

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST MIZORAM STATE LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY FROM 16TH AUGUST TO 22ND AUGUST, 1988

4th Sitting on Friday, August 19th 1988

PRESENT

Pu J.Thanghuama, Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister,  
11 Ministers and 23 Members were present.

I

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

QUESTIONS

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

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Pu R. Lalawia, Chairman, Committee on Estimates to present  
to the  
Public Health Engineering Department Part I.

II.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS RESOLUTION

(a) Pu Vanlalnghaka to move -

"This Assembly resolves that the Mizoram Pharmacy  
Council be constituted under the Pharmacy Act, 1948  
(Extension to Mizoram) Bill be legislated in the  
next session of the Assembly".

(b) Pu Zosiama Pachuau |  
Pu K.L.Lianchia | to move -

"This Assembly is of the opinion that as provided by  
Article 170(i) of the Constitution of India the Legis-  
lative Assembly of the State of Mizoram shall consist  
of not less than sixty members chosen by direct elec-  
tion from territorial the State".

S P E A K E R : "He who is greedy for unjust gain makes  
trouble for his household, but he who  
hates bribes will live. The mind of  
the righteous ponders how to answer,  
but the mouth of the wicked pours out  
evil things".

Proverbs 15:27-28

Question No. 44 Pu K.L.Lianchia.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Education and Human Resources Department be pleased to state -

Is it a fact that the Government of Mizoram has issued an order banning the use of School building for ZORO public meeting ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, a notification was issued prohibiting the use of School buildings for ZORO meetings.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question. Why has the Government prohibited the use of School buildings ?

PU R. LALAVIA : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question. Is there an order permitting the use of School buildings for other political parties ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I am not aware of such an order. ZORO is a organisation and its target is unification beyond International boundary lines. As such, it is not appropriate that our Educational Institutions should be used for propagating anti-national policies.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, how can the Hon'ble Minister say that it is a militant organisation ? Let him clarify how and why he calls it a Militant Organisation.

PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, to wear uniforms, badges and parading is militant.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, does wearing uniform in itself mean militant ? Can the Salvation Army who wear uniforms be called militant ? Does it mean that they have arms ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, ZORO is militant in the sense that Badges of Rank are worn. They have a General and they march (parade) as done in the army. Their target is beyond International border and is anti-national. We therefore do not think it right that they should use our Educational Institutions for their purposes.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question. It can never be termed as Militant. Such accusations are not to be made. If it is against the law, why don't you ban it? You may even apprehend us. How and why is it against the law? (anti-national) If peaceful means are used to unify all Mizos from across International Boundaries there is no harm in it. To speak the truth, is it not why you yourself did before? Pu Speaker, please clarify how it is against the law?

PU H.HRANGBAWLA : Pu Speaker, Zoro appears to be very dangerous. The Hon'ble Member from Suangpuilawn alleged that - 74 members of P.C. Party left their party because they were afraid. Is it true that they were really afraid and left, Pu Speaker?

S P E A K E R : That is enough.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, I shall not sit until I hear the answer.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Pu Speaker, the Salvation Army also crosses International borders. (P.C.Zoramangliana : Pu Speaker, let us not involve the church) Whatever it may be, we have not succeeded with arms, so we are now trying peaceful means. We are going to work it out within the frame work of the Indian Constitution. Should we not fear corruption more than these things?

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, we would be pleased if you tell us how and why it is against the law?

PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, it unification beyond international border is not done by agreement, then it is illegal this question has been raised in Parliament and the Home Minister has stated his disapproval.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, the Home Minister only stated that they are closely studying the Champhai convention where many delegates came from Burma. There is nothing anti-national about our movements. If it is anti-national why has the Government taken no action?

PU P.C.ZORAMSANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, is it not illegal that 50 delegates should come to attend the Champhai convention?

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, the Centre is also aware of it and they have not given it any importance. Their coming is not our doing. You can also come and participate. There is nothing wrong in that, (Speaker - let it be enough) No it is not enough.

S P E A K E R : One question has taken up 13 minutes. Question No. 45, Pu K. Vanlalauva. (K.L.Lianchia - Long live ZORO).

PU K.VANLALAUVA : Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Home Department be pleased to state -  
"Whether Kalu Asman Gurung, main accused in connection the murder of Aisavunga of Far-kawn has jumped bail, If yes, what action has been taken against the persons responsible for jumping and the bailors? (Aisavunga was murdered in 1974)".

PU LALDENGA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, yes, but he has since been re-arrested.

S P E A K E R : Question No. 46 Pu Liansuama.

PU LIANSUAMA : Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Finance Department be pleased to state -

How many Departments failed to utilise their Budget (1987-88) ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, yes, 24 Departments did not use up their Budget.

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question. Will we be able to utilise the money in the new year? Can the Hon'ble Minister please tell us the Department/Heads who have failed to utilise their funds in full.

PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the fund will go to the State so there is nothing to lose. The Head-wise list is as follows :-

HEAD

ACCOUNT OF FUND UN-UTILISED

- 1. Land Revenue - Rs. 40,200/-
- 2. Other Fiscal Services. - Rs. 1,000/- (From Non-Plan)
- 3. Police - Rs. 33 lakhs and Rs. 35,562/- (From Non-Plan)

4. Civil Supply - Rs. 13 lakhs and Rs. 863/- (From Non-Plan)
5. Food storage and Wire Housing - Rs. 20 lakhs and Rs. 34,823/- (From Non-Plan)
6. Supplies & Disposal - Rs. 18 lakhs and Rs. 47,232/- (From Non-Plan)
7. Other Administrative Services - Rs. 5,15,77,767/- (From Non-Plan)
8. Water Supply and Sanitation - Rs. 10,00,000/- (From Plan)
9. Housing
10. Urban Development - Rs. 52,567 From Plan and From Non-Plan
11. Social Security and Welfare - Rs. 29,79,439/- (From Non-Plan)
12. Laws and Social Welfare - Rs. 2,00,000/- (From Non-Plan)
13. Crop Husbandry - Rs. 3,14,000/- (From Centrally Sponsored Scheme)
14. Co-operation - Rs. 3,902/- (From Non-Plan)
15. (?) to Co-operation - Rs. 13,902/- (From Centrally Sponsored Scheme)
16. Rural Development - Rs. 33,998/-  
Rs. 22,28,574/- From Centrally Sponsored Scheme)
17. Other Rural Development - Rs. 3,30,000/- (From Non-Plan)
18. Village and Small Industries (Sericulture) - Rs. 75,724/- (From Plan) and Rs. 62,323/- (From Non-Plan)
19. Taxes on Vehicle - Rs. 1,59,706/- (From Plan)
20. Road Transport - Rs. 3,30,800/- (From Non-Plan)
21. Census Agriculture - Rs. 3,17,300/- (From Centrally Sponsored Scheme)
22. Other Administrative Services - Rs. 2,61,947/- (From State Lottery)
23. Anti-corrupcion - Rs. 1,14,309/-
24. Fire Service Organisation - Rs. 12,67,024/-
25. General Administration Department - Rs. 4,99,34,487/-

That is all.

