

THIRD SITTING ON THURSDAY, THE 10TH DECEMBER, 1998

PRESENT

MR. R. LALAWIA, Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and thirteen Ministers and Thirteen Members were present.

LIST OF BUSINESS OBITUARY

1. MR. ZORAMTHANGA to make references on the demise of Mr. Hari Kristo Chakma, MLA and Mrs Rokungi, Ex MLA.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO FINANCIAL COMMITTEES

2. MR. F. MALSAWMA to move motion for election to -
 - (i) Committee on Estimates
 - (ii) Public Accounts Committee and
 - (iii) Committee on Public Undertakings.

ELECTION TO DEPUTY SPEAKER

3. ELECTION of the Deputy Sepaker

DISCUSSION ON MOTION OF THANKS

4. DISCUSSION on the Motion of Thanks on the Address of the Governor. (To be concluded).

SPEAKER

" Can you catch leviathan with a hook and line ? Or put a nose around his tongue ? Can you tie him with a rope through the nose, or pierce his jaw with a spike ?

Those of our Members who cannot address themselves in Mizo, English or Hindi are free to use their mother tongues. But, according to our Rule 33 they must submit their speech, in writing, to the Secretary.

This morning I would like to announce that our House Leader, Mr Zoramthanga, who had been elected from 2 (two) constituencies i.e. 14 - Khawbung and 15 - Champhai, will have to leave one of them. As he has decided to give up the Khawbung constituency, a Bulletin has been issued to this effect.

We shall now get down to business. Our first task is to pay our respects to the 2 (two) ex-Members of this House, Mr. Hari Kristo Chakma and Mrs. Rokungi, who have sadly passed away. We shall now request our House Leader,

Mr. Zoramthanga to present an Obituary reference on the two departed leaders after which we shall, if time permits, allow other Members to voice their feelings. Let us now call upon our House Leader, Mr. Zoramthanga.

MR. ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, It is a pity that we have to have an Obituary, on the untimely demise of our Ex-Members, Mr. Hari Kristo Chakma and Mrs. Rokungi. Let me say a few words about them.

Mrs. Rokungi, the elder of the two was nominated as an MLA when this state became a Union Territory. She was born on the 14th day of May, 1919 in Loch (A) Hospital, Aizawl. Her parents were Mr. Rochhuma and Mrs. Sangi. In 1950, she was married to Mr. P.C. Sapnela and between them were born 6 (six) sons and 1(one) daughter. She joined the field of politics in 1969 through the Congress Party. She became the convener of the Mizo District Congress Womens' Front in the same year and held this post until 1984. She travelled the length and breadth of Mizoram trying to bring about peace. She then became the first Congress woman MLA in 1984.

In 1983, her blood pressure shot up and she contracted asthma. She was referred to Bangalore in 1985 where she was treated, but to no avail. After being treated by various doctors she eventually succumbed to her illness and passed away on the 11th August, 1998 in the Civil Hospital, Aizawl at 3:10 in the morning.

We are truly sorry to have lost a person who was a great legislator and a pillar of society. In her death, the people of Mizoram have lost a great woman who did her best to serve them.

I shall now say a few words about Mr. Hari who was a senior and hardworking member. Mr. H.K. Chakma was the only MLA. Member in Mizoram to have been elected continually from the same constituency for the longest period. Mr. Hari was the son of Mr. Patanga Mohan Chakma. He was born on 14th April, 1932 at Kalapani in Mizoram. He married Mrs. Kunjalata who bore him 2 sons and 2 daughters. Academically, he was a Matriculate. He worked as a Gram Sevak in the Agriculture Department from 1957-61. In 1964, he even attended the 7th World Buddhist Conference at Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh as a delegate of the Chakma Buddhist Community.

After Mr. Hari joined politics, he was elected as a Member of the Mizo District Council in 1962 and 1970. In 1972, in the first Mizoram District Council Election, he was elected from the Tlabung Constituency as an uncontested candidate. He continued to be re-elected from this constituency until the time of his death. This is what makes him an exceptional person. He was appointed the Chairman of KVI, Mizoram on 2.5.1994 and held this post until his death.

Mr. Hari was a patient, quiet and hardworking man. While he was performing his duties diligently, as always, he passed away at 1:00 P.M at AIIMS in New Delhi leaving his wife Mrs. Kunjalata and 4 children.

Mr. Hari was the seniormost legislator that Mizoram had. We all liked and respected him.

I personally feel that this House today is empty without his presence. I also believe that we must pay our last respects to this great man from whose life there are so many things to learn.

That is all that I can say about the lives of our two ex-members Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Is there any other member who would like to say a few words ?

MR. R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I feel that it is our great loss that we are having an obituary on Mr. Hari Kristo Chakma and Mrs. Rokungi today. I shall now say a few words about them.

Mr. Hari Kristo Chakma spent 36 years of his life serving the people of Mizoram. As mentioned by our House Leader he was an exceptional person.

He was member of District Council (MDC) from 1962-1970 and an MLA from 1972-1989. During his tenure, he performed his duty with diligence and humility. He was a religious man and was free from corruption. This fact can be seen from the material possessions that he has left behind some time, I met him at the Cricuit House in Lunglei and asked "Sir, when are you going to Aizawl?" He replied, "I couldn't get a bus ticket," I was surprised! Here was a man who was an MLA but who couldn't get a bus ticket to Aizawl. He was a man who never complained about anyone or anything. I personally feel that I have many things to learn from him. He was not only kind and humble but was always ready to help others, where politics was concerned, he had a one track mind. He did not jump from party to party and stayed in the same party throughout. I am sure that today, we would all like to show our appreciation to this great man. I even feel that it is because of him that his young son, Mr Hihar Kanti Chakma is a member of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly today. His deminse is a great loss to us.

I shall now add a few words about Mrs. Rokungi. When she saw the sufferings of the people of Mizoram because of freedom struggle, Mrs. Rokungi took great pity on them. When the Congress came to power bringing about peace' as one of its policies, she joined the party and became the Mizoram Womens Front Convener and led the women of the Congress Party for 15 years.

She could speak very well in Hindi. This was very useful her fight against the atrocities of the soldiers on civilians. She travelled the length and breath of Mizoram trying to bring about peace. We miss her very much. She often visited the MNF prisoners, sometimes without even getting prior permission. She was the only Mizo woman politician who was known in Central Circles.

When the late Mrs, Indira Gandhi was in power Mrs. Rokungi at the All India Congress Committee pointed out the atrocities of soldiers on the innocent people about the rapes, pillaging and torturing. This made the authorities, especially those that were women, very angry and immedate action was taken by the Prime Minister to curb these activities. It was because of her that the women folk of Mizoram could live without constant fear. She also gave shelter and protection to many MNF activities while they were on duty at Aizawl and when it was most dangerous. So, because of her crusade for peace and the upliftment of women in Mizoram, she was nominated as on MLA in 1984.

She spent all her time in the service of her homeland and its people. As her husband and children will miss her, so do we as we have lost in her a great person. Thank you.

MR.LAHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, that an Obituary reference has to be made in this Session's first fresh public mandate because of the demise of our esteemed ex - members Mrs. Rokungi and Mr. H.K. Chakma is a great pity. Their deaths are not only our's but the state's loss as well.

The two persons we speak about today were friends of mine. In fact Mrs.Rokungi was like a mother to me. So, I feel that I too must say a few words.

I will speak about Mrs. Rokungi first. I do not intend to repeat what our House Leader has already said. As we all know, Mrs Rokungi, along with her husband Mr.Sapnela, was deeply involved in the politics of Mizoram. Seldom do we have in our land, a couple who is involved in politics. I was the MLA of the Lunglei Constituency when she was nominated as MLA in 1984. We worked together here, for two and half years and I believe that Legislators have many to learn from her. She performed her duties with dedication. She used to sit in the Treasury bench and never made any references that would make the opposition uncomfortable, she was a lovable human being.

Even before she became an MLA when trouble was at its peak because of the freedom struggle, she served her land and people, along with her husband. She came here, as an MLA, through the Congress Women Front with the slogan 'Ambassador of Peace' as peace was what she wanted most and strived for. She was thus one of the poineers of peace for Mizoram.

At the all India level, she was the first Mizo Woman involved in politics, and was a member of the All India Congress Committee. Also as mentioned before, her fluency in Hindi helped her greatly in the service of her fellow women.

Because of her great service, when Mizoram was a Union Territory, she was nominated as MLA in 1984. When her tenure in the nominated seat ended, because she was getting on in years and because of various other reasons like giving a chance to the younger generation, etc., she relegated herself to the status of an active Congress member without taking up any leadership responsibilities. Just before she died, I visited her at the Civil Hospital where we reminisced about the past. She told me of her wish that the younger generation of politicians might do their best to serve the people. We knew each other right from the time of my childhood and she had always wished the best for me.

