

**FOURTH MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(FOURTEENTH SESSION)**

SIXTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 25th MARCH, 2003

PRESENT

1. **Pu R. LALAWIA**, Speaker at the Chair, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister, and 14 Ministers and 21 Members were present.

QUESTIONS

2. **QUESTIONS** entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

3. **Dr. LALZAMA** to present to the House the 5th Report of Committee on Government Assurances.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET

4. General Discussion on the Budget for the year 2003 – 2004 to be concluded.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

5. **Pu F. Malsawma**, Minister to move Official Resolution in the following forms :

“ This House resolves that the General Election of Mizoram Legislative Assembly in 2003 be held in accordance with the boundaries of the existing constituencies.”

SPEAKER : "My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him. No enemy will subject him to tribute; no wicked man will oppress him.
Sam 89 : 21 - 22

We'll call Pu H.Laltanpuia to ask Starred Question No. 61

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, Starred Question No. 61. Is there any plan in privatizing corporation and board under Industry Department? If it is so, how far has steps been taken.

SPEAKER : To answer the question we'll call Pu K.Thangzuala, Industry Minister.

Er. K.THANGZUALA : Pu Speaker, the answer to the Hon'ble members questions are as follows :-

- (a) There is no intention of privatizing the corporation and board under Industry Department.
- (b) No steps has been taken towards this.

PU H.LALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, I made this question because, the Hon'ble House Leader mentioned that corporation and board under Industry Department will be privatized. However, Pu Speaker, corporation and board like KVI, ZOHANDCO, Sports Councils are statutory body, they are promotional body. Will it be appropriate to privatize these corporations and boards.

PU L.N.TLUANGA : Pu Speaker, the corporation of our state are running on loses, is the Government still going to continue these corporations? If these corporations are privatized won't it be more profitable?

- PU LALRINZUALA : Pu Speaker, my questions are - Are the Board Chairman and Vice - Chairman given VIP status? If so, do they enjoy other VIP entitlement?
- From what rank is the VIP light entitled?
- PU C.THANGHLUNA : Pu Speaker, my question is - Is there a way to solve the problem of financial lose in these corporations instead of privatization?
- SPEAKER : We'll call the Minister in-charge to answer the questions.
- PU C.THANGHLUNA : Pu Speaker, Is there a proposal to change the policy?
- PU J.LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, what is the earning of the two corporations - ZENICS and MIFCO during the year 2001 - 2002.
- SPEAKER : To answer the questions, we will call Pu K.Thangzuala Minister in-charge.
- ET. K.THANGZUALA : Pu Speaker, the answer to Hon'ble member Pu H. Laltanpuia is - the Government is taking steps to improve the present state of the corporations, unless steps taken fail to improve their conditions, there is no intention of privatizing these corporations.

The answer to Pu Lalnuntluanga's questions are, the present Government is taking steps towards the improvement of these corporations, the first step is to bridge the gap between these corporations and the Government. We have a monitoring cell, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary. We also have a High Power Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Industry Minister. Pu Speaker, works can be given to corporation without call of tender, this is practice in other state and Central Government. Pu Speaker integrated design and Technical Development Project on Handicraft are under Development Commissioners,

Handicraft, they are given consultant work, Computer aided textile design centre is kept under them.

Pu Speaker, the answer to the question of what are the steps taken in corporations, Pu Speaker, if they don't want to listen, I can give in writing.

S P E A K E R : If you don't want to listen, there is no point for the Minister to answer the question, in order to answer the question, the Minister has to clarify certain points.

P U K. T H A N G Z U A L A : The answer to Pu Lalrinzuala's question is, Industry Department does not deal with V.I.P. lights, it concerns with G.A.D. Therefore, I cannot answer the question. As for the change of policy in privatization, I will leave for the House Leader to clarify. As for the loses of the corporation, they are as follows ZENICS - 46.84 during the 2000 - 2001, ZIDCO - 117.27 during the 2000 - 2001, ZOHANDCO - 33.13 during the 2000 - 2001.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No.62 to be asked by Pu Zakhu Hlychho.

P U Z A K H U H L Y C H H O : Pu Speaker, the question is, why is Chakhang PHC not opened till now? I request the Hon'ble Health Minister to answer the question.

S P E A K E R : Pu F. Malsawma.

P U F. M A L S A W M A : Pu Speaker, after appointment of a doctor and staff for Chhualung and Chakhang P.H.C. was made, the centre was opened.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, Ngentiang PHC building has been completed, when will it be opened? We don't have a doctor in Ngentiang. When will doctor be posted in Ngentiang?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister said that PHC at Chakhang and Chhuarlung has been opened, however I visited the building last month, the building is ruined, with broken glasses, when did the Minister opened P.H.C.?

SPEAKER : You are speaking about Chhuarlung or Chakhang?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Chakhang, Pu Speaker, I made this question because I thought that the PHC has not been opened. Pu Speaker, if it is opened, where will the doctor and staff function? Is there any proposal for repairing the building?

PU F. MALSAWMA : Pu Speaker, a doctor has been posted at Ngentiang PHC, the doctor was attached at Serchhip, however a release order has been issued.

As for the answer to the question made by the Hon'ble member from Saiha, PHC was opened on 4th April 2002, and a doctor was posted from then on. As for the building, order has been issued to write the name of the contractors on every Health Department's building, as the construction of building during those period was very poor. The Department has taken steps to repair and improve the buildings of the Department as a whole. Pu Speaker, I request the Hon'ble members to give list of PHC and CHC in their constituency in order of priority that needs repair.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No.63 to be asked by Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 63.

Will the Hon'ble P.W.D. Minister be pleased to state -

- (a) How far has the work on road construction between Kawlkulh - Lungpho, under Rural Connectivity Scheme completed?
- (b) Is the construction work still in progress?
- (c) When will it be completed?

PU ZORAMTHANGA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to the Hon'ble member Pu Vanlalhlana question is -

- (a) Upto Chhawrtui village has been completed, it is 17 kms. 95% of formation cutting has been done.
- (b) The work is still in progress.
- (c) As for the completion of work, it depends upon the sanction release by the Central Government, however we are expecting to complete by 2005.

PU LALRINZUALA

: Pu Speaker, (a) What is the given breadth of black topping under Rural Connectivity?

- (b) When will Vanhne road be opened?
- (c) When will the road between Thuampui and Lungdai be continued?

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA

: Pu Speaker, supplementary question. Rural Connectivity is under PMGSY scheme, as per the guideline, the minimum tender amount is one crore. Does the Government make sub-contractor under this scheme?

PU H.LALTANPUIA

: Pu Speaker, In my constituency road construction is going on under PMGSY, the road was to be completed by March 30 as the

answer given by the Hon'ble Minister last Assembly Session. The Minister also mentioned that if the work is not completed within the given period, the contractor will be terminated. Pu Speaker, it is definite that the work will not be completed in time, and the quality of the work is very poor, what action will the Minister take?

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, supplementary question -When will the approach road to Lungpho be continued? And will road between Chhawrtui to Vanchengpui be constructed under Rural Connectivity Scheme?

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, there are two roads under construction in my constituency under Rural Connectivity, the formation cutting is completed. When will this road be completed? Pu Speaker, from the information I received, if the work is not upto the mark, the fund sanction for Rural Connectivity will be difficult to obtain from the Central Government, is this true? Then, what is the given breadth of black topping?

