

**NINTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 21st MARCH, 2006.
(SEVENTH SESSION)**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pu LALCHAMLIANA, Speaker at the Chair, **Pu Zoramthanga**, Chief Minister, Deputy Speaker, 11 Ministers and 24 Members were present.

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR NINTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 21st MARCH, 2006.
(TIME 10 : 30 A.M. to 1 : 00 P.M. and 2 : 00 P.M. to 4 : 00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

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

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

2. **PU R. LALZIRLIANA** to present to the House the following Reports :
 - 1) Ninteenth Action Taken Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Power & Electricity Department, Government of Mizoram.
 - 2) Twentieth Action Taken Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Social Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram.
 - 3) Twenty first Action Taken Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Sericulture Department, Government of Mizoram.

MOTIONS FOR ELECTIONS TO FINANCIAL COMMITTEES

3. **PU R. LALZIRLIANA** to move motion for election to Public Accounts Committee.
4. **PU LALTHLENGLIANA** to move motion for election to Committee on Estimates.
5. **PU F. LAL THANZUALA** to move motion for election to Committee on Public Undertakings.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2006-2007

6. General Discussion on the Budget for the year 2006-2007 (to be concluded).

S P E A K E R : Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

St. Mathew 5 : 7

We will now call Pu Andrew Lalherliana to ask Starred Question No. 106.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Starred Question No. 106. Will the hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department be pleased to state - (a) Whether shops at Millenium Centre is allotted to Individual ? (b) If so, how many ?

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble Chief Minister authorised Home Minister to answer the questions, so, we will now call Pu Tawnlui to answer the questions.

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble member's question is allotment is not given to any individual.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, I agree that private allotment is not made. How many persons have paid in advance for the shop ? Secondly, whether payment is made in full ? And what is the total amount received and where is the money deposited ?

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, if they could give the names of buyers for the shop and the Board of Directors.

S P E A K E R : To answer the questions, we will now call the Minister to answer the questions.

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, it is not allotted. There are 305 shops in Millenium Centre. These shops are given on Lease. There is a given rate according to the category. For the lease of 91 years, 57 individuals are allotted 63 shops. Therefore, individual allotment is not given, but shops are given on lease. As for the total amount received, it is 590.58 lakhs. Pu Speaker, the Governing Board Members consist of Chief Secretary, Finance Commissioner, Planning Commissioner, Aizawl Deputy Commissioner, Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department, Chief Engineer, (Power & Electricity), Chief Engineer (Public Health Engineering) Pu Ramhluna Khiangte is the Board of Director.

PU H. LIANSILOVA : Pu Speaker, several times Millenium trade centre has been discussed in the House. As we have mentioned earlier, farmers occupied sites to sell their products. Now that, the magnificent building has come up, they are left without a market to sell their products. Therefore, my question is - Is there any purposal to allot the farmers site/stall in the building ? If not, I would like to request the hon'ble Chief Minister to make an arrangement at the basement for these farmers.

PU ANDRREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. We are allotting the prime land of our State for 90 years. I would like to know the terms and condition of the allotment. Will it serve as a resourceful revenue for the Government ?

S P E A K E R : We will now call the acting Chief Minister to answer the questions.

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to Pu H. Liansailova's question is - There is no proposal to allot rural farmers site at the building. However, there is a proposal to set up market.

The total amount received is Rs. 590,58,000/- The said amount is deposited in the account of Millenium centre authority. For the construction of the building, loan is taken from Vijaya Bank and HUDCO. As for the terms and conditions, I am not prepared. As let us expect that the Department concern will be able to provide the details since it is not confidential, as it is a public property.

S P E A K E R : We will now call Pu Saikapthianga to ask starred question No. 107.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Speaker, I would like to ask for correction. Instead of Kawrthah constituency, I would like to make it as Mizoram.

S P E A K E R : Ask the question as it is, then you can ask for Mizoram as well.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Thank you. Will the hon'ble Horticulture Minister be pleased to state - (a) Has the Government taken any decision for the alternative crop due to citrus declined. (b) If not, why ?

S P E A K E R : We will now call Pu H. Rammawi to answer the questions.

PU H. RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble member's question is - it is under consideration.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Speaker, supplementary question. I would like to ask the Government, if it agrees to plant the flower of bamboo ? If so, will the Government agree to give financial aids to those farmers who are hit by citrus declined, for the collection of bamboo flower ? Will the Government agree to allow Individual to sell their own bamboo product ?

S P E A K E R : Pu Zodintluanga.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, supplementary question - Resolution was passed on 30th September, 2005, regarding citrus declined. What step has the Government taken ?

S P E A K E R : We will now call Pu H.Rammawi to answer the questions.

**PU H. RAMMAWI
MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, first of all the answer to Pu Zodintluanga's question is, experts have come to examine the cause, but it is not an easy process steps are taken.

As for Pu Saikapthianga's questions suggestions have been given that, no other crops should be cultivated for the next 5 years where there is citrus declined. This is due to the fact that, the bacteria may further destroy the crops. As for cultivation of bamboo flowers, it will not be a problem. As for the distribution of bamboo flowers and cultivation, there will be no problem from the Department. However, we have convinced the farmers, and studied if the farmers agree to cultivate bamboo flower. As for the market and the selling of the product, we have to consult with other Department Pu Speaker, as of now, the Department is intending to cover the western belt, with oil palm and pineapple. This has market prospect. We have to think of annual crop which is sustainable.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Speaker, there are bamboos in the area where there is citrus declined. But we are unable to get the approval of the Forests Department to sell the bamboo. Pu Speaker, is the Government aware that the area where the proposed nursery for oil palm is submerged by water every year ?

S P E A K E R : We will now call the Hon'ble Minister.

**PU H. RAMMAWI
MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, yes, the Government is aware of it. From the selection of the nursery area to the quality maintenance, it is in the hands of the Company. However, we have given the Company advice that, they should avoid area where there is the possibilities of submersion of water.

As for the market of bamboo, it will not be a problem. Bangladesh Paper Mill, alone requires 300 metric tonnes a day.

I think the hon'ble Chief Minister also had time to discuss the matter with the Prime Minister. The Government plans to make large profit out of our bamboos before the start of Mautam. I am certain that there would be no obstacle if the government takes utmost efforts.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 108 to be asked by Pu F. Lal Thanzuala.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr Speaker, Starred question No. 108.
Will the hon'ble Minister for Higher & Technical
Education Department be pleased to state -

- (a) Whether there is proposal to provincialise Deficit Colleges.
- (b) If not, what is the reason thereof ?
- (c) If so, what are the names of the Colleges ?

