

FIRST SESSION OF THE MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY, 1987.

PROCEEDINGS OF 8TH SITTING ON 25TH MARCH, 1987.

PRESENT

PU J.Thanghuama Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, 12 Ministers
23 members were present.

QUESTION

1. Questions entered in separate list to be asked and answers.

VOTING ON DEMANDS

2. (a) Mr. Zoramthanga, Finance Minister to move various demands under his charge to the vote of the House.
- (b) Mr. R. Tlanghmingthanga, Minister of State to move various demands under his charge to the vote of the House.
- (c) Mr. H. Lalruata, Minister to move various demands under his charge to the vote of the House.
- (d) Mr. L. Ngurchhina, Minister to move various demands under his charge to the vote of the House.

S P E A K E R : "In thee, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame, In thy righteousness deliver me, incline thy ear to me and save me, for thou art my rock and fortress".

Psalm 71 : 1 -3.

We shall proceed to the first item of Business. We shall call PU P.C. Zoramsangliana to ask question No 11.

PU P.C. ZORAMSANGKIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask my question No 11 - Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Home Department be pleased to state - The circumstances leading to Saitual incidents on 1.3.87 where nine persons were killed.

PU LALDENGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, from the reports
CHIEF MINISTER recieved from D.C. Aizawl and the Police, it appears that the incidents accused as a result of the manhandling of two persons of Saitual village who returned from Jhum by drunken Dumkas at about six O'Clock in the evening.

PU P.C. ZORAMSANGLIANA : Supplementary Mr. Speaker Sir, From the statement of the Chief Minister the Dumkas are aggressors. Why is it that as many as 59 persons from Saitual village were arrested out of which 26 were released on bail while the rest remain imprisoned while no Dumka was arrested.

PU VANLALNGENA : Mr. Speaker Sir, why is it that Government apprehended those who courted arrest while the criminals are at large ?

PU S. HIATO : Mr. Speaker Sir, I visited the Jail on 18.3.87 and met with Hmingthang-chuanga and four of his friends who were arrested in connection with Saitual incidents. When asked, they told us that they courted arrest at the behest of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, and the MLA of the constituency, and also that they were much disgraced for being detained so long. Is this a fact ?

PU LALDENGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, investigation is still going on, and I can not tell who are yet to be arrested, Mizoa or Dumkas. Anyone whom the investigation Officer considers necessary to arrest will be arrested. This is the discretion of Police Officers.

To the best of my knowledge, no one who courts arrest was arrested. Only those who were suspected to have any connection with the incidents were arrested.

S P E A K E R : Question No 12 - Pu Liansuama.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask my question No 12 - Steps taken by the Government of Mizoram for upliftment of women in Mizoram apart from the existing programmes of the State and Central Government.

PI LALHLIMPUII : Mr. Speaker Sir, there are many instances when women are divorced by their husbands and when women are left absolutely penniless. So insecure are the women that they are made unable to attain positions which they should have attained otherwise. What action does Government intend to take to do away with this insecurity of the women.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAD : Mr. Speaker Sir, Government of India has set up a women development corporation and all State Government are also instructed to set up the same in their respective States. Has Social welfare Department not yet received the instruction from Government ?

PI LALHLIMPUII : Mr. Speaker Sir, Government does intend to upliftment the women. I am very happy to speak today as a representative of women, which constitute half of the total population. I hope members will understand me because there is no time to chalk out programmes for upliftment of women, and now budget takes time.

However, programmes for upliftment of women will be chalked out in consultation with experts. This Government has also received instruction from Government of India regarding setting up of women development corporation and Government intends to take steps accordingly.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No 13 - Pu F. Lalramliana.

PU F. LALRAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, this is my question No. 13 - Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c. District Council Affairs etc. be please to state - The time when he will be visiting tribal areas.

PU SAINGURA SAILO MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, the question is quite vague, but I think it means Pawi & Chhimituipui districts. What I can say at present is that I shall pay a visit if it is convenient.

PU F. LALRAMLIANA : Supplementary question. We have a Lawyer Minister to look after District Council Affairs. How does Government intend to look after the district councils? For example, will it utilise the fund allotted by Planning Commission for Chhimituipui District, out of the Plan Budget?

PU SAINGURA SAILO MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is intended to be taken by Government and written here in the Budget book. Even if the funds are not sufficient to meet the requirement additional funds will be made in the R.E. stage.

PU F. LALRAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, that does not fully answer my question. Does Government intend to allot 20% of the funds out of Plan Budget for District Councils?

PU SAINGURA SAILO MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am not at present prepared to make any concrete idea about it.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask my question No 14 - (a) How many persons were killed during the disturbances from 1966? (b) Will the Government of Mizoram give compensation to the bereaved families of innocent civilians (Mizos)? If so, how much will be given in each case?

PU LALDENGA
CHIEF MINISTER

: Mr. Speaker Sir, as per records maintained by Government, as many as 942 died as a result of insurgency. There is no proposals to give compensation to the families of innocent civilians killed during disturbances, instead an ex-gratia grant is being proposed to be given..

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, he does not fully answers my question. The total number of Houses burnt down during the period of insurgency is 51,092 and the total number of Church buildings burnt down is 360. The number of persons killed by the MNF is 640, and the total number of Security Forces killed is 800. 5019 local arms were seized and 180 school buildings were burnt down. As many as 1860 civilians were killed by the Security Forces, and 180 CRPF and Police personnel were killed in encounters with MNF quarillas.

During the Congress ministry, owners Houses which are occupied by the Security Forces in Zemabawk, Serchhip and Chhingchhip were paid rents. Besides, this many Houses were occupied and plots of land damaged by the Security Forces. There is no fund in the Budget for payment of rents or compensation to the owners of such houses or lands, Will all the people who died be ignored and houses occupied and lands damage by the Security Forces not compensated? No allotment of fund is made in the budget for all these and I would like to know what steps Government intend to take in this regard.

PU VANLALNGENA

: Supplementary questions Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister when he first came to Mizoram stated something about compensation. He expresses the need to revise compensation given to the next and kins of the deceased since the amount was too small in compared with that given in Punjab. Now that the MNF party to power, what amount does Government intend to give as compensation and when? Why is the fund for that purpose not in this Budget?

PU LIANSUAMA

: Supplementary question Mr. Speaker Sir, The Hon'ble Finance Minister stated that a sum of Rs. 191 lakh had been allotted for the rehabilitation of MNF personnel who came overground on 30.6.86. Why is it that no allotment of fund is made in the budget?

PU LALDENGA
CHIEF MINISTER

: Mr. Speaker Sir, the total number of deaths as stated by the Hon'ble member does not tally with the records of Government. According to which 103 civilians died in the hands of MNF, 47 were killed by the Security Forces since 1970. Total number of MNF killed by the Security Forces is 44 and the total number of civilians killed by the Security Forces is 748.

There is no scheme for giving compensation to the bereaved families, instead ex-gratia grant has been given.

After consultation with the Central Government, we are advised to process compensation to the owners of the Houses burnt down during insurgency, accordingly the matter is being processed. Let us hope that Government of India is kind enough to give compensation to its subjects whose houses it had damaged.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, many people at Zomahawk, Aizawl, Serchhip Chhing-chhip, Buggtlang, Zohawk and Zotlang whose houses were burnt down had received compensation. There are many more people in various places who suffered the same. Will these people be given compensation too? What does Government intend to take?

PU LALDENGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have already answered the Question. The matter is being taken up with Government of India and I hope Government of India will give compensation with the instruction of Government of India the matter is being processed.

S P E A K E R : Question hour is over. We shall now proceed to "Voting on Demands". We shall call Pu Zoramthanga, Finance Minister to move demands for various charge.

PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg leave of the House to move the demands in respect of various Department under my charge.

(1). Exise and Taxation	-Rs. 65,50,000.00
(2). Treasury & Account Admn.	-Rs. 79,80,000.00
(3). Retirement benefit	-Rs. 1,05,00,000.00
(4). Education	-Rs. 22,86,00,000.00
(5). Loans to Government Servants	-Rs. 1,07,24,000.00

Thank you .

PU VANLALNGENA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have many things to say about demand No 7 - Exise. A subject connected with exise formed the most important topic of discussion during election campaign. A sum of Rs. 3,90,000.00 is demanded for House rent alone. I consider the amount too large. The Department is a small Department with a handful of staff members. Why is that it required such a large amount of Money for house rent? Even if the monthly rent for the building is Rs. 10,000 or 20,000/- the fund allocated for one year's rent is too much. Has a mistake been made in its calculation?

Again, a sum of Rs. 2,00,000/- is allotted for uniforms. Even at the rate of Rs. 400/- per set of Uniform, the total amount required for 200 persons can not exceed Rs. 80,000/- in any case. How can Rs. 2,00,000/- be allotted for the purpose?

During election campaign, the Hon'ble Law Minister stated that if MNF party was voted to power, it would stop sale of IMFL forthwith. But when we look at the budget it is seen that a sum of Rs. 1,70,00,000/- is expected to be received as a revenue from sale of IMFL for the year 1988. There can be no better proof than this that Government intends to renew license for sale of IMFL. Why do you deceive the people?

The people like licenses for IMFL to be cancelled. Liquor is the Public enemy number one. Shall we go on against the will of the people.

At a meeting of MLAs and leaders of CYMA at Aizawl Club, MLAs were requested to take steps to stop sale of IMFL. Similar requests were made by leaders of the Churches too. The Hon'ble Minister i/c. Excise also once expressed his hatred of sale of liquor in Mizoram but he is now prepared to renew licenses. This is quite a paradox. While the people are expecting that Government would stop licensed sale of liquor the budget confirms that sale of liquor will continue at least for one year. This is against the will of the people. Thank you.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Mr. Speaker Sir, I do support the statement of the Hon'ble Member of Suangguilawn Constituency that the MNF Ministry does not keep the promise it made to the people during election campaign regarding cancellation of licenses for sale of IMFL.

Some times, it is good to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors and sometimes it is better and safer to deviate from the path already paved by them. Is Government not aware following the wrong path set by a previous Government is suicidal? Almost 90% of revenue earned by Government comes from sale of IMFL. This is a shame for a Christian State which sends Missionaries outside the State. If we are satisfied with the magnitude of revenue earned without any regards to the means, it will be quite detrimental to us. Sale of liquor can not be morally justifiable just because it earns a lot of money as revenue. I do not think the people support renewal of licenses for sale of liquor up to the end of 1988. In comparison with the size of population the excise department in Mizoram is quite large. In a common practice, Excise Department is usually a branch of Taxation Department. While in Mizoram, Taxation Department function as a branch of Excise Department.

This is because of the magnitude of revenue earned from sale of liquor. It would be a good idea if Government revises this procedure and makes necessary corrections. If Government stops licensed sale of liquor, Excise Department has not much to do except prevention of smuggling of narcotic drugs in Mizoram while in a developing State taxation department occupies important position in Government.

Regarding Demand No.8, I would like to reiterate that the performance of Accounts and Treasury Department, deserve recognition of Government and also of the general public. I think some of the member of this House visited this office and see that the staff are working very hard, The fact that it is now very easy to get retirement benefit for retired Government servants testifies that the performance of the Department is satisfactory. Previously, any pension matter required to be finalised by Accountant General Office at Shillong and a pensioner had to wait some years before getting the pension. But the Directorate of Accounts and Treasury greatly alleviates the hardship of pensioners by finalising their pension within a very short span of time.

Regarding Demand No.17, I would like to say that education is the most important key to development and civilisation. The Governor stated that introduction of 10+2 system of education in Mizoram is under examination while the Hon'ble Minister of Education stated that particular attention would be paid to 10+2 system. The system was recommended for introduction by the Kothari Commission in 1964 and 1966. After careful study, Many states refused to introduced the system for some reasons.

