

FOURTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 20TH JULY, 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, 13 Ministers, Deputy Speaker and 21 Members were present.

QUESTIONS

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

LAYING OF PAPERS

2. PU H. RAMMAWI to lay on the Table a copy of the Action taken on report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Food and Civil Supplies Department.

STATEMENT BY A MINISTER

3. PU LALRINCHHANA to make a statement on Sinking of land in Hunthar Veng, Aizawl.

DISCUSSION AND VOTINGS ON DEMANDS

4. PU LALRINCHHANA to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
5. PU K.L. LIANCHIA to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
6. PU J. LALTHANGLIANA to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

SPEAKER

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

Proverbs 29:2-4.

The members, Pu PB Rosanga, Dr. R. Lalthangliana and Pu F. Malsawma have applied for leave of absence.

We shall now take question. Starred question No. 29 to be asked by Pu Zakhu Hlychho.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 29.

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

- (a) Whether there is an intention to fulfil the agreement between the Mizoram government and the HPC.
- (b) If yes, how far the government of Mizoram has taken steps.

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to starred question no. 29 are as follows :

The government intends to fulfil the agreement with the HPC and steps have been taken for the same. Developmental works for various villages under Sinlung Hill Development Council are being undertaken.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. I would like to mention the reason for my raising of starred question no. 29. Para 6 of the agreement signed between the government of Mizoram and the HPC has cited that, 'The government of Mizoram have appreciated the concerned demand of the HPC delegation..... Accordingly the government of Mizoram will take immediate measures for inclusion of an area to be specified within the HPC demand area of Mizoram in the scheduled tribal area of the 6th schedule to the Constitution of India.' The said agreement was signed way back on 27.7.1994 during the Congress Ministry and a large amount of fund was expensed for the cause of this agreement. Later, on 7.4.1999 the Second agreement was made by this government with MAIDA in which 46 persons had surrendered themselves. Out of the 46 insurgents, 36 were reported to Manipuris, only 16 were reported to be of Mizo origin. It has been understood that lakhs of rupees was again spent for the successful implementation of this programme. What I would like to enquire is which one of the agreements will be taken into priority. To what extend has this government taken measures for the inclusion of HPC specified area into the provision of VI Schedule.

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon the Minister incharge.

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the government has been taking steps for the successful implementation of the agreement. The member must have mistaken when he stated that there were two agreements. This government has not signed any agreement with the HPC. However, an association known as MAIDA which comprised of Hmar Youths have gone underground. These youths were invited to come overground by the Mizoram Government. Having full trust and confidence in the government, MAIDA have come overground, but no agreement was signed between the government and MAIDA. The government of Manipur State has also made negotiation regarding this matter.

Regarding the inclusion of HPC demand area in the Schedule Tribal Area, the matter has been earmarked for thorough consideration.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. Para 5(1) and (2) of the Memorandum of Settlement has read that "Measures to use Hmar language as a medium of instruction upto Primary School level and recognition of the Hmar language as one of the major languages of the State of Mizoram". I would like to ask whether Hmar language is recognised as one of the major languages of Mizoram and if it is approved as a medium of instruction upto Primary level. I would further like to enquire how far the government has taken measures in order to promote and preserve Hmar tradition and culture. I have raised this question as I have the impression that Hmar people are being neglected by this government.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, Memorandum of Settlement was signed on the 27.7.1994 between the Government of Mizoram and the HPC. Today is the sixth anniversary of the settlement. During the past six years, to what extent had the previous government taken measures regarding Memorandum of Settlement no. 5 (1) & (2) ?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, the previous government had not taken measures for the implementation of the Memorandum of Settlement. Consequently, there are certain groups of people who are discontented with the performance of the government and gave birth to the formation of an association known as MAIDA. The Ministry, as soon as it comes into power took action for the successful implementation of the accord. As I have stated before, due to the efforts and measures taken by this government, MAIDA have come overground having trust and confidence in this government. But, no agreement was signed between the two sides. The government has committed to fulfil the contents written on para 5 (1) & (2) of the agreement.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to argue with the statement made by the hon'ble Minister that the previous government did not take any measures for the successful implementation of the agreement. After the agreement, the previous government had set up Boundary Commission and also specified their area. The Conduct of Business Rules for Sinlung Hills Development Council and its Constitution and Rules relating to grant-in-aid for Sinlung Hills Development Council were also drafted during the previous government. It is not appropriate to say that the previous government has not taken any measures.

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, Sinlung Hills Development Council which was constituted by the former government has been functioning since 1994. Every year, budget provision has also been made for the same. But, not a single step has been taken by the previous government since 1994 regarding the provision cited in Article 5(1) and (2) of the memorandum of settlement.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, has the government made programmes for the maintenance of HPC returnees ?
I would further like to enquire if the government intends to accept the

demarcation of area proposed by the former government.

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, demarcation of area for the HPC MINISTER was already approved by the former government.

As for the maintenance and rehabilitation of HPC returnees, as soon as the Council is created, it will be considered.

PU N.P. CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, during the Congress Ministry 67 percent of the provisions in the Accord was already implemented. The remaining provisions should be taken up by this government.

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 30 to be asked by Pu R. Lalziriana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I ask starred question no. 30.

- (a) Does the government give ex - gratia grant to the families of the victims who were killed by unidentified miscreants at Vaitin.
- (b) If so, what is the amount ?

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- each MINISTER was given to the families of police force died at the hands of the miscreants and also Rs. 40,000/- each to those families of the Civilians killed by the same.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. I would further like to ask whether the vehicle used on the day of the incident at Vaitin being repaired.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. when starred question no. 30 was prepared for questioning in the House, I had enquired the IGP's Office if compensation was given or not. I was informed by the IGP that it was not given. But, the hon'ble Minister in his replies said that compensation was given to all the families of the victims at Vaitin. Hence, I ask for the date of the release of the compensation to the victims.

We have heard from the newspaper that the Assam government would give Rs. 5,00,000/- each to the families of the police personnel who were killed by the rebels. If other state could give Rs. 5,00,000/- as ex - graia, we too could have done the same. Can the amount be increased ?

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the vehicle No. MZ-01-2025 allotted to the Chairman, Sinlung Hills Development Council which was used by the HPC at the

incident in Vaitin has been under repair.

Payment of ex - gratia grant was made to the families of the victims on 14.7.1999. Previously, ex - gratia grant was given at an amount of Rs. 40,000/- for police personnel and Rs. 20,000/- for civilians. However, the payment was increased to Rs. 1,00,000/- and Rs. 40,000/- respectively.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank the hon'ble Minister for being concerned with my question.

Recently, one PSO had shot dead one civilian at Bawngkawn. On the same night of the incident, the government had given Rs. 40,000/- to the family of the victim. In the case of the police personnel and civilians killed at Vaitin the ex - gratia grant assured to be given to the families of the victims was on pending for such a long time. If Rs. 40,000/- could be given instantly, why was the families of the victims at Vaitin not given instantly.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Home Minister had recently made a statement that the state government intended to create the best police force in India which is very pleasing. If the Rules is to be amended, can the amount of the ex - gratia grant be increased ?

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have heard that the weapons used by the HPC rebels for attacking police personnel were not retrieved. It has been four months since the incident. It is disgraceful for the government that the matter has not been tackled successfully.

S P E A K E R : The Minister may be called to answer the question.

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the government has full confidence in the ability of our police force. Only time will tell how far the government has tackled the rebels through the police force.

As for the formation of the best police force in India, it is priority of the government to create one. The criteria of the police ability would not be measured on the amount of the ex - gratia payment but by their performance and efficiency.

As for the statement delivered by the hon'ble Minister in regard to the ex - gratia payment, he had stated that the previous amount of Rs. 50,000/- would be increased to Rs. 1,00,000/- and from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 40,000/-.

It is true that indemnity of Rs. 40,000/- was given instantly to the family of the person shot dead at Bawngkawn. Unlike the amount of ex - gratia grant to be given for Vaitin victims, only Rs. 40,000/- could be arranged from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner.

Emphasizing on the amount of the ex - gratia grant for police personnel,

no amount can recompensate the loss of life. However, considering the financial position of the government ex - gratia has been given to their families as it is the only indemnity that can be conferred by the government.

Lastly, I would like to say that it is the responsibility of the Assam Rifles to tackle and check the movement of any insurgency within the State. Therefore, we should try to understand the limit of the responsibility of our police personnel.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I opine that an ex - gratia grant of only Rs. 1,00,000/- for police personnel is rather small.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am responsible to a certain extent. In my statement, I had stated the government programmes and intentions regarding the amount of ex - gratia grant to be paid. The government has now fulfilled that programmes. The reason for delay in the release of the ex - gratia payment was because it has to be given to a group of families and the matter could not be settled immediately. As for the incident at Bawngkawn, the two cases are different. However, to prevent public agitation and to show that the government has condemned that kind of action, an ex - gratia was given to the families of the victim the next day.

I agree with the opposition member's point on the amount of the ex - gratia grant. What we seem to forget is that during the ten year ministry of the Congress, the amount of ex - gratia given was only half the amount of what we have given today. Hence, they are not supposed to criticise this government regarding the amount of ex - gratia grant. Let us assume that it will be increased in future provided that the state's financial position permits.

The member from Tuipang Constituency has accused the government of failing to tackle the insurgents. As we have known, these insurgents had entered into Mizoram from Manipur and has retreated. As Manipur is beyond the operational area of our police force, they can not operate there without the permission of the Manipur Government.

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 31 to be asked by Pu Lalthanzuala.

PU F. LALTHANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 31.

Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state -

- (a) Is there any intention to launch Police Station at 'Tiau Kam' which is earmarked for the Border Trade Station?
- (b) If so, when?

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, according to the information received from the concerned department, there is no such intention.

PU F. LALTHANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. I

would like to ask if the Police outpost at Thingsai has been upgraded to a Police Station.

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, due to financial constraint, the police
MINISTER : outpost at Thingsai has not been upgraded to a Police
Station.

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask if there is
proposal for the creation of Police outposts at villages
around border areas.

Er. K. THANGZUALLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it would be appreciated if a Police
Station or an Outpost could be installed at Keitum.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to suggest that BSF
should be posted at Burma Border.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to repeat my question
regarding the incident of Vaitin.

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Demands of the Home Minister MIN-
ISTER : is Scheduled to be discussed on the 26th and the
member from Saitual Constituency could raise his
question on the same day.