SPEAKER : We'll call Hon'ble Chief Minister to answer the questions.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, the main question was for one road, it will be difficult to answer all the questions in detail, however, I will try and answer as far as possible.

The answer to Pu Lalrinzuala's question, regarding the breadth of black topping is 3 metres and for formation cutting it is 5.5 meter. Pu Speaker, as for the different roads mentioned by the Hon'ble members, right now I cannot give detail answer. Central Government has granted 20 crores sanction, and we are expecting another 40 crores as Technical Committee has passed this 40 crores. Pu Speaker, once the sanction is received, the roads will be selected then we can inform the members in detail. As for the question made by Pu Nirupam Chakma, officially it is not necessary to have sub-contractor for the Government.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, the contractor for Borapansury and Montala is Pu T. Neihlaia, there are 9 sub - contractors.

SPEAKER : Only point of clarification from the main question is allowed by rules of procedure.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, the Minister can
CHIEF MINISTER recommend for supply of materials.

As for the answer to Pu H. Laltanpuia – the Engineers will question the contractor as to what difficulties they are facing, We'll listen to their explanation and necessary step will be taken. As for the quality of the work, the Government is putting pressure on the contractors for good quality of work, we are trying to improve quality of work.

As for Pu Hlan's question, as I have mentioned earlier, we are waiting for Phase-II sanction, as soon as sanction is made, the work will be continued. As for the bridge between Sateek – Darlung, I cannot give the date for completion. Please wait, I am not sure of the question.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, will the road between
Chhawrtui and Vanchenpui be
constructed under Rural Connectivity
? If so, when?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, if I don't look at the
CHIEF MINISTER list I cannot give the answer.
However, it will be there under the
scheme.

As for the sanction of Phase-II fund, the Central Government give warning to every state, however, we will be the first who will receive the Phase-II fund.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 64 to be asked
by Pu J. Lawmzuala, please we'll
move on to the next question.

PU J. LAWMZUALA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the
Hon'ble Minister for Trade &
Commerce Department be pleased
to state – whether the buildings for

Custom Office and Immigration Office are constructed at the border trade centre of Kawrpuichhuah.

- PU AICHHINGA
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the Hon'ble member's question is - the buildings for Custom Office and Immigration Office are not yet constructed, because the fund for the approach road was not included. Therefore, the Government has approached for fund from R.D. under BADP Scheme. Pu Speaker, the approach road is completed which is 8 K.M., now contour survey for the buildings are in progress.
- PU J.LAWMZUALA : Pu Speaker, where is the fund for these buildings deposited? Was the fund invested for Zokhawthar road? Pu Speaker, was the Talk at Secretary level being held between India and Bangladesh under the initiative of External Affairs Ministry? If so, was it successful? Will the Government be able to bring an end to difficulties faced by Ginger dealer with BSF personels?
- PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker, the Minister mentioned that the buildings were not constructed because of approach road, Pu Speaker, Is there a restriction for the usage of Inland Water Ways?
- S P E A K E R : Now we'll call Pu Aichhinga to answer the question.
- PU AICHHINGA
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to Pu Lawmzuala's question is talk is held yesterday and today and as for the report of talk, we have not received the report. Pu Speaker, as for the B.S.F. personel, Chief Secretary has held talk with the B.S.F. officials, however nothing much can be done as border trade is not legalized. Once the trade route is open the Government can interfere.
- As for the answer to Pu Lalrinzuala's question, the other half of the Inland Water Ways belongs to Bangladesh, therefore the Government is careful not to take risk.

PU LALRINZUALA : Pu Speaker, the border trade centre is going to be between Kawrpuichhuah and the river. It will not create any problem, therefore, there will not be any problem.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the work is not supposed to be done during Monsoon season. Therefore, nothing can be done, it is due to this that we have taken up approach road.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 65 to be asked by Col.Lalchungnunga.

COL.LALCHUNGNUNGA SAILO : Pu Speaker, Starred Question No. 65.

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

- (a) How many police constable has been given appointment on 14.2.2003?
- (b) Was Interview and test conducted?
- (c) Did Government make advertisement?

S P E A K E R : We'll now call PuR.Tlanghmingthanga to answer the questions.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to the Hon'ble member's questions are -

- (a) No appointment has been made on 14.2.2003 for Police Constable.
- (b) Still no appointment was made, there is no interview and advertisement.

COL.LALCHUNGNUNGA SAILO : Pu Speaker, 30 Constables were given appointment, why is interview and test not conducted? Or is date of appointment not on 14.3.2003?

- PU K.T.ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, the Home Minister had made a statement at the passing out parade at P.T.C. - that the Rifle allowance will be raised from Rs 40/- to Rs 70/- and ration from Rs 350/- to Rs 600/-. Has this been implemented?
- PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, is reappointment made against those who have opted out of their service on their own? If so, are they appointed as new recruits?
- PU LALRINZUALA : Pu Speaker, if there is appointment made against persons who do not go through interview and test, what action will the Government take if information is given.
- PU P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister mentioned that appointment was not made on 14.2.2003. My question is - Is there any appointment made during this month? If so, was interview and test made?
- PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, is there any proposal to recruit town Police who are 5.8" feet?
- PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, How many Police men are given appointment during this year? Are the appointment made through D.P.C.? Is the new Home Minister planning to give appointment without going through DPC?
- SPEAKER : We'll now call Home Minister Pu R.Tlanchmingthanga to answer the questions.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, appointment against 31 Police Constable was issued. The Police Constable was given appointment through proper channel, only those who qualified were given appointment. They will be given training for 9 months. Advertisement was not made as this post was meant to fill up the vacant post against those who have opted out due to sickness and some other reasons. The appointment was made as per rules and regulations. As for the up gradation of allowances, it is in the hands of the Government, we are expecting it to be finalized very soon.

Pu Speaker, regarding Town Police, there is no definite intention in making recruitment. However, I point out that if town / city Police are recruit, it would be adviceable if 5 feet 8 inches are choosen among the candidates. It seems many have come to S.P. Office who have qualified the measurement. Pu Speaker, appointment is made through Employment Exchange.

S P E A K E R : Now question hour is over. Presentation of Report by Pu Dr. Lalzama on "Fifth Report of Committee on Government Assurances".

Dr. LALZAMA : Pu Speaker, with your permission and approval of the House, I present, Committee on Government Assurances 5th Report.

S P E A K E R : Let the copy be distributed. Now we'll continue with general discussion on Budget. Pu R.Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. First of all I would like to request the Government to pay attention to Hmar refugees.

Pu Speaker, I would like to thank the Government for giving site for S.D.O. (Civil) Office and for the road between Mualpheng and Sihfa under Rural Connectivity, and also for the up gradation of Hospital in my constituency. Pu Speaker, there is one more point I would like to thank the Government for its Voluntary Retirement Scheme for drivers. With this scheme, the Government will

benefit and so also the drivers. Pu Speaker, I would like to make suggestion regarding ZIDCO, ZENICS, MIFCO, ZOHANDCO and KVI. As we all know, these corporations are running on loses, the Government should privatize these corporations.

Pu Speaker, the Chief Minister mentioned that this is the thickest Budget book, it is very difficult for layman like me to go through this book.

S P E A K E R : Please wait, for information members could have made suggestion in the Estimate Committee. Since nothing was mentioned, the book is prepared this way.