S P E A K E R : Let the hon'ble Minister for Higher & Technical
Education Department be pleased to state -

Dr LALZAMA : Mr Speaker , the answer to starred question
MINISTER No. 108 are as follows :-

- (a). Yes.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The Council of Minister has not yet decided the Colleges to be provincialised.

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalrinliana Sailo.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr Speaker, a supplementary question please.
Is there any proposal to continue the construction
of B.Ed College building at Republic Veng ? If
so, when ? I have raised this question because the construction work has been abandoned for about 2
years. It would be appreciated if the Government continue the construction work.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr Speaker, the Government has abolished the
system of deficit on Middle and High Schools.
We know that the Government has got profit
from it as the teachers from these upgraded schools have contributed fund by means of G.P.F. and
professional tax. But, there are 12 deficit colleges for which the Government has to spend a matching
share of 36 lakhs every year. Therefore, it is suggested that these 12 colleges be provincialised so as
to save the fund.

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Mr Speaker sir, is there proposal to set up more
colleges for the areas outside Aizawl where there
are no educational institutions higher than that of
High School level. I have raised this question as these areas have more than 25,000 voters in the
electoral roll. And the students after going through matriculation do not afford to continue their studies
outside.

Dr LALZAMA : Mr Speaker, I will start answering from the
MINISTER question raised by Pu Lalrinliana. The
Government has already spent 60 lakhs for the
construction of B.Ed. college. But, the schedule of rate has been decreased and there is inflation in price.

So, the initial sanction could not complete the construction work. An additional sanction of 43 lakhs is being awaited from the centre. As soon as fund is received, immediate step will be taken for the completion of B.Ed. college at Republic Veng. As for the suggestion for provincialisation of all deficit colleges, the Government is considering the matter.

Pu K. Vanlalauva asked whether there is proposal to set up more colleges outside Aizawl. For the present condition, there is no such plan due to financial constraint.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Mr Speaker, I ask Starred Question No. 109. Is there proposal to form District Planning Board. If not, what is the reason thereof?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr Speaker. Apart from the existing Lunglei District Planning Board, the Government has no proposal to set up another one.

PU SAILOTHANGA SAILO : Thank you, Mr Speaker. District Planning Board has rarely been mentioned in the House. The State has District Planning Board only in Lunglei.

Due to the absence of District Planning Board, the MLAs have not knowledge of the development fund meant for their respective constituencies. Without the presence of Planning Board, we are ignorant of the District Plan the Government made for our concerned area. This could lead to hindrance in development.

I would like to express my thanks to the hon'ble Chief Minister for sanctioning 5 lakhs as development fund for my constituency. I would further like to add that 10 lakhs is set to be allotted next year for the same for which I convey my gratitude.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr Speaker, MLAs are appointed as the member of Block Development Committee and Governing Board of DRDA in their respective constituencies. The Government has no additional expenditure from this as we are not given TA/DA when attending meetings. If District Planning Board is set up, the MLA would be appointed as member and the Deputy Commissioner could be the Chairman. In this way, there will be no additional financial involvement. The Deputy Commissioner and the MLA would be entrusted with more power and function.

PU S. HIATO : Mr Speaker, I ask if the recommendation of the Lunglei Planning Board is being approved as it is. As stated by Pu Liansuama, block Development Board is set up where the concerned MLAs are the member. All the development works are to be done through and with the approval of the Board. Even the monitoring and verification had to be done by the Board. But, the BDB at Saiha has not summoned a Committee for two years. It has made every decision without the acknowledgement of the MLA. Is this the way it should be?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr Speaker, regarding the point raised by Pu S. Hiato, I would like to say that the BDOs are expected to call a meeting. Anyhow, the matter will be checked and looked into.

It is true that District Planning Board should be set up in each district. Considering the present financial condition, the Government cannot make a decision to set up District Planning Board for now.

S P E A K E R : The members have emphasized the significance and urgency of having District Planning Board in each District. Let us hope that the Government will proved the matter. Starred Question No. 110 to be asked by Pu R.Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr Speaker, starred question No. 110. Will the hon'ble Minister for Tourism Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether the Government intend to reconstruct Tourist Lodge at Saitual.

(b) If not, can repair or renovation work be taken up.

S P E A K E R : Pu Z.H. Ropuia, Tourism Minister may be called to give his replies.

PU Z.H. ROPUIA MINISTER : Mr Speaker, there is no proposal for reconstruction of Saitual Tourist lodge, However, repair work is being done and the building is being re-painte. However, due to financial difficulties repair works cannot be done quickly.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr Speaker, the rate of fooding and lodging at the tourist lodge are very high compared to the Rest Houses run by other Departments. More guests could be attracted if the rates are reduced from the existing ones.

Secondly, I would like to state a few points on Tamdil Tourist Centre. The areas surrounding the lodges and the lake is under the department of Forests & Environment whereas the lake is under the care of Fisheries Department and the cabin and lodges are looked after by Tourism department. I would like to suggest that the whole area be put under the care of Tourism department for easy maintenance.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr Speaker, Tourist lodge is being constructed at Sakawrdai. I have recently visited the place where I find that the quality of bricks used by the contractors are very low that it can easily be broken by bare hands. If the contractor continued to use such material it could be harmful after completion of the construction.

Therefore, I ask the hon'ble Minister to examine the reported matter and take remedial actions.

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Mr Speaker, I would like to say that Tourism Department is operating a number of Tourist Lodge within the State. Despite shortage of staff, the lodges are being maintained satisfactorily. I would like to ask the number of M/R staff working in the Tourist Lodges. I would further like to ask if telephone could be installed at the VIP room of Champhai Tourist Lodge.

PU S. HIATO : Thank you Mr Speaker. The largest lake in Mizoram is Palak Dil which situated in Chhimituipui District. Formally there has been proposal to construct tourist lodge as the lake attracts many visitors. But, the place cannot provide berth for visitors. therefore, I ask the hon'ble Minister to construct Tourist Lodge near Palak Dil. So that more and more visitors could be attracted.

PU LALTHLEGLIANA : Mr Speaker sir, Tourism Department makes Mizo Typical Village at Reiek in my constituency which attracts many people. I would like to ask how many average income is made in a month ?

**PU Z.H. ROPUIA
MINISTER** : Mr Speaker sir, regarding the lodging charge of Tourist Lodge in Mizoram, I opine that our rate is not high comparing to other States. So, there is no proposal to reduce the existing rates. We rather try to improve our lodges. In regard to Tamdil, no proposal to improve this place is there from Tourism Department. Tamdil is jointly looked after by three Departments - Fisheries Department, Forests & Environment Department and Tourism Department. Therefore, coordination between the said Departments is needed to improve this place.