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question please. The Budget passed this session (Plan and Non-Plan) was Rs. 332 crores or more. Does it mean that we will be able to utilise the surrendered money apart from this year's budget? Will they be under the same Heads?

PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, these have been forwarded and will be utilised this year.

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, is it not Rs. 332 crores plus the surrendered money?

- PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, it is already added in the amount Rs. 532 crores.
- PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, only one more question please. Surrendered money is always a stumbling block to the increment of our Budget every year. What steps has the Government taken to ensure that each Department utilises its allocation every year ?
- PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the Government wants every Department to utilise their allocations and instructions have also been made there to. However, various problems such as Recruitment, and hampered Development Programmes etc. have been the reason for surrendering funds. The Government has urged the Departments to utilise all their funds but at the same time it is also afraid that Departments will mis appropriate the funds.
- PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Power & Electricity Department be pleased to state -  
What steps have been taken by the Government to complete the Bairabi Hydel Project ?
- PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the Government of Mizoram has taken a number of initiatives to finalise the Bairabi Hydel Project. The Project report which was submitted to the Central Government by the NHPC was examined by various authorities of the Central Government. A high level team headed by Dr. A.C.Ray, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment & Forest, was deputed by the Central Government to have on-the-spot study of the Project and the Committee after careful consideration of various aspects of the project, recommended that the proposal of the Government of Mizoram to take up the project be favourably considered.
- As a result of the continued initiative of the Government, Secretary, Planning Commission convened a meeting on 21-4-88 which was attended by the authorities involved in the project, such as NHPC, Central Water Commission, Ministry of Energy, Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs and the representatives of the Government of Mizoram.
- As a result of the discussion, the NHPC submitted an updated project report to the CEA and other technical details were also furnished to the Central Water Commission. As suggested by the Central Government agencies during the meeting, a notification as per the provisions of section 29 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1948 regarding the intention of the Government to implement the project was promulgated in the Gazette of Government of Mizoram. The Advisor (Energy) Planning Commission also held another meeting

on 6.7.1988 and after consulting the concerned authorities, the proposal was forward to the Central Electricity Authority Board for accorping techno-economic clearance.

The project was examined and after further discussions with the authorities concerned, Government of Mizoram suggested to the Central Government that the project should be taken up as a multipurpose project. The suggestion to take up the project as a multipurpose one was made in line with the discussion the Chief Minister of Mizoram had with the Union Minister for Energy.

Government of Mizoram also have taken measures to get the project cleared from Forest and Environmental angle. Consultations and discussions with the Central Government authorities have been held and it is expected that the clearance will be given soon after the techno-economic clearance for the project is accorded.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Pu Speaker, the answer was quite satisfactory. However, we are not sure as to how and where the Techno-Clearance should be obtained I would like to know whether it is from the CEA or the Ministry of Energy. And one more thing, some news papers stated that 60% of the Clearance of Bairabi Hydel Project has been obtained and 40% left. I would like to know how for the 60% covers and what is the remaining 40% left ? Clearance in itself means cent percent in English, may be it is not clear enough in Mizo.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Chief Minister in his speech on Independence Day 1987 said that Officers were being sent to obtain CEA clearance. As the Hon'ble Member said before me, we are not very clear about this clearance. What clearance is that which 14 Officers were sent to obtain that day ?

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, is it a fact that only 10% that is 12 Mega watts out of 120 Mega Watts will be the share of our State ?

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, the areas to be covered by the dam are mostly Agriculture potential areas. How far will the Agriculture benefit from this project ? Will the Department of Forests benefit from this project ? Does it mean that we have already found Departments who will contribute to the remainig 40% of the clearance ? And by Agriculture, does it mean Fisheries Department or the surface transport ? 40% is quite a huge sum, therefore I would like to know which Departments will contribute.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the Techno-Economic Clearance will come from various Departments from the Centre. The 60% clearance is to be received from the Central Energy Ministry. The rest 40% as I have said will be met by various Departments of this State. We already have verbal consent from various Departments to clear the 40% once the Lion's share of 60% is cleared by the Energy Ministry.

It has been proposed that the Agriculture Department will bear 17.5%, Forest Department 14% Tourism Department 5%, Surface Transport 5% and Water Transport 3%. The total amounts to 40%. All these will be from the Central Government and not from the Government of Mizoram.

Speaking of clearance, there are various types of clearances. It is not something to joke about. I have already clarified the shares of various departments in the said clearance. (Pu Zosiama : We are clear about the money. What we want to know is how 60% of the clearance has been obtained, not the money).

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Pu Speaker, will the Government pursue the matter just in case the Centre keeps quiet ?

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we expect to hear from the Centre by next week, failing which the Government of Mizoram will pursue the matter.

PU S.HIATO : Pu Speaker,

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge General Administration Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether the Government intends to renew the expired permit for video shows ?

(b) Can the Assam Rifles hold video shows without obtaining permits ?

PU LALDENG CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to first question is No, the Government has no intention of extending video permits. The Assam Rifles may hold video shows to entertain their troops, but they need a permit to do so in public.

PU S.HIATO : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question. The Assam Rifles have conducted shows at Soha for about 3 years. Reports have been made to the Government but so far no action has been taken yet. Why has the Government taken no action ?



PU P.LALBIKA : Pu Speaker, another supplementary question. Does Pu T.Neihlaia of Lunglei have a video permit? It is learned that he conducts video shows?.

PU LALDENG  
CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the Assam Rifles may entertain their troops with video shows in their unit. The Government does not interfere in their internal matters. However, if the public go to these entertainments we shall inform the Assam Rifles authorities.

Regarding renewal of video permits, all such permits are temporary. The matter is being looked into at present.

S P E A K E R : Question No. 49, Pu Vanlalngena.

PU VANLALNGENA :  
Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Home Department be pleased to state -

What action has been taken by the Police in connection with the murder of Pu V.Lalthanzauva?

PU LALDENG  
CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, 3 persons were arrested but in view of insufficient evidence they were discharged.

PU VANLALNGENA : Pu Speaker, the public opinion on the death of Pu V.Lalthanzauva was that he was assaulted to death. According to 'Sofia' a local news paper on June 5, 88 it said that Pu Khawlliana of Tuikual 'D' confessed that the deceased V.Lalthanzauva was assaulted to death by Rammuana SI of Police. The 'Zoram Reporter' dated 26.5.88 also said that Pu V.Lalthanzauva was assaulted by Rammuana, SI of Police, Another paper, 'Zonieng' dated 28.5.88 said that V.Lalthanzauva was hit on the head and stomach by Rammuana, SI of Police.

