

FIFTH SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 21ST 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, 14 Ministers, Deputy Speaker and 23 Members were present

QUESTIONS

Questions entered in seperate list to be asked and oral answers.

LAYING OF PAPERS

2. PU H. RAMMAWI to lay on the Table a copy of statement of action taken on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of Committee on Public Undertakings relating to Zoram Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.

DISCUSSION AND VOTINGS ON DEMANDS

3. PU RUALCHHINA to submit to the vote of the House Various Demands under his charge.
4. COL. LALCHUNGNUNGA to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
5. PU LALRINZUALA to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge

SPEAKER : "Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgements, show kindness and mercy each to his brother, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourners or the poor; and let none of you devise evil against his brother in your heart".

Zakaria 7:9-10

Now, we will go to our business and let' call upon Pu C. Thanghluna to ask starred question no. 39.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, will the hon'ble Minister Food & Civil Supply department be pleased to state :

- (a) Does the Government have any debt of foodstuff carrying charge to its carrying contractors ?
- (b) If so, what is the amount of the debt District wise.
- (c) And whether the Government can make payment to them all ?

SPEAKER : Pu Aichhinga, Minister Food & Civil Supply Department to give answer.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, answers to the above starred questions are :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The amount of Government debt to the contractor District wise is -
- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Aizawl District | - | Rs. 25,00,000/- |
| Lunglei District | - | Rs. 12,50,000/- |
| Chhimituipui District | - | Rs. 23,50,000/- |
| TOTAL | - | Rs. 6,10,00,000/- |
- (c) The carrying charge owed by the government began from 1994. It is the debt of former government. The government try to pay it and ask Finance Commissioner for the requirement.

S P E A K E R : Any supplementary questions, it is better to ask more quick as the time is so limited.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Supplementary question. Only 36 Kilogram of K. Oil is allotted for Saiha. It is not adequate for Saiha. I, therefore, request the government to allot 45 Kilogram of K. Oil for Saiha per month.

PU Z.H. ROPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, is there any intention to increase the rate of carrying charge for Retailers of the villages ?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, it appears that there are many floating challan in Mizoram. Had the Government detected such Floating challan ? How many floating challan are there which is undetected ?

PU LALCHAMLIANA
MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I came to know that there is too much food supply in Mizoram, that's why, next month quota is not to be delivered. Am I right ?

PU H. LALTANPUIA : I support the supplementary question asked by Pu ZH

Ropuia. Whether there is any intention to raise the rate of carrying charge for retailers of villages? In fact, it is now regarded as voluntary work as it is not so proper.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the word spoken by Mr. Lalchamliana seems to be true. But the stocked rice is of poor quality that the retailers did not like to deliver it. Is this the returned rice which is not fit for consumption?

ing more supply of K. Oil to the Central Government. But the Central Government try to reduce it for more LPG is going to be supplied in the state.

Secondly, carrying rate of rice is now under revision due to the problem cited before.

Thirdly, regarding floating challan (flying challan), the hon'ble Member's question is right. But now, some of them is checked. But two or three floating challan is not yet checked. We will carrying on the checking and take necessary action.

Fourthly, stock of rice is now too much to deliver next month quota. We, therefore, decided not to deliver monsoon quota for next month.

And as we are going to stock only fine rice, it can't be checked as the stock is too much. All the stocked rice is not totally bad but some portion are not good quality. We are going to improve our rice quality.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. The Minister informed the House that the State Government had Rs. 16 crores of debt. How much debt has the former Government and the present Government have respectively?

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a store keeper posted at Borapansuri did not like to stay at that place. What action will be taken against him?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, Government of Mizoram appointed a retailer of wheat brand. But Mr. Uddin, Raju, etc. supplied wheat brand. What is the reason?

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question. Phura Village usually met difficulty to carry rice from Kawlchaw during monsoon season but there was no bridge. In order to solve this problem, may you please construct a Godown at Latawh Village which has to be passed through if one goes to Kawlchaw.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Government of Mizoram has a debt of Rs. 7,00,000/- to T.O.A Lunglei. At what time the Government of Mizoram will pay the debt?

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

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the debt of carrying charge
MINISTER of rice, I did not prepare to answer in year wise.
Anyhow the debt of carrying charge are the debt of former Government. This Government does not yet have any debt in this regard. Anyhow, the charge is trying to be cleared up. There is

no large amount of debt this year. The debt of Rs. 610 lakhs is the debt of former Government. If the demand made to the Central Government is successful. We will repay all these debts. It is not only to carrying contractors but also to the retailers as well.

And regarding the store-keeper of Borapansury, we will take necessary action after verifying the fact.

And wheat brand is not supplied from outside Mizoram but from Flour Mills of Mizoram such as Sunrise and BCA and HP. Those products were supplied to the retailers. After we had appointed retailer, no special permit is issued to anyone. It is strictly observed. If there occurs such thing I feel that we will examine the matter.

Regarding construction of temporary Godown between Phura and Kawlchaw, we will have spot verification and will take necessary action.

S P E A K E R : Now, we will call upon Pu C. Sangzuala to ask starred Question No. 40.

P U C. S A N G Z U A L A : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question No. 40 (a - h) to be answered by hon'ble Minister Land and Revenue Settlement Department.

S P E A K E R : Let's call upon Pu Larinchhana, hon'ble Minister Land and Revenue Settlement Department.

P U L A L R I N C H H A N A : Mr. Speaker Sir, the question is that whether there is a clear demarcation between the government land and private land on both sides of roads within Aizawl city.

The answer is that some demarcation are made in 1987 and reserved areas are marked in some places. But it is not completed till date.

(b) The next question is whether a Committee was formed for damage of Quarry at Hlimen with its effected areas? The answer is that Government of Mizoram had set up a Committe under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. Aizawl DC is appointed to take necessary steps. A plot of land was purchased from Pu Challianngura at the adjoining side of Hlimen Quarry near by the Central Workshop at the price of Rs. 6 lakhs which land was divided into 64 plots. These plot of lands are allotted to the victims of damaged quarry. 27 houses were constructed and 24 houses were let in. In the beginning of this year we had a spot visit with the concerned MLA and submitted recommendation to the committee. The report is not yet receivede till date. That's why, no step is taken now.

P U C. S A N G Z U A L A : Mr. Speaker Sir, I feel that it is better to ask a relevant question on the day the demand is to be discussed. I, therefore, request you to arrange starred

Secondly, I request and ask the Government to have a clear demarcation between Government land (or) reserved area and private land within Aizawl City area.

Thirdly, whether the Government of Mizoram has taken step in regards to housing by Law.

Fourthly, whether the Government can take immediate step for prevention of another mishap at the quarry.

Fifthly, whether the Government of Mizoram can issue Housing Loan to victims of Hlimen Quarry?

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question, is there anyone who apply LSC between Dawrpui Biak In and an old place of Central Jail near the residence of Pi Darkawli? If so, the reasons for allotment.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, which department has undertaken Aizawl New Market, Land Revenue & Settlement or Local Administration?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Lalrinchhana to give answer to the above questions.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the controversy within Aizawl City road is not easy to clear by only Revenue Department. It is needed to have a Capital Master Plan by the Government. It also requires to have a compensation for damages of private property. I think this government would do such plan. But such proposal does not yet exist now.

And regarding Housing by Law, the necessity pressed hard the Government. That's why, I expect LAD would implement it as early as possible.

And in regards to Hlimen Quarry, only one Department is not enough, let us hope the Government to take necessary steps accordingly.

And Dawrpui Village Council and YMA asked me not to issue any LSC nearby the old place of Central Jail. I did not receive any application. Anyhow, I think that no LSC would be allotted at the said places.

And the Aizawl New Market is allotted by the Revenue Department. But the buildings were constructed by LAD. The lowest building belongs to Land Revenue and Settlement Department and rest of the building belonged to Local Administration Department.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, as I knew, the two upper floor belonged to LAD. While, the ground floor and the

first floor belonged to Land Revenue and Settlement. Public latrine is constructed at the top of the floor but Revenue Department did not allow to construct Septic Tank. That's why, that building had no septic tank latrine. This caused a serious hardship to the public. I, therefore, request the Government to make proposal for one department to look after that building.

PU LALRINCHHANA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, LAD and Revenue Department were joined together in the past. That caused a serious hardship in trade and commerce and marketing. In this connection, a proposal was made to the government, which is under consideration. It is expected that a single department will administer all marketing after a few days.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu L.N. Tluanga to ask starred question no. 41.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Will the hon'ble Minister, Power & Electricity Department be pleased to state :

- (a) What step is taken by the Government of Mizoram to increase power and electricity in the State ?
- (b) Whether the Central Government had any project accepted ?
- (c) If so, which project ?
- (d) Amount of its estimate ?
- (e) The number of mega watt expected to be produced.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Lalhmingthanga Deputy Chief Minister to give answer the above question.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer to the above starred questions are :-

- (a) Government of Mizoram took a long step to increase power in the State.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The first project to be carried out by the Government of Mizoram is Thermal Project which may produce 20 mw nearby Bairabi rail head. Secondly, Serlui 'B' Hydel Project abandoned by the former Government was to be continued. Thirdly, Bairabi Hydro Electric Project which was paralysed for a long time. The Central Government had already allowed all these for State sector. Those are the state sectors.