Regarding the question of the installation of Police Outpost and Station at Keitum and Champhai District, a survey has been conducted by the department. As for the posting of BSF at Burma border area, the matter was already put up to the Central. However, due to shortage of BSF, one battalion each of Prevention of infiltration of Force and IR was requisitioned for border area.

SPEAKER : Question no. 32 to be asked by Pu Zakhu Hlychho.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 32.

Will the hon'ble Minister i/c Home Department be pleased to state -

The number of foreigners and their nationalities detected and evicted from Mizoram during the period 1998 December - 1999 June.

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, during the period 1998 between
MINISTER : December to 1999 June, 448 Burma nationalities were
detected and pushed back to their country.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please.

There are many foreign nationalities from Burma and Bangladesh. Why is only the Burmese nationalities were detected and not the Chakmas ?

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask if there are foreigners in the Western Belt who have returned to their country by their own decision. If so, how many ?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, during the previous ministry as most of the foreigners evicted were mainly Burmese Mizos; the Congress Ministry was often charged with covering the Chakmas foreigners. As for today, the number of Chakma foreigners detected and evicted from Mizoram was very little compared to that of the foreigners from Burma. Does this signifies that this Ministry has also covering the Burmese ?

S P E A K E R : Question hour is over now, but, we shall take on supplementary questions.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. The government has evicted 448 Burmese nationalities from Mizoram. But, no foreigner is detected and evicted from the Western Belt. What is the reason for this ?

DR. LALZAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the eviction of foreign nationals from Mizoram, did the previous ministry ever take operation in this regard ? If so, how many foreigners were evicted from the Western Mizoram ?

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, there are Riang people who had
MINISTER returned to Bangladesh across the border. However, I am unable to tell the specific number at the moment.

There are many question on the issue of foreign nationals other than Burmese, for the last ten years, the government had been taking several measures for checking and eviction of foreign nationals from Mizoram.

The case of Chakmas and Riang foreigners is a controversial issue. For the last ten years, the previous government had been indirectly covering foreigners across the border and included their names in the Electoral Roll with the motive of gaining votes in the election. Those foreigners after having put their names in the electoral roll began to settle in Mizoram. As this is the case, the task of pushing back these foreigners to their country is not an easy one. The government has been preparing village registration so that foreigners could be detected easily. I would like to inform you that the government will not ignore this issue.

S P E A K E R : We shall go on to the next business. Pu H. Rammawi, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee is now invited to lay the report.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I lay on the Table of the House, 'Statement on action taken report of Public Accounts Committee.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : The copy may be circulated to the members. Pu Lalrinchhana, Revenue Minister has a statement to deliver on the sinking of land at Hunthar Veng.

PU LALRINCHHANA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to give a statement on 16.7.1999, land was sinking at certain areas in Hunthar Veng. The main road in that area was also lowered by 2 feet. As soon as we were informed of this, DC, ADC and I had visited the place and found that 17 families had to vacate their homes and were accommodated at Chakma House and other convenient places. The hon'ble Chief Minister and his wife, other Ministers and some top officials had also visited the place. The DC had also sanctioned Rs. 6,000/- for their expenses. Rs. 3,000/- each was also given to the 17 families. Pu Aichhinga, Minister has also given Rs. 2,100/- and Dr. R. Lalthangliana has also given Rs. 1,000/- and 20 quintals of rice was allotted for the victims. There is also proposal for the allotment of Rs. 10,000/- and 4 bundles of GCI sheets each to the 17 families who had vacated their houses. The names of the victims are -

1. Pu Lalpianthanga s/o Lalengzauva
2. Pu Thangzuala s/o Sawiluaia
3. Pu Herliana s/o Biakthanga
4. Pu Vanlalropuia s/o Chhola
5. Pu Samar Badue s/o Dal Bahadur
6. Pu P.C. Lalsangliana s/o C. Lalbiakmawia
7. Pu Darneihthuama s/o Darkhuma
8. Pu Thandanga s/o Chawnga
9. Pu Lalthapuaia s/o Rinliana
10. Pu David Zoramthanga s/o Lama

Geologists and engineers have inspected the spot and necessary measures to be taken are being considered.

The copy of my statement is available for the members.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall go on to the fourth business. Let us now call upon Pu Lalrinchhana, Minister to move his demand.

no. 6 - Land Revenue & Settlement - Rs. 3,92,25,000/-. Demand no. 40 - AH & Vety - Rs. 8,70,87,000/-, total Rs. 12,63,12,000/-.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu K.L. Lianchia to move his demands.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, I move demand nos. 26 and 48 for meeting expenses during 1999 - 2000 in respect of the following departments. Demand no. 26 amounting to Rs. 35,62,00,000/- and demand no. 48 - Rs. 2,91,11,000/-.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now call upon Pu J. Lalthangliana to move his demands.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor and with your permission, Sir, I beg to move the demand no. 25 and 51 for Rs. 3,23,08,000/- only for meeting expenses during 1999 - 2000. Demand no. 25 - Art & Culture - Rs. 1,89,33,000/-, demand no. 51 - Tourism - Rs. 1,33,75,000/-.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now have discussion on the Demands of the three Ministers. The members are allotted 15 minutes at the maximum.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Our Rules no. 22 provides that the Speaker may, if he thinks fit, prescribe time limit for speeches after taking the opinion of the House. Yesterday, we had no time to take the opinion of the House due to shortage of time. I opine that 15 minutes is rather short.

SPEAKER : As I have already stated, the members are expected not to exceed 15 minutes for their speech. Let us call upon Pu H. Vanlalaiva.

PU H. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I would like to begin my speech with demand no. 25, Art & Culture. This department cannot take rapid steps towards the promotion of our culture and tradition mainly due to shortage of fund. But, when I study the demand for this department, I recollect various historical places that required preservation and maintenance. We also have many hills and mountains with scenic beauty. However, due to the absence of proper approach road to these beautiful mountains, they are left unexplored. There are also historical caves that required proper maintenance.

The monuments erected at Khawbung in honour of the former singers and composers and writers are also being neglected as there is no one to look after and maintain them. Considering the task of this department, the fund demanded for this department is found to be meagre.

Coming to Tourism department, I would like to praise this department for the achievements it has made. The many tourist lodges and highway restaurant constructed by this department had served their purposes for the people. At the same time, I would like to mention that the construction of Khawbung Tourist Lodge that has been abandoned for some time may better be continued as the people are eagerly awaiting for completion of the construction.

Thank you.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I will start with Demand no. 26, Health and Family Welfare. There is no doctor at Chawngte Sub - Centre and the people have greatly suffered due to this. I would like to request the Minister to note this and post doctor at Chawngte Sub - Centre immediately. I have stated this matter in the House for many times but no action has been taken till date. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, it would be most appreciated if prompt action is taken in this regard.

I have come to understand that there is proposal for the construction of new building for Chawngte Health Sub - Centre under the funding of World Bank. I request the hon'ble Minister to explain this matter.

Under the BAP Scheme, Public Sub - Centre was constructed at Borapansuri. When will this Sub - Centre be officially open ?

Being situated at the remotest part of Mizoram, Parva Village is poor in medical facilities, I suggest that a PHC or Subsidiary Health Centre be opened at the village. Parva is located in the Western border area which is Malaria infested zone and many have lost their lives due to Malaria. If timely action plan is not made, more lives will be lost.

It may also be suggested that Mobile Medical Team be organised at selected areas as this programme could be of great help to rural people.

Emphasizing on Health Worker and Nursing training, I would like to suggest that a new policy be made by the government, so that the candidates would face less problem on educational qualification when vying for training course.

Coming to Sericulture Department, I want to say that this department has the best prospect in Mizoram and hence new ideas and policies should be introduced by the government. I am sure that we can go to any extent in Mizoram. My vision for Sericulture trade is that more people should be encouraged to be involved and cooperative societies for this be set up.

It is pleasing that we have full - fledged seed farm at Aizawl. It will be appreciated if another seed farms could be set up at Lunglei and Chhimtuipui Districts. It is also necessary to have a Drilling and Testing factory at Lunglei.

Coming to Art & Culture Department, the Institute of Music and Fine Arts has trained students every year on Music. What is the norms for this training ? It

may also be suggested that advertisement for candidate for the training of music be floated at each districts. I would also like to suggest that State Level Cultural meet be organised annually.

I have come to understand that musical instruments are distributed by the Art & Culture department. Can this facility be made available for the Members?

I have been familiar with Tourism department as I had been in charge of it for quite sometime. I had attended Tourism Ministers Conference at New Delhi on 6.9.1998 where the Constitution of State Level Tourism Advisory Body was discussed. And recently, I was included in the Consultative Committee by the hon'ble Minister. Again, we had proposed setting up of Tourism Advisory Body. Realising its importance, the hon'ble Minister has set up Tourism Development Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister. I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister for this achievement.

In order to make further development in Tourism, Budget provision for the department should be increased. While I was Tourism Minister, the Tourism Finance Corporation of New Delhi had made verbal sanction of fund for tourism in Mizoram, but it has not been processed. I advise the government to proceed this matter further.

Coming to the construction of tourist centers, various schemes were made and sanction was also received. Since suitable place for the tourists is mostly needed at Chawngte, a scheme was made for the same in the previous government. How far these schemes are executed?

Lastly, on demand no. 6, we have Land Revenue and Settlement department. The present land revenue policy and the district policy of road side reserve should be reviewed because this policy creates problem for the villagers.

PU SANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I would
H. PAUTU :

like to speak certain points of importance concerning Health Department. The Civil Hospital, Aizawl has no proper labour room and waiting room for expectant mothers. During labour pain there is no waiting room or labour room and the only convenient place seems to be the porch. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, I request the hon'ble Minister to note this and make arrangement for the construction of even a small shed for waiting room.

It is pleasing to note that we have more than enough specialised doctors at the Civil Hospital. In the meantime, there are many places where many patients have suffered due to shortage of specialised doctors. Hence, it may be suggested that doctors be posted at places where specialists are needed.

Emphasizing on the case of Laboratory Technician, at present, there are only two in this post. They have to attend emergency duties day and night which is rather hectic. So, more technicians should be posted. With the increase of malaria cases in Mizoram, priority should be given on its preventive measures.

There is one point which I would like to mention to the notice of the authorities. The approved rate for quinine is Rs. 16/- while MRP is printed as only Rs.

N. Delhi while the same could be found at a cheaper rate at the local market. It would be appreciated if the hon'ble Minister could note this and look into the matter.

I would even like to suggest that the unsettled post of the Director should be handed over to the UPSC so that the matter could be settled rapidly.