In regard to construction of Tourist Lodge at Sakawrdai, we do not know what materials are used. Construction of the building is under the charge of Public Works Department So, I will request Public Works Department to enquire this. Replying to hon'ble member from Khawbung constituency, there is a proposal to extend the existing Tourist Lodge at Champhai. Now, sanction has also been there. So, we try to improve the building with more rooms and more telephone facilities. In regard to the number of Muster Roll Workers I cannot say the exact number now. I will furnish it in black and white later. Most of our staff are Muster Roll Workers.

Replying to the hon'ble member from Saiha constituency, a new Tourist Lodge is proposed to be constructed at Palak Dil. Sanction has already been there. But, the District Council has another plan and our proposal is now rejected. We, therefore, request the Government to divert the said sanction for other purposes.

S P E A K E R : Before replying to Pu Lalthlengliana, I would like to mention that our time for question hour is over now. Will he complete his answer? If yes, let him complete it.

**PU Z.H. ROPUIA
MINISTER**

: Mr Speaker Sir, we have a typical Mizo village, Mizo modern Village and other Tourist sites at Reiek. We have many visitors at this site as mentioned by Pu Lalthlengliana. However, I cannot say the exact amount of our monthly income from this place. It is still under calculation now. So, I will furnish a detailed sheet later.

S P E A K E R

: Question hour is over now. Today our members - Pu H. Vanlalaauva, Minister, Pu Sainghaka and Pu K. Lianzuala cannot attend session. We will go to the next business. Let us call upon Pu R. Lalzirliana, Acting Chairman of Public Accounts Committee to present the 19th, 20th and 21st Action Taken Report of Public Accounts Committee.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA

: Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission and with the agreement of this House I hereby present the 19th Action Taken report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Power & Electricity Department, the 20th Action Taken Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Social Welfare Department and the 21st Action Taken Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Sericulture Department in this august House. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Let the copy be circulated to the members. In the Assembly we have three Financial Committees, they are Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee and Committee on Public Undertakings. The tenure of these committees is 30 months, which will be ended on 17th June, this year. Before conducting fresh election, motion has to be moved. According to this we have such motions. Now, let us call upon Pu R. Lalzirliana, Acting Chairman of Public Accounts Committee to move that motion.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA

: Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I, hereby move a motion that the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule 1 of Rule 202 read with Rule 254 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly to serve as a member of Public Accounts Committee in Mizoram Legislative Assembly for a period of 30 months. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: As is our usual practice we will take up all of them together. Now, let us call upon Pu Lalthlengliana, Chairman of Estimates Committee to move his motion.

PU LALTHLENGLIANA

: Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I hereby move a motion that the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule 1 of Rule 202 read with Rule 254 of this Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly to serve as members of Committee on Estimates in Mizoram Legislative Assembly for a period of 30 months. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, let us call upon Pu F. Lal Thanzuala, Chairman of Committee on Public Undertakings to move his motion.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I, hereby move a motion that the members of this House to proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule 1 of Rules 202 read with Rule 254 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly to serve as members of Committee on Public Undertakings, Mizoram Legislative Assembly for a period of 30 months. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The three Financial Committees have moved motions for fresh election. Is discussion required? If yes, this House accepted motions moved by Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee and Committee on Public Undertakings unanimously. Although our Rules demands election, no election is conducted in the past years. Consultation among various political parties had been done. So, every Legislature party has to make nominee for such Committee members. Nominated members will be declared as elected uncontest. Hence, all the Parties are hereby requested to make such nomination to be announced during this current session.

Now, we will go to the next business, which is continuation of General discussion on the Budget for the year 2006-2007. We will start discussion now. Who will start first. Yes, Pu Lalduhoma. As we know that every member has 15 minutes each and Group Leaders are given more times.

PU LALDUHOMA : Mr Speaker Sir, every political party has a policy and manifesto of its own and people elect their representatives in Democratic countries. Here in Mizoram also we expect the ruling party to work for the success of its manifesto and policy. But, there is no such policy in the budget for this year. This Ministry does not have a proper policy of its own. I think no development works can be done unless there are PMGSY, NLCPR, and other Central Government's Schemes. All development works seemed to be implemented from Central Government's policy in which guidelines are violated very often. This Ministry has nothing to be proud of. Therefore, I would like to ask the present Ministry of Mizoram that what schemes of their own are to be implemented with the current budget?

MIP and BAFFACOS seemed to be the only policy formulated by the Government by its own. Of these, MIP is a meaningless policy. BAFFACOS is also the enhancement of the current policy and programme of 15 departments. There is no new step reflected in the budget. Yesterday, we have listened that our fiscal deficit would be reduced to Rs. 27 crores at the end of this year. I admitted that the fiscal deficit would be reduced to some extent. But, Mr Speaker Sir, it is not due to increase in our own resources. We do not mobilise more sources. So, there is no point to express thanks in this matter. The more we get fund from the Central Government the more we need to contribute State's share. Getting more fund from the Central should not be appreciated at all, it will increase our deficit. The budget speech delivered by the Chief Minister is not totally true, it can mislead the people easily.

We know from the answer to question asked by Pu Zodintluanga that our fiscal deficit is now Rs.2313 crores. How can the Chief Minister tell this House that our deficit would be reduced to Rs. 27 crores only. Does he refuse to tell us our true position ? We see in the budget that our income would greatly be increased but more income would lead us to more deficit. Why does not he tell us the truth ? Now, the Central Government formulated "Look East Policy". Under this policy, 55 new highways would be constructed to connect India with 32 countries. Which was propounded by the President when he came to Mizoram. It is not appropriate to reduce our development activity just to evade increase in fiscal debt as it is the people who suffer the negative effect.

The Government of India is now having 'Look East' Policy under which construction of Asian National Highway of 140,000 Kms is now being carried out. I have made a demand to our President when he addressed this House, to include Mizoram in the construction of Asian Highway as well as Trans-Asian Railways. But, it is unfortunate not to find any of that matter as it has not been pursued. Mr Spaker sir, don't you think it is important to bring Mizoram atleast at a linkage to that Highway ? Where as construction of road from Manipur to Thailand is now in full swing under the said 'Look East' policy ? Anyhow, the Government should have included this major project here in our budget.

Mr Speaker sir, it is also important for the Government to strengthen restriction of truck loading on our bridges as most of the truck carry 120-200 qtls. where as the limit is fixed at 100 qtls. only. I have learned from a reliable source that our Chief Minister inclined on the construction of National Highway by 4 lanes upto Kawnpui and the rest for 3 lanes. If this is true, I strongly criticize the idea. The construction should go by 4 lanes upto Saiha and then to Tiau as proposed.

Mr Speaker sir, after North Eastern Council is reconstituted, it is upgraded as one of the three members of Planning Commission and is supposed to function as Regional Planning Commission. We have to consider what benefits we have made with that opportunity and what project is being submitted by our Government ? It is sad that we are not using this opportunity for the benefit of our State.