So, today, we all mourn the death of Mrs. Rokungi and pay our condolences to the bereaved family for in her death Mizoram and its people have lost a great person.

I had already spoken about Mr. Hari Kristo on the day his corpse arrived. He and I go a long way back as we are both from the south. I knew him even when he was a Gram Sevak. At that time he may not have known me, though I knew him, as it often happens that elder people do not always remember younger ones. He was one of the early literate pesons of the Chakma Community. I made my acquaintance with him when he became an MLA in 1972. He was an MLA before us and in this regard, he is our seniormost.

In our line of duty, we often travelled the length and breadth of Mizoram together. I had the apportunity to visit his hometown 4 (four) times. During my visits, I found that Mr. Hari Kristo Chakma and his family were the pillar of society who were always ready to help and serve the needy. He was also a very religious man. I was very touched to see that he had built a temple in his compound. He was also a man who loved what he preached, always remembering that he had to live up to peoples explectations.

He and his family were also very gracious host. Guests were and are always treated with utmost courtesy and made to feel at home. His son, who is here among us today, knows that. This is mother's lesson that we may learn from him. He was also an optimistic and genial person. When I look upon the seat where he used to sit, I feel a lump in my throat, for it was only recently in the post session that he gave a speech. I can picture all this in my mind. Even though we had spent many cherished moments together, I have never known him to behave in a manner wanting in any way.

As a Mizoram Legislator, he holds many records. He holds the record for being elected from the same constituency for the most number of times. He always worked hard, never letting up at any time. Anger was a trait he did not possess. Even though he is a bit wanting in the Mizo language, I have reason to believe that he was a great orator in his mother tongue, for on 2/3 occasions that I have had the privilege of hearing his speeches and from the reaction of the people. I could see that they were greatly impressed. So, today, we have lost a Member whose contributions in the service of the Mizo People, were numerous. We pay our deepest condolences to his family with whom we can identify their loss as our own. Thank you

MR. NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA : With your permission Speaker Sir, I suppose, I would like to sincerely thank the people of Tlabung Assembly Constituency for electing me and I speaking here to them. Pu. H.K.Chakma, who is my father, the only son of late Patangs Mohan Chakma, who was Village Council President of Kalapani, Tlabung Sub-Division, was born on 14th April, 1932 at Kalapani Village and educated up to High School level during the British period. He married Kunjalata Chakma, he had two sons and two daughters, I am the youngest. In 1957 he joined Assam Government, as Gram Sevak and had undergone training at Upper Shillong and also worked at the Multipurpose Community Project Lunglei Sub-Division as Gram Sevak till 1961.

Due to much public pressure he withdrew from the Government service and entered into active politics by the end of 1961, and became member of Indian National Congress. He organised Congress activities under the guidance of Pu P.B.Challihia, the then Chief Minister of Assam. He became the first Secretary to the Lushai Hill District Congress Committee which Headquarter is at Demagiri, presently known as Tlabung in 1956. In 1962 he contested bye election to the Mizo District Council from 17 Demagiri Constituency as Indian National Congress candidate and won the seat with a margin of vote. He won the seat again in 1972 and continued as a member of Mizo District Council till Mizoram became Union Territory.

He was selected delegate and wanted to participate in the One fellowship of Buddhist Conference held in 1964. He won the election to the Mizoram Legislative Assembly from Tlabung Constituency for seven times held in the year 1972, 1978, 1979, 1984, 1987, 1989, 1993. Subsequently he became protem Speaker of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly in 1984. Subsequently he became Vice - Chairman of Mizoram Co - operative Apex Bank Ltd. Later on he became Vice Chairman of Mizoram K.V.I. Board on 18.4.1989. He also became Chairman of Mizoram K.V.I. Board on 2.5.1994 and held the post till his death.

Mr Speaker Sir, may I speak a little more of his illness. In the months of August, he had complaint on his stomach where he feels the pain. Since then, he could not take food properly. On 19th August, he consulted a specialist Doctor who advised him to go to AIIMS, Delhi for further check up and treatment if necessary. He was told that there was a stone in his Gall bladder. As per Doctor's advice, he proceeded to Delhi on 27 for treatment. On 1.9.1998, we consulted Prof S.N.Mehta and advised for immediate admission. Subsequently admitted on 8.9.1998. On the

18.9.1998 the Doctor checked his blood circulation. During those period the then Speaker Pu Vaivenga came, Hon'ble M.P. Pu Hiphei, Pu Zosiana and Pu N.P.Chakma visited us. From 21st he became unconscious and he was put in the Intensive care unit. On 5th October, 1998, he had a severe breathing problem. The Doctor who attended him administered oxygen for immediate relief. At night we contacted the then Hon'ble Minister Pu N.P. Chakma, who was in the Mizoram House, New Delhi. After hearing the news he contacted AIIMS and at about 1:00 PM, I was beside the Doctor who said that both his (my father) kidneys was not functioning.

As far as my knowledge is concerned one of my father's achievements during his life is to bring about peace and harmony among the different tribe of people within his constituency. He was also awarded Glory of India 1997. My sincere thank and deep gratitude to the AIICC President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and Officers and Staff, New Delhi Mizoram House, Mizo Welfare Society, Delhi, Calcutta, Silchar, Assembly Officer and Staff, K.V.I. Officer and Staff and to the Governor of Mizoram and to all M.L.As and ex-MLAs, Social Organisations, D.C. and Staff, Lunglei and All different political parties who had taken great pain in bringing my daddy's dead body from New Delhi to Nunsury. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Today, we pay our respects to two great people. I suppose that each and everyone of us will have something to say about them. But, since we have other matters on our agenda to discuss, we shall move on to them. Also, I personally know and admire Mrs. Rokungi who was a true leader of Mizo Women and a jewel to her husband.

Similarly, I know Mr. Hari Kristo Chakma very well. When we became Members of this House in 1984, we went together to Delhi to have training in Parliamentary studies. As we, along with some others did not get proper accommodation in the Mizoram House, I guided them and we stayed together at a hotel. It was here that I found out what a deeply religious, soft hearted and polite man he was while I was the Estimate Committee Chairman in 1988, I visited his home. I was appalled at its state. How could a man of such high stature live so simply ? I realised what an uncorrupt man he was a man who served his people with true love. Because of their selfless service we will always miss and cherish the two leaders in our hearts. But, as I mentioned before, as we have other pressing matters to discuss, we shall move on to them but before that let us all stand up in 'Silence' and pay our respects to these two great people.

(Two minutes silence was observed)

Our next business is to move a Motion for election to financial Committees, namely Committee on Estimates, Public Accounts Committee and Committee on Public Undertakings. Because they are Financial Committees these three Committees are the most important of the many Committees which comprise of the Assembly Committees. So, according to the rules their members have to be elected. We shall now request our Parliamentary Minister Mr. F. Malsawma to move a Motion to this effect.

Mr. F.MALSAWMA : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg to move
MINISTER the following motion in regards to election to Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee and Committee on Public Undertakings, that the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule 1 of rule 202 read with rule 250 and 251 and 253 of the rule of Procedure and conduct of Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly to

serve as members of Public Account Committee, Estimates Committee and Committee on Public Undertakings, Mizoram Legislative Assembly for a period of 30 months. Thank you.

SPEAKER : This is a very important motion. Even though conducting an election is a troublesome process, we shall proceed according to the rules, nomination may be taken from/by the Secretary. I believe that it would be better to take down the names of the nominees and then assign them to the different Committees with actual voting.

Mr. F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if everyone agrees, I suggest that the Members consult each other during recess and then submit the lists of Members proposed for the different Committees to you.

Mr. NIRUPAM CHAKMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to suggest that a meeting of both the opposition and the ruling party be convened so that there may be better representation from both sides. I think the Committees can be constituted under your guidance. I think will be better this way.

SPEAKER : The Committee may comprise of the following:-
1) One member from the Opposition, 2) As the ruling is a coalition, two members from the P.C. Party and three members from the MNF party. As proposed by the Members, we may discuss this in my Office. Next is the election to Dy. Speaker, for this we have received only one nomination which is from Mr. Vanlalhlana. This was proposed by Mr. Lalchamliana and seconded by Mr. J. Lawmzuala. So, according to the rules of this House, let us call upon Mr. Lalchamliana.

Mr. LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I propose Mr. Vanlalhlana of Lungpho Constituency as the Deputy Speaker of this respected House. Thank you.

Mr. J. LAWMZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I second the proposal.