P U R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, I think the Government just wanted to introduce new system even if it is not better than before. In view of the coming election scheduled for next year, I have high hope of seeing a better Budget than before. But, this year's Budget is the worst ever. Because, the deficit is the highest ever this year. In the copy of 'Demand for Grants' page 488, fund allotted for repayment of loan is shown, that is 14817 or 85 lakh. It is ever higher than the total plan Budget. In this condition, development for the people cannot be expected. At the same time, the Revenue Expenditure for salaries and office expenditure is rather high. If we go on like this no ministry would run efficiently as 80% of the plan Budget has gone to this, while only 20% is allotted for capital expenditure. The state Government has been going on with a deficit. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was very proud of being able to provide salaries to Government employees without delay. But, I find no good reason to be proud of. Salaries can be given to Government employees from the loan taken from the Central Government. Not only this, the share of suppliers and Contractors can be withheld and with that, salaries can be provided to Government Employees. By being able to provide salaries, the public money is restrained. The ones who suffered the most are the public. During last year, the total amount kept in K. Deposit was Rs 59,000 lakhs. Despite the fact that there is financial constraint in the state, the Government has been busy engaging in organizing functions and tours.

There was a lot of controversy in the case of Ginger last year. Khaibak Enterprise had been manipulating Ginger market within Mizoram. But, we were just in time to save the market. The State Government is again negotiating with Khaibak Enterprise this year. According to the agreement, Ginger is to be sold at Rs 5/- per Kg. But MNF Returnees Association has found probable buyer at a higher rate. But, here also, the authority still prefer Khaibak Enterprise that offered a lower price. The system in which the agreement is made also invites suspicious.

The MIP Marketing Board has declared in the Press Conference that Ginger would be bought at Rs 7.75 p per kg. and Broom @ Rs 10/-. But, Khaibak Enterprise purchased Ginger at the rate of Rs 5/- per kg. and Broom is supplied to PAMRA at the rate of Rs 8/- while the actual rate offered was Rs 9/-. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that the Government has sent a number of Police Force to Vairengte Check Gate to look into the action of PAMRA activists.

The members of this House may all be aware of the false promises made by the Chief Minister when this Ministry was first formed. He has promised to dissolve Chakma District Council. Not only this, he has given the people of Mizoram false hopes and expectations. But, he has forgotten all his promises and the public grievances have increased a lot.

PU H.LALTANPUJA

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find few points to be appreciated in the Budget. Privatisation of Government vehicles highlighted in the Budget

Speech seems to be an important means for fiscal measure and I truly appreciate this. Another point I appreciate is in regard to Forest Department. As mentioned in the Governor's Address the Government has obtained the approval of the Government of India to the Working Plans and Schemes enabling us once again to resume timber operation to meet the demand of the local people at reasonable price. I think this is a great achievement.

In the Budget itself I do not know what is the policy of the MNF led Government. According to the Budget Estimate for 2003 - 2004 the total deficit would be 266 crores which is higher by 100 crores than the previous year. Does this denotes that the MNF Ministry do not expect to form another ministry next year. With the closing deficit and market borrowing from corporations and financial institutes, the total deficit for 2003 - 2004 will come to 1400 crores which is very much higher than one plan Budget. If we go on in this way, the State will collapse shortly. With such amounting deficit, the outlay of the capital account has come to only 127.14 crores. For building up of infrastructure and for the making of assets, only 127.14 crores is provisioned which is only 7% of the total Budget. Therefore, we cannot say that our Budget is a healthy one.

For the Department of Horticulture, the capital outlay as shown in the 2001 - 2002. Appropriation is Rs 332.53 lakhs. But, in the Financial Statement the amount allotted for this Department is 390.71 lakhs. If the Appropriation and Financial Statement is not similar, which one will be accepted. This cannot be a pointing mistake. Not only for Horticulture Department but also in other Departments. The Revenue account and Appropriation account for Horticulture Department is also different. How can the House prevail amicable discussion on such an intricate Budget. While we expect healthy Budget only 7% is set aside for infrastructure development. On the other hand, the Government has given importance

to the supply of materials to Departments. A large amount of the Budget has gone for the cost of excess supply of materials to Departments.

Mr. Speaker, it is desirable that over Budget be made as accurate as possible.

If we look into the Budget provision for Family Welfare there is only 58.21 lakhs which is too small compared to last year's Rs 129 lakh. The provision for Rural Development Department is also found to be rather meager. (Interruption)

COL. LALCHUNGNUNGA

Mr. Speaker, this year we have two volumes of Budget books presented in the House hence, it is not easy to have thorough study.

Mr. Speaker, it is regretting that the work performance report for last year is not available. Each Department is expected to report their work performance. But due to the absence of the work performance report of the Departments the members have no way of knowing how the Budget was used.

Next, I would like to express that over Budget is not satisfactory. To support this view, the Budget does not reflect a single provision for employment generation which is the problem of today. This Budget does not provide any single gainful employment for the youth.

We may be aware that the State's deficit has increased. The Budget clearly shows that in the beginning of 2002-2003, the deficit was Rs 118.74 crore and it rose to 169.61 crores at the end of the financial year. This year we are going to start the Financial year with a deficit of Rs 169.61 crore and as shown in the Budget book, it will become Rs 266.38 crores by the end of the year, the difference is 99.77 crores. There is no reason to appreciate the Budget.

I am afraid that there will come a time when the Government has no alternatives but to cut number of Government employees and withheld their salaries. Mizoram has no mean to generate our income unlike other states. Therefore, the Government should find better way to utilize our forest resources. If a small Department like Excise can collect a revenue income of Rs 1.35 crore within a year, Forest Department with better resources would be able to get larger income.

As already mentioned yesterday, Plan Budget is inadequate while these is much larger provision in the Non-Plan. This means reserved for infrastructure development is very low, there is adequate amount of Budget available at the disposal of the Ministers.

Coming to Sports Department, the Budget provision for this Department has been reduced by 34 lakhs compared to last year's Budget. We

should understand the inherent strength and potentialities of our youth and sport persons. While I expect the Government to build up different kinds of sports infrastructure for promotion of Sports & Youth activities, all we have seen is reduction of sports Budget. With such a small Budget, incentive cannot be given to our youths. Therefore, the Budget for Sport Department needs reviewing.

Steps taken by LAD in regard to building assistance is being emphasized in the Budget Speech. But, it is not fair that the majority of the families who received loans for construction of dwelling houses comprised of MNF Party workers and their relatives. The MNF Party members are the ones who benefited the most.

Step is taken by LAD to provide loan for construction of dwelling houses to BPL families through Vijaya Bank. But, the prescribed Bank refused to release the required amount to the beneficiaries. I request the concern Minister to verify about this.

PU J. LAWMZUALA

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is known that preparation of the Budget Estimate and management of finance itself is not an easy task.