Nowadays, Free Tax location and special economic zone is very popular in the Country and even one neighbouring state Tripura too has been declared as Industrial Growth Centre, Industrial Estate, Tax Free Location and Special Economic Zone. It will be much appreciated if our Industrial Estate at Luangmual and Zuangtui too are declared as Industrial Estate so that we will able to take step towards Foreign Investment along with other States. My question is, whether our Government is aware of this opportunity ? I opine it is necessary to change our mind-set so as to catch up with other developed states.

It is also important to open call centre at Aizawl where as more than 370 trained students got a job at call-centre and I.T. Enabled service through DOEACC Zuangtui. It is time for the Government to turn its attention towards this and further focus it in the Budget. Not only this Mr Speaker sir, Land Custom Station has not yet been achieved in Mizoram till today where as it is already functioned in other States. What is the reason for this impediment ? It is also questionable of how far construction of Hydel Project has been undertaken while there is opportunity under NER 2020 programme ? Not only this, infrastructure has to be built up for further development ?

Lastly Mr Speaker sir, the most important thing is our system of monitoring any project. An ideal achievement will never be made unless the concern officials from top to bottom stopped from benefitting certain percent of any project . It is, therefore, necessary to set up a monitoring cell so as to check whether guideline is followed in the maintenance of any scheme. Thank you.

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

PU K. LALRINLIANA : Mr Speaker sir, our Budget statement which has been laid today is much improved in compare to last year. It is also pleasing that no overdraft is made during the year 2005-2006 thanks to the efficient leadership of our Chief Minister. It is obvious that the Central Government is impressed with our financial management and because of this we are being favoured with sufficient amount of Budget Provision.

Thanks to the effort of our Chief Minister, we are beginning to learn the best use of bamboo. We are now having number of family who depends on the product of their machine of bamboo processing such as Agarbati sticks for export outside Mizoram. Industry Department have even constructed building at Bairabi for chipping Industry with a prospect for more profitable income. Hopefully, we will discover more uses of this product from the most abundant Raw-material in our State.

Under the Department of Sericulture too, numbers of family from Kolasib District to the southern end are now depending upon their income from rearing cocoons for which the Government too provides assistance for construction of rearing house and other equipments.

Last but not the least, it is a remarkable achivement for Sports Department concern to have a matching share as pointed out here in the budget statement. Besides, it is pleasing to learn that we are having budget provisions of 600 lakhs for improvement of Assam Rifle Ground much for the benefit of our youths today. It may not be necessary to point out achievement made in other departments due to limit of time. In short, this budget statement laid down by the hon'ble Chief Minister is praiseworthy.

Thank you.

PUR. LALZIRLIANA : Mr Speaker sir, the member pointed out various achievements made under Horticulture Department, which is appreciated. However, be it Horticulture or other Departments, it is not appropriate to hold up progress of their development/ achievements to be made.

With the progress of our Country in the field of economic for every States to get their shares no matter what party they are supporting. The main policy of the Central Government is to upgrade the states under special Category, because of that we are being favoured with a sufficient amount of budget Provision. It is therefore rediculous to praise our Chief Minister or other unnecessarily. What we have to do is to gladly receive this provision which is increasing by 10.66% in compare to last year.

It is not necessary to put the blame on the previous Ministries for what had happened because every Ministry has done its best for development of Mizoram. There is allegation and counter allegation and the answer always forwarded by the ruling is always due to economic reason.

In my opinion, this stype of criticism or allegation usually arises during our Budget Session and we seen to change our standpoint depending on the time and places.

In regard to BAFFACOS, it is much appreciated that 40 crores has been sanctioned for us yet it is sad that we are not careful enough in our management with this fund. What we have to

determine prior to using the fund is the purpose of BAFFACOS and the outcome of Bamboo Flowering Who are the victims ? The answer is poor cultivators in rural areas. But the saddest part is that project scheme has not been prepared as to benefit those cultivators. For example, a Go-down is constructed under this scheme with the mount of 20 lakhs. Those Go-downs are constructed by the urban people. No Villager constructed godown anywhere. That means no development fund is benefited by the villagers. That is why it appears that it is necessary to review the system of financial management in the State. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that "we will have Rs. 135.05 crores of revenue surplus". But i don't believe it. State liability is said to be Rs.230.13 crores. But in Comptroller and Auditor General Report, State liability is Rs.2710.745 crores in 2004. How can we be happy having such huge amount of liability.

No proposal is made for collection of new tax in the budget speech in 2005-2006. But revenue is increased by Rs. 22/- lakhs. Power tarrif is also increased by 25%. This Government collected taxes and fees without concern for the poor people all around.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister did not want to take charge of Public Works Department, Power & Electricity, & Finance Department during the former Ministry. But now he had taken the charge of them all. That means, this Ministry will be thrown by the people. Now the people of Mizoram needed a politician who can comfort them. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : It appears that we need to use parliamentary words in the House. Let us call upon Pu Andrew Lalherliana.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Thank you Hon'ble Speaker sir, we are now going to discuss our State budget. The amount is Rs. 2360.29 crores. All the members are satisfied with it. But the people are agrieved that there is no job orientation. Not only that, but it is also provided that some of this measures are in the form of non-filling up or abolitaion of post as well. On the other hand the people viewed the budget with apprehension that the poor people will suffer. Generally, criteria of good budget is less taxes progress of the country and increase of job facilities, while, the Government is intending to start collection of small amount of tax on road and bridge from 2006-2007. It is very surprising. Hence, the people of Mizoram are apprehensive about the budget provision

If we see Account at a glance 2004-2005, State liability is Rs. 2710.74 crores. If we see this budget provision, consolidated fund is Rs. 1966.62 crores, which is not to be used. Fund to be received from consolidated fund and fund to be used from it is the surplus. It is minus by Rs. 732.19 crores . It appeared in the budget as surplus because public Account balance is added, which is not to be used by Government. If fund is used from public Account, that is liability. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also said that we have Rs. 29.63 crores surplus. In fact, it is not surplus but a liability. Wothout adding fund from Public Account the true liability is Rs. 164.06 crores . If Public Account fund is regarded as Government fund we will blame ourselves. It appears that State liability increases from 2005 upto this year.