In regards to Central Sector, Tuirial Hydro - Electric Project to be undertaken by Central Government. Besides this, Tuivai Hydro Electric Project is to be done as the Central Sector.

- (d) And the amount of each of its estimate are :-
 - (a) Furnish oil base Thermal power nearby Bairabi rail head is Rs. 84/- crores.
 - (b) Serlui 'B' Hydel Project is Rs. 8581/- lakhs.
 - (c) Bairabi Hydel Project is not known, revise estimate is being

prepared.

- (d) Tuirial Hydro Electricity Project is Rs. 4,48,19 lakhs.
- (e) Tuivai Hydro Electricity Project is Rs. 1200/- crores.
- (e) The expected Mega watt. to be produced are :-

(a)

Thermal Project at Bairabi

	-	20 mw
(b) Serlui 'B'	-	12 mw
(c) Bairabi Hydel Project	-	75 - 125 mw
(d) Tuirial Hydro Electricity Project	-	60 mw
(e) Tuivai Hydro Electricity Project	-	210 mw

Besides these, Chhimituipui Kolodyne Phase I and Phase II is to be carried out in joint venture of the Central Government and the State Government.

PU LALTHAN KUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question. As it appears in CAG Report, Government of Mizoram's unnecessarily expenditure is Rs. 5.58 crores in Maicham mini Hydel Project. What is the reason?

Secondly, whether Power & Electricity Department gave bill exceedingly to the contractors of Kau Tiabung Project and Tuipang Lui Project? Whether it can defame the Government? Why did the Government pay more than the estimated amount? Will the Government examine the matter?

And Jain and Brothers were black listed under Power Department. While four companies were given contract in the name of Mizoram Contractors and cables in 1998. What about this?

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I knew that clearance of Bairabi Hydel Project 12 mw is reported in this House in the former Government. The hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister will be clear enough about it. It is now estimated to produce 70 - 75 mw only. What is the reason?

And after Serlui 'B' Hydel Project, what step has the government taken?

Thirdly, what is the progress of Tuirial Hydel Project?

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding C & AG Report, is not it to consider by PAC after reported in this House? That's why, it may not be discussed only in this House.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, only a few supplementary question. As said by the hon'ble Minister, Thermal Project is

our state earn from this project ?

S P E A K E R : Now, let us call upon Pu Lalhmingthanga to give answer to the above question.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA :
DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER Mr. Speaker Sir, the supplementary questions are worthy to be asked. Regarding Maicham Project, it was commissioned three or four years ago. The question is relevant, although I am not prepared to answer that question. It may appear to be more than Rs. 5 crores of its original estimate. Because the construction period is long enough during which there can be price escalation. The C&AG Reports will be examined by the Department as well as Public Accounts Committee (PAC). In such case, the Report submitted by PAC is bound to be accepted, as it is a Branch Committee of this House.

Secondly, Kau Tlabung and Tuipang Project are also established before this Ministry. It is difficult to explain about them. Kau Tlabung Project is tendered on 6.12.1994 and agreement was made with Eastern Overseas Corporation. Tuipang Project was tendered on 12.9.1994. But the tender was extended twice. Tuipang Project was extended once. Although I had studied the matter I did not know the matter in detail. After opening of the tender comparative statement were prepared and the statement was handed over to State Purchase Board which was constituted officially by the Government. The tender was handed over to the lowest bidder. I did not know the tender was given to the highest bidder. And the agreement was made in two ways. The material (tools) was to be supplied from England. As notified from time to time by the Reserve Bank of India, price escalation was included in the provision of the agreement. It was also provided that pound sterling under foreign exchange will also be included in accordance with variation in the International Monetary value. The variation in exchange will be leased on the notification issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time as pound sterling variation differs from time to time. That's why, although the estimated amount exists, the final bill may not be worth the estimated amount as price escalation is provided in the agreement.

And the erection, testing and commission is also provided in the agreement which is on a turn key basis. So that if erection, testing and commission is not completed no material is regarded to belong to the Government. That means the contractor will erect, test and commission, if it is satisfactory the key will be returned to the Government. After that the property will belong to the Government.

As such the Government of Mizoram had no action till date upon each of these projects Maicham, Tuipang and Kau Tlabung.

And regarding black list, I know nothing about it, but I will study it again for necessary reference.

Regarding Bairabi Hydel Project the expected quantity of mega watt produced by it, is asked. In 1984, the PC Ministry and Government of India agreed to take investigation. The Central Government had readied the detour Project Report and submitted it to the Central Government by National Hydro Electric Construction Cooperation was selected in 1984. The Congress Government didnot like to follow this project. In 1987, MNF Ministry followed the project and gave Techno - Economic clearnce as 120mw. But the Government of India changed its policy and the first sector was commercialised. That's why, its production is to be fixed from its commercial point

of view. Now, DPR & R Bramaputra Board made its investigation again which was entrusted by the former Government. They said that the Government of India did not observe only the quantity of its mega watt production but observed the lesser expenditure with good production. Therefore, they believe that it may not produce 120 mw but atleast it may produce 70 - 75 mw and then fixed it at 70 - 75 mw.

And Serlui 'B' Project was expected to produce 9 mw. But after, dependability percent is found, Project Report is submitted to produce 12 mw. That Report had administrative approval. This Project requires 85.81 crores of rupees. That's why, it can't be entered into our budget. We had a discussion with Rural Electric Corporation Chairman at Teenmurti House on 7.6.1999. They allowed us to take loan for this Project from them. The loan form is brought from them. So, detail project report is to be submitted to them. Now, Dr. Lalzama informed us that Rs. 43 crores is provided for construction of Mini Hydrel Project from NEC. The project report is submitted for that purpose. We will, therefore, follow either of these two ways.

And Tuirial project of 60 mega watt is from Central Sector. India got funding from overseas Economic Corporation, Japan. The 1st installment was released. The construction is now started. Tender was called and NEEPCO will do the work of construction.

And regarding Tuivai Project, the Government of Mizoram had no problem in regards to its effected areas of Manipur soil. But it is concerned about the Tipaimuk High Dam Project. That is not ours. Our Dam is to be constructed between Ngopa and Phuaibuang, it will not effect Manipur land.

And in regards to its funding, the former State Government and Central Government contacted overseas cooperative Bank of Japan. But, there is economic blockage due to our testing of bomb. Now, the Government of India under Minister of Power will give us fund for this project and Rs. 30 crores is now provided in the Budget.

And regarding the funding of Bairabi Project, Bramaputra Board is to complete DPR by March 1999 and completes it and submitted a report to the Central Water Commission and C.A. In order to clear the report we pressed the Ministry of Constitute Committee with Representative of CEA and CWC and Bramaputra Board. It was, further, ordered for the constitution of the committee. The Board was constituted. We now asked them for immediate sanction. In regards to its fund, State Government will execute the Project under state Sector with fund from Central Plan. Central Government allowed us to avail a special plan assistance. That means 90% will be granted and 10% will be treated as loan. The present bottle neck was to prepare State Project Report, which is not yet done till date. We now cannot request the Planning Commission to make provision. The fund will be demanded as special assistance and the fund will come in such way.

And Serlui 'B' Hydrel Project will be as a Peace Bonus. If NEC could finance us, there is a proposal to raise its ceiling to MNEF. If we find no fund from such, we will be allowed to get loan from Rural Electric Corporation, if Cabinet agrees it, we will take loan.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, let us call upon Mr. H. Rammawi to lay a statement on action taken Report of Public Accounts

Committee relating to Public Works Department to the Table of the House.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your kind permission I lay the statement on action taken Report of Public Accounts Committee to the Table of the House.

SPEAKER : The copy be distributed to the all Members. And let us call upon Pu L.N. Tluanga to lay a copy of Statement of Action Taken on the Recommendation contained in the 6th Report of the Committee on Public Undertaking relating to the Zoram Industrial Development Corporation Limited on the Table of the House.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a copy of Statement of Action Taken on the Recommendation contained in the 6th Report of the Committee on Public Undertaking relating to the Zoram Industrial Development Corporation Limited.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : The copy be distributed to the hon'ble Members. We will proceed on to our next business. The question hour take us much time. We had fixed 15 minutes yesterday for discussion and crossed 8:00 P.M. This affects preparation for the coming day. That's why, we may spend longer time than yesterday. Let us, therefore, fix 10 minutes for one Member. What's your opinion? (Members agreed). If so, let us fix at 10 minutes, we may cross 6:00 P.M. Let us hope not to exceed the fixed time. Let us call upon Pu Rualchhina to ask for consideration of the House all of his demands.

PU RUALCHHINA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission Sir, I move the

demand Nos. 17 and 41 for Rs. 16,44,65,000 only for meeting expenses during 1999 - 2000 in respect of the following Departments Demand No. 17 Printing & Stationery Rs. 3,61,00,000/- only, Demand No. 41 Forests Rs. 12,83,65,000/- only.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Col. Lalchungnunga Minister to move his demands for consideration of the House.