This 10+2 system of education has merits and demerits and is applicable depending upon the condition obtaining in a particular states. If 10+2 system is introduced in Mizoram, many college students have to go to High School stage, If so, will college teachers or will new appointment be made for High School teachers? Will Pupils benefit more if they remain two years in High School after passing class X rather than two years in college? We must compare the environments that prevail in High School and College besides the teaching itself.

Many well educated persons join education Department. But the scope of promotion in the Department is very poor. The main reason seems to be that we have too, few colleges and District Education Offices. Since some years back, there was a proposals to set up more directorates of education. At present, a new directorate of sport and Youth Welfare has been set up. More important than this are Directorate of Elementary Education, Directorate of State Council of Education Research and Training and Directorate of College Education etc. Today there are too many Officers without any scope of promotion who simply wait for the death of retirement of their superiors. Will Government take steps to solve this problem?

Our teachers have demanding a raise in their salaries. What action is Government intending to take to solve this problem? If the teachers are made disappointed, it will have undesirable results on students. Therefore, we must pay special attention to the needs of teachers.

Every year, monetary assistance is given to MBSE. by Government is liberal in giving grants to the Board and I once expressed my thanks in this House. This year also, grants have been given but I consider the amount a bit too small. The MBSE has many functions like conducting Examinations, prescription and printing of school text book etc. Therefore, the requirement is very high. It will be a good idea if more grants could be given.

At demand No. 44, Loans to Government Servants, I would like to say that a clean and upright Government servant can never afford to have a House constructed from his salary. Frankly speaking, a Government servant who owns a good house is sure to have a side-income from certain sources. Under the circumstances, an honest government servant can afford a house only with the help of House Building Advance from the Government. The amount of fund allocated for the purpose should be raised so as to help as many Government servants as possible to own a decent houses of their own.

Every Officers have to own a Car, but his salary alone will never make him to afford it. Government therefore, should have adequate funds to advance loans to every gazetted Officer for purchase of Car. At the present rate of Car Advance, how can one purchase a car with Rs. 37,000/- While the actual price of a car is Rs. 1,00,000/-? If every Officers owns a private car, Government vehicle also will be properly utilised.

Thank you.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, when we speak of 'Exise' many of us bring into mind nothing but liquor. This is quite true as nothing but liquor is the only item from which exise department levies taxes. The Hon'ble Exise Minister promised to give me a written answer regarding number of licenses of retail sale of liquor renewed so far. But till today, I have not recieved the reply. Why can not ther reply be furnished till date? Due to non receipt of the reply, I am not certain about the actual condition and I am constrained to have an impression that all the licenses have been issued is a sheer violation of the provision of section 27 of the Exise Act, which prescribes that a public opinion of the locality should be obtained before issuing any license. I would like to know if public opinion is obtained before issuing licenses. It is known to all that the YMA, Churches etc. are against licensad sale of liquor. Renewal of licenses greatly hurts the Churches.

During 1986-87, an amount of Rs. 86.04 lakh is, anticipated as revenue from sale of liquor but the amount climbs to Rs. 112.19 lakhs. Now, expecting our youths to consume more liquor, the amount of revenue anticipated climbs up to Rs. 200 lakhs. A social reforms with this object in view will be an interesting development of witness.

As per the edicts of Presbyterian Church, a consumer of liquor and the seller are to be treated as equal. Today, Government deserves to be excommunicated from the Church. An intention of social reform after having sown a seed of all kinds of a sin is merely inflicting self injury. I am therefore very eagre to know if government is interested in social reform. At the same time I would requested the Government to revert its policy and cancell all licenses for retail sale of liquor. It is apparent that total prohibition is not possible as a sin is destined to have a place in this searth anytime. Let us choc k the skyrocketing number of students who drink just because a good chance is provided to them.

If we are to legalise sale of liquor just because it can not be totally prohibited, why don't we legalise murder too? A Christian has to fight against sin without surrendering to it. Whatever may be the result, we must fight against liquor.

From the statement of Hon'ble Finance Minister, it is cleared that there is a proposal to raise bus fare and taxes on land settlement. To me, this taxation is a direct hit upon the poor. Instead, taxes on liquor, which is itself injurious to its consumers should be increased. As Mizoram attains statehood, it is imperative on the part of Government to collect taxes on certain items. But as far as practicable, taxes should be collected on luxury items. As far as practicable, poor people should be protected from the burden of taxation. At the same time criticising a raise in taxes is meaningless.

In Education, I don't know whether to laud or criticise the performance of Government. I would like to give one advise to the Minister. I don't think a good education can be expected while teachers are discontent about their salaries. In this budget there is no proposal for improvement of teachers welfare.

While Mizoram was a district of Assam many craft teachers, who passed training course in Jorhat, Shillong etc. were appointed as craft teachers enjoying a scale of Pay of Rs. 350 - 560/- But in 1984, the certificates of these people were rejected and were made to be employed by untrained craft teachers i.e. Rs. 260/- per month. After fighting against this injustice for a long time, these people were again allowed to enjoy a scale of pay they previously enjoyed with effect from August, 1986. When the pay scale was reduced, these teachers refunded the overdrawal. Now there is a gap between 1984 and 1986 which requires to be regularised. Shall we expect such maltreated teachers to have incentive in their duties. Simply giving instructions to perform their duties satisfactory without any concern about their welfare is meaningless. These teachers must receive back what they refunded and they must get their fully pay during the period from 1984-86. At the same time, arrangement should immediately be made for the training of craft teachers who have not yet undergone any training course.

Now a selection grade scale has been made for Government Teachers. For teachers of Government Aided school too. Government of India has sent instructions to create selection grade scale, but no action has been taken till date. I would request Government to take immediate steps to enable teachers of Government aided schools to enjoy selection scale.

In a teaching line there is almost no scope of promotion and a selection grade scale is the only promotion chance. The recruitment Rules also require to be amended immediately. The present Recruitment Rules prescribe that an M.E. School teachers should pass P.U.C. and for the post of a Head Master, the minimum Educational qualification proscribe is B.A.A teacher who have passed PUC and who is qualified for the can never be promoted to Head Master until and unless he passed BA during his service. If BA is prescribed for teacher, he can be promoted to Head Master when there is vacancy without any problem. Therefore the recruitment Rules should be immediately revised and amended.

Hindi has become an important subject. It is very unfortunate that schools in villages can not be provided with Hindi teachers. If Hindi is to be made compulsory subject, Government should provide schools with teachers.

Improvement also needs to be made in the examination system. It is learnt that some examiners employ the service of others to examine answer papers. In this way the careers of many people can be spoilt. This must be immediately be done way with.

Casual teachers employed on a scale of pay of Rs. 300/- fixed are yet unable to get their pay. Arrangement should be made so as to enable these teachers to receive their pay early. At the same time Rs. 300/- is too meagre for an income of a father having children to support. If our schools are placed under the charge of such teachers, I am afraid we shall produce too few educated persons.

To conclude, I would like to say that if we insist upon satisfactory performance on the part of teachers, their welfare should also be borne in mind.

Thank you.

PU LIANSUAMA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, in connection with demand No. 7, I would like to say that Exise Act was passed in 1973, that during the Mizo Union Ministry, and the Rules were framed in 1983 during the P. S. Ministry. After that Congress party came to power and licensed sale of IMFL began, which has been continued by the MNF Government. No political party is to blame for the licensed sale of IMFL. The most important thing we can do now is to devise means for effective control of licensed sale of IMFL. Previously it is difficult to impose strict control of sale of liquor owing to shortage of staff in Exise Department. Now, Mizoram became a fullfledge state, a door is wide opened for recruitment of more employees, and I hope strict control of sale of liquor could be done soon. To me, total prohibition of sale of liquor is neither possible nor feasible. I therefore, do not advocate total prohibition. It is better to make improvement in the system itself. Public opinion will be obtained before issuing licenses. I support the statement of the Hon'ble Minister that no one could bring about total prohibition of sale of liquor even before. In the land of those who brought gospel to Mizoram, liquor is sold, openly. It will be the best thing to impose strict control on the sale of liquor, to inculcate on the minds of consumers to be able to control themselves even the influence of liquor. The prices of liquor has also to be re-fixed. The price is less than it is in Silchar and as a result a large quantity is sold at Silchar at higher price. Steps should be taken to check this pilferage. The rate of revenue collected per bottle must also be re-fixed raising it by about Rs. 2 or 3. At the same time license for sale of locally brewed liquor should also be issued so that strict control can be imposed upon the quality of liquor.

Instead of paving a new path for taxation, this Government is following a policy of raising the existing revenue like bus fare, energy bill etc. As suggested by the Hon'ble member of Lungpho Constituency, taxes should be levied on luxury items so as not to add to the burden of the poor as far as practicable.

In Education, I would like to point out a problem being faced by the people of my Constituency. Now Hindi become a compulsory subject but we do not have any Hindi teacher in the whole constituency. As a result, the result is very poor which possess obstacles opening more schools. Therefore, I feel it necessary to overhand the Department .

The amount of fund allocated for loans to Government servants this year is more than that of last year by Rs.1,10,000/-, the total amount is being Rs. - 1,07,24,000/- including a sum of Rs.57,10,000/- to be received as recovery of loans previously granted to Government servants. So, the amount allocated in this budget is only Rs.49,00,000/-. Last year a sum of Rs.1,06,00,000/- and the rate of increase in this year's budget is too small. Many government servants can not afford to own houses. They live rented houses. Therefore let us be liberal in advancing loans to Government servants for housing. I would like to request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to take note of this.

I would like to say something about retirement Benefits and administration of Accounts & Treasury Department. At the age of Superannuation, many Government servants are very old and those who are in rural areas find it almost impossible to come to Aizawl to do what is necessary in connection with finalisation of their pensions. Now, the condition is far better than the previous years when a retired government servants had to Shillong to get his pension matters finalised. Even now, things have not much improved. For instance, one retired teacher at Chhippui got his pension after a lapse of many years since his retirement. He always expressed his feared that he would not live long enough to get his pension. I think there are many such cases. I would like to ask this department to pay more attention to pension matters and expedite finalisation so that retired government servants may enjoy their pension in time.

In Education Department I would like to say that the Building of High Schools, Middle Schools and Primary Schools are in a delapidated condition. When a Minister or MLA visits his Constituency, a complaint which is always made by the people is against the poor building of their schools. The amount of fund allocated in the budget for the purpose is too meagre. On the other hand, a huge amount of money is spent for construction of Forest buildings and Police building which are never occupied at all. Can arrangement be made for diversion of funds allocated for these department to school buildings. Fortunately, the Hon'ble Minister i/c. Education is also a Finance Minister. I hope he can make arrangement.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, First of all, let me speak something about Exise Act. In Mizoram Exise is almost a synonym of sale of liquor. The Exise Act itself is important for Mizoram. But we must enlighten the people about this Act. We must tell them that while the Act provides for sale of liquor, there is also a provision for its control.

Those who accuse Congress Party of introducing licensed sale of liquor in Mizoram are now responsible in renewing the licenses. Therefore, let us hope that sale of liquor will not be stopped. But the sale of liquor requires to be controlled. As stated by the Hon'ble Member of Phuldungsoi Constituency, the quantity of liquor imported to Mizoram is very huge from the record, but much of it is always diverted outside Mizoram. It is the duty of Government to check illegal sale of liquor. In the Excise Act, there are provisions for punishment of licensed dealers, liquor and also drunkards. A quantity one customer can purchase at a time is also fixed. But in some villages like Ma-mit supply of IMFL is in abundance but it is sold at an exorbitantly high price. Now that licenses have been renewed, nothing can be done to cancel them. But it is advisable to control the quantity sold at a time so as to check black marketing.

In Education, I would like to say that the buildings of schools in villages in particular are in a deplorable condition. Moreover, teachers posted in villages are in a habit of absenting themselves. I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Education to note this and to find remedies. During the P.C. Ministry, daughter of P.C. Unit President was appointed as a teacher in Bughmun even after a lapse of two years. She was to be seen in the station. What action will Government take against such teachers? As there is absolutely no alternative, I hired one young man from my pocket to teach at Bughmun Primary School at Rs. 350/- per month. No one knows about that girl who was appointed as a teacher. When Congress Party came in to power two teachers were appointed for Bughmun Primary School, but after two years he has not even joined in this place of posting.

