steps, several infrastructure to develop our state had been started. At the same time he initiated an extensive and dynamic programme of economic liberalisation by appointing Dr. Manmohan Singh as the Finance Minister of India, which had been severely criticised by BJP and Rightists who later were the most beneficiaries. He was the one who fulfilled Rajiv Gandhi's policy. The future generation will know that his economic programme is to give highest priority to economic objectives in India's foreign policy, to mobilise flows of investment and technology from abroad to India, and to implement policies that would expand the Indian market and improve India's access to foreign markets. In this way he took bold efforts even in privatisation to implement Rajiv Gandhi's idea in information technology. As such he was a great Prime Minister and at the same time he was the most misunderstood Prime Minister as he was charged with corruption scandal in 1997. However, his cases were settled before his death which showed that he was clean from the allegation. It is, therefore, a great loss for the country to lose such an able Prime Minister who was successful in safe guarding India's various interests and it is a must for this House to have condolence meeting here.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let me call upon Pu Lalhmingthanga.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. Both the Hon'ble House Leader and the Opposition Leader had pointed out many points. However, I would like to make few points on behalf of self and our legislative party. At the time, Pu P.V. Narasimha Rao became Prime Minister, India had financial bankrupt. The country had a hard time due to the death of Rajiv Gandhi. He then became a Prime Minister and in order to revive and reconstruct Indian economy, he took an unorthodox step of roping in of Dr. Manmohan Singh, an economist and administrator of repute as the Finance Minister of India. He then initiated an extensive and dynamic programme of economic liberalisation instead of socialistic pattern of economy. Which the country used to follow.

He took a bold step by venturing Indian goods so that there could be proper cash flow from International Monetary Fund and World Bank to save India from bankruptcy. If he was not Prime Minister of India at that time, the country would not be in its present situation. Knowing the availability of man power in India he tried to change our economic policy by increasing Multi-National projects. Due to the initiative steps he had taken, it is now known that the availability of man power in the country is a good source for productions. In my opinion, his contribution among our Prime Ministers in economic aspect was best. Though I have many things to say I will not take much time. It is a great lost for the country to lose a great leader and it is our prayer that God will condole his bereaved family. Thank you.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr Speaker Sir, it is worth to note the tenure of Pu P.V. Narasimha Rao as Prime Minister of India. He stopped the so called Dynastic Rule in India as India was under Nehru's family since independence. He was also the first Prime Minister of India from the South. As mentioned earlier, he was the one who moved in Dr. Manmohan Singh into politics to improve our economic condition. He introduced area development fund which we called M.P. Fund. According by various states in India have Development Fund for M.L.As.

Pu Rao used to lead Indian delegates during peace talks between Govt. of India and the M.N.F. I think peace will prevail in Mizoram earlier had his efforts been followed. As that is the case, he will be remembered by the people of Mizoram for his efforts to bring peace in Mizoram and it is a must for the House to have a condolence meeting. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will proceed to our next business. Now I call upon Pu Liansuama to ask Starred Question No. 1.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 1 is will the Hon'ble Minister for Power & Electricity Department be pleased to state -

Is there any intention to electrify Parvatui, Silsury, Hnahva, Pukzing Vengthar and Hruiduk villages ?

- SPEAKER : May I call upon the concern Minister Pu Zoramthanga to answer.
- PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question
Chief Minister No. 1 is -
- PU LIANSUAMA : Mr Speaker Sir, in fact these villages had
already been electrified. However, it is
regretting that most electrical equipments to
electrify these villages had been stolen. Even
the transformer at Pukzing Vengthar had been transferred. Since these villages
had already been electrified earlier, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister
when will these villages be re-electrified. Can this be done within this financial
year ?
- SPEAKER : Let me call upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
- PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, in addition to the mentioned
Chief Minister villages, there are many more villages in
Mizoram to be electrified. The DONER had
introduced a new scheme called Accelerated
Electrification of Villager and Household under which even the Department had
already made a scheme to cover the villages in Mizoram and all line extention
also has been submitted to RVC. In the past, state's contribution used to be
25% but now the ratio is fixed at 90.10. Even the in-charge of REC at
Shillong expected that our scheme will be approved by the centre and we
expect to receive sanction for this after our session. Hence, immediate steps will
be taken to electrify all villages including line extention work as soon as
sanction for this scheme is released.
- SPEAKER : I now call upon Pu Lalduhoma to ask Starred
Question No. 2.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 2 is -
Will the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
be pleased to state -
a) Number of villages in Mizoram where
there is no Anganwadi Centre in
Mizoram.
b) Is there an intention to open more
Anganwadi Centres. ?

SPEAKER : I call upon Pu R. Tlanghmingthang, Minister
for Social Welfare Department to answer.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question
Minister No. 2 is - (a) As our Department does
not have the record of the number of villages
in Mizoram I cannot answer the question.
(b) However, there is an intention to open more Anganwadi Centre.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr Speaker Sir, in Ratu Constituency, only
Zokhawthiang village is not having
Anganwadi Centre. I would like to ask the
Hon'ble Minister whether they can open the
Centre within this year for this village.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr Speaker Sir, in western belts Anganwadi
teachers are the only teachers. During 2004,
remuneration for the workers were delayed at
CDPO level. Can this be stopped this year ?
Secondly, nutritions are being distributed in Anganwadi Centres but in our areas
the nutritions distributed at Anganwadi Centres are greatly misused and I would
like to request the Hon'ble Minister to look into this matter.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Supplementary question Mr Speaker Sir, the
Hon'ble Minister could not mention the
number of villages in Mizoram. All villages
are supposed to have Anganwadi Centre by
now. It is therefore, good to verify this matter. It is also known that ICDS staff
had not taken their pay for the month of January and February and I would like
to know the reason for this.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga, Minister to answer.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, we do not have the record of the number of villages in Mizoram but we know the number of villages where there is Anganwadi Centres. Till 2003 we have 1341 Anganwadi Centres in 599 villages and Centre gave us permission to open 20 more Centres for the year 2003 - 2004. So the number rises to 1361. However, we still are asking the Centre to give more Anganwadi Centres. In regard to the delay of nutrition pay and remuneration of the workers as all these are funded by the Central Government, we are urging the Central Government to release the fund and they will be distributed/given as soon the Central Government release them. I would like to request all the Hon'ble members to inform the Government if they know who tamper the nutrition to be distributed.

SPEAKER : I now call upon Pu S. Hiato to ask Starred Question No. 3.

PU S. HIATO : Mr Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 3 is - Will the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests Minister be pleased to state -

- Had the estimated amount of about Rs. 11 crore to develop Palak Dil been spent ?
- If yes, how was it spent/utilised ?
- If not, why ?

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Environment & Forests Minister, Dr. R. Lalthangliana to answer.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 3 - a) Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests approved the comprehensive Management Action Plan 1066.82 lakhs for 5 years i.e. 2004 - 2005 & 2008 - 2009 for Palak Wildland Conservation via D.O. Letter No. J-22012/34/92-CSW dt. 19/1/05. The Ministry, however, told us to make State Level Steering Committee, Sub-Committee and

Multi-Sectoral Comprehensive & Integrated Management Action Plan for this development work. As the money/fund is not sanctioned, it can not be spent as yet. (b) As stated above, there is no fund to be spent as it is not sanctioned. (c) Same as above.

PU S. HIATO : Mr Speaker Sir, as we all know, Palak is the largest lake we have in Mizoram. Which deserves to be developed as it is good to attract tourists. It is pleasing to know that such a huge plan had been approved by Central Government and I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to take steps to realise this plan/scheme.

PU P.P. THAWLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it will be pleasing if the Hon'ble Minister could explain about this scheme/project as it is a new project.