COL. LALCHUNGNUNGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. On the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission Sir, I move the Demand no. 32 & 33 for Rs.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, let us call upon Pu Lalrinzuala, Minister to beg leave of the House for consideration of his Demands.

PU LALRINZUALA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission Sir, I move the demand no. 14 & 50 for Rs. 15,24,57,000/- only meeting expenses during 1999 - 2000 in respect of the following departments. Detail of the demand no. 14 - Jails Rs. 4,67,80,000/-, demand no. 50 - Roads and Water Transport Rs. 10,56,77,000/- only.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, we'll start discussion, any Member wish to speak? Yes, Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Speaker Sir, I will speak shortly but not all demands. Firstly, Demand No. 17 Printing & Stationery Department. Before dates, it appeared that Printing and Stationery Department controlled all kinds of stationery supplies. But now, from, a few days back, it seemed that all departments directly contact suppliers. What is the reason?

And we had Mizoram Preferential Store Purchase Rule 1994 providing provision for safeguarding small scale Industries and purchase Rule of small scale Industrial products. Under this Rule, Government of Mizoram is to purchase such Industrial products even 15% higher than other State products if Government needed. But the government had never purchased such products. It further provides that when tender is called, Earnest Money is not required for the proprietors of Mizoram Industries. If such industries have products, the Government of Mizoram should purchase such products only. But now, the Government of Mizoram never selects such tenderers nor procure such products. I feel that it is good to enforce such Rules. I request the hon'ble Minister and Printing & Stationery Department to take initiative for this. Printing & Stationery now has an Offset Press but Mizoram Calendar and others are not printed here. We should be eager to do such things here which may be good for our improvement towards self sufficiency.

Secondly, Demand no. 33 Social Welfare Department. We know what their work is. They had done social work for the good of all. I feel that it is good to show favour in the provision of budget.

And the Social Welfare Department has a good building of its own. But I come to know that it seeks a building for office. Is the department really looking for office Building?

Social Welfare Department has done many useful work. Many dead bodies were sent into Mizoram from other State. In such case, it is always necessary to meet expenses for making of boxes for such dead bodies. I shall be grateful if the hon'ble Minister could make budget provision for such purposes.

Lastly, I want to speak about Road and Water Transport. It lies in the corner of Budget head. But if we study its pros and cons, no water transport does exist. Why did we include water transport in the budget head, if we have no water transport.

Thank you.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you, for sparing me time to
MINISTER speak. I want to speak on only one, Demand No. 41
Forest Department as time is limited. As we know,
almost all the people of Mizoram met difficulty is for sawn
timber. We cannot construct even our houses. It seemed that Forest Department
regarded Supreme Court Order 1998 only for prohibition of sawn timber.

The order is a long provision. It seemed that half of the order is used and the other half is not used. It appears that the said order effected only Arunachal Pradesh. The department concern adopted the order of its own and takes steps to arrest of sawn timber transporter. The order of the Supreme Court includes only those on Government land, the government will make agency and the agency will make extraction and dispose off to the public. In Mizoram, it seemed that the Forest Department did not have business on sawing timber but only take step to arrest transporter of sawn timber. I wonder how the Forest Department can take step in such a way.

The Government of Mizoram maade housing loan available. But the loanees could not construct houses due to timber problem. It appears that we were making problems for our own. That's why, we need to have timber without violation of Supreme Court order. This august House should identify the problem faced by the people of Mizoram and seek its remedial measures. The concerned Minister should give instruction to the PCCF. The Supreme Court did not issue total prohibition. The department may process the procedure or regulation for timber transportation. This House is not to make hardship for the people. It seemed that officials of Forest Department are causing difficulty to the people. How can such officials hold such post till date? That's why, we should take initiative in this matter and seek for its remedial measure. Revenue of Forest Department is reduced to more than one crores.

Many timbers are seized while in transportation whereas some are not. I want to know what is the reason? There should be no partiality in administration. I expect the hon'ble Chief Minister to attention to this matter. I feel that the problem faced by the people of Mizoram is the worst measures initiated by the officials of Forest Department and I would like to speak such things.

Thank you.

PU C. SANGZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to speak as much as I
can. I'll not speak in detail. I do support and appreciate the former speeches on Demand No. 41. It is said that the sawn timbers from western side totally did not enter into Aizawl. But from other side entered the city. This requires to be examined. Anyhow, in this connection, I feel that the officers and Minister should apply rules and regulations to make things easier for the people but not breaking rules.

And I want to speak about the afforestation. The Forest Department usually selects a thick forest for plantation. But it seemed that it worsened the natural forests. I feel that the Forest Department should preserve and maintain the existing

Forest.

And I did not see the basic rules and regulations. If we see the amount of demand, Rs. 12 crores provided. Two crores only is provided for working. I wonder that how can two crores only be provided for working. I feel that there is no intention to work hard. While, Rs. 5 lakhs is provided for write off. If it is a procedure of the department, I feel that it is very bad practice for the new pattern.

Secondly, I want to speak about Social Welfare Department. The department looks after handicapped children and old aged. But the amount of fund provided in the budget may not be enough and necessary improvement may also be required. I feel that the department and its administration requires improvement like its secretariat and directorate. I feel that it is necessary to check its structure and its working norms.

And regarding the De-addiction Centre, Social Welfare Department had set up a big centre at Sethawn. I had visited once at the spot. About seventy persons were looked after it. The workers submitted their necessities, which is their submitted to the authorities. But this does bear fruit may be due to shortage of money. If we establish such De-addiction Centre, let us try to make it useful. I feel that our failure depends upon the formation and structure of the Department.

Thirdly, I would like to speak Demand No. 14, Jail. It was said that "Drugs entered into Jail". I feel so sorry about it. I think that there should be a way to check it. I feel that it has a close relationship with the said De-addiction Centre. I request the authority to take initiative of the matter.

Lastly, I would like to speak about Transport Department, Demand No. 50 for necessary improvement. Generally Private Bus have success on their service while government Transport Bus have failed and lost. What is the reason? Although we did earn profit, can we serve to have self-sufficiencies in this regard. If so, it will be very useful for the State Government.

Thank you.

PU LALTHAN KUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Firstly, in Printing and Stationery Demand No. 17 stock suspend for the year 1999-2000 is badly reduced. And the total amount of Demand is also badly reduced by more than Rs. 100 lakhs. What are the reasons?

Secondly, Demand No. 41 Forest Department. Mr. Speaker, Mizoram is recorded as 21081 sq.kms. out of which 88.1% of the area is recorded for Forest Department. That means 88.1% of Mizoram is handed over to the Central Government. Not only that but also the earmark identified by statutory notification is 833 sq.kms. Besides this, Riverine Reserve Forest is also 1624.9 sq.kms. In this connection, I do not know how did the Forest Department take up 'Either side of the River'. I feel that the Forest Department regarded it as both sides of the river. Different rivers of Mizoram are indicated. Of which, there is a number of rivers claimed as riverine reserve forest. If the Forest Department had reserved all rich forest for their own, the people of Mizoram will have a lot of problem after a few years. Therefore, 175980 hectares is recorded as plantation area, while private plantation covers 8126 hectares as recorded.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to speak about is that the people of Mizoram lost its area more and more by year by year against the Government. Now, the

afforestation of our rich natural forests were complained from different angles. I feel that it will be very good if Forest Department is prepared to make the land for afforestation. But if money is used for purchase of private land and making arrangement in agreement with the Village Council, I feel that it will be far better to return at once.

And I would like to request the hon'ble Minister and the Forest Department to make working plans to solve the problems faced by the people of Mizoram in regards to transportation of sawn timber. We have received a copy of Supreme Court order, it indicates private holding and community holding. There may be different kinds of interpretation. In this connection, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister and top officers to seek convenience for all. The Supreme Court order highly interrupted the procedure of transportation of sawn timbers in other State. But in Mizoram it did not interrupt as they did in other State.

I also want to request the authority to dispose of timbers which were seized by Forest Department by public auction. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to solve all these problems faced by Mizoram.

Thank you.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Firstly, I want to speak

on Demand No. 14, Jail. I think Aizawl Central Jail, Lunglei and Saiha Jails should be given priority. The buildings are so bad and congested. Not only that food supply is very poor. Besides these, only Central Jail Aizawl only has Doctor of its own. Lunglei and Saiha Jails do not have any Doctor. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to take initiative of the matter and take necessary action.

Secondly, I would like to speak on demand no. 33 Social Welfare. The contribution of Central Government and Government of Mizoram for old aged pension is 75:25 percent. The State Government cannot afford its contribution. Anyhow, I want to request the Government to provide more fund in the budget for this purpose.

The Social Welfare Department is in fact, only a department which provides the requirements of MLA by supplying P.A. System, petrolmax, etc. free to each of their constituency. Some Member wish to stop such free supply. But I would like to continue such service. I want to give the department more fund in the revise estimate.