If we see Plan fund we will see Rs.199 crores of opening deficit. The State Government availed loan from various agencies like LIC, NABARD, IDBI etc. for recovery of the opening deficit. The opening balance is also recovered by State Government from GPF and market borrowing which is also liability. But it is stated as State own resource. Therefore, the total plan fund is Rs. 758. In fact, I found no satisfaction in our plan fund too. If there is proposal for earning revenue we may be satisfied with the budget provision. But nothing to be seen of such proposal. That is why, it is unfortunate to have such budget provisions. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: It is difficult to understand our budget system. It appears that it is necessary to study our budgetary system. Let us call upon Nihar Kanti Chakma.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA

: Thank you Hon'ble Speaker sir. I am happy to participate in the General Discussion on the budget for the year 2006-2007 presented by the

Hon'ble Chief Minister on 14th March, 2006. I will take advantage to speak some of the problems faced by our people due to international Border fencing. As we know, Border fencing is under construction. Mizoram shares nearly about 318 Kms International Border with Bangladesh. And this 318 Km will be fenced by 2007. What I would like to inform the House is that people in general are not opposing to the fencing, but the problem is that this fencing destroyed vast tract of cultivable land including agriculture lands, houses were destroyed and even garden were destroyed. So, the people in the Western Belt of Mizoram particularly the chakmas along the western border will be affected. As per the instruction of the Home Ministry, fencing would be constructed one fifty yards inside the actual boundary. Then, our people are living exactly within the range of this one fifty yards. Hence, one thing we must remember is we have to resettle these people and how they are going to be resettled?. I speak to the Chief Minister about the compensation and I have requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Revenue Minister also to sent the Revenue Officer for assising the damage done by the fencing. As per the report available to me, the Home Ministry, Government of India has alloted this fencing work to different companies No. 1) i.e. Engineering Project India Ltd. (40 Km) Demagri to Mauzam and 2) Nations construction corporation (NPCC) under water resources Ministry from Tlabung to Jamulsuri (55 Km) and the third is the Border road Organisation (70 Km) from Jamulsuri to Parva. The rest is alloted to NBCC. Pu Speaker, the fencing is already under construction. What I mean to say is the people are in panic because their cultivable land were destroyed. Yesterday, I received a message from Marpara, NBCC destroyed the House while constructing the fencing. As vast tract of cultivable lands are destroyed, the people lose their livelihood. What I want to say here is that many villages even within my area will t remain outside the fencing like Nunsuri, Tablabagh, Kalapani, Likhisuri, some parts of these villages will remain outside the fencing. Now, what will be the condition of those villages after the construction of fencing. Even in the Buarpui constituency, Taraboni village will remain outside the fencing. Now, the Government should take intiative. And I request the Government of Mizoram to send team of Legislators to assess the situation and find the way to resettle them inside the boundary. As we know, Karnaphuli is the main source of River and we are using the river Karnaphuli as a cheapest means of transport, also for drining, for bathing. They will be deprived of all these facilities if fencing is done as they are doing now. Therefore, Government should come forward before fencing is completed. All Government facilities should be made available, so that they can happily settle in their respective places.

Pu Speaker, the Government should take appropriate action regarding this. It is a sad thing that the Governor did not mention anything about the fencing. And the matter is very serious and urgent intervention of the Government is required Pu Speaker.

Financial involvement in the V/C election is mentioned by the Hon'ble members. If one spent a lot of money for the elction it leads to corruption which is against the principle of democracy.

Lastly, I would like to request Government to have a plan in the budget to reach the poor people in the rural areas, which is the greatest interest of the rural people. I also want to congratulate the National Rural Employment Scheme made by the Prime Minister guided by Mrs Sonia Gandhi.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : It is very pleasing, only three Ministers left, we will have a recess to continue at 2:00 P.M.

House adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

2 : 00 P.M.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we will continue our business. Who will start the discussion. Yes, Pu H. Rohluna.

PU H. ROHLUNA : Thank you Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. House Leader left the House when General discussion is going on. He had done this even in 2004. I am afraid that the important points will be neglected. Anyhow it is needed to be spoken out.

And I also want to point out that the officers of Finance Department also left the House this afternoon, they are also expected to note down what the Hon'ble Members give importance to Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to inform the House that members sitting on the opposition bench are also pleased with the increase in the amount of the budget.

Further, it is also pleasing to have full budget to discuss and I think the credit should go to UPA Government which has no partiality in the administration. Though we are not their political colleague, we are given provision with increased amount. I therefore request the Government to reach out all Village Councils with the development fund that concerned the rural people. We can not undertake spot verification on detailed expenditure of various departments. So, I wish the Government to publish actual Department-wise expenditure of the budget which will help us to have an idea on the budget. Unlike other years, we see no work schedules and working plans along with budget books. I will therefore, be very grateful if various departments can furnish such working plans even before the month of May or June, this year.

Coming to Agriculture Department now, more than hundred lakhs of fund is allocated for Land development. However, we do not know where the said fund will be used. So, I request the Government again to prepare annual report or actual expenditure sheet of its budget other than summarizing it in a lumpsum. In regard to MIP, the people in my constituency do not know whether the Government continues MIP or not. No steps are still taken. I opine that MIP will not be helpful to alleviate the poor people.

In regard to poverty alleviation, the Government, now, does not know the actual position of the people. There are many families who have not kept even Rs. 50/-. Meanwhile, various taxes are increased and we introduce new taxes. It is difficult to understand this. Therefore, I wish various funds including BAFFACOS to reach to the poor people. Let us make our people to be able to pay taxes first. Now, it is said that tax on irrigation will also be imposed. Many irrigation projects might be recorded as completed by the Department. But, many irrigation projects are useless. Therefore, the actual money collected will be less than what we expected. Mr Deputy Speaker sir, I have many things to mention but let me stop my speech here. Thank you.

PU RASHIK MOHAN CHAKMA : Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to mention today that we must have a good mindset, otherwise we can mislead the people easily. We know that

Mizoram is economically backward, we have no resources except Land Revenue, Road tax and Power Tariff etc. Therefore, we need to take various steps to mobilise our resources. For such purpose our Plan Budget will be increased though Plan Budget is accompanied by 10% loan. In other states also, there are crores of deficit. Those who work more have more deficit. I, therefore, opine that our budget seemed to be a good budget because it aims at reduction of administrative cost and emphasis on development schemes which can mobilise resources in future. From the speech of the hon'ble Chief Minister we know that 62.92 percent of the budget would be used for Development activities.

As mentioned by the Hon'ble member from Ratu constituency our mindset is very important. I am afraid that we will mislead the people. In fact, we have no resources other than various local taxes. I am, therefore, sorry for we always oppose Government's policy including taxes. We need to make sources of revenue as much as possible to match various Development fund sanctioned by the Central Government.

We need to be careful in our speech otherwise, we can mislead the people. In the matter of employment we know that the Government cannot employ all the educated persons in the Government job. Therefore, it is important to encourage private sectors to be able to make more jobs. This Ministry takes various steps for such purpose. Here in the budget for the coming financial year. We see many new things to be introduced. Training will be conducted in collaboration with Cambridge University to impart quality education in our state; contract farming will also be introduced to develop agriculture. Lastly, I request each and everyone of us to want of truth only.