Dr. R.LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as pointed out, it is our first time to take up Wetland Project in Mizoram. I would like to tell the House that we are very lucky to have this project. Govt. of India had a Committee/Meeting on 8th November last year to discuss about Wetland Project in which Mizoram submitted two projects for Wetland namely Tamdil and Palak projects for which our estimate/Plan is about 1066 lakh rupees and the Committee approved 39 projects including our projects. The execution term is five years hence the fund will not be released in full at once. It is expected that we will be getting around 213 lakh in a year. We are fortunate that we have natural water bodies lakes for this project. Formation of State Level Steering Committee comprising of members from various Departments under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary is being processed as per the notification/instruction of Central Government. The Committee will make detail plan. However, it is good to know that the high level committee had already approved our plan. In these lakes we are planning to keep rare birds and protect/preserve forests as well.

I also would like to point that as desired by the Government of India we are trying to have/make good co-operation with various NGOs and people around the areas who will also have their contribution. At the same time, it is our desire to implement this project and we do not intend to abundant it in the middle.

PU H. ROHLUNA : Mr Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 4 is -
Will the Hon'ble Minister for Relief & Rehabilitation Department be pleased to state -
(a) Total amount contributed by Government Servants in aid of Tsunami victims.
(b) Number of Government Servants who made contribution.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question
Minister No. 4 is -
(a) The amount collected upto 28th February, 2005 is Rs. 43,77,203/- in which other NGOs besides Govt. servants had contributed. The contribution made by NGOs is Rs. 2,23,450/- which means the amount is Rs. 41,53,753/- till 28th February. However, donation is being received everyday. So the total amount till yesterday is Rs. 84,99,976/-.
(b) Upto 28th February, 8,887 Government servants had contributed their one's day salary.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr Speaker Sir, it is pleasing that relief work for Tsunami victims had been done very quickly. In the meantime it is learnt from the Unstarred Question No.6 asked by Pu S. Hiato that relief fund for the victims of cyclone/monsoon in our state has not been given. I would like to know whether it is possible to give assistance to these victims as soon as possible.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr Speaker Sir, what I would like to ask is asked by the Hon'ble member from Ratu. One more question I would like to ask is what is the intention of the Government to rehabilitate the victims of landslide at Armed Veng area.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr Speaker Sir, while our proposal for
Minister monsoon damage relief fund was 40 crore, Central had sanctioned just 13 crore rupees. Hence it is important to be careful in its disbursement. Thus a Committee was formed to chalk out how to disburse the fund. As soon as it is chalked out the relief fund will be disbursed to the victims. In regard to damage caused by monsoon last year, 5000 bundles of GCI sheet had been given with quite a number of silpoulines.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu H. Rohluna to ask Starred Question No. 5.

PU H. ROHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 5 is - Will the Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forest Department be pleased to state -

a) When will construction work of Rabung - Murlen under Murlen National park be completed.

b) The amount of expenditure incurred for this road.

SPEAKER : I now call upon Dr. R. Lalthangliana, Minister for Environment & Forest Department to answer.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question is - (a) Some parts of the road are very stony causing problem for the construction work. However, we are asking the Central to sanction more fund to complete the construction work and we expect to complete it as soon as the fund is released.

b) The total expenditure incurred so far is 30 lakh rupees.

PU H. ROHLUNA : Supplementary question Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to know the contractor of this work. I also would like to ask whether the contractor did use/spend the fund sparingly, because it is supposed to be completed with that amount. Since this road is very important I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to take active steps for its completion.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the length of this road is 14.3 Kms. and a sum of 30 lakh rupees had been spent. Formation cutting was done in the year 2000 - 2001 for which around 15 lakh had been spent, this includes construction of 14 culverts. We got another sanction of 5 lakhs in the year 2003 - 2004. As pointed out by the Hon'ble member, it is an important road we have to protect it. Even the National Forest Commission member Pu Ranjit Singh stressed how good is Phawngpui National Park.

There are many things to be done beside the road. However, I would like to assure the House that we are trying our best to develop our National Park and necessary steps will be taken.

SPEAKER : I now call upon Pu Lalhmingthanga to ask Starred Question No. 6.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 6 is - Will the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development Department be pleased to state - It is true that the declared Urban Areas can not become beneficiaries of various Rural Development schemes/projects.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu Aichhinga, Minister for Rural Development to answer.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 6 is - Yes, it is true within the declared Urban Areas by Govt. of Mizoram. In Mizoram, District capitals and State capital are declared as urban areas by state Government and in other areas, Rural Development Department is taking steps for rural development.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question. The areas declared as Urban is clear enough. But to declare district headquarters as urban areas creates problem. For example, Lunglei is a District headquarter and the southern part is my constituency while the northern part is the constituency of the Hon'ble Minister for Forest & School Education. Most of the villages in my constituency areas are under rural economy. However, since this declaration, they lost their facilities to become beneficiaries under Rural Development like food for work etc. Yet they do not enjoy any facilities as urban areas. There are other cases even in other constituencies. As that is the case, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether he can make a fresh plan to make boundary for urban areas even for an interim period so that those who live in rural areas but within the declared urban areas can enjoy various rural development facilities.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr Speaker Sir, what had been pointed out
Minister by the Hon'ble member Pu Lalhmingthanga is true. We knew that even in urban areas many people are still in rural economy so it is difficult to make a genuine boundary. In Mizoram, we have vast urban areas and the Central do not sanction Rural Development Fund for these areas. As that is the case, State Government had received audit objections many times for using rural fund for urban areas. Though we had ignored the guidelines for many years we had decided to follow Central guidelines by declaring at least District Capitals as urban areas. Though there may be many under privilege even in these areas.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to know why Central Government urbanized like that, what is their criteria. If the walk of life of most of the urban areas is still rural economy why cannot the State Government question Central Government for not giving urban facilities to them.

SPEAKER : Question hour is over now. Let the Minister answer the existing question but we will not take/accept other supplementary question.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, since we have spent 20 minutes for obituary can you give us 20 minutes for question hour as we used to do in the past.

SPEAKER : It will be better to follow our Rules. So are we satisfied if the existing questions are answered.

PU AICHHINGA : Thank you, Mr Speaker, the reason why we
Minister have vast urban areas seem to be that since Union Territory, many villages asked the Government to declare them as town hoping to get Housing Loan from Local Administration Department. As time passed by,

census declared those towns as urban areas. In regard to the questioning of Central, State Government does not make any question but ignore some guidelines made by Central Government.

SPEAKER : Before we proceed to our next Business I would like to make some announcements. As the term of the existing Panel of Chairmen ceased, the followings will be new Panel of Chairmen - Pu K. Vanlalauva, Pu S. Hiato, Pu Andrew Lalthleriana and Pu Lalthlengliana.

Today two of our Hon'ble members - Pu K. Lianzuala and Pu Sainghaka begged leave of absence due to illness. Does the House agree ?

For better convenience, medical staff who are on duty during our session are shifted to Committee Room.

It has often been mentioned that it is not allowed to bring in Mobile Phone in the House. Today I would like to remind all that as per our Conduct Rules it is not allowed to bring in Mobile Phone inside the House, Official Gallery and Public Gallery.

We will now proceed to our Business. Business Advisory Committee meeting was held on 17.2.2005 to chalk out detail programme for this session. Which had been circulated in Bulletin Part II No. 79 on 17.2.2005. I now present the report of Business Advisory Committee in the House Let the copy be distributed. Do the House approve the programme chalked out by Business Advisory Committee ?

Pu LIANSUAMA : Mr Speaker Sir, Subject Committee has been formed in the House since the previous term. The Subject Committee used to start functioning after presentation of budget and general discussion but before Demand for Grants. According to our Rules, Subject Committee can not go far before General Discussion. The Business Advisory Committee report we are going to approve does not give priority about the purview of Subject Committee. This matter had been mentioned even last. However, as we used to pass budget by Vote on Accounts for some years back, we ignored about this. But now we seem to have full budget, is it wrong for Business Advisory Committee to make calendar without giving time for Subject Committee to function. I, therefore, would like to suggest to allot time for Subject Committee which is being ignored.