Tuipang has no CDPO, now. Lawngtlai CDPO looks after Tuipang which is very far from Tuipang. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to post CDPO at Tuipang.

Thirdly, I want to speak again on demand no. 32 Labour and Employment Department. The students of Mizo returned from Meghalaya and Nagaland can register under Labour and Employment office. But the students from Manipur and Tripura State can not. I do wonder how can this happen? I request the hon'ble Minister to examine the matter and take necessary action.

Fifthly, demand no. 41 Forest Department. As the hon'ble Members said before, I do wonder that Teak Plantation in our own farm are totally prohibited to go on sale. I request the hon'ble Minister to issue permission for such sale. And the seized sawn timber are now to go on public auction. In this regard, I want to ask the hon'ble Minister to give the owners of such sawn timbers through the public auction.

Sixthly, Transport Department, Kawlchaw to Theikep Inland - Water - Way was proposed for construction. I did not know how the Government of Mizoram will take step. Anyhow, I request the hon'ble Minister to give importance to it. Not only that but also Tlabung - Silsuri and Tlabung to Marpara water ways may be given importance so that rice transportation may be done through these water ways.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : As most of the hon'ble Members have made speech within time allotted, we will now have recess.

P U L N . T L U A N G A : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have to speak a little about demand No. 33 Social Welfare Department. The business of this department is very complex. While it is the treasure of the people fund provided for the department is too inadequate. I expect the department to be the most substantial getter of fund for the coming year. In my unstarred question, I asked about seat reservation for handicapped persons. But I was informed that there was no seat reservation for such handicapped persons. I am very sorry about it. In India, there are many handicapped who work in the field also fit for office works. In my constituency, there are more than ten graduates. That's why, I wish the Government of Mizoram to give importance to them and arrange seat reservation for them to be a higher percentage than that of other states.

And we, in Mizoram State have the best voluntary organisation amongst other States in India. YMA is the best organisation in the world. It serves for the good of its state and the people without any selfish end. But the budget provision to meet the requirements of voluntary organisation is too little. I, therefore, would like to provide more funds in the budget for such organization.

And regarding the old aged pension, I do hope to give old aged pension to those who have no son or daughter to look after them properly.

Secondly, I would like to speak on demand no. 41, Forest Department. As soon this Ministry was formed in December 1999 and the timber problem in western side of Mizoram came into existence. About 20,000 cubic ft. were seized between Aizawl and Mamit. If we examine the matter, there is a wonderful thing. That Sir, after 4 or 5 years of Supreme Court Order, some timbers for which royalty had already been fully paid were seized. Supreme Court Order is respectful, but the hon'ble Minister and officer should safeguard the rights of such permitted sawn timbers. About 200 persons had problems for such reason. They had high expectation from the new Government of Mizoram. But their timber were disposed of in public aution. I, therefore, want to say that the officers should carry out their duty but the permitted timbers were to be safeguarded of their own will.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, it is 1:00 P.M. and we will now have a recess. We shall continue at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER : Now, we will take up our business. Six Members had spoken. Pu H. Laltanpuia.

PU H. LALTANPUIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, what I want to speak in regards to Forest Department is about the problem of Timber. The sawer, trader and user of timber have this problem because of Supreme Court Order. The Government of Mizoram had given Housing Loan. But the loanees have problems to build their houses. I feel that it is not wise to issue more loans to the people if we have such problems. In fact, there may be some way to solve this problem inspite of having Supreme Court Order. It provides that "Existing inventorised stock of timber originating from plantation in private and community holding in the State of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur and Nagaland may be dispose off by their owner under the relevant State laws and rules in the State, where such law and rules exist and rule may be framed within six months". This ruling is issued in 1995 - 1996. By this provision, we may have permission to have timber. But I feel that the concerned department seeks the most incovenient provision. That's why, we should use the rules in a more convenient way in regard to timber.

The Supreme Court Ruling also provided to have re - demarcation of the inner line reserve forest. But it is the best way to safeguard the area our State. But if we prevail demarcation, it will not be good for our state surely. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister not to take immediate action for implementation of the said ruling.

Mr. Speaker Sir, no Rest House exist within the circular river of Tuivai including four villages of Phuaibuang, Khawlian, North East Tlangnuam and Daido. No I.B. Quarter is constructed within this area. But Forest Department have a Rest House at Phuaibuang which was not yet run till date. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to make it function as suggested by the department.

There is a Forest I.B. Quarter located within my constituency. As a result of HPC insurgency, Police and Army occupy the quarter. But now, no insurgency is there in the constituency although Police are still occupying the building. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to order them to vacate the building.

Secondly, demand no. 33 Social Welfare Department. Social Welfare Department is to serve the rich and the poor. MLAs also, draw various articles from them. The amount of budget provided is not enough to meet the necessities. I, therefore, request the House to provide more fund when revise estimate is made.

And under Rural Development Department, Phullen additional Block was promoted to fullfledged RD Block but no CDPO. We know that every ICDS has CDPO. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to take initiative on this matter.

Thirdly, demand no 32 Labour and Employment Department calling letter used to come too late for those who lived in the far flung villages. The calling

letter is usually received after appointment of the successful candidate. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to solve the said problem.

And next to this, demand no. 50 Transport Department. The private bus owner fixed bus fare and imposed the fare to the passengers. This causes a serious problem for the people living in the far flung villages. I, therefore, request the House to seek its remedial measure immediately. And regarding the situation of Transport Department, no profit is earned. In order to earn more, I feel that it is required to invest more funds for transportation. I, therefore, request the Government to provide more fund for improvement of Transport Department.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Z.H. Ropuia. As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business 305.8(2) no hon'ble Member is allowed to read, but only allowed to make remark in order to renew his memory.

PU Z.H. ROPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Printing and Stationery is not much discussed. The amount of budget provision too is reduced enormously. The reason may be the old procedure. Revenue earned by the department is too low that it may be necessary to take steps. It appears that various department had made direct indent from suppliers. This ministry had taken steps to solve the said problem and it is now, slightly better than before. The budget provision is not high if we are to follow the old procedure which is not good enough. I feel that Printing & Stationery is the source of revenue for Government. If we enquire various departments, it appears that the Printing and Stationery Department had always supplied poor quality of various articles to the Departments. I, therefore, want to suggest that the said Department be made in a way to earn revenue.

Secondly, I want to speak on Forest Department. There is much to be said in this Department. It is a department which has a number of building but they are the worst buildings. Almost all of them are in need of repair. And Forest Department is a revenue earning department. But on account of old procedure it does not earn much revenue. I feel that it is required to examine for better earning revenue.

In some way departments are making headway in different fields. LAD issued Housing Loan to the needy people. But the Forest Department controlled timber and caused problem for the loanees. I feel that Supreme Court order should not be neglected while at same time we should seek ways and means to solve problem faced by the people. In some way, Forest Department caused hardship to the people through the Supreme Court Order. Officials who made problems for the people should not be spared. They may be the products of the former Government. Or It may be that they did not know how this new Ministry would work for the good of our country. It is required to know the new pattern of the government. As per the Supreme Court order we cannot practise shifting cultivation. That's why, we should do things in appropriate ways and means.

Besides these, I feel that we need to provide speed boat and guards to be on duty in the river. When we visited Tlabung, much of the bamboo and timber were transported to Bangladesh. Many traders of bamboo and tree were full of the river.

The Forest guards were small in number to protect such trees and bamboos. That's why, I feel that it is required to establish protection squad with arms and speed boats to protect forest along the river coast of Khawthlang Tuipui. I, therefore, suggest to protect Forest products in the western boundaries. Recently, the workers of Bangladesh Factory and the people of western Mizoram had disagreement. Necessary steps should be taken to solve all these problems since the people have high expectation in the new government.

Thirdly, I would like to speak demand no. 33, Social Welfare Department. In our society, there are a number of youths who indulged in drug abuses. Fearing that the new generation will follow the wrong ways, this government tried to improve the situation. We have Remand Home at Lunglei. A few days back, there are some children who disturbed the public. We had the infrastructure, we should look after them properly cooperating with various organisations. The Social Welfare Department is responsible in this regard. We should remember that it is responsibility as the Pastor is to the church. New step under new pattern should be taken to bring up the youths who are addicted to drugs and other intoxicating things.

Thank you.

Er. K. THANGZUALLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. During the session held in March this year, I had spoken about the press who handed out the Supreme Court ruling falsely. The timber traders personally contacted Forests authority at that time. As I came to know, they were informed that the Department can apply the Supreme Court ruling as its applied in Arunachal State. The press hand out seemed to have likely been used after the Committee of Forests Department authority including the hon'ble Minister at the State Guests House had decided to apply Supreme Court Ruling para 31(a) in Mizoram. As per the para 31(a) Timber permit, thinning of timber and timber transportation were restricted. That is the press hand out. I had informed the House that the Supreme Court Ruling para 31(a) was applicable only to Arunachal Pradesh. It is misquoted or there is mis-interpretation. In order to find out the fact, I consulted Pu Hemantik Wahi, Standing Council of Supreme Court for Mizoram State. I was informed by him that the newspaper is misleading provision at para 31(a) and misquote about it. He further commends that para 31 was not applicable to Mizoram. Why was the Supreme Court Ruling applied in Mizoram. This defamed the hon'ble Minister as well as the present Government of Mizoram. How will the government take action against them?

