

**SPECIAL SITTING ON SATURDAY, THE 24TH
SEPTEMBER, 2005.**

Time : 12 : 15 P.M to 1 : 15 P.M

WELCOME ADDRESS

1. Welcome Address by the Hon'ble Speaker.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

2. **HIS EXCELLENCY, Dr. APJ. ABDUL KALAM, President of India, to address the House.**

INTERACTION

3. Interaction of His Excellency, the President of India with Hon'ble Members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

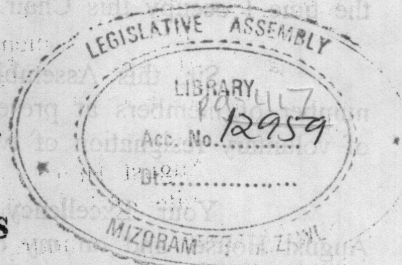
VOTE OF THANKS

4. **PU ZORAMTHANGA, Hon'ble Chief Minister will propose a Vote of Thanks on the President's Address.**

S P E A K E R : Your Excellency, the President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Your Excellency Governor of Mizoram Shri A.R. Kohli, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition and Hon'ble Members of the House.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to have the opportunity to welcome the highest dignitary of the country, His Excellency the President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam to this August House today.

This special occasion is a great landmark for the state in general and for this House in particular because this is the first time that Dr. Kalam is visiting our state and any President of India is addressing this House. Very few Presidents and high dignitaries of the country have so far visited this tiny and remote part of the land. But today, we are very fortunate to have been graced by the benign presence of the highest authority of the land in this very House.



I also deem it a privilege for all the members of the House as this very special occasion coincides with the period of our membership and personally for me as well, as this takes place during the time I occupy this Chair.

Sir, this Assembly consists of 40 members. However, the number of members at present is reduced to 38 members as a result of voluntary resignation of two members recently.

Your Excellency, I, on behalf of the members of this August House, and on my own behalf welcome you to this House. In spite of indecent weather, I extend warmest welcome to you. Sir, I'm sure your address and messages that you'd like to convey would be of great importance and inspiration to ignite our minds towards the realization of your vision India, 2020 with these few words of welcome, Your Excellency, may I now request you to address the House. Thank you very much, Sir.

P R E S I D E N T

Friends, my greetings to all of you and I consider it my great opportunity to share some thoughts which are a result of visiting a number of states in the country and for me it is the first visit to your great Mizoram. You know, from the Airport today I was driving, your village, you know I consider, you may have a bio-diversity, Mizoram can be blessed by bio-diversity and lots of natural resources. But it looks to me the best resource you have in this state is the people of Mizoram. The reason is throughout my visit Sairang, then, I visited your Primary School, I interacted with your students, Primary School students of many schools and I also talked to many institutional representatives of the village Sairang. Throughout the day, throughout a few hours I saw people and children, they were all happy. They were smiling, and one child asked me "Mr. President" and I think the child was ten years old and studying in fifth class, this girl asked me, "Mr. President, please tell me what you will be remembered for?" what a question! what will you be remembered for? the child asked me. A fifth class child and such a noble question she asked me. Then I really felt I'm in a comfortable place and comfortable company. With the Mizoram Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Speaker, I am very happy to be in your Assembly, Lalchamlana and Mr. Kohli, the Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Zoramthanga and also the Leader of Opposition Lal Thanhawla and friends, as I told you I am indeed

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delighted to be in this beautiful environment of Aizawl and also to get this opportunity to address the Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram. I am very happy to be here in the Mizoram Legislative Assembly which is an institution that gives vision to the state, evolves a legal framework for the policies and programmes of the state and gives shape to the aspiration of the people of the state 50% of whom live in rural areas.

Last few nights I worked and you know if you look at the slide you can see the whole of India and you can see that you are here, Mizoram with 8 districts. This whole of India as we all know we consist of a billion people with 600,000 villages in the country and with 700 million people and 600,000 villages with 700 million people who live in the villages. Out of that 260 million people are below the poverty line. Now 36 million need employment. How do we uplift them? What do we do? They need habitat, they need education, they need employment and market connectivity and quality of life. I can see that when I visited one of your villages the type of dreams what the children have and what rural people have. Now, what we need is an integrated simultaneous connected action, that is what we need. So, there is a proposal and you may have heard about the proposal called PURA (Providing Urban Facilities in Rural Areas) the country's whole network should be connected with 7000 PURAs for the nation out of which 20 are earmarked for Mizoram. That is 20 PURAs should come in your 8 districts. Now, let us see how we do that? You can see here that as I told you out of a billion people 26% of the people are below the poverty line and our GDP growth is about 6%. I am going to give you whatever I am presenting as soon as I finish my lecture. It will also be in my website WWW.Presidentofindia.nic.in. So, you can share my thoughts and ask questions if needed. Now, suppose we want the 260 million people understand when I said 26%, around 20-22% people in Mizoram are below the poverty line. That is the statistics I got. Now, suppose this 26% in the whole of India is to be reduced to near zero. That means all the billion people lifted up for prosperity. Then what we do. The economic pundits say that the 6% GDP growth should go do to 10% and maintain it for a decade. Then, this possibility towards this zero. Now, how do you do that? there are 5 integrated actions needed for developed India and foremost agriculture and food processing. As you know in agriculture we are doing very well, we have 200 million tonnes of food, but our farmers are not happy. The reason is the amount of output they put and the amount of output they get in terms of wealth generation is not proportional. That's why we said the future progress depends on agro-food processing i.e. value addition. We have to add value to the food we produce. And then you can see that the two important things, food security and key to employability happens on account of agriculture and food processing.