At Aizawl primary schools, there are too many teachers. For instance at Electric P/S, there are as many as 12 teachers. In some schools, the number of teachers is almost equal to the number of pupils. Government should take immediate steps for equitable distribution of teachers on the basis of the number of pupils in the schools.

Most of the members who are sitting here today belong to rural constituency and we must find the solution of this problem. This House is also made by the people of rural areas. Why is it that the welfare of rural areas has so much been neglected? Steps should immediately be taken to effect proper distribution of teachers among our schools.

The conditions of buildings of Government Primary schools in town is a better than that of school in villages. Meanwhile the amount of fund allotted for construction or renovation of school building in villages is very small. Under circumstances I would like to ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister to make arrangement either for diversion of funds from other heads of accounts or make allotment in the next stage so as to allot at least Rs. 30,000/- for construction of school building in villages.

Thank you.

PU P. SIAMLIANA

Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to speak. Some members have clarified enough the origin of Excise Act and sale of IMFL in Mizoram. In any case, I think one is quite

certain that they are those who are solely responsible for all this.

If sale of liquor is stop now, some of the member who expressed desire to do so many be in a precarious condition for want of liquor.

Once I enquired the outwhile BDO of Vairengte. The approximate number of non-Mizo who entered Mizoram with valid inner line permit and he told me that the number could be as many as 10006 in a year. In Nagaland, a tax is levied from those who enter Nagaland with inner line permits. As Mizoram also become a state, it is necessary to collect taxes from all possible sources. I think it would be advisable to follow in the footsteps of Nagaland. In Nagaland, the inner line permit is renewed twice in a month, and a tax of Re. 1 or 2/- is collected from the renewal of permit.

At demand No. 17, I would like to say that the amount of post matric scholarship and that of any other scholarship awarded to Mizo students are too meagre in compared with those awarded by other states. While student of other states receive Rs. 280/- per month. Mizo students receive about Rs. 70/- to Rs. 110/- If I am not mistaken, the rules being followed by Mizoram Government in awarding scholarship was made as far back as in 1951, which has not yet been made up to date.

In higher studies like M. Phil. Mizo students face the same problem. As a result, many students can not pursue higher studies and even research. In other States Government take steps to send students to foreign countries for higher studies. It will be a good idea if this new Government shows interest in this respect.

The faculty of Lunglei Under Graduate Training Centre feel neglected. A post of principal which has been lying vacant for a long time remains vacant till date. Teachers complaint to me that they could not enjoy the benefits of medical reimbursement while their counterparts in other places enjoyed the same. I would like to ask the Government to look into the matter immediately.

Regarding retirement benefits at demand No. 17, I would like to say that when a government servants attains the age of superannuation a retirement, he has many problems to face in getting his pension finalised. In many departments, there are no proper service records of the member of staff. Education Department is the largest Department in Mizoram since a village with 20 or 30 families has a school. I would like to point out that one teacher, who served more than 30 years in government has no service records at all. If government servants are treated like this, there will be discontentment among them. Therefore, Government should pay more attention to this problem and find its remedies.

Thank you .

PU P.C.ZORAMSIANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to say that during election campaign, the MNF party promised that it would stop licensed sale of IMFL if the party was voted to power. It is time to say that this Government does not fulfil its commitments.

In the budget a large amount of fund is allocated against the head of account " Other charges " In Exise Department and Education Department a sum of Rs. 50.40 lakhs and Rs. 56.24 lakhs respectively are allotted to under the Head of " Other charges " without any specification of the purposes.

As stated by the Hon'ble Member of Kaurthah constituency, it is a fact that schools in rural areas have very few teachers while those in town have in abundance. Moreover, there is no proper service record of teachers. Teachers having put in a service of 5 to 6 years do not have any service records.

In last years budget, there was an allotment of Rs. 428.28 lakhs for grant-in-aid to non-government schools. This year, there is only Rs. 408 lakhs for the purpose. Do we intend to make additional allotment in the RE from now? Last year a sum of Rs. 428.28 is far from sufficient to meet our requirement and there are too many school buildings in need of renovation. Under the circumstances the amount of fund allotted this year is too small.

Students studying in dilapidated schools building can not in any way be expected to compete with students in towns where school buildings are better. This is the main reason why students in rural areas lag behind their counterparts in towns. It will be highly appreciated if Government takes steps to improve the situation.

The foundation of progress and development in Education. Yet, the amount of fund allotted for grant-in-aid of schools is too meagre. It will be a good idea if funds are liberally allotted for grant-in-aid of our schools.

The building of Thingsylthliah ME School V in my constituency is in extremely dilapidated condition and it is apparent that it will not last the end of the season. I would like to ask government in advance to make arrangement for granting grant-in-aid for renovation of the building when V/C member of the village approach it.

Thank you.

PU P.LALBIAKA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have something to say concerning Exise Department at demand No. 7, As we see in the Scripture, liquor is the beginning of all evils. As a Christian we must accept this as a truth. Some members tried to make political capital out of this issue. During election campaign, the MNF party candidate appear not to dare speak the truth about issue of licenses for sale of IMFL. During election campaign the MNF party promised that it would immediately stop licensed sale of IMFL if and when the party was voted to power. Many people always asked me what my party would do about sale of IMFL if my party came to power and I told them that since we have no other source of earning revenue, licensed sale of IMFL is necessary. But this policy requires careful consideration.

I frankly told the people my idea that the sale of liquor was stopped forthwith, the people should have to shoulder a heavy burden. A party which made a commitment to stop sale of IMFL today renews the licenses. Government is not to blame for this. Instead of trying to make political capital out of this issue or accepting the vision of churches and various organisations, representative of the people who gather here must consider what would be best for Mizoram. If any political party is trying to attain in its own interests, and if the people are misguided to make that goal possible to achieve, we shall never make a developed state. A politician who is in a habit of misleading the people so as to avoid disclosure of facts is unfit to serve the people. I would like to ask members to be much more careful in the way they deliver speeches to the public. Let us have courage to tell the people a truth. To me, liquor is a necessary evil, so long as it is the only source of revenue. Under the circumstances we must have courage to tell the truth to the leaders of the Churches. Leaders of the Church should no longer lay out accusation of Government for renewal of licenses for sale of IMFL just because they favour a particular Political party or just because they desire total prohibition of sale of liquor.

In Mizoram, almost all villages have primary schools but in Sachan village in my constituency, a school has been never opened since the beginning of this world. I once brought the matter to the notice of Joint Director of Education and from this year a school is opened with teachers. When I asked the joint Director if the teachers could be upgraded to a scale of pay of Rs.300/- he told me that was a violation of a procedure being followed by the Department. Such is the condition of Sachan village and I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to note it.

During the tenure of P.C. Ministry, there was a proposal to open Night College at Lunglei. But owing to certain hardships, the proposal was abandoned. Till today, the night college at Lunglei has not been given recognition by the Government. I would like to ask Government to open at least another one night college at Lunglei. I think we deserve. Let Government please give recognition to the existing night college at Lunglei. Thank you.

PU VANLALHRUAIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, concerning Demand No.7, I would like to suggest that sale of liquor to minor children be strictly prohibited. Moreover, restriction imposed upon the quantity that one customer can purchase must be strictly enforced.

Concerning Demand No.17, Education, I would like to say something with particular reference to my constituency. In one of the schools at Vairengte, there are 380 pupils with 3 teachers and one nursery teachers. At Saihapui, no school has ever been opened by the Government. A Tuikuk community employed one teacher at Rs.300/- per month and the school building does not even have walls let alone desks and benches. Another school at Vairengte received C.I. Sheet as a material grant but the sheets are not sufficient to cover the building. The climate there is very hot and on sunny days, the schools require to be closed, on rainy days too, the schools require to be closed, thereby making working days much irregular. At Saiphai, there is one P/S. with almost 300 pupils and three teachers employed by Government with Rs.300/- fixed

.... 167/-

per month. There is no head teacher also. I think these examples quite clearly reveal the conditions of schools within my constituency. I earnestly request Government to take steps to improve the conditions of schools as well as the welfare of teachers so that pupils may take much improvement in their studies.

Thank you.

PU ZORAMTHANGA
MINISTER

: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very happy that members gave many good advises regarding actions Government should take in various spheres. As you all know, we have no experiences and the advise given by experienced members are welcomed.

Among various department Exise and Taxation Department attracted attention of most members and formed the main topic of discussion. Many members expressed their views about the renewal of licenses for retail sale of IMFL. I think many people are desirous of totally prohibiting sale of liquor in Mizoram. But there are many obstacle to achieve our cherished dream of making a liquor free state. Therefore, I always expressed the need of consult the people in taking up the policy of either total prohibition or continuation of sale of liquor. At present this new Government is not in a position to stop licensed sale of IMFL immediately since a licensed one issued is valid for a period of one year and existing licensed have been already renewed.

Some members complaint that the amount of fund allotted for house rent was too much. Exise Department alone in now hiring three buildings and the amount of house rent can not be too small. Moreover, the department of Exise and Taxation are now being proposed to be enhanced and additional buildings will be required shortly. Now there is a proposals to recruit 80 additional staff in Exise Department. Which requires additional funds for house rent and uniforms.

In order enable pensioners to get their pension money, the number of staff of Account and Treasuries Department required to be enhanced for which more funds is heeded. In this years budget a sum of Rs. 105 lakhs is allotted for the department. Even though the amount of fund is far from sufficient, additional requirement will be met from R.E.

I admit that the amount of fund allotted for loans to Government servants is not enough. However, the amount of fund now allocated is the only amount we can arrange from all sources and I hope this amount will go a long way in solving the problems of Government servants. If there is any requirement, I hope it can be met from R.E.

Education Department as a whole needs careful study. Even though we have a large number of school buildings, the increasing number of pupils can hardly be accommodated. Similarly, we can not have sufficient number of teachers to look after the teeming number of pupils. Government is intending to improve and renovate existing school buildings. In case Government fund is not sufficient to meet the requirement, local people will also be asked to render services.

Government is aware that the distribution of teachers in schools is uneven. Everyone is willing to remain in town and at the same time no one likes to be posted in rural areas. Effort is being made to make proper distribution of teachers. This department has much to do in amending existing rules and framing new rules for the administration. Over and above solving the problems of teachers and improvement of school buildings.

Other States of north East area can not introduced 10+2 system of education at present. This Government likes to be the first to introduced the system. Upto class X there is not many difficulties in the introduction of the system but the stage of XI and XII requires careful examination. The main problem in class X stage is vocationalisation of learning. There is a problem in providing facilities for training in vocational subjects, particularly in rural areas. Moreover, we have very small number of industry which can provide employment to those who passed vocational training. Therefore, the main problem is to see if vocationalisation of training is feasible for Mizoram. However, a committee is proposed to be set up to pursue this policy. And to find out the possibility of introduction of 10+2 system in Mizoram.

There is also a great shortage of Hindi teachers. During the period from 1986 - 87, as many as 50 teachers were appointed. Yet our requirement has not yet been met. This year also, some teachers are proposed to be appointed. Government is aware of the problem being faced by pupils without Hindi teachers while Hindi is a compulsory Subjects.

The fixed salary of Rs.300/- enjoyed by some teachers is also raised to Rs.600/-per month. I hope that the welfare of teachers would be improved if the budget is passed. I am sorry because I cannot answer all the questions raised by the members. I would like to ask this House to pass the Demands for Rs.26,43,54,000/- in respect of Exise and Taxation, Treasury & Account Administration, Retirement Benefits, Education and Loans to Government servants.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The Minister has now moved demands amounting to Rs.26,43,54,000/- for various departments under his charge. Do we agree to pass? Anyone who agrees to pass may now say "Agree". Okay, the demands were passed. We shall now invite Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga, Minister of State to move demands for the departments under his charge.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and MINISTER with your permissions Sir. I stand to move Demand Nos 13, 40, 42 for Rs.28,00,44,27,000/- for consideration by this House.