And Mizoram Forests area is recorded as 15,835 sq.mile in its different records while Forest area is not yet properly surveyed nor properly demarcated its boundary and boundary pillar is not yet erected. That's why, the report and its record are doubtful. I, therefore, would like to suggest that no Forest area nor Reserve Forests nor Wild Life sanctuary be not declared if it is not properly surveyed and recorded.

And I wonder how the department notified its reserve area. It seemed that there has never been any claims and objections from the public while I expected that to be notified as per the Rules. If Forest Reserve Area were notified and declared already, I think it is require to be revised. If it is notified and declared without public claim and objection one may appeal to the Court. That's why, I feel that Forest Act and Rules may require immediate revision.

Even our Advocate from Delhi said, "there are a number of community plantation in Mizoram, the Forests Act does not include them. But they are to be given permission to dispose off as per the Forests Rules". Necessary action is not yet taken till date which creates a serious problem to the people and cause partial administration

in the country.

Thank you.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to speak on Social Welfare Department. This department is very important. It looks after handicapped, drugs abusers, widows, widowers and poor people. I do appreciate their works. I feel that we should show favour to such works through this budget provision. It appears that it is this department through which we can make our state beautiful and great.

Secondly, I would like to speak on demand no. 41 Forest Department. I do appreciate the words spoken by the hon'ble Members. A few days back, Green Mizoram policy was declared while the most thick forest of Chalfilh mountain which is prominent and visible from Aizawl was already cut down and cleared. I was deeply grieved by this action.

When we took a journey a few days back, we watched the thick forests where we hunted during our childhood. But they were all cut down. In fact, when we cut down thick forest, we cannot re-grow them again before 50 years hence. That's why, it is really dreadful how we had cut down the thick Forests in Mizoram. This, year fire broke out in the forests at different localities, which destroy the forests. It may be required to review how we should safeguard forests against fire. If we implement Green Mizoram Policy, let's try to safeguard our forests which were already reserved. I think that this policy would surely fail if the expenditure for plantation under this policy is too high. Rs. 10/- lakhs was already spent for a days work on the policy. Almost all Government servants were deployed on that day. If we want to follow this policy let us do it on the road side without planting trees in the jungle.

And regarding the Supreme Court ruling, the hon'ble Member had spoken about it. It appears that it cannot be applied in Mizoram. But it was falsely applied in Mizoram. If it is really applied falsely why did not the hon'ble Minister submit his resignation? It is very shameful. What is his duty? Is it not to safeguard the will of the people? Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to request you to change his portfolio if no resignation is submitted. Then the problems faced by the people will be solved.

Thank you.

Dr. LALZAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Members had spoken about the increment of police personals, death cum gratuity yesterday. No suggestion is made even during their period of ruling. Now, it is not enough to increase by twice. Though things cannot be changed easily we will be looking for its remedial measures.

In the Forest Department too, the hon'ble Members had clarified the matter. What I want to know is the expenditure for maintenance of plantation. It is about Rs. 200/- lakhs annually. Besides this, about Rs. 10/- lakhs is spent for employment of muster roll salaries every year. The expenditure is too high. What is the reason? It appears that there are many things to be amended. As we know, the people of Mizoram are generally poor. We had listened that a lot of problem has cropped up in timber business particularly for loances.

It is regarded that all departments are to work for the good of the

people. But it appears that people regarded Forests Department to be of a distant and unmindful one. As the hon'ble Member said before the areas and boundaries of forests reserve are not clear. That's why, I feel that it is required to clear boundaries in the new pattern of this Government. I want the department to seek the best ways and means for plantation and its maintenance.

Next to this, I would like to speak on Social Welfare Department. As the hon'ble Members said, the works of Social Welfare Department is very appreciable and worthy to extend the structure of the department as well as its demand. Because this department provides the needs of the poor, handicapped persons, drugs abusers, different voluntary organisations and Village Councils.

Transport department is a very important department which links Mizoram with other states. I think there is potential for improvement. If number of buses is increased and retreading of tyre could be done. It will be a good thing. I donot know the number of officials and working staffs, but I feel that it is good to extend the capacity of the Directorate. It seemed that the amount of the demand is not much for the progress of our state. I feel that it is better to add more fund to its demand.

Thank you.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Let me speak on demand no. 17 Printing and Stationery Department. This department is very useful for the Government of Mioram. The Government provided different kinds of standard machines. It may be regarded that Printing and Stationery Department stands for a cheaper and easier printing expenditure for all Departments. But some departments didnt like to order any printing materials from this department but they ordered from private firms spending more funds. Do not such departments have trust in Government Printing and Stationery Department? What is the reason? Are they following a new pattern? Is this the new pattern?

Secondly, demand no. 41 Forest Department. As the hon'ble Members said before, the people of Mizoram has timber problem as a result of Supreme Court Ruling. We, the people are having a serious problem in thinning and cutting of Timber whether it is private plantation or natural forests. The department concerned cut down a number of Teaks in Hnahthial. I wondered that the Forests Department executed the Supreme Court Ruling for public. If so, I want to request the hon'ble Minister to stop and relax the application of Supreme Court Ruling in Mizoram.

Thirdly, demand no. 50 Transport Department. Transport Department is a very important department. It provides transport too the common people. Most of the people are depending on buses. I am very sorry for the amount of budget provided decreased to Rs. 97,23,000/-. I do support to add more fund in the budget estimate so that the people may get comfortable journey by buses.

Next to this, I would like to speak on demand no. 33 Social Welfare Department. It is a department through which the government looked after the poor, handicapped and old aged, etc. If so, this department is not to be neglected in its demand. It's demand is reduced by Rs. 169,75,000/-. I feel that it is required to upgrade and not to reduce its demand.

Thank you.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. It appears that it is necessary to speak them generally as time is limited. First of all, I would like to speak demand no. 41 Jail. There may be difficult opinion by what we mean Jail. Some of us regarded it as the custody of wrong doers while some others regarded as a reformation centre. I feel that the latter is better classification. It is to be used as a reformation centre.

And Rs. 5/- lakhs is provided for modernisation of jail in its budget provision. I do not know its true meaning but I believe that it means its maintenance and improvement.

Secondly, I would like to speak on demand no. 50 Road and Water Transport. I feel that it is very important. The amount of budget provision is also inadequate to meet the requirement for development when border trade is implemented. That's why, I think that it is required to be added more fund when Revise Estimate is made.

Thirdly, I would like to speak again on demand no. 33 Social Welfare Department. This department looks after almost all the people of Mizoram. As said before, it looks after children, handicapped, old aged, etc. In my constituency only, there are many handicapped required to be afforded by government. I feel that this budget provision of Rs. 65,000/- is not enough for affording such people.

And Rs. 48 lakhs is provided for de-addiction centre. I don't know whether the amount is enough for this purpose. Anyhow it may be regarded for reflection when revise estimate is discussed. What I give most importance is whether there is a way to constitute Social Education Centre or Moral Education Centre for our youths as prevention is better than cure. I think there is a way to take appropriate step from this Social Welfare Department.

And especially for old aged, I feel that Social Welfare Department should seek appropriate work for such old aged like splitting of bamboo for bamboo waving materials. It may be done from other department, but I feel that it will be very good if Social Welfare Department can take step in such way.

Fourthly, I am very anxious about the problem of timber as said before. Housing loans were given by the government. If such loanees have timber problems I am afraid that the loans would be misused. It is clear that all of them could construct their house with cement concrete.

Lastly, demand no. 41 Forest Department. Rs. 47 lakhs is provided for non-plan under Forest Protection, Rs. 20 lakhs for afforestation, Rs. 2.5 lakhs for forest extension. Afforestation and Forest Protection is closely related. If the fund is used as estimated it will be very good. But it is required to prevent the possibility of duplicacy. That's why, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Senior Officers of Forest Department should be careful in their work. I feel that they should have the mind of the son of the soil, if not, the people of Mizoram will suffer in future.

Thank you.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for sparing me time to speak. We are now to discuss the demands of three

hon'ble Ministers.

Firstly, I would like to speak on Printing and Stationery Department. The Government of Mizoram has taken a number of stationery items within a few days. I can't understand why such large amount of items amounting to Rs. 1,00,000/-, Rs. 90,000/-, Rs. 80,000/-, Rs. 70,000/- respectively were taken from 180 suppliers. Rs. 230 lakhs was provided for stock suspense. I knew that it was used. This year Rs. 50 lakhs only is provided for stock suspense. Is it to be supplied for once? I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to clarify when he wind up as to why did the Government of Mizoram needed such large amount of stationery items.

Secondly, demand no. 41 Forest Department. What I want to say is that we had a policy for social forestry under Green Mizoram. I feel that it is required to provide some amount of fund in the budget. But no fund is provided in the budget. What is the reason?

