

SECOND SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 1999

(Time : 10:30 AM to 1: 00 PM and 2: 00 PM to 4:00 PM)

PRESENT

Pu R. Lalawia, Speaker, at the Chair, 15 Ministers and 24 Members were present.

QUESTION

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2. The Speaker to inform the House to whom leave of absence from the Sitting of the House is granted.

PANEL OF CHAIRMAN

3. The Speaker to announce names of Panel of Chairman.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

4. The Speaker to report to the House the Time Table as chalked out by the Business Advisory Committee for the current Session.

DISCUSSION ON GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

(to be concluded)

S P E A K E R : "Kan Lal kan Pathian, hei hi kan dil ber che, kan ram kan hnam min hruai an nang chauh kan thlang che. Chhung lam leh pawn lam hmelma indona thleng mahse hneh zel turin min pui la, ro min rel sak ang che."

Leave of absence is granted to Pu K. Sangthuama and Pu K.T. Rokhaw and Pu J. Lawmzuala.

Er. K. Thangzuala, Pu P.B. Rosanga, Pu H. Rammawi and Pu C. Thanghluna are appointed as Panel of Chairman.

We shall now go on to our business. Let us now call upon Pu R. Lalzirliana to ask starred question No. 1.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, will the hon'ble Minister i/c Parliamentary Affairs be pleased to state -

- (a) Whether there is proposal to increase the pension of MLA.
- (b) If yes, what will be the total amount of pension?
- (c) If yes, when will it materialise?

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answers to the question asked by MINISTER the member from Saitual Constituency are as below :

- (a) The increase of the pension of MLA has been under consideration.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask if a committee to consider the pension of MLA has been constituted.

PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, a Sub - Committee for this purpose MINISTER has already been set up which had two sittings. At the moment, preparation has been going on to take necessary steps.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister if the amount of pension received by the MLA could be made higher than that of other Indian States.

As for the fixation of the amount of pension, we heard from the Minister that the final decision was in the hand of the General Purpose Committee. But, a separate sub - committee was also set up for this purpose in which I am also one of the members. If the General Purpose Committee has to finalise the decision what is the purpose of constituting a sub - committee?

Another question I would like to raise is whether the existing pension of former MLA, amounting to Rs. 1000/- could be made higher.

The existing Rules of the MLA has provided for family pension in case of the demise of a sitting MLA. However, there is no provision for family pension in case of the demise of former MLA. In this case, is there any intention to improve this matter?

Finally, I would like to ask if the government could arrange medical facilities for former MLAs?

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, to answer the question relating to the MINISTER pension of MLA different dates have been collected from other States and the House will consider the final decision.

As for the constitution of sub - committee, the former Ministry has set up this Committee. But, I would like to inform the members that final authority will be made by the House.

As for the family pension and medical facilities for former MLAs, we, the members of this House are the ones who can make decision.

S P E A K E R : The Minister may be asked to answer the question relating to family pension.

P U F. M A L S A W M A : There is provision for family pension in case of the death of sitting MLAs. After a lapse of his term there is no provision for such pension. As for the family pension of former legislators, the decision lies in the House.

P U Z A K H U H L Y C H H O : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question No. 2. Will the hon'ble Minister i/c General Administration Department be pleased to state -

- (a) The number of Cabinet Minister in the current Ministry including the Chief Minister.
- (b) The number of Ministers of State.
- (c) The name and rank of the Advisers of the hon'ble Chief Minister.

P U Z O R A M T H A N G A : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to starred question No. 2-
C H I E F M I N I S T E R

- (a) The number of Cabinet Minister is 11.
- (b) 4 Minister of States.
- (c) The names of the Advisers of the Chief Minister are Pu Rochhuhathanga and Pu F. Aithanga. They are ranked as Minister of State.

P U Z A K H U H L Y C H H O : According to the government's order, the government has 3 advisers in which the Principal Adviser to the Chief Minister is Brig. T. Sailo, MLA. Does the hon'ble Chief Minister reject this order? I would further like to ask whether Pu Rochhuhathanga and Pu F. Aithanga have taken Oath of Secrecy.

Do these advisers enjoy the same amount of emoluments with that of the Minister of States? Do they enjoy the same facilities including house rent?

P U Z O R A M T H A N G A : Mr. Speaker Sir, besides the two advisers the government has Principal adviser.
C H I E F M I N I S T E R

These advisers did not take Oath of Secrecy. But, if we deem it necessary it may be practised.

Regarding the emoluments of the advisers, the Principal Adviser has occupied the rank of Cabinet Minister. However, since, the Principal Adviser is the member of this House who enjoys Legislators facilities, a separate emoluments has not been provided. The other Advisers are to be given the same emoluments and facilities as practised in the previous ministry.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : A supplementary question please. There is another order for Advisory Board for various departments in which the posts of Chairman were occupied by the MLAs. It seems that vehicles were allotted to each Chairman. These so called Advisory Board, comprised only of the Chairman and the Secretary but there are no Board members. How will these board be termed?

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, in answering the question raised by the Member, Pu Zakhu Hlychho, the government has not yet selected the Board members for various Advisory Boards. These Advisory Boards are supposed to give advice to their concerned departments.

These Board Chairmen are allotted vehicles like other Board Chairman.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, typically, the government issued order in case of other boards. But, there seems to be no government order in case of these advisory boards.

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the allotment of vehicle to Board Chairmen, interim arrangement was made as the system of allotment of vehicle is being reviewed. As soon as reliable system is found government's order would be made.

SPEAKER : We shall go on to the next business. Starred question no. 3 to be asked by Pu R. Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Will the hon'ble Minister i/c Law and Judicial Department be pleased to state -

I ask starred question no. 3 (a & b).

PU F. MALSAWMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to starred question no. 3 -

- (a) In respect of the direction given to the Advocate General of the Government of Mizoram to sit at Gauhati High Court, Aizawl Bench whenever necessary, the Advocate General is ever available.
- (b) The standing Advocate General of the Government of Mizoram is Pu P.K. Pathak.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask whether the Advocate General, Pu P.K. Pathak has submitted his resignation.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the government has followed the
MINISTER convention that as soon as the Ministry that employed the Advocate General is ended a fresh tender has to be floated. However, in case of the current Advocate General, he is directed to continue his post until further order.

S P E A K E R : We shall go on to the next business.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question No. 4.

Will the hon'ble Minister i/c Relief and Rehabilitation Department be pleased to state -

- (a) The total expenditure incurred for the financial assistance given to Puansen Village.
- (b) The location of the new settlement of the former inhabitants of Puansen Villages.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the government had spent an amount
MINISTER of Rs. 20,00,00/- as financial assistance to Puansen village.

- (b) 22 families of Puansen village have now settled to various places according to their choice. The remaining 10 families are still residing in Puansen.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would further like to ask the amount of financial aid received by each family.

Secondly, I ask whether the persons who had burnt down the village are captured.

PU LALCHIAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of Puansen were living beyond normal lives and practised illegally activities. Further, it has been said that they came from our neighbouring foreign countries. Is this a fact?

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the government has sanctioned financial aid of Rs. 5000/- each to 32 families. Another 4 families who have migrated from Manipur were given Rs. 2000/- each.
MINISTER

As for the second question, the government has not made any arrest in connection with the burning of Puansen Village.

The government has no knowledge of the rumours stated by the member, Pu Lalchamliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if the government consider that no one is responsible for the burning of Puansen Village, why were the leaders of Sihphir YMA arrested?

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I cannot furnish detailed answer to that. The Police Department can provide detailed answer to this case.