Thank you.

PU LIANSUAMA

: Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, I had pointed out about misappropriation of fund under AIBP for minor irrigation, in which more than Rs. 78 lakhs had been misappropriated. I would like to know what steps have been taken against this case. As mentioned by the hon'ble member from Ratu constituency our budget seemed to be much enough if we used it rightly. This year, we have another fund of Rs. 25 crores for minor irrigation again. I, therefore, wish the Government to use the said fund rightly for the benefit of the needy people so that farmers would not hesitate to pay irrigation taxes. In regard to land revenue also, I opine that the new taxes seemed to be heavier than thought it would be. I would be very grateful if the new taxes are reduced.

In the matter of fiscal deficit, we know that all our plan fund is accompanied by 10 % loan. Therefore, we cannot have budget without deficit. All other States in India and even the Central Government have much deficit. Supposing our budget for last financial year is closed with Zero deficit. Our annual budget for the coming financial year will be accompanied by a loan of more than Rs. 260 crores which will have at least 10% deficit. Therefore, no ministry can be ran without fiscal deficit. However, our opening deficit for the coming year is Rs.156.74 crore which will be reduced to Rs. 27 crore at the end of the said financial year. I, therefore, opine that our budget for this year is truly a good budget. The most important point that I would like to mention is how to utilised all our funds. Wise and judicious use of our fund is what I want most.

Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, various elections had been conducted this year MADC election in the month of April, LADC in the month of October and Kawrthah and Phuldungsei constituencies in December, and one of the most popular slogans during the said elections is 'Direct Finance'. Do we really want Direct Finance. I think Direct Finance will lead us to disintegration.

The other point I would like to raise is Education. I opine that we have to impart quality education to our students. We know that our education system is very bad now a day. We need to search for its remedies. Therefore, we have to take new steps to know our weaknesses and to have better quality in education from the lowest root. Lastly, I would like to state that our budget for this coming financial year is very good since our closing deficit seemed to be reduced greatly.

Thank you.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO : Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, I am sorry today for the absence of the hon'ble Chief Minister. We are discussing the annual budget, which is very important subject. The total amount of our budget for the coming financial is Rs. 1966 crores. The Government works very hard to make this budget. So, I do not want to call it a bad budget.

Members from Treasury Bench expressed their appreciation of our economy which is said to be improved. I have to say that percentage of improvement since the beginning of this Ministry is only few points.

What is important is measures for reduction of our fiscal deposit which is Rs. 121 crore at present. It is known to us all that our outstanding debt too is increasing with the increase of fiscal deposit, because of this, it is necessary to determine means to fill up the gap for which tax revolution or share is needed. Again for this reason, we are compelled to put 128.05 crore for public debt payment in our Budget 2006-2007. The total requirement for payment of debt with the interest is 206.87 crore as stated, where as it is 181.49 crore in 2004-2005 and 295.96 in 2005. It is learned that Mizoram have the highest ratio rate among the states under special category and then followed by Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh. The later two States are having more resources than Mizoram. and increase of our budget allotment only caused more burden for the people.

The 12th Finance Commission clearly pointed out in the Report 9-10 that our outstanding debt should not exceed 75%. If so, sources of surplus revenue laid by the Government may not come out in reality. We will not receive more than the amount mentioned in the report of Comptroller and Auditor General and for this reason, the idea of the said surplus revenue is not reliable.

Mr Speaker Sir, it seems that the level of our fiscal management is poor in comparison with our neighbouring States as we have only 4.39 crore for expenditure on minor irrigation where as Nagaland and Meghalaya has 37.63 crore and 39.14 crore respectively. It is believed that restriction is made against us due to our lack of efficiency in fiscal management. It is therefore totally wrong with the Government for giving wrong impression to the people as being capable of doing what other States cannot and we should also speak the truth here in the House. It is shameful to learn from the words of our Chief Minister that Mizoram as being favoured with 370.98 crore under NLCP as Peace Bonus where as our neighbouring States Manipur, Assam and Tripura too received 370.98 crore, 709.61 crore and 502.78 respectively. What kind of Peace bonus was being favoured to those neighbouring States as the amount were more than that of Mizoram ?

Mr Speaker Sir, I would also like to ask whether this budget is truly of a performance base budget. Last year, performance of Technical departments and few other are shown correctly where as some were not shown may be because they were incomplete or not executed. Is there a way to show it in detail ?

Mr Speaker Sir, it is said that increase of the cost of Diesel was the reason for failure to run Hydel Project of Bairabi and Teirei and I find it hard to believe. When installation of Thermal Project is done, Plans for construction works, transportation or development for that project is kept in order prior to the installation where as the total expenditure to that effect is 90 crore. It is therefore, difficult to believe such excuses. We may have passed this sufficient amount of budget today Mr Speaker Sir, I dare to say that it will not bring a fruitful result for our State unless we are not careful in fiscal management.

Thank you.

PU P.P. THAWLA : Mr Speaker Sir, as I carefully study this budget statement, I think to myself that it may not be prepared better than this even by any other party in the ruling for which I have to express my appreciation on the efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

In compare with the past when Mizoram was Union Territory Government and then to the attainment of Statehood, our budget today is much improved in size despite our lack of resources base. With changing of the Government in central, we are now having the opportunity to share the wealth of more resourceful states thanks to the efforts of our efficient leaders. Besides, we are being favoured with sufficient provision from non-lapseable Pool Fund that never happened in the previous years.

Speaking of my constituency, I am very happy to see development work done by Local Administration Department under the project of NBCC, at Tuipang, the headquarters of my constituency. Not only this, I have seen number of completed works under the said project within Saiha Town which surely is a remarkable achievement.

Even though we are within Autonomous District Council that hardly have provision for development works, it is pleasing that we are not forgotten by the State Government as well as the Central in any development project to be taken up. Because of this, I am happy to support this Ministry.

Secondly, I would like to point out that this House had passed a resolution for improvement of Phura road on 19th November 2004. Since the work is supposed to be done from Central Project. I earnestly request Leader of the House to put pressure on Central authority so that the work is started immediately.

Coming now to Demand No. 12, Parliamentary Affairs Department Budget provision allotted to the department is 22 lakh only which is hardly sufficient to meet the requirement.

Regarding Demand No. 27 District Council Affairs, I want to make a demand to this efficient Government to consider improvement of Budget allotment in respect of the three Autonomous District Councils which remain the same almost for a decade. May the Government consider for this improvement ?

Relating to this subject, I would like to point out that with enhancement of Power to Autonomous District Councils back in 1994, all the budget provision as seen in the budget statement is given in lump-sum but no improvement has yet been made till date. In fact, we are heading for the state of poverty despite enhancement of Power. It is somewhat difficult for MDC to be the leader of District Council. Hence, I earnestly request the Government to consider the case of the three District Councils so as to attain some sort of improvement.