Inspite of evidence revealing statements in the newspapers, the Government has failed to track down the murderer of Pu V.Lalthanzauva to this day. The post-mortem revealed that his gall bladder was ruptured and that he was greatly assaulted. How can the Government ignore such an evidence? Why has the murderer ever been found?

There was another incident at Daido in my Constituency. The Police apprehended one person called Liansanga. After keeping him in custody for two nights in Ngopa, he was carried back to Daido saying that he had committed suicide. When the suspicious V/C and Y.M.A. members attended to his body, they found that his neck was broken and so were two of his ribs. Investigations and Magisterial inquiries were made without any result. Their version was that he hanged himself with a blanket.

There are too many murders in this Ministry and none of them solved. Could it be that murderers find a sanctuary in this Government? I want an answer.

PU LALDINGA : Pu Speaker, the problems faced by  
CHIEF MINISTER Investigating Officers is that nobody wants to come out to give evidence. People hesitate to witness in prosecution. Now we have a recorded statement and it will help a great deal in the Investigations yet to be made.

PU VANLALINGNA : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question  
All these statements were submitted to the Chief Minister on dt.21,23,25 of May, 1987. It was also submitted to the Governor by Pu A.V.Pakunga. In all these, the O.C. Aizawl Police Station stated that there was no sufficient evidence and therefore dismissed the case having finished the Final Report on lack of evidence. However, I am happy that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has agreed to re-investigate the case. I expect a higher level of investigation than the previous one.

S P E A K E R : We shall skip question No. 50 -  
Question No.51 Pu K.L.Lianchia.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA :

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Home Department be pleased to state -

What action has the Government of Mizoram taken against the 22nd Assam Rifles who shot dead innocent Mizo citizens ?

PU LALDINGA : Pu Speaker, a Magisterial Inquiry  
CHIEF MINISTER has been instituted. The Government of India was moved to shift 22nd Assam Rifles immediately and also to shift the Assam Rifles Complex from Aizawl town to Zokhawasang where a plot of land has been allotted to Assam Rifles.

PU VANLALINGNA : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question  
please. The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared that the 22nd Assam Rifles was on Munity and that their arms should be seized. However, the next day water supply and Electricity was given to them. I would like to know why. He also agreed to repair their Mandir. Is it a fact that the Government is intending to repair their Mandir ?

PU LALDINGA : Pu Speaker, even Militaries need  
CHIEF MINISTER food and water before they die. As such, water and electricity has been

restored to them. We do not have direct authority over the Assam Rifles. It is the Defence Ministry from the Centre. The Government of Mizoram does not have the authority to take action against them.

We have approached the Central Government but they have not responded. Several reminders were sent but still there has been no response. There is very little we can do except approach the Centre.

The battalion has been shifted out of Mizoram and a court of Enquiry has been instituted by the Military generals, the result of which is the magisterial enquiry made by us.

PU F. LALRAMLIANA :

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Health and Family Welfare Department be pleased to state -

- (a) The number of persons referred by the Government of Mizoram to undergo medical treatment outside Mizoram during 1988.
- (b) Who are entitled to Air Journeys ?

PU LALRINCHHANA  
MINISTER

: Pu Speaker, the number of persons referred to undergo medical treatment outside Mizoram are 634.

(b) Air journeys are allowed to persons as per the Medical Attendance Rule and as recommended by the Medical Board.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU :

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Agriculture Department be pleased to state -

- (a) What steps the Government of Mizoram has taken to achieve self sufficiency in food stuff within the next three years ?
- (b) Is the Government of Mizoram confident in achieving its goal ?

PU NGURCHHINA  
MINISTER

: Pu Speaker, the Government of Mizoram has taken several steps in order to achieve self-sufficiency in food

supplies. Yes, the Government is hopeful in achieving its target.

PU F. LALRAMLIANA :

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Home Department be pleased to state -

What steps and measures has been taken by the Government of Mizoram to implement the para 9 of the Memorandum of Settlement ?

PU LAIDENGA : Pu Speaker, the implementation of para  
CHIEF MINISTER 9 of the Memorandum of Settlement is  
a continuing process and this Govern-  
ment is making all out efforts to preserve and protect their  
rights and privileges and also for their socio-economic  
development.

PU VANLALINGENA :

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Agriculture  
Department be pleased to state -

The number of families taking up various trades of  
Agriculture.

PU NGURCHHINA : Pu Speaker, the number of families who  
MINISTER have taken up various trades of Agri-  
culture are 49,805.

PU LIANSUAMA :

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Environment and  
Forest Department be pleased to state -

Is there any intention on the part of the Government  
to shift existing villages within Dampa Wild Life  
Sanctuary elsewhere.

PU LALRUATA : Pu Speaker, the answer is 'Yes'  
MINISTER

PU VANLALINGENA :

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Agriculture  
Department be pleased to state -

Whether the Bull Dozers of the Government of Mizoram  
can be hired by individuals. If yes, what is the  
hiring charge per hour ?

PU NGURCHHINA : Pu Speaker, yes, individuals can hire  
MINISTER Bulldozers. The hiring charges are  
being fixed.

PU F. LAIRAMLIANA :

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge General Adminis-  
tration Department be pleased to state -

Does the Government of Mizoram intend to create a  
new Administrative District during 1988. If yes,  
how many districts are to be created ?

PU LAIDENGA : Pu Speaker, the matter will be consi-  
CHIEF MINISTER dered after receipt of the report of  
the Advisor to Government.

S P E A K E R : Question hour is now over. A motion of Adjournment has been submitted by Pu P.C.Zoramsangliana. The Speaker has admitted the motion for consideration and discussion in the House. Now, the Hon'ble Member Pu P.C.Zoramsangliana may solicit the support of the members. They should be at least six (6) in number.

PU P.C.ZORAMSANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, as admitted by the Hon'ble Speaker, I request members of this House to stand up and show their consent if approval.

S P E A K E R : Today is private Resolution day, so, I shall announce the time for discussion in the afternoon Pu R.Lalawia has a report to present. This is the third time he will be presenting a Report which is very frequent. (Pu Zoramsangliana: Pu Speaker, are we not going to discuss my adjournment motion?) We shall now call upon Pu R.Lalawia, Chairman, Estimates Committee to present to the House the third Report.