SPEAKER : Even the Hon'ble member from Khawzawl constituency has the same opinion. The Business Advisory Committee used to collect and arrange the business from the Government and members. However, it will be good for the Government to bear in mind that members want to follow the procedure of our Rules as practised by Parliament and other States.

Pu ANDREW LALHERLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, It would be pleasing if the Hon'ble House Leader could assure the House that we will follow the proper procedure in our next budget session as done by other states.

SPEAKER : We will take up this matter in General Discussion. Let us now concentrate on the Business Advisory Committee report itself. If we have any changes to be made in the report ? Do we approve the report ?

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, as all party representatives were present in the Business Advisory Committee, is it not good to approve the report for now.

SPEAKER : I also would like to suggest in that way. Can we approve it ? (Members agreed).

Now we will take up Legislative Business.
May I call upon Pu B. Lalthlengliana, Minister to ask permission to introduce 'The Mizoram Value Added Tax Bill, 2005' in the House.

PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA :
Minister : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg leave of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Value Added Tax Bill, 2005' in the House. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Do the House agree? If yes, let him introduce the Bill.

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission and Minister with the permission of the House Sir, I introduce 'The Mizoram Value Added Tax Bill, 2005' in the House.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. We will consider this Bill in the appropriate time. Now I call upon Pu H. Rammawi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the Minister (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the House.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission I beg Minister leave of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the Minister (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the House.

SPEAKER : Let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pu H. Rammawi introduce 'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the Minister (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005' in the House.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission and Minister with the permission of the House, I introduce 'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of Minister (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the House.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu H. Rammawi, Minister to ask the permission of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the House.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg
Minister : leave of the House to introduce 'The
Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the
Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Second
Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the House.

SPEAKER : Do the House agree ? If yes, let him
introduce the Bill.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission and
Minister : with the permission of the House, I introduce
'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the
Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Second
Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the House.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu H. Rammawi, Minister
for Parliamentary Affairs Minister to ask the
permission of the House 'The Mizoram
Salaries and Allowances of the Government
Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005' in the
House.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg
Minister : leave of the permission of the House to
introduce 'The Mizoram Salaries and
Allowances of the Government Chief Whip
and the Deputy Chief Whip (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005' in the House.

SPEAKER : Do we agree ? If so, let me call upon the
Minister to introduce the Bill.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission and
Minister : with the permission of the House, I introduce
'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the
Government Chief Whip and Deputy Chief
Whip (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the House.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu H. Rammawi Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Minister to ask the permission of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the Leader of the Opposition (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005' in the House.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg leave of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the Leader of the Opposition (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005' in the House.

SPEAKER : Do we agree ? If yes, let him introduce the Bill.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission and with the permission of the House, I introduce 'The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the Leader of the Opposition (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005' in the House.

SPEAKER : I now call upon Pu H. Rammawi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister to ask permission of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Pension for member of the defunct Mizo District Council and of the defunct Pawi-Lakher Regional Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005' in the House.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission I beg leave of the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Pension for member of the defunct Mizo District Council and of the defunct Pawi-Lakher Regional Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005' in the House.

SPEAKER : Do we agree ? If yes, let the Minister introduce the Bill.

Pu H. RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission and
Minister with the permission of the House, I introduce
'The Mizoram Pension for members of the
defunct Mizo District Council and of the Pawi-
Lakher Regional Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005' in the House.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu Lalrinchhana, Transport
Minister to ask permission of the House to
introduce 'The Mizoram Passengers and
Goods Taxation Bill, 2005' in the House.

Pu LALRINCHHANA : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg
Minister leave of the House and the permission to
introduce 'The Mizoram Passengers and
Goods Taxation Bill, 2005' in the House.

SPEAKER : Do we agree ? If so, let the Minister
introduce the Bill.

Pu LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and
Minister with the permission of the House, I introduce
'The Mizoram Passengers and Goods Taxation
Bill, 2005' in the House.

SPEAKER : In order to discuss any Bill, members should
have at least 4 days to study before
discussion. As such we will discuss these
Bills at the appropriate time.

Now we will proceed to our next Business
which is the last for today. A motion of thanks on the address of the governor
was moved yesterday and we will have discussion on it today. Each member
will be given 10 minutes and more time will be given to Leader of the
Opposition/Group Leader. Now I call upon Pu K. Lalrinliana to move motion of
thanks.

Pu K. LALRINLIANA : Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity to move motion of thanks on the Governor's address. At the first outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the governor for his announcement that a full budget covering the whole year of 2005 – 2006 will be presented during the course of this Session. And also that the Twelfth Finance Commission has earmarked a significantly higher allocation for Mizoram.

It is worth mentioning that in para 3 it is mentioned that the assistance and co-operation extended by the Local Voluntary Organizations to the enforcement agencies in detecting and for prevention of crime has been encouraging. This shows the efficiency of our police personels to maintain Law and Order. It is pleasing to learn that significant improvement in the quality of existing prisons has been made with expansion and renovation of the existing district jails including construction of staff quarter.

The achievements of Excise Department and the collected revenue of Rs. 117.20 lakhs during 2004 – 2005 (upto January, 2005) by the Department, he had mentioned are quite commendable.

I am happy that he mentioned various steps taken by Agriculture Department to attain higher productivity by the farmers and also that a State Biological Control Laboratory at Neihbawih has started producing different bio-pesticides (bio-control agents) to control different pests and diseases. It is also pleasing to know that a programme of building Potential Area Connectivity (Agri-Link Road) will continue. The preparations to deal with the problems of bamboo flowering and rodent upsurge by the Department under BAFFACOS (Bamboo Flowering and Famine Combat Scheme) are commendable.

It is pleasing to learn the steps taken by Horticulture Department towards increasing the production of grapes and anthurium and also that many grape and anthurium growers have already started earning good annual returns. At the same time I am happy to know that the Department also proposes to undertake pilot project on papaya covering 250 acres.

It is pleasing that the Governor mentioned that tea-cultivation will be taken up by Soil & Water Conservation Department from the next financial year.

The achievements of Fisheries Department mentioned by the Governor like distribution of fish seeds to fish farmers, introduction of cultivation of giant Freshwater Prawn Farming and introduction of new technologies like Monoculture and Polyculture are highly remarkable.

The progress of Sericulture Department i. great special SGSY scheme for the development of Mulbery Sericulture, implemented through the District Rural Development Agencies at Lawngtlai and Saiha for Lai, Mara and Chakma Autonomous District Councils is also continuing. It is pleasing that Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department has manufactured Animal Feed Plant at Tanhril and that it has taken up Dairy Plant at Kolasib, my constituency. The Department has also established Investigation Laboratory for control of Animal Disease which is very important to have healthy meats.

I am grateful to the Governor for highlighting the achievements of Forest Department. Several Forest Development Agencies (FDA) have been constituted who have taken up a massive task of afforestation in 272 villages. To implement eco-development programmes, villages of such areas have been provided free LPG connections. It is also pleasing to know that the Department has generated a revenue nearly 200 lakhs during the current financial year.

Construction of Inter State Bus Terminus at Chaltlang by Transport Department is a great achievement. Computerisation of Vehicle Registration (VAHAN) and Driving License (SARATHI) in all the districts is a new development.

It is pleasing that Central Government has earmarked a substantial amount of Rs. 10,000.00 lakhs for development of industrial infrastructure in Mizoram. It is pleasing to know that District Industries Centres will be set up in all the new Districts of Mizoram. Various steps taken by Bamboo Industries units under BAFFACOS are encouraging. It is great that we dispatched bamboo to Tsunami hit areas.

In Rural Development Department it is pleasing to know that an Engineering Cell has been created. Further, the Department has assisted many families with new houses and upgraded the houses of many families under PMGY and IAY. The implementation of Border Area Development Programme (BADP) creating valuable assets are commendable.