SPEAKER : I declare that Mr. Vanlalhlana has been elected as Deputy Speaker of this House. On behalf of the Members of this House, I shall now congratulate him on behalf of the House by shaking his hand. The House Leader may do so after me.

Please be seated. We now have a good and capable Deputy Speaker.

Personally, I fell very lucky and happy to have such a worthy deputy.

We shall now move on to other business. I do not intent to spare much time for congratulations, but since it is necessary, let us use the minimum of time and call upon the House Leader, and after him, the Deputy Leader, if the opposition members and then from the independent bench, to offer their congratulations.

Mr. ZORAMTHANGA : Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I am not well
CHIEF MINISTER acquainted with the procedure of electing the Deputy Speaker and feel that it may be appropriate to have escorted him to his seat like we did the Speaker after he was elected, since I was not present when the former Deputy Speaker was elected, I am not very well versed in its procedure. So if we, due to our lack of knowledge of the election process of the Deputy Speaker have not escorted him to his seat, I ask for your understanding.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we all know that we need a good and capable person to lead and guide us in our sessions during your absence. I feel very fortunate that we now have a young, capable and well educated Deputy Speaker who will be there to help you in every way, during your presence or absence, we look towadrs the future with great hope. Thank you.

MR. NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I congratulate the newly elect Deputy Speaker. I hope he will fulfil his duties according to Rules of procedure and conduct of business of Mizoram Legislative Assembly. I on behalf of my colleagues congratulate him and wish him great success. I also assure the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker that we, the Opposition group is ready to co-operate him in conducting the House, I also request the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker that he will give us special opportunity as a Members of the opposition group. Once again, I thank him for the new election to the office of the Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

MR. H. RAMMAWI : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, as the elections of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker took place on different occassions, I did not have the opportunity to congratulate you when you were elected Speaker. So, I resolved to congratulate you and the Deputy Speaker at the same time and I am truely grateful to you for granting me this opportunity.

Today, we have elected Mr. Vanlalhlana as the Deputy Speaker of this House. We would be greatly mistaken if we think him as a tyro as this is the first time that he has sat in this House as a Member. Though this is actually his first term as a Member, he has played an active part in the politics of Mizoram for the past 20 years. So, he really is an old hand and should be regarded thus. Also, I would like to request the Speaker and Deputy Speakder to carry out the administration of the House impartially as the Members comprise of different factions e.i. the Ruling, the Opposijtion and the independent. We know that India is a democratic country with a Parliamentary form of Government. This is practised in all its States. Though it would not be prudent to mention their names, there are some States in which the condudct of their House is severely lacking in many aspects of etiquette. It is in these things that the Chair, of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, is important. From the time that Mizoram was Union Territory to this date, the good conduct of the Members and the mode of running the ssession Hall in Mizoram has been the best. This is a fact upon which all at the Centre and the States agree. Today, I hope and beldieve that this good record will

continue. I would also like to remind ourselves that this House is run according to rules and regulations. There are also certain conventions which are usually followed. Then again, there may be times in which consensus is required on certain topics which are not mentioned in the rules, but which require immediate decisions. In all these things, Mr. Speaker Sir, you and the newly elected Deputy Speaker play a key role. So, today, I would like to request both of you to guide the Members and protect the image and integrity of this House. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We shall now call upon Mr. Vanlalhlana, our Deputy Speaker to say a few words.

MR. VANLALHLANA : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I express my thanks for being elected as Deputy Speaker today. I shall do my utmost to be worthy of this office and for that, I shall need everyone's help. I am very happy that I have been elected uncontested I feel that this shows each and every member has voted for me. I would like to request for the help and co-operation of all the Members so as to enable me to perform my duties, I hope that we will all stay united and perform our duties to the best of our ability. Once again I thank you all. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : If there was lack of ceremony in electing the Deputy Speaker, it was because of our ignorance in ceremonial procedures. I, myself, have been elected only recently and do not know the procedure. I apologise for this. In future we shall try to observe the procedure. Our next subject is Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Address of the Governor. Mr. Sanghmingthanga H. Pautu had made a request to move this Motion. So, we shall give him leave to do so.

MR. SANGHMINGTHANGA H. PAUTU: Mr. Speaker Sir, we are discussing the Hon'ble Governor's address. The address contains our financial position and heavy financial burden which this Government has inherited and its debt of Rs. 54 crores which has to be cleared by March, 1999 besides our monthly expenditure and other un-avoidable problems. In spite of these and the fact that nearly Rs.100 crores has been spent from the Plan Fund, the new Government has tried its best to solve these problems and has made great progress towards achieving this goal. The fact that a new Economic system has been introduced wherein a Budgetary Provision has been made for rural producers to have easier financial access so as to enable them to make their products economically viable is worthy of mention.

The address also mentioned that the main aim of the new government is self sufficiency Mechanization of the agricultural sector to boost production and creating power supply through Bairabi Hydel Project are some of the goals we must achieve.

And last, but not the least, I am glad that the new government will soon be able to settle the matter of the pay of our Gov't employees. F.R. and S.R. have been revised. I hope that the new government has transparency and that it is free from corruption. Thank you.

MR. H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank the Governor for his address, which is concise and specific and contains many good directions which will greatly help the government. I am very glad that we had free and fair elections which is exemplary in the whole country. This was the fruit of the labour of the YMA, the church and our hard working government employees.

The address also mentions the different projects to be taken up by the government for the achievement of self sufficiency.

It also makes me very happy to know that steps have been taken towards achieving sufficiency in power. This makes me believe that we are now trodding on the path of development. The government also aims to find a better market for the products of the rural producers. This makes me very happy but we must remember that there are many constituencies which lack proper roadways which are essential for transporting these products.

Taking my constituency Suangpuilawn, for example, because of lack of proper means of communication, ginger cultivation is not economically viable.

As I have mentioned before, there are many guidelines in the address which are relevant to removing these problems.

I am glad to know that plans for making more roadways are on the offing.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am also glad that the address mentions the pay and emoluments of our government employees and that the new government is going to be transparent and free from corruption.

Last of all, the mention of the financial problem that our government faces is something which is food for thought.

We are now going to run a government which is greatly in debt. This debt which was incurred during the tenure of the previous government will hamper our work to a certain extent. But the clause "My government will take suitable steps to implement the provision not yet implemented in consultation with the central government" of the Mizoram Peace Accord, which is mentioned in this address brings great relief for I know that this government, our House Leader will try its best to procure the aid of the central government for overcoming our financial problem. And if we are successful in doing this the people of Mizoram can look forward to reaping the benefits of the various points mentioned in the joint election manifesto. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Tuipang MLA.

MR. NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, how much time do I have ?

SPEAKER : No one should take too long.

MR. K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for not fixing a time limit. First of all I would like to congratulate you on becoming the Speaker. I also convey my con-

gratulations to Mr. Vanlalhlana, the Deputy Speaker, I am especially glad that you have become the Speaker because I know that you will be fair in your judgement of all things being one of our seniormost and most experienced legislators. I would also like to mention that the sentiments of the opposition would be deeply hurt if favouritism is practised.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I quote the Governor's address to the people of Mizoram as a whole for a peaceful, free and fair election, "That we had a free and fair election is undeniable. But, as you most probably know through the newspapers, I have even mentioned this to our House Leader, immediately after the elections, 45 houses were pulled down at Zawngling Village, which is my constituency. Similarly, 32 houses were burnt down at Puansen Village. There is no mention of these incidents in the Governor's address in spite of repeated articles about these and the sufferings of by the people who had to move to Tuipang and Saiha after losing all their belongings, in the newspapers. I had already informed the Chief Minister, Home Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister about this but, in spite of this, there was no mention of aid to alleviate the peoples' sufferings nor even verbal condolences offered, in the Governor's address. It thus saddens one to say that even though there were many points of merits in the address, I am not entirely happy with it.

I would like to request the government to compensate the people of Puansen, Lokki and those in my constituency who have lost their homes and belongings.

Regarding Finance, our deficit for the years 1997 and 1998 was 117 crores. This has come down to 97.36 crores in 1998-99. The difference is 37.64 crores. I would like to mention that this decline is due to the repayment done by our previous Congress government. The amount of 333 crores which was sanctioned by the Planning Commission for 1998-99 is also 14.8% more than the previous year. This is mainly because of the good performance of the previous Congress government. I appreciate the new economic system mentioned in the Governor's address and also the purchase of Bulldozers for our farmers. This reminds me of the time, during the MNF Party's previous tenure, when bulldozers were purchased, but of which hardly any are to be seen today. This may have been because they had been used wrongly. Even those that are still in existence are not serviceable. So, I fear that the same thing will occur even if more bulldozers are purchased. I would thus like to request the government to see that this does not happen again.