Dr. LALZAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the police have arrested some persons in connection with the burning of Puansen Village. However, these persons are already released on bail due to lack of evidence.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 5 -

- (a) When will the distribution of rice for BPL be materialised?
- (b) How many families listed as BPL are there in Mizoram?

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to starred question no. 5 are as below -

- (a) Rapid steps have been taken in order to distribute rice at half the normal price for BPL families.
- (b) According to the calculation of the Central government there are 53000 BPL families in Mizoram while the calculation of the Deputy Commissioner has reach only 32555 and 67572 families are listed as BPL families according to the calculation of Rural Development Department.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, is there an intention to sanction better quality of rice for MLA quotas?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, the figure calculated by Central government, the DC and Rural Development Department are difficult. What is the reason for this?

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the question of the quality of rice for MLA quotas, it is expected that the retailer will receive better quality shortly.

Regarding the rice quotas for BPL families, due to the difference in the

figures of the number of BPL families found out by the Central government and the government of Mizoram, supplies cannot be issued for now. At the moment, the reason for the difference in the number of BPL families has been under investigation.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, since my department is being mentioned, I would like to make some clarification. Mizoram is ever been weak in the field of statistics. Thus, it is necessary to take efforts in this matter. This ministry has adopted the policy to carry out realistic statistic. However, it may not be an easy task. Various departments have to be coordinated for the success of this task.

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 6 to be asked by Pu H. Laltanpuia.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not answer my question.

PU H. LALTANPUIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 6.

Will the hon'ble Minister i/c Tourism department be pleased to state -

- (a) Whether there is proposal for the construction of Tourist Centre/Lodge at Rungdil.
- (b) Whether the previous ministry had diverted the sanction allotted for Rungdil for the construction of Tourist centre at Berawtlang.
- (c) If yes, is there any intention to make fresh sanction for Rungdil.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to starred question no. 6 are as below -

- (a) The department of Tourism has received financial sanction amounting to Rs. 11,48000/- from the Central government for the construction of Picnic Cottage.
- (b) As for the second question, the previous ministry had diverted the sanction for Rungdil for the construction of Picnic spot at Berawtlang.
- (c) The government has no intention to make fresh sanction for Rungdil.

PU H. LALTANPUIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. During the previous ministry Rs. 11.45 was sanctioned for the construction of picnic cottage at Rungdil. But, this sanction was diverted for Berawtlang, can the Minister furnish the reason thereof?

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, initially there was proposal to construct picnic spot at Rungdil. But, the approach road was found to be unsatisfactory. At the same time, there was a project for picnic spot at Berawtlang and the allotment for Rungdil was then diverted for Berawtlang. When the approached road to Rungdil is improved fresh sanction may be made.

PU H.LALTANPUIA : Minister whether the Central government approve this diversion of sanction.

I would like to add that Rungdil is one of the famous lakes in Mizoram and the distance from Aizawl is almost the same with that of Aizawl and Tamdil. And if the department could have picnic spot at Tamdil why can't it have at Rungdil too? Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to note this so that Tourism Department could start a project at Rungdil.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, during the year 1998 - 99 several new tourism schemes were submitted to the Centre. Does the Central government provide sanctions in this respect? If so, what are the schemes?

S P E A K E R : The latest question raised by the member is not relevant to the starred question. But, the minister may give replies if available.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the member from Chawngte constituency was the Tourism Minister in the previous ministry and during his time some schemes were submitted to the Central government of which the latter has given their approval. Recently, the Central government has made sanctions on some of the schemes on tourism.

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 7 by Pu Zakhu Hlychho.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Will the hon'ble Minister i/c Information and Public Relation be pleased to state -

Whether the government's standing order that any local newspaper that has not functioned for three consecutive months would not be issued any Advertisement from the government has been cancelled.

PU F. MAISAWMA : The answer to starred question no. 7 is no.
MINISTER

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, despite the Standing Order, one newspaper that has not functioned for a month was given an advertisement. It appears that this ministry is partial in issuing advertisement to newspaper.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the member didnot mention the name of the newspaper. The government or the Minister is not partial in giving out advertisement to newspapers.
MINISTER

PU N.P.CHAKMA : Mr Speaker Sir, I ask if the government intends to increase advertisement rate.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, the name of the newspaper I have mentioned is 'Hmahruaitu' daily newspaper. This newspaper was given government advertisement on the 14th of January. As I have said before, partiality prevails in case of advertisement. Can the Information Minister ensure that equal treatment may be given to all newspapers.

PU F. MAISAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the question of the rate of advertisement, the government has not consider to increase the rate. However, it can be considered if necessity arise.

As for the case of the daily paper, 'Hmahruaitu', I have never heard the name before. This government does not intend to follow the pattern of the former Ministry that exercised favouritism in case of advertisement.

S P E A K E R : I would like to inform the members that due to financial constraint the number of newspapers and magazines freely supplied to the MLAs has been reduced to one national paper and one magazine of their choice. Newspapers and magazines are not provided to MLAs in other States. Thus, we must know that this is a rare facility we have enjoyed.

Starred question no. 8 to be asked by Pu R. Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 8.

Will the hon'ble Minister i/c Land Revenue and Settlement department be pleased to state -

Whether this government intends to withdraw the lands settlement certificates issued for the construction of churches by the previous ministry.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to starred question no. 8 is that this government have no intention to withdraw the LSC issued by the former ministry for the construction of churches.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question, please. The previous ministry had issued certain number of LSC to organisations and religious denominations that results in the non - availability of space for the construction of government bungalow. In this connection, I ask whether this government have adopted the same policy.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is unlikely that for a minister to raise a question to his fellow minister.

I would like to ask the location of site allotted for the construction of churches and to which denominations.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, being a member of this House, I have the right to raise questions.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the former ministry had allotted lands for the construction of churches during the months of last September and October. Land Settlement Certificate was issued to Tuikhuahtlang Presbyterian Church on the 3.10.1998.

Another plot of land was allotted to Khatla Presbyterian Church on 17.10.1998 and on 23.10.1998, another plot was allotted at Laipuitlang for the construction of temple for Salvation Army.

At Chaltlang area certain portion of the compound of Education department was allotted for the construction of Church to UPC. However, an objection was raised by the department of Education and the case was set aside for future consideration.

Since, these allotments were made after the announcement of general election, the government has been considering the case of whether it is violation of the election rules.

As for the question raised by the hon'ble PWD Minister, the policy of this government is to reserve land for government bungalows and office buildings as far as possible.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask whether there are rules against the issue of such orders after the announcement of election. According to the statement of the Minister such orders were made on the 27th, 30th and 20th of October. During those times was there an objection from the Election Commissioner?

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I think what I am about to say is relevant to the subject. Khuangthing Presbyterian Church is badly in need of a plot for the construction of Church. It would be appreciated if the Minister could consider this matter.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the question raised by the member from Khawbung Constituency allotment will be made as soon as available.

The general election was announced on the 24th of September, 1998. The Model Code of Conduct says that after the announcement of election the government should not make major decision. For this reason, this government has been considering those decisions made by the previous ministry after the announcement of the election.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : I would like to utilise zero hour for an important matter if the hon'ble Speaker permits.

S P E A K E R : The member may be allowed to utilize zero hour.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. What I am about to relate in this zero house is not a desirable one.