I am glad to know that the Local Administration Department has given out cash loan HBA to 2040 Government employees and Housing Loan to 400 other families and also that Housing grants were given to 120 urban poor families under Economically Weaker Section Scheme. I am proud that construction works on Bus Terminus at Thuampui, ATI building at new Capital Complex, Shopping Centre at Champhai and City Centre at Aizawl are making good progress. Steps taken by the Department in making Master Plan for various towns under beautification of the city is encouraging. It is also pleasing to know that construction of shopping centre at Kolasib will commence in the next year.

I appreciate the achievements of P.W.D. mentioned by the Governor under World Bank, 884 Kms of rural roads are taken up under PMGSY, construction of roads are taken up under PMGSY, construction of roads covering 197 Kms under NEC, construction of Mizoram House at Vasant Vihar, N. Delhi, Mizoram Legislative Assembly Annexe building at Aizawl, construction of Finance Department building, Excise Commissioner building etc.

It is pleasing that Power & Electricity Department has taken effort towards improvement of power supply in the State. It is encouraging that the Department is making efforts to improve power supply by taking up 132 KV line, various Hydel Projects in particular Serlui B Hydel Project 12 MW and Lamsial Small Hydel Project.

At the same time the efforts made by Public Health Engineering Department to provide adequate safe drinking water and plans to construct a number of latrines for BPL families in all the districts of Mizoram are remarkable.

In higher and Technical Education, it is encouraging for the youths to know that World Bank has funded a large sum for technical education project. Which will be an asset for the State. Meanwhile, equal emphasis is given to School Education. The efforts made by School Education regarding Hindi Teachers, construction of Mini DIET at Saiha under SSA that School Education Department has earmarked Rs. 6,536.00 lakhs for 2005 - 2006 financial year for Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Adult Education and Language Development and a grant received under PMGSY for implementation of Mid-day Meal programme in schools of Mizoram will greatly benefit us.

The achievements of Health Department are highlighted by the Governor. To know that construction and other activities for upgradation of PHC into 30 bedded CHC under PMGY and upgradation of Champhai, Serchhip, Saiha and Kolasib hospitals into 100 bedded capacity and upgradation of Mamit and Lawngtlai hospitals into 50 bedded capacity, establishment of Cancer Hospital at Aizawl and construction of Nursing School and Hostel at Aizawl are really encouraging

The steps taken by Food & Civil Supply Department to ensure continuous availability of food and stocks sufficient foodstuff for monsoon season mentioned by the Governor is commendable. Meanwhile, it is pleasing to know that Land Revenue & Settlement Department has covered an area of 1451 Sq. Km. Under Aerial Cadastral Survey.

Amongs the notable and important achievement of Social Welfare Department during the year includes passing of the Mizoram State Commission for Women Bill, 2004 by the State Legislative Assembly for upliftment and empowerment of women.

In Tourism, it is notable that 12 new projects will be undertaken.

It is encouraging for the youths in particular to know that the Department of Sports and Youth Services has started construction of State Level Sports Complex at Aizawl and District Sports Complex at Lunglei, Champhai, Serchhip, Kolasib. It is also pleasing that he mentioned our sports persons who earned laurels in various national and international events.

There are other points mentioned by the Governor but I will not mention them all. Hence, considering all these I would like to request all the Hon'ble members to pass my motion of thanks on Governor's address.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu R. Lalzirliana. Warning bell will ring at 8 minutes.

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, Today we are going to discuss the Governor's address and the mover of the motion had pointed out many points. I would like to react on some points first, under BAFFACOS 14 Departments had been mentioned to deal with the problems of bamboo flowering and rodent upsurge among which Health Department is allotted 15 crore for 5 years. The detail allotment is shown in the Comprehensive Action Plan for BAFFACOS. Unfortunately there is no allotment/provision to rehabilitate the victims i.e. the poor farmers. I, therefore, see no reason to be contended with this. It reminds me how NEC Secretary commented on the teachers in Mizoram. He said one IAS officer wrote in his article that I call Mizoram Teachers cheaters.

(Speaker : Let us confine in our motion)

The Governor used to say 'All the Mizos are beggars'. The poor area are poor beggars and the rich area are rich beggars. He portrayed our church leaders as being fond of wine.

(SPEAKER : Please confine on what he had said in the House yesterday).

The way he looks down the people of Mizoram including we, the MLAs is unbearable. Being a constitutional head, he should behave gracefully and politely. Though I am not supposed to say about his behaviour I would like to urge him to behave as Governor should behave. Thank you.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to say few things as said by the Hon'ble member who spoke before me due to the incident occurred yesterday.

We have had a number of Governors and L.Gs since Union Territory. Yesterday we boycotted hesitantly the Governor's address. The Hon'ble Opposition Leader had told the reason to some newsmen so I will not say about it. Today I would like to suggest to pass in the House - 'let the Governor who looks down the whole community of Mizos be removed' to indicate that we, the representatives of the people are ready to defend our people.

The Congress Party did not like him at first instant when we knew he is to be our Governor and he is worst than we thought. The functions of Governor is clearly written in the Constitution. It is regretting that he does not function as he should be. The present Governor instigates minorities in Mizoram to destroy our integrity.

SPEAKER : Wait a minute. While the Hon'ble Opposition Leader said the reason for your walk out yesterday, I did not disturb him even from the Chair. In the meantime it is clearly written in our Rules No. 310: 1,2,3 that "A member while speaking shall not reflect upon the conduct of persons in high authority unless the discussion is based on a substantiate motion drawn in proper term". It will not be good to go beyond our Rules.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : We respect our Rules but he compelled us to go beyond our Rules. So it is not to go on like this. He is the one to protect the Constitution and Rules when there is Constitutional crisis. But he ignored the Rules when Chakma District Council was formed. The way he makes programme on Sunday is also hurting religiously. Besides these, as mentioned earlier, he is destroying the integrity of our community. I, myself had submitted a written complain many times to him stating that there is corruption in the way he gives foodstuff to the villagers, but to no effect. He simply gives 100 quintals of rice to somebody saying that there is no chance for Congress Party member to receive a bag of rice. This is not the way he should behave. I am saying all these because I want the people of Mizoram to let them know the behaviour/altitude of the present Governor though his status is high. At the same time, I would like to request all ruling members to think about these carefully. Considering his behaviour I do not think he is the one who prepared his speech, it rather was prepared by the Government.

Though there are many points to be pointed out, I will not say all. I would like to say few things on his speech. In para 21, Education is being mentioned. In my opinion, Government is neglecting education. The fund sanctioned by Central Government under SSA are greatly misused. Central Guidelines be followed while using SSA fund.

As already pointed out by the Hon'ble member we are eagerly waiting for BAFFACOS. While Central Government sanctioned large amount of fund to deal with the forthcoming famine I think Central Government will stop it's sanction if they know how we are making plans to deal the famine. So this matter has to be re-examined. Our Chief Minister should trust our officers including the Chief Secretary. According to the present Comprehensive Action Plan for Bamboo Flowering & Famine combat scheme, the few beneficiaries will be those who are not farmers. I therefore would like to request the Government to re-consider about this matter and if not I strongly urge the House to pass the removal of the Governor.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : I now call upon Pu S. Hiato.

PU S. HIATO : Thank you. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is the demand of the District Councils to give special power to the Governor. In the provision of 6th Schedule amendment the Governor will represent President of India who will protect the Minorities in time of political/constitutional crisis. But the present Governor is using his power adversely, manipulating the Council. I would like to point out that though he said 'My Government is fully aware of its constitutional responsibilities towards the people residing in the autonomous districts' his responsibilities are always in adverse effect. All the rules of District Councils are made by him and we are compelled to use the rules he made. I am pointing out this because he violates the Constitution. Even while there is notification to ban creation and filling of posts throughout Mizoram more than 400 posts had been filled up resulting all plan fund including non-plan fund for salaries. I wonder whether there will be 100 lakh for public. I, therefore, on pointing out these to for the House to know and the Hon'ble Chief Minister to know that the present Governor is manipulating us.