The Supplementary Demand for 2002 – 2003 has supported this fact. The total Supplementary Demand for 2002 – 2003 is 372.9 crores. As seen in the Explanatory note, an amount of Rs 30 lakh is demanded for clearing of pending telephone bill in the SAD. And from Agriculture Department, an additional amount of Rs 1560.24 lakhs is demanded for MIP. Rs 20 crore was already allotted for MIP. Why is an additional Rs 1560.25 lakh is demanded? From the original provision of Rs 20 crore, only Rs 3 crore is spent, but, now another additional amount of Rs 1560.25 is being demanded. Mr. Speaker, this is really surprising. And for public debt, an additional amount of 511.92 and another 10,62,000 are also demanded for CSS repayment loan. This is solely due to inefficiency in the financial management. It is further learnt that we have an opening deficit of Rs 169.61 crore and this increased each year. Even the non-plan liabilities has come to 1300 crore. It is disheartening to note that a poor state like Mizoram could have such a high amount of deficit. The reasons are unhealthy budgeting and financial mismanagement. It also proved that our Budget is not meant for public development.

Another point I want to emphasize is the Budget allotment for MIP (Mizoram Intodelh Project). The original Budget estimate for MIP was 20 crores. Even before MIP fund and assistance is disbursed, an additional fund is demanded. What is the reason for this?

Mention may be made that both the Governor's Speech and the Chief Minister's Budget Speech contained 58 paragraphs each. I have thoroughly gone through both and came to a conclusion that the Governor's Address is more detailed and appropriate.

There are, however, certain points that deserve appreciation. It is pleasing that the Government has recently approved the Recommendations of the Committee for Identification of Government Vehicles for disposal, which is expected to reduce Government expenditure to a significant extent. It is also pleasing that due to the efforts rendered by the then Deputy Chief Minister of the PC/MNF coalition Government, environmental and forest clearance for Bairabi Hydro Electric Project is obtained.

Coming to Agriculture Department, it was often propagated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister that self-sufficiency in food stuff would be attained within three years for which privatization and mechanization was emphasized. But, we have not heard of this now. Is this abandoned by the Government? Because, the Government has now concentrated on MIP. We have a good and detailed guidelines for MIP. But, this guidelines are not followed which is a proof that MIP will not be a success.

In Agriculture Department Passion Fruit and Ginger Project which have been the slogans of the MNF Party are also not mentioned in the Budget. We do not know whether it is a success or a failure.

We have even in the Governor's Speech that satisfactory progress was made in establishment of Regional Diagnostic Centres at Lunglei under grants provided by the Eleventh Finance Commission. But, this is far from reality. Not even a single step is taken for the construction of this centre. It is further stated that equipments for the centre is being purchased. Where will the equipments be installed if the mentioned buildings are not there.

In the Department of Trade and Commerce, there is no mention of marketing for every Agriculture products and border trade. Does this mean that there is no Budget provision?

The case of Polytechnic Institute is mentioned on page 24 of the Budget Speech. It reads as 'it is proposed to take up construction of Mizoram Polytechnic building at Lunglei'. If the Government has no real intention to set up Women Polytechnic at Lunglei, correction better be made.

It is a matter of appreciation that Fishery farms have been constructed at Palak, Lengpui, Zawlnuam and Zobawk. Here, I would like to advise the authority to concentrate towards privatization. In 1999 Venghlun Fisheries Cooperative, Lunglei was set up by 22 families. This society has not received any financial assistance from the Government. I have brought up this matter for the notice of the Government. Thank you.

PU K. VANLALAUVA
MINISTER

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start my Speech with Social Welfare Department. Menace of Drug trafficking and Drug abuse have been firmly dealt with by the Government, with the support and cooperation of various NGOs. We know that the nodal Department is Excise, but in order to ensure these menaces are at bay, the strength of the forces kept by this Department is rather small. Therefore, we are all responsible and it is important to know that not only the Excise forces and NGOs but public support and cooperation is needed.

It is a matter of appreciation that Piggery Village is set up by Vety Department. Each family is provided with 10 pigs for rearing. With this we can attain self-sufficiency in meat production.

We have often said about inadequacy of fund. The reason behind this is due to low production of the state. Mizoram has the second highest Government employees next to Sikkim. And over 47 crores has gone to Salary head alone. As this is the case, development fund cannot be very high. Therefore, being representatives of the people, it is our duty to impart to the public that it is their duty to pay reasonable tax to the Government.

I would like to conclude my speech with MIP (Mizoram Intodelh Project). This project can certainly bring development to the people. But, it is important to know that the fund has to pass through a long channel. It may be safe to entrust the project to Farmer's Association. But, we need to ensure that MIP fund reaches the rightful beneficiaries. If this project is taken up as expected it will be beneficial for the rural population. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Meeting will be adjourned till 2:00 PM.

Recess at 1:00 PM

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER

: We will resume our business, Pu Vanlalhtana.

PU VANLALHLANA

: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government for all the support and assistance provided to the Presbyterian Women's Conference held on 16.3.2003 at Chhiahtlang, which lies within my constituency.

The hon'ble Chief Minister has already presented the State Budget for 5 times, the first was presented on 22.3.1999 where he had emphasized that the state would go on Zero based budgeting. Subsequently, Zero-based budgeting was never mentioned. All we have heard in the Budget Speech is the state's financial deficit and the increasing revenue expenditure. When the MNF Government was formed in 1999, the Central Government has provided financial assistance to the state. To deal with the difficulty, a Committee of Group of Officers was formed. And in 1999, the Committee made a recommendation to settle the financial problem of the state. From that recommendation, a Memorandum of Understanding was born. The outcome of this MOU was like in water and power tariff and passenger fare in private buses, collection of taxes and banning of filling up vacant posts. Not only this, post creation was also stopped. The same situation is met this year. The State Government has approached the centre for financial help. And the same had happened in 1999, the centre has set up Group of Officers to study the financial problem of the state. This Committee is advised by the centre to submit its recommendation. Before making a decision I would like to advise the authority of the state not to make any commitment that can cause obstacle to the people and not to sign another MOU.

In the Budget Speech there is no mention of the financial condition of the state. At the same time, it is a pleasing matter that the Word Peace Bonus has not been mentioned. Another pleasing matter is that on page 2 of the Budget Speech, there is no attempt to levy new taxes from the people. Not only this, users charges like Water and Power Tariffs are not to be increased. This is a pleasing matter for the public.

This year, Demand for Grant 2003 - 2004 and the Revised Estimate are shown separately. As already stated by others, Explanatory Memorandum is not given to us and hence, there are many points to be clarified.

Emphasizing on Power Department, the Budget Speech shows that 132 KV Sub-Station was commissioned at Baktawng during 2002 - 2003. Baktawng lies within my constituency. But, I am quite certain that 132 KV Sub-Station has not been commissioned at Baktawng. I suggest that correction better be made that 132 KV Sub-Station is proposed to be set up during 2002 - 2004.

Clearance for Bairabi Hydel Project has been obtained, as already stated. Investigation work was completed way back in 1984 and we are able to start the project now. If the matter is pursued by the previous ministries, this project would have been completed some time back. The hon'ble Finance

Minister has stated in the Budget Speech that on-going works of Tuipang Hydel Project, Kau-Tlabung small Hydel Project and Bairabi Thermal Project are proposed to be continued. Since 1999 these projects are mentioned in every Budget Speech as on the verge of completion. But, completion is far from reality which is shameful for the Government.

Coming to Education Department, the Government has modified the existing school Calendar in spite of various objections. After practising the new Calendar for 2 years, the Government decided to go back to the old School Calendar. Here, I want to say that before making big decision the Government should consider the possible impact their decision will have on the public.

Although Mizoram attains the second highest level of literacy in the country, we have no Education Act till date. But, due to the efforts rendered by the hon'ble Education Minister, Education Bill is moved in the House. I appreciate the Minister sacrifice for this.