The second area is education and health care. Particularly wherever I go in villagers most of the time women's education is very important. And I found your happy situation i.e. 88% I think Mizoram's is literacy. So, that is good news, next to I think Kerala. One day you will beat Kerala also. Now, you are 88% but still I personally believe that women's education is very important and this will generate employment and value addition provided. Our education system use entrepreneurship training which I am going to talk you about. Then the social security and population control I have seen whichever states have given women education the highest priority you get small families. It is a natural output of it. So, then next is nutritional security. That is the connectivity between nutritional security and food security as we all know. So, friends there are two areas education, health care, agriculture and food processing.

The third area is information and communication technology. In the information and communication technology one of the important things is mass employment, export earning and reaching the whole nation. But you see that we are now in Information Technology area we generate software worth 28 billion dollars out of which we export 18 billion dollars worth. The 10 billion dollars worth goes to our own connectivity. But most important what our country needs is how Tele-education connect the 600,000 villages. That is how this information communication technology is going to give the connectivity. Some where in one village in Mizoram one of the village chiefs asked me you know we have a communication system, Hon'ble Chief Minister was there Hon'ble Governor was there, we have a communication system, we want a reliable communication system. That is what the Sairang village people told me. So this is very important. This is possible only by spreading the number of V.SAT terminals, giving connectivity. The infrastructure including electric power, the PURA providing urban facility to the rural area. This focuses the communication connectivity and then you know infrastructure, crucial in all sectors in river network. From the morning I was travelling and the type of terrain you have in your state type of mountain peaks you have definitely the infrastructure is going to enrich the state in a big way, and through connectivity airports, fortunately you have airport, an enlarged airport and some helipads, crucial for all tourist movements, river networking for all sectors in essential. As you all know, sometimes Brahmaputra gets flooded and the whole of Assam gets inundated Ganges floods and North Bihar floods and few villages get into trouble every year. Now, at the same time in some mid parts of India and some southern parts of India there are draught situations. Sometimes, so that's why there's a study group going on seriously considering how do you do the connectivity for the various rivers like Brahmaputra, Ganges to Narmada to Godavari to Krishna to Kauvery, linkage is being considered without damaging the nature, the environment. This is one of the biggest projects financially if it is worked out properly.

Now, the fifth area is the critical technology of strategic industries. This is as you all know in 1998 when India became a nuclear state, the whole developed world put against India economic sanctions and technology sanctions, they became mad. Somehow we managed to come out of that sanction because of our agriculture, farmers and our industrial strength and also our NRI helping us in the right time. So combination came at the time you wanted to see critical technology and self reliance. So you will find these five areas govern the integrated actions for developing India with happy healthy society, economic strength and national security. This is what emanates of science and technology which is the key.

Now, friends what are the engines for that? What type of engines do we have? In your state you have natural resources with rivers. You have bamboo with bio diversity there. You also have anthurium, that is a famous flower. You have definite natural resources and beautiful human resources, beautiful mind, creative mind and then, we have to do the value addition to what we have through technology and knowledge. Then agriculture, manufacturing services with the adding core competence, then employment generation be generated higher sustain GDP 10% for a decade to maintain then you will find the developed state in every state, Mizoram will be developed. When there is an economically developed state then only developed India is possible, and for that we need 5 years work power, education, health care and the employment generation.

Now, I am going to talk to you on the next subject i.e. The Mizoram profile. In the Mizoram profile I don't know whether you can see that you will find that Mizoram is a young state it was formed in 1987 and now it has got 8 state capitals it is a mountainous state. There are four major rivers, large biodiversity and friendly people; having a moderate climate rich in Forest, Agriculture, produce bamboo, handloom and the handicrafts, sericulture and horticulture products. The average height of the hills are 900 m and now these are the few very important areas you have. Now friends the latest information on population in your website is 8.9 lakhs, there are 8 (eight) districts and regarding the literacy, I am very happy. The day your literacy is high you will find the human development index will shoot, for example, Kerala is number one, human development index, India unfortunately is 170. I think Mizoram, is it so? Oh! Mizoram 6! Next I will see that, for example this is the one I would like Hon'ble Members to study very closely. See you have Mizoram human development index, at 7 (seven) it is good for the moment, graduating to 1 or 2 if you work hard you will achieve that, you'll have to work hard. Oh! Human index means it is your health care and education, that's clearly indicated here. These are