Pi Darromawii w/o Lalthanmawia of Dawrpui Vengthar was taken to the Civil Hospital at 10:30 P.M. on 10.3.1999 to deliver a baby. After she was admitted for two days on 12.3.1999, she was taken to the labour room as the baby was expected to be delivered any moment. However, the nurse, on duty forced her to take exercise in spite of the labour pain she was suffering. She struggled quite hard to take exercise outside the labour room. After a short while, she delivered the baby at the verandah and she was nursed by some persons standing nearby. The nurse on duty was informed of the incident and the mother and the baby were taken inside the ward.

Mr. Speaker Sir, this incident is a serious one as it is a matter of life and death. The persons on duty at the Hospital would have provide special treatment to Pi Darromawii if she is from a well-to-do family. The undesirable incident indicates that the under privileged people have no right in the Civil Hospital. Hoping to receive medical treatment they came to the Hospital. Unfortunately, their hope was shattered due to the negligence and partiality of the duty nurse. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is my desire that this kind of terrible incidents should not happen again in future. I also hope that the maternity ward and labour room in the Civil Hospital be maintained and renovated. I am not asking the authority to penalise the nurse on duty. But, it would be appreciated if the hon'ble Minister could assure that all the people regardless of their status could be given equal treatment at the Civil Hospital.

Thank you.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. The government had no
MINISTER knowledge of the incident in connection with Pi Darromawii. If what the member stated was a fact necessary action will be taken. What had been going on as the usual pattern cannot be easily reformed. However, this new ministry will take necessary measures to stop the unfavourable system practised during the previous ministry.

This government has made a new project regarding medical facility. We have intended to provide free medicines to people below poverty line from the next financial year.

As for the suggestion put forward by the member regarding the maintenance and renovation of maternity ward and labour room in the Civil Hospital, I have to say that what they failed to achieve during their 14 year reign cannot be done within three months of this ministry. However, I would like to inform the member that it is the policy of this government to improve the condition of Civil Hospital.

S P E A K E R : We shall go on according to our business. The Business Advisory Committee has chalked out programme

for this session. I will read out the programme set by the BAC for approval of the House. 16.3.1999 was for Governor's Address and today, the 17th is set for discussion on Governor's Address and any other government business 18.3.1999 is for government business, introduction and consideration of Government Bill, if any. The hon'ble Home Minister has move a resolution which will be considered tomorrow. 19.3.1999 is set for Private Member Business and 21 & 23 are holidays. 22.3.1999 is for government business. Discussion and voting of Supplementary Demand for 1998 - 99, Vote on Account, Introduction and consideration of the Mizoram Appropriation Bill 1999 and also no. 2 Bill 1999 and General discussion on the budget for 1999 - 2000 will be the business for 6.3.1999. A Buletin had already issued to the members. I beg the House to approve the business chalked out by the Business Advisory Committee (BAC).

Now, let us call Pu Lalchamlia the mover of the motion of thanks on the Address of the Governor.

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Yesterday I had moved the motion of thanks on the Governor's Address. I would like to express my gratitude for allotting me time to discuss the Governor Address.

Looking at the Address we can see that it is more circumstantial than the Address at the inaugural session on the 9th December, 1998. We can also clearly see that the achievement made by the previous ministry is also highlighted. The policy and programmes chalked out by the 104 days government is also mentioned in the Address.

His excellency the Governor has clearly cited the true characteristic of this new government on para 3 of his speech we have seen that this government is earnest in accclerating the pace of development with a new vision, approach and priorities. This newly formed ministry has a new vision. Knowing this, the people have selected this party to guide the country. New approaches and new priorities are generally highlighted in the Address. However, we all know the poor financial condition of this state we are also depending on the financial provision coming from the centre. In this regard, the Governor had stated that this government is fully aware of the problem and all attempts are on to find a solution that would provide a cure rather than a mere palliative. In his speech his excellency the Governor has emphasized that in order to mobilise additional resources efforts have been intensified to reduce non - plan expenditure and augment the State's own revenue resources. It is important for the people to extend full cooperation to the government in this task. It may seem to be a formidable and discouraging task but the serious financial problems has forced us to do it.

I am pleased to know that this government intends to take efforts for the augmentation of our revenue resources. It may also be important to impart awareness to the people of Mizoram.

It is also pleasing to note that the hon'ble Chief Minister has met Central leaders and top functionaries of the Government of India recently and discussed with them several problems of Mizoram including the severe financial problems. From the Address of the Governor, we know that the Government of India has appreciated the State's position and measures to tide over recurring overdraft and deficit, as well as financing viable major projects for rapid development of the state are under consideration by the Central. Here, our leaders have high expectations from the Central.

Another pleasing matter is the mention of the policy of this government for the progress of the farmers. In his speech the Governor states that top priority will be accorded to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of food grains. However, the usual problem faced by the farmers is lack of suitable market for their products. From the Governor's Address it is known that this government is gearing up its effort to promote trade and commerce on a scale never attempted before.

The policy of this government towards the people of the State has been highlighted on para 9 of the Address. It says that the new government will pursue a policy of equity, equality and fairness towards all sections of people in the State. At the same time, it is alert to the menace of illegal immigrants and foreigners and would not hesitate to take prompt and stringent action against them. The statement explains that all the people of Mizoram irrespective of caste or religion will be treated on the basis of equality. For this reason, this newly-created government is secure and peaceful for all the people of Mizoram. I would further like to add that it is a pleasing matter that the government is alert against foreign infiltrations and is our ready to take prompt action against illegal immigrants.

Another point I would like to mention is in regard to power highlighted on para 11 of the Address of the Governor. It appears that the government will give high priority on rich hydel projects which can generate more power. Let us assume that the projects mentioned in the speech will be materialised.

It is a pleasing matter that the governor does not miss our tradition and culture. Being a small tribe, we need to protect our tradition and culture. Realising this, the Governor has stated that the government will endeavour to protect and promote the tradition and culture through various activities.

Though this government has been functioning for only 104 days its policy towards the welfare of the people is clearly evident through the Governor's Address. The achievements made by Public Works Department are focussed on the speech. The contribution made by Public Works Department for the completion of Lengpui Airport project in record time is a laudable achievement.

One thing that deserves special mention is the progress seen on the House and the Assembly Secretariat. For security measure the House is equipped with several new security facilities. Duty personnel inside the House are also clad in uniforms which marked a great progress.

Another point which deserves special mention is the difference between the Governor's Address delivered on the 9th December and 13.6.1999. Last year the large closing deficit left by the previous ministry was mentioned in the Address. But, this time mention is not made on this matter. I wonder if our top-functionaries were able to write off those deficits which are a burden for Mizoram.

To conclude my speech, I would like to repeat that the Governor's Address deserves praise and appreciation. While disclosing the achievements made by the previous ministry, various new projects and steps to be undertaken by the new government is also mentioned. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, the House should confer its gratitude to the Governor Address.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

Each member will be allotted 10 minutes.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, the Governor's Address is remarkable as he intends to guide the government with new vision, new approach. However, this newly created government is confronted by various obstacles and hardships particularly in the economic and financial conditions. This government has accord high priority to solve this financial difficulties and as such, a committee has also been set up in this regard.

It is also grant to note that this government will accord top priority to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of foodgrains by utilising the good potential available. To accomplish this task, it may, however, be important to have a new vision and approach.

One thing left by the mover which I would like to mention is Cooperation. I am please to note that the Mizoram Urban Cooperative bank solely established by Mizoram was mentioned in the Speech. Further, various cooperative undertakings are also highlighted in the Address. It is our duty to strengthen these cooperative undertakings.