S P E A K E R : Now the Hon'ble has moved demands for various departments under his charge for consideration. Every member is allotted 10 minutes time for speaking.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU

: Mr. Speaker Sir, there are many things to say concerning supply and disposals at demand No. 13,

Not because of the laziness or negligency on the part of the people, Mizoram is not self sufficient in food. Just because there is no suitable flatlands for Agriculture. Unfortunately, we have rainy seasons this year very early from March. Forest cut down for jhums have not yet been burnt and there is very likelyhood that a famine is eqgling Mizoram. As a result, Government will have to make more efforts to transport rice to villages. The people cannot even afford to purchase rice even after it is transported and stocked in Government godowns.

Last year, the quality of rice was very poor. That rice was transported from New Bangaigon. Some people were of the opinion that the poor quality of rice at that time had connection with purchase of new cars/vehicle by the supply Ministors. Even though the quality was very poor its supply is a bit abundant than that of this year. An excuse was made that there could not be sufficient supply of rice due to shortage of vehicles following general election. But now a long time has elapsa since election, even some members have a lready used up three or four books of letter head, yet the problem of shortage of rice remains unabated. Government should pay attention to this problem.

From Aizawl godowns, rice require s to be distributed to various godow ns in rural areas. Let alone shortage of Vehicles, carrying contractors cannot be given payment of carrying charges which has been outstanding for a long time. If I am not mistaken, the amount of outstanding bills due to carrying contractors is about Rs. 79,00,000/- while a large quantity of rice requires to be transported to various parts of rural areas. I think carrying contractors will find it difficult to continue carrying works this time. If the carrying bills of contractors or head load bills ar retailer are kept pending, no pther than the people would suffer. What action does Government intend to take to save the people from the impending burden? At page 69, demand No. 13, a sum of Rs. 3,17,60,000/- is allotted for transport subsidy of salt. Where did supply Department dispose of salt, in towns or village? Due to low content of iodine in the salt we are consuming, I also have a goiter. Iodise salt was imported but there was a complaint that the so called iodise salt did not contain iodine. Does iodise salt sold today really contain iodine in it?

In Mizoram most of the people are vehicle crazy. Steps should be taken for proper maintenance of our Vehicles. Most of the vehicles purchased by Government are not lasting. I think newly pointed second hand vehicles are purchased. It is learnt that representatives of manufacturing companies visited Minister and everything is really for purchase of their products. Any driver who is readily available handled the new vehicles and as a result the engine suffers. However, I feel quite comforted as I have a feeling that the Hon'ble Minister is aware of all this

Concerning the department of Trade & Commerce I would like to say that if a good beginning is made, this Department can be of great benefit for the people. Next, I would like point out that weight and Measure Department has much to do in checking the scales of butchers and other traders. We always buy 750 grams of sugar or meat at the cost of a Kilogram.

Regarding registration of Society, I would like to caution Government that is Government is too liberal in giving recognition to all the firms that applied for the same, it can be detrimental to our economy.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : It is now 1 O'clock and out of four items of business listed for today, only one has been disposed of. I would therefore, like to ask members in advance to go to the points when they speak in the afternoon, otherwise many items of business will be left intact.

We shall now have recess.
Recess till 2 P.M.

S P E A K E R : We shall continue discussion on the Demands. Moved by the Hon'ble Minister i/c Supply and Transport. First of all, we shall invite Pu K.L. Lianchia to speak.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, every member sees that Chaitling Workshop is full of vehicles requiring repair. It could be a good idea if Government makes arrangement to dispose of condemned Vehicles immediately. Immediately after condemnation these vehicles can be sold at a reasonable prices but after that they are usually disposed of at every low price. If the condemned vehicles are disposed of immediately, they would earn a certain amount of revenue. Therefore, it will be of great benefit for the state if arrangement are made for disposal of vehicles immediately after condemnation.

Regarding civil Supply, I would like to say that there are many instances of pilferages of rice in the course of its transportation to rural areas. For instance, in respect of my Constituency, while the Department issued sufficient quantity of rice, the problem of shortage of rice remained unabated. In January last year, 200qtls. of rice was demanded from Government and the same amount was allotted for the villages within my constituency. The actual quantity of rice which reached its destination is not more than 10qtls. All the remaining quantity must have been disposed of before it reached its destination. This is a source of earning profit for carrying contractors. I would like to ask Government to look into the matter and take necessary action to prevent such pilferages from recurrence in future.

In Aizawl town also, retailers are in a habit of selling rice in bags, when they deliver their quota of rice, they sorted out good quality bags for sale at a higher rate thereby depriving the people of their share of rice. It is a pity that retailers sell rice openly to the people they favour. These people do not know that they infringe upon the shares of the people. Government should prevent such malpractices.

Since corruption is too deep rooted in Mizoram, that the people suffer a lot. The scales used in weighing rice are not correct. This must also be checked immediately. This year the problem of famine is sure to be much acute. This year, monsoon started very early and this is sure to disrupt movement of vehicles for transportation of rice in Mizoram.

Thank you.

PU F. LALRAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, at present there is a large amount of old stock of rice which is unfit for human consumption. It will highly appreciated if Government makes arrangement for an early disposal of this rice.

Many retailers appointed for villages are in habit of selling their quotas of rice. Without carrying them to the villages for which they are appointed retailers. Obviously, these retailers make agreement with the A.Os concerned in their illegal practices. From the records maintained in Government office, the requirement of rice respect of these villages are recorded as having been provided through retailers. Government should take action to curb such activities.

As stated by the Hon'ble member of Lungpho constituency, something requires to be done to check the scales used by retailers. A retailers kg of rice or sugar actually weighs 750 grams. This practice is widespread all over Mizoram. It is a high time that Government takes strong action to put such undesirable practices under control.

Retailers are also a habit of selling rice in bags. One bag of rice is sold as a quintal whatever the actual quantity may be. In order to check this practice, the department of Weight and Measures has to be enhanced, so that the staff may be posted all over the state. The scales used in the market place are not accurate. Similarly, the sizes of stone and timber are smaller than the actual size.

At demand No. 40, is mentioned about Bus services. The Bus services between Lawngtlai and Saiha is very irregular. Even when a part is defective, there is no spare part to be supplied and the bus has to stand until the defective part is replaced. In order to make bus services more regular, it will be a good idea of Government vested more powers with the Station Superintendent of every bus station.

Thank you.

PU S. HIATO

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to say something regarding pilferages of rice. The reason why a large quantity of rice always illegally sold may be attributed to the fact that when selecting carrying contractors, those who tender the lowest rates are always selected. When work is actually started, these contractors cannot carry rice at their rates since it would incur a huge loss. So, to cover their loss, a certain quantity of rice is sold along the course of its transportation. The only solution to this problem is to select contractors who are apparently capable of executing the works instead of selecting tenderer of the lowest rates.

At Talak project, there are about 300 selected families and one family produces approximately 1700 tons of paddy every year. There is no means of disposing of their surplus products. It will be a great benefit if these surplus products are purchased by Government and allotted to supply centres in lieu of imported rice. A supply centre was once opened at Chaltlang but it was closed some years back. The people of the area greatly benefitted from this Centre. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to make arrangement for reopening of the supply centre at Chaltlang.

Due to poor condition of road communication, people sometime use water transport for conveyance. Goods are transported from Darzokai by small boats down the river which greatly alleviates the burden of the people living along the river. Commodities like Kerosene Oil and Dangpuithu are also transported through the water up to Tawngkawlong. But along this route there is a rapid flow of water which can easily be cleared. Investigation of this route has been made by IWT. I would like to ask Government to take immediate steps to clear the blocks along this route so that it can safely be sailed by boats in rainy seasons.

Thank you.

PU VANLALNGHAKA

Mr. Speaker Sir, I shall be much grateful if the Hon'ble Supply Minister could tell me the time when rice would be despatched to Thingsai and Cherhlun whose godowns are empty. Ngharchhip is fed by Cherhlun godown and a small quantity of paddy is yielded this year, and the condition of Thingsai is a bit better off. If rice is not despatched to these places immediately, the people will have no alternative but to go to jungle in search of edible yam. Under the circumstances, I would like to ask this Government to take immediate action to save the people of the area from starvation.

Shortages of rice carried by carrying contractors mainly occur as a result of low rates of carrying charges. Last year also, such shortages occurred for the same reason. As the lowest rates are always accepted, contractors have to carry rice at a huge loss. Illegal disposal of rice is the only means of covering the loss. Therefore, the A.Ds carrying contractors and store-keeper make arrangement and Challan is duly made to testify that rice is received in complete quantity. A complaint against shortages of rice at Thingsai was made in the coalition Government and enquiry has been made which revealed that there is a shortage of Rs.2,00,000/- in the sale proceeds.

It will be much grateful if Government takes immediate steps to dispose of this case.

One problem being faced by carrying contractors and retailers is outstanding bills which remain unpaid for a very long time. Does this delay occur because some officials demands a bribe from contractors? It is quite unfortunate that the people suffer a lot just because some official delay payment of bills to contractors even after sanction of fund has been made for the purpose.

Mr. Speaker Sir, can you please tell me if MLAs would continue to enjoy the facilities of special quotas of rice become poorer and poorer, and I would request you to make arrangement to enable members to continue to enjoy the facilities.

Now there are bus services even in rural areas. Private buses do not appear to have fixed rates of fare. Will the Government interfere in this matter and have the rates of fares of private buses fixed? If the fare of private bus is higher than that of Government bus, it will add to the burden of the people. There is now a proposals to raise the fare of Government bus. It is a high time that Government also fixes the rate of private bus fare.

Last year, there was a proposal for construction of godowns in rural areas for storing rice. Does this Government intend to take any follow up action materialise the proposals? I would like to ask the Hon'ble Supply Minister to tell me if there is any intention to raising the price of rice?

Thank you.

PU LIANSUAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding Supply and disposals at demand no.13, I would like to point out that the quantity of rice despatched to Darlung was about 200 quintals short. I am not sure about the exact quantity. Now there is very little time left before rainy season arrives. Unless immediate action is taken to enquire about the shortage and to fill up the shortage if there is any, rainy season will come and nothing can be done.

Government godown at Phaileng, Phuldungsei and Lallen are now completely empty. A certain amount is now stocked at Marpara. The overall situation is quite satisfactory. However, I would like to ask Government to enquire if all the quantity of rice recorded as having been despatched to this area actually reaches its destination.

Regarding shortage of sugar in rural areas, it may be stated that retailers always sell the quota of sugar they deliver from Government godown at Aizawl. Being awarded of this, carrying contractors are entrusted with the task of carrying sugar along with rice as if considering contractors unfit to do the same. I would ask government to find a better way of transporting sugar to rural areas.

There is a bus service from Aizawl to Phuldungsei three times a week. At about this time tomorrow, let us go to Rangvamaul and see with our own eyes how crowded that Phuldungsei bus is. It is too crowded that it almost explodes. Had all the fares collected been submitted to Government there should not have been a necessity to raise bus fare. This morning, leaders of Phuldungsei area came to my residence and ask me if arrangement could be made for daily bus service from Aizawl to Phuldungsei. I told them that I would approach the Hon'ble Supply Minister. Most probably, all the fares collected by the conductors are never submitted to Government. It would be highly appreciated if Government could enquire into the matter.

It is a matter of gratifying to note that construction of central workshops in one of the projects to be taken up expeditiously. Every member made a complaint against the skyrocketing of charges for maintenance of Vehicles. I also pointed out the same. If a Central workshop is set up to be capable of repairing defective vehicles of other departments over and above the vehicles of supply and transport Department, it is sure to result in substantial reduction of maintenance charges of vehicles. In usual practice a driver, when returns from a journey makes some complaint about his vehicles and get it repaired in private workshops which usually cuts Rs.400/- or 500/- or up to Rs.1000/- This really result in substantial increase in maintenance charges of Vehicles.