And a large amount of money is provided for afforestation. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Rs. 243.47 lakhs was provided last year. What I want to say suggest is road-side plantation, large scale plantation and riverine forest be included under afforestation scheme. I expect the Government to think over the matter seriously.

The Government of Mizoram tried to encourage privatisation, but they didn't take step. In this regard, I request the Government to allow seedling at subsidised rate or as a measure of helping the needy farmers.

Thirdly, Road and Water Transport under Transport Department. Mr. Speaker Sir, Inland Water Transport (Wing) was established under Public Works Department. Fund was usually raised for constructing of infrustructure at Tlabung, Tuichhawng, etc. Ferry or Country boat is generally used as a means of communication. Now, speed boat is largely used. But it is not clear which department regulates such means of communications. In this regard, we need better regulation. Different departments usually give no objection to this.

In this connection, it will be more profitable for the government if repairing is done for Government vehicles in the Central Workshop. If necessary, the Central Workshop should be fully equiped. I request the hon'ble Minister to take initiaive in this matter.

Lastly, Social Welfare Department, it is required to consider Anganwadi Centre to be more fruitfu especially, in the far flung villages.

Thank you.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, what I want to speak are - Firstly, demand no. 14 Jail. It is an open secret that drugs and like ganja are usually supplied to the prisoners. I think this would be checked through gate keepers. This should be stopped immediately.

Secondly, Labour and Employment Department demand no. 32. There is a proposal for Vocational Training Centre from Ministry of Welfare at New Delhi, Government of India. Rs. 15 lakhs is sanction for Mizoram, which is for rural area but not for the city or town. But the sanction is used by Labour and Employment Department for repairing Industrial Training Institute (ITI). That is not explainable when audit is done. How will you treat the matter? This blocked another sanction for construction of another centre. The Ministry cannot sanction another fund if it is not

recovered. That's why, I feel that it is required to be recovered. If so, the Welfare Ministry is ever-ready for another sanction. I request the hon'ble Minister to take initiative in this matter.

Thirdly, there is something to be settled here in the department. If not publicized to the public copy of movement of fund within the department be given to the hon'ble Members so that the members could inform the people. Truly speaking, Forest Department has had defamation in the eyes of the public.

And Mr. Speaker Sir, it appears that Mizoram Forest Department have a revenue of Rs. 162 lakhs. Of which Rs. 39,30,000/- was from Mahal system. I would like to clarify the matter. The reason is that in the report of the Forest Survey of India 1992 it is indicated that 4,33,000 tons of Bamboo may be taken from the four rivers of Western Mizoram like Tlawng, Tut, Langkaih, etc. But, everyday about 500 tons of bamboo is taken from these rivers bank.

According to the survey report, one third of Mizoram is a natural bamboo producer which is from 23 rivers. The assessment of the survey of India is 2,21,50,000 tons of bamboo from those 23 rivers side. That means, our forest can produce more than 60,000 tons in a day. In such a way, we can receive revenue from bamboo. Now, Rs. 39 lakhs is received in a year. If it is required to amend our Mahal system, let us ready to do it. I feel that the Forest Department has to give more attention to their works.

And Mr. Speaker Sir, Pu Suresh P. Babu Union Minister who came to Mizoram a few days back said that Mizoram Bamboo research institute will be constituted. If so, will the sons of soil work at the institution? It is usually necessary to copy the Arunachal State. The Central Government shifted eight scientists of different department like Botanist, geneticist, zoologist and archeologist. We, Mizoram, have only one scientist. In other state, their scientists are grouped neatly and arranged their promotion channel like B,C,D,E,F and G while, we looked after our scientist like an orphan. He is not provided with vehicle. He simply functions like a stranger. But there is one thing which is praise worthy in the act of Forest research in Mizoram. It was published in the National journal. There are much more to be published, which is New Medicinal Plant. Sixty two variety of produced plants was from our forest resources which we never had before. Such plants were produced by Mizoram Forest research. It was discovered from our own technical paper. The Government of India too is proud of it. The hon'ble Chief Minister too, is intending to bring such machine for processing such forest products. That's why, I request the hon'ble Forest Minister to have initiative of the matter for necessary action.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Are there any Member to speak? Shall we wind up.

P U Z A K H U H L Y C H H O : Mr. Speaker Sir, if other hon'ble Members have nothing to say, I will speak on the demand. Before starting, the hon'ble House Leader, Deputy Leader are absent from the House. What is the reason? They should be present when their demand is discussed.

Mr. Speaker Sir, what I want to speak on is demand no. 50, ex-gratia grant to those who died and injured Transport Department. The Transport Department has to pay in motor accidents. That is a liability. The Transport Department used to

give Rs. 25,000/- compensation at the spot when motor accident occurred. But now, it is no more given in the new pattern. It is now required to appeal to the Claim Tribunal. In order to do it, it requires Doctor Certificate, Police Verification Certificate and Driver's Driving Licence. Not only that, but it is also required to employ a lawyer. That's why, I would like to inform the government that the victims of accident family face serious problems in this regard. Just before MLA election is held, Tuipang Bus and Lunglei Nigh Bus had accident and the passengers were wounded and killed. No compensation are given to the victims. They were the poor peoples and did not afford to employ lawyers.

Usually, 10% - 20% of the expenditure is given to a lawyer as a fee. That's why, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to look into the matter in order to solve the serious problem faced by the poor people.

And the hon'ble House Leader mentioned privatisation which appeared in the joint Election Manifesto of MPC and MNF. The loss of Transport Department is Rs 1 - 2 lakhs in a day. Although it is a public service it is regarded as a revenue earning department, instead, it is revenue losing department. Hence, is not it better to privatise the Transport wing as you have suggested?

On the other hand, Transport Department needed new Buses as the New District came into existence. For that purpose, Bus Terminal is required. But when we see budget provision it is reduced from the latest demand. Can you make more provision for such purposes?

Secondly, Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to speak on Labour and Employment Department. In the Labour and Employment, Labour Wing is very weak in its work. In other bigger states, their business is labour migration, But it is neglected in Mizoram. I think that the concerned Minister would not know the number of non-Mizo labourers, because we have no registration. It may be our problem, in future. I am worried about it. That's why, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to give priority to make labour law. Not only that, but the Labour Welfare is highly observed in other state. I also request the hon'ble Minister to give importance to the Labour Welfare.

The former Government of Mizoram requested the Central Government to set up Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Lunglei and Saiha for the present ITI is not sufficient. The Central Government agreed by 100%. Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to take step for such purposes?

Thirdly, in Social Welfare Department, the hon'ble Chief Minister in his budget speech said that he would give top priority to social reform. I highly appreciate it, but not in Governor's Speech. But if we look into budget provision, it is lesser than last year. Is this the new pattern of government? Generally, top priority sector can be known from budget provision. Your speeches do not conform to the budget provision.

Fourthly, demand no. 41, I had spoken about the problem faced by the people from Forest Department in the transportation of timbers. The hon'ble Minister simply laughed at me and gave no attention to it. But now the hon'ble Members from Ruling Bench pointed out about it. I do appreciate it for it proved my speech. If so, Mr. Speaker Sir, the concerned Minister should dare to resign from his post on moral ground. If his colleagues did not trust him he should resign from his post. If he cannot do so, we may not pass his resolution. Will he dare to take responsibility for the problems mentioned aboved?

Thank you.

PU SANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you, I will speak in general.
H. PAUTU In the new pattern of Government, we do not disturb any Member who are speaking. I hope that you should not disturb me while I am speaking. The problem of timber and Mahal system under Forest Department has been mentioned by almost all of the hon'ble Members, I feel that it is necessary to review the problem of timber and the mahal system and more profitable way of disposal has to be prevailed.

When we say 'Forest' I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister whether he knows how the department views forest. Forest is given for cultivation after cutting down the natural forest for which they have wages. But the cultivators never received even a coin. I feel that it is good for further examination.

And Rs. 2000 lakhs is provided for Afforestation. I feel that it is necessary to revise. I want to thank for the wild life reservation. While the budget provision is not much. It is said that certain species of bird is found at Phawngpui which never exists in other Asian countries other than Thailand. I am afraid that such bird will extinct if they are not properly looked after. The Karnataka State employed Police Force to protect reserved area. It may be difficult for our State to do as Karnataka is doing, but more efforts should be made to protect our wild birds and animals.

In my constituency, one Forest Rest House is constructed. It is the only rest house that Forest Department have in my constituency. It is in very poor condition and needs major repair. R.O. Quarter is also constructed but not completed till date, Forest Guard Quarter also needs major repair. The approach road too is in need of widening and repair. I shall be very grateful if the road is black topped.

And regarding jail, the hon'ble Minister is earnest enough to make it a reformation centre. I hope that the amount will increase when revised estimate is made or discussed.

And as the Opposition Leader had stated, I feel that it is necessary to think deeply the functioning of Transport Department and whether it is good to hand over it to the corporation.