Another point which made me very grateful in the Address is the demonstration of our love for peace and harmony. In the Address of the Governor, we find that Mizoram is the most peaceful state in the country that we should be proud of it. Mention has also been made that the government will pursue a policy of equity, equality and fairness towards all sections of people in the State. At the same time, the government would not hesitate to take prompt action against illegal immigrants and foreigners. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Address delivered by the Governor deserved praise and we should be grateful to it.

Thank you.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. At the outset, let me say
MINISTER that I am pleased to have a Governor who has given great value and appreciated our festival, Chapchar Kut.

Coming to the second para of the Address, it is a pleasing matter to read that the House is implored to continue to conduct its business with grace and dignity keeping in view the time honoured conventions and rich democratic traditions of the people of Mizoram.

Nevertheless, on the 4th para of the Governor's Address the acute fiscal crunch faced by the state is mentioned. Moreover, our plan size has also been reduced as the state government has not been able to contribute its matching share by way of Additional Resources mobilisation. The mention of financial difficulties has reminded me of the previous ministry. We have been inheriting this problem even in the new government. However, looking into para 7, I am pleased to see that the important policy plank of this government will be transparency and efficiency in administration. It will also aim to being the administration closer to the doorstep of the common man.

Another pleasing matter in the speech of the Governor is the mentioning of the government's decision to revive the 9 MW Serlui B Hydel Project which has been abandoned by the previous ministry.

It is a satisfying matter to have a Governor who has great regard for the Peace Accord. In his Address he has emphasized that establishment of a seperate University for the State which is enshrined in the Peace Accord would vigorously be

pursued by the government. And also the government has an ambitious plan to establish a viable border trade with Bangladesh and Myanmar as envisaged in the Mizoram Peace Accord. I am also happy to learn that the government stands committed to achieve total literacy and further improve the quality of education in the state.

The subject of Health is also not been left out. It is satisfying to note that this government stands committed to achieve 'Health for all by 2000 AD'. I hope that all the people of Mizoram could have achieved this goal.

The subject of Art and Culture has been mentioned on para 22 of the Governor's Address. I am happy to have a governor who is proud of our culture and tradition. He further adds that the government would endeavour to protect and preserve our proud tradition and culture.

Tourism department has been highlighted on para 26 to which the main trust of the department of Tourism will continue to be building up of the necessary infrastructure to translate its rich potential into reality. Mention has also been made of the activities and achievements made by the department. It is further pleasing that the department plans to promote Chapchar Kut as a major attraction in the state.

To conclude my speech, I would like to emphasize that the concluding part of the Governor speech is inspiring. His assurance that appropriate action is to be initiated for full realisation of the people's hope and aspiration for peace and progress is remarkable. Therefore, the Governor Address deserves praise.

Thank you.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in my opinion, I haven't recognised 'new vision, new approach' in the Governor's speech.

At the same time, I am pleased to note that the projects already initiated by the previous government have been continued by this government. By perusing the Address, I found no satisfaction. I sincerely hope that this government will attempt to find a solution to the acute fiscal problems faced by the state. The hon'ble Chief Minister has mentioned the 'Special source of income' which is known only to this ministry we are awaiting hopefully for the materialisation of this special source of income. I hope that the state's fiscal deficit and overdraft would soon be filled up. I'm also happy to learn that this government aimed at bringing the five new Districts and 13 new Civil Sub - Divisions already proposed by the previous ministry to function in the near future. At the same time, several Rural Development Blocks were augmented by the previous ministry which is expected to be made functional by the government.

Emphasizing on Lengpui Airport, the contribution made by the previous ministry cannot be forgotten. The dream of having a modern airport at Lengpui has become a reality.

It is a pleasing matter to see the mention of the government's aim to provide modern and sophisticated equipments, weapons and other inputs necessary for effecting the police. At the same time, I feel regret to hear that the police department has often been said to be connected with corruption. Therefore, not only their weapons and equipments but they themselves need emotional strengthening as well.

In the case of Power Department, the Governor, in his Address, stated

that the government would initiate several steps to reduce the large gap between demand and supply of power project will be commissioned soon.

As stated by my predecessor, it is pleasing to note the term, "Health for all by 2000 AD". However, can we really achieve this goal as there are still several health centres where there are shortages of doctors and nurses.

At para 25, the Governor has stated that Slum Development Schemes were taken up by the department of Local Administration Department. In fact, this scheme was initiated by the former ministry and Rs. 5,000/- was given to each recipient as the first instalment. I have voted that this government decided to continue this scheme. However, only Rs. 2500/- was given to the beneficiaries. Considering its importance for the people, the government is requested to release the remaining amount.

Lastly, I am pleased with the speech delivered by the Governor for the decision of the newly created government to continue to projects initiated by the former government.

Thank you.

PU C. SANGZUALA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. The Address is satisfactory for the many programmes to be undertaken by the government. In general, the attitude of the speech is positive.

Under para 7, we have seen that the important policy plan of this government is transparency and efficiency in administration. We should be thankful for this.

It is pleasing to see the way in which priority is given to various policies. What we needed most is peace and harmony and therefore becomes a priority. And I am thankful to the Address for stating that the government would accord high priority to the maintenance of peace and harmony amongst the people and the security of the state. What the government has taken as priority is likely to be succeeded.

Road communication was mentioned under para 10. As we all have understood, Mizoram is poor in road communication. I am glad to learn that the government would accord high priority to construction, improvement and maintenance of road communication. I am glad that special emphasis is laid on more power generation.

Another pleasing matter in the Address is the priority to be given for achieving self-sufficiency in foodgrains. I am certain that if we truly work together to achieve this goal we will become self-sufficient within 5 years.

As stated under para 25, the Local Administration Department has extending composite cash loan for construction of houses to government employees and individuals and also undertakes slum development schemes. The department also implements poverty alleviation schemes.

The policy of 'Health for All by 2000 AD' is expected to bring positive results.

Regarding Trade & Commerce, I have noted a new programme initiated by the government. We have noted that Trade & Commerce Department is in the process of expanding its activities, and has plans to have Trade Representatives at five

cities, Silchar, Guwahati, Calcutta, New Delhi and Mumbai. I wish and hope that this will bring fruitful results.

The Governor, in his Address laid emphasis on the fight for social evils. He has stated that efforts to tackle social evils would be intensified and also various projects has been launched in this regard.

Realising the problem of water supply, the Governor has mentioned the projects to be initiated by the government. In the Address it is seen that adequate supply of drinking water for the people will continue to receive the priority of the government. Various programmes to be undertaken in this regard are also mentioned in the Address for which we should be thankful.

To conclude my speech, I want to say that approach to the Governor speech is fresh and positive and is full of new programmes to be initiated by the government.

Thank you.

PU F. LALTHANZUALA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, for allotting me time to discuss the Governor's speech.

I would like to start with the department of Forest found under para 19. Let me quote the terms used by the Governor in the Address. "My government is deeply concerned with the want destruction of forests and it will strive to maintain the ecological balance at all cost". Preservation of forest and wildlife is very important in Mizoram. Though the department of Forest has been existed, our forest are being destructed. I am glad to note that the major trust of this department will be raising of Forest Plantation. For me, preservation of forest and wildlife on a priority. I will not spend more time. But, I would like to end my speech by saying that it is great to hear from the Governor that this government will strive to maintain the ecological balance at all cost.

Thank you.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad to have an opportunity to discuss the Governor's speech today. As the speech, generally, contains new development which are pleasing to us, there seems to be not much to say. So, let me say only a few points.

Under para 16, the Governor has stated that "My Government is keenly aware of the importance of judiciary". In the seperation of Power, besides legislative and Executive power Judiciary is mostly needed by Mizoram. I am happy to note that the Governor has judicial awareness. I am sure that we would be benefitted in the future.