PU R.LALAWIA : Pu Speaker, with your permission Sir, I present to the House the Report of the Committee on Estimates 34th Public Health Engineering Department Part I. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The copies of the Report may now be distributed among the members. Our next item is a private resolution (Pu Liansuama : What about the letter I submitted this morning regarding the discussion of the previous ones) We shall discuss that on Monday. We now have a private Resolution, Pu Vanlalngbaka may move his resolution.

PU VANLALNGHAKA : Pu Speaker, in section 125 of the Rules of procedure it reads - "A member in whose name a resolution appears on the list of business shall when called on, either decline to move the resolution, in which case he shall confine himself to a mere statement to that effect". If the House permits, I would like to make a mere state. (Speaker - Does the House agree? If go, you may proceed).

Pu Speaker, thank you. Pharmacy Council may not mean any thing to most of us, However, medical practioners in Mizoram need to have a Pharmacy Council. Without a Pharmacy Council we cannot have a Registrar where every Pharmacist must register on passing. A Pharmacist who has not registered does not have the right to compound, mix and dispense any of the Doctor's prescription. If I am not mistaken, there are only 20/30 Pharmacists in Mizoram who are registered, and that also was in the Assam State Pharmacy Council. However, according to Section 77 of the North Eastern Areas Re-Organisation Act, 1971, the Assam Pharmacy Council does not have direct authority over the new States of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal etc.

The Government of India intimated the Government of Mizoram on January, 1983 that a Pharmacy Council may be instituted in Mizoram. However, this would have to be legislated and passed by the Assembly. A reminder was again sent by the Centre to institute the Council for the convenience of Pharmacists in Mizoram. The reply given by the Health Department was not satisfactory to that effect. The Department stated that the Pharmacists in Mizoram did not face any problems or difficulties inspite of not having a Pharmacy Council. A Cabinet Meeting on 24th November, 1986 passed that, "The Council approved proposal by Health Department to extend the Pharmacy Act, 1948 to Mizoram".

However, no provision has been made in the Annual Plan, not even a single paise. It is a regret that the matter has not been pursued even after two years have passed.

We have been practicing outside the law, Doctors cannot go and check the medicine stock of Pharmacies. The Council should appoint an Inspector to check and give report of its findings to the Government of Mizoram, a copy of which will be given to the Central Council.

We may think that the Government is very strict in issuing drugs licences. Yet there are no authorised persons to check the dates of licences.

Another letter was received on 28th June from the Central Government assuming that we have already instituted a Pharmacy Council in our State. The information given by the Department of Health was that the Cabinet would consider it. This is totally wrong information. The Cabinet has approved the matter in November 28th 1986. I have therefore brought this matter into the lime light so that we may proceed to institute things in the correct manner. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The Minister in-charge Health & Family Welfare Department may have something to say in this matter.

P U V A N L A L I N G H A K A : Pu Speaker, I have made a mere statement and no one else can have a say in the resolution.

P U L A I R I N C H H A N A : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Member from  
MINISTER Hnahthial brought in a very important resolution. The Cabinet has to look into the bill before it is spread in the Assembly. This is according to the Mizoram Transaction of Business, Rule 1987. We therefore expect to have the bill by the next session. It is therefore unnecessary to move the resolution at this stage.

S P E A K E R : Our next item now, a joint resolution of Pu Zosiana and Pu Lianchia.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU: Thank you, Pu Speaker, the erstwhile Union Territory of Mizoram has now been upgraded to a full fledged State by the grace of God. The State of Mizoram has been declared the 24th State of the Republic of India. (Speaker :- that is the 23rd) No, Pu Speaker, according to the Constitution of India, we are the 14th State. (Speaker :- that is not correct). According to the Accord signed on the 30th June 1986 we have been granted by the Article 170 of the Constitution of India that there would be not less than 60 members of the Legislative Assembly and not more than 500. However, we have minimised our 60 seats to 40 seats only in the Memorandum of Settlement. Why have we belittled ourselves? Does it mean that we are suffering from an inferiority complex right from the beginning?

In the case of Arunachal, it was written that there would be 30 members of the State Assembly, but from what we have heard, they are going to have 60 members (seats). When we look at our state we are overwhelmed by the need of up liftment everywhere. There is work to be done in every corner in the rural areas. Forty (40) members will not be enough for the task. Un-employment has also posed a big problem in our state. I do not say that having 20 members more will solve this problem, what I intend to point out is that this poor famine stricken, un-developed state of ours needs more efficient members to serve and feed its people. Let us therefore try to achieve 60 seats already granted by Article 170 of the Constitution of India. I therefore request this House to pass this resolution.  
Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We shall now request the Leader of the House to wind-up.

PU LALDENGA  
CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Member have brought a very good resolution. However I shall try to elaborate the circumstances is to why we have 40 seats instead of 60 seats in our State Assembly.

This has been done from our own initiative and not from the Centre. After much studying and consideration, it was thought that 60 constituencies would mean small units where kith and kin could form the majority for some candidates. As such, it would be a dangerous thing to have some large family units running the Government. This has happened in our own State District Councils. It was therefore considered best that we should have 40 Constituencies which is not a small for a not-so-large state like Mizoram and our present position. We are not the only one, Sikkim also has a 30 seated State Assembly. The Government of India has also agreed upon our decision and has been put down in the Constitution as such.

S P E A K E R : The members may take up ten minutes each. We shall call Pu K.L.Lianchia now.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned Sikkim which is correct. However, Sikkim is a very thinly populated State in comparison to Mizoram. The other excuse that there could be some family ties in small constituencies is not good enough ground. If there are more members, there would be less possibilities for lobbying which is a common practice these days. We cannot compare ourselves to Nagaland because their problem is totally different from ours. They have different dialects so very close that it is inevitable for them to have family and clan feelings. That is not so in our state. It is therefore not very wise of us to choose to have lesser seats than the minimum seats of 60 provided by the Constitution of India.

Pu Speaker, in your room it is written 23rd State of the Republic. But in the Constitution we are the 24th which means that Arunachal has superseded us. I feel that our Leaders are clinging to false humility by opening that 60 seats is too great or large for us. Let us therefore pass this and make our state a more fully fledged one in status. Thank you.

PU SAIKAPHLANGA : Pu Speaker, when the Hon'ble Members expound the need to have at least 60 seats in the Assembly I do agree with them. However, what the Hon'ble Chief Minister said is also a fact to be reckoned with. Therefore, why don't we take votes as responsible elected members of Mizoram?

S P E A K E R : I shall read out this joint resolution of Pu Zosiem, Paohau and Pu K.L.Lianchia -

"This Assembly is of the opinion that as provided by Article 170(1) of the Constitution of India the Legislative Assembly of the State of Mizoram shall consist of not less than 60 members chosen by election from Territorial Constituencies in the State".