Emphasizing on the scholarship for medical students, the present amount of scholarship and book grant is rather meagre considering the current fiscal value. Hence, this matter may better be reviewed and find ways to reflect in the Revised Estimate.

Coming to AH & Vety, it appears that the Veterinary doctors are neglecting their duty of checking the meat to be sold at the market. We, the Mizos are fond of meat but are not particular on the quality which may be the reason for our ill health. It would be appreciated if meats sold at the market could be checked thoroughly by the doctors.

Within my constituency, the AH & Vety record shows that there are a number of VFA posts but these posts are not being occupied in person. I have brought up this matter to the authority. I think it will be a good idea if the authority could conduct on the spot verification and impose penalty to those who deserve it so that it may be one way to solve unemployment problem.

I have come across the budget provision for Art & Culture, but I have not find allotment made for preservation of historical importance. If this is the case, our heritage and historical values would be lost or damaged. Therefore, this matter may be noted so that it could be earmarked for Revised Estimate.

Tourism seems to be the only way for our progress. I would like to praise the hon'ble Minister for his earnest and zealous activities regarding the promotion of Tourism in Mizoram. One thing we lack here is fund for the conduct of training regarding tourism. If more fund is allotted for training course, many young people could be sent for it so that tourism could be promoted.

Thank you.

PU C. SANGZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I will start from demand no. 6, Land Revenue and Settlement Department. We must have remember the tragedy occurred at Hlimen quarry in 1996 where many precious lives were lost. Many families have suffered as a result of the landslide at Himen while many were left homeless. But, the government did not make any special programme for the relief of these families. Meanwhile, it is found that there will be recurrence at the same place sooner or later. The people in that area are restless due to this. I have already informed Revenue Department about this matter. It will be appreciated if programmes could be made for relief measures in case of natural calamities.

Regarding the department of Revenue, there seems to be shortage of Surveyor. Many persons were sent for surveyor training course, but those who have gone through training courses were not given appointment which brings shortage of surveyor at the Directorate. I request the hon'ble Minister to note this matter so that programmes could be made for quick accommodation of trained surveyors.

Coming to demand no. 26, we have seen that there is an amount of Rs. 35 crores for Health Department. I would like to raise a suggestion in regard to Civil

Hospital. Since majority of the people do not afford private hospitals, medical treatment are sought from the Civil Hospital. Hence, it would be beneficial for the people if our Civil Hospital is provided with better medical facilities and regular medicine supplies.

Emphasizing on Health Sub - Centre, there are some areas in Aizawl city without Health Sub - Centre. As we are aiming to achieve Health for all, it is necessary to establish Health Sub - Centres for those areas while there is no such centre.

We have 'Hospital Extension' at Kulikawn. I would like to remind the authorities to provide necessary medical equipments as well as specialised doctors for the said hospital without delay so that it could soon be utilised for the public.

Coming to demand no. 48, the budget allotment for Sericulture is only 2.291 crores. No big projects could be undertaken with only this amount. Therefore, this department should be earmarked for the coming Revised Estimate.

Since its bifurcation from Education, the department of Art & Culture has been actively concerned with the protection and promotion of our proud tradition. The role played by the department for the promotion of our culture and tradition is very important. The department has a Publication Board for which Rs. 5 lakhs only is allotted. To become fruitful and meaningful, this Board should act as an autonomous body and Rs. 5 lakhs is rather small to bear fruits. Hence, Art & Culture Advisory Board also needs larger budget provision.

Mizoram is endowed with natural scenic beauty with its moderate climate. Tourism Department has been making efforts to attract tourists as it is an important source of revenue for the state. But, here also the budget allotment seems to be inadequate. As under the present Budget estimate, there does not seem to be much hope for achievements.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I would like to begin my speech with the department of Health and Family Welfare. I think this ministry has missed its election manifesto of 'Health for all'. When I look into the speeches of the Governor and the Chief Minister, there is no mention of priority to be given to public health. The speech of the Chief Minister merely mentioned that the department would continue the ongoing works. Hence, I have come to the idea that this government has copied the budget book of the previous government and changed only the figures.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it would be appreciated if the ministers could mention the programmes and policies made for their respective departments before they lay their demands. According to the existing system, the Ministers are only busy on contract works. It may also be a good idea if the ministers could assure to take action or to look into the matters that are mentioned in the House.

Emphasizing on the case of epidemic of Malaria, the answer to my unstarred question stated that the number of deaths due to malaria during the period between January to June was 42 persons in Aizawl District, 1 in Lunglei District and 29 in Chhimituipui District. I think it is a serious matter that only one person was reported death in Lunglei District while the death rate due to malaria was very high in other Districts. It may be requested that this matter be checked into.

The copy of the latest Comptroller & Auditor General (C & AG) report states that Rs. 10 crores was spent for the eradication of malaria. Nevertheless the confirmed death due to malaria between 1992 - 1998 was 224. This is the report seen from the C & AG. As for today, if the death rate within 6 month was reported to be 42, the percentage is very high. Therefore, this case should not be kept aside.

On my recent visit to Saiha, I was informed that DDT spray was executed only from the month of May which is very late compared to the previous years. I was further informed that there was no DDT supplies from Aizawl. This may be one of the factors for the rise in the percentage of Malaria death in the district. I request the Minister to note this so that it may not happen again in future.

As for Chhimtuipui District alone, only 14 persons is allowed to be recruited to do DDT spraying. As the number of villages under target is nearly 200, more persons may better be recruited. I would also like to say that the wages for these labourers are usually withheld by the department for almost a year. It will be appreciated if the hon'ble Minister could look into the matter.

Another thing I would like to point out is about Zemabawk TB Hospital. The TB Hospital at Zemabawk is the only one we have in Mizoram. However, the government has neglected this hospital and the maintenance has become very poor. Such was the condition of the hospital that some local newspapers have even highlighted that the daily diets of the patients provided by the hospital was not fit for consumption. Another major problem faced by the hospital was shortage of water. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a serious matter and it may be suggested that the problems faced by the patients at TB Hospital be checked immediately.

I have already pointed out that there was no specialists doctor at Saiha hospital as the one posted for the said hospital has been undergoing post graduate training. Hence, Mr. Speaker Sir, I earnestly request the hon'ble Minister to specially note this and make fresh posting of specialist doctor for Saiha hospital.

We have seen Sericulture on demand no. 48. The budget book has shown that the Budget allotment for Sericulture department for the current year is less than that of last years allotment. This gives the idea that this government does not accord high priority to Sericulture. Meanwhile, there are many families engaged in Sericulture activities in rural areas. For this reason, the government should render priority to Sericulture and even foreign aid may be sought if necessary.

I donot understand why the budget allotment for Tourism and Art & Culture departments for this year is less than that of last year. As for Tourism alone, the department used to sent post matriculates to undergo training on Hotel Management. But, unfortunately, having gone through training, the department has employed them on Muster Roll basis and no one is regularised till date. Mr. Speaker Sir, those who are sent for training by the government should be provided regular appointment.

Another point I would like to discuss concerns the department of AH & Vety. As we know, the department has encouraged poultry farming in Mizoram, various poultry development programmes are being implemented by the department. However, according to the government's notification of the rate of poultry, it is fixed at Rs. 95/- per kg. While that are supplied from outside the state could be acquired for Rs. 80/- per kg. If this is the case, the campaign for poultry farming would not be meaningful. Hence, the government should revise the fixation of poultry rate.

Another important point I would like to emphasize is the case of buffaloes that are extinct within Mizoram. As we are aware, buffalo has been closely connected with our custom and one of the means of income since the times of our ancestors. But, it becomes very rare nowadays. Therefore, I ask if the government could accord special significance towards the preservation of buffalo by encouraging buffalo farming.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the quality of milk produced by the department of Vety is unsatisfactory. Sometime it has unpleasant smell. Possibly, the milkmen are not cautious enough. So, the hon'ble Minister is requested to check into the matter, so that the quality of the milk distributed by Vety department would be improved.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : The meeting is adjourned till 2 : 00 P.M. in the afternoon.

2 : 00 P.M.

SPEAKER : We shall resume our business. Dr. Lalzama.

DR. LALZAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I would like to speak about Revenue Department. In various towns and sub - towns, there are many pending cases of LSC. I remind the authority to take steps towards the settlement of this pending cases.

As already mentioned by some members, malaria disease is widespread in various parts of Mizoram. Malaria death is also high due to the absence of medical aid. The members have contributed solutions for this problems. I, too, would like to add that rapid steps should be taken to fight this menacing disease. In order to achieve health for all, new Health SUB - Centres should be established in every villages with not less than 100 housings.

Shortage of medical supplies at Aizawl Civil Hospital should be taken into consideration as it affects the under - privileged peope. In view of this, larger amount of budget should be allocated for the supply of medicines.

It would be appreciated if a 10 - bedded Primary Health Centre could be established at Sihphir.

Matters concerning TB hospital were mentioned by some members. I would like to add that the doctor on duty at the TB Hospital never stayed overnight at the hospital on the pretext of the poor condition of the doctors quarters. The patients have been very worried for this reason as doctors are never available during the night.

It will be consoling for the hospital inmates if the department could note this point and look into the matter. I would further like to suggest for the procurement of health care facilities like MRI and CT Scan for Aizawl Civil Hospital to improve diagnostic facilities, so that patients do not necessarily have to be referred to outside the state.

In regard to Vety. Department, we have seen that the government continues to lay emphasis on implementation of live stock development programmes. However, budget allocation for cattle development alone is too meagre to expect self-sufficiency. The department authority is reminded to note this point.

It is understood that there is proposal for the establishment of a full-fledged office of AH & Vety. at Sihphir. Doctor's quarters was also constructed. It would be beneficial if this could be implemented immediately.

Coming to Art & Culture Department, I, too, have supported suggestion made for taking measures to protect and preserve our ancient monuments. There are many enthusiast groups of students and professors who are interested to visit various historical places. But, the problem is non-availability of fund from the government. Hence, the government is reminded to lay interest on this matter.

As for the state Library, it is important to lay greater emphasis on the promotion of our literature.

Thank you.

PU K. THANGZUALLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to speak. At the outset, I would like to praise Tourism Department for proposing to construct Tourist cottage at Thenzawl. Thenzawl is the most convenient place for tourism development due to its location. The place is also convenient for water sport and boating. Besides, it is also the most important handloom production centre which added to the advantages. If the authority has to select tourist centre in Mizoram, Thenzawl should be the first option.