Another pleasing matter appeared in the Budget Speech is the intention of the Government to supply stationery materials to 1453 Middle and Primary Schools. Moreover, free School Uniforms will also be given to 17490 students. But, we have to be particular in the selection of beneficiaries. We are facing MLA election shortly. I am afraid that this may be used to obtain votes.

I would like to emphasize that at Sialhau Primary School, there is only one female teacher and she has to look after 86 students all by herself. I had witnessed her teaching 86 student and it is a pitiful sight. A similar case also happened in Thinglian and Hmunhmeltha Primary Schools. I have mentioned this for the notice of the hon'ble Minister.

PU P.B. ROSANGA

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As already stated by other members, the Budget Book for this year is presented in two volumes and the content itself is different from the previous ones. Furthermore, Explanatory Memorandum is not provided this year which makes it difficult to understand. It gives me the notion that the Government has began to withdraw from undertaking major works. At the same time, Budget provision for the head of minor works is increased compared to the previous Budget allotment. I think we should carefully look into this. In the Budget system, minor works do not require technical approval and there are easy means of making money for personal benefit. The structure of this year's Budget is not a desirable one. As shown in the Budget, besides the fund received as Central Assistance, the amount that is taken from financial institutions are quite high and the interest is also very high. The Budget set aside for loan repayment with the interest will take high amount of our total Budget allotment. For the current year it seems that 160 crores will go for loan repayment. If we go on in this manner, there will come a time when the state go

without a single amount in the Budget. I am not simply objecting to taking loans. But, the system is not desirable. To state an example, with a loan of 2 crores from NABARD, CT Scan machine was purchased for Civil Hospital. CT Scan machine is greatly required. But, there is no place to install the machine, it was purchased in 2001, the machine has not functioned till date. If the Government is to take loan, we have to consider the return so that the loan can be more utilized.

When this ministry was formed, the policy adopted by the House Leader was to be self-sufficient in food stuff. In pursuance of this policy, various programmes were made. Eventually, we are being led into the policy of MIP (Mizoram Intodelh Project). In the current Budget, 20 crores is earmarked. But, according to the report yesterday, only 3 crores was spent from the 20 crores. We have only 6 days left for the end of the financial year. If this is so, the Budget allotment for this year is spent irrationally. The policy has not been taken up according to the guidelines. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is certain that MIP has not been successfully implemented. It is no less different with NLUP introduced by the Congress Ministry.

Coming to PWD, internal roads in certain areas like Vaivakawn and Chawnpui badly need reconstruction and maintenance. I request the hon'ble Minister to take priority in this matter.

PU LALCHAMLIANA
MINISTER

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are all aware, we had obtained 'Vote on Account' for expenditure requirements for four months of the

current financial year. Such 'Vote on Account' was necessitated by non-finalisation of the size of the Annual Plan outlay of the state by Planning Commission of India. As such, Explanatory Note is required but not made available.

The main point of criticism is the Budget Book which is presented in three volumes. But, this is due to a change in the classification of various object Heads of Account by Government of India, which has necessitated bifurcation of the RE and BE in separate Books.

The Opposition Leader has questioned if there is hidden agenda. However, from the Finance Department point of view, the Budget allotment for minor works and major works have decreased compared to last year's Budget. Last year, the Budget provision for minor works alone was Rs 4653.84 lakhs. This year it is only 3714.25. And under major works the Budget allotment was Rs 12953.21 lakh last year and this year it is reduced to 11023.82 lakhs. Hence, it can proudly be said that there is no hidden agenda in the Budget provision.

Though we are all aware, I would like to repeat that the Planning Department has control over plan fund and the Finance Department could not make final decision.

Loan and deficit earned lots of debate in the House. But, we need to know that Mizoram is not an independent state like other states. The centre has control over our financial condition to a large extent. So, when the Planning Commission made allotment for our plan fund, there was many liabilities in the non-plan. For meeting the non-plan liabilities, the Central Government has instructed the State Government to avail loan. Hence, the State's debt is increasing each year. Last year, the State Government availed loans from GPF, Small Savings, Market Borrowing, LIC, HUDCO and REC. The amount of loan taken from the above had come to 156.23 crores. Besides, there are certain percent of loans from Normal Central Assistance and CSS. The more financial assistance is, the more the loan portion becomes. As for this year, the centre has sanctioned 80 crores from non-lapsable Pool of Central Resources out of which 10% will go as loan portion. Therefore, the State's deficit will certainly increase this year. The more the Budget size is, the more the loan portion becomes.

The State Government used to receive, grants from NEC and CSS. But, the whole amount is not as grant, 10% will go as loan. However, the period of repayment is not the same. Some loans are to be repayed within 7 years while some have 20 years for repayment. Being economically not self-sufficient, we cannot avail being dependent on the Central. So, in order to avail these loans, we need to sacrifice by reducing our plan size tremendously. We should also have State's resources to mobilize. As stated by the hon'ble member from Ngopa, we need to utilize the loans profitably.

There is one thing that requires clarification. There is an amount of 60 crores coming from the centre each month regularly. From this 60 crores 80% is diverted for salaries of Government employees each month. We should not be confused in this matter. Some members seem to be confused with 80% of the plan Budget that has gone to salary, but this is not so.

I appreciate the works of the Officers and Staff of the Finance Department. But, it is regretted that the State Annual Plan outlay has not yet been finalized by the centre. I hope and expect that the Demand for Grants can be discussed in July. Thank you.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA

: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will start my speech with PHE Department. The hon'ble Finance Minister has stated in his Budget Speech delivered on 21.3.2000 that the Government proposed to take up water supply scheme at Mamit, Tlabung, Lawngtlai, Kawnpui and Hnahthial during 2000-2001. Though the project was included in the 2000-2001 work scheduled list, it was not taken up. This year, another 9 lakhs is being provisioned for this project. But, as we are all aware, the current financial year is coming to an end and the project is still left undone. If the Government has no real intention of starting a project it should not be mentioned in the Budget Speech.

Secondly, there are three on going works abandoned within my constituency. Construction of approached road to Biate, approached road to Chalrang and internal black topping at Khawhai are abandoned in the middle of the project. These works were started in 1999 but it was stopped and the next year fresh fund was allotted for the works but it was diverted. And this year, the works are not even reflected in the Budget. I have often mentioned this case to the Chief Engineer. Mr. Speaker, they are not new projects and it would be appreciated if the said works can be continued as soon as possible.

Coming to Health Department, PHC is recently constructed at Sialhawk. But, Doctor has not yet been posted. And Khawhai PHC also been functioning without doctors for some time. I request the hon'ble Minister to note this.

The Health Worker of Rianglei Sub-Centre is transferred to Biate, and Rianglei village has no Health Worker presently and the Sub-Centre is closed. Sub-Centre was also opened at Lungtan. I had recently visited the village but it does not function due to the absence of Health Worker. Health Worker have played an important role in the remote areas. Therefore, I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister to note this and take necessary action.

There is not much progress in Education within my constituency. Many schools face shortage of teachers particularly in Chalrang, Tlangpui and Lungtan. In these villages they have only one teacher each and I have often reported this to the officials and the Minister concerned was also approached. But, no action is taken till date. If Education Department fails to impart proper education to children and students, it means that they miss their objective.