It is known to all of us that Council Term will end on 15th February, 2005. Election had never been postponed since 1953, we rather had election just in time. But now election has been postponed for 3 months at lame excuse. Our sentiment is really hurt by the Governor for

abusing the District Councils. Even in regard to delimitation, representative of all political parties were in the committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner. According to the rules, only the recommendation for delimitation of constituency by the concerned member should be accepted who has to submit within 29th December. Accordingly, the Deputy Commissioner called a meeting on 11th & 21st January but with no resolution and he called a meeting again on 25th to take the signature of the members but no one signed as it was an impromptu constituency. As the Deputy Commissioner did not know how to decide, the members were called to Aizawl yet they did not want to sign even after they return. However, they were compelled to sign back date on 3rd February as signed on 26th January. We take this as constitutional ignorance and a procession was organised to safeguard our rights. I wonder why the Governor did not respect our constitutional rights.

In the present condition, District Council areas are in apprehension of his visit. In regard to delimitation, the Hon'ble Chief Executive Member submitted a request on 29th October not to increase the number of seats otherwise salaries and pension will increase numerously. The same request was submitted on 11th November by 8 MDF and 7 Congress MDC members and Pu Hiphei, yet the number of seats was increased ignoring all these requests. It is clear that no thoughts is given to financial constrain. Only the rights of political party is given thought of. As this matter will go on I would like to request you Mr. Speaker Sir to interfere in our present problem.

Thank you.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. The Hon'ble member who moved motion of thanks on Governor speech is respectable and while it is good to support his motion I have some points of disapproval. What I would like to point out first is about organic forming mentioned by the Governor in his speech as follows - My Government has already declared Mizoram as an Organic Forming State. But this is contradicting the answer to Unstarred Question No. 3 given by the Hon'ble Minister Pu H. Rammawi. The Minister stated that Government has no longer purchased various chemicals to implement Organic Farming State. It is well and good to identify certain areas for organic forming. In the meantime, to restrict chemical fertilizer throughout the state needs consideration as it is not possible to have large scale farming without chemical fertilizer. We can not attain sufficiency in foodstuff if we restrict any chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides just because Mizoram is declared as Organic Farming State. I therefore, can not approve Governor's speech in this regard.

In Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, he proudly said that Animal feed plant at Tanhril has manufactured

during the last year 456 quintals of animal feed from locally procured agricultural crops and they have been sold to the local farmers at a reasonable rate and 'under development of sustainable base for Pig Production the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary has established Piggery Villages at Kawlkulh, Sairang and Pukpui'. Here I find no reason to be pleased with the Animal Feed Plant at Tanhril manufacturing only 456 quintals in a year because the capacity of the plant is 50 metric ton in a day i.e. 500 quintals. Even the total cost of this Animal Feed Plant Project is 7.25 crore. It will be good if the plant manufactures according to its capacity. The plant will be a blessing if the farmers grew the specific crops for the plants and purchase those crops by the Department at a reasonable price.

In the same manner, though the objective of establishing Piggery Village in the said villages is good, the system is not good enough. I am saying this because fund allocation for this plan is nearly 7 crore rupees but one piglet is given to one family which is not sufficient to support a family, and yet some families have not got even the piglet till today. On the other hand, the contractors are greatly benefited by this plan. So I would like to urge the government to take up this plan effectively which is proudly mentioned by the Governor in his speech.

The Governor had mentioned that handloom and handicraft units will be promoted. But when he visited the pavilion of Hnamehantu who took the initiative part to promote handicrafts he severely criticised their products hurting their sentiments. It is regretting for a constitutional head to speak out such criticism instead of encouragement. To conclude my speech, I would like to say that while we are discussing this motion of thanks, I feel that though there are many commendable points, there are also many steps to be taken up by the Government for the development of Mizoram.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Our morning Session is over now, and we will have rest and resume our sitting at 2:00 P.M. Recess till 2:00 P.M.

2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER : We will continue our discussion. Now I call upon Pu Sailothanga Sailo.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. First of all, it is a matter of satisfaction that a full budget for 2005 – 2006 is going to be presented in this session.

We had listened from the Governor's speech that the last Mautam in the year 1959 brought untold miseries to the people of Mizoram but this time it is consoling to know that the Government is fully equipped to handle any eventuality. In the mean time, while our budget is meant for all sections of the people I have some doubts about its implementation because it is the Government of Mizoram who is going to implement it.

I would like to say just one point in P.W.D. It is learnt that Government received 1908 lakh rupees from NEC to construct 197 Kms road. I am planning to submit a proposal to construct Serkhan - Bagha road under either National Highway or World Bank fund. It is disheartening that there is no provision for this road.

It is known to all of us the importance of NGO presently, Y.M.A. the biggest NGO in Mizoram declares year against drugs and liquor. Which is supported cent percent by all other NGOs, Political parties, churches and the Government itself. While that is the case, there had never been a provision in our budget for the NGOs till today. I expect to see either from the Governor's speech or in our budget such provision for the NGOs but there is nothing. I, therefore, would like to point out that it will be pleasing if the government could make provision for the NGOs from the next budget.

It is interesting to know about Fisheries Department. While the Department had distributed 357 lakhs of Indian major carp and common carp fingerlings we are not producing sufficient fish. We are now getting 90% of fish from outside the state. It seems there is some loophole for not producing sufficient fish while 357 lakhs of fingerlings had been distributed at 100% subsidized rate.

The Governor said that high priority is given to the development of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary sector. But I think it is not practical, Piggery Village had been established at Kawlkulh and other villages by 100% funding. But in my opinion there is nothing much to expect from these villages because there is no production till today. I think even the government should examine this matter.

According to the report of Excise Department, 1185 drug traffickers, peddlers and abusers were nabbed and 2675 persons were arrested for contravention of the Excise Law and the Prohibition Laws during the current year 2004 - 2005 with the assistance and co-operation extended by the NGOs. The Department by its own may do only 20%. I, therefore, would like to stand/speak on behalf of the NGOs and urge the Government to make provision for them in the next budget.

Last but not the least, we all know that we are preparing to meet any eventuality arising out of the impending Mautam with BAFFACOS and other means. As such is the case, I would like to make it clear that no person in Mizoram should starve to death because of the said famine and it will be the responsibility of the Government if there is any such incident. I also would like to request all the members of this House to work deliberately for all sections of the people of Mizoram.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : I now call upon Pu D. Thangliana who seconded the motion.

PU D. THANGLIANA : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad that the members have nothing against the speeches of the Governor. Though we are not supposed to say about his personal behaviour/conduct some members said about it. I on the other hand am sorry that he had pointed out only few points among the many works done by the Government.

What I would like to point out is that it is a matter of great satisfaction that Taxation Department has collected a tax revenue of Rs. 2,734.35 lakhs (upto 31st January, 2005) during 2004 – 2005 as against its target of Rs. 2,385.00 lakhs inspite of sufficiency in staff.

It is pleasing to know that actions for establishment of Meteorological Observatory and installation of Instrument Landing System have been initiated and implementation is expected during 2005 – 2006 to facilitate safe operation of the scheduled flights even under adverse weather conditions.

It is a matter of immense pride that the Governor recognised the potentials of the youth of Mizoram in sports. I am happy to see that construction of Women Sports Hostel at Thenzawl has been completed. It is pleasing that our sports persons are earning laurels in various sport disciplines due to the efforts taken by the Government to promote sports.

Coming to Sericulture Department, it is a small Department, but the production of this Department during the recent past has shown a remarkable growth. Last year, plan to provide gainful employment has been made and at the same time it is remarkable that during 2004 – 2005 alone the efforts taken by the Government to provide gainful employment to 10,000 families through Sericulture.

In No 11, the Governor mentioned about the achievements of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department. It is pleasing to learn that young breeding bulls will be distributed to rural families and also that poultry farmers will be provided subsidy. It is also pleasing that assistance is going to be provided to a number of cattle rearing families of rural areas.