Now we will take a vote and members may raise their right hand to indicate their consent. (Members raise their hands 21,22,23. The resolution is declared passed unanimously.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, are we finished for today? (Speaker, the Adjournment Motion) Pu Speaker, you did not adjourn it, you have admitted the motion (Members start to argue).

S P E A K E R : I have admitted the Adjournment Motion but the time of discussion is in the Speaker's hand (Member argue) (Pu Liensuama :- Pu Speaker, yes you are right let us go according to the Rule) We shall now have recess till 2 P.M.

Recess till 2:00 P.M.



S P E A K E R : We shall now go as our programme.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, point of order. In Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business it reads - "A motion for an Adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the Speaker". And in Rules 63, "The Speaker, if he gives consent under Rule 59 and holds that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, shall after the questions and before the list of business is entered upon, call the member concerned who shall rise in his place and ask for leave to move the adjournment of the House". We have gone through that. Again in Rule 63, "If objection to leave being granted is taken the Speaker shall request those members who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places, and if not less than six members of the House rise accordingly, the Speaker shall intimate that leave is granted". This is exactly where we are now. The adjournment motion has been admitted but we have taken up another business. Therefore, if we are to accept this motion, we have to start again from the beginning. The mover will have to beg leave to move again and after admitting it, you will adjourn the House after which Pu Speaker, you may decide when to take up the discussion. Now we have not adjourned so it is invalid. After adjournment we do not have the right to take up any other business. Therefore shall we say this is a continuous motion instead of an adjournment motion? It is very important that we should go according to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, in my opinion you have gone according to the Rules. You have received the Adjournment motion at the correct time this morning. We have gone according to the Rule No. 63. It is therefore upto you to decide the time for the discussion (Rule 64) you may recall the last Session when I moved an Adjournment Motion on the matter pertaining to the allegations made by Rawlthar Editor against the Hon'ble Member Pu Hari Kristo Chakma. You admitted the motion and decided that we take up the discussion straight away. It was thus discussed. Today you decided to take up the discussion in the afternoon according to Rule 64. You may now fix the duration of the discussion in accordance to Rule 166. There is therefore no error committed and there is no need to start again from the beginning. We have gone exactly in accordance to the conduct of business rules.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Pu Speaker, in Rules No. 64, "The motion shall be taken up at such hour as the Speaker may decide". It is entirely up to the Speaker. You can decide when to take up the discussion according to the Rules. However, if it is an adjournment motion why should we take up other business? Such practice is not to be found in any other State or in Parliament. Pu Speaker, your Chair will lose its dignity if you do not abide by the Rules. It is written in Para (1) of

Rule 59 that. "A motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the Speaker". If we are not going to use this Rule, let us dispose the Rule.

PU VANLALNGHAKA : Pu Speaker, as the Hon'ble Member from Phuldungsei has already said, you have the power to decide according to the Rules. For the interpretation you may look at Rule 303 - 'If any doubt arises as to the interpretation of any of the provisions of these rules, the decision of the Speaker shall be final'. It is for the Speaker to take the final decision.

PU R.LALAWIA : Pu Speaker, adjournment motions are generally not admitted unless they are of great urgent public importance. Now that you have admitted the motion according to the Rules, it is a good thing. It is very undignified of the House to start digging out the same thing all over again. Therefore Pu Speaker, let the member move the motion and none of us will object to it.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, you have taken another business so I thought that it was over for me. Had we adjourned straight away, I would not have stood up to object it. Another business was taken up and my adjournment motion became invalid.

PU R.LALAWIA : Pu Speaker, had the Hon'ble Member Pu K.L.Lianchia stood up in the morning, when you said that the motion was admitted and would be discussed in the afternoon, it would have not led to this argument. (Pu K.L.Lianchia :- at that time I did not stand up because I thought we were going to adjourn the House, but instead another business was taken up)

PU SAINGURA SAILO: Pu Speaker, I do not think there is any thing to argue about here. Let us read Rule 64 again, "The motion shall be taken up at such hour as the Speaker may decide". Therefore, your decision has to be abided by. (Pu K.L.Lianchia :- an adjournment was declared without adjourning so I do not understand the meaning).

S P E A K E R : It does not mean that the motion should be immediately taken up as soon as the adjournment motion is admitted. It is in the hands of the Speaker. In Rule 303, "If any doubt arises as to the interpretation of any of the provisions of these rules, the decision of the Speaker shall be final". The mover has to adjourn the House.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU: Pu Speaker, members cannot adjourn the House, We have no right to do so. Only the Speaker can adjourn the House, If you should adjourn the House and fix the time for discussion. After that it is not permissible to take up other business.

PU F.LALRAMLIANA : Pu Speaker, you have done things in the proper manner, you have already decided to take it up in the afternoon with the consent of the House. So please carry on, Pu Speaker.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Pu Speaker, are we to move again and adjourn the House ?

S P E A K E R : Adjournment of the House is up to me. (Members argue)

PU H.RAMMAWI MINISTER : Pu Speaker, point of clarification. In Parliamentary practice the House may take up any one of the listed business if it so decides. We had all consented to your decision to take up the motion in the afternoon. It is entirely up to the House. There has been no objection from the members.

S P E A K E R : Yes, I have done exactly according to Rule 64.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Pu Speaker, taking up business after an adjournment motion is found only in Mizoram. Let the mover move it again and let the Speaker adjourn it. Unless we do this, we have reduced the Chair to nothing, its honour and dignity has been reduced.

PU VANLALINGHAKA : Pu Speaker, we should go according to our Rule 61. 'Notice of an adjournment motion shall be given before the commencement of the sitting on the day'.

S P E A K E R : Are we not satisfied ?

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : We are the legislators, and we should not be the ones to violate the rules.

S P E A K E R : Whatever it may be, Rule 64 says, 'The motion shall be taken up at such hour as the Speaker may decide' Now the mover may move the motion.

PU P.C.ZORAMSANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, the whole of Mizoram is being threatened by a disease known as Viral Hepatitis. The number of patient afflicted by this disease in Aizawl Civil Hospital upto 18th August amounts to 1170. Out of the said 1170 patients the following persons have died.

Sl.No.	Name	Age	Address	Date of Death
1.	Zoremi	37 yrs	Tuikual 'B'	5.3.1988
2.	Vanlalhruaii	18 "	Electric Veng	21.5.1988
3.	Laltawnliana	28 "	D.Vengthar	13.5.1988
4.	Tlanchungi	26 "	Ramhlun	28.5.1988
5.	Lalthansea	63 "	Tanhril	15.6.1988
6.	Lalnunthanga	19 "	Babu Tlang	16.6.1988
7.	Remthangpuii	18 "	Chandmary	18.7.1988

Pu Speaker, these people have been afflicted by Viral Hepatitis. We have also received information that 102 patients suffering from the said disease are being treated at Durtlang Hospital out of which 9 persons have died. Some of the patients are pregnant women. According to the bulletin made by the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, pregnant women are most of the victims of this dreaded disease. (Speaker : Just a minute, the mover may take up 15 minutes and the members may take up 5 minutes).