Education has been found on para 18. The Governor has realised the importance of Human Resource Development and thus given high priority. As we all know, due to financial problem, there are various obstacles faced in Education department. However, due to the determination and earnest efforts given by our Governor, I wish and hope that the elementary education could be upgraded.

I would further like to stress that it is a matter of satisfaction that our Governor has awareness in moral reformation, moral development and human resources.

Regarding Environment and Forest Department we have seen the present condition of our forest. Our vast forest are being destructed. All over efforts could be a failure if we lack ecological balance. I would like to conclude my speech by saying that, the Address is quite satisfactory for our economic and all round development.

Thank you.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, hon'ble Members have expressed their gratitude towards the Governor for his Address. Being fresh as a legislator, I am not very familiar with the speeches of the Governors. Therefore, I have perused the various Addresses delivered by the former Governors and came to a conclusion that they are quite similar with the speech we are discussing today. Therefore, we can say that former Governors had also delivered excellent Addresses but there are times when the members have considered it satisfying or not. Though the speeches are almost similar, sometimes we regarded it as excellent and sometimes not.

The Governor has highlighted various programmes settled for different departments. Though these programmes of the new government are given, they are not detail enough to be understood. The Address has mentioned that there is a new vision for the newly created government. However, that new vision was not clearly defined which left me wondering. As only a brief outline of the major policies and programmes are covered I cannot decide whether to be grateful or not.

At the same time I would like to praise the efforts programmed to be intensified for the improvement of education.

Regarding Agriculture, the Governor has emphasized the efforts to be taken to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of foodgrains. But, the term self-sufficiency is commonly used. What is more important? How and when are we going to achieve this goal?. So, we may say that the speech itself is satisfactory but it lacks particularity.

Under para 19, the wanton destruction of forests and the programmes set to maintain ecological balance is mentioned. Further, it states that the major thrust of Forest Department will continue to be forest plantations. By emphasizing forest plantation, it is important to be aware of the limitation as the Mizos have mainly build houses out of forest products like trees and bamboos. Along with the raising of forest plantation it is also important to utilise the products.

Regarding Health Department, the term "Health For All by 2000 AD" is great and satisfactory. But, by the year 2000 AD can we really achieve this goal? Medical facilities may be satisfactory in urban areas, the condition of rural areas is beyond consideration. Therefore, utmost efforts is needed to be rendered in order to progress in health.

As for water supply we need not be reminded of the problem faced in this regard. It would be appreciated if the government could really give priority in the supply of water both in rural and urban areas.

Regarding Soil and Water Conservation, it has been going on according to the Central norms. Besides the conservation of soil and water the department appears to be more interested in minor works. Therefore, it would be appreciated if the

government could change the usual norms and take the task to match the condition of Mizoram. To become really progress this government should find fresh policies.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We shall have a recess till 2 : 00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 1 : 00 P.M.

2 : 00 P.M.

S P E A K E R : Pu Rualchhina, Minister.

PU RUALCHHINA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I am glad to have the opportunity to discuss the Address of the Governor. I am proud to have a Governor who focuses attention on the financial crisis that we have inherited from the previous ministry. In my view, we have made Mizoram to a poverty state. Our Governor has mentions remedial measures to be taken in this regard. It is pleasing to know that the top functionaries of the Government of India have appreciated the State's position and measures to tide over recurring over draft and deficit of the State are under consideration.

I am happy to note the measure to be taken by the government in regard to administration. I am also proud to say that five new Districts and 13 sub - divisions have been created in the recent past. This is aimed at bringing the administration closer to the doorstep of the common man.

I am glad that the cherished dream of having a modern airport at Lengpui has become a reality. I'm sure this will solve our problem in communication to a great extent.

Regarding law and order, we have seen in the Address that this government is alert to the menace of illegal immigrants and foreigners and would not hesitate to take action against them. Meanwhile, efforts will be made to provide modern equipments and weaponry to the Police Force. I hope our Police Force will become encouraged by recognition given by our Governor.

As seen in para 12, the Governor has mentioned measures to be taken for the progress our economic condition. It is great to hear that 10 tractors and 22 Power Tillers are to be distributed to formers at subsidised rate. This is a new experience for Mizoram.

Under para 13, steps to be undertaken by Industries have been shown. For the first time in the State 'O' Level Computer Training Centre has been opened at Lunglei and classes have also commenced. This development has defined the progress of Mizoram during this ministry.

Another point I would like to emphasize is the financial assistance given to 102431 families and 4007 housing assistance provided to families and individuals. This indicates the government's orientation towards rural poor.

In regard to Education under para 18 various programmes have been set for the upgradation of our educational system and institutions. Action for the establishment of State University has already been initiated. I am happy to know that a permanent site for the College of Teachers Education has been selected at Kolasib as it is within my Constituency. I believe the people of my constituency are also contended to hear this.

The department of Forest is found on para 19. It is proposed to raised 4300 hectares of forest plantation under the same concept of Joint Forest Management.

I am proud to inform the House that the Mizoram Forest Department has bagged 5 medals at the All India Forest Department sports held recently. This has been a new experience for Mizoram.

Lastly, I am glad to see that De - Addiction - cum - Rehabilitation Centre is proposed to be set up shortly. I would like to say that this government is concerned with the victims of social evils like drugs. Our Governor has taken efforts to tackle social evils in various ways. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Address of the Governor deserves praise and we should be thankful for it.

Thank you.

PU Z.H. ROPUIA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. One of the reasons which made me pleased in the Address is the efforts and steps taken by the Governor so as to win back our lost confidence.

In a democratic country, success could be achieved only through cooperation between the government and the people. Our Governor has realised this and therefore seek the support of the people to make Mizoram a strong, progressive and prosperous state.

The menace of illegal immigrants and foreigners cannot be ignored. It is pleasing to note that Prevention of Infiltration Force has been figured to be raised. We have come across various obstacles due to infiltration. It is great that this young government accord high priority to check infiltration and other matters that could be a treat to the security of the State.

Under para 11 the department of Power is mentioned. It is pleasing to note that availability of power is expected to rise to 100 mega watts at Kolodyn Phase - I. Also, the government has decided to revive abandoned earlier. I hope and wish that Mizoram would be improved in power supply shortly.

Since our economy remains predominantly agricultural, it is important to accord top priority to achieve self - sufficient in foodgrains. To achieve this daunting task, our Governor has mentioned the government policy towards mechanisation of agriculture which is expected to bring new hope and encouragement to farmers. As for the case of the plantation, the previous government had taken certain steps. But, effort to develop the industry/gardens an a wider scope will revive our hope and expectation. To state an example, Darzo tea product has become world class and we can be exposed to international level through it.

It is a priority to pave ways for our youth. Our Governor is keenly aware of the need for human resource development. It is pleasing to see various projects

and programme to be taken by Education Department for the progress of Education in the State.

Aware of our problem and difficulties in regard to health care, the Governor has highlighted the steps taken by the government for the establishment of the long-awaited State Referral Hospital which warrants praise.

Regarding Border Trade, we have learnt from the Address that the government intends to promote trade and commerce on a scale never attempted before. I hope that this policy will surely provide inspiration to the people who have lost all their hopes in the previous government.

Thank you.

Er. K. THANGZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time. The Address is quite lengthy and various subjects are given in detail.