Next, on Medical, it is pleasing to note that the ten bedded hospital of Thenzawl was recently upgraded to a 30-bedded centre. At the same time, the absence of doctor at the hospital is a problem for the people. On 15th June, free medical clinic was organised by the 'Hmeithai Association' at Thenzawl. The clinic was a success where 667 patients were treated and medicines worth Rs. 50,000/- was distributed free of cost and more than 80 malaria infected people were detected. Such was the health condition of the people of Thenzawl. I would like to enquire if some of the doctors at Aizawl Civil Hospital could be posted at the areas where there are no doctors.

Another important point I would like to mention is the case of Serchhip hospital. Having served the people of Serchhip and its surrounding villages, Serchhip hospital should be provided with better facilities. Unfortunately, even an autopsy cannot be done in the hospital. Medical Supplies and other technical facilities are very poor. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to note this so that better facilities could be provided for the said hospital.

Next on demand no. 6, there is Revenue Department. There has been proposal for making a master plan on Serchhip town. I have even make a recommendation for the team members. As provided by the 'Urban Development Act', the matter is put forward to the concerned minister. Meanwhile, it has been found that there is an intention to acquire settlement certificate on back date. I have even informed the Director of Revenue department about this and made a request not to issue LSC to anyone. The hon'ble Minister is also requested to note this matter.

Coming to AH & Vety., the Budget Book shows that Rs. 106 lakhs is provisioned for Feed and Fodder Development but does not disclose the location. Vety department has cattlefeeds and fodder farm at Thenzawl. If more interest is given to the

existing fodder farm at Thenzawl, it could be transformed into a prosperous fodder centre.

Previously, the department of vety had set up various animal farms at Thenzawl under NEC. Even expert vety doctors are also posted. The climate and environment of Thenzawl and its surrounding areas is also suitable for the rearing of animals. More so, the presence of infrastructure already set up by the NEC is another advantage for establishing animal farms at Thenzawl. Hence, it may be suggested that steps be taken at Thenzawl in this regard.

Demand no. 48 is about Sericulture. Though big achievements donot seem to be made in Sericulture. The significance and advantages of Sericulture is imparted enough to the people of Mizoram. Particularly in Thenzawl, there are families who are engaged in sericulture activities in private and there are also many persons who are still attracted to this trade. Being a handloom centre, Thenzawl is also a suitable place for Sericulture farming and activities. Hence, it may be suggested that private farmers be encouraged through training and distribution of the required materials for sericulture activities.

Thank you.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I would like to say that the budget allotment of Rs. 133.75 lakhs for Tourism department rather seems to be inadequate. I do not understand how the hon'ble Minister make programme for this department.

Emphasizing on Art & Culture, I have come to understand that we have Library Act since 1993, but, this Act does not seems to be implemented in Mizoram. As for our historical and ancient monuments, they are not properly maintained by the department. Like other Indian States, Preservation Act should better be adopted so that our monuments could be preserved and maintained.

On demand no. 40, it is pleasing that the department of AH & Vety has its own department building. Moreover, we now have our own Vety College at Selesih under Central Agriculture University. Since, this Vety College is a Central University it is headed by the Official on Special duty (OSD) who is acting on a deputation basis. Much to the disappointment of the Mizo people most of the employees, from the top post to IV Grade level are comprise of people from outside the State of Mizoram. Even the OSD who is on a deputation basis is a non - Mizo. Mr. Speaker Sir, while there are Mizos who are qualified for this post it seems that sons of the soild are not favoured by the government. Hence, I would like to urge the government to reserve the majority posts in the University for the sons of the soil.

On the department of Health, I would like to emphasize that this government does not require new policy and programme. Priorities should first be given towards the maintenance and restoration of the existing Health Sub - Centres and PHCS. Several Health centres are established in every places but failed to make it function. Therefore, instead of introducing new programmes and policies the government should divert its policies towards maintenance of the existing infrastructure.

One more point I would like to stress is that the employees of Health department have played an important role towards the people since their job concerns human health care. As this is the case, they need to have healthy sentiments. In order

to achieve this, it is important to settle Staff Recruitment Rules and provide necessary incentives to them. If we expect them to be earnest in their work, their welfare should be provided.

Thank you.

PU H. LALTANPUJA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Let me start my speech with demand no. 26. In Medical department, the role of the Microscopists is very important as doctors makes medical prescription from the result found by them. However, from the previous government, the practice of IV Grade employees performing the work of Microscopist was introduced in most of the remote PHC and SHC. IV Grade employees are entrusted with an important responsibility. They are made to do the work of Laboratory Technician. This is a dangerous and a serious matter as it affects human life. Mr. Speaker Sir, IV Grade workers are not reliable enough to perform the work of microscopist. Therefore, I urge the government to stop this practice and post only trained Laboratory Technician to Health Centres.

Regarding the State Referral Hospital I would like to have an information for the expected date of its function. When is the construction of the hospital expected to complete?

It is a matter of satisfaction that the Cobalt Therapy Unit installed at Zemabawk is beginning to be utilised by the people. Meanwhile, the main technician, who was trained at TATA Cancer Institute for 2 years was on a deputation basis. If I am not mistaken, he is the only Mizo expert we have in this line. But, his pay scale has not yet been properly fixed and without a regular head. At present, his pay scale is fixed at Rs. 2,200/- per month, while the same rank in other states get Rs. 3000/-. As this is the case, the pay scale of the technician at Cobalt Therapy Unit should be reviewed.

I support the policy of the hon'ble Health Minister regarding banning of new sub health centres before the year 2000 and restoration of existing centres. We have seen the condition of Health Centres in rural areas. They are in desperate need of maintenance. As for Phullen and Ngentiang Villages, there was proposal for the establishment of Sub - Health Centres since the previous government. The building for SHC is under construction at Ngentiang but Phullen is neglected and construction work has not yet been started till date. As this project is not new, I would like to request the authority to start the construction of Sub - Health Centre at Phullen.

Coming to demand no. 40, the government has been implementing various livestock development programmes in rural areas. The people of Vanbawng Village within my constituency are also engaged in livestock and animal farming. I think Vanbawng Village can also be called the place with the most domesticated animals in Mizoram. As such, rural Animal Health Centre should be set up at the village.

I would also like to request the hon'ble Minister to post new VFA for Phullen Animal Health Centre as like previous one was transfered from Phullen.

Coming to demand no. 48, as stated by my fellow members, I think the budget allocation of only Rs. 291 lakhs is too meagre for venturing new activities in Sericulture. Sericulture has promised a good prospect for Mizoram and therefore, it would be appreciated if higher amount could be made in Revised Estimate.

'Year of Visit India' is proclaimed by the department of Tourism. I have heard that a special Committee is held for this programme. In this regard, as stated by the member from Serchhip, tourists are attracted to places where there are rivers and lakes. In view of this, it may be suggested that tourist lodges and cottages should be established in the areas with water resorts, so that more tourists may be attracted. It is pleasing to note that there is proposal for the construction of picnic cottage at Rungdil and I would further like to request the authority to give more interest to this spot as it has a historical importance.

To conclude my speech, I will speak on the department of Art & Culture found under demand no. 48. I used to visit the State Library for technological books. Much to my disappointment, the state library is poor in such volumes. Therefore, it may be suggested that books relating to technology that will be required by the future generation should be acquired by the library.

Thank you.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to discuss the demand. I will start with the department of AH & Vety we have seen that livestock development programme like animal farming are taken up by the rural people. But, if we do not have large scale production, farmers cannot benefit from it.

To become successful in animal farming and to be self sufficient in meat production, new policy and programme should be introduced with this aim in view. I want to suggest that the government should select families to be engaged in that trade, and, those selected farmers should be provided with suitable place for livestock farming and even fodder be provided on a subsidised rate, if not free of cost, Technical training should also be given to the selected farmers. If the government makes programmes in this matter, farmers will also be fully encouraged and Mizoram would surely be self-sufficient in meat production.

Secondly, the VFA are expected to examine meat sold at the market. It may be difficult for the doctors to practise this. Therefore, I want to suggest that a separate wing for this task be set up.

Emphasizing on the condition of the VFA office at certain villages within my constituency, I would like to say that some of the office buildings of VFA at Zawngling, Chakhang, Tawngkawlawng and Chapui are in need of reconstruction. In some places, the office building has already collapsed. Besides, they always run short of medical supplies. Hence, the authority is requested to reconstruct VFA Office buildings at the said villages and provide medicine to rural VFA centres.

The department of AH & Vety. has more than Rs. 3 crores for non-plan mobilisation. I request the authority to put aside this amount for maintenance of the staff quarters and dispensary.

Due to lack of medical facilities at Tuipang dispensary, the doctor is never available. The dispensary building is also damaged and in need of reconstruction. It would be appreciated if the government gives priority to this matter.

The case of the artistes employed by the department Art & Culture should not be ignored. There are some who have been staying at the same post for 10 or 15 years and even without a promotion channel. They have been stagnated in the

same post for many years. As this is the case, their service rules should be revised.

Construction of Highway Restaurant at Tuipui South was recently completed. But, it has not yet been made operational. It would be appreciated if the concerned department could give priority to this matter. Tourism department has constructed another highway restaurant at Zihro. However, due to shortage of staff, the said restaurant has not yet functioned. The authorities are requested to take prompt action so that staff could be detailed for the said restaurant.

In regard to demand no. 26, mention has often been made about the absence of specialist at Saiha hospital. Mr. Speaker Sir, as I have earlier, due to the absence of a specialised doctor, the people of Saiha and its surrounding areas have great problems. If the government is committed to provide health care to the people, they should have ensured that adequate number of doctors are posted at every district headquarters. Doctors are servants of the government and are expected to serve the people. It seems that doctors with a specialist grade are reluctant to be posted at places other than Aizawl and Lunglei. This is the reason for the rise of health problems in some places. Hence, I urge the authority to see that at least one specialist is posted at each and every hospital.

Another point I want to mention is matter relating to Chakhang PHC. The PHC building and one staff quarter already constructed in 1991 was damaged and is not fit to live in due to lack of maintenance by the department. In this case, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to arrange fund for maintenance and repairing of the damaged building and for the construction of doctor's and nurses quarters.

The department of Drug Control has a great significance. However, it cannot function properly as it has not been separated from Health department. Moreover, lack of technical facilities like Drug Testing Laboratory has made it inactive. Drugs to be tested are sent to Calcutta and usually takes one month. Therefore, it would be an achievement if the new government has procured Drug Testing equipments.

When he was the Leader of the Opposition, the hon'ble Chief Minister has stated that the MNF Ministry would give medicines to the people free of costs. For this reason, the people of Mizoram have anticipation in this government.