In spite of my supplication not to transfer Tualte Headmaster, he was transferred and there was no replacement till date. Sialhawk Government High School has been functioning without Headmaster. The experienced teacher at Khawhai High School Pu J.Rohmuna was simply attached to Champhai and Khawhai High School as a result faced shortage of teacher. This is how the Government has mistreated the education within my constituency. Furthermore, the posted teacher at Rianglei refused to join his new posting place for two years now and sent another person. If he wants to get his salary he should be present at his posting place. Not only these, there are other cases and I cannot point out all. Therefore, the authority is advised to look into these matter.

Coming to the State's financial matter, this ministry is following the footsteps of the Congress Ministry in terms of debt. We have an annual Budget of Rs 1401.16 crore this year and the State Government has a debt which is higher than the State's annual Budget. Also, for power supply from outside, we have a debt of Rs 74 crore and the power overdraft interest has come to 638 lakhs. Another 38.52 lakhs is also to be given as an interest of ways and means. Hence, it is difficult to accept the Hon'ble Chief Minister statement that the

financial management of the State is quite satisfactory. Rather, this Government has failed in the financial management considering the weight of our debt and deficit.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO

: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The construction of road project proposed to be taken under World Bank was initiated by the Congress Ministry. The fund involved is also high which is 350 crores. The biggest work project is construction of Aizawl - Thenzawl - Lunglei road. I have recalled the hon'ble Chief Minister's statement that the road would be constructed playground size. But, when the work is started it becomes too narrow for a state highway. I have mentioned this so that the Government can concentrate on this road.

This is the last discussion of the Budget for this term. By this time next year a new ministry would be there and this may be the last time for the MNF Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, in the first Budget Speech delivered, the hon'ble House Leader, stated that his Government would follow transparency and equitability. This ministry has been going for the fifth year and the people of Mizoram will know whether there is transparency and equitability in the Government.

The policy and programme of the Government are reflected in the Government Budget as was the Manifesto of the Ruling Party. The peculiarity of the MNF Ministry is that it has forgotten its manifesto during the last 4 years. One of the most important election manifestos of the MNF is not to impose Sales Tax before formulating proper Sales Tax Act. Despite of this, during the first year of its rule, Sales Tax was imposed. Another manifesto was to make a Budget directly for the poor. If we carefully study the Budget for the last 4 years, on-going programmes specially made for the poor are terminated. Special Development Scheme was also stopped. The Government is now concentrating on self-sufficiency. It is doubtful that this project will be successful.

On Agriculture Department, four years back, the hon'ble Chief Minister had greatly emphasized his intention to concentrate on achieving self-sufficiency in foodgrains. His policy was to give out hundreds of Bulldozers on subsidized rate and take up land development for wet rice cultivation. And now, four years have gone since then and the reflection we see in the Budget is that only 237.50 hectares for wet rice cultivation was taken up out of the targeted 50,000 hectares. Therefore, this ministry should not mention the word 'self-sufficiency'. Last year a new project MIP was introduced and an amount of Rs 20 crore was even allotted. But, where has the money gone? There is no success to be seen.

On Medical, it is regretted that not a single rupee is set aside for State Illness fund.

During the past years, it had often been stated that Tuipang-Kau-Tlabung Small Hydel Project was to be commissioned shortly. This year, the

wording has been changed and the said project is reflected as 'to be continued'. Again, on 15th August, 2002, the hon'ble Chief Minister had stated in his Independence Day Speech that the said project was to be commissioned during the current financial year. I had visited the venue with the Chairman of the PHC. Why is the project not been commissioned as the hon'ble Chief Minister had stated?

Next, I would like to say a few points on District Council. The hon'ble Chief Minister has reviewed the performance and tentative programme of the District Council Affairs Department. Nevertheless, it is not satisfying to see the way the District Councils are treated by this Government. District Councils are preserved by the Constitution and are statutory bodies. As shown in the Gazette Notification No.19 issued on February, the Government has legislated a new District Council Act which is to be enforced in the areas. The District Councils are satisfied with the existing District Council Act, 1974 which provides that 'The District Council in respect of all the areas within its jurisdiction shall make or amend within their purview'. In spite of this, the MNF led Government made law concerning the District Council and instruct the latter to enforce that law within their areas. According to this law, Executive Committee members of the District Council are not to leave Mizoram without the consent of the Governor failing which they will be dismissed. Such an inapplicable law was made for the District Council that a Special Session was even summoned by the authority of the District Council and the new Act was rejected. However, the Government threatened to dissolve the Council and even refused to release their salaries. Moreover, according to the Government Notification dated 7th March, due to the absence of legal expert within the Council area the Government of Mizoram has appointed law expert to work for the District Council with a monthly salary of Rs 15,000/-. Further, the salaries will be paid by the Council plus rental charge of his office. Mr. Speaker, the treatment the District Council has received from the Government is intolerable. It is disgraceful for the people of the area. When mis-appropriation of fund or law by the Council is reported, the Government is very slow in taking actions. Therefore, the Government should stop acting this way.

Another point I want to mention is the appointment of Lecturers. I saw the list of the new appointees which includes the daughters of the Chairman, Chief Secretary and the Principal of Hrangbana College. They are appointed without going through NET exam. I would like to urge the Government to make amendment to this. Lastly, I would like to say that this Government has completely failed in the administration.

PU Z.H.ROPIUA

: Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my gratitude to the Government for the step that has been taken towards road

development. At Lunglei and Saiha, construction of internal footpath have been completed. Therefore, on behalf of the people of Lunglei I express my gratitude to the Government.

It is pleasing that programme for development of border trade centre at Zokhawthar and Kawrpuichhuah on Indo-Bangladesh border is being continued. If I am not mistaken the centre has approved 4 crores and from which 113 lakhs is already sanctioned. Border trade road is also under construction and on the verge of completion. Mr. Speaker, the progress made during the Congress Ministry and that of the MNF Ministry is beyond compared. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to continue the work steadfastly for speeding up of Border trade.

Coming to Power and Electric Department, Environment and Forest Clearances has been obtained for setting up of our own 80 MW Bairabi Hydel Project, which rightly has invited a great deal of public interest in the State. I truly appreciate this achievement. It will also be appreciated if the Government can take interest in Kolodyne Phase-I as this is expected to generate more than 80 MW of power. While Tuipang Power Project is expected to be commissioned soon there are new complications. It will be appreciated if the hon'ble Chief Minister can explain the matter.

I truly appreciate the work of the Government in the field of Education. Whereas the previous Government failed to legislate laws on Education, this MNF led Government is able to present Education Bill which deserved special mention.

The programme of bringing more areas under Wet Rice Cultivation is being continued and the result is quite satisfactory. For the benefit of rural cultivators, rural connectivity is greatly improved by construction of new roads. This will enable rural cultivators to transport their produces more quickly and easily.

Under Horticulture related schemes, the centre has approved Rs 760 lakhs as a perspective plan.

Within my constituency there are 5 private High School, 4 Middle School and our Primary School. The salary of the teachers is quite a problem. It would be appreciated if the Government can provide Grant-in-aid for these private schools.

The case of I.T.I Lunglei has not been highlighted in the Budget. The people of Lunglei are anticipating the emergence of I.T.I. Hence, I request the hon'ble Chief Minister to clarify this matter.