Firstly, it is pleasing to note that efforts have been intensified to solve the acute fiscal crunch by augmenting the State's own revenue resources. We all must have known the financial difficulties we are facing. At the same time, we have nothing to contribute from the public side to increase our resource. This may be because the people are free of certain tax that are levied in other state. Further, the people have no awareness to preserve government property as their own. This is also because the people have no contribution on the property. Before implementing the public contribution system it is important to impact awareness to the people. I hope the efforts to be taken for mobilization of State Revenue resources will cover this awareness programme.

It is pleasing to note there is a policy to find a solution to our problems regarding General Provident Fund and Small Savings. However, the Governor extended that we need to mobilise our internal resources and restore our confidence about the potential of the state.

Under para 7, we have seen that the government will work steadily by providing a progressive and development-oriented administration. As we are all aware, we have been going on a law and order administration for the past 20 years. But, now, the policy of the government is to change that intends to start a new with development oriented administration.

Regarding administration, five new districts and 13 sub-divisions have been created by the former ministry. I am pleased that the Governor has put forward these new administrative units in order to be fully functional.

I have an observation regarding law and order which is found under para 9 that the demands of Bru National Liberation Force (BNLF) was driven by personal motives. The name Liberation Force itself represents Bru Community and thus does not seem to be a mere personal motive. There may be something behind it. If we take up this movement as a personal motive we can be mistaken in our judgement. However, I hope and believe that our Governor has the policy to sort this out.

The Governor has laid emphasis for the modernization of our Police forces which is very pleasing. One of the major problems faced by the State is infiltration. I am happy to learn that a separate force called Prevention of Infiltration Force has to be raised.

Road communication is found under para 10. I would like to express my gratitude to the Governor for commending the achievement of the State Public Works Department (PWD) for the completion of Lengpui Airport Project in record time. I was disappointed that the works of the Mizo Engineers from the PWD were not appreciated much. Actually, Airport construction has never been taken up by State PWD. Mizoram PWD is the first to start airport construction.

The Central government has declared national highway project for Seling to Manipur road and Sairang to Tripura road. Steps are being taken for the formulation of this project. Road density in Mizoram has reached only 31.14 kms per sq.km after the end of the 5th plan. That is only the 49th in the national level. As this is the case, I would once again like to express my gratitude to the Governor's Address for according high priority to construction improvement and maintenance of road communication.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, for allotting me time. I will speak in Mizo and if my language is not clear enough I would like to request the members to understand.

The Governor Address has reminded me of the speech delivered by the former Governor A.P. Mukherjee on 17.3.1998 as the two Addresses are partly similar in general. I find no big difference between the speech given by the Governor during the Congress Ministry and the Address delivered yesterday. This indicates that the schemes and steps taken during the Congress Ministry is to be continued by this government. For the reason I have a lot to thank for to the Address of our Governor. However, the Address usually express the priority, policy and programmes of the government. But, the speech under discussion lacks those. Under para 3 we have seen the wordings, 'New Vision, approach and priorities' but does not tell us what the new visions are. As for the priority it appears that there are high priority, top priority and priority for each department. The system of giving priority also needs classification.

As this newly created government lacks clear vision I have no reason to thank for. Moreover, the Address does not highlight the actions taken by the three month old government like the dissolution of the Village Council and the Retailer.

Under para 7, we have seen that this government will work steadfastly to fulfill its assurances to the people of the state by providing a clean, responsive, progress and development - oriented administration. But, this government does not provide a clean administration to its people. Particularly, most of the contract works within my constituency has been given to outsiders and this has led to the grievances of the people of my constituency.

Another point I would like to express is that the Address does not clearly define what it means by administration with clear vision. I wish the hon'ble Finance Minister may clarify this point in his Budget speech. We are eager to know how this government is planning to lead the country.

To conclude my speech, I would like to repeat that I find no reason to offer my thanks to the Address for it lack direction and detail programmes of the government.s

Thank you.

Dr. LALZAMA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. At the outset, I would like to say certain points in connection with the classification of priority previously mentioned by the member before me. Each department has various works under it. And priority will be given to those works according to the importance for the state.

Some members have mentioned their doubts for the attainment of self-sufficiency in foodgrains. We are not cent percent sure that this would be achieved. However, we have to know that it is the policy of the government to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains as in the case of the improvement of communication.

We are all aware of the fiscal problems faced by the State. Here, we have seen the steps taken by the government to reduce this problem which is very pleasing.

The Governor has mentioned that this government intends to accord high priority to the improvement of road communication. I hope and trust that the problematic connecting road between Leitan and Bawngkawn will be taken into consideration shortly.

Amongst the various programmes to be taken up emphasis has been laid on the upliftment of rural poor. I feel this is very important and I am please to see that the government has set up various programmes for the implementation of poverty alleviation schemes.

Health department is found under para 15. It seems that the people of Mizoram have the motion that other states can provide better medical facilities. But, this government will lay special emphasis on strengthening the health care facilities and also efforts will be intensified to establish the long-awaited State Referral Hospital as well as Mental Hospital. I would like to express special thanks to the Governor for according priority to rural health care programme for there are many people suffering due to shortage of medical supplies.

I am happy to note that Sports and Youth Services will form part of the government's programme. I hope that efforts would be rendered for the improvement of sports facilities and construction of better playground.

Realising the countless tasks to be taken in Social Welfare, the hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare has been negotiating the Central Tribal Development Department to provide special fund which is very pleasing. There has been quota for the disabled in government service. I hope this will be utilise in Mizoram.

The subject of the supply of drinking water is also highlighted in the Address that shows the Governor does not miss anything that the people need. Shortage of drinking water has ever been a problem both in urban and rural areas. It is pleasing that adequate supply of drinking water for the people will receive priority.

Lastly, I am happy to learn that Horticulture department is endeavouring to promote cultivation of fruit products in Mizoram. I hope this will be an important means to rescue people from rural poverty. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Address of the Governor deserves praise and I would like to express my gratitude for his excellent speech.

Thank you.

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Let me start with the department of Health. Looking into the Governor's Speech I am sure that better facilities would be provided to the people. It is a matter of satisfaction that emphasis is to be laid on strengthening the health care facilities in the rural areas.

The point given under Para 17 has caught my attention. We have learnt that efforts are on to establish and carry out the proposed Border Trade Centres at Zokhawthar on the Indo-Myanmar border. The former ministry had initiated the project and black-topping of the approach road is being continued. However, there are still works to be taken up at Zokhawthar.

I would like to clarify a few points regarding Border Trade agreement signed by the Congress Ministry. The agreement was signed on the basis of the Peace Accord but missed its objectives in regard to the items or goods to be traded. Under the Peace Accord the items to be traded were the agricultural products of Mizoram. As for now, let us hope that the government will promote trade and commerce with the neighbouring countries taking advantage of its rich agro-forest resources.

Under para 36 we have seen that the live stock development programmes are of special significance to rural areas. The department of AH & Vety is taking up measures to augment production of meat. But, Mizoram is not self-sufficient in the supply of beef as one third of our beef consumption comes from Myanmar. I wish and trust that this government will take necessary steps so as to make the transport of cattle easier from Myanmar to Mizoram.

Recently I was approached by some persons from Myanmar and stated that they are looking forward to this government for the promotion of border trade. From their side goods can be transported upto Tiau river through truck. However, there is no proper link road to Tiau river on the Mizoram side. After the completion of the construction of truckable road upto Tiau river, we could have better border trade with the neighbouring country.