Besides these, though it was not mentioned by the Governor, I would like to point out the steps taken by the Government to construct truckable roads to connect all villages inhabited by 250 families. Construction of roads which is being done under World Bank Project are also in progress. Last but not the least, we can see many relentless efforts taken by the Government which are not mentioned by the Governor that will have far reaching results in bringing about prosperity to all sections of the people of Mizoram. However, as the Governor's speech is a package of satisfaction I would like to suggest to pass the motion of thanks as moved by the Hon'ble member.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : I now call upon Pu Zodintluanga.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Today I feel regretting that the Hon'ble member had moved a motion of thanks in this August House on the speech of the governor who despises the Mizos, does not respect our religions, and our government servants and verbally abused the legislators and the Ministers as well. I, therefore, would like to request the Hon'ble member to withdraw this resolution. At the same time, as our Governor is proposed by the ruling party, it is clear that this motion will be passed as they are the majority. In that case I would like to suggest to amend the motion as per our Rules No. 19.

The first point on what I would like to make an amendment is para 6 of his speech - 'My Government has already declared Mizoram as an Organic Farming State' because there is no Bill to ban chemical fertiliser as yet.

My second point is that he said in para 19 'My Government has already completed work under the Greater Water Supply Scheme for Aizawl Phase I and Lunglei' According to my knowledge, Aizawl Greater Water Supply Scheme Phase I was inaugurated by the former Governor, Pu Saikia in the year 1988 and Lunglei scheme was also commissioned during Congress Ministry. Because of these points I feel it is necessary to amend this motion.

As we are having a budget session he is expected to say about our budget. Though it is pleasing that we are going to have full budget this time. I wonder why he did not mention our financial position.

While he did not mention many points in which the Government gives interest he recommends police modernisation where unnecessary huge expenditure has involved. It can be assumed that he is trying to humiliate the ministry/government. In addition to these, as he proudly stated that steps are being taken towards introduction of various taxes it is not worth to pass the motion.

He mentioned that more than 1,000 families were given 4 bundles of GCI for upgradation under PMGY Central Government sanctioned quite a large fund for upgradation and if it is for upgradation, it should be to upgrade the houses of the rural areas. Some may want to change the post, wall and how can they use GCI sheet for such cases. There are many things to be pointed out. As already mentioned, I can not support this motion to pass as it is the speeches of the Governor who despise the people of Mizoram.

Thank you.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr Speaker Sir, it is pleasing that our sports persons have won medals at various national and international events under many problems as mentioned by the Governor in his speech at para 28. In the meantime, I think we are pointing out only the good/favourable sides. It is a matter of shame on the other hand to learn from newspaper that Mizoram Government is fined Rs. 5000/- in the ongoing case of dissolution of Sports Council.

Collection of tax revenue due is the endeavour of Taxation Department against its target mentioned by the Governor in para 30 which is remarkable. But it is regretting that he did not mention about illegal collection of taxes. I would like to make some clarification in this matter. The Lushai Hills District (Revenue Assesment) Regulation was made in 1953, after that 7 amendments had been made of which 1994 Amendment was the last amendment. The then Congress Ministry in 1995 started building tax according to this amendment. The Mizoram Citizen Committee submitted objection to Government but as it was not effective they approached High Court on 16th June, 1998.

The ongoing case was.....on 8th April 2004 by High Court judgement. According to High Court's judgement it is allowed to collect tax under this regulation but Section 3 should be followed strictly. But Government of Mizoram is collecting building tax through Village Councils

according to 1994 Amendment violating High Court judgement. As such is the case, there is not even an assesment to collect building tax. Government does not know who will pay the tax and there is neither a record of the amount to pay. So when the Village Councils collect the tax there is no proper rate and there is no uniformity. When the government issued notification in this matter on 4.2.2005 the above regulation was not mentioned, but only quoted Section 6 of 'The Mizo District Profession, Trade, Ceiling and Employment Formation Regulation, 1963'. This means that the government collects building tax according to one regulation and uses the Village Councils as collectors according to another regulation. Even if we read the whole regulations of 1963 there is no reason to authorise the Village Councils.

Last year we passed 'The Mizoram (Taxation on Land, building and assesment of revenue) Act, 2004' in the House. According to Section 38 of the above Act, The Lushai Hills District (Revenue Assesment) Regulation, 1953 will automatically be repealed as soon as the said Act is implemented and it will be implemented as soon as it is notified in the Gazette. So the notification was issued in the Gazette on 17.12.2004. Hence, the regulation based by the Government to collect building tax was repealed from 17.12.2004 onwards. As such is the case I would like to request the Government to refund all building taxes which were illegally collected.

As mentioned earlier, the MCC filed a case against the said regulation which is under procession from 1998 to April 2004, yet the Government of Mizoram is collecting tax according to this. Though the tax is not collected from all, it seems they are collecting from whom they do not afraid of. So I would like to request the Government to refund all these.

Another point I would like to mention is that we all know that this year is declares as year against drugs and liquor by Y.M.A. (anti drugs and liquor year). I expect the Governor would mention about this in his speech. He only mentioned the quantity of drugs and liquor seized by Excise and Police forces. I wonder why he did not mention the steps taken by our NGOs. Truly speaking almost every family in Mizoram is facing this problem. I am expecting to hear from the Governor how to rehabilitate drug addicts and the measure to prevent the innocent youths who have not addicted as yet. Since the speech of the Governor is prepared by the Government it can be assumed that the Government is not pleasing with the steps taken by the Y.M.A. Can a provision of at least 100/200 lakhs be made in our budget to strengthen the hands of NGO/YMA in this regard. Besides, I would like to suggest to empower our NGOs by giving legal authority so that they will be more helpful both to the Police and Excise forces to fight social evils in the state.

If we carefully look at the speech of the Governor, there is no new/fresh achievements. All the achievements of the Government he proudly mentioned could be done even if we are under President's Rule.

The Governor had mentioned in his last year's speech that Tourist Lodge will be constructed at Sakawrdai at the cost of 50 lakh rupees and today also he mentioned that sanctioned for this had already been approved. To mention every year but with no work is meaningless. I, therefore, would like to request the Government to materialise this matter too.

Thank you.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. The Hon'ble Governor addressed the House yesterday at 10:30 A.M. and the opposition members left the House during his address. I would like to request the opposition members to have a limit. When the UPA formed a ministry at the Central, the opposition party in the state spread the rumour that our Governor will be removed but he holds the office till today. This clearly shows we/the local party or Government can not remove the Governor as we wish.

However, the Hon'ble member from Ratu Constituency had said what are not mentioned in Governor's speech. If all the achievements of the Government are to be mentioned, it will take a long time because the achievements are innumerable.

The achievements of the present Government are great and many. Under PMGSY 884 Kms of rural roads have been taken up for providing better connectivity to villages. Even NEC has recently approved construction of six more roads covering 197 Kms and works have already been started. Now all the western areas which were neglected in the past are taken up. A bus is plying now at Reiek - Lungdar road. During one year Lengpui - Serzawl road, Serzawl - Hortoki road had been completed. Even Lengte - Nghalchawm areas who never expected that development will reach them are now having truckable road. Besides, industrial growth centre has been established in that area. In addition to these, construction work for Bairabi - Mamit road is now going on. It is pleasing to know that under a perspective plan for prison reforms construction of prisoners barrack at District Jails including Mamit have been completed. In these way, the development works taken up by the present ministry can not be put by speaking or in words which we never saw before.

In order to provide adequate safe drinking water to the people, Greater Aizawl Water Supply Scheme Phase II is in good progress. Similarly scheme for Mamit, where there is great water problem is also in good progress. Under Rural Water Supply Programme, we can see many water tanks in every village. These are the achievements of the present ministry. Therefore, if we have no reason to be contented with all the achievements, we

have to examine ourselves. Even if we hate the person who spoke, his speech is great. I therefore, would like to suggest to pass this motion unanimously.

Thank you.