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I will speak about the problems faced by the people due to Malaria. I appreciate the hon'ble Opposition Leader for his concern regarding the menace of Malaria. Various measures for the eradication of Malaria has been taken since 1958 but has not been effective till date. I believe that more effective measures can be taken. I would therefore, like to request the hon'ble Minister to note this.

Steps taken by the new government in regard to health is praiseworthy. It is pleasing to note that the Cabinet Committee has decided to divide the department into two separate directorates. A new scheme for providing financial assistance to under privileged patients with terminal illness is also made.

In regard to the posting of specialists, it is pleasing to note that more than 10 doctors (specialists) are being posted at Lunglei Civil Hospital. Let us presume that the authority would give priority to Saiha hospital in regard to posting of Specialists.

I would like to go back to the case of Malria. As Malaria is a deadly case, it is necessary to educate the people of its prevention. Due to poor health care facilities in the villages of Saipum, Saiphai, Phainuam and N. Chawnpui, malaria is very dominant. But, there are no hospitals and health centres in these villages. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, part of our budget should be allotted for the establishment of PHC in the said villages.

Coming to Land Revenue department, the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare Training School at Vairengte has occupied vast areas of land which left the people of the area a smaller plot of land for their cultivation. It is understood that there was a proposal for allotment of land for Soil department for school. It is further understood that the Soil department rubber plantation area is proposed to be allotted for the school. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to inform the House that the people in that area are strongly opposed to this decision. I would also like to urge the government to cancel this proposal.

Shortage of Veterinary staff in various villages within Kolasib constituency is a problem for animal farmers. The DVO of Kolasib has to cover the entire area and in some places, IV Grade employees have to take up the task of DVO. Hence, this matter should be taken into consideration and Veterinary staff should be posted equally.

Thank you.

PU LALTHAN KUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I will start with the department of Revenue found under demand no. 6. This department is one of the main sources of the government's income. In view of this, the government has been taking rapid steps regarding the issue of LSC which is very pleasing.

Coming to demand no. 40, various livestock development programmes are implemented by the AH & Vety Department. But, I would like to stress the significance of animal feeds. If the government has given interest towards the process of soyabean and maize for fodder we can turn it into an important source of revenue for the state. Processing of animal feeds has a wide prospect in Mizoram. We could become self-sufficient in fodder if the government give interest to it.

Realising the scope for attracting tourists to enhance revenue, the Tourism department has taken various steps. But, it is time to take more vigorous steps through advertisement and making documentary films of Mizoram. Larger amount of the budget should be allocated for this cause.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the proposed site for the construction of the State Referral hospital has been completed. It is also pleasing to see that the Health department is to be bifurcated.

It is pleasing to see the result of the steps taken by the Health department in regard to the allotment of three vehicles for carrying dead bodies from the hospital to their respective destinations. At the same time, the authority is reminded to give special priority to follow equal detailment of doctors for the rural and urban areas.

Several buildings for sub-centres and Primary Health Centres are constructed within my constituency. But, these Health Centres are not made operational since the completion of the building. When will these health centres start functioning?

Health Sub - Centre is established at Mauchar village which has 160 families. Here also, Health workers are not posted till date and therefore, the health centre has not been utilised by the people. The nearest health centre from Mauchar is Zohmun which is 26 kms away. The only connecting road between the two places is jeepable road, that also only during the dry season. As this is the problem of the people in the area, the hon'ble Minister is requested to note this case, and take measure to solve the problem. As for the sub - centre of Zohmun, it has been neglected by the government, maintenance is very poor and the staff quarters is not fit for living. It will be appreciated if Mauchar Sub - Centre could also be converted into a Main Centre.

Darlawn has a population of 1000 families and the only main health centre has a limited accomodation and medical treatment. In spite of this, the surrounding several villagers have come to Darlawn for medical treatment. Therefore, the people wish for a PHC and it will be very pleasing if their wish could be fulfilled.

It will also be appreciated if the Sub - Centre at Ratu could be upgraded to a Main health centre.

Health centres have not yet been established at Pehlawn, Damdiai, Sailutar, Lungsum, N. Khawdungsei and Khawpuar though the matter has already been put forward to the authority. It is necessary to set up health centres in these villages as the only health centre available is 10 or 15 kms away.

In regard to Maternity and Child Welfare, Rs. 125 lakhs was sanctioned last year, but, it has not been reflected this year. It is also understood that the construction of Maternity wards for Ratu and Sawleng were given on contract basis. Materials for the construction was even collected but it was abandoned by the contractor. I request the hon'ble Minister to note this and furnish the reason thereof.

There are still several places where there are health centres but not health workers. The existing health centres are all in need of maintenance and better medical facilities like medical supplies. It is important to understand the problems and grievances befallen on the rural people. It is also necessary to make bigger budget allocation for this cause.

To conclude my speech, I would like to emphasize on remuneration given to House Doctors. Unlike other states, the amount is too small considering the work load allotted to them. Hence, I ask the hon'ble Minister if the amount could be increased.

Thank you.

PU F. LALTHANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I will start with the department of Land Settlement. Regarding Land Settlement department, I would like to ask the government to formulate rules and regulations for acquirement of lands. In Mizoram, all the roadside areas are acquired by an individual or parties. As population increased, the value of land will also increase, but the extend of land will not be increased. With the increased in the value of land, it could be acquired only by well-to-do whereas the under - privileged will have no chance to acquire lands for themselves. In view of this, it is necessary to formulate proper guideline or rules for acquirement of lands. Otherwise, there will not be any space left for the under - privileged. If a rule is formulated, it should be enforced as it is. I request the hon'ble Minister to note this and take priority in this matter.

Coming to Art & Culture, it seems that the government is neglecting this department. In order to survive as a nation or a race or tribe we should recognise the need to preserve and nurture our cultural heritage. The government should strive hard to protect and promote our traditions and cultures. We should be proud of our culture and demonstrate a lesson to the new generation. It is unfortunate that the government does not lay adequate emphasis on preservation and promotion of our culture and tradition considering the amount allocated for this department. We should be proud of our culture and heritage. At the sametime, it is also important to upkeep the pride of our heritage for the young generation.

In regard to Tourism Department, Mizoram has no spectacular tourist attraction. The only attraction we have is our Christianity. A non-christian who visits Mizoram would always want to come again. In view of this, our religious places should be restored and renovated so as to attract tourists. With a view to promoting tourism in Mizoram and opening up Mizoram to both domestic and foreign tourists, the government should extend liberal financial sanction.

Shortage of doctors at Hnahthial hospital is a big problem. We have seen the number of doctors at Aizawl Civil Hospital that makes the people of Hnahthial feels discontented. It will be an achievement if this government can immediately post more doctors for Hnahthial hospital.

Another important point is the case of microscopists. In most of the sub-centres, there are no microscopists which means that there are no experts to examine and detect malaria. As a result of this, the number of malaria infected persons are increasing. Therefore, I ask the authority to accord special priority to this matter, and make programme for the posting of microscopists to all the Health Sub-Centres in rural areas.

Lastly, the only technician employed at Zemabawk Cobalt Therapy Unit has the qualification of MSc Physics and was trained at TATA Research Centre Bombay by his own expense. Prior to his appointment at Cobalt Therapy Unit he was working as a lecturer in Lunglei Government College. However, his scale of pay is unsatisfactory. His case has often been put up to the authority but does not bear fruit till date. Out of desperation, he has considered returning to the post of lecturer. I have emphasize this matter as it is a public interest. Being the only person expert in this field, his demands should be taken into consideration otherwise, the ones who will suffer would be the public.

Thank you.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, let me mention a few points on Health department. With the threat of AIDS and other contagious diseases, I think it is time to have a seperate ward for treating AIDS with a complete separate instruments and equipment. It is also important to improve our diagnostic facilities and labouratories. The authority is also requested to direct the technicians and doctors to be more cautious in their works.

The department of Tourism has made achievement in the field of construction of tourist lodge and wayside restaurant. However, the department does not achieve much towards the making of tourist attraction centre. The only state Musuem is also neglected by the government as it is not much of an attraction for the public.

As reported by some Indian experts, Mizoram has various factors which makes it the future 'Garden of India' one of those factors is natural beauty of our land that can contribute to the success of tourism. Therefore, due importance should be attached to the promotion and progress of tourism in Mizoram.

I would like to support the point raised by the member from Hnahthial constituency regarding acquirement of land by individual. If the government does not make proper rules for acquirement of land by private member or party, the future for the poor would be bleak.

Under Health department, there are three non-Mizo laboratory technicians at Aizawl Civil Hospital and for the last 15 or 20 years they have not been transferred from Aizawl while the Mizo technicians cannot remain in the same place for such a long period. I just want the authority to note this matter.

The construction of building for Vety College and the appointment of Staff for the same has earned lots of debate. At the initial stage, there were various problems in case of the construction. But, due to the efforts and interests given by the hon'ble minister, construction work has been going on at a rapid pace. As for the posts of Professor, lecturers and clerical staff, majority of posts are being occupied by non-Mizos. There are qualified persons among the Mizos for the above mentioned posts. It would solve unemployment problem in Mizoram if the vacant posts are made available for the sons of the soil.

I have often come across and witnessed various cultural dances from other states of which Mizoram has the best and richest cultural dances. We have the most valuable art and culture in the world and hence we should try to preserve and make programme for its promotion.

Thank you.

SPEAKER

It is 4:00 o'clock now. We will have recess for half an hour and will be resumed at 4:30 P.M.

4:30 P.M.

PU C. THANGHLUNA

Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. It is a matter of satisfaction that the government stands committed to achieving 'Health for all' by 2000 AD as the death rate due to malaria alone is very high. I think the hon'ble Minister has received wrong information on the number of death due to malaria at Chhimtuipui District. During the last year the number of death due to malaria at Lawngtlai alone had come to 40 not to mention the whole district. As that was the case, I had asked for special medical team from Aizawl and three specialists were sent to Lawngtlai. I would like to express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister for that matter.

At the sametime, I am disappointed that no budget provision has been made for the eradication of malaria. Malaria is the most common disease in Mizoram and it has taken many precious lives. Therefore, the government should be keenly aware of the importance of the establishment of a research team to find the reason for the increase of malaria in Mizoram, so that programme for control and eradication of the deadly disease could be made. Budget provision should also be made specially for this cause.

Another reason for the increase of death due to malaria is the absence of good doctors at rural areas. Mizoram has produced many specialists doctors, but, they are all accommodated at Aizawl and are not willing to go to rural areas. The result is death amongst the rural people.