development Radar we call it Development Radars, for each state we have got. In Mizoram Radar you have literacy which you are doing very well, if you come here you are the best. Then pucca houses you have to do a lot, safe-water you have to do some work, poverty you have to increase per capita income. This is my suggestion to you, forecast for Mizoram, the per capita income of Mizoram can be increased now at the moment. What I understand is that your per capita income during 2004 - 2005 is about twenty seven thousand rupees per capita. And this per capita and the poverty both are interrelated. Now in three years time what I hope for you is that it could be doubled to 54 thousand per capita. Also how to create investment friendly climate leading to employment avenues for the thirty thousand employed all over in the state. Revenue generation of the state earning the capacity of the citizens through creating market avenues in the border countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar in addition to meeting the local requirement.

So, friends you must see this radar, I am giving you these papers, whatever I present please see that how you all can come somewhere here. This is infant mortality rate lots of improvement has been done.

Now to summarise, I am going to give you the following missions for Mizoram's prosperity by another 10(ten) years time 2015 my suggestions your Hon'ble Legislative Members can discuss it, I've given certain thoughts and you may put your thoughts and bring out your ten year plan, how Mizoram can become an economically prosperous state/nation.

Now when I see the Terrain, the terrain of its mountain, one of the important missions you can take is a bio-fuel mission. I'm going to talk to you next on this bio-fuel mission. The second one is Bamboo mission don't worry about some problems you are facing on the flowering but technically it will be solved, and if you plan say, for fifty years of bamboo cultivation at the fourth/third decade you should uproot it and at the same time you have to plant the new ones. For the present problem that you are having, I understand the Planning Commission is handling something.

Now the third is Horticulture and preparing para medicals and the technicians with quality training. In this you have a core competence for nursing services for the whole country and also abroad.

Fifth is Tourism including the General, spiritual and the Eco-Tourism and creating secure exclusive, economic zone. These are the new points I want to put forth to you, if you want economical prosperity using I.T., B.T. and also precision engineering, I'm going to talk to you on how we can do it. Establishment of PURA i.e. providing urban facilities to rural areas for rural prosperity. These are the seven missions I have put forth.

Now, if I take the bio-fuel mission, Mizoram has 260 thousand hectares of barren uncultivated area and cultivable waste land. Certain multi-purpose bio-fuel plants can grow well in this land with very minimum input. Once cultivated, the crop has fifty years of life. Fruiting can take place in these plants in two years.

Bio-fuel plants can be grown in at least fifty percent of the waste land, namely, one lakh thirty thousand hectares. This plantation can result in producing one lakh thirty thousand tons of bio-fuel in a year. The Central Government has approved mixing of 10% bio-fuel with diesel for cars, where as there are experiences in case of trucks and tractors, mini vans higher percentages of bio-fuel in India. The approximate revenue will be Rs. 325 crores a year and will provide employment for 1,30,000 people. It will reduce the foreign exchange outflow paid for importing crude oil, the cost of which is continuously rising in the international market. This Bio-fuel is carbon neutral. The oil can also be used for soap and in candle industries. The oil cake is a raw material for composting and the plantation is also good for honey production. This will be the additional benefit from the plantation of Jatropha a popular bio-fuel plant being planted in states like Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttaranchal besides Ministry of Railways. Mizoram should mount a mission mode programme, absorb the best of the technologies available in the country and start commercial production immediately. One time investment needed for bio-fuel plantation can come from the Ministry of Rural Development. The capital equipment and investment in plant and machinery can come from bank loans and private sector entrepreneurs also. I have seen the progress in bio-fuel plant cultivation, preparation of seedlings, tissue culture and development of non-toxic hybrid varieties in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Bio-fuel plant Jatropha has also been planted in the waste land of Rashtrapati Bhavan and as a demonstration farm to the farmers. Some of you can come and see it, now the next mission is the Bamboo mission.

This mission envisages an integrated programme of expansion of plantations of Bamboo species, the scientific management, and promotion of community level, value addition and entrepreneurship. This will enable presenting the raw material for the industries and the industry to access and apply modern technology for producing globally competitive new generation bamboo products. This includes setting up of clusters of small value addition processing units, near the resource for employment generation and benefit to the local small entrepreneur. You can see these types of products are coming out from the various states out of Bamboo. Economic and Social benefit from these activities will lead to the creation of 40 thousand jobs and the market opportunity worth over 30 crores with an investment of 10 crores. So, this is your second mission.

Now, I am going to the third mission. The third mission is Horticulture. In Horticulture, Mizoram is a potential state for cultivation of cash crops like tapioca, ginger (particularly your state is very famous in ginger. Even in the village I went to, they were talking about it) Fruits like orange, lemon, pineapple and papaya. These crops can be taken up in a mission mode and setting up the fruit and vegetable processing plants for value addition. This will facilitate distant marketing of horticulture produce of Mizoram. Mizoram climate is most suitable for cultivation of cut flowers such as anthurium which fetches Rs. 6 to 25 per piece in Delhi market and has an export potential. It has tremendous export potential. The target for anthurium marketing will initially start with atleast 10 crores worth of anthurium for every year, cultivation value addition and marketing. I'm trying to tell you not only of cultivation but also of value addition.