PU H. ROHLUNA : Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. When I read the speech of the Governor he did not mention about Law & Judicial Department. If I am not mistaken I heard that even the Cabinet meeting had passed separation of Judiciary. Does this mean that the Governor is not giving importance to this matter as he himself used to behave beyond the law? Is the Government not intending to fulfill what is mentioned in the speech?

it is regretting that the achievements of Economic & Statistics Department is not mentioned because their records are used as a base by researchers and other Development Departments. In the meantime, in para 11, it is mentioned that 'a total of 166743 animals were vaccinated against animal diseases under this scheme'. In my opinion, there are more other significant important points to be mentioned than this like polio vaccine given by health Department. What we consider as achievement seems to be a bit insignificant. In the same manner, it is a petty matter to mention by a Governor that representatives were sent to witness Republic Day celebration, 2005 at New Delhi. The Department should have greater achievement than this.

On the other hand, he is exaggerating in some points like in para 18 he said construction of 132 KV line between Saitual to Darlawn, Khawzawl - Lundar 'E' and Khawzawl - Ngopa (70 Kms) are expected to be completed within 2005. 75 Khawzawl - Ngopa (70 Kms) are expected to be completed within 2005. I do not understand the meaning of this 75.

Even in para 22, he said that reconstruction works of Primary Health Centre at Phuldungsei are progressing well and under this he mentioned about completion of construction of Primary health Centre building at Phuldungsei. While the achievements of some Departments are not mentioned, is it good to mention twice the achievement of one Department.

Some of the Hon'ble members are happy that the Governor mentioned about bamboo industries under BAFFACOS in para 14 like bamboo chipping, bamboo stick making units and Bamboo Processing Joint Venture. But if we think carefully, there will be Mautam Famine in 2007, so when will we have sufficient raw materials after the famine. I am afraid our machines which we purchased costly will get rusted if there is no raw materials. Hence, I find no reason to be happy.

The Governor in para 12 of his speech mentioned the efforts of Forest Department to achieve better forest management. But he himself ordered 2000 canes from Lengteng Sanctuary. Though they could not find the number he desired yet they sent him quite a lot of canes. Similarly, he also ordered some amount of cinamon but his purpose is not known. Does these mean he is using Raj Bhavan a business centre.

In para 16, he said that Local Administration Department has given out composite cash loan LIC(HBA) to 2040 Government employees and Housing Loan to 400 other families during the year 2004 – 2005. I enquired about this and the Department told me that they have not given out normal Housing Loan to 400 families during 2004 – 2005. But he said 'has given out'. Does this mean the Governor is giving wrong information to the House ?

While the Governor said in the last para of his speech - 'I want to inform the people of Mizoram that my Government is fully equipped to handle any eventually' but the people of Mizoram on the other hand, are already losing their hope because wherever he goes he promised to give work under SGRY (food for work) but never fulfilled his promises. I am sure the people of Mizoram will not believe what he said.

Considering even only these points I find no reasons to be happy with the Governor's speech and it will be pleasing if the mover of the motion can withdraw his motion. Thank you.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. It is our duty to thank when a constitutional head addresses the House. If we carefully look at the statement of the Governor, there is nothing new. Generally speaking, the speeches of a constitutional head highlights the achievements of the concern Government. As such, I personally have high hope in our Government. A new Government/Ministry has now been formed at the Centre in which a great economist becomes a Prime Minister, there is also a famous economist in the Planning Commission and we have Pu Chidambaram as Finance Minister. Under they guidance of the said leaders, our state can have full budget and even the 12th Planning Commission could prepare its recommendation just in time. At the same time, I am expecting the MNF Ministry in the state to have enough developmental works to be highlighted in the Governor's speech but it is not up to my expectation.

Mizoram is facing undeniable big problems. The first problem is poverty due to inequitable distribution of Government's money. To some extent, it is understandable to favour party members. However, I expect this ministry to be pro-people in this term and I expect the Governor

to mention about equitable distribution of Government money to the poorest of the poor irrespective of party affiliation as a measure to alleviate poverty. It will be pleasing if the Government could make/have fresh thought in this matter.

Another problem faced by Mizoram is that no family is having sustainable economy as most of the rural areas are depending on our traditional economy i.e. jhumming. While Central Government is ready to give financial back up it is the responsibility of state Government to make proposals and measures to drive away burning and slashing system of our jhumming cultivation. But such measures is not mentioned in the speech, only minor projects are highlighted.

It is clear from the recommendation of the 12th Finance Commission that they knew our problems even in Non-Plan side but the Governor mentioned about this very briefly. This clearly indicates that there is no proper plan from the recipient to make financial economic reforms to match the leniency of Central Government.

Another big problem we are facing is drug menace among our youths. If the trend goes on without check it is possible and I am afraid that we the Mizos as a tribe will perish in the near future due to this social evil. As that is the case, this problem can not be fought by NGOs alone. Government should take warfooting steps to fight this problem. We need to amend our rules or create laws to deal the situation. Central Y.M.A. has made great achievement due to its untiring efforts and the death rate of O.D.(over dose) had greatly fallen down. Not only this, free trafficking on the street has also lessen now, and the addicts are now becoming more careful. As such is the case, I expect the Government to make plans by making budget provision to tackle this problem and to rehabilitate the victims because it is a burning problem for each family in Mizoram. Excise Department in this connection, seems to be facing shortage of man-power.

Another point I would like to mention is that I feel the Government is over taxing the people. Of course it is our duty to pay tax as a citizen. But now we have to pay many taxes. This morning itself a bill to introduce VAT has been moved in the House. While India Economy is assessed to be a super power in 15 years to come, the Governor did not mention the corresponding programme. In the light of this, we expect the Government to reduce the amount of tax to be paid in order to relieve the burdens of the people. Considering this, it is regretting that the Government instead of providing sustainable economy is raiding its people through taxes.

Lastly, it is a pity that our education quality is falling down particularly in Government's Schools. The main reason for this is political transfer of teachers. Making the teachers unable to settle with peace of mind in their posts. Just recently, the senior teachers who are nearing

pension are superceded by new SSA teachers who are politically appoint. Such cases hurt the sentiments of the teachers thus our education quality . suffering now.

To conclude my speech, I would like to request the Government to review our budget and Governor's speech to match the national development programme and find a new way to please all the people of Mizoram irrespective of party affiliation and we are ready to co-operate.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu R. Khawpuithanga.

PU R. KHAWPUITHANGA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. It is clear from his speech that the Governor has confident in this House. He said 'the presence of a large number of seasoned legislators in this august House' calling us seasoned legislators which is a great praise for us. It is regretting on the other hand that while he is praising us we are severely criticising him. If we look at the whole speech of the Governor we can see that all trends of Department are towards development. Hence there is no reason to be unhappy.

It is remarkable of what he said that Mizoram continue to remain peaceful in para 3 of his speech. It is known to all that no development works can be done if there is no peace. The price of peace is very high. Most of our neighbouring states do not have peace as we are having. The role played by the police force to maintain peace in our state can not be expressed in words.

It is pleasing to know that Government of India has agreed the proposal for raising one more battalion of IR due to the statesmanship of the Hon'ble House Leader. This will create employment opportunities for many youths and will protect our state both from external and internal disturbances as well. I would like to point out that the efforts taken by our police force to maintain peace is outstanding. It is pleasing and informative to know that the governor has mentioned a number of our police officers who has been selected for U.N. assignments indicating the quality of our police officers. At the same time, I am glad to know that development of a new Police Training Centre at Thenzawl has also made a good progress.

In Agriculture we should not concentrate on organic farming alone because there are many other achievements. What I

would like to point out in Horticulture Department is that steps have been taken by the Department towards increasing the production of grapes and passion fruit which covered a huge areas. Besides, steps have also been taken for commercial production of grape and anthurium. Many grape and anthurium growers have already started earning good annual returns. It is pleasing to know that anthurium cut flowers have already been exported outside the state.