It is also a matter of great pleasure to note that there is a proposals for setting up of a separate department of Trade & Commerce. This department will play an important role in the development of our state. I think this department will have a relation with Trading by Non-tribals Regulations and increase in the number of Non-Mizo traders in Mizoram could be effectively checked. The demands today are pleasant to pass and I ask the Minister concerned to note what I have said.

Thank you.

PU P.SIAMLIANA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make some suggestion and request for improvement of the department supply and transport. When we talk about supply department, what first appears in mind is rice. Something has been said about pilferages of rice and also about selection of carrying contractors. In other states, fair price shops are opened in villages in order to make supply of rice more abundantly in rural areas. Can this be done in Mizoram too?

The fact that bus service in Mizoram is very much inadequate to meet the requirement is true. Could the Minister i/c Supply & Transport make arrangement for issue of more bus permits to private individuals?

In respect of Demand No.40, I would like to say that improvement of waterway along our rivers, particularly in the southern region is important steps to be taken for development. As stated earlier by the Hon'ble Member of Saiha constituency, obstacle along some of the rivers can be easily cleared so as to make the river a safe route for boats.

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Trade & Commerce Department and the issue of border trade appear to have close relationship. At Champhai, rice from Burma can be purchased at about Rs. 3/- at highest. Will it be not be better to purchase it instead of purchasing it from Haryana, or Punjab?

PU VANLALHRAJIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, demand No. 13, there is a demand for transport subsidy for salt. I think this is a mistaken and it should be rice and not salt. Every year, from my constituency thousands of quintals of rice is sold at Silchar because the rate, there is better than it is at Aizawl. Rice imported from other states mainly costs Rs. 9 to 14/- per Kg. when it arrives Mizoram. If that is the case, why can't we make arrangement for purchase of rice produce in Constituency at a higher price. If the surplus rice products of this area is purchase at the rate of say Rs. 6/- per Kg. the farmers will have incentives to produce more and more. Many farms owners who place their farms at the custody of non-Mizo workers will not like to do so any longer which will save much money. If rice yielded in this area is purchased at a higher price than the price at silchar, selling of rice at Silchar will be easily checked, and every soon there will be a sufficient quantity of rice to be purchased to feed Aizawl town. Thank you.

PU HIPHEI : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to say something in connection with demand No. 13. Too much pending carrying bills indirectly results in illegal sale of rice. Now that Mizoram became a full fledged state, will the Hon'ble Minister device ways of clearing all outstanding bills? I would also like to ask him to make arrangement for opening of more supply centres in Mizoram. Particularly along the Aizawl-Chhimitupui road and Lunglai-Thanzawl road where there are poor facilities of transportation of rice. Where rice is required to be carried on head, the people have to set out every day to carry rice as a result of which they don't have any time left to attend to their other works. To minimise problem, it would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to have more supply centres opened in Mizoram. As it attains statehood, Mizoram Government has more powers and I think this can be done without consulting Central Home Ministry.

Regarding road Transport at demand No. 40, it may be impossible to own the required number of buses for Mizoram. But what we can do to improve the condition of transportation is to properly maintain the buses we are having. The condition of buses now plying in some parts of Mizoram are very poor. For example, buses plying beyond Lunglai are very old and it is almost shameful to board them. Their walls are covered with the vomits of passengers. It would be much welcomed if the Hon'ble Minister makes arrangement for better maintenance of buses and also for purchase of new ones. The few buses which have been running in Chhimitupui District are extremely crowded that some passengers have to sit on the top of them and the chances of meeting with accidents are very large. We are badly in need of more buses. The road between 'O' point and Saiha is very narrow and a Mini-bus is plying along the route. Now the BRTF has completed widening of the road and

and is now pliable by big buses. I would like to ask the Government to send some big buses to ply along this route.

Loss and loss important appear to have been attached to water transport while road transport is being given importance. The importance of road transport is not the same all over the State. This transport system is most important along the Tuichuang river. If the water way along this river is cleared and made serviceable for boats, it would be much useful for transportation of supplies. I do not find any provision in the budget for the purpose. I would like to ask this new Government to take steps for improvement of water transport system. The river Tuipui can also be cleared easily for boats. It will be much appreciated if Government takes action to improve this route. I have something to say something regarding demand No. 42, Weight and Measures. Almost half of the total number of scales used by Shopkeepers are not correct. It may be impossible to correct all of them but I hope a lot of can be done to improve the condition. Thank you.

PU VANLALNGENA

Mr. Spesker Sir, Supply is an important topic since Mizoram has a poor road communication while it solely depends upon foodstuff imported for outside. Even if transportation of rice is disrupted for a week, most of people have to starve. It is a pity that we don't have sufficient time for the discussion.

Appointment of retailers in villages is almost politicalised always resulting undesirable consequences. I would like to ask this Government to make selection of retailers on the basis of eligibility and capability instead of political affiliations. I know that previously there were many malpractices, but this is a time for reformation and restructuring. I would like to remind the Hon'ble Minister to bear in mind that we need sincere and capable retailers.

The buses we are now having are too crowded and the number of buses are far from meeting the requirement. What shall we do to improve the condition? Booking tickets is a big problem. If Government cannot provide more buses let arrangement be made for private buses to service. For Champhai four buses everyday will not meet the requirement of the people. Private buses are not allowed to run even then. Passengers have to board trucks even in adverse weather condition. It is necessary to give more permits for private buses. It is quite encouraging to give bus permits. The small fleet of private buses now running along some route greatly help the people. The number of private buses from Aizawl to Saitual has now been increased from one to three and the people are very happy about it. It is a high time to issue permits for private buses liberally, so that the problem of transportation can be minimised.

It is a pity that Government cannot control Taxi fare. In the whole world, the taxi fare in Mizoram, I think, is the highest. Government always fixed the rate but owners of taxi do not follow it, and Government can not do anything about it. If the owners of taxi fail to follow the rates fixed by Government let their permits be cancelled.

Shortage of K.Oil is very acute these days. Poor people mostly use K.Oil for cooking. The power supply is also very irregular. Steps should be taken for despatching more quality of K.Oil to rural areas. The people in village where there is no power supply live in total darkness.

In other states dealers of P.O.L. serve 24 hours while in Mizoram the working hour is about eight hours. On Sunday, petrol pump is closed which poses a big problem to the people. Sometimes P.O.L. is urgently needed. Sometimes there is a corpse to be carried to village at night. In such a situation, we are always in an awkward position since all petrol pumps are closed. In other states P.O.L. can be purchased even at midnight. It will be highly welcome if the petrol pumps in our states made to work 24 hours a day.

There is a provision of Rs. 54 lakhs for construction of Central workshops, Rs. 12 lakhs for purchase of buses, 75 lakhs for maintenance of vehicles, 60 lakhs for purchase of vehicles over and above expenditure for vehicles of Officers, as much as Rs. 421 lakhs is provided for purchase and maintenance of vehicles of Transport Department alone. As stated by Hon'ble members, the amount of fund allocated for the purpose is too much. We must find out a way to avoid the excessive expenditure. As you see, almost an acre of land in the Central workshops is occupied by discarded vehicles. All these vehicles were purchased with our money and this system requires to revision in order to avoid unnecessary expenditure.

There is an urgent need for improvement of the performances of the department of weight and measures to check use of inaccurate scale. When a butcher purchases a pork at an estimated cost of Rs. 25/- per Kg. he can resale the meat at the same price with a profit, say about Rs. 200/- three Kg. of pork at the market place actually weights about 2 1/2 Kgs. sometimes even less. K.Oil sold from IOC and ADC is sometimes found to be adulterated with water. The Weight and Measure Department has many tasks to do. Thank you.

PU P.C. ZORAMSANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, at demand no. 13 at page 70 - in respect of supply and Disposal, there is a provision of Rs.

308 lakhs for carrying charges of food. As pointed out by the Hon'ble member of Bikhawthlir constituency, 1 Kg. of rice purchase from Punjab or Haryana cost about Rs. 9 when it arrives Mizoram. Through the efforts made by Agriculture and irrigation Department many farmers can now make two harvest a year. So, a farmer which previously produced 80 tins of paddy can now produced 240 tins in places like Saiphai and Bihchangphai where there are suitable flat lands for agriculture. As suggested by the Hon'ble Member of Bikhawthlir Constituency, has government any intention to purchase paddy produce along the Mizoram-Cachar border at the rate of about Rs. 10/- per Kg. It will be a great achievement if Government could purchase paddy locally produced, which will also give incentives to farmers to produce more and more. It will be highly welcomed if the provision of fund under this head of account for purchase of locally produced paddy.

...178/-

The erstwhile Khawruhlian bus service has been now terminated due to some reasons. Chalfilh area produces a lot of vegetables. But the vegetables cannot be transported to Aizawl owing to the absence of bus service. The number of population of the area is large enough to have a bus service. Even if Government to make arrangement for private buses to ply along this route. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

S P E A K E R : Now we shall called Pu Hari Kristo to speak and no one is allowed to speak after that.

PU HARI KRISTO CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have something to say about Supply & Disposal at demand No.13, The problem of shortage of rice is probably most acute in my Constituency. At Tlabung godown, a small quantity of rice is now stocked. Now the BRTF is intending to start widening of Demagri road which will disrupt movement of vehicles. Under the Circumstances, it is quite necessary to stock rice in advance before the BRTF starts the work and before rainy seasons arrives. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister of Supply to make arrangement for transportation and stock of rice before monsoon begins.

In the previous years, carrying contractors did not like to carry rice as a result which the people faced a great problem. The Hon'ble Minister and the Department should find out the reasons for which they did not like to carry rice. Unless sufficient quantity of rice is stocked before monsoon begins, the people will be starved which will result in difficulties to maintain law and order on the part of Government.

I would like to say something about bus services. Hiring charges of vehicles at Chawngte is very high and people have to go on foot two or three days to reach Chawngte. The problem can be solved to a great extent if at least one bus is provided for the area. It will be a good idea if the Hon'ble Minister could make arrangement for the same.

Essential commodities like K. Oil edible oil and sugar are in short supply. The commodities were in sufficient supply during the Congress Ministry but now even MLAs cannot get their quotas. What is the reason, Mr. Speaker Sir? I shall be much grateful if Government could make arrangement to provide more quantity of essential commodities stated above.

Regarding demand No.14, Road and Water Transport, I would like to say that rice requires to be transported from Tuichawng to Chawngte from Chawngte to Parva, but there is no road communication. This problem can be solve if the waterways along Tuichawng river is cleared so that rice can be transported by boats. I request immediate action of Government to clear the blocked along Tuichawng and Sazuk rivers.

At present, there is a large amount of pending bills of carrying charges of rice at Chawngte. This poses a big problem to the contractor as well as to the people. It will be highly appreciated if Government has all these pending bills immediately cleared. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The Hon'ble Supply Minister shall now explain Questions raised by members and also ask the House to pass his Demands.

P U R. T L A N G M I N G T H A N G A : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to members for giving good advices and also for contributing informative speeches. I would like to ask them, even beyond this House to extend full co-operation to Government in materialising their suggestions.

I shall not be able to answer each and every question raised by members. However, if a member is interested to know anything, or to give advice to Government he may come to office and see me. Regarding shortage of rice in Mizoram, I would like to first of all like to pointed out that the FCI failed to supply the stipulated amount of rice to Mizoram and this is no doubt the main reason for the shortage of rice. Being aware of the situation, the Department of Supply ask the FCI at Calcutta and Delhi to expedite despatch of the rice to Mizoram over telephone and with W/T message and I hope that the request would soon be accede to.

The largest amount of subsidy is in respect of Transportation of rice. As certain amount has been allotted for carrying rice. Now a good quality iodised salt from TATA has been purchased and stocked in Mizoram which will soon be sold to the people.