The next mission of our talk which you may debate and discuss how to do it. We believe that training of quality nurses and para-medical staff one of the core competence of Kerala Nursing you can see that is their core competences. I believe that similarly, you can make 50,000 nurses graduate per year. There is a need to increase to 2 lakhs within 5 years. Mizoram has a core competence in nursing and because of its cultural environment (I hope you will agree with me) Mizoram can make use of this opportunity and create a nursing college with a capacity for training 200 nurses at a time. We need to regulate the para-medical education training with the quality certificate process to produce quality para-medical profession with foreign language skills and proficiency that matches the international standard. There is a one million nurses requirement world-wide by 2012. India itself requires about 4 lakhs nurses as per the health mission. So that's why I felt Mizoram should have a mission on the training of nurses and para-medicine.

Now friends, the next mission, the favourite area of one of you is about tourism. Tourism including the general spiritual, health and science. There are a number of places of interest in Mizoram which will attract tourists. The visitors are attracted to historic memorials and fabled caves, scattered all over the state. Travelling in Mizoram in the mountainous regions is painstaking and a little hazardous at times. The highest peak in Mizoram, Blue Mountain which is situated overlooking Koldyne River is an important tourist spot. The peak is encircled by bamboo groves at the top where there is level ground of 200 hectares. Other tourist spots are Pukzing cave, Milupuk, Sibuta lung, Chhing puii memorial and Lord Bhudda's image at a site near Mual Cheng village. Infrastructure Development I believe is another area, infrastructure coupled with these. When the tourists visit any state, they like to realize maximum value for their stay which can come only through reliable and fast travel facilities to all tourist destinations. Creation of these facilities will involve infrastructural development such as helipads, railway line, multi lane roads and good transportation systems to interior parts of Mizoram. Another important infrastructural need is quality clean accommodation, which can be realized through public-private sector participation. Adequate number of hotel rooms with various amenities including good environment and communication facilities has to be needed. Now, the Human Resource Development need, friendly professional tour operators. This is also another area we have to work for the human man-power development for tourism.

Next area of the mission is the secure economic zone. Now secure economic zone is something like a budget. First, I would like to say what it means. It means in this economic zone say about 2000 hectares. The Govt. provides the land and provides the amenities like power, water and various facilities, and Mizoram Govt. has to provide land about 2000 hectares in a particular area and it will be secured with power and water with physical electronic connectivity. Fast single window clearance for attracting the investment which the Assembly has to decide. Mizoram Legislative Assembly assurance for proactive policies for ensuring the uninterrupted work culture in the secure economic zone. Employees have to be partners in these enterprises. Now, friends, what this secured zone will have? It will have agriculture and agro-food processing, handlooms, handicrafts materials, services sector i.e. I.T, B.T. and B.P.O. So this is one suggestion I thought you must discuss and you have a tremendous potential for your employment generation and economic prosperity.

Next mission, I am going to talk to you is mission seven the last one. The establishment of PURA for rural prosperity. There is a physical connectivity and there is an electronic connectivity and there is a knowledge connectivity. Physical connectivity is road, rail and public infrastructure. The electronic connectivity - telecom, internet kiosks, governance, tele-medicine, tele-education, knowledge connectivity is a school of managing waste management, forest management, environment, pro-active health care and manufacturing. There are missions of the physical connectivity and electronic connectivity, knowledge connectivity will provide the economic connectivity with our base in our states in India and in our country. The enlightened citizen is possible with the economic strength and also moral leadership. So, friends this will cost 100 to 200 crores depending upon the population and the number of villages. It is a business proposition, it is run by the govt. and private together. Each crop will have a potential of generating about 3000 people employment and generate 30,000 beneficiaries will also be there.

Now friends, finally I would like to say that this is a Hill PURA. Since your region is covered by lot of hills. I would like to share with you the design of the Hill PURA. Physical connectivity, construction of hill roads and ropeways is an important element of the Hill PURA. Each of the tourist spot will have a good link road to Aizawl. Some times road transportation may be complemented with heli-transportation. Establishment of community sheds for storage of perishable hill produces so that they can be transported to the airbase with the fastest speed. The planning of physical connectivity should be such that from each place the tourists or the local citizen must be able to find an alternative route to reach the main town in case of problems in one of the routes. Now, physical connectivity, electronic connectivity and knowledge connectivity leads to the economic connectivity. Friends the electronic connectivity in this House should be connected what I have indicated in my paper? You will see that the details I have described and then you have the knowledge connectivity. This is how it will be connected. Internet 2 Mbps will be used to connect this. The details of the electronic connectivity, and the villages are connected and not only urban area but villages also. Then knowledge connectivity - all take together it goes to the economic connectivity. So, friends, this is what I would like to tell you about the 7 missions for you. The total for your consideration for your Legislative Assembly.