There seems to be inappropriate decision made regarding fixation of pay scale for the SDMO and Civil surgeon. The pay scale of SDMO and Civil surgeons are fixed at Rs. 10,000/- pm by the Fifth Pay Commission. That means those who have 10 years difference in service will also have to start with the same pay scale of Rs. 10,000/-. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, this decision may better be reviewed.

I would like to emphasize on the need for upgradation of Lawngtlai hospital from 30 bedded to at least 50 bedded hospital. There has always been 50 serious patients who needs hospitalization, but the PHC can accommodate only 30 patients and around 20 patients adjust themselves to the lobbies and verandah. Moreover, there is a problem of foodings as the hospital can provide food for only 30 patients. So, Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister to upgrade the existing PHC to 50 bedded hospital.

I would further like to request the hon'ble Minister to upgrade the existing health centre at Bungtlang to a Primary Health Centre.

Coming to Vety. under demand no. 40, it is a matter of satisfaction that we are striving hard to attain self-sufficiency in meat. If that is so, the vety doctors and existing field staff should also be equipped with better facilities so as to ensure that the animals farms and meat sold at the market are healthy. The strength of the existing field staff should also be increased. The cattle farm at Mampui which is abandoned should also be restored.

Thank you.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I would like to say that for the people who are under the government with a new vision and approach, the first priority is health. Under Medical, Rs. 35 crores is allotted in the budget provision which is satisfying.

Meanwhile, stagnation of promotion, the problem faced by the staff should not be ignored. The authority has to consider the grievances of the employees and officials under Medical department.

Another important point to be mentioned is the case of immunization. Although the existing pattern of vaccination is satisfactory, it is necessary to take steps more rapidly. If general public health is restored large amount of fund for development of Mizoram would be saved.

As for Lunglei Civil Hospital alone, we have been seeing the result of the steps taken by the hon'ble Minister that doctors specialised in different fields are being posted at Lunglei. However, our problem is the absence of staff quarters. I understand that there is proposal for the construction of pucca building for staff quarters. I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister to give priority to this matter.

Recently, I had a visit to Aizawl Civil Hospital and noticed that the

hospital lacks telephone facilities. I am certain that there must be a problem due to this. It would be appreciated if the hospital could be provided with better telephone facilities.

Coming to Sericulture under demand no. 48, one of the major activities in the department seems to be silkworm rearings. In spite of this, it has been said that silk has been imported from outside the state for the making of quilts and pillows. If silk is in demand, we should try to produce to suffice our requirements.

There is not much provision for the department of Art & Culture in the budget. Let us assume that more fund will be allotted in the Revised Estimate. It is important to take all necessary steps to protect and promote our traditions and indigenous culture.

Rural library has become more and more popular. Though public awareness on Rural Library is very limited, it could be imparted to the rural people. As for my constituency, I have plan to contribute literature books for the rural libraries.

I hope that Tourism department will continue to give interest to building up of necessary infrastructure to translate its potential into reality. While improvement of the existing tourist facilities as well as construction of new ones are taken up, I would like to say that it will be convenient if tourist lodge could be constructed at Mualthuum and Pangzawl. I request the hon'ble Minister to note this.

Under demand no. 6, we found Land Revenue and Settlement department. The department has been dealing with several cases like encroachment cases and others. I would like to suggest that all those cases and even demarcation should be computerised for more conveniency.

I would like to emphasize on the importance of paying taxes. The government should also impart awareness to the people. Without paying taxes, there would be no feeling of ownership. So, it is the duty of a citizen to pay taxes. Better surveying facilities should also be obtained.

Lastly, we have seen that Rs. 8.87 crores is allotted in the budget provision for the department of AH & Vety. I would like to mention one point from this department. The Disease Investigation Wing in the department should be strengthened and equipped with a more scientific facilities. If this wing takes preventive measures against animal disease and done thorough investigation of animal diseases, we could make Mizoram a free disease zone. I donot know the programme set for this department. But, I remind the authority to take interest on the point I have mentioned.

Thank you.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a matter of satisfaction that Aizawl city is self-sufficient in pig and poultry which is a great achievement of Vety department. Let us suppose that this is the outcome of the step taken by the Congress Ministry. Nevertheless, there is a problem at Sangau in connection with this department. Due to the prolong absence of a doctor at Sangau Vety Hospital, the hospital building and the 5 quarters are being destroyed. The community of Sangau have been taking care of the building for fear of demolition. So, the new government is requested to see that a doctor is certainly posted at Sangau and allocate fund for the maintenance of the

buildings.

In regard to Tourism Department, it is disappointing to note that only Rs. 1.33 crore is allotted for the department. The main problem in the department is that most of the staff employed in Wayside restaurant and Tourist Lodges are on Muster Roll basis. Some of them have worked for 8 years or more. From the budget, allotment has not been made for the regularisation of these MR employees. According to the latest ruling of the Supreme Court, those who are employed for a continuous 3 years should be regularised with equal work, equal pay. Therefore, The Finance department should also be generous for the regularisation of the MR Staff being engaged by the departments. The Controlling authority should also make a policy on post creation.

While the initial plan budget for Art & Culture for the year 1998 - 1999 was Rs. 95 lakhs, it was reduced to Rs. 74 lakhs in the Revised. I would like to enquire the reason for this. Sometime back, the Tribal Research Wing had re-published old literature. Researchers have come from other states to look for these literature. Those works of the Research Wing are being benefitted and will be more beneficial in future. When I visited Calcutta National Library, I have seen the literary works of the British about the Chin Hills dated back to the year 1800. As the books are written more than 100 years back, it is high time to republish. It is desirable that those books be re-published by the Mizoram Tribal Research Wing. However, I feel disappointed that only Rs. 1 lakh is in the budget provision for Publication. Again on page 185 under the head of Tribal Research Institute, Rs. 60,000/- only is allotted for Publication which is too meagre to be fruitful. Mr. Speaker Sir, what I have emphasized is not for the present but for the future generation.

The function of Archive Wing is not being appreciated. But, this Wing has an important role to play. The department itself does not seem to realise the significance and function of Archive Wing. But, we will realise its importance when research work is done.

It is time to acquire a separate building for State Library. The only State Library in Mizoram is not given priority by the government it is accommodated in a private building till date. Therefore, the government should acquire and construct building for State Library.

In some of the villages within my constituency where there is not even a Health Worker, not to mention doctors, laymen have learnt to give injection and are known as local doctors. This is because Health department failed to cover rural areas. What the rural people need is Health worker who is able to give injection. There are several places where there is no Health Sub - Centre. As for my constituency, even the existing Health Sub - Centres at Sangau, Cheural, Lungphu and Bualpui are no longer functional. I do not mean that the Congress Ministry had neglected these areas. Mr. Speaker Sir, many precious lives were lost due to non-availability of medical facilities. Therefore, the government should allot more fund for this department.

The government has been spending a large amount for patients sent outside the state on refer cases. Expenditure on referred case could be reduced if equipments like scanning machine, endoscope and ultrasound are purchased by the government. Due to non-availability of medical equipments patients have to be sent outside the state, thus large amount of money is spent.

I would like to repeat the case of the posting of specialist doctors to various towns and sub-towns. While there are more than 2 specialists in a department,

there are not even one specialist for some hospitals. Therefore, the authority should check this case and see that specialist are equally distributed.

Thank you.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. In regards to demand no. 26, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister about 30 bedded hospital at Tlabung which is not well equipped at present. Although the department has purchased X-Ray machine there is no one to handle it. And at the same time, in the patient ward, there is no attached latrine due to which the patients are facing lot of difficulties. There is no specialist Doctor at Tlabung. I request and expect the Minister that at least Medicine Specialist would be posted at Tlabung as early as possible. In regards to DDT it is not properly sprayed every year. In the first day of the March Session, I have asked the hon'ble Minister about Gypsy Type of Ambulance which was provided by the WHO. And I request the Minister that the same Ambulance be handed over to the Tlabung Civil Hospital authority as early as possible. Since the roads are very small it will suit the necessity. And at present the condition of Public Health Sub - centre within Tlabung Constituency is very poor. In my Village Nunsury, the building has completely been damaged due to severe cyclone, I request the concerned Minister to keep some Budgetary Provision for the construction of the said building at Nunsuri and other places. And at the same time I request that Tlabung Civil Hospital be upgraded into 50 bedded Hospital.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to point out the reply to unstarred question furnished by the Medical department Lunglei on malaria. The reply was that only one person died in the whole district. I do not think it is true as I have seen many malaria patient in Tlabung and as per report available, many persons died due to malaria. Therefore, the department is requested to do the needful for controlling malaria.

In regard to demand no. 6 that is Land Revenue, in my constituency, Tuichang which has been declared sub - town by the Government three years back, Revenue department conducted survey but till now LSC has not been issued. The matter be given importance for the benefit of the people.

In regard to demand no. 51 that is Tourism, in Tlabung the construction of Tourist Lodge has been started since many years, but it is far from completion. Therefore, I request the concerned Minister to keep some Budgetary provision for the completion of Tourist Lodge at Tlabung.

Lastly, demand no. 25, that is Art & Culture, I request the concerned Minister to keep some Budgetary provision for the construction of Sub - Divisional Library at Tlabung.

Thank you.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I would like to say that it is a matter of satisfaction that this government is forging ahead in various fields of development, bearing in mind the welfare of the people. This government is only 7 months old, but has already achieved a great deal. As for my constituency, Kawrthah, the people have found satisfaction in every department.

I would like to begin with Land Revenue under demand no. 6. As

already stated by the members, most of the lands in Mizoram are possessed by an individual or party. All the roadside areas are acquired by the rich and well to do people and the under - privileged and poorer section of the people have no or less chance to acquire lands for themselves. Lands owned by an individual are left unattended. The new government should take this into account.

It is pleasing to note that the new government proposed to make new laws regarding rules and regulations for acquiring land and tax to be levied from land. If land tax is levied Bigha - wise, those who fail to pay tax may surrender his land to the government. Though I donot know how the department will collect tax on land, I would like to point out that collecting land tax is the state's main source of revenue. It is also important to impart awareness to the people. Therefore, in order to collect more taxes, Land Act should be adopted as soon as possible.

There is severe problem regarding accommodation at New Market. The absence of a separate slaughter house has also made the market dirty and unhealthy. Sewage and refuse are not properly disposed of from the market which is a problem for the nearby residences. Not only at the New Market, but in other areas also, market place is in great demand. Hence, Market should be constructed in various localities so that our problem could be solved to some extent. I would also like to urge the authority of Revenue department to easure that New Market areas is thoroughly cleansed.