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, the Rules permit only two (2) hours for the discussion.

PU P.C.ZORAMSANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, Press Release No. 429 of 28th July 1988 says that the disease has spread to the whole town of Aizawl. The victims in Republic Veng are 37, Tuikual 31, Armed Veng 26, Chandmary 21, Ramhlun 21, Dinthar 21, Bungkawn 20, Dawrpui 15 and Luangmual 15. All these have spread within just two months - June and July 1988. The Press Release gave preventive measures to be practical by the public. The Public have been instructed to drink only boiled water, which makes me wonder whether or not the drinking water in the Member's Recess room has been boiled. Again in the Press Release Dt. 28th July the Directorate issued the dangers of eating food which are not covered and infested by flies. Another Press Release Dt 7/7/88 warned the public against dangers of not having covered latrines which resulted in diarrhoea epidemics. And in the Press Release No. 349 of 23/6/88 another warning to drink only boiled water for prevention against Viral Hepatitis was issued by the Directorate. From what I heard in the radio, viral hepatitis occurs mostly in people who use springs or water-holes as their main source of drinking water. The whole reason points to the poor quality of our food and drinking water. What steps and measures is the Government going to take? Yesterday dt. 18/8/88 Pu Buanga, Retailer Chhinga Veng found that the bags of rice issued to him contained half rice and half

river sand. If such is the quality of food supplied by the Government it is not a surprise that such diseases afflict u. To add salt to the wound, there is not a single vial of Penicillin in the Civil Hospital to prevent or treat the public.

The Hon'ble Minister i/c Health & Family Welfare has only one portfolio but I am sorry to say that he has failed miserably. The Aizawl Civil Hospital does not have enough instruments for operations. When the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited Saitual the people request for the extension of their Hospital. In reply the Chief Minister said that the aim of the Government was not to enlarge the Hospitals but to minimise the patients.

So is this how the Government is going to minimise diseases? What steps will the Government take to eradicate the said diseases? It is not enough to make Press Releases to the public. Life is too precious to neglect. Pu Speaker, was it not famine that gave birth to the M.N.F. Party in 1962? Mizoram has since then suffered for over 20 years. If our policy is health for all by the year 2000, why can't the Government provide even the bare and minimum necessities for the Hospitals? The victims of Hepatitis in Aizawl today do not have any medicine for their treatment, Pu Speaker. For what purpose have we been elected? We need Salvation now at this hour. Thank you Pu Speaker, for admitting my motion.

PU VANLALNGHAKA : Pu Speaker, thank you for giving me time to speak. As already expounded by the Hon'ble Member from Tlungvel Constituency, Viral Hepatitis is covering the length and breadth of Mizoram. We have heard the number of patients being treated in the Aizawl Civil Hospital. If we study the Press Release of the Health Department, prevention of the disease has been transferred to the hands of the public and the Department of L...D. Most of the water sources of drinking water in Mizoram are not examined at all. There is a machine in Tuikhuahtlang for this purpose, but not even 1% of the drinking water in Mizoram has been tested for purity. The Department of Public Health Engineering hears the responsibility in this matter.

The Government has urgent works to do, they cannot just entrust the responsibility to the public.

I visited Durtlang Hospital just now and they assured me that they has enough medicine and injections for the treatment of hepatitis. It is therefore a big disgrace to be the Minister i/c of this Department. He should submit resignation letter or else his portfolio should be changed. Otherwise more people will die of Hepatitis. We do not have the latest reports from the rural areas. Therefore Pu Speaker, please do not cling to your self-justification. When Cholera struck Delhi, there were some concerned persons who resigned from their posts. That is all, thank you.

PU VANLALNGENA : Pu Speaker, this is indeed a very important matter. The Government should give top priority to this matter. It is a disgrace that there is no stock of medicine to treat the said disease. What is the reason? There is enough money and if there are any problems it is the duty of the Minister to solve them. The Construction of Civil Hospital is not yet completed and at present the beds are very few in number. Even serious cases of Hepatitis cannot be admitted. If such is the case, we should do provide medicine at least in the outdoor section. From what I have heard, the Hon'ble Minister a person from Lalchhungkua (his personal choice) as a Chowkidar and this Chowkidar did not do his duty but sent his son in his place. As a result almost Rs.10,000/- was missing. Such things are happening while there is not a single medicine for the public.

The Government should also find means to purify drinking water. Our present condition is not satisfactory. Something has to be done and soon. Survey teams should be instituted, Pu Speaker, at least five minutes more please....(bell rings).

S P E A K E R : Next Pu R.Lalawia.

PU R.LALAWIA : Pu Speaker, I feel that the adjournment motion moved by the member from Tlungvel is of great public importance. Many have died of this dreadful disease in Aizawl. Epidemics are generally sudden waves of unwanted disasters. Delhi the capital of our country also fell victim to cholera epidemics. The Central Health Minister did not resign on account of this. There is no reason why such a thing should happen here. We have heard the various steps for precaution taken by the Health Department and the public response is very good. I do not think there is anything to concern regarding the action of the government.

There is also nothing new about unfiltered water supplies. We depend on river water for our source of drinking water supplies and in rainy season the water become muddy.

The member from Lawngtlai also did not make on-the-spot visit when epidemic struck Lawngtlai. Such things should be reported promptly to the Government by the concerned members. The Ruling Party has taken all the measures it can in order to prevent the further spreading of the disease. However, our medicine stock has been inadequate owing to the sudden surge of the epidemic. We have to back up the Government. We should not have a prejudices view of the matter, it should be considered from different angles. I shall end here, Pu Speaker as time is running out.

Thank you.

PU F.LALRAMLIANA : Pu Speaker, you have done the right thing in admitting the adjournment motion. Yes, my constituency suffered great attacks of epidemics. We sent SOS messages to the Government but the response was very unsatisfactory. There was nothing we could do except approach the Government for help. And as help did not come, death came very quickly. It is very sad indeed.

The jaundice epidemic started from January and the death total is far higher than the Hospital records. This is because there is great tendency on the part of the public to nurse themselves privately at home. It is a regret that the Government has not taken preventive measures as it should have. All possible means should have been applied. Radio messages, posters and press releases to reach the utmost corners of the land should have been made available.

Look at the supply of drinking water in the MLA Hostel. Is it boiled water? What precautions have been taken?