In Social Welfare Department, its purview is very wide. If we have fund large enough it is good to add its budget provision when RE is made. But I feel that we should agree with the proposal of the concern Minister. And in regards to nutrition which is locally available, I think it is good to procure from local area for one may benefit for his or her livelihood. And I feel that it is good to examine their promotion channel and pay scale. Some Officers and their subordinate have the same scale of pay. That's why it is required to examine and make necessary arrangement.

And regarding Labour and Employment Department, I do not think the educated youths would have any problem in regards to registration. But I feel that it is necessary to think about educated youths from other states. They are usually preferred to the Mizoram students. In this regard, it will be pleasing if we can make 80% reservation for educated youths of Mizoram.

Mr. Speaker Sir, suspense account appeared in Printing and Stationery

Department. I had spoken yesterday on the matter. As it is a loop hole for corruption, I feel that it is not the best option for new pattern. I think suspense account should be done away.

In short, the financial excess is Rs. 527.45 crores in the former government. But with the earnestness of the present Government, I highly appreciate this Government for it can present such amount of demand within six or seven months only by the grace of Central Government and the prayer of the Church.

Thank you.

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. There is much to say but it is necessary to come to the point as time is so limited. I do highly appreciate that the work of every department inspite of facing many difficulties. As it is now the new government, I feel that it will be necessary to ave a new way of thinking.

Firstly, I think Forest Department knows their duty. Of which IB approach road at Khawbung about 100 metres is required to be black topped. The pavement it too slippery. And Forest Quarter at Khuangleng was burnt down about four years ago, which is needed to be constructed again at the same place.

Secondly, the work of Labour and Employment Department is very complex and appreciative and they still have much work to do. As we know, large number of Muster Roll labourers are employed. I feel that it is necessary to look into the matter by the government. This department is very useful for far flung villagers. Calling letters were always received but usually too late.

Thirdly, Social Welfare Department. As the hon'ble Members had said before, I do appreciate the work of this department. But I feel that it is difficult to understand the rate of articles which cannot yet be fixed till date by the Purchase Board. I want to inform them that we, the far flung villagers are eagerly waiting for the time to fix. I also want to inform them that we expect they would have a plan to supply nutrition and milk procured from local products.

Fourthly, CDPO office is set up usually under BDO. There are still two posts of CDPO to be filled up in the RD Department. I hope this will be done so automatically although the fund is limited.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker Sir, on Transport Department, there may be much to say. But I would like to inform the concerned Minister and other Transport authority to carry out their proposal and scheme. The reason is that Transport Buses are sent to a far flung village on roads that are not black topped and to a long distance like, Khuangthing in my constituency. The people were pleased, the children ran after the Bus with cheer. It is the success of the Government. That's why, I would like to request the government to carry out its policy.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, the time is over. Is it good to finish our business today? (Members agreed). If so, we will now take a recess and resume our business at 4:30 P.M.

4 : 30 P.M.

S P E A K E R

We will now continue our business. Are there any Members who wish to speak? Pu Lalthanzuala.

PU F. LALTHANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I'll start from demand no. 41. The opposition Members said that they want the hon'ble Minister to submit his resignation. It has been 2/3 months since then but they have not made any clear indication as to why they want him to resign. That's why, he should not resign but he should carry on his duty. The things pointed out by the opposition Member were not his fault but the other Senior Officers of Forest Department. I, therefore, would like to point out my confidence in the hon'ble Minister.

What I want to say in Forest Department is its importance. Its importance may be seen internationally. As forests are now destroyed in different parts of the World, International Conference on Afforestation is being observed. As such it is one of the most important demands. It is very important for our survival as a nation. I think we will know that without Forest, there can be no survival for human beings and other living beings. That's why, we should seek the survival of our soil, trees and bamboos of our forests. Forests Department is therefore, important for this purpose. If we see from airplane during summer month, almost all our forest are burnt and destroyed. It is said that 50 deers were burnt down nearby Thingsai Village. I, therefore, would like to request the hon'ble Minister to take step seriously against burning of forests. There may be different kinds of reasons, anyhow, it's required to be checked from the authority. If the forest are burnt, the ashes and dusts will be washed away by rain water. In such a way, forest becomes deteriorated and after 30 years of such erosion for instance, forest could be totally destroyed.

And I would like to say that it is required to care for soil, trees and bamboo. Without its true spirit to look after forest and its products, Forest Department will never have success. That's why, I feel that it is required to have Forest rangers to have such spirit when training is given to them.

And Quarters and Rest Houses are generally poor in different parts of Mizoram as the hon'ble Members had said. In my constituency too, three building were constructed which has become very poor now. I, therefore, request the department to maintain its buildings in different places.

Secondly, I want to point out certain things regarding Social Welfare Department. That is sir, De-addiction Centre is constructed spending a large sum of money which is very pleasing. However, we left out one important aspect which is Social Education. Some voluntary organisations may have given awareness to the public but this is not enough. Government should take step towards this so that the public may become more aware of our social lives which truly needs good direction.

Thirdly, demand no. 14 which is about Prison. As the hon'ble Member said before, the hon'ble Minister i/c Prison is innovative and his attitude is praiseworthy. He regarded Jail to be a reformation centre instead of being only a punishment centre. But to fulfil that dream into reality, large amount of money is required. Money provided in the budget is too meagre. In fact, most of the prisoners released from jail had hardly changed their habits which shows that certain aspects have to be examined. If we have

now ideas, government has to take step to provide more fund in the budget for successful implementation of our dream for improvement. I, therefore, request the Minister to take step in this direction.

Thank you.

PU P.B. ROSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I'll say three points only for immediate implementation.

Firstly, demand no. 17 Printing and Stationery Department. In the budget provision, there is only Rs. 50 lakhs for stock suspense. Last year, Rs. 230 lakh was provided. Its difference is much. I think that the new pattern of government is going to decentralise supply of stationeries. I am afraid that, decentralisation will open a way for corruption. In this connection, I would like to suggest that instead of decentralising it, stationery items should continue to be centralised as it was practised before. I think we all know there are about 180 registered suppliers. Some registered firms may suffer if decentralised.

Secondly, demand no. 50 Road and Water Transport. Night Super Bus (MST) is plying between Aizawl and Shillong. It is very useful for students, traders and patients. But we have not yet MST Bus service between Shillong and Gauhati. The public has to avail Private Bus on this route. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to seek the way for having MST Bus ply between Shillong and Gauhati.

Thirdly, Sumo and Night Bus ply between Khawzawl and Singzawl from Manipur. It is so important to set up enforcement and excise check gate on this road. If enforcement check gate is set up at the nearby state boundary, it will be better for checking validity of permits and smuggled goods. I request the hon'ble Minister to take initiative in the matter.

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I'll not speak about the amount as the hon'ble Chief Minister had said it will be added in accordance with the availability of fund when supplementary demand is discussed.

Regarding Forest demand - as the saying - To err is human, we may at times commit mistakes and suffer set backs. But to repeat a mistake is a crime. That's why, the hon'ble Minister and officers may commit mistakes. But I have to thank them regarding their cooperation with YMA to protect wildlife which is very successful.

In regards to Plantation, natural trees like champa are adopted for plantation which are very good in our state. I do appreciate such proposal. And Green Mizoram programme is observed and about 80,000 trees were planted. I had a spot visit as far as I can, I did not find any young tree used for fencing but only bamboo which is plenty in our state.

And Teak thinning is done and we have about 1,32,000 cubic feet of Teak. I expect that will be a good source of revenue for our state. And under Joint Forest Management with the Central Government, fountains are to be constructed in different localities. And regarding Supreme Court ruling, only Mizoram did not have problems but all states of North East India have such problem. This Supreme Court ruling as we know began from 1998. It is not the fault of the hon'ble Minister. Anyhow, I feel that it is required to have a review about it.

And I have some suggestions. They are :-

Firstly, Forest area in our state is wide enough. It covers 4/5th of the Mizoram area. That includes private plantation and road sides areas. Natural thick forests areas are used for plantation. Now, Agriculture Department try to have self-sufficiency and work hard for it. That's why, some of the plantation area be made for agriculture areas as provided by Forests Conservation Act, 1980. And for the coming years, plantation area be far from the roads and natural thick forest. I feel that it will be very good if we can do that.

Secondly, permit is given for private plantation. But when teak thinning is done, it is not good to have thinning when private thinning is done at the adjoining area. I think Plantation/Thinning by the department should be done after private thinning is done and carbage disposed off.

Regarding financial sanction to different range or divisions, I would like to make suggestion. That's Sir, a copy of sanctioning letter be given to the hon'ble Member of the concerned Constituency regularly for financial sanction may be disposed of as per planned and scheme.

And Vairengte Forest IB Quarter is now so poor and required repair and renovation. And Saiphai and Saipum Range Officer has no quarter. It is required to construct quarter for him at that place. And RO quarter, Beat Officer Quarter at North Chhimluang too needed repair. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to take initiative.

And Mr. Speaker Sir, The Mizoram Preferential Store Purchase Rule 1994 be made effective as early as possible for use of every department of the Government of Mizoram as said by the hon'ble Deputy Speaker. I think it will be highly appreciative for producers of Mizoram.