Regarding purchase of Vehicles, particularly buses, it may be stated that after purchasing brand new chassis of ideal companies, the bodies are ordered to be constructed. After the construction of bodies are completed, they are carefully checked to see if the specifications laid down by Government are complied with only if the inspectors are entirely satisfied, the buses are delivered. It is learnt that the previously chassis made by Hindustan Motors are purchased due to non availability of those manufactured by TATA. These chassis are found to be less lasting. But this time, we are very fortunate that chassis manufactured by TATA are easily available. Now, as many as 19 buses are intended to be replaced with new ones.

Much has been said by Members about inaccurate scales used by Shopkeepers. The Department of weight and Measures is intending to do away with this practice once and for all. But shortage of Staff in the Department poses a big problem. At present there are only ten inspectors, while these inspectors are supposed to function in Divisions and Headquarters. Only two of them are posted in Mizawl. Being aware of the problem, one of the Inspectors are proposed to be

reverted to Aizawl to check wide spread malpractices in weighing and measuring. At the same time, Government is proposing to enhance the Department which, I hope, will soon succeed.

I would also like to inform this House that rice is being proposed to be despatched to Cherh-lun and Thingsai and I hope no more problem will present itself. Regarding clearance of outstanding bills of carrying charges, I would like to say that this week, pending bills amounting to Rs. 60 lakhs has been cleared, and all the rest will also be cleared soon.

From the point of view of Government, Bus service in some routes have been suspended due to lack of passengers. Government is also reluctant to introduce another new bus services. However, the Department has been taking steps to ascertain if there are adequate passengers for introduction of regular bus services. Members are expected to extend full co-operation to Government to improve bus services in Mizoram by making complaint against any short-termings.

Regarding a pile of condemned Vehicles at Central workshop, the central Government was consulted regarding their disposal. We have been instructed to dispose of the condemned vehicles through DGS&D. The DGS&D authority also requested to expedite disposing of the Vehicles but till today no action has been taken. I would like to tell the House that this new Government is very eager to dispose of all these condemned Vehicles.

Regarding selection of Retailers and carrying contractors to carry rice. Finance Department has a direct control over the expenditure. With the agreement of Finance Department tenderers who quote reasonable rates will be selected instead of those who quote the lowest rates.

Some members express fear that rice carried to Mizoram was diverted back to Silchar. This may be true to a certain extent. Sometimes Government employees who are working there purchased rice from Mizoram. However, Government is intending to see if there is any diversion of rice to Silchar. Here arises one problem again. A check gate will have to be made and a number of staff will be required to man it. To maintain round the clock duty it will require a lot of staff members. However, action is intended to be taken in this regard depending upon the amount of fund available for the purpose.

All the suggestions made and advices given by members were noted down. I hope you still have many advices to give to Government and I request members to give advices to Government which will be much welcome.

Water Transport is under the charge of PWD and I have not much to say as it is beyond my portfolio. Regarding shortage of bus services. I would like to say that if bus services along the main road are found too inadequate arrangement will be made for inducting private buses in the service. Government is intending to give permission to private buses to service along some route temporarily to be replaced with Government buses as soon as possible. To conclude I would like to say that Government will take steps on the light of the advices given by you as far as practicable.

I request the House to pass my Demands No. 13, 40, 42, For Rs. 28, 48, 27, 000/- in respect of Supply & Transport Department and Trade & Commerce Department. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now the Honorable Minister ask the House to pass his Demand Nos. 13, 40, 42, in respect of Supply & Disposals, Road and Water Transport, and Other Economic Services respectively amounting to Rs. 28, 48, 27, 000/- can we pass them? The demands are unanimously passed.

We have two items left for today. It is likely that we are sitting beyond the fixed working hour Members may please be prepared to sit as long as needed.

Now Pu H. Lalruata Minister i/c Agriculture etc. may move his demands.

PU H. LALRUATA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, With the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission Sir, I move demand nos. 30, 31, 33 for Rs. 8, 12, 25, 000/- for the year 1987 - 1988.

S P E A K E R : Let us begin discussion on the demands.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Mr. Speaker Sir, almost 90 percent of the population depends upon Agriculture and the expenditure incurred by the Department has been quite large. It is necessary to consider for what purposes the expenditure were incurred. Those who successfully practiced Agriculture in Mizoram are mostly those who do not receive any grants from Government. Now, Agriculture Department teaches the people that the present system of shifting agriculture is unprofitable and that permanent cultivation should be practiced instead. But the wet Rice cultivation we are now having are not properly looked after. I, therefore, wonder why the efforts made by the Educated in Agriculture are fruitless. We never receive any reports from the people of our constituency that the grants received from Agriculture Department greatly help them in producing more paddy. Here, the Agriculture Department alone is not to blame. There is something wrong somewhere Government should find out the stumbling block and also find out its remedies.

I would also like to say something concerning Soil Conservation Department at demand no. 31. This Department has recently been upgraded to a status of Directorate. In My constituency the performance of this Department deserved to be landed. Works done by this Department are to be seen every where. Many people produce more than sufficient quantity of paddy to support their families with the help of this Department through WFC etc. But in this Budget, there is one thing I do not understand.

At page 246 of the Budget book, under sub-head 203 Soil conservation scheme (Rural Area Development) a sum of Rs.34 lakhs has been allocated for materials and Supply. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to tell this House which materials are supplied.

Officers of Forest Department are all qualified persons. There are many IFS Officers working there. Probably because of this, the administration of the Department is running very smoothly. But I don't really understand how afforestation policy is being taken up. To me, this policy is meant for plantation of trees in barren lands, but forests are always cleared for plantation. It takes a long time for a newly planted tree to grow up. In areas beyond Tirial no afforestation seems necessary. Instead existing forest required to be preserved. Clearing existing forest for new plantation is meaningless. In the eastern parts of Mizoram, particularly in Sialka ridge, there are many good forests. If these forests are not properly preserved, I am afraid they would be cut down for plantation.

At page 270 of the budget book, it is seen that 187 lakhs of rupees is allocated for Wasteland development shown there and the amount at page 270 is as much as Rs.7,50,000/- I think those persons who prepared the budget are tired and sleepy that they cannot do addition correctly. Why is it that such irregularities in the amount of fund can occur? Wasteland Development and afforestation policies required to be revised. Shall we destroy all our natural forest first and then start developing it without developing wastelands? Most of the people depend upon Agriculture. If all forests are reserved, agriculture can not be done. And if all the forests are reserved by Forest Department from where shall we get our firewoods and building materials? Where shall we do agriculture? Government should have a clear cut policy so as to provide some forest for agriculture and so on.

Regarding protection of wildlives, I would like to say that those who are entrusted with the task of protecting wildlives carry arms for killing them. What shall be done to make the animals safe? How can we preserve wildlives while some people can kill them freely while others are find for killing the?

Now forests department is sowing the seeds of some trees like pine. Teak etc. I think it will be a good idea if the people are also advised to grow these trees. If Government alone grows trees. It can never be profitable to the people, and the distribution of profits will be uneven. Except forest reserved by Forests Department, lands should be given to individual for growing trees. If one has no right to fell a tree standing near his House, and if one feels that the tree attracts thunderbolts, are would be in an awkward position. It will be highly appreciated if Government curbs the power of Forest Departments in this particular matter. It will be most unfortunate if the Department which is expected to bring about proper utilisation of natural wealth poses a big problem to the people. Thank you.

PU LIANSUAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, there is a vast difference between the budget and the emphasis laid upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister for development improvement of Agriculture for self sufficiency. The Hon'ble Rural Minister stated that importance would be attached to agriculture. Yet the provision of fund allotted for Agriculture is unfortunately too small. How can we do permanent cultivation with such a small amount of fund which is Rs.1,52,000/- more than that of last year. In respect of Soil Conservation too, the amount of fund allotted this year is Rs.7,42,000/- more than that of last year. The Budget fails to indicated the policy which the MNF party promised to follow.

In agriculture, while as much as Rs.58,31,000/- is allocated for vehicles alone. I don't see any allotment of fund for the upliffment of our cultivators. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to show me where the allotment of fund was made. I am dissatisfied to note that every small amount of fund has been allocated in plan side in respect of agriculture while the amount of fund increases from 59.50 crores last year to Rs.70 crores this year. The case is the same in respect of Soil Conservation also. I would like to advice the Hon'ble Minister in advance attach more importance to development departments like Agriculture and Soil Department and to allot funds for these Departments in the R.E stage.

In respect of Soil Conservation Department. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to clarify for what purposes the sum of Rs.70,00,000/- Rs.17,80,000/- and Rs.34,40,000/- allotted against "Rural Area Development", "Minor works" and "Maintenance", "Material and Supply" at page 246 of the Budget book are meant. Further, I would also like to know for what purposes a sum of Rs.37 lakhs allotted against a sub-head "minor works" under major head "village Grouping Centre Development" is meant. I shall be much grateful if the Hon'ble Minister could show me where a sum of Rs.70 lakhs stated by the Hon'ble Finance Minister to have been allotted for continuation of Land Use Policy is reflected.

The amount of fund in Plan Side this year in respect of Forest Department at demand No.33 is less by Rs.68.70 lakhs than that of last year. While the total budget amount increases by Rs.299 crores this year, there occurs a shortfall in the amount of funds allotted in respect of development department, this year. It would be highly appreciated if the Hon'ble Minister could clarify the reasons why this shortfall occurs.

A sum of Rs.51,13,000/- has been allocated in respect of Forest Communication and Buildings. To me, Forest Department does not require another buildings. There are many good forest Rest House all over the State which are of very little use to the common public. Meanwhile the school buildings are in a dilapidated condition, shared by pigs at night and Children at day time. I insist upon recat of plan to attach more importance to school buildings otherwise there is no wisdom of this plan.

The amount of fund allotted for Wasteland Development decreases this year. However, I would like to know which wastelands Forests Department has developed Forest along the main road, as we all see, have been cleared for plantation but I have not seen any waste land developed. In this connection I would like to point out once again that a dense forest near Phuldungsei has been greatly devastated by non-Mizo mahals. If these mahals have permissions, Government of Mizoram should receive royalty.

I am very happy to note that as much as Rs.10,00,000/- is allotted for Environmental protection. I wonder how the fund is proposed to be utilised. I am afraid it would be utilised for devastation of existing forests. I shall be much grateful if the Hon'ble Minister could explain the purposes meant to be served by Government through "Environmental Protection", and the reasons why so much money is required for the policy, Thank you.

PU VANLALNGENA : Mr. Speaker Sir, an enormous sum of money has been spent for development and modernisation of agriculture in Mizoram over since it became a U.T. Last year also as much as Rs.500 lakhs had been obviously there is something wrong somewhere. How enormous would be the total of expenditure for the Department of Soil and Agriculture for the last 15 years, But the position of Cultivators everywhere remains the same. Whose fault is this Government or Cultivators themselves? The functions of these two unsuccessful departments are almost the same. There is necessity to bifurcate the department. The function of the two Departments can be performed by a single department. This Government must devise a new strategy for the upliftment of the Poor cultivators.

The main functions of Forests Department at present is devastation of forest. Cultivators are driven out of fertile lands. The present tendency requires immediate reversion. For example, in Saitual areas, a large plot of land very suitable for agriculture has been handed over to forest Department. Agriculture will not be able to be practised for about 100 to 200 years. An intention to make plantation in arable lands, linked with road communication on the part of forest Department deprives the people of suitable lands for doing agriculture.

Let the Department develop deforested lands for there is sufficient amount of funds. At the present practice, about fifty trees requires to be felled to cleared a spot for plantation of one tree.

S P E A K E R : Wait a minute please. It is now 4 o'clock. Shall we go on till we finish this item? Well we shall have tea at 5.00PM in Committee Room.

PU S. HIATD

Mr. Speaker Sir, there is something vague in the district wise distribution of budget funds. It is impossible to know the exact amount of funds allocated for the department of Agriculture, Forest and Soil in respect of Lunglei and Chhimituipui districts. When the Prime Minister visited Saiha, he promise that there would be a separate allocation of funds for Lunglei and Chhimituipui Districts but it now appears that there are many loopholes for division of funds. In respect of PWD a separate allocation of funds is made for Saiha, Kawrthah and Mamit division. I would therefore insist upon making of separate allocation of funds even for the Agriculture, Soil and Forest Department too.