One more point would like to mention is about development of road connectivity and other infrastructures works undertaken by this ministry. We are all familiar with the works done under PMGSY in which we are now in phase 4. Besides PMGSY, even NEC has approved a huge amount of fund for construction of more roads. In the same manner, Ministry of Road Transport has also sanctioned funds for improvement of specific roads. Even DONER has sanctioned funds for road schemes and bridges. Like this, there are many works undertaken by NABARD, E & I, NEC, NLCPR, PMGSY etc. If these works are completed, the face of Mizoram will be changed completely which is a great development. As such, in the speech of the Governor we find many remarkable points and I feel it is not necessary to say much. Hence, I suggest to pass the motion.

Thank you.

PU H. LALSANGZUALA : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I feel there are some ambiguities in the speech of the Governor. He did not mention the achievements of the ministry specifically. As already mentioned by some of the Hon'ble members, how to rehabilitate drug traffickers, peddlers and abusers as well as the victims of Total Prohibition. Though the Governor's speech is not upto the mark, there are certain points to be appreciated on the achievements of the Government. First, I would like to express my gratitude to P.W.D. for constructing roads to connect even the remote areas. This will enable our farmers to market their products and provide means to earn livelihood for those who depend on vehicles. In the meantime, some families are facing problem because their houses have to be dismantled. I, therefore, would like to urge the Government to give compensation to those families as soon as possible. It is said that there is no compensation under PMGSY as it is Central Scheme. Hence, it is the responsibility of the Government to relieve the problems faced by these families/people. In the same manner, steps taken by other Departments are also quite recommendable.

In regard to fund allocation for BAFFACOS, I would like request the Government and the concern Departments to use the sanctioned amount economically to help the poor farmers for the coming Mautam without party feelings.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu Lalthanzuala.

PU F. LALTHANZUALA : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Some of the Hon'ble Members said that the Governor did not mention the contributions made by NGOs and YMA in his speech. But the Governor mentioned in para 3 of his speech that 'the assistance and co-operation extended by the people of Mizoram and the local voluntary organizations to the law enforcement agencies in detecting and prevention of crime has been quite encouraging' and also in para 43 he also said 'I take this opportunity to extend heartfelt gratitude to the people of Mizoram the Religious Institutions and the NGOs for their continued support to peace and development initiatives and other endeavour of my Government'. These showed that the Governor has recognised and appreciated the contributions of NGOs and religious institutions. Even our neighbouring states had advocated the intervention of the Church during election and they are keen about Y.M.A.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Governor has stated that 'I am happy to apprise the Hon'ble members that Mizoram continues to remain peaceful'. We all know the efforts taken by the then Congress Ministry to bring peace in Mizoram. Accordingly we have peace and as pointed by the Hon'ble member while our neighbouring states do not have peace we are enjoying peace in our state. As peace is the backbone of development, there can be no development without peace. As that is the case we need to express our gratitude in this regard. At the same time, it is also clear from the Governor's speech that our police force are quite efficient. He said while the crime situation in Mizoram has been kept under control, the percentage of conviction of IPC cases as recorded at 94.9% is one of the highest among the states and Union Territories in the country. It is pleasing that the efficiency of our police force are commended like this by the Governor.

The most pleasing point is pointed out in para 6 of the Governor's speech that Mizoram has already been declared as an organic farming state. Understanding the global trend and the far-reaching adverse effect of chemicals on human and other living beings, utilization of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides is highly encouraged.

It is our desire to provide gainful employment to the people. In particular, we, the politicians know how poor are the rural areas but it is a difficult task to alleviate them. Even the past ministries had planned a specific programme/policy but they were not successful. But now it is pleasing that steps have been taken to provide gainful employment to the people under BAFFACOS and other schemes. Steps taken to market our agriculture products are also very commendable.

Development of road connectivity and strengthening of other major infrastructures mentioned in para 17 are very impressive. As already pointed out by the Hon'ble members, there can be no development without proper roads. It is pleasing now that construction of Vanlaiphai upto my constituency road is being started under PMGSY. At the same time, Hnahthial - Thingsai road is under construction funded by NABARD. There are many other roads which are being under construction in various parts of the state. When we have good roads it will be easier for rural people to market their products and we are not far from that situation.

Another point I would like mention is about supply Department. It is pleasing to know from the Governor that the Department has stocked sufficient foodstuff even in the remote areas which usually remain inaccessible during the monsoon season. It is also pleasing to know that steps have already been taken for advance monsoon stocking for the year 2005 - 2006.

Last but not the least, it is pleasing that the Governor has mentioned that proposals to upgrade various facilities at Lengpui Airport like establishment of Meteorological Observatory and installation of Instrument Landing System have been taken up. Hence, as the Governor's speech is a package of achievements.

I would like to request the House to pass it.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : I now call upon the House Leader.

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, As the speech of the Governor is very brief, he did not mention many achievements made by the Department and the Ministry as well yet it is a long speech. Many points mentioned by the Hon'ble members will be explained during our budget discussion.

The first point I would like to mention is how we prepare ourselves to deal with the problems pertaining to the bamboo flowering and rodent upsurge. There are various on going schemes and some schemes are still to be going on. Our first step is to have at least jeepable road to ensure contineous availability of food even in the remote areas. In order to do this, major improvement of the existing roads and rehabilitation of road are

undertaken. Under this project, people of the concern area are expected to have an opportunity to work as wage labourers. In addition to this, steps have been taken by various Departments to provide alternative occupation to the people.

Understanding that to harvest bamboos which are going to die soon as much as possible is to earn money, we are planning to establish industries like bamboo-chipping etc. There is also a programme of providing several small machines to local entrepreneurs. Several bamboo-stick making units have already been set up in private sector through the active support of Industries Department. In these ways, steps have been taken under BAFFACOS so that people can earn money.

Another important thing is bamboo road to harvest the existing bamboos. Even now, as there is bamboo road from Lengpui - Hortoki, these areas have started earning money from bamboo. Besides this, in the place where bamboos grown, various cash crops can be cultivated. In addition, we have now three varieties of bamboos like hamiltonic, balcoa and gigantia. Which we never have in Mizoram. These will be supplied by the experts for tissue culture. However, priority will be given to road.

The Governor has acknowledged the efforts rendered by the police force to maintain Law and Order in the state. Though the performance of our police force is not up to our expectation, the rate of conviction at 94% is one of the highest in the country. This shows that the performance of our police force to maintain Law and Order is quite satisfactory. Even our Traffic system is praised by other states.

In regard to organic farming, it is not possible to abandon chemical fertilizer at once but we are trying to do it gradually. The Department is taking steps to make/produce alternative measures.

Another important point is the supports given by the people of Mizoram and NGOs and religious institutions to fight drugs and other crimes which even the Governor had mentioned in his speech.

Though there are many points to be mentioned, I will not mention them all. The condition of Mizoram before 6 years and now is beyond compare. However, to provide gainful/sustainable employment to rural people, the most important infrastructure is road. In such a way as DONER allowed to make schemes for bamboo road our P.W.D. Executive Engineer are making schemes. These are important to develop our state and the economic condition of rural areas. The Governor had mentioned all these as the present condition of Mizoram is beyond compare with the last 6 years. However, I do not deny that there may be some criticisms in his speech, we can neither deny that the present ministry is really working for the people. Hence, I would like to request this House to pass this motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now I call upon Pu K. Lalrinliana, mover of the motion to wind up and ask the House to pass his motion.

PU K. LALRINLIANA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I am glad that all the members who participated in the discussion of the motion of Governor's address have favoured. The Governor's address of the House on 15.3.2005. I, therefore, would like to request the House to pass my motion.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Those who agree to pass the motion may say 'yes' and those who do not agree may say 'no'. Well, the motion 'that the members of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly in this session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to the Assembly on the 15th March, 2005 moved by Pu K. Lalrinliana is unanimously passed by the House.

It is pleasing that our official Gallery which was empty in the morning has been occupied by the officials in the afternoon.

Our business for today is over. We will resume our sitting tomorrow 17.3.2005 at 10:30 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 P.M.