PU H. LALTANPUIA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to counter attack the points mentioned by the hon'ble Member from Chawngte. The member had stated that this government does not seem to have a proper plan and programmes. But, let me say that it is quite clear just by perusing the Address. It has classified various projects by giving each one top priority, first priority and priority. To state examples, on the 12th para, we have seen that the government would accord top priority to achieving self-sufficiency in the production of foodgrains. Here the programme where the government laid top priority is clearly defined. Again, on para 4, first priority of the government is to focus attention on the acute fiscal crunch faced by the State. Accordingly, under para 9, 10 and 11 we have seen that high priority would be given to Law and Order, communication and the generation of more electric power. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Governor's Address has tells us clearly the programmes and policy to be followed by this government.

What made me very pleased in the Address is the appeal to all sections of the people of Mizoram to extend full cooperation to the government in an attempt for the solution of our fiscal problems. The Governor has emphasized for the reduction of non-plan expenditure and mobilisation of more internal resources.

In today's world, the financial morality of the people have been destroyed. In today's world, the financial morality of the people have been destroyed. Therefore, we need to impart awareness to the people. Since the time of the Union Territory, we have been exempted from paying taxes to the government which led us to believe that we are free of the state's revenue responsibilities. So, the importance of paying taxes to the government has to be taught to the people. From the speech of the government, I can see that awareness programme has been started and I am please for it.

I am happy that the cherished dream of having Lengpui airport has become a reality.

Another point I would like to emphasize is that, from the Speech of the Governor, we can understand that this government intends to continue the projects initiated by the previous government provided that they are beneficial for the state. I am also happy to note that Tuirial Hydel Project which can generate BOMW has to be continued amongst other projects.

It is a great achievement of the State Public Works Department that Lengpui airport project could be completed in record time. At the same time I would further like to extend that the Congress party and the MPC party were united in the 1993 MLA Election. On December 1993 the ministry was formed by the coalition parties in which Pu Lalthangthanga, the current Deputy Chief Minister was the then Finance Minister. On January 1994, Chairman of the 10th Finance Commission visited Mizoram and he had a discussion with the Finance Minister regarding the Lengpui Airport project. After a lengthy discussion, they continued to discuss the Civil Hospital of Aizawl. Later, the 10th Finance Commission had sanctioned 54 crores for Mizoram under the Special Problem Fund. Unfortunately, the then Finance Minister was ousted by the Congress party by the time the fund he had fought was released from the Central. I have mentioned this as I want to inform the House that today we have reaped what he had sown. At the same time, I would like to mention the statement given by the former Chief Minister in 1992 at Vanapa Hall. He had stated that Lengpui airport cannot be utilized by the poorer section of the people and it would be applicable only for the rich and privileged people. But, we have to note that the project was initiated as fund was provided from the centre and the Congress Ministry were left no choice but to undertake it.

I would like to go back to matter relating to resource mobilisation. We can begin mobilisation of our states revenue by collecting admission fee of about Rs. 5/- in the Civil Hospital. In this way, we can start collecting state's revenue in small ways.

PU LALTHAN KUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time. I think the Governor's speech is quite clear and detail enough. He has also placed the subjects in order of importance. The most important subject, that is financial problem faced by the state has been put in the first. Due to the failure of the previous government in its contribution to the matching share, our Plan size has been reduced to 284.55 crores from last years Rs. 333.00 crores. This has brought problems to the state's financial position. Provided that we have responsibility during the previous government this problems would not be arisen. However, the hon'ble Chief Minister and hon'ble Home Minister have met Central leaders of the government of India and discussed with them our severe financial problems. The government of India has appreciated the state's position is pleasing that our problems are under consideration by the Centre.

From the Governor's Address it appears that top priority will be accorded to agriculture. It is degrading as a nation that we are not attaining self sufficiency in foodgrains. It is a shame to be at the mercy of the Centre and constantly fed by it. However, we can see from the Address that the government has the policy and programmes to sort out the Myriad problems and economic stagnation and take the State on the highroad to progress.

In regard to Horticulture, the Department intends to lay more emphasis on the cultivation, production and marketing of cash crops which is very encouraging for the farmers. The previous ministrys had neglected the market for our products that brought about economic stagnation in the State. But, I am happy that this government inclined towards market oriented policy.

In spite of being the most peaceful state, high priority is subjected to be accorded to the maintenance of peace and harmony amongst the people and the security of the State. The Governors speech has tells us that the government is keenly aware of the need to modernise and strengthen the Police Force. There is also proposal for the raising of India Reserve Police and the strengthening of border police force. I hope and trust that all these programmes could be taken up successfully.

The Governor Speech has highlighted that high priority would be accorded to Public Works Department, Power and Education which is very pleasing for us. Regarding Power and Education I would like to extend that education is the primary input for human resource development. So, to become exposed to the international level, the first step for the Mizos is through education. At present elementary education policy is the constitutional obligation. Let us presume that elementary education covers Primary and Middle School level. The Central government has ordered that elementary school should be established in every recognised village. Unfortunately the previous government did not successfully undertaken this task. Some Primary School in the villages are found to be shortage of teachers and there are even villages where there are no Middle Schools. It had been going on like this for the past ten years.

As for Power, the previous government was eager to be able to electrify as many villages as it can. As a result most of the villages are electrified but they received poor or no power supply, but the consumers are expected to pay heavy election bills. In view of this, this new government is expected to look into the matter and solve the power problem faced by the people.

In the case of health facilities people in the rural areas lack health care facilities. Within my constituency at Ratu, 7 persons had passed away during the month of December we cannot deny the fact that it is due to shortage of medical supplies. Many people have died in rural areas on account of the absence of doctors, nurses and medical supplies. There are even many places where there are no health centres. People living in rural areas have been deeply suffering due to lack of medical facilities and also the absence of medical experts. However, there is hope for them as special emphasis will be laid on strengthening the health care facilities in the rural areas with a view to further improving the delivery mechanisms.

Thank you.

PU N.K. CHAKMA

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Let me start with para 7. I would like to extend my gratitude to the new government for it will work to provide a clean, responsive and development oriented administration. But, at the

the same time, I would like to express my grievance here in relation to the incident within my constituency. The people of my constituency has met difficulties regarding the issue of Birth Certificates. This is mainly due to the absence of ADC at Chawngte (L). At least one ADC should be posted at Chawngte (L). Moreover, the SDO of Tlabung has not been empowered first class magisterial power that cause difficulties to the people.

Coming to agriculture, the Governors in his Address stated that top priority would be given to achieving self-sufficiency in food grains. In the case of my constituency, people have been grieving over the shortage of food supply. I feel very sad to see that there is no proper distribution of food. The people are near starvation.

As for education, there are many primary schools within my constituency that are being left neglected by the government. It would be appreciated if the speech of the Governor could bring progress to the primary schools within my constituency.

The Governor stated in his Address that the government stood committed to achieve "Health for All by 2000 AD". I am disappointed in the government that health care facilities are not given to some villages within my constituency whereas the Mizo villages are better taken care of. There are even some villages where polio vaccine has not been reached. Therefore, I request the authority to seek the assistance of the NGO like the YMA or VC if the member of medical staff are inadequate for giving immunization to the villagers.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. The Governor's speech has highlighted various programmes and policies to be taken up by the new government. It can also be regarded that the Address has highlighted the various undertakings during the previous ministry.

Firstly, I would like to say about the financial problem written under para 6. Para 6 of the Address has mentioned that our plan size has been reduced to 284.55 crores from Rs. 333.00 crores as the state government has not been able to contribute its matching share. This means that our plan size has been reduced by 48 crores. If this is the case, can the difference be covered by the fund brought home from the Central recently by the hon'ble Chief Minister?