Mention may be made on Vety College. I would like to urge the authority to continue to take steps for the appointment of sons of the soil to most of the posts available.

Coming to demand no. 26, while the government is committed to provide health care to the people, it cannot be fully achieved due to various shortages like medicines and doctors etc. In mentioning about doctors, there are not enough specialists in our hospitals. In most of our civil hospitals the demand for specialists is very high. But the department is short of specialist. Therefore, the government should send more number of doctor to undergo post graduate training.

I request the authority to arrange for medical supplies to various health centres within my constituency. There is severe shortage of medicines. The existing 10 bedded hospital at Khamzawl and other areas also need to be upgraded. I request the hon'ble Minister to note this. Another problem faced by the people of my constituency is shortage of health worker and laboratory technicians.

Mention may be made of the department of Art & Culture. State Library which is under this department does not receive much interest. Though Library is very important for cultural development, the budget allotment for it is very small. I request the hon'ble Minister to list library as priority.

Coming to Tourism department, the people of my constituency donot know Tourism department exists, which is an indication that the department has a lot of tasks in the days ahead.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I shall start with Health Department under demand no. 26. Health department is an important department as it provides health care to the people. Inspite of this, the government, including the previous ones have rather neglected this department. If we look into the speeches of the Governor and the House Leader, Health department is not included in

the priority list. If priority is given to public health, it will be difficult to achieve self-sufficiency in foodstuff. At the sametime, it is pleasing that the new government has bifurcated Health department into two Directorates. Let us presume that eligible candidates will be posted as Directors. I would further like to suggest that the matter relating to appointment of Directors be handed over to the MPSC so that eligible and senior candidates may be appointed.

Secondly, let me repeat the problem faced by patients at Zemabawk TB Hospital. Besides the poor supply and quantity of diet, the absence of a regular doctor is a severe problem for the patients. It will be appreciated if the hon'ble Minister could look into the matter.

Campaign on malaria should be undertaken as this disease has taken many precious lives.

Another important point that should not be missed is matters concerning Aizawl Civil Hospital. It is of utmost necessity to reconstruct or at least renovate the existing maternity ward. Even the labour room cannot accommodate more than two patients who are in labour. Due to the absence of proper waiting room, the patients have much problems. There are even times when a baby is delivered outside the labour room as there is shortage of accommodation in the labour room. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, reconstruction of Maternity ward should be considered as priority.

Coming to demand no. 6, the government creates severe problem for lower section of the people by increasing the existing taxes. The increased rate of taxes to the middle and lower section of the people is higher than that of the amount imposed on privileged people. The people's hopes and aspiration for harmony and progress are shattered by this decision. If the government, is really interested in amassing states revenue, the amount of taxes collected from the privileged and well-to-do people should also be increased.

The new government is requested to continue allotment of more lands for construction of churches as practised by the previous government. At the sametime, it is reported that an influential person is busy trying to acquire some plot of land beside the site of the auditorium which is under construction at Upper Bazar. In this case, the hon'ble Minister is requested to preserve the said area and not to issue any part to any individual.

Milk produced by the department of vety is found to be adulterated as it contains too much quantity of water and it smells of bleaching powder. It would be appreciated if the hon'ble Minister could check into the matter.

As for poultry feeds, the department is requested to provide at a cheaper rate to the poultry farmers.

Realising the scope for attracting tourists to enhance revenue, the Tourism department should continue to take various steps to augment the existing tourist facilities. But, it is disappointing to note that tourist lodges are poorly maintained everywhere. And the budget allocation for the department is rather meagre. If we expect progress from this department, liberal fund should be extended.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. From the light of the discussion, I have an idea that it is necessary to have awareness campaign even among the members of the House on Land Revenue and Settlement. During the last 30 year, Mizoram and its people have been making progress in all levels. Our system on land settlement also needs careful consideration. We are heading towards the time where the rich and the privilege possessed lands and house-site plots as much as they could, whereas the poor and the under privilege have no share on land and house - site plots. If we continue to go like this we are doomed to have landlord system. Therefore, we should be keenly aware of the importance of taking up a new system on land settlement. Being aware of this, it is proposed to adopt new policy on land settlement where all the sons of the soil could have house-site plots for themselves. For successful implementation of this policy, we need proper rules and regulations. The existing Act is found to be unsatisfactory and hence a new one is under preparation.

Unlike other Indian states, Mizoram state has not yet taken up proper survey of our cities, towns and villages. There is not even proper maintenance of land records. Out of the 700 towns and villages, survey was taken up on only 45 towns. For the continuation of survey, not only fund but man-power and equipments are necessary. But the government has not yet procured necessary equipments, not to mention man power and fund.

The system of land tax is not satisfactory. In order to collect more taxes on land, land owner should develop his land and makes his land profitable. There are more steps yet to be taken in this regard, we should be keenly aware of the need to upgrade our revenue condition.

The members have mentioned various points of which I would like to highlight the important ones. The member from Aizawl 'S' II has mentioned the problem faced by the residents of Hlimen Village. This is a critical matter and the Revenue department alone cannot take it up. So, a committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to consider the matter.

It is pleasing to note that the revenue collected this year has increased considering the amount collected last year. The reason for this is that the Government of Mizoram had already passed last July that revenue collected from the public should be increased. Accordingly tax was collected from the public this year. It was also passed last year that House tax should be collected at the rate of Rs. 20 per house. However, the State's Cabinet has not yet given its approval. According to the survey report, it seems that LSC has not been issued regularly. This is because of technical problems and shortage of man power. It is important to note that cadastral survey will be conducted on notified sub - towns that will ensure benefits for LSC holders and the remaining villages will be taken up by the Local Administration Department. And all agricultural lands are under Revenue undertaking.

As for the allotment of land for Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School at Vairengte final decision has not yet been made by the government.

I would also like to bring to the notice that land records and survey are being conducted by using a computer. It has been recorded that there are 430 houses in Tlabung and LSC was issued to 187 house sites so far. As requested by the member, the remaining work will be continued as soon as possible.

As for acquirement of land for the construction of Churches, necessary

arrangement has been made for cases that have been kept pending by the previous government.

In the past, there was a period when Mizoram was self sufficient in meat production especially pig. However, there was something amiss on the system and the situation is beginning to get worse. The same case has happened in poultry farming. According to the present condition, Mizoram is behind self sufficiency in meat by 5372.84 metric tonnes. The department has been taking necessary measures for the improvement of meat, milk and poultry products. It is also trying to improve the existing Vety centres and staff quarters. Nothing will be achieved if new pattern is not adopted. The government has laid certain programmes for the support of families who have selected live stock for a trade. As for now, Mizoram cannot achieve self sufficiency in poultry and its products due to non-availability of animal feeds within Mizoram. In view of this, the government plans to launch animal feed plant with an estimate of 60 crores.

It may be mentioned that fixation of rates for poultry and control of rate is made by Trade and Commerce.

I would like to add a few points on the quality of animals. Though, animal husbandry in Mizoram is satisfactory, the quality of pigs under domestication in Mizoram is not of the best quality. In view of this, the government has imported pigs bred from USA and Australia. At present about 60 foreign bred pigs are being reared at Selesih farm.

Different breeds of poultry is also collected at Tanhril poultry farm. Experiment on artificial insemination is being conducted at Tanhril Farm, so as to produce better quality of eggs. In this manner, the department takes up various measures for the improvement of livestock in the state.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I cannot give reply to all the questions raised by the members. But, I would like to assure you that all the points are noted down and the matters will be checked and considered with the department officials.

So, Mr. Speaker Sir, I do request this august House to pass my demands totalling Rs. 12,63,12,000/- to meet the expenditure for 1999 - 2000.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Members who agree to pass may say 'Agree' (Members - Agree). Is there anyone against it? Well, the Bill stands passed.

Pu K.L. Lianchia, Minister to wind up.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I want to convey my heartfelt thanks to the members for their constructive suggestions and contributions. What I would like to state first is the case of the BDS posted at Saitual hospital mentioned by the hon'ble Member from Saitual. I would like to apologise in advance to the member for fear that prompt action may not be taken in this regard.

I have noted down the case of Matron post for Saiha mentioned by the

members. Appointment was already made against the Matron post.

The member from Kawnpui has mentioned the absence of Health Worker at Lungmuat. As shown in the report, two Health Workers, Ralkapzauvi and ZD Lalvunga were posted at Lungmuat on 18th June.

Regarding PHC building, the members have emphasized the need for attached kitchen. It is estimated that PHC buildings should have attached kitchen.

The hon'ble Member of Serchhip has mentioned the on-going construction of Serchhip Civil Hospital. The total estimate of Rs. 2 lakhs has already been spent last year, but the construction is far from completion. Hence, fresh allotment has been made this year.

Survey of the proposed site for establishment of Mental Hospital at Falkawn has been going on. Since it is proposed to be a Regional Medical Hospital, fund is being expected from the North Eastern Council.

Another pleasing matter is that the hon'ble Chief Minister has brought home the first sanction amounting to Rs. 5 crores from Delhi for the construction of State Referral Hospital at Falkawn. After the completion of contour survey on the proposed site, construction work can be started.

Today, I am happy to inform you that due to the steps taken by the hon'ble Chief Minister, three 407 Model typed trucks and 1 hard top Gypsy is procured by Health department to be utilised as a morgue van. These vehicles will be at the disposal of the members whenever necessity arises.

Mr. Speaker Sir, when I occupy this office I have come to notice that one of the problems in Health department is promotion stagnation. Therefore, with the efforts rendered by the Secretary and the department officials, 17 doctors have been regularised, 22 doctors and 7 BDS are given appointments during the 7 months terms of this ministry. This performance has uplifted the condition of the Health department to certain extent.

It is true that even a single tablet of medicine is not distributed free of lost in the Civil Hospital. This is because of the new policy of the previous government since 1992. Instead of free medicine, purchase of equipments is adopted. Therefore, the budget has also been reflected in this manner since then, and this policy is difficult to change instantly. However, one of the major programmes of this government is to provide free health care to the public as much as possible. With this aim in view, a new society named State Illness Assistant Fund is introduced under the Chairmanship of the Health Minister. The aim and object of this society is to provide free medical assistance to medical patients who are below poverty line. Out of the annual budget of Rs. 100/- lakhs the State government has contributed Rs. 50 lakhs. Even a financial assistance upto Rs. 1.5 lakhs can be provided as the case may be. At present, many people have applied for it. But, there are rules and procedures to be fulfilled.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, is this fund applicable for my constituency ?