It is not enough to notify ten stalls to be careful about their food stuff unless there are doctors who will check them. The comparison made with Delhi is irrelevant. Delhi is a Union Territory and the Administrator gave in his resignation when his government failed to control the cholera epidemic. The Government of Mizoram has failed miserably to check the jaundice epidemic and therefore the concerned Minister does not deserve to sit in his desk. If they are unfit for their work, they should resign.

PU H.HRANGDAWLA : Pu Speaker, the adjournment motion from the point of the mover is solely a condemnation of the Government.

According to the Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business, Rule No.60, sub-clause (v) it says, 'the motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved'. This means that the adjournment motion must be worth moving. The member mover just said that such and such disease is prevailing in the town, therefore all other business should be adjourned and the motion discussed. This is against the Rule.

We had discussed this issue in the Parliamentary meeting. If the Health Department alone cannot do anything in preventing the disease, let a Committee be formed comprising of MLAs and expert medical team. If need be, this team will procure the necessary medicines from outside Mizoram by sending special messengers. We have also discussed the importance of setting up centres in every area or (veng) to report the number of people afflicted by the disease. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already given assurance to the Parliamentary Committee to take up this proposal. It is therefore clear that the mover of the motion has no specific plan or measure to propose. He has only criticised the Government without any concrete knowledge of what is really going on. Therefore, I do not think this motion is worth admitting, Pu Speaker, If the proposal to set up a Committee is to be accepted by this House, then the member to continue his motion, Pu Speaker.

Thank you.

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PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, none of our business has gone according to the Rules, No matter who holds the reins of the Government, diseases like Hepatitis will always be there. I believe the Government is trying its best to fight the disease. What I would like to suggest is to have a home visit to get the accurate number of hepatitis victims, this could be done by the Health Workers.

Regarding the non-availability of medicines, it would be wrong if the Government uses this excuse for more than a week. Most of the people from rural areas are not aware of the need to report their health Problems to the Government. That is why I suggested a home visit if possible. It is one of our Mizo trait not to report things.

PU P.LALBIAKA : Pu Speaker, it is evident that hepatitis has become a big enemy not only in Aizawl but as far as Lunglei and its surroundings too. The only preventive measure taken by the Government appears to be through the radio. If it is true that the life saving medicines for this disease is not available, it is a great disgrace for Mizoram. It could happen to any of us here too. It is therefore necessary that the Government should take the necessary measures in this respect.

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, the fact that the Parliamentary Committee had discussed the setting up of a special Committee shows that this Government does not have confidence in the Minister i/c The Administration in the Department of Health and Family Welfare is not satisfactory. It has been some time since the decease of Pu Selbuanga, Director, Health Services, but there has been no Director till now. The Administration is very in-efficient. I suggest that this should be given priority.

I think you will remember Pu Speaker, how concerned you used to be as an MLA about the non-availability of life-saving drugs in the Civil Hospital. Now, lakhs of rupees are being spent purchasing carpets etc. for the Hospital while life saving drugs are not even available. Is it because certain persons are supplying it? I request the Minister i/c to re-consider the matter. We need a stronger mobile-clinic to cover the length and breadth of Mizoram as there is a shortage of doctors in the rural areas. We may recall that the Administrator of Delhi, Shri H.L. Kapoor resigned when gastro-enteritis claimed the lives of many in the capital. We should be able to bear over responsibility. We may also recall that Mr. V.P. Singh the then Chief Minister of U.P. resigned when some dacoits slaughtered innocent citizens. How different from us, when we did not have the courage to resign even when the Assam Rifles gunned down innocent citizens in the very heart of our town. The same goes for the present crisis we are facing. It shows that we are not fit to follow the real principles of Democracy.



PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU: Pu Speaker, I only criticised the approach and not the Adjournment motion. It is indeed a regret that such a disease should claim so many lives in our town. Enquiry should be made as to why prices of medicines have soared up in times of crisis such as this. I agree with the Hon'ble Member from Phuldungsei that there is something to be done with the administration. I also feel that Doctors are not given due facilities. In order to be mobile, they need to have vehicles at their disposal. It is the responsibility of the Health Minister, but more so the Government as a whole. It is therefore necessary to urge the Government to take the necessary steps in this matter.

PU ROKAMLOVA : Pu Speaker, our motion today is a very important one. Diseases and other natural calamities are part of the curse that has befallen mankind, and it is indeed a tragedy that we should be victims of such calamity. The record of 173 persons who died of Hepatitis may not be the same today. It could be more each day. It is often the case that we are very slow when it concerns the calamity of others. The fact that there is no stock of life saving drugs in the Civil Hospital is a big disgrace on the part of the Government. However, we expect immediate action now that the matter has been brought to light.

It is important that we endeavour together to solve this crises instead of pointing fingers at each other. Our ideas regarding medical treatments have come up very high and I am glad. Recently the Hon'ble Minister i/c Rural Development suffered from a serious illness which was treated abroad. Our Deputy Speaker is also being treated abroad, at present and I am glad that such care can be given to them.

We are also going to pass a bill which will enable Members of this August House and their families to be given better facilities for treatment outside Mizoram. All this is a great achievement. However, the less fortunate public have to be considered too. Let us provide life saving medicines and other essential drugs to meet the need of the people. That is all I have to say.

PU P.SIAMLIANA : Pu Speaker, adjournment motions should be of constructive nature. I feel that the Adjournment motion today is more on the destructive side.

I do not think we can really prevent these epidemics. We can discuss what preventive measures to be taken and that is all we can do. The Minister i/c Health & Family Welfare bears the responsibility to a certain extent, but along with that we also share the responsibility. We should believe that the Ministry is doing its best to prevent the spreading of the disease. It does not make any difference whether the Minister is in charge of one Department or more. Epidemics will come. This happens all over the world. It is beyond our power to

prevent it. It is therefore not the right thing to utter destructive criticisms among ourselves. However, we should offer suggestions if we have any.

PU S. HIATO : Pu Speaker, it is true that we do not know when diseases will strike, therefore the Government should be always ready to prevent such attacks. It should also be equipped to treat any victims should such epidemics strike the town. If there is no stock of medicine in the capital, how can we hope for medicine in remote places like Satha, Lawngtlai etc. Are we to procure our requirements from Burma? Two persons have also died here due to non-availability of anti-Tetanus vaccines. It is therefore a big question why there has been such acute shortage of life-saving drugs in Mizoram. The supplier must be changed.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Speaker, many speculations and allegations have been made regarding the Hepatitis epidemic in Mizoram. It has also been opined that spring water could be one of the causes of the disease. It is evident that all the medical centres in very constituency lack facilities. There are no vehicles for quick coverage and home visits. Blood testing cannot be carried out to test either malaria or hepatitis. The Medical staff have no equipments at all. We cannot just blame the Doctors, neither can we blame political parties. The Ministry must make all the necessary investigations. Let us be practical about this situation and be serious about it. The Health Department in my constituency is rather slow. Malaria abounds in plenty and blood testing is almost nil owing to lack of staff. A thorough survey should be conducted to find out exactly how many are suffering from jaundice. Let us take this important step.