I would like convey my thanks to Government for opening of Agriculture Sub-Division at Tui pang. At the same time I would like to point out some problems we have been facing. Seeds of various crops supplied to grower have never been recieved in growing season. Much quantity of potato seeds supplied are, therefore, always sold in the market. Orange seedlings are always recieved after they are completely dried up. I request that henceforth seeds be supplied in-time. At the same time, I would like to ask Government to take steps to control poisoning of birds with a kind of poison supplied by Government.

Regarding giving of assistance for WRC, it may be pointed out that many recipients of the assistance do not have any WRC at all. If Officers are deputed to conduct an on-the-spot verification before making selection to recieve assistance from Government and if the deserved recieve the assistance, agriculture will greatly improve.

As already stated earlier, we have Falak and Salak plains which can provide good agricultural lands for about one thousands families. The last congress Ministry made a project under NEC and each family was given an assistance of Rs.3,000/- as a result of which the annual product of rice became 1000, 1500, 1700 tins per family. But there is no market to sell the surplus products and many families were disgrintled. If those areas fully developed. I think they can yield sufficient quantity of paddy for the whole of Mizoram.

Since there is no Soil Division at Saiha, work cannot be carried out effectively. It will be highly appreciated if Government take steps to open a new Division of Soil Department at Saiha.

The natural forest also require protection. We are facing shortage of firwood shortly and there Forest will have to be cut down for firewood. The only possible means of preserving these forest is perhaps plantation of trees for firewood. I would like to ask Government to take steps in t this regard. Or introduction of cooking gas will greatly haelp in protecting forests. It will be highly appreciated if Government take steps to have gas agency appointed for the area.

To conclude, I would once again ask Government to take steps for the development of Falak Project. Thank you.

PU R. LALAWIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the speech of the Hon'ble member from Suangpuilawn Constituency regarding obvious misappropriation of funds by Government meant for modernisation of agriculture makes me much grateful. From the speeches of members of ruling as well as opposition party, it transpires that the people are greatly frustrated and also that there is a great deal of misappropriation of funds on the part of Government. What I am much worried about is the fact that in the field of agriculture, Government seems to pay much more attention to the Western parts of Mizoram than it does to the Eastern parts. Owners of wet rice cultivation in the western parts mainly engage non-Mizo labourers and one fourth of the total production goes to the owners, the next being transported outside Mizoram. As a result, rice produces in these fields does very little to minimise the requirement of the people. Therefore, the need of the hour is how to check the outflow of rice produced in Mizoram to another state. But in the eastern parts of Mizoram, Mizos work in the paddy field and the products also goes to Mizo families. I would like to reiterate that eastern part of Mizoram is neglected in Agriculture. We are prepared our level best to produce as much rice as possible in our region but our cultivators have never received any assistances from Government.

I would like to make one suggestion of 15 metres of land on both sides of the road is reserved by Forest Department it will greatly help in beautifying and making our land pleasant to live. This will also save a lot of money wasted for plantation of trees along the road.

Lastly, in some areas, the performance of Soil Department are laudable. But in our areas, the Departments performance is not to be seen at all. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to remember our areas. Thank you.

PU K. L. LIANCHIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we have been discussing about the inability to make progress by Agriculture and Forest Department. But this is merely an exposition of one's own shame. If we carefully study our budget, in respect of demand No. 30 Agriculture, 31 Soil and 33 Forest Department, there is an allotment of fund of Rs. 52,00,00,045/- Rs. 19,00,00,020/- and Rs. 24,00,00,000/- respectively for "Motor Vehicle and Maintenance" which is quite enormous. Other Department are not exceptional. It is true that vehicles are required for proper functioning of Government department, but at the same time it has undesirable effects on the other.

Let me proceed to 'Agriculture Marketing' at page 237. A colossal amount is allotted for pay & allowances, LTC Traveling expences, Office expences etc. If we deduct this amount from the total amount, there is a small amount left for the main purpose. In agriculture sector also, there would not have any plot of land left unterraced on there could not been a market for sale of orange and one would eat as many oranges as one likes tree of cost. But now, every one knows the wide gap between the reality and the records.

But now, Mizoram attains the highest status under Indian Union, we should take care to make the best and most economical use of our resources. We are expecting to have a much different budget but the tendency is almost the same. The fact that an enormous sum of money is allotted for vehicles, office expenses etc. and there are still many government vehicles running in the street in holidays and sundays make me a little uneasy. Even if Government has no time to make substantial alteration in the procedure of budget, steps may be taken in future for diversion of excess funds for other useful purpose.

In years gone by development is what our politicians said and not did. Now that Mizoram became a full fledged State, the highest status second only to sovereignty. I request government to set an example in practically bringing about development. Let us cut all unnecessary allotment of fund which was always wasted for luxury and pleasure. I hope the time will come for proper utilisation of the funds we have. However, we are not in a position a substantial change at a time. and I would like to express my support to the demands for passing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, when I compare the utilisation of fund allotted against demand No. 30, 31, 33 in the year 1985 - 86, 86 - 87 with the scheme envisaged this year by the Hon'ble Minister, the schemes worked out to be taken up make me much grateful.

Regarding Agriculture, I would like to say that people in the eastern parts of Mizoram are hard working which is testified by the fact that almost every family in villages hardly linked with jeep roads can afford a tin roofed house with tile.

When I heard about the achievements of Agriculture, Soil and Forest Department in the Western parts of Mizoram. I cannot help speaking about the condition of the Eastern parts. I am disappointed to note that no provision of fund is made for the development of many large plots of land suitable for Agriculture like the ones along the banks of Tiau, Tuipui, Vanva and Tuitlaw rivers from where rice more than sufficient to feed the people of the area can easily be produced. If irrigation is done with pumping machines, three-fourths of the area can irrigated. While only one-fourth of the area now under cultivation can produce about 10,000 tons of paddy every year three-fourths of the total area will be able to produce much more than sufficient to feed the people of Khaubung Constituency. It would be of great benefits if the Hon'ble Minister take steps in this regard.

In my constituency, there are also many works to do for Forest and Soil Departments. I hope that Government would not neglect the area. I also received reports that due to adverse weather, the people could not do clearing of the jungles for cultivation. I would like to ask Supply Department in advance not to neglect the people of the area in providing them with rice when required.

To conclude, I would like to say that even though there is no allotment of fund in the budget, I do hope that someday the area which I mentioned earlier would be irrigated with the help of pumping machines which would enable the people of the area to produce more than sufficient paddy. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We shall now call Pu P.C.Zoramsangliana and next Pu Vanlalhruai. Lets try to finish our business before tea time.

PU P.C.ZDRAMSANGLIANA : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I shall start with what I have stated during the discussion of the speech of Hon'ble Finance Minister i.e. Maintenance of Vehicles . I cannot understand why such a large amount of money is allocated for maintenance of vehicles. In respect of Agriculture Department alone, a sum of Rs.33,00,000/- is allocated for maintenance of vehicles and Rs.25,00,000.15 for other charges the purpose of which is not indicated at all. Instead of wasting such enormous sum of money for maintenance and repair of vehicles, It would be much more beneficial to the Government and the Department if brand new vehicles are purchased.

Similarly, in respect of Soil Department a sum of Rs.4,30,000.00 is allotted for maintenance of vehicles and Rs.17,10,000.00 for other charges. A certain number of new vehicles can be purchased with the fund allotted for maintenance of vehicles , In respect of Demands No.30,31,33, the total amount of fund allotted for other charges comes to the tune of Rs.35.15 lakhs and for maintenance of vehicles, Rs.57 lakhs . It is obviously that these funds would not be utilised for correct purposes.

I hope agriculture department will greatly improve its achievement from the improvement it made during the past two years through irrigation Department. But a sum of only Rs.173 lakhs has been allocated in respect of the Department which is doing a premier work in modernising and improvement our agriculture. With the help of this Department farmers will be able to reap two harvest a year. While there is a total allotment of Rs.7,50,85,000.00 for Agriculture Department , Only Rs.173 lakhs has been allotted for Irrigation Department . This makes me much disgruntled. I shall be much grateful if the Hon'ble Minister could find ways to allot more funds for the Department of irrigation in the RE stage . Thank you.

PU VANLALHRUAI : Mr. Speaker Sir, some years back, plots of lands along the Mizoram Assam boundary had been allotted to Ex-Servicemen for wet rice cultivation. Recently, non-Mizo labourers working in the paddy field who came from Bangladesh were driven back. The area is very suitable for wet rice cultivation . If it is fully developed, it can be a granary of Mizoram. It would be of great benefit if Government opens Sub-Division to look after the areas.

Soil Department constructed canal at Buhchangphai but only well known people derive more benefit out of it leaving behind poor cultivators. If the canal is properly utilised, it would help in yielding more paddy.

In Mizoram, Aizawl constituency has the best forests. Timbers for construction of Truck bodies are procured from these forests. But there are a great deal of pilferages of timbers have been smuggled outside Mizoram along the rivers. In order to prevent these pilferages it is necessary to open Forest Divisional Headquarters at Tuichbung, Serlui and Tuirial.

As a result of intensive plantation in Vairengte area, there is not a plot of land even for cultivation or house site. I wonder which is more valuable, human being or teak, there are many families without house sites. It would be highly appreciated if the Hon'ble Forest Minister could take steps to redress the grievances of the people of Vairengte.

PU VANLALNGHAKA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask one thing for answer by the Hon'ble Minister when winding up the discussion. Against demand No. 30 at page 234 (of the Budget book) there was an allotment of Rs. 19.5 lakhs and this year there is only Rs. 10,000.00 will jhum control policy be abandoned ?

The amount of fund allotted for village grazing ground is also not satisfactory. In respect of Forest Department the total amount of fund is less than that of last year by about Rs. 170 lakhs. I would like to know the reason.

S P E A K E R : Now, we shall call the Minister in-charge to wind up the discussion and also to ask the House to pass his demands.

PU F. LALRAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have something to ask for answer by the Minister. The previous government tried to evict those who settled within Ngangui Forest Reserve. What action will this Government take ? Will it settle them permanently or evict them ?

PU H. LALRUATA : Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all I would like to thank members for their invaluable contributions in the discussions of demands no. 30, 31, 33. The three departments, Agriculture, Forest and Soil are very important for the development of our state. This Government will take steps for development through these departments.

In order to keep up the dignity of the people, the first necessity is self-sufficiency in food. We have some materials like vehicles and buildings in abundance. If the vehicles we have are not utilised for taking steps towards self-sufficiency, or if they are used just for pleasure, of the Mizo Community will be degraded. Now I have been placed in charge of Agriculture, Soil and Forest Department. I would like to solicit the full co-operation of members and the people in my endeavour to take steps towards self-sufficiency. ... 190/-

The reason why a large amount of fund is allocated for vehicles is because various departments intend to purchase new vehicles. For example Agriculture Department intends to purchase 15 trucks, 8 jeeps and 2 Trucks and for this a sum of Rs. 21.25 lakhs is allotted. Moreover, a certain amount of fund is required for maintenance of the vehicles already owned by the Department. These vehicles are required for the working of the Department.

There are some new schemes chalked out by this Government. For example, in respect of Forest, Government intends to open Research Division at Aizawl and a new Division at Saiha. There is also an intention to recruit additional Protection Force personnel. Protection scouts were sent to forests where pilferages of timbers are reported to occur.

In respect of Agriculture, Kolasib is intended to be made District Headquarters and new subdivisions are intended to be opened at Lokicherra and Vairengte. Soil Department also intends to take up gigantic scheme at Chalfih Tlang and various parts of Mizoram.