I would like to say that now, in conclusion, Mizoram has got a tremendous potential and I have shared some of the thoughts with Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly. Mizoram has got the advantage of bio-diversity, natural resources, good climate and hardworking people.

Mizoram emerged as a peaceful state in the Indian Map. You have really worked for peace and peace is there. On the other side, you have got high human development index. One side is peace and the high human development index. These are fantastic combinations. If you have these both definitely the seven mission, and discuss in your Assembly and decide which one you can take which one you can expand further and give the people vision that is, by 2015 Mizoram will become an economically strong state and enriching India as a developed state. The hard earned peace has to be complimented by the people of Mizoram with creative task and missions. Ans the people of Mizoram have succeeded economically. The combination of peace and the economic prosperity is indeed the dream of the pioneers of you state. Your pioneers in their statement, they started the combination of peace and economic prosperity which is indeed the dream of the pioneers of the state. Realising the economic prosperity with peace has to be the mission of the members of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly. You have all the potential and the courage God bless you.

S P E A K E R : Thank you very much, your Excellency for your inspired messages.

Now, it is time for interaction. For the interaction I call first Pu Lal Thanhawla, Leader of Opposition.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, your Excellency, Rashtrapatiji, we are deeply grateful to you for visiting one of the remotest part of the country, Mizoram today. Not only that, you have been kind enough to take time of your busy schedule to address this August House. We are deeply grateful to you. I am deeply impressed by your enlightening and very educative speech, and I must admit that you have better knowledge of my own state than I do. Because, from all these you have stated I heard some new things for me. In fact, I was preparing myself to ask you many questions in regard to information technology, science & technology, communication and various other things in which we are lacking and we are backward. But, your enlightening and educative speech had touched upon almost those which I have in mind. Nevertheless, Sir, I would like to ask you that since you visited almost all the 8 sister states of the North East region, and

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I know that this is your first visit to this part of the country. Your impression about the people of this region, their culture, their tradition, their way of life and also as a whole to bring the people in this region to the national mainstream of which we are all contributors. There is a feeling that we have been sidelined, that we are not being accepted as other races of this country, which is composed of the Dravidians in the South and the Aryans in the North. We are the mongoloid stock in the North East Region. Things like these are pinching the senses of the people of this region when we venture but of this region. Things like this may look very small in your prospective. But, this is a big issue and problem for us.

Now, in all these I would like to know your reaction, and as to how you think of solving this and also Sir, I have to thank you for look-East the new policy of the UPA Govt. of course which you have subscribed to this Look-East policy. I hope this can be implemented in the best interest of the people of this region - also the largest interest of the country and also for the national integration.

Thank you Sir.

P R E S I D E N T

Lal Thanhawla ji, I am very happy to see you and for your very important question. Today, for me I can say I have visited all my states and the Uts. Somehow, I could not visit Mizoram and Sikkim that I have finished now. Now, your question I will really have to answer. What do you think of the North East States plus Sikkim after a visit that's a question. Second questions, you have what the outlook of the people in the country and outside - The relationship of our multi-cultures, multi-civilisation, multi-language society. So, I will give you one example. One day I was sitting in Rashtrapati Bhavan. A group of professors from U.S.A. entered with my room and I gave them tea. I thought they would be happy. Then they started asking a number of questions. One Professor, he was from Stanford University, he asked, "Mr. President, I would like to know from you what is the core competence of India" ? How do I say ? How do I convey India ? That is what Hon'ble Opposition Leader of Mizoram Assembly has beautifully touched that question. So, what is the core competence of India. I told this professor, "Dear Mr. Professor, I was a professor, I was teaching before joining the President. One thing I will tell you, in 1947 India got freedom. From 1947 today we are

democratic billion people. That's not the end of it we are a democratic billion people of multi-civilization, multi-culture, multi-language. This society of integration, this is integrating the multi-language, multi-civilization and multi-culture. That is the real core competence of India and having a democratic nation. So, what is the real fabric that the central India is running we may be having a lot of problems. Every society has a lot of problems. Big society does not have problem when we have the multi-culture, multi-civilization, multi-language, multi-religion hundreds of problem we have. But, fortunately we don't have. But, we have a limited problem. But, still, we are connected on the one basis because we belong to a great society, a highly civilization society. What does it mean? You know, on the 26th of December, there was a Tsunami somewhere in southern parts of India and Nicobar. At 10 o'clock it happened, Govt. sending the aircraft, ships and so many things to help. But, before that notice something happened. But, I don't know whether you. The whole part country the social organisations converged the the Tsunami effected region. They took all the pain, they started solving the pain according to me, if the civilization think of the nation, you will see in some other countries they don't managed that. Is it not? So, this is the strength that our nation has, the heritage that we have. So, I believe that the 8 north eastern states have been blessed by God with rewards and nature. Every state has been blessed. Now, the people smile in various ways. The North East is blessed with smiles. I believe the smile and the natural resources and the human resource combination has got tremendous potential. When I say 2020 and even before 2020 India has got tremendous potential to become a developed nation. All of our differences will get merged there as one single society that is the Indian society. So, I would like to further discuss with you if you give me an opportunity.