PU VANLALHRUAIA : Pu Speaker, our topic today is indeed a very important one. It has been said that Viral Hepatitis can be spread through sexual contact, it is even said that the disease is hereditary. Therefore, it is difficult to know what medicines to administer. I am glad that this Ministry has succeeded in saving the lives of many in spite of the non-availability of medicines. We should try to put our heads together and find means to solve these problems. That is all, thank you.

S P E A K E R : The Minister will wind up the discussion. Before that I shall give you five minutes more.

PU H. RAMMAWI  
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, our motion today pertains to diseases, it should be quite unreasonable to put the blame on each other because these things are in the hands of God. We cannot eradicate diseases as we desire. When the epidemic broke out in Lawngtlai, three members of the village council

arrived in Aizawl to report the case. They said that they did not report it to their MLA as he was about to leave for Delhi regarding the Sixth Schedule Amendment. I told them to go back straight home and the team of doctors were despatched on the report of the VCP and not from the MLAs report.

Let us therefore admit our common problem and stop slighting mud at each other. We have to keep certain things in the hand of providence. We should try to strengthen the hands of the Health Department.

PU P.C.ZORAMSANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, from the speech of the Hon'ble Member, the Hepatitis epidemic has raged since the month of January. The number of patients treated in the Civil Hospital from January to August amounted to 1170. It is a very sad thing that the Parliamentary Committee yesterday and the Committee, this morning have just decided to set up a sub-committee to assess the situation.

As pointed out by the Hon'ble Member from Kawrthah, there is great shortage of staff in the Health Department to really look after the rural areas. Health Workers should make daily surveys. Doctors are also expected to visit their assigned areas. This has not been possible owing to the poor facilities we provide to them. Vehicle provided to them are of very poor conditions. We keep all the good ones in the capital. In such circumstances, it is very difficult for the medical team to make thorough visits to the remote areas.

Pu Speaker, it is possible to take preventive measures. The member from Khawhai gave the impression that members from the urban areas should have moved the motion.

I have volunteered to move the motion because like many others I myself have been a victim of this dreaded disease.

I do not find it easy to digest the fact that there are no drugs available for the prevention of this disease. Why there is no stock in the Division Store? Was it among those stolen by the Chowkidar's son? Another thing which I mentioned earlier is that the Purchasing Board in their sitting on November, 1987, agreed to purchase special Intestinal Needles for Aizawl Civil Hospital. However, it is sad to say that the same has not been purchased till today. When is it going to be purchased? I have also brought the rice sample from Chhing Veng Retailer as House property. Does the Minister in-charge intend to take action?

PU H.RAMMAWI : Pu Speaker, the rice procured is from the FCI and the Government of Mizoram does not have a hand in it. We are making inquiries to the FCI regarding the poor quality rice supplied. (Pu P.C.Zoramsangliana : That is the quality of food we eat Pu Speaker. It is not a matter to be hushed up.

We need to have a strong working relationship with the sanitation committee and the Health Department and work to save the lives of the public. This is my proposal Pu Speaker, thank you).

S P E A K E R : This will be the closing now that it is past 4:00 P.M. (Pu Zoniama Pachau: The Speaker may, if he is satisfied that there has been adequate debate, put the question at such hour as he decides, but such debate will not continue for more than two hours' Are we to amend this clause?) Is it already two hours? (Pu P.C. Zoramangliana: We have not exceeded two hours) We may have some more time. Pu Rinchhana may speak now.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Pu Speaker, it is a deep regret that an epidemic of hepatitis has swept Mizoram. It is not a new disease which has come to exist from the month of January. It has however, come as an epidemic since the month of June. That is where our problem lies. The Doctors have classified Hepatitis into four categories. From what we have heard two categories known as 'A' and 'P' exists. The treatment for these are somewhat the same. Care has to be taken regarding human excreta as it can be spread through such disposals. The Department of Health & Family Welfare has organised lectures in various schools on the subject of prevention. Press releases have been issued alongwith Radio broadcasts. The PHE Department have also been notified to take preventive measures. The Department of LAD have also been considered responsible to a great extent and they have also been notified to take more care regarding public sanitation. The present cases of Hepatitis are being treated with the right medicines. However, the drug for prevention of the disease is a very rare one. It is to be found in Bombay and one injection costs Rs. 50/- for one person. To provide inoculation for the public in Mizoram would be quite unaffordable for the Government. It is also not 100% successful. We have the drug for treatment of the patients and they are being treated at the hospitals. The number of patients diagnosed in the Outdoor Department of the Civil Hospital from January-August amounts to 1181, out of which 8 have died. The public has been instructed to drink only boiled water, but that also has not been followed by many. We have also appeared to be confused regarding the blood testing to diagnose Hepatitis. It is not like Malaria where any Health Worker can take blood tests. The nearest centre for this detection is Calcutta where they can classify what type of Hepatitis it is. What we can do for the present is to be careful in our habits.

Some of us have blamed the administration of the Department of Health saying that it is not strong enough which has resulted in the poor functioning of the staff. This is only a misunderstanding. Recruitment Rules are being prepared for the Department. One hundred and twenty Recruitment Rules are needed where as not even thirty exists. The Doctors and nurses do not have Recruitment Rules at present. It is therefore very difficult to have a meticulous administration without an existing Recruitment Rules.

The Department has great shortages in Staff quarters, sub-centres and Dispensaries. Seniority of Staff can also be made after the Recruitment Rules are enforced. The same goes with the provision of facilities. There are many officers due for promotion and again that cannot be done without the Recruitment Rules. There is no reason to condemn or blame the administration of the Health Department of the outbreak of the Jaundice epidemic and its prevention etc. The Department has done its utmost and there are limitations to human efforts as we all know. We are indeed very sorry about the whole matter. The heavy monsoon has also helped in spreading the epidemic very fast. In spite of the efforts put up by the Health Department the epidemic has claimed many lives and it is a very sad tragedy indeed. We hope by the grace of God that this unwelcome disease will soon leave us, that is our prayer.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We have now discussed the Adjournment motion moved by Pu P.C.Zoramsangliana and the members have participated very keenly. This Motion is not to be passed. If necessary, we shall take votes. However, the mover of the Motion merely requested for a discussion, and we have done exactly that. Our business for today is therefore over, we shall resume our sitting at 10:30 A.M. on Monday, Untill then, this House is now adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at  
4:25 P.M.