Another point is the Bairabi Hydrel Project. This is a project worthy of completion. I suggest that the government also complete the Tuirial Hydrel Project which will generate an additional 60MW. Tuirial Hydrel Project is another project which will generate 210MW. Aid was being asked from Japan but due to the nuclear tests conducted by India, its relationship with Japan has become strained, thus making it difficult to acquire the necessary aid for its completion. So, it has been left in an unfinished condition. I suggest that this government pursue this project. The Governor's address has failed to mention the mini hydrel Projects mainly Tuipang Hydrel Project (5MW) and Teirei Hydrel Project (3MW). I would like to request the new government to pursue all the projects that were approved by the previous Congress government.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we opposition consist of only 6 members. This is not because the people are fed up with the Congress but because there the opposition was united against it. In fact, party wise, it was the Congress which procured the most votes. So, I find it difficult to understand what the Governor said, because, even though the election was free and fair, it does not make any mention of the post poll trouble that erupted nor condemn the culprits responsible for it. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Knowing what it is like to be in the opposition, I have been liberal with the time. But let us use it judiciously.

MR. TLANGHMINGTHAGA : Thank you. Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad that we have the opportunity to discuss the Hon'ble Governor's address. Though it is concise, it has broad applications. It is mentioned in the Mizoram Peace Accord that the Central Gov't shall do all it can to help in the financial problems faced by the state. So, though our state is greatly indebted, we shall run this government as best as possible, on the basis of this clause.

When the MNF ministry was set up in 1987, its policy was to achieve self sufficiency in food products. A plan was made to this effect. To implement this plan, a number of bulldozers were purchased to help the poor farmers till their fields which would otherwise be left barren. But when our ministry ended after only a short period in 1989, the new government recalled all the bulldozers saying that they would be hired out with revenue concern as its excuse for doing so. This brought the programme to a standstill. During those 10 years of the supposed Hire system, I myself, was unable to hire a bulldozers though I made repeated applications, for other farmers, it would have been impossible. Those bulldozers were then used for clearing house sites, digging trenches and some of them even met with accidents, wherefrom they could not be retrieved.

Today, only one bulldozer remains and that too is not useable. This is the situation Mr. Speaker sir, I am not saying that the people were fed up with the Congress government and overthrew it. But they had more faith in this new government and elected it. What it does remains to be seen. So, what we did and still aim to do, as mentioned in the Governor's address, is to alleviate the position of the farmers by purchasing bull-dozers and tractors which will help them in their work. For those who have been through the past ten years. I feel that even this is something to rejoice in.

Regarding power-looking back on the past 10 years, we have seen that the expenditure that is incurred in the establishment of mini hydel projects is not in proportion with their output. I believe that this government is not going to withdraw its plan after spending crores of rupees, like in the Serlui B project, wherein contracts were given to those who could procure them. This gives me a sense of satisfaction. So, I am glad that this government has decided to take up major projects instead, though it may be 5 or more years before they can be utilized.

The Governor's address also mentions "corruption" which retards all progress and which is prevalent all over the state. This practice must be removed. There are all the requisite resources for development which need only to be harnessed and channelised in the proper way. We, the people of Mizoram must remember this. There is enough intelligence in our leaders present here today to bring about great advancement in the State. So, we should work, not solely for ourselves but for the benefit of all. We have the requisite resources in our government employees and the proper infrastructure for progress, but first and foremost, we need to remove corruption from the highest to the lowest level. This is the key to success.

We often speak of foreigners though we do not always feel their impact from here. But for some people especially those in the western borders of our State, they are a big problem. To tell the truth, this is a fact.

Year by year, foreigners who do not have an ounce of Mizo blood in

their veins are pouring into our State. This is becoming a problem and a topic of serious discussion among the public. The recent incident of Mr. Lalzawmliana's killing and the way in which the government went about it was greatly wanting in the eyes of the public. In that western area, foreigners who have moved in because of negligence of the government, people who are not Mizos in any way, have secured their roots firmly, have demanded a District Council and dare now demand a separate U.T. These are the same people who, because of the murder of Mr. Zawma, had fled to the neighbouring state of Tripura, which is their actual homeland. But what does our government do? It claims that they are our refugees. This means that all of them are Mizos. This is the topic that this new government is going to look into. Are they really Mizos or foreigners? If they are really sons of Mizo soil, then our intention is to do our best to help them. At the same time, I am happy to note that the government is taking measures to prevent those foreigners who are using this inquiry as a chance to come into our State and enjoy the same rights as its citizens. I also look forward to seeing the implementation of the steps to be taken by the government for addicts and alcoholics who are causing for deep concern among their parents and who have been neglected in the past. Thank you.

MR. C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad to have this opportunity to speak in the House today. I have high hopes for Mizoram as our House Leader has taken charge of the agricultural portfolio. No other Chief Minister I know of has done this. We all know that we do not produce enough and depend largely upon other States for our food. Because of this all our money is spent on buying food products from other States leaving very little for development. Hence, we have become a poor state with a pitiable economic structure. Regarding this I am thankful for the Governor's advice to our government for improving this situation wherein appropriate equipment like bulldozers, tractors etc may be purchased to aid and boost agricultural production.

As previously mentioned, bulldozers had been purchased but were not put to proper use. This time, our new government will do its best to use these machines for maximum production. i.e. levelling and tilling of land which is difficult to do through manpower.

Most of the plains that we have are very hot places which human cannot properly withstand. Hence, the need for the machines.

So, in order to become self sufficient in food products, our new government should purchase as many bulldozers as possible. In my constituency Tuichawng, where there are a number of plain areas, it is especially difficult to utilize the land because of conditions which are adverse to manpower. Hence, most of the suitable land is left alone. If bulldozers were utilized to level out the land and proper irrigation is done, then I believe that we would be able to produce enough to feed the whole of Chhintuipui District.

So, I believe and hope that the government takes all the necessary steps towards self sufficiency.

Another topic that I would like to say a few words on is the Financial crisis that we face. The Governor's address mentioned that the opening deficit is 79.36 crores and liabilities being 60 crores. But these liabilities were from the previous opening balance of 1st April, 1998 and some of it has been repaid. so, it would be correct to assume that it will be less than before. Also, the advance from special ways and means was Rs. 62 crores. From this Rs. 8 crores has been used for repayment which leaves a balance of Rs. 54 crores. It is also mentioned that the remaining Rs. 54 Crores procured through Special ways and means has to be repaid on or before the financial

year March, 1999. Thus, our total debt is Rs. 193.36 crores. If we ask why we are so deeply in debt, the answer lies in the fact that we are a poor state having many needs but lacking the financial resources to procure them. We try to catch up in development with other states. This requires a lot of money. But we have no sources of revenue and hence our indebtedness. This being the case, no matter which party comes into power. I believe that the situation will always be the same. So, keeping the future in mind, our new government should implore the centre, which has already committed itself in the settlement of agreement, to write off our debt so that we may start again from scratch without a heavy burden.

MR. K. SANGTHUAMA : Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to express my thanks on the Governor's address on the topic of agriculture. It is especially beneficial for my constituency where there is plenty of good land available for cultivation. During the previous short term of the MNF government, many places had been levelled by the bulldozers. But when it fell, which was too soon, the programme was stopped and it is a pity that today the bulldozers have vanished.

So I am very glad that the Governor's address has mentioned the purchase of machinery to aid in the agricultural sector. I believe that this, will be a blessing to the rural farmers especially in my constituency.

Another thing is the Hydel Projects. I feel that the problem of power will be solved by this strong government though it may take some time for the projects to bear fruit. So, let us hope and wait.

Regarding our debt which is very large, I feel that it is going to hamper our initiative to a certain extent. So, even though the people have great faith and hope in the new government, they should bear in mind that this debt has to be repaid, and understand if progress is not achieved in leaps and bounds. so we must be careful in everything that we do.

Our government should, therefore, be very careful in its expenditure even if the Centre writes off our debt because of our request as suggested by my respected fellow member from the Lawngtlai Constituency. For, no matter how much the centre gives us, if the way we use it is not correct, it will not be enough. So, the most important thing is to use what money we have judiciously and not be spendthrifts like the previous government. Let us hope that we have a government which is true to its word and beneficial for the people.

Another topic I would like to have a discussion on is that of foreigners. As we all know, my constituency Kawrthah is an area in which there are many foreigners. We must be very careful with them. Our government should deal more strictly with them and take measures to prevent assimilation in the western areas. This will be a blessing to the people of these places. It is difficult to know the real situation and problems faced by the people of these areas from Aizawl. So I would like to request the government to take a keener interest in this problem, study it first hand and take measures to solve it as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. RUALCHHINA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, looking back on the Governor's address, we find that the first thing mentioned is our monetary problem.