As a concern Minister for a short period of time, I feel the need for improvement to the department of Soil & Water Conservation Department which has been neglected by the government since 3 or 4 years of this Ministry. It will be pleasing if the Government considered the case and then make the best use of this important department. In the budget of 2005-2006, 42 lakh rupees is allotted for Grant-in-Aid but this year, no provision is made to that effect. What is the reason ?

Lastly, Demand No. 37. Cooperation Department. In 2005-2006, 357 lakhs in allotted for Grant in aid, but this year it is only 344 lakh. Since the department is benefited mostly by poor people in rural areas, I find no reason for reduction of provision of grant in aid in respect of cooperation department. The Government may please favour this department from now on so that the concern people especially of the Rural areas may have livelihood through the Department. Thank you.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr Speaker Sir, I am very much impressed by this budget which is outstanding compared to other years, particularly with the increase of provision for non-plan and inclusion of BAFFACOS. The hazard of bamboo flowering may not be serious as in the year 1950/1960 thanks to appropriate link-road which has been achieved. Besides, number of Godown had been constructed in various places so that the people in the areas around can fetch food-grains from those stores. In short, I have to state that measures taken by the Government to combat the effect of Bamboo flowering is good enough, there is nothing to speak against this budget.

The most attractive position of this budget is plan for collection of revenue from various sources for which Planning Commission as well as Finance Commission gave an instruction to do. Number of collective items of revenue may be increased yet as our House Leader had said this would be re-examined as necessary. What is important for us all and the people is to give tax as compulsory for every citizen. We have to oblige with this important duty if we want to get good things for our State. This budget is therefore good enough for our State. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : I now call upon Pu R. Khawpuithanga to have his speech.

PU R. KHAWPUITHANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. First of all, it is unfortunate to mention that some of the hon'ble members are unable to attend the sitting due to illness.

Personally, I am not fluent with budget. However, from the light of the hon'ble members speech, I could capture various interesting points. Pu Speaker, if we study the increment of budget each year, it is climbing each year. This year, it increases by 758 crores. This is due to the tight control of fund by the Finance Department. The Finance Commission visited our States, they studied the various prospects of our financial management. It could be due to the satisfaction of the Commission that the budget increases to such a height and that, we are able to have surplus budget.

The planned-budget is adequate, as it may not be satisfactory, as we are not self-sufficient. Earlier members mentioned about, 10% increased in plan-budget and the liabilities. But if we study the working book compiled by RBI, due to tight financial management it has decreased from 2710 crores to 463 crores. Other States like Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and Tripura, has huge liabilities as well. Each State has liabilities, but steps should be taken to control the financial management. Since we are not self-sufficient.

Pu Speaker, the budget is for the people and it reaches the people. As we are aware, there is non-plan and plan budget. Non-Plan budget is mainly for Government employees salary. The budget is adequate. However, at the end, we could study the point where, the Central government demand the State's share. Therefore, due to this reason, resource has to be mobilised. VAT and sales tax are part of healthy financial management. It is time we increase the Revenue tax, and various other taxes as it is the demand of the present situation. As the budget increase each year, the State share increase as well, and it is part of healthy financial management. But, if there are taxes which are too high, as the hon'ble Chief Minister has said earlier, it should be reviewed as soon as possible. We should prepare ourselves to pay tax as it is the duty of a citizen, and it also reflects our budget in the coming financial year.

Pu Speaker, the annual deficit will reflect the efficiency of the Government's financial management. The normal budget is not enough to take up development project. Realising this, the hon'ble Chief Minister approached the Central Government. Due to the effort put in by him the budget will increase in the Revised Estimate. The Minister as well put in great effort. Like, Education Department. We are able to provide mid-day meal to all children of Government schools. Therefore, the budget reflects the various development projects of the Department. In Public Works Department for example, metal road for Kanghmun, Lungphun, Tlawng and Darlung will be implemented within this month. Since time is up, I will end here Pu Speaker. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : As we come to the end of the discussion, we will now call the Hon'ble Minister Pu Tawnluia to wind-up the discussion.

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. First of all it is a privilege today to be able to wind-up the discussion. It is pleasing to note that each members participated in the discussion. I may not be able to react to every speech, however, I would like to mention that, I have noted down. Today, I have to wind-up the discussion as the hon'ble Chief-Minister is away, catering to important programme with the Central Government Leaders.

As the planning commission is able to deliver the annual plan size, we are here discussing full budget today. We give our sincere appreciation to the Central Government. The Mizoram Annual budget 2006-2007 plan size is 758 crores. It increases by 73 crores than the previous year, which is 10.6%. The opening deficit is 156.75 crores. We are expecting to have 129.63 crores surplus budget at the end of 2006-2007. The closing deficit is expected to be Rs. 27.11 crores. The reasons for surplus budget is due to the increased in the non-plan deficit and the efficiency of financial management

Pu Speaker, hon'ble members mentioned about loan. These are not taken by Government on its own. Annual Plan fund like, Non Lapseable fund, NEC and various Central Government scheme are 10% loan and 90% grant. Therefore, if fund increases, loan component percentage increases as well. The loan taken from various institutions are taken by the Government on the compulsion of the planning Commission. According to Reserve Bank of India's working group on compilation of State Government liabilities, our State is No.4 in the list among 26 States.

Pu Speaker, we heard from hon'ble members that, this budget is for the people and its welfare. This budget directly concern the welfare of the people through like BAFFACOS, MIP. Huge sum is allocated in Horticulture, Agriculture. For BAFFACOS, we are receiving additional central assistance and also from 12th Finance Commission.

There is 62.951 fund allocation for development expenditure. Pu Speaker, the total fund which we are to receive from consolidated fund is 2096.57 crores, 758.03 crores is from plan, and 1.25 from CSS. Provision is kept for NLCPR and NEC expenditure. Fund allocation under service-wise is as follows :- General Services - 578.70, Social Services - 468.79, Public Debt - 128.06, Loans & Advances - 37.69, Capital outland and General Services - 16.29, Capital outlay and Social Services - 30.13, Capital outlay on Economic Services - 262.84 Total 2036.70. Deduct recoveries - 69.75. The net total is - 1966.95.

Pu Speaker, the hon'ble members mentioned about General Provident Fund. The system is simplified, each department will be sanctioned by L.O.C. system.

As for Comptroller and Auditor General of India Report, we are expecting to lay the report within this Session.

New Budget head has been allocated for Health & Family Welfare Department, Directorate of Hospital & Medical Education. As per Right to information Act, 2005, a seperate budget is constituted for Information Commission.