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, this society fund has covered all the State Hospitals in Mizoram. Rs. 5 lakhs is given to Aizawl Civil Hospital as the first instalment, Rs. 2

lakhs to Tlabung Hospital, Rs. 3 lakhs each to Saiha and Lunglei Civil Hospitals and so on. However, this is a new thing and the system may not be satisfactory.

Next, the members have mentioned bifurcation of Health department. The department is not exactly bifurcated but it has been reorganised into two separate Directorates - Medical Hospital and Medical Education and the other one will be General Health Services. The department will function under two Directorates. The State Cabinet has also assented to the proposal. But, due to the notification of the Election, the matter cannot be finalised at the moment. The two Directorates are designed to have a separate budget and there is proposal for the creation of Principal Director post that will coordinate with the two Directorates.

It may be brought to the notice of the members that there are 15 post graduate students who are undergoing training. Persons with less than 5 years service are also sent to undergo training if seat, is available.

Shortage of Specialists in various hospitals is highly emphasized by the members. I have noted down the points you have mentioned. The government plans to post specialists in each hospital.

I think the hon'ble Member from Kawnpui has been misinformed about the number of laboratory technician at the Civil Hospital. There are 8 technicians at the Civil Hospital. If there is any lapse in the distribution of works or the performance of the technicians, we will look into the matter.

The amount of stipend given to medical student has earned lot of debates, we are not denying that it is rather meagre. The government will consider the case.

The member from Aizawl 'S' II is concerned about Kulikawn Hospital. Construction of the 40 bedded hospital is completed. It is expected that the hospital will be operational in the near future.

I have also noted down the absence of doctors at Chawngte hospital mentioned by the member. One of the two doctors has gone for training and the SDMO has also come to Aizawl to attend Conference. I hope new doctors will be posted soon at Chawngte Hospital.

Construction of PHC at Borapansuri is completed. As soon as new posts are created, it would be made operational.

One member has suggested that special consideration be given to candidates from backward areas in the selection of trainees for Health Worker and Staff Nurse. This suggestion has been put forward with the idea that problem in posting and transfer could be solved. Though this suggestion is a good one, the Central government do not approve of giving special consideration.

As for the case of Labour Room at the Civil Hospital, due to efforts made by the members, there is proposal for renovation and extension of labour room. Rs. 10 lakhs is allotted for the same.

The case of the posting of specialists to every Civil Hospital is under consideration.

The hon'ble Member, Pu Zakhu Hlychho has misquoted my statement by stating that the government has no plans for development what I was saying is that instead of taking up new projects, government will focus on the maintenance and upgradation of existing ones.

I have already furnished my replies in regard to the PHC building at Khuangthing. As for the PHC building at Bulfek Village, it was constructed during the time of the previous ministry. Hence, action cannot be taken and the government has decided to leave the matter as it is.

I would like to repeat that I have just mentioned the official report of the number of deaths due to Malaria. There may be more deaths due to malaria. But, according to the official report, confirmed death due to malaria is 29.

DDT spray is usually done before monsoon season. This year, the operation is completed before 10th June. 40 persons were employed to do DDT spray for Chhimtuipui District. The government intends to give their remuneration as early as possible and the sanction has been moved for the same.

Though various measures have been taken to eradicate malaria disease it is not very effective. But, we will not give up and the government is taking every possible steps to ward off this deadly malaria. Mosquito net specially designed to repel mosquito is also being distributed to farmers. Chemical mosquito net were also distributed. Ten more microscopes are also procured by the department.

Though establishing Public Health Centre for Sihphir seems to be appropriate, it cannot but be carried out due to shortage of fund.

The absence of doctor at Zemabawk TB hospital is mentioned by the members. Dr. Rotluanga who was posted at the hospital was transferred to Aizawl and the new doctor has not yet shifted to his quarters at Zemabawk. Anyway, he is expected to occupy his quarters soon.

Coming back to the case of malaria, a report on malaria death was sent to the National Institute of communicable diseases at New Delhi. Consequently, two doctors who are expert in this case are sent to Mizoram on June 24 - 30, 1999. A Research was done from Lawngtlai and Saiha, we are awaiting for their report.

As a consequence to our report on the disease, the Indian Council of Medical Research had sent 2 doctors and 4 technician to Mizoram to do a research work on malaria during 5 - 20.7.1999. In coordination with the State's Health department the Research team are working on the case.

Financed by World Bank, experts from the Malaria Directorate, N. Delhi coordinating with the Mizoram Health Department plan to organise workshop on malaria during 7.7.1999 - 29.7.1999.

It is important to know that the Health department alone cannot fight malaria. But, cooperation of the public is equally important. Currently, 60 equipments for DDT spray is purchased which are to be distributed to PHCS and CHCS. With the increase of malaria, medicine supplies from the Central is found to be inadequate. So, the State government has procured necessary items by its own expense.

Suggestions brought forward by the members are in contrast. While

there are some members who suggested that only trained laboratory technicians should be employed, there are members who suggested that IV Grade employees should be trained to do the task of laboratory. Let us presume that all these suggestions have come out with good intention.

The members have emphasized the need for procurement of technical equipments like HRI and CT Scan. The government has realised this point but due to limitation of fund, it cannot be carried out for now.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : I request the hon'ble Minister to clarify whether doctor could be posted at the newly established PHC at Chakhang.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is regretted that many PHCS and Sub - Centres are abandoned since 1992. As for Chhualung and Chakhang PHCS, the government has made commitment and with more and more doctors in the department, the two PHCS will soon be made operational. However, I cannot furnish the time.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, can the hon'ble Minister arrange to re - allot the gypsy type of ambulance from Saiha to Tlabung.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Another vehical is already allotted for Tlabung. In MINISTER regard to the posting of specialists, the government intends to post specialist doctors to every hospitals.

I think some members have misinterpreted the meaning of 'Health for all by 2000'. 'Health for all' means that by the year 2000, the people of Mizoram would be provided with all the necessary health care facilities.

The pay scale of doctors have earned a lot of controversy as the Fifth Pay Commission has placed different grades in the same scale of pay. The matter is brought to the Pay Implementation Committee. I will do my best for revision of the pay scale of different grades of doctors.

It is pleasing to see the member's concern over Sericulture. It is important to instil in the minds of the rural people that from sericulture, one can get handsome returns. There seems to be no other departments that is more appealing than Sericulture.

As suggested by the member from Chawngte Constituency, Sericulture have been taken up as a Cooperative Societies. At present, there are more than 3000 registered farmers and about 57 Sericulture Cooperative Societies in the State. The government has made significant achievement in Sericulture and nearly 600 families have been recorded to have taken up sericulture as their main occupation.

One member has stated that the Manipur government has made project on Sericulture with the fund provided by the centre. The government of Mizoram has

also solicited for the establishment of Foreign Aid Project in Mizoram. The Director of Sericulture has also gone to Imphal to pursue the matter.

The department of Sericulture has Technical service centre at Aizawl and Lunglei where quilts and pillows are manufactured from Silk. The products are on sale at the department's Sales Emporium. We have produced our own Silk.

I will now come to the end of my speech. I have noted down all the points mentioned by the Members and they will be pursued.

Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I move demand no. 26 - Medical and 48 - Sericulture for Rs. 38,53,11,000/- to the vote of the House.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Those who agree to pass may say 'Agree' and those who are against may say 'No'. The demand is passed unanimously.

Let us now call upon Pu J. Lalthangliana Minister, to wind up the discussion.

P U J . L A L T H A N G L I A N A : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. From the discussion, it MINISTERS transpires that the members have real concerns over my departments.

The department of Art & Culture is a small one and so the budget provision is also not very high. Moreover the department has various Wings under it. Most members have emphasized the need for preservation of historical monuments. I would like to inform the House that the government plans to make Historical Monument Preservation Act. The matter is under being processed.

As the hon'ble Speaker ask me to give the highlights only, I will not go into detail.

Under the Chairmanship of the hon'ble Chief Minister, The Mizoram Tourism Development Advisory Committee is set up. The Committee will take necessary steps. Another committee known as Consultative Committee is also set up in which the members of this House are the members. The department of Tourism has no adequate fund of its own and has been operating under the departments of PWD, PHE and Power.

As emphasized by the member from Khawbung, preservation of our historical monuments is important. It is one of the programmes of the department to take necessary step towards the protection and preservation of ancient monuments and historical landmarks.

One thing I would like to point out is the doubled claim of historical places like the 'Tomb of Ropuiliani' and 'Fiara Tui' and others. As this is the case we need to preserve double place. I don't see any harm in preserving site claimed as it also happens in other parts of the world.

The Publication Board has earned a lot of discussion. The department has passed new Act and Rules which is expected to be in effective in the near future.

The Library Act of 1993 is not yet been enforced. This is because of inadequacy of fund. However, when there is more fund, the said Act will be implemented. The House is also informed that the on-going auditorium at Upper Bazar is expected to accommodate the State Library.

In regard to Tourism, one of the reasons for the set back seems to be that most of the employees in our Tourist Lodges and Restaurants are Muster Roll employees. Fund received from the central is mainly utilised for construction of tourist lodge and highway restaurants. These tourists places are being closed due to shortage of staff. The department does not afford to employ even more MR. The newly constructed tourist lodge at Lawipui is also not yet functioning and also at Khawbung and Darzo. With the campaign 'Visit India year' initiated by the Centre, we are expecting a higher amount of fund from the Central. If we have infrastructure, the rest is easy.

With the dedication of our Chief Minister we are expecting special package of Rs. 100 lakh for other Peace Bonus which will be utilised for Tourism Department.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, how is the government proceed with the proposed schemes ?

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : The schemes under questions are being taken up by MINISTER the departments of PWD and Power.

I would like to convey my gratitude to the members for their interests in the progress of Tourism department. I hope and wish that the department will progress under the new government.

Another pleasing matter is that the Joint Director of Tourism department has gone to Israel to undergo training course on 'Tourism development in Rural Areas'. He is financed by the Israeli government. Not only this, the department's Secretary and Deputy Director also went to Berlin. We have been studying tourism from other countries. Let us hope that we will be benefitted.

I shall now come to the end of my speech. Mr. Speaker Sir, I do request this august House to pass my demands amounting to Rs. 3,23,08,000/- to meet the expenditure for 1999 - 2000.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now take vote on the demands of Pu J. Lalthangliana, Minister. Those who agree to pass may say 'Yes' and anyone who disagree may say 'No'.

Well, the demand is passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8 : 20 P.M.