This, I feel, is a positive step taken by the government and indicates that it will be free from all wrongs. I also feel proud of the address comment on Mizoram as the model for conduct of election in the Country. I would like to personally thank the Governor for this.

We all know that the new government has inherited a debt of Rs. 79.36 crores. But the mention that steps are being taken to request the Central Government to write off this debt on the basis of the Mizoram Peace Accord gives us high hopes. I feel that this, if successful, will enable the new government to function without hindrances.

Another great thing is the aim of the government to secure not only the aid of the Centre but also that of foreign governments to boost its economy. The aim of achieving self sufficiency in food as mentioned by the Governor is also a very great thing. My constituency even intends to set an example in this. So, I hope that the people of Mizoram give full support to the steps to be taken by the government to achieve self sufficiency in food through mechanizing of agriculture.

Regarding 'Self sufficiency in Power Supply', it was mentioned that the Bairabi Hydel Project is to be completed. This is great news especially for the people of my constituency wherein this project lies. The whole of Mizoram will be lighted from there. So, we say our heartfelt thanks to the Governor for this.

Another thing is corruption which has become a problem in our state. I am happy at the steps being taken by the new government to eradicate this. The steps being taken towards foreigners is also commendable. Another great thing is the announcement that all the points of the Mizoram Peace Accord which have not been fulfilled, will be Scrutinised. This great Peace Accord shows that there are even provisions for solving the dire financial problem that we face, and placing Mizoram in a special category if it runs short of plan money. We are very fortunate to have a Governor who intends to make full use of these provisions. I believe that the time has come for our state to bloom. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I would like to know the opinion of the Members on whether we should take a vote on the motion now or that we come back after the recess. The opposition has had ample time to say their piece, most of which were that of appreciation. I believe that our House Leader will be able to clarify the points of deficiency mentioned.

MR. R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to say a few words as I believe would others from the ruling side. Can you please give us more time?

SPEAKER : If we all agree, it can be arranged like this. We will allow our respected member Mr. Zira 10 minutes after which the Leader will sum up. Do we all agree?

MR. NIRUPAM CHAKMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, other members may want to say their piece. So shouldn't we continue business as usual.

SPEAKER : I believe that it would be fair to let each of the Opposition members to say what they want. And since they have made this request, let us grant it. Let us now call our respected member Mr. Chama from Bilkhawthlir constituency. We will have a recess at 1:00 and resume the session at 2:00 P.M.

MR. LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. First of all, I would like to thank God and the people of Bilkhawthlir constituency for elevating me to this position. I also offer my congratulation to you and the Deputy Speaker.

As we can see, the Governor's address is very short but covers all the necessary topics. Para 5 which mentions Agriculture is a source of joy to me and the people of my constituency. As we all know Bilkhawthlir is an area of fields and ponds. It is the dream of the people there to develop the place so as to become the 'Bread Basket' of Mizoram. So, the plans of the government for the development of agriculture brings us great joy and hope.

There are certain aspects of the peace accord which have not been implemented, the establishment of University and High Court for Mizoram being among them. I hope that the government takes measures to establish them.

There is also mention of a Border Trade being established. This will provide a good market for the products of the producers. This plan is greatly appreciated.

But the report has omitted drinking water and road communication which I believe is due to lack of time. Vairengte which has a vote bank of 3000 and Bilkhawthlir which has 2000 votes have no facilities for proper drinking water. Most people fetch water from the streams which are very inadequate. But I firmly believe that the government will take steps to solve this problem though it is not mentioned in the Governor's address upon discussion. With the advent of this new government, the people of Mizoram have high hopes for progress. But the main pillar, the financial situations, which is the foundation and most important thing for development, is in dire straits. Our debts which have to be repaid within this year and our liabilities make the implementation of our plans and aims an uphill task. Because of this I request the understanding of the public and Government employees. I thank the Governor for his compact address, and give my full support for its passage.

MR. C. SANGZUALA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, I am fully satisfied with the Governor's address. It is compact and well versed/sphered and though there are some thing which have not been mentioned, as pointed out by the member from Tuipang, I feel they are matters which do not need saying but which are kept in mind.

What I want to say is that the address has fully clarified the difficult position we are in. We are going to face many difficulties because of this but I believe it is more important to declare the truth. In spite of these problems, it bravely mentions the plans to be implemented, which are vital for our economy, and the way and means in which they are to be achieved. They are good enough for me.

It is a proclamation of our aim to become self sufficient in food and power, etc. I also believe that the Political and Administrative Reforms that come along with them are vital for success. It is an inspiration to the people of Mizoram towards

self sufficiency. The issue of foreigners is another thing which is clear to our hearts. It also gladdens me to hear that bulldozers will be hidden no longer but utilized in the fields, where they belong. the Peace Accord document, which was lying dormant for many years has now become a weapon for the achievement of our aims of development.

I live in Aizawl South II where, during the last ten years there has been no development what so ever, where, in some places, even Ration Cards were not distributed. It is a pity and a great wonder that the people did not revolt. There are also many places which do not have electricity at night. In this respect hearing about the various hydel projects gives me hope. I feel that the Governor's address highlights all important points necessary and sets guidelines which are worthy of following. I, therefore, gave my full support and suggest that it be passed without further delay. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We still have 7 minutes.

MR. TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr Speaker Sir, I thank the Governor for his address. I also thank God for his guidance and the people of Mizoram who have enable me to be present on this occassion. I would also like to congratulate you and the Deputy Speaker. I feel that this House is very fortunate to have you as a Speaker. Yours and the Deputy Speaker elections which were uncontested marks a new era and gives me great hope for the future.

As mentioned by the Governor, we have had a peqaceful, free and fair election which was exemplary in the country. I feel that we should thank the Lord for this. It also indicates that the people are no longer gullible to sweet words and promises which are never realized. So, today, MPC and MNF coalition have been given a chance to govern and form a stable and strong government.

A strange thing is that after the results of the elections, there was a feeling of freedom, of their burden being lifted, among the people of Mizoram. This makes me very happy.

What does this indicates ? It shows that for the past 10 years the people of Mizoram had been oppressed.

But today, with the advent of the new government the people are secure in their belief that they are in good hands.

While the people should know thier importance, we their representatives, should also be worthy of the faith they have bestowed upon us and do our atmost to make their dreams of development come true. We should thus be true, faithful and deligent in our work.

Today, as mentioned a number of times before, the Governor's Address is very short. But we all agree that it contains all the essential guidelines for progress and development of Mizoram and its people.

What we must all remember, though, is that this new government has inherited a huge dept which will be a hindrance in future.

If we look at No. 3 we can see that the sum total of our debts is Rs.193 crores. Even this does not include public debts. So, it is important for the House and the

people of Mizoram to remember that the new MPC, MNF coalition has come into power inheriting a huge burden of nearly Rs. 200 crores. In spite of this, it will try its best to better the lot of the people of Mizoram. Mr. Speaker Sir, bear with me while I elaborate on a few points on how the government intends to do this.

A new economic system has been formulated with the aim of achieving self sufficiency. Mention has also been made of the Mizo Peace Accord within which there are provisions for alleviating our financial burden and for better use of the inner line regulation. This reminds me of our Peace Accord champion, the father of Mizos, Mr. Laldenga, so, today, I would like to request the cooperation of the people in the steps to be taken by this government towards progress and self sufficiency. Let us all step in unison. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We shall resume the session at 2 : 00 P.M.
Session Adjourned.

Recess till 2 : 00 P.M.

2 : 00 P.M.

S P E A K E R : We shall continue with our business. Let us call Mr R. Lalzirliana from the Opposition Bench.

MR R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. First of all, I thank God and the people of Saitual Constituency for electing me as thier representative.

As we all know, we are discussing the Governor's Address which was presented by him yesterday. While he was addressing the House yesterday, I detected a certain reluctance on his part which I feel was because what he had to say was only partially true. But because he was compelled to say this partial truth, it showed on his countenance. Mr. Speaker Sir, I also feel that there is not much to rejoice about in the Governor's Address. It is not in standing with his office for a Governor to rejoice about having a free and fair election in his address to the House. It surprises me of all the elections that have taken place in our land's history. I feel that this is the worst. This is because lazy but cunning politicians who are hungry for power fooled gullible people into voting for them. I also want to ask the Governor if we truly had a free and fair election? Or is he purposely forgetting the fact that on the night of 21.11.98 Congress voters were threatened at gunpoint at Mimbung in Ngopa consituency. A similar incident occured at Teikhang on the night of the 23rd. At Kawlbem, many people were forced to vote for the independent candidate. The people had no choice. This is true. Even police personal were sent to these places to look into the situation.