Mention may be made that because of un-relented efforts made by the Government, cooking gas has now been made abundantly available in the State.

It is great to learn that the Government is making a significant progress towards setting up a Bamboo Processing Industrial Unit at Sairang. But, we need to consider the supply of raw materials and the market for the products. In this regard, I would like to suggest that Bamboo Processing Plant should also be

set up at Lunglei District as it is found to be more convenient for market and supply of raw materials.

Coming to AH & Vety Department, it is learnt that projects of Animal Feed and Fodder Resources and development of Sustainable Base for Pig Production are vigorously taken up by the Government. These two projects will ensure enhanced availability of animal feed to cattle farmers and hygienic meat products to the consumers of Mizoram. At the same time, as I have stated earlier, it is desirable that this kind of project can be set up at Lunglei District as well. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call upon House Leader who is also the Finance Minister to wind up the discussion of the Demands.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER** : Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the outset, I would like to request the hon'ble members to know that I would not be able to go in details

on all the matters relating to their respective constituencies due to shortage of time. This can be done when we go on demand wise.

The Minister of State for Finance has already explained the reasons for presentation of the Demand for Grants and Revised Estimates in two books and also the reason for non-presentation of Explanatory Memorandum. So, I will not go into it again.

The member has questioned the decrease of minor works and major works than the previous years. This is mainly due to the increase of the salary head. When the salary head is increased, minor and major works are the heads that are directly affected. However, this can be adjusted when the non-plan fund is released by the centre.

Member seem to think that State Illness Fund is totally terminated. But, if you look at page 200 you can see that Rs 5 lakhs is allotted for State Illness Fund.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as the largest portion of the Budget provision has to go to salary head, we need to reduce Budget provision for development works. Also, each new financial year is opened with deficit. And we are going on a deficit Budget. This is mainly because the Eleventh Finance Commission has restrained the anticipated gap grant from the Non-plan fund. Besides, the total amount to be set aside for salaries and pension almost come to 50 crores each year. This has greatly affected the entire Budget. The Government can not avoid various increases in Government expenditure like enhancement of Dearness Allowances of

its employees. All these factors working together have resulted in a tremendous increase in the deficit of the State Government.

I would also like to inform this august House that due to non-finalisation of the annual plan, the Budget has to be presented which is interim in nature. Therefore, I am seeking Vote on Account for the first four months of 2003 - 2004.

The reason for the rise of State's debt was already explained by the Minister of State, Finance. One of the members has mentioned about the debt of 70 crores on power supply. But, according to the latest information received Mizoram is selected as one of three States that has the lowest amount of debt on electric power supply.

I am happy to learn that the members are all aware of the necessity of developing our own resources. We cannot entirely depend on the centre. Therefore, we should try to develop our own resources.

There is a question of Peace Bonus. Non-plan portion which is one-time grant of 182 crores has already been received. And the plan portion which is not less than 50 crores, to be released every year from the centre has also come for Bairabi Thermal Plant. The State Government is instructed by the centre to submit plan and scheme for the plan portion and it is being done accordingly.

The Government plans to take up privatization to reduce Government expenditure. I would like to explain that the project will not be privatized but only the maintenance will go to private firm. Through privatization, equipments and machineries will be more lasting. It is the policy of the Government to go on privatization as much as possible. Also, through privatisation, employment generation is expected to be easier.

The Government is aware of shortage of Health Workers, Doctors and Nurses. Also, shortage of teachers is not forgotten. Regarding teachers, Education Department greatly suffered due to the termination of teachers appointed under the programme of operation Blackboard. Fortunately, order has been issued for re-employment of these 277 OB teachers and an amount of Rs 1,98,54,630/- is already sanctioned. With this, the problem mentioned by the members can be solved. There is also provision for the appointment of 350 Hindi Teachers which is welcomed by the Department.

It is also the policy of the Government to employ Doctors, Nurses and Health Workers as many as possible on contract basis during the current financial year.

Most of the members mentioned about Bairabi Hydel Project. We all seem to be contented with the outcome. I would like to say to the members that due to the concerted efforts rendered by every ministry that this Project has come out successful. But, this is not the end. We still have to demand adequate fund from the centre. I am optimistic that we will be successful.

As for the case of Tuipang-Kau-Flabung Hydel Project, we are prepared to commission. But, due to certain misunderstanding between the State Government and the firm that undertakes the Project, it cannot be commissioned till date.

Various steps have been taken to provide assistance to job seekers. Training has also been conducted to educated un-employed persons. Personal loan is also made available for educated unemployed. Priority has been given to find better job prospect for educated unemployed.

PU HLAALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker, in the Statement of Account, it is shown that the financial statement for Horticulture Department for 2001 - 2002 as 2320.95 crores. The hon'ble Chief Minister may please clarify this.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : It is pleasing that the hon'ble Chief Minister had clarified re-appropriation of fund. If we study Revised Budget and the Supplementary Demand, large amount of fund seems to have been allotted for minor works in which the Ministers have financial power. The general election is not just ahead, perhaps because of which Budget book also does seem to be altered. Hence, it will be pleasing to have clarification for the reason why execution norms is not followed in the allocation of fund.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : There is a slight mistake. In
CHIEF MINISTER place of 'Agriculture', 'Horticulture' has to be written.

PU HLAALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker, we need to be very careful as it involves crores of rupees.

PU ZORAMHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the concern of the members. I would also like to apologise to the members for the mistakes. Due to

shortage of time, there are mistakes in figures and I hope that it will not be repeated in future.

The Opposition Leader has expressed his concern for the possible misuse of plan fund. I would like to assure the member that precautionary measure would be taken so that fund would be utilized for the right purpose.

In order to have real development, we should make our land into a productive land. In Mizoram, we have vast forest land. But, due to poor connectivity, we cannot achieve much under the present condition. Hence, a new scheme called 'Potential Connectivity' is made and with this scheme the centre is approached and pressured. The Government is convinced that an improved road network is a pre-requisite for development. Due to poor road network, the newly installed bamboo plant cannot make steady progress. So, under Bamboo Potential Connectivity Scheme, the centre is approached and we are given 12 crores for this scheme. With the advance of connectivity, development can be achieved through our producers. I would like to say that we have enough resources but, our resources are not yet activated. When we discover systems for the activation of our resources, the people of Mizoram will have the best economy. We are now living in an interim period.

Mr. Speaker, our Budget may not be perfect, but it is prepared as best as it could be. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

The General Discussion is over. Pu F. Malsawma has an Official Resolution to move, that is 'This House resolves that the General

Election of Mizoram Legislative Assembly in 2003 be held in accordance with the boundaries of the existing constituencies'.

We shall now invite Pu F. Malsawma to move his Resolution.

PU F. MALSAWMA
MINISTER

Mr. Speaker, today, I move my resolution that, 'this House resolves that the General Election of the MLA in 2003 be held in

accordance with the boundaries of the existing constituencies'. It is my opinion that this Resolution does not require much discussion and debate. This Resolution has been moved as an Official Resolution with the idea that it will put more pressure on the centre. Col. Lalchungnunga has already moved a Resolution which is slightly similar to the Resolution moved today. But, the Government takes precaution not to

contradict ourselves because in 2001 an Official Resolution that the Mizoram Legislative Assembly should not consist of less than 60 members was passed by the House.