Secondly, by looking closely into the Address, it appears that the poorer section of the people are to be neglected by the government. Contrary to the election of the MNF - MPC partys the Address does not highlight the programme for the continuation of the distribution of GCI sheets to rural areas. The previous ministry had distributed GCI sheets to rural inhabitants for their housing. But, I am sorry that no such programmes are seen in the Address.

Secondly, it is disappointing for us that NLUP has not been highlighted in the speech. From the speeches of the hon'ble Chief Minister and the Minister, it is evident that the scheme would be terminated. However, the speech does not tell us an alternative scheme for the alleviation of rural poor.

Under para 3, we have seen that the new government is earnest in accelerating the pace of development with a new vision, approach and priorities. But, the whole speech does not show a new vision or new approach. What is the speech

meant by new vision. In my opinion, the new vision and new approach applied by this government seems to be the accumulation of profit for their own self. As already mentioned before people living in rural areas have complaint of the shortage of labour work. Even the limited labour work are beyond expectation for those who are not the MNF workers. In fact, life is difficult as all the labour works are distributed in a bias manner. However, the Address of the Governors states that this government would work steadfastly by providing a clean, responsible and development oriented administration with a new vision, approach and priorities. It will be appreciated if the government lead the administration as stated by the Governor.

Financial difficulties have been given first priority in the Address of the Governors. Another subject of high priority is the maintenance of Law and Order. Law and Order has not been selected as priority under the head of basic minimum service. Normally, subjects relating to the development of the people are selected under the head of basic minimum service. In my opinion, the maintenance of Law and Order is under the purview of the Central Government. Any ministries in the Central government will accord priority to Law and Order in the state. There, the state government should focus attention on matters relating to the development of the people of the state.

Under para 15, the Governor has mentioned that "..... my government stands committed to achieve Health For All by 2000 AD". This statement denotes that the government is committed to achieve health. Nevertheless, priority is not given on Health itself. If this government stands committed to achieve Health For All by 2000 AD priority should certainly be given to Health.

The Governor in his Address mentioned that Mizoram is the most peaceful state in the country. At the same time, Law and Order is accorded high priority. I think priority is not necessary to be given if ours is the most peaceful state. In a recent speech delivered by the hon'ble Chief Minister, he had stated that we are proud to have peace and progress in Mizoram after 20 years of insurgency. He further stated that it is his wish that other north eastern state would enjoy the same status and in his own words, the hon'ble Chief Minister stated that, "I am the best instrument for making peace in the North East". In the meantime, while we also agree with his speech considering his experience during the insurgency, one of the Central leaders Pu Acharya had visited Aizawl on 26.1.1999 and stated that, MNF as a party or as a Government should keep its hands off from the ongoing peace accord in Nagaland. This statement had been made right in front of us. This person has humiliated us within our own capital.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call upon the House Leader to wind up the Session for today.

P U Z O R A M T H A N G A
C H I E F M I N I S T E R : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I am glad that we could have a successful discussion on the Governor's speech. I am happy to inform the House that the proceedings in this House is a record in India.

The speech of the Governor is a lengthy one and it lasted for 48 minutes and thus it is detailed enough.

As we are all aware, we cannot help giving first priority to the financial condition. The Governor has also given first priority to it. Since the very first day of the commencement of this ministry attention has been focussed on the acute

financial crunch faced by the State. The government is fully aware of the problem and all attempts are on to find a solution to it. Hon'ble Members are also aware that the size of our Plan, for the current year, that is Rs. 333.00 crores has been reduced to Rs. 284.55 crores as the state government has not been able to contribute its matching share. In this case, some members have questioned if it could be recouped from the additional financial assistance we are expecting from the Central government. This extra financial aid we expect has to come as a grant. From this grant it is expected to repay our deficit from the previous term. In the meantime, if it is not for the aid we receive from the Central, we would have starve and the State government would have no fund for salary to be paid to government servants. In short, we are surviving solely due to the mercy of the Central government. However, I am happy to inform you that we are expecting additional plan fund from the Central which is to be utilized for the repayment of our deficit.

For the current year plan had already been made with an amount of Rs. 333.00 crores. There has been overdraft to certain extent. However, as stated earlier, the State government has not been able to contribute its share by way of Additional Resources mobilisation, it is unavoidable to reduce the plan size to 288 crores. However, measures to tide over recurring overdraft and deficit, is under consideration by the centre. This has been the outcome of our discussion with the Central leaders recently.

The member has criticised the address of the Governor for excluding the case of the distribution of GCI sheets for rural housing. In this case, I would like to say that the Address cannot cover all the subjects but that does not mean that the subjects that are not mentioned are of minor importance. Coming to the point mentioned by the member regarding NLUP, this government has no intention to continue this scheme as it is found to be ineffective. At the same time, there are some projects that cannot be terminated abruptly. In this case, the concerned department will continue to take up the project. However, I would like to inform the House that the government has no proper policy for its alternative.

Emphasizing on the subject of Law and Order, we are all aware of the fact that ours is the most peaceful state in the country. But, it is ever necessary to maintain this peaceful situation as we are surrounded by terrorist groups from our neighbouring states. For their reason, effort is being made for the raising of I.R. Police Battalion. Discussion was also made with the Central leaders to provide Prevention of Infiltration Force. I would like to remind the members that maintenance and the safeguard of our peace and harmony is necessary. The Address of the Governor has also accorded high priority for this cause.

As for the department of Health, the Governor has stated that special emphasis would be laid on strengthening the health care facilities and efforts will be intensified to establish the State - Referral Hospital. It is a matter of satisfaction that the government has made programmes in regard to the progress of health care.

Mention has been made of the dissolution of Village Council. The government has taken various measures not to dissolve the VC. But, there are cases in certain Village Council where it cannot be ignored. After taking thorough investigation some village councils were dissolved.

As for the case of the termination of the term of retailers, there are retailers whose terms were over, while some were found to be act in an unfair means. What I would like the members to know is that the government has not been bias in

selection of retailers. But, there may be political involvement in the selection if the candidate is found to be competent for the job.

I would like to emphasize on the government's policy of achieving self-sufficiency in food grains. Therefore, top priority will be accorded to it. In order to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains the government planned to take measures towards mechanisation of agriculture. Emergency measure will also be taken by the distribution of fertilisers and seeds to farmers at subsidised rates.

Due to the defect in our agriculture system the people of Mizoram have suffered a lot. To ease this suffering the government intends to lay more emphasis on the cultivation production and marketing of cash crops such as Passion fruit, Ginger, Coffee and Bamboo process and top priority will be given to it. Foreign companies have also been negotiated for this project. It is the policy of the government to reform the deteriorating economic systems of Mizoram.

As we all know, this government has been going on only for three months and there is no time to take measures. There may be some mistakes committed by the previous government while there are some that worths mentioning such as the materialisation of Lengpui Airport. We must appreciate the achievements made by others and at the same time should learn from the mistakes of others.

Coming back to the Address, generally, many of the project mentioned are undertaken during the previous term. It is also the appreciation of the achievements made by the previous ministry. At the same time it tells us the policies and programmes to be taken by this government and therefore covers every aspect and it deserve gratitude. So, Mr. Speaker Sir, as moved by the member, the motion may be passed.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, we shall take vote on the motion of Governor Address by a voice vote. Those who agree to pass the motion may say 'yes' and those against it may say 'no'. Well, the motion is declared passed. 19 members have given speech today which may be a record members. The meeting is adjourned till 10 : 30 tommorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 4 : 15 P.M.