S P E A K E R

Pu Lalhmingthanga, Leader of MPC Group.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. your Excellency, the President of India. First of all I would like express my gratitude for your speech which was very scientific and mathematical. While such a kind of speech no President in the past has ever delivered in the past in the country. So, the facts and figures that you have on the development of the north east region. So, while I was

preparing myself to ask you some questions regarding Armed insurgency problems in the north east, as you know very well, the north east states have had a historical background which is different from the rest of the country. So, we remain isolated in many ways as you have rightly pointed out. So, because of this isolation unemployment problems for the young people of the north east is very acute and our youth are psychologically frustrated, and when they look the future they do not see prospect of employment and other prosperities that are available in other parts of the country. So, this has resulted in Armed insurgencies in various places in the north east. So, in order to solve this problem, according to my opinion, it is very important on the part of the govt. of India to treat the north east people in a special way. At the present moment our youth in Mizoram as you had already mentioned, more than 30,000 educated persons are unemployed and 1,00,000 people are under employed. So, like wise, in other parts of the north east region and unless this problem is given a very special attention, more armed insurgencies will come out and that will stand in the way as a barrier for realization of your vision by 2020. So, what is your vision for this for a real and practical solution of the problem? That's the No. 1 question I would like to ask.

And then coming home to my own state, the language of the Mizo community is well developed now. But it is not yet included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India to be a major language of the nation. So, the present moment we have 22 languages. So, the aspiration of the young people of Mizoram is to have our language upgraded and then enlisted in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India. Will you be able use your good office to do that? Thirdly, as you have mentioned very rightly, we need to have market connectivity. Before the independence of India we used to have market connectivity in the western part of Mizoram with this now called Bangladesh. This is very important for utilizing our local products. Will you be able to use your good office to accelerate these schemes of border trade and foreign trade with Bangladesh? Fourthly, as you have mentioned, the most important and basic need for real development is infrastructure. Mizoram is endowed with tremendous hydel potential having say about 25,000 MW potential in the area. This has not been tapped properly. So, will you be able to use your good office to see that at least two or three major projects are coming up here so that these infrastructures are made available to Mizoram and then all round development and prosperity will come to Mizoram as you have narated already. Those are the points I would like to ask you Sir.

Thank you very much.

P R E S I D E N T

Hon'ble Lalhmingshangaji, I would like to say first of all I'm with you because presenting and hearing your views so I can push whatever is possible. I can assure you the President of India will try to push. What happened before coming here, I took a meeting with a complete look at your non-lapsable fund I went through your non-lapsable fund, how was it used ? What is the percentage Mizoram has used ? Such questions I have talked to you just now one is bio-fuel mission that 1.6 lakhs employment potential it has and 325 crores business. The bamboo mission has got potential for 32 crores revenue. Horticulture has 10 crores business, preparing para Medics and technicians worth quality trained 200 Nurses and 500 para medics. Tourism including general, spiritual and economics - 5 lakhs people. Now we are only dealing with only a small numbers of tourism. It should aim at 5 lakhs minimum of 1 lakh jobs it will create. Creating a secure inclusive economic Mizoram is a major programme i put forth to you because that zone can attract. IT, BT and also proficient fabrication because of your climate and small scale industries and then the PURA in the urban facility connectivity.

So the mission of the whole of the country. I believed, North-Eastern State is one of the preferred area for many reasons and full Ministry is established to handle it and I would like to tell you whatever views you have on today's discussion also I'll carry and see something is done. But one thing I would like to tell you is that most of the time when you say that first of all I would like to say that you are not different. You are part and parcel of the same society. That's why the multi-cultural, multi-language and multi-religious society we are. We have to understand each of them. There is a big plan, the purpose of non-lapsable fund you have to ask yourself, what is it every year every Ministry donate some money. It is as per the constitutional amendment Is about 500 crores. The question the Legislative Assembly has to discuss is what can be the mission for using the non-lapsable fund, what can be the mission for the hill agriculture and the hill council. Like that, various funding is there. You have to have a detailed planning for every fund and get used to the plans and get a start at many projects that's my field. Regarding the language, like you said the 8th schedule definitely I will take your point to consult others.

S P E A K E R

We shall take 2 more. We all hope it will not be too lengthy. Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA :Mr. Speaker, Sir, your Excellency. It is our great pleasure to have your excellency in this August House, and it is also a great privilege for me to have this opportunity of interacting with you. I belong to micro-minority Chakma scheduled tribe of the State, and I represent the most backward and remote Assembly Constituency i.e., Chawngte, which is also comprising only the Chakma autonomous District area. My question to your Excellency is to make India a developed country by 2020. How we are going to deal with the vast population of weaker section and huge number of Scheduled Tribes in the Country as development directly relates to human resources development. Is it not a right time to recast a national policy on Scheduled Tribe? To categorise the comparatively more backward Scheduled Tribes, so that concentrated report can be made to accelerate a developmental process. Which will I believe ultimately help the nation in achieving the Vision India 2020? Thank you, Sir.