Though the member Col.Lalchungnunga had moved a Private Resolution which is similar in idea with that has been moved today, the House was not unanimous and the Resolution was rejected. However, for more effective impact, this Resolution is moved as an official one. For the next coming Legislative Assembly Election of 2003, it is resolved that the election would be held according to the existing constituency. After five years, there may be another Delimitation Commission and by that time we can consider this matter afresh. So, Mr. Speaker, I have moved this Official Resolution for the passing of the House.

S P E A K E R : Each member will be allotted five Minutes. Pu Lalthanzuala.

P U L A L T H A N Z U A L A : Mr. Speaker, it is quite difficult to understand how thing goes regarding this Resolution. Frankly speaking, the aim and objective of

this Resolution is similar with the one submitted by Col. Lalchungnunga just sometime back. Many members stated their appreciation of that resolution as it concerns the Mizo people as a whole. But, it was rejected stating the Save Mizoram Committee had taken up the matter and the Government needs at least 2 months to study the content of the letter to be submitted to the centre. It has not been long since it was rejected. However, another resolution with the same aim and objective came up today as an Official Resolution. At the time when Col. Lalchungnunga moved his Resolution I had clearly stated our stand and we were ready to make modification if necessary. Nevertheless, it was rejected. Whether it is Save Mizoram Committee or the Government or even a particular political party, what we regard to be important regarding delimitation of boundary is the same irrespective of personal opinions we may have. But, since it is moved as an official resolution we have to support it because we are not in a position to reject it. At the same time, I want to say that it is not dignifying for the ruling party to vote for a resolution today which they had just rejected few days earlier. Anyhow, I have no other option but to support it.

S P E A K E R : Can the members adopt this Resolution without further discussion?

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this issue is moved as an Official Resolution. Last Friday it was moved as a private member's Resolution. But, the members from the Congress Party has suggested that it should come as an Official Resolution. This matter is national issue and these should not be party discrimination. I have supported this Resolution. But, I wonder why it was not passed when it was moved as a Private Resolution.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker, today's Resolution is a major issue for the Mizos and therefore should not be disregarded. As proposed to the Election Commission, constituency numbers are all altered. The decision of the Delimitation Commission also seems to be limited. It had issued working paper for three times which the first two were rejected by us but the third one was acceptable. If it is convenient on the basis of topography, I think alternation of constituency boundary should not be minded.

Even if we pass this Bill, minor change may better be made.
Thank you.

Dr. LALZAMA : Mr. Speaker, this is an official resolution. We all know the aims and objectives of the Resolution. So, I suggest that the Bill be passed.

PU LAIRINZUALA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it is most regretting that private member's Resolution which has the same aims and objectives with the one moved today was rejected on Friday. Following this rejection, the media had reported that motion against the recommendation of Delimitation Committee was rejected by the House. However, today it is pleasing that the same motion which comes as an Official Resolution can be passed by the House. The members who had strongly objected to the motion have today voted in favour of the motion which shows the success of our Resolution moved on Friday. We, the members from the MPC Party have supported this Resolution no doubt. Even if this Resolution is passed it does not mean that the Delimitation Commission should not make new boundaries but it is only a Resolution that resolves the coming General Election of the MLA in 2003 to be held in accordance with the boundary of the existing constituency. We the MPC members always support Resolutions that are good for the people. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

Resolution, hence it is admitted.

: The member should know that the same Resolution cannot be accepted. Today's Resolution is different from the Private

P U L. N. T L U A N G A

Mizoram Committee. Once again, I gratefully support this Resolution.

: Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I support this Resolution because it is according to the will of the people and that of the Save

P U Z A K H U H L Y C H H O

the resolution comes as an official one, it would be more effective. With this view, suggestion was made accordingly. I am grateful that the members from the Treasury Bench has accepted that suggestion. This is a serious issue that concerns the entire Mizo people. And it is great to see that the House Leader can humbly accept our suggestion. I would like to request the MPC members to support this resolution as it could be more effective if passed as an official Resolutions. Suggestion may rise that if this Resolution is passed today all party delegates should be sent to the centre to pursue the matter. So, Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is supported by the Congress members. Thank you.

: Mr. Speaker, when the hon'ble member from West - I, Col. Lalchungnunga moved the Resolution I had an idea that if

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a Resolution with the same meaning was objected. As already stated by the other members, the same Resolution with a different wording was rejected and now only after two days it is moved in the House again. Therefore, we all want to pass this Resolution but each with a different wording.

: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is supported by the members from the MPC Party. However, it is disappointing to see that last Friday

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associate member. However, in order to make this Resolution effective, we need unity because Commission attempts to complete delimitation before the notification of the General Election.

: Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I want to say that I support this Resolution. The wording is very clear and we have been demanding this as an

Mr. Speaker, as you have stated, we should not be confused about private member's Resolution and the one moved today. As it is found, the wording was not satisfactory, amendment was made as such. Today's Resolution and the private member's Resolution moved last Friday are far from similar. This is not a controversial matter and so, I support the Resolution.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker, I have not much to say. The Government has made a good conclusion by moving this Resolution. We, the MPC Legislature Party also want to pass this Resolution. Though, different in words, today's Resolution has the same intention with that of the one moved by Col.Lalchungnunga. Anyhow, I hope this will put more pressure on the Delimitation Commission. I, too, support this Resolution.

PU SANGHMINGTHANGA H. PAUTU : Mr. Speaker, as an associate member of the Delimitation Committee, I don't want the House members not to be confused. Even if this Resolution is passed today it will not go to the Delimitation Commission as it is not within its purview. It will go to the President of India as he has the power over delimitations of boundaries. The Commission has only made proposal and prepared working paper to which the State Government will make counter proposal. As for today's Resolution, it is only moved to be effective for the coming election while at the same time the Commission has been working to implement its proposal.

S P E A K E R : You should have said whether you support this Resolution or not.

PU SANGHMINGTHANGA H. PAUTU : Mr. Speaker, I support this Resolution.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, we should concentrate only on the Resolution.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call upon the House Leader.

PU ZORAMTHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From the light of the discussion of the Private Resolution, it is opened that it will be best if it is passed as an

Official Resolution. The main objective of this Resolution is to hold the coming election in accordance with the boundaries of the existing constituency. If we want to make alteration there is still plenty of time. But, only for the coming election which is just ahead, the boundaries of the existing constituency should be accorded. I would like to say that the Government is always ready to go for the most effective way.

S P E A K E R

: We will now call upon the mover of the Resolution, Pu F.Malsawma.

PU F. MALSAWMA
MINISTER

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is pleasing that the members stand united in this Resolution. Though it has been said that the Official Resolution

moved today and that of the one moved by Col. Lalchungnunga are similar, it is of the opinion that though some parts are similar, it would be more effective if it is passed as an Official Resolution.

At the same time, I would like to appreciate suggestion raised by the Congress members. I am also pleased with the MPC Legislature Party for agreeing to pass this Resolution. Personally, most of the members would have certain critical points to mention in connection with our respective constituencies. But, today we have set aside our own personal feelings and stand united for the welfare of the State. This added to the dignity of the House.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I request this august House to pass my Resolution. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: We shall take voice vote. Any member who agree to pass may say 'yes' and those who are against it may say 'No' (members agree).

The House passed the Resolution unanimously.

The House is adjourned till 10:30 tomorrow, 26.3.2003.

Sitting Adjourned.

5:20 PM