At Sangau constituency, many people were also forced by the JAC and YLA to vote for the independent candidate. They were blackmailed and treated with social ostracization. Because of these, I cannot agree that we had a free and fair election. Mr. Speaker Sir, other incidents, which you probably know of and which are in connection with the election where the atrocities incurred on the people of Zawngling and Loki. 28 houses in Zawngling and 16 in Loki were burnt down. Such incident of violence have never happened before. Not satisfied with burning their homes, the culprits, who seem to be the MNF, poured kerosene on their granaries making their rice unfit to cat. This is a shame. Whoever backs this party should think again today for we often support certain small parties without knowing their true intentions, all for want of their votes. Today they are demanding a U.T. thinking that they will get it because they voted for the MDF. Similarly, all these atrocities were enacted upon the Congress people with this view in mind. In Aizawl North II constituency, at Puansen, on the 29th at 8:25 in the morning. 32 houses were burnt down. The perpetrators then took the belongings of

the people, even the clothes that they wore and burnt them. All these people who suffered were Congress people. So, has the government punished the culprits all of whose names and address are known? What kind of action is our House Leader going to take? Has compensation been given or will it? These are questions whose answers I would like to hear today. Mr. Speaker Sir, from the incidents that I have just narrated, it is clear that we did not have a free and fair election, and would like to advise the present government to be careful in future. If we turn a blind eye to the law and order situation, many other problems will arise. Another thing I want to mention is that the previous government had said that it would pay the government employees according to the Central Pay Scale. Can't this new government will do the same and implement it without further delay?

Regarding foreigners, the address mentioned that they would be found and sent back. But you see, Mr. Speaker Sir, today itself saw some of our respected fellow members from the ruling side say that the Bru people, whom we regard as foreigners, whose names had been removed from the Electoral Roll, would be put back. What do you think about this? Is there something that we do not know about? These are things that need to be clarified. I would thus like to request our respected House Leader to clarify what the MPC members mean by saying what they did?

Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the Bairabi Hydrel Project, I commend what was said by the Governor wouldn't it be better to take up on the Tuivai Hydro Project where the previous government left off, instead of starting from scratch? Why wasn't this project mentioned in the report? In fact, after completion, it would generate more power than the Tlawng, Bairabi Project. Its output would be 210 mega watts. The burden of its finance would also have been borne by the Japanese government had it not been for the nuclear tests conducted by India. So, I would like to ask whether this House agrees that it would be a good thing to pursue this Project.

A part from this, it sets me thinking as to why the Governor's report has not made any mention of the Tuirial (60 MW) project which, even today, is undergoing construction under NEEPCO. Does the new government want to keep the public ignorant of the good work done by the previous government?

Mr. Speaker Sir, please bear with me. (Sit down, your time is up) it is a custom for the Protem Speaker to read the Bible whenever we start a session. But this was not done today. I am very dissatisfied with this and I am sure that the people of Mizoram, who are all christians, have the same sentiments. (Enough) So, in futrue, I hope that this House is guided in accordance with our christian belief. Then, we shall support this government to the best of our ability.

S P E A K E R : We did read the Bible this morning. It is a pity that respected fellow member was not aware of it.

**MR. LALHMINGTHANGA
DY. CHIEF MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, I believe that our respected fellow member from Saitual constituency was wrongly informed. I would like to clarify that reading of the Bible by the Protem Speaker has never been in practice. Even in 1988, when Mr. H.K. Chakma was the Protem Speaker and I was made to take the oath, the Bible was not read.

MR LALTHAN KUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. First of all, I would like to thank the Lord and the people of Ratu constituency

for elevating me to this position. Further thanks to my HPC and MPC brethren and to the Mizoram Foundation Forum for their support.

We all know that the Governor's address gave only broad guidelines. So, I feel that it is improper for our respected fellow member from Saitual Constituency to imply in the House that a lie has been told by the Governor in not mentioning certain minor details.

He also mentioned that there was nothing remarkable in this Election. I state that this Election is more reliable than those of all the previous elections. In all aspects I feel that the election was fair. In this respect, I thank all those who were involved. It is also to be noted that the Electoral Roll (mark copy, Court copy etc.) was made during the tenure of the Congress. So, even if any complaints are to be made, the blame should fall on them. (It was not made by the Congress Ministry but by the Election Commission). Also, the incidents that occurred at Zawngling and Lokicherra happened not before but after the elections. I too feel that the government should look into them.

Another thing is that Puansen is not in North - II but North - I Constituency. It should also be noted that this village was set up during the Congress Ministry. It was formed by people who came from outside Mizoram. It became a centre for the production of moonshine. This is a known fact. So, though the destruction of this place was mentioned before, it should be remembered that this was a place of illegal activities comprising of foreigners having no proper V.C.

Our Governor has clearly stated our poor financial status. One thing I would like to say in this regard is that even though there may be a deficit in the Plan Budget, the government, in spite of this is continuously searching for means to make progress. But, the deficit in the Non Plan Budget is something that has to be further thought upon. The previous Finance Minister said that they had over enriched themselves and wasted money which has brought us to this state. Today, I remember those words and feel that they are true.

An excuse given for the emergence of this deficit is Natural Calamity. This is very questionable. There is no provision for this in the Mizoram Budget, that I know of Aid for Natural Calamities is usually given from the Centre.

Another thing is the use of Central Pay Scale. I believe that there are many aspects of the Fifth Pay Commission's Report that need to be looked into before we implement it.

I am happy to know that the government is taking steps towards the establishment of Border Trade with Bangladesh. This will be a boon for the agricultural producers of Mizoram.

We must therefore form a land in which hard work is rewarded and get rid of the laziness and psychophancy which have spoilt the mentality of our people. I am glad that a policy has been formulated towards this aim.

Today, attaining self sufficiency in power is foremost in our minds. In this regard, we should not only pin our hopes on Hydel projects but also on thermal power plants. We should also look into the Mini Hydel Projects. Which have eaten up hundreds of lakhs of rupees but which have generated power only on the day of their opening.

Today, I have great faith in the government. As pointed out in the

Manifesto it will strive to attain self sufficiency in all respects in the shortest possible time. I feel that the time has come in which the people of Mizoram have the opportunity to progress like never before. Thank you.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Member admit the Motion of thanks on the Governor address. I would like to react to some of the points only.

Pu Speaker, regarding the deficit of current year budget we all know that it was stated earlier by earlier Finance Minister also that 79.36 crores is our opening deficit. In para 3 of the Governor's address we see that 60 crores liability demand had come from the Hon'ble Chief Minister who is also Leader of the House. It is not clear whether the amount remains the same or that it has been paid partly. As far as our knowledge is concerned, some of the amount kept in the 'K' deposit was already clear and some portion of the amount still remains to be paid for against the work already completed. So, whether this 60 crores as shown in the Governor address is to be paid till today or what is the actual figure of liability. Hon'ble Chief Minister may kindly clarify. In addition to that the state has availed special ways and means advance amounting to Rs. 62 crores, from which 8 crores had been already paid upto date in the Governor address and 54 crores to be paid before the end of March 1999. Mr. Speaker Sir, I think the Government is in a tight pool, and ways and means advance could be taken up to Rs.16 crores. I hope this could be done in the current financial year.

Some of the hon'ble members blamed the previous Government for the present financial crisis. But, I would like to point out that the opening deficit in 1988-89 was 53.41 crores, that was during the MNF Ministry. Deficit budgeting system is not a new thing, it has been going on continuously. It should be our endeavour to solve this problem and we are ready to co-operate the Government in its endeavour.

I am glad that the Governor has mentioned in his speech, Peace Accord Agreement through which present financial crisis could be solved to some extent. The previous Chief Minister, Pu Lalthanhawla had in infact already approached the hon'ble Prime Minister in this matter.

The Governor also stressed the need to raising resources. The Government seems to be aiming to identify new ways of raising resources but what is new way of raising resources? Unless you collect something from internally, you are not going to raise anything, and you are not going to collect in other states. I think Mizoram is the only state where tax is not collected. Due to opposition from opposition party imposition of taxes on certain items has never get materialised. Hon'ble Chief Minister may kindly clarify what they mean by raising resources.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Governor has mentioned that efforts to be made towards resources mobilisation. How will they be mobilised may kindly be clarified. Unless mobilisation is done within the state, you are not going to raise anything, nor wil you collect resources from other states. Mizoram is I think the only state which has not imposed taxes as there used to be strong opposition. Mr. Speaker Sir, what is the new ways of raising resources?