P R E S I D E N T :Mr. Hon'ble Chakmaji, nice to talk to You. You know I personally believe the Border Trade. Border Trade is a must. We must do the Border Trade

And the political systems. The Country is connected with our neighbours and India's political system, all the more we have to reinforce it with whatever better person we are, we have to reinforce it and the roads. What we are planning to put is that road should cut across some of the countries with their concurrence and there is already a plan that even the road is moving so I believe the diverting country's connectivity and border you can see the trains, buses moving. All planning are there, so North Eastern States also this type of situation should come to the neighbouring countries and even slightly far off countries like the oil in various countries, the business mode that trade should start and we have to work for it. From Delhi, we are all very much committed that friendship with our neighbours, we should have. We are working for it. Finally, we should have an objective. Our objective will be apart from the friendship is that the border trade should flourish with both sides, with a win-win situation i.e., India will win and the neighbouring countries will win. So, whatever is needed should be done. I will see to that something happens in that direction is No. 1.

No. 2 you were saying that the sea-port can be connected. This is a new aspect for me. Let me think about it. Then your question is the developed Country 2020, what about the weaker section. I will give you one small example. When in Kerala, human development under 90+%, Mizoram is 88 % plus what does it mean. It means the Education and Health Care and Employment potential, it should

go to all the section for eg : when they said 260 million people are below poverty line it includes all the people who are below poverty line. So their educational needs are high and their housing needs to be taken care and their employment potential increased. Then 260 million people grow that's why I said 6 % GDP has been 10 % GDP. So it includes all section of the people irrespective of which part of the Country and which tasks are being developed. That is what I'd like to say.

S P E A K E R

For the last interaction, I call upon
Pu Lalduhoma, ZNP Group Leader.

PU LALDUHOMA

Mr. President Sir, The Holy Bible says "Where there is no vision, the people perish". We are proud today to have a man of vision like you as President of this country. I have read a book written by your excellency where you have spelt out your vision for India 2020, a vision for the new Millenium. The N.E.C has now started a new programme of NER 2020 vision, the seed of such idea has been germinated in your mind some seven years ago.

I also happened to learn that you are growing Jathropha in your garden at Rasthrapati Bhavan and so do I.

Diverse qualities are found in your personality. I hope you will continue to be a source of inspiration for the intellectual as well as for the common citizens of the society.

Rasthrapatiji, I would like to ask you few questions concerning communication problems we are facing here in Mizoram.

As you are aware of, excepting just one small Airport at Lengpui and one narrow, tortuous corridor in the north linking Mizoram to the rest of the country, Mizoram is sandwiched by Bangladesh and myanmar almost on all sides. Our border areas are being used by various rebel outfits as a sanctuary and as a launching pad for their activities. Even after two decades of peace, and after hearing many times that peace pays, the hard fact today remains that even at this very moment, two of our innocent citizens are still in the hands of underground elements and that sophisticated weapons were seized just a few days ago from the very Constituency of the Leader of this House.

Under such circumstances, it is important to remove isolation and remoteness of this area by upgrading and integrating the communication network of Mizoram.

When the rest of the country are enjoying technology driven economic activities, Mizoram is still in the B.P.O. Zone in the current era of information revolution which is being led by India worldwide.

We are severely handicapped by the existing nominal and erratic internet connectivity. We are not enjoying a level playing field.

We are unable to avail of the new technology driven opportunities that are routinely available to much of the rest of the country.

We are deprived of vital data that are essential to keep us abreast with others. Essential tools like Development Planning and implementation such as Data Banks, various documentations, Project Reports and Models cannot be accessed and updated in a timely manner.

I, therefore, would like to know your reactions as to whether you would exercise your influences so that -

High Speed Data Communication, Sub-Centre and Software Technology Park linking to STPs of India as already operating in Guwahati etc is opened in Mizoram.

The East-West Four Lane connection is extended from Silchar upto Champhai and Saiha.

The existing proposals for Trans-Asian Railway and Asian Highway System fully covers Mizoram.

Multi-Modal Highway-cum-Inland Water Transport Project of Kolodyne connecting Chittagong and Myanmar is speedily executed.

Thank You.