Pu Speaker, regarding deficit and surplus budget, some of the members said that, calculating from the consolidated fund it is not surplus budget. There is the usual Indian Accounting system, it is according to this system that it has been calculated. It is therefore, a surplus/deficit budget cannot be declared as per the calculation of the members. As per the calculation, the budget 2006-2007 is a surplus budget. Surplus by Rs. 129.63 crores.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, what concerns the members is that, the hon'ble Chief Minister, in his speech mentioned that it is a surplus budget. Whereas it surplus only in consolidated fund on Revenue Account, not on the whole budget.

S P E A K E R : It is calculated according to Indian Financial Accounting system.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA : Pu Speaker, if we look at the closing balance, there is 27.11 crores deficit.

S P E A K E R : It is clear there will be 27.11 crores deficit, however, we have to highlight Revenue Account, Capital Account which is surplus.

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, it is true that the closing deficit for the last financial year was Rs. 27.11 crores. Whereas in the current financial year it is a surplus budget. As clarified by the hon'ble Speaker, I hope the hon'ble members understand the point.

Some of the members have expressed their concern over the opening deficit and debts of the Government. It seems that the members do not agree with the Assembly's report that the amount of deficit in the State's account has come to an amount of Rs. 2313.19 crores in 1.3.2006. In this regard I would like to clarify that apart from the amount of Rs. 2288.35 crores from the report of Comptroller & Auditor General Account at a glance, another deficit for one financial year has been added which comes to Rs. 2313.19 crores by 1.3.2006.

I would further like the member to know that the States financial account has been calculated on the basis of Comptroller & Auditor General.

Mr Speaker, I would like to respond to certain points mentioned by the members. First, let me say few points on matter relating to tax. The Government decided to impose light taxes from road and bridges and water shed. The hon'ble Chief Minister has also explained in his Budget speech. Similar to the system already practised in other States, the Government of Mizoram also decided to make public participation in the maintenance of projects like public roads, bridges and irrigation. The amount be imposed would not be burdensome for the public. But, if the public make right contribution it would be easier for the authority to provide better maintenance on the project.

Coming to Land Revenue Tax, it has been said that the tax rate is rather high. Due to pressure from different corners, the Government intends to review the revenue tax.

It is a matter of satisfaction to see the people paying taxes without complaint. It seems that we are fully aware of the significance of public participation in the maintenance of various projects.

PU ZODINTLUANGA : Mr Speaker, I am glad to hear that land revenue tax is set to be reviewed. Meanwhile, it has been notified to the public that those who fail to pay land revenue will have to pay in double. Mr Speaker, can this order be cancelled till the rate is reviewed.

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr Speaker, there is rules for paying taxes. If tax is due for paying, a citizen has to pay according to the existing rate. But, after the rate of tax is reviewed it has to be paid from the effective date. I think it is important not to install wrong sentiments to the public in this matter.

I understand the feelings of the members in regard to vacant posts and abolition of certain vacant posts. The Government does not simply abolish existing posts but the posts left by senior drivers who had gone on voluntary retirement scheme are not filled up. Despite acute financial difficulties, the Government has been processing recruitment of 214 Doctors and various Medical staffs. Green signal has been awaited from the Finance Department for the sanction of more recruitment in other department as well.

As I have stated earlier, under Right to Information Act, Information Commission is also set to be constituted for which new posts have to be created. In this manner, the Government does not absolutely ban post creations. It just take action according to the demands of the situation.

Another important point I would like to reflect is Right to Information Act. This Act has been implemented by the Government. This proves that the Government is always ready to announce its performance to the public. Also steps have been taken for the implementation of separation of Judiciary. Efforts have also been underway for the implementation of privatisation of Government vehicles. This policy will be one of the most effective steps taken by the Government.

Another pleasing matter that may not be missed is that each member has Area Development Fund of Rs. 5,00,000/- each which is to be utilised for our respective constituencies. This is purely due to the efforts given by the hon'ble Speaker. It has been further learnt that the fund is to be increased to 1 lakh from next year. This Government has favoured the Legislators and anxious to make them really work for their constituency.

It is a matter of pride to have Chief Minister who has been taking vigorous efforts for a successful air link between Mizoram and other States. Due to his zealous effort, Mizoram is now connected by various airlines. We should be grateful to the Chief Minister for this.

Another great performance made by the Government can be seen towards acquisition of site for Mizoram Houses in other States. The long-awaited Mizoram House in Mumbai is also on the verge of completion. Steps have also been taken in other places.

The sudden improvement of power supply and LPG supply should not be missed as it reflects the hardwork of this Government.

Mr Speaker, I would like to make a mention of border fencing. Border fencing and road construction between Mizoram and Bangladesh is to be undertaken by the Centre. Fencing has to be done for 318 Kms - and the length of road to be constructed is 246.5 Kms. for which the estimate sanctioned amount is 656 crores. These projects are given to different agencies. One agency NBCC has been awaiting forest clearance as 80 Kms. of Dampa Tiger Reserved area is to be cleared. (Pu Andrew Lalherliana : Mr Speaker, do we have to lose some part of our land ?).

The Guidelines provided that the Agencies have to negotiate with the State government in case private land is to be encroached or Forest Environment clearance is needed. So far, the agencies have not approached the Government on acquisition of private land. The State Government have not yet been approached for compensation case. The government has taken seriously of this matter as road has to be constructed alongside the border fencing. The Home Ministry is seeing that this project would come out for the best.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, the members have closely examined the budget demand for 2006-2007 in the General discussion which is pleasing and this is all I can say for now. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : If there is compensation case, the company will approach the government of Mizoram. And the Government is further expected to take immediate action.

P U L A L H M I N G T H A N G A : Mr Speaker, this issue is not about only fencing but also road construction. It may not be right to make alignment between the construction agency and the Home Ministry.

The concern State should be made involved. Therefore, it may be appreciated if the State Government could take steps towards this.

S P E A K E R : It has already been protested.

P U L A L H M I N G T H A N G A : Mr Speaker, only protest is not enough. Deeper involvement should be made.

P U R . M . C H A K M A : Mr Speaker, in my opinion, we must not satisfied with a mere compensation. Land allotment should also be made to the affected people.

Not only this construction of Government Schools are completed recently. These Schools buildings need to be dismantled for road construction. Therefore, Central Home Ministry should have made a separate financial sanction for reconstruction of Government properties like Schools.

S P E A K E R : If Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma has no point to clarify, the House Leader may take the stand.

**P U T A W N L U I A
M I N I S T E R** : Mr Speaker, the State Government is also not contented with the decision of the Centre. The Centre would be pressed to reconsider this matter.

S P E A K E R : The business for today is completed. The House will be adjourned till 10:30 A.M. tomorrow.

Sitting adjourned 4 : 35 P.M.