The Government will not actual collect census. Because this is important regarding the resources mobilisation or previous Finance Minister had guide his..... and his prevention that public meeting in Delhi or with Planning Commission he had.. to make accord for recess mobilisation within the state. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is not the surprising I say that. Unless internal mobilisation the Government of Mizoram has no alternative to collect the resources. suppose to ... because in the Government.... Stated that the state has...30 crore of rupees, so that we can... the annual plan provision of rupees 333 crore annual plan for ... is Rs.333 crore besides that provident fund and outlay of amounting to 23 crore.... project.

All these include the annual plan of 1998 - 99, Mr. Speaker Sir, it is very surprising that the Government of Mizoram as per the Governor's address will identify new ways of raising resources, what is this new ways of raising resources? Unless you collect something from internally you are not going to raise anything you are not going to collect in other states, I think Mizoram is the only state..... including so far we tried to introduce in the earlier year but due to the opposition from the..... opposition, the Government has to do away with the introduction and the Government could not introduce it. Mr. Speaker Sir, what is this new ways of raising resources? Hon'ble Chief Minister may kindly clarify this.

It is also said that new economic system in the State is to be introduced. what is this new economic system? The people of Mizoram would like to know in what direction this new economic system will lead be introduced. It is the economic system that purely depend on the public as per the presentation here. I am convinced that the Government will purely depend on the production of the farmers, the goods produced and manufactured in Mizoram should be the source of the economy. Is it the new system of economy. However, I am happy that the price of these products will be governed by the Government.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is well and good if the production of Mizoram could be marketed at reasonable prices. In this regard, you might have heard from the newspaper and other sources that the previous Government of Mizoram had already signed an agreement with TRIFED, the ginger production in Mizoram and other essential items will be marketed by them. The previous Government had already taken a decision, and final agreement has to be made with TRIFED for marketing agricultural products from Mizoram to outside. What is the policy of the Government regarding purchase and marketing of products from Mizoram? Is the Government going to purchase products directly from the farmers/cultivators or that they will purchase through some body or through some agencies and market them again outside Mizoram? If this is so, it is very pleasing. Hon'ble Chief Minister may kindly clarify. Because the previous Government had already made an Agreement with the TRYSEM that products of ginger Allied items be marketed by them. Now whether the present Ministry try will purchase directly, Mr. Speaker Sir, please bear with me, as Mr. Zirlana has said that although I have spoken some few lines before, in the present term, we did not have more opportunity to speak although we were in the Government in the previous ministry.

Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding self-sufficiency in food-grain, it is very welcomed policy, but I have a very serious doubt regarding the implementation of the policy that envisaged by the present Government. The Bulldozer experience, we had earlier in the previous MNF Ministry was very very discouraging because Bulldozer once out of order, it could not be repaired so easily in the rural areas where this should be used, I think the Govt. ultimately will incur serious losses. If at all the Govt. could do it, I will very much appreciate, and I also request towards this end that the whole of Mizoram should be given similar treatment not only to Ruling Party's constituencies.

Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding power supply, our friends and Hon'ble Members had already spoken. As others had also mentioned why this Government is only interested in Bairabi Hydel Project? Why Hon'ble His Excellency Governor has failed to mention the other projects undertaken earlier, Is the present Government not interested at all to continue those projects?. The Hon'ble Chief Minister may clarify this. Mr Speaker Sir, as mentioned, about Political and administrative Reforms, I would like to see a clarification from the Hon'ble Chief Minister when he wind up - whether the administrative reforms that initiated by the Congress Govt. will be continued, we have created many districts many sub-divisions and blocks. Whether the present Government is going to strengthen man power and other facilities for the welfare of its employees. In view of the increase in the salaries and facilities of hon'ble members and Ministers, it seems that Govt. employees are to be deprived of some amount from their salaries & facilities.

Mr Speaker Sir, the previous Govt. has formed committees to review pay of its employees. Now I would like to know whether the Government is going to implement the Fifth Pay Commission, which is, I think you can do. I think it will be the continuation of what the previous Government has done.

Mr Speaker Sir, finally, I fail to understand why nothing has been mentioned about the minorities. In Mizoram we have district Councils we have minorities here. But I fail to understand why His Excellency has failed to mention about the minorities in Mizoram because the minorities as a whole deserve special treatment and care, attention. Why this new Government has no agenda on the minorities with these few words. Thank you.

MR. LALHMINGTHANGA
DY. CHIEF MINISTER

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, I support the Governor's Motion of thanks moved by the member from Kawnpui Constituency.

Many comments have been made on Para 6 (Pg 4) on the topic of self sufficiency in Power Supply. So, my answer to the question from the Opposition as to why only the Bairabi Hydel has been mentioned in the report, and for the information of the general public, I shall outline the steps being taken by the government towards this aim.

I have often said that we are fortunate to live in a land which has great potential in its rivers for the generation of power, etc. By the grace of God and the people, I took charge of the Power Department in 1979 and thus consider myself one of the pioneers of power production in Mizoram. The CNC (Central Water Commission) undertook investigation of our rivers, after which many steps were taken to implement our plans for the production of hydel power. The Tuirial Hydel Project was not mentioned because it is an ongoing project. As often mentioned before, this project was to be financed by the Japanese Overseas Corporation through the Government of India. The actual task was undertaken by the North East Electrical Corporation (NEEPCO) with whom we had a meeting only last night. In answer to our enquiry, they told us that the biggest problem that they faced was lack of proper access to the dam site. This has made the transportation of the required building materials very difficult.

Regarding finance, the first installment has been released for use by the Agency NEEPCO. The construction of the road will be in the hands of the Mizoram Government. This will be done as soon as possible. Also, transmission line (132kv) which will be required are to be put up. This is being done by the Power Department.

Regarding Tuivai Project, which was not mentioned in the address, it was decided, last night to try to set up its foundation stone before the month of May. The CWC is also in the process of preparing a report of the Kolodyne Phase I project. This project is to be set up at the confluence of the two rivers i.e. Mat and Chhimtuipui, near Darzo town. This project will yield 60-100 MW.

The second phase of this project is to be set up below the round hill in the Sakuhkhuangtum range near Kawichaw village. This place can be seen from Serkawr.

Since everything cannot be mentioned now, suffice it to say that CWC is investigating them. These are projects which had been proposed in 1979 but which are to be taken up by us today.

I am especially happy that the Bairabi Hydel Project has been men-

tioned by the Governor because this project has been neglected for the past 14 years. Actually this project has a special significance for Mizoram because of a number of reasons. This river flows through the heart of our land. So, if it is dammed, it will not only generate power but also create a very good inland water transport system. This will further create the necessity for a ship building industry. At the same time, it will be a boon for agriculture. It will thus be a life line for the people of Mizoram. That is why it was mentioned by our Government. The government also has a number of sources of finance for its projects. Firstly, under Non - conventional Resources which can finance projects under 25 MW. We have 12 of these projects under this, next is the finance which is given by the central Government in the form of loans or otherwise. The Tuirial Project comes under this head. Another source, if necessary, is as mentioned by the Governor, finance from foreign governments. Previously, the Government of India did not allow foreign involvement. But liberalised its economic policy 7/8 years back. So, many new doors have been opened for us. The fourth source of finance is that of which can be made available from within the state. I assure the public that they will be made aware of the progress being made by us. In this regard, I would like to mention, as the Governor has said before, that we should at all times maintain transparency and not hide anything from the public. Thus, we shall work not only to achieve self sufficiency in power but also in other fields like industry, etc, which will earn us revenue.

The regions of south India, i.e. the Eastern and Western Ghats, also have swift flowing rivers and good rainfall but the soil condition is not suitable for of hydel power. So, they have turned to thermal projects. Unlike them, we are blessed with ideal conditions. So, if we utilise the National policy which includes both hydel and thermal projects, we will be on our way. We will not only achieve self sufficiency but also have enough to send out. This will be a good source of revenue. Since 1980, higher capacity for transmission of power has been set up to enable all corners of the country get transmission of power. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We shall now call the House Leader to wind up and clarify on necessary points.

P U Z O R A M T H A N G A : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, in comparison to other times, our Governor's address is quite short. It states the only the general out lines. So, there are many points to clarify. In order to use the minimum of time, I shall now take them up point by point. Firstly, I agree with the Governor that we did have a free and fair election. It was carried out under the guidance of the previous government, and though we, the opposition had our fears and voiced them, no difficulty arose which could not be overcome.

Regarding the candidature, as the constitution of India provides for the nomination of candidates from recognised as well as non - recognised parties, as we had done. Independent candidates are also eligible. Hence, there should be no comments on this count.