P R E S I D E N T : Well, Duhomaji, see, one thing I realised from your question. This communication the type of high speed fast communication like the importance of IT and also internet connectivity to that I believe, this comes from 2 areas. One is for a high speed data transmission you need fibre optic cables or you need satellite connectivity like V-SAT. The fibre optics you can have a network within the Mizoram area because of the mountainous terrain the fibre optic cable which can transmit lots of data may be difficult. I don't know, have to check with the experts. But definitely V-SAT connectivity like for example we have a satellite E-DUSAT Satellite. They have got a mission of 100,000 villages connecting the whole country for tele education and tele medicine. That is somewhere in a Mizoram village, a maths teacher(s) the capital, this city the schools should hear him..... That same teacher simultaneously a number of schools can hear him. This is possible. This is in our hands. For example, recently I inaugurated a facility in the southern district. So, definitely Andaman and Nicobar has been connected. So, I will tell the Chairman of India Space Research Organization to start to do the connectivity on EDUSAT connectivity for tele education, tele medicine to some of the district headquarters, some of the kiosks of Mizoram. I will try to talk to the chairman of ISRO and also my Prime Minister. This is possible.

Regarding your Ring Road connectivity as you know the Prime Minister recently was in the east part of the country. I understand there is one agreement signed on how the various countries can be connected to India. This proposal is in the thinking stage. I will also try to give some life to it. Ok these two things. I completely agree with you on the technology, the development wherever you want to have progress, the type of bio-diversity what you have or the tourist facility that you have or the bamboo mission that you have all need technological support. So, that's why, I proposed to the Hon'ble Legislative Assembly today that you push bodies called creation of secure exclusive economic zone. That zone will have IT parks, will have BT parks that will have at various facilities and also small scale industries, profession industries. Now, funding, how it will come ? Funding, I personally believe it has come from the non-lapsable fund. You know that fund is there but it is not properly utilised. There should be a movement from various states joining together so that you can have a combined project between the states and not single state and Mizoram establishing the creating a

sector exclusive economic zone, this is one area appeal for non-lapsable fund. There, your idea of IT, BT hall and high technology area will come in, it will spread to various places. So, these are the few points I have and definitely. I'll think about some of the issues that you have raised. You can also go through all the members. I have given a report that whatever represented I hope all of you have got the copies and you can see my website www.presidentofindia.NIC.IN you can put any number of questions and within 24 hours you can get an answer from there. So, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

S P E A K E R : Thank you very much. Your Excellency for your enlightened interaction. I am sure this is a great moment for all of us. Now, may I request Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister to propose a vote of thanks.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER** : Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Excellency, the President of India we are really grateful to have you in particular coming to Mizoram. Not only that, since we had met you this morning, the special peculiarities, talent which you have shown on the way and which you are still now showing here in this August House.

The first thing that we would like to tell you is that we the Legislators of Mizoram, the Governor of Mizoram and the people of Mizoram we welcome you here. As you know, here in Mizoram, we are peculiar in the sense that we are almost land locked. Hardly we receive an importance from there in our headquarters in Delhi. But nevertheless, with all the high schedule you have, you still can spare your time here. And as we had gone through there in the Sairang village, how you are having an interaction with the local people, with the students and the small children and how you are having an interaction with the hon'ble members, we are really grateful and we simply have to say that we are proud to have this type of a peculiar and a very rare commodity type of President here in our country. And, as we had listened to, not only you being the President of India but a great scientist. Who is interested not only in the scientific approach of the development of the country but a very scientific and very systematic way of developing the state of India, you have shown us, practically, how with the seven programmes we can develop Mizoram. We are really grateful. It is very inspiring, and at the same time I'd like to mention that the great challenge that you have thrown down here we will try to answer with the same challenge that you have given to us.

As you know, with the 21,000 sq.km of fertile land here in Mizoram, and one of the most prosperous land that we have here in India, we used to say that if we divide two hectares utilizing only about some 20% of the land and the remaining 80% can still be kept as a reserve. We have such a big potential. And with all those economic potentials that you have told us like the tourism prospect and the bio-fuel system and the bamboo mission and a lot of other prospect which you have told us we believe that here in Mizoram apart from which you have seen. You have also realised how the economic potential in Mizoram we are having are still lying dormant. And we believe that within a short time with the help of the central govt. we can activate this. We used to say that here, there is such a kind vast and a big potential of economic molecule here. And hence that is activated with a little magic. One of the uranium which you have told us, it certainly will have an activation ? In which we can develop Mizoram. As an example, wherein we can tell the other part of the country, here in the most corner state of India lies where peace and development cannot, not only be told but we can show them that peace really based and it tends to be development which can set an example here in the most remote corner of India. And this is strategically the tri-junction of the three countries of India, Burma and Bangladesh. In as much as it occupies such a strategically importance, it also shows to the world that the ones most a disturbed state can be one of the most peaceful state here in India and the most developed country.

We are very grateful to you and at the same time, we wish that you would have the habit of coming often to Mizoram for which we welcome you. And we believe that you shall set an example to other VVIPs of Delhi that here, in the remote corner of India there is that land wherein all the other important leaders of India will someday after passing through the busy state there in Delhi, you can rest here - you can come and interact with us. With this, we welcome you and we believe that certainly you have tasted the sweetness of coming to Mizoram and you will have the habit of coming often here. We are very grateful to you.

Thank you very much.

S P E A K E R

: Now, the sitting has come to an end. The Special Session 2005 is Adjourned. Sine die.

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