To conclude, I would ask the House to pass my demands No. 30, 31 and 33 for Rs. 18,12,20,000.00/-.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not specifically answered my questions that for what purposes are Rs. 70 lakhs allotted against 'Rural Area Development' at page 247, Rs. 37 lakhs allotted against 'Village Group Development' Under Soil Department and Rs. 100 lakhs allotted against 'Environment Protection' are meant for.

PU VANLALNGIENA : Mr Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Minister gave wrong information to the House. The total amount of fund allotted for maintenance and purchase of vehicles is Rs. 55 lakhs.

Mr. H. LALRUATA : Mr Speaker Sir, a sum of Rs. 37 lakhs allotted against 'Village Grouping Centre Development' at page 247 is intended to be utilised for irrigable terracing and Grazing irrigation of grass. The rest will be answered afterwards in writing.

S P E A K E R : Do you agree to pass demand Nos. 30, 31 and 33 in respect of Agriculture Rs. 750,85,000.00 Soil Conservation Rs. 338,00,000.00 and Forest Rs. 763,40,000.00 respectively amounting to Rs. 1812,25,000.00 moved by the Hon'ble Minister? The demand are passed.

We have another item left, i.e. Industries Department. Now let's have a cup of tea at Committee Room.

(Tea Break 30 mins)
5:00 - 5:30 P.M.

S P E A K E R : Now, we shall call Pu Ngurchhina Minister i/o Industries & Rural Development to move demands No. 35, 38 for Rs. 7,42,30,000.00/- in respect of various department under his charge.

PU L. NGURCHHINA MINISTER : Mr Speaker Sir, with the recommendation of the Government and with your permission Sir, I move demands No. 35 & 38 for Rs. 7,42,30,000.00 for passing by this House.

S P E A K E R : Now that the Hon'ble Minister moved his demands, Pu Zosiama Pachuau will open the discussion.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Mr Speaker Sir, Rural Development Department was previously known as Community Development Department. For years to come, I feel it necessary to point out steps taken by the Government's gone by which are not of much beneficial to the people.

While the department is Rural Development Department, most of the funds allotted for the Department was always utilised for urban areas. For example, a lot of money out of this Department's fund was utilised for construction of Aizawl-Zemabauk road. I would suggest that henceforth funds allotted for Rural Development Department be utilised for rural areas so that local people can find a means of earning a livelihood.

These funds may be utilised for construction of jeep roads in rural areas under RLGP. At the same time, the local people should clearly be apprised of the meaning of RLGP. Awarding contract works to Government officers or some politicians should be strictly avoided under this scheme.

The implementation of New Land Use Policy is not quite satisfactory. The reason is because the selection of recipients of grants under the scheme is always made party wise. I want the Hon'ble Minister to take note this. Similar is the case of IRDP which is chalked out by Central Government for the upliftment of the poor peasants. It would be a good idea if committees are reconstituted comprising members from various political parties, V/C, YMA, MHIP etc. to select the deserved to get grants under the scheme as did by the P.C. Ministry.

Certain materials are also sold by the Department at a subsidised rate. Previously, the people of urban areas are more benefitted than the people of rural areas. For example, while the people of Lunglei, Ngasa and Suangpuilawn constituency where there is no electricity supply, are badly in need of petrol, the same was always given to relations of some people living in Aizawl.

Industry is developing gradually and the demand is also quite high and funds allotted for the department is quite enormous. What I would like to point out is that if the Ginger Dehydration plan properly functions, the price of ginger can never be so low. The Minister concerned and even the Chief Minister should find out the problem which hinder the

the improvement of this plan and also find solution. Ginger is thriving in Mizoram and if the Dehydration plan properly functions, the Department of Agriculture and Industry will boast of their respective performances and the people will get the benefit.

Industry department is giving subsidies to outstanding industrialist. Are these industries supposed to sell their products at a lower rate? For example, supposing a jeep hood costs Rs.650/- in a market, an industry which receives central or state subsidy should sell the same at a lower rate, Hotels getting central subsidy also should sell a cup of tea at 40 or 30 paise. If our industries are not utilised for the uplift of the people, there will be a sharp division of class among the people. The poor will be poor forever and the rich will become richer and richer. Thank you.

PU LIANSUAMA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding demand no.35, it may be stated that all members are well aware that while Mizoram was a Union Territory, there is a limit in improving the Department of Rural Development. Out of the total expenditure of Rs.4,35,66,000/- last year most of it was utilised without the knowledge of Director. The Department could not be enhanced because creation of post was banned by Central government while Mizoram was a Union Territory. It is quite fortunate that Mizoram has been upgraded to the Status of Statehood, and all the problems were gone. In order to uplift of the poor peasants in villages, Rural Development Department requires to be overhauled. I think the Hon'ble Minister is aware that previously there was a proposal to enhance the department to the extent of making the post of director and IAS cadre post. I am confident that if this Government implements the proposals with necessary modification, it will go a long way in uplifting the people. I would also like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to give priority to the implementation of the proposals.

I would like to make one suggestion. A sum of Rs.1,56,00,000/- received from the Central Rural Development Ministry for water supply to problem villages goes to PHE Department for utilisation. If the fund goes to the same department in Mizoram, it would do much more work. If I am not mistaken the fund received from Central government has not yet been utilised by PHE department. The Department is busy enough with the works of Aizawl water supply Augmentation scheme. Under the circumstances I like to suggest that no additional task be not given to the department and that this work be entrusted to Rural Development Department.

I have not much to say concerning Industry Department. What I would like to say is that the increase in the allotment of fund in respect of Industries Department by only Rs.3,00,000/- is far from satisfactory. I think our budget has prepared in a haphazard manner because it does not at all conform to what you promised to the people. I think the demands of various Ministers are prepared against their will or expectations. I therefore suggest recasting of the whole budget.

Regarding welfare of the staff of Industries department mention may be made that there has been a stagnation in the promotion to higher posts. At present there are many people in the level of Extension Officers awaiting promotion to higher posts. For development of Industries, it is necessary that the staff should have incentive to the performance of its duty. In order to give incentive to members of the staff, creation of posts is a must. Now there is no problem in creation of posts and I think the Department has already been contemplating on the subject. Further, it will be quite gratifying if Government takes steps to urge Central Government to expedite sanctioning of creation of District Industries Centre in Chhimitupui Sponsored Scheme.

I would like to say one more thing regarding Central Subsidy. Subsidy is always awarded to Hotels which exist only in name. This kind of Subsidy is to have a limit someday and I am afraid this kind of practice would create an obstacle to the deserved industrialists of the generation to come. While I was a Minister i/c Industries Department, I found out that one hotel I had never known was awarded Central Subsidy. After enquiry, it was found out that the Hotel happened to be a good building to a Government Officer. From my experiences, I am certain that such cases will continue to present themselves in future too. I therefore would like to advise the Hon'ble Minister to take utmost care in awarding Central Subsidy lest a door should be closed for industrialist to come. Thank you.

PU F. LALRAMLIANA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to clarify if District Industries Centre has been opened at Saiha. Members of Co-ordination Committee have already been appointed. Vide Government Notification dated 20 November 1986, District Level Industrial Loan Advisory Board has been constituted for Chhimitupui District. Among non-official members of the Committee, persons like Pu Lalthana of Saiha, President Mizo Industry Association, Chhimitupui District, Pu Tammalinga, Pu B.B. Chakma, of Chaungto and Pu Lianhranga's father are non-existent. B. Sangchem Ex-MDC Lawngtlai is also non-existent. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to clarify as to why names of persons have been altered. Thank you.

PU VANLALNGHAKA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, while a sum of Rs. 7,23,00,000/- is allotted for Forest Department, only Rs. 1,87,00,000/- is allotted for construction of jeep roads and under the head " Social Education " a sum of Rs. 61,00,000/- is allotted for minor works which is required to be utilised for construction of community Halls, water fountains etc. rural areas. The fund allotted for rural Development is too meagre while as much as Rs. 5,00,000/- and Rs. 11,00,000/- are allotted for travelling expenses and Housing for Project Staff respectively the latter being much more than the amount of fund allotted for construction of jeep roads. A sum of Rs. 4,00,000/- is allotted for Health and Sanitation which is also too meagre. Our budget is not at all rural oriented.

Allotment of fund for Industry is also not rural-oriented. For Development of Rural Industry, a sum of Rs.19,00,000/- only is allotted and for Pfomotion / Development of Khadi and Village Industries, a sum of Rs.28,00,000/- is allotted. Our budget is a stumbling block to the progress of the people of rural areas. Meanwhilo, as much a Rs.31,00,000/- is allotted for vehicles. This cannot be justified as there are at present too many vehicles and expenditure for their maintenance is also too high. It is quite a shame that the amount of fund allotted for vehicles is four times more than the amount allotted for construction of jeep roads. Out of the total amount of Rs.5,54,00,000/- allotted for Industries Department, the amount of fund allotted for loans and Small Scale Industries is Rs.20,00,000/- only. The people have too small a share in the Budget. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now the Minister i/c will wound up the discussion and also will ask the H ouse to pass the demands.

PU L. NGURCHHINA : Mr. Speaker Sir, let me first explain MINISTER the point raised by the Hon'ble member Pu Liansuama regarding generating employment to the people in the works of construction of roads. It is the Centre's instruction that 50% of the work should be done by the local people while 50% should be contributed by Government. Since the reception of this Government this instruction has been followed.

A State level committee has been constituted to look after all the centrally sponsored schemes and also to chalk out programmes for the implementation. Action will be taken on the basis of the recomendation of this committee.

The Ginger dehydration plan at Sairang is not so large that it is not capable of consuming all the ginger products in Mizoram. Power Inspector or Assistant Inspector is being asked from Government to come to Mizoram on deputation but we have not yet recieved any reply. Recently I have sent a D.D. letter to the Minister i/c. and I think we shall recieve reply ahortly.

Regarding the point raised by Pu Zosi-ama Pachuau, Government will look into the feasibility or otherwise of making the rates of articles sold by industries which recieved Central Subsidy lower than that of other industries.

The Statement of Hon'ble Member of Suangpuilawb constituency that the budget amount is too small is true. In many places, there are only taken provisions to facilitate drawal of grants recieved from Central Government have been reflected and as such the amount is very small. His contention that a funds allotted for vehicles is too much may be true. In any case, I would like to assure him that there will be no excess expenditure.

To the best of my Knowledge no contract work has ever been awarded to any individuals under NREP and RLGP. I never received any report of such thing done before. Recipients of grants under IRDP are selected by V/Cs and Village Development Committee. I know that there are some complaints. Government is intending to look into the matter.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, Since when did the Village Development Committee select recipients of grants? The previous Government dissolved all such committee. Has Government issued notification for reconstitution of the committees.

PU L. NGURCHHINA : Mr. Speaker Sir, what I mean to say is that previously selection of recipients of grants was made by V/Cs & Village Development Committee. Mode of selection of recipients under NLIP is being revised by Government. Verification of those already selected is underway. Regarding industry, anyone who likes information may enquire the Department in writing. I hope the House will pass my demands. Thank you.

PU F. LALRAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the points I have raised have not been clarified.

PU L. NGURCHHINA : Mr. Speaker Sir, sanction has been made for opening of DIC at Saiha. Just now I have told the Department to process the promotion of staff, and I hope it will soon be finalised. Regarding appointment of members of loan Board, the name of Lalchhana is, I think a typing mistake. The correct one is Pu Lalchhawa. I guess Pu Liangsanga's father is to be corrected as Pu Rala MDC. I am not certain at present. However, it will be looked into.

S P E A K E R : It is now 6 : 14 PM. The Hon'ble Minister has now asked the House to pass Demands No. 35 for Rs. - ₹, 97,70,000/- in respect of Rural Development and Rs. 5,54,60,000/- in respect of Industries Department totalling Rs. 7,42,30,000/-. Those who are agree to pass may say "agree". Okay, the Demands are unanimously passed. The House is Adjourned till 10 : 30 AM tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned.
6 : 15 P.M.

L.C.Thanga
Secretary.

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