Regarding the point raised as to why the Governor did not mention the burning of Puansen village and the destruction of home in the South, I am in an awkward/position to answer it. In fact, they should rather be mentioned in the budget or other speeches. The reason is that the ministry has just changed hands. These incidents heappened after the election and if I talk on the law and order situation, I will have to go on to many other points for which we lack the time. We feel it is a tragedy that Puansen Village was brunt and the government has given instructions to provide all the

aid that can be given through it. The police also did their best to catch the culprits but were unable to do because this incident happened at night and the perpetrators had all run off into the jungles. In spite of this, the government has instructed the police to carry on their investigation as it pities the affected persons. It has also taken steps towards rehabilitating them. We also condemn the incidents at Loki and Zawngling. We will ensure that similar incidents do not occur in future.

I have also given orders to find and catch the culprits. Regarding the point raised as to why these were not mentioned in the address, it would take too long if I go into the aspect of Law and Order. Suffice it to say that these incidents occurred during the tenure of the previous Govt and that our new government is taking steps to heal the wounds caused by them. There is no use in trying to pin the blame on anyone. So, it is not necessary to mention in detail the aspect of Law and Order in the Governor's speech.

MR. K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, the House leader has not mentioned about compensation for houses destroyed at Zawngling numbering 28 and another 16 at Laki. Are they going to be compensated?

MR. ZORAMTHANGA : Yes, Mr. Speaker Sir, they will be compensated
CHIEF MINISTER Regarding our financial status, it has been mentioned that our present deficit had accumulated from the time of the previous MNF ministry. This is a point I had already clarified during our previous term. I was the Finance Minister at that time. I was suddenly faced with an overdraft of over Rs. 50 crores. This made me angry and we even quarrelled over it. We became a state on 20th January. As the financial year ends on 31st March, we assumed that during the remaining intervening period i.e. for the year 1986 - 1987, the U.T. budget passed by the previous ministry would be continued/adopted. At that time the government was shared between the Congress and MNF. But we were mistaken in our assumption. I was told too late, that we could not use the U.T. budget and that a new sanction had to be made. Thus, as there was no sanction for the period between January 20 and 1st April, 1987, the expenditure that had been incurred at that time caused the deficit. This was the point that we quarrelled upon.

So, I went to Delhi along with the then Finance Commissioner and Finance Secretary and we strongly objected to this saying that the state should inherit the nearly Rs. 50 crores which remained unused at the time of U.T. We demanded to know why we were not instructed earlier that a separate state budget was to be planned. But our objections were to no avail. Moreover, we could not have made an overdraft of over Rs. 50 crores in such a short period of time. So, we asked them to write this off but they denied our request. The Central Government at that time under Rajiv Gandhi, created a lot of problems for us. When our Ministry ended in 1988 and our state came under President's rule, the overdraft remained. The Centre did not want to write it off due to the impending elections. Only when the Congress won the elections were they given Rs. 70 crores in the form of a grant and the debt cleared. So from 1991, a fresh start could be made. This is a point I would like to clarify to the House.

Be that as it may, we are all aware of our present financial situation. Our accumulated deficit is nearly Rs. 200 crores, as mentioned in the Governor's speech.

MR. NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Please..... is the liability mentioned by the Governor a part of our debt ?

MR. ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, yes, it is. Since this is the
CHIEF MINISTER situation, I was asked by my fellow members the type of economic system we were to pursue, whether the new ministry intended to increase electric and water bills and bus fare, and take sales tax in order to get revenue. Or, was there any other sources. My answer to these queries is that it wouldn't be politically prudent for us to do in 4/5 days, when not even one Budget Session has passed and what the previous ministry hesitated to do during the 10 years of their tenure. Even if we do increase the bills of essential items like water, electric, sales tax etc, we will only be increasing the burden of the people, the majority of whom are very poor and find it difficult to pay even the existing rates. So, until and unless we create a better livelihood for the people. I feel it would not be correct to further burden the people.

MR NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Then how will you mobilize resources as the aid that we received from the centre is not enough to tide us over? Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister the answer is that we intend to make maximum use of the natural resources of the land. Our vision is to earn revenue through the sale of our products like ginger, passion fruit, etc whereby we may earn lots of money. Our policy is to free ourselves from our dependency on the Centre. We firmly believe that Mizoram possesses enough resources to keep her small population in comfort if properly utilized.

So, our policy is to make full use of the available potential by acquiring financial aid from the centre or through a policy of liberalization whereby investment is sought from foreign sources. This aim is to bring about a stable and prosperous economy.

Mr. Speaker Sir, is the government going to purchase the products of the people directly or is it going to seek a proper market through agencies. I think this point should be clarified.

MR ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we haven't even had the time
CHIEF MINISTER to get acquainted with the officers of our respective departments and the various projects left behind by the previous ministry which need to be followed up. Our main aim is mechanization and privatization. If the government does everything, corruption becomes prevalent. Privatization will be done as far as possible and mechanization, with a minimum of labour import. Regarding the market for agricultural products, as far as possible, we will seek foreign markets whereby they can be sold directly by the producers without further burdening government servants by involving them.

I have also personally taken up the Agriculture and Horticulture portfolios because of the role they have to play in the metamorphosis of our economy and sale of their products. No Chief Minister has ever done this before. We all know that in this age of computers, one cannot hope for progress through outdated means. So, we intend to purchase as many bulldozers and tractors as possible which will be sold or leased to private individuals and corporations. This will boost production tenfold as one household will then be able to do what used to be done by 10 or 15. Thus if production increases, the rate of agricultural product will come down. This can only be achieved by mechanization. So, the aim of this ministry is to attain self sufficiency in agricultural products which will form the base of its economy. It is the desire of the centre and of the government all over the world to attain self sufficiency in all respects. So as mentioned in the Governor's address this ministry shall strive towards this aim.

I believe that if the Japanese people colonised Mizoram and were faced with the same problems which we face now, they would have transformed it into one of the richest states in India with a span of 4/5 years. So why can't we Mizos do the same? God has blessed us with the manpower talent and know how to achieve this. We too can become India's richest state and we intend to take steps to achieve this aim.

Regarding the point as to why priority is being given to the Bairabi Hydel Project while the mini hydel projects which are already underway are being neglected, the reason is that these mini projects are not feasible while the Bairabi Project has many advantages. This dam is to be constructed near a rail head whereby all the materials for its construction can be easily transported to the site by rail and then by boat thus omitting the need for transport by road. This project will also play a vital role in our struggle to attain self sufficiency as it will produce power equivalent to that generated by many mini projects. These are reasons enough for giving it priority. Of course, we shall in future take up the Tuirai and Chhimtuipui projects. We will even sell electricity one day. But to take them up now is difficult because we face the problem of communication in the transportation of the raw materials required for their construction. This is why they have been left for continuance for now.

So, Mr. Speaker Sir, the aims and objectives of this ministry have clearly been stated in the Governor's address. We express our thanks to the Government servants and departments, the various social organizations and the church for their hard work and dedication which have helped us to have a free and fair election exemplary in the country.

And, in spite of our poor financial state, we intend to create a self sufficient economy for which we have been blessed by God with the ability to achieve.

Regarding the point of minorities and others which were not mentioned, I repeat that this is the first address in the tenure of the new ministry and so unlike a budget speech, contains only the basic outlines for the attainment of self sufficiency in food and electricity, etc. We hope to turn Mizoram into a lighthouse which guides other states towards development in all spheres.

S P E A K E R

: Thank you House Leader for your clarifications. We shall now take a vote on the Governor's address. Those in agreement of to passage say 'Yes' and those who disagree say 'No'Thank you. This motion is passed.

I shall now read out the names of the members for three financial committees.

1. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

1. Mr. Sanghmingthanga H. Pautu
2. Mr. K. Sangthuama
3. Mr. C. Lalrinsanga
4. Mr. P.B. Rosanga
5. Mr. Nirupam Chakma
6. Mr. Zakhu Hlycho
7. Mr. H. Rammawi

2. COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

1. Mr. Lalthankunga
2. Mr. K. Thangzuala
3. Dr Lalzama
4. Mr. H. Laltanpuia
5. Mr. J. Lawmzuala
6. Mr. R. Lalzirliana

3. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

1. Mr. Lalchamlia
2. Mr. C. Sangzuala
3. Mr. Z.H. Ropuia
4. Mr. F. Lalthanzuala
5. Mr. L.N. Tuanga
6. Mr. K.T. Rokhaw

As per rules, this may be published in Bulletin part II. We shall try to take up our duties on the 1st January.

The Chairman for these Committees will be nominated by the Speaker. The Chairman and members of the other Committees which needs not be elected, will be made afterwards as we do not have the time now.

3 : 75 P.M

We shall now adjourn sine die.

H.L. CHUNGA
Joint Secretary.