Thirdly, regarding Transport Department - The new Minister incharge is said to have so good response to the people's need. It is very pleasing that MST Bus is now servicing at Saipum as requested by the people. But according to Driver, the MST Bus reach upto Hlimen only.

Fourthly, people from different walks of life are benefitted by Social Welfare Department. Voluntary Organisations and poorer section of the people, handicapped etc. also get benefit. But I feel that there is too much free distribution. That's why, I think it is better to stop or reduced such free distribution system. I also would like to increase its demand when Revise Estimate is made.

And regarding grant in aid of old aged, Social Welfare Department does a good thing. There are about 6561 enrolled under old aged beneficiaries. While I feel that it is good to give more amount to the aged who really have no support or supporter. I feel that steps should be taken towards self-sufficiency in every way we can.

Thank you.

SPEAKER

: Now, 21 Members had spoken about the demands. We will call upon the hon'ble Ministers to wind up and to request the House to pass their demands. Firstly, lets call upon Pu Rualchhina.

PU RUALCHHINA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for calling me to wind up
MINISTER the discussion on my demands. There are many things
which have close relationship. Especially Forests Department is given importance by the hon'ble Members.
Mizoram has a serious problem as other North Eastern States have had. Whether we like it or not, matter pertaining to forest and its products is under the supreme authority and controll of the Supreme Court.

So, the problem of Timber in Mizoram begins from the Supreme Court Ruling which is very respectable. We are not to take step in contrary to it. But the State Government and the people should obey its ruling and the Government should execute its order. That's why, if it is Timber problem in the State, we accept it as the hardship of the State. We have a serious problem in this regard. And, we tried hard to solve the problem, but not find any solution. That's why, we simply run the Government with such problem. The former Government followed the order and we continue it. A number of step is taken to solve the problem, but they cannot be solved very easily. I, therefore, request you to understand that it cannot be solved within a short period of two or three months only.

As we know, Forest area is very wide in Mizoram. It covered almost all the land. But due to massive destruction our forest is not rich. And regarding burning and protection, we are seeking those who are responsible. The Forest Department tried to safeguard Animals and Plantation against fire and spend a large sum of money for it. But only forest Department is not responsible, we have Local Administration Department, under which Village Council Affairs is rested. As a result of shifting cultivation, trees are cut down and burned. Along with it, a vast areas is always burnt and destroyed in different places during summer months. We usually watch such destruction with deep grief. In this way, wild animals are also burnt down and destroyed.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Do you mean that the Supreme Court order is not
applicable to Mizoram as said by MLA of Serchhip
Constituency.

PU RUALCHHINA : I do not mean Supreme Court Order but a clarification
MINISTER made by an Advocate of Supreme Court.

And when we speak about Supreme Court Order, it is very easy to seek the responsible person/department. If we look after the Forest Department, it appears that it is our responsibility. Anyhow, we may be responsible to some extend, but all of us are responsible to improve the situation or solve such problems.

And regarding the Mizoram Preferential Store Puchase Rule 1994, I do appreciate about it. We are now to follow the Rules as far as possible. But this year the applicants were late to grant them. The only fund we provided for it has exhausted. That's why, no supply order can be given to them.

And it is said that povision of fund for stock suspense is too little to meet the requirement comparing to other provisions. It is right. But the new pattern Government is to earn much by a little sum. Anyhow, we think that Finance Department will be kind enough to grant us the requirement. And Printing Press is also mentioned and we have no machine to make coloured calendar. But we will seek the way to get

such machine.

And I feel that it is required to point out about Teak and Timber once more. It is said that private plantation is also restricted. The Supreme Court had already allowed private planters. Permit is now issued in such cases. But natural timber is still restricted as our Forest has many of such naturally. While there may be various questions behind the scene, Housing Loan and HBA are issued to the people.

In order to meet loanees' problem we are in lending to dispose of seized timber at a floor rate especially under Mamit Division. And it is to be noted that only such timbers are to be purchased. In such way, application for granting of permission may be submitted.

And we are now going to have repair and renovation of Rest Houses and IB Quarter this year. But due to paucity of funds, we may not meet the requirements for this year.

And Lengteng Sanctuary is to be declared as a National Sanctuary. It is done as preliminary notification. After having crossed examination of its boundaries by DC, it is then prepared for notification in the Gazette. It is not contrary to the Law but had been processed legally.

And regarding Green Mizoram policy, we do appreciate the policy. We feel that it is not enough to declare only Green Aizawl policy. The hon'ble Chief Minister too likes the policy. We want to make Green all areas of Mizoram by plantation. The Union Minister who visited Mizoram a few days back too highly appreciates the policy.

It was suggested that reward be given to those who protect forest from fire, but we are very sorry as we have no fund for this. I am glad that MLAs are given a copy of sanctioning letter of fund allotted to range officers or forests divisions.

And Social Forestry is not appeared in the Budget provision now. The expenditure for this comes from Afforestation and Forest Extension as needed under Green Mizoram. And it appears that Forest area is wide enough. It should not be regarded as belonging to the Central Government. As it is a concurrent subject, the Central Government gave us fund for it. As we do the work, we need to have benefits. In such way, we have rules in this regard.

Regarding reservation of river side, it may be interpreted as only one side of a river. But it was interpreted as both sides of the river from the beginning.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, Pu K. Thangzuala had said that the Supreme Court order is to be applied to only Arunachal Pradesh. It means that Mizoram is not covered by the order. The hon'ble Minister said that it is the clarification of an Advocate. If so, does the hon'ble Member of Serchhip give false information to the House ?

PU RUALCHHINA : Mr. Speaker Sir, that is not the Supreme Court Order. It is clarification of an Advocate. I think it is clear. That's why, Pu K. Thangzuala did not give false information to the House. He clarified that it is only to be applied to Arunachal. As

we are not a judge of Supreme Court, that's enough and need not argue further. If not clear, you may ask personally. That's why, Mr. Speaker Sir, I request this House to pass my demands - No. 17 Printing and Stationery and No. 41 Forest for immediate use.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Pu Rualchhina, Minister begs the House to pass his demands amounting to Rs. 16,44,65,000/-. Do you agree to pass? (The demands is voted and passed).

Now, we will call upon Col. Lalchungnunga to wind up his demand and beg the House to pass.

COL. LALCHUNG NUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. My departments are
MINISTER Labour and Employment and Social Welfare Department. The hon'ble Members have spoken about my demands.

Firstly, I'll try to clarify Social Welfare Department. In this Department, there are many works to be done. What I want to point out is that this department looks after the poor and handicapped persons. The Government of Mizoram had worked out the plan for this. The provision in the budget is the same as that of last year. But we are searching for better ways and means for efficiency.

And we have different Homes. It appears that the hon'ble Members did not know about it. I want to point out such things. We have 6501 old aged pensioners. In this budget, we will have more pensioners. But we have old aged Home in the Western side of High Court Building. When I visited the spot a few days back, I was agrieved by its condition. I found that it was a mistake to look after this Home. They have no feeling of security and regarded themselves to be so poor. What I say to them is that the Government of Mizoram is rich and that they are also rich as the Government looks after them.

Presently, we are looking for better Home for them. They are lonely down there. Television and Carrom Boards are provided to them. They never attend the Church. We want them to have a sense of security and also to have a happy life within a short period of their day.

Another Home is Protective Home in which sexually transformed girls who are in distressed are housed together. It was constructed for 25 persons. But 35 persons are now admitted. We are now going to improve and extend its building. This budget is arranged to meet such expenditure. The workers are very dedicated to their work and do their best in their works. After improvement, we will try to accommodate more who are sexually transformed in different places like - Silchar, Shillong, etc. In order to save the dignity of the Mizos, this will be a good step.

And we have a Remand Home at Durtlang. Here children who commit wrong and theft are housed. The building too needed improvement. And regarding its budget provision, the amount will not be adequate to meet requirement. Rs. 333/- lakhs was provided in the budget a few years back for its building. It was prepared for 300 persons. But it is in reality only for 200 persons. Rs. 100/- lakhs is provided for Social Defence and Rehabilitation i.e De-Addiction Centre headed by Pu Sangzuala. In fact, the provision is more than last year. Now we have De-Addiction Centre at Sethawn.

Now, the Social Defence and Rehabilitation Board is going to run under a separate officer as it is an Autonomous Body. Deputy Secretary level will look after the office.

This Board will look after a number of addicts in co-operation with Social Welfare Department. We are now taking steps in such ways.

And next to this, there are a number of articles to be distributed to the hon'ble MLAs as well as to the people. The present problem we are facing is how the articles will be distributed whether freely or by payment. Anyhow, as it was done before, I feel that it may be better to distribute freely. But from next year, it may be better to distribute by cash down payment. Whatever be the case, we are doing our best to meet requirements of the public in this field.

Non - Government Organisation (NGO) have De-Addiction Centres with the help of Central Government at different places. The State Government has to provide a fund of Rs. 1500 for mess fee of 10 persons to these centres. It was included in this budget provision.

Regarding Labour and Employment Department, we have three offices at Aizawl, Lunglei and Saiha. We will set up other offices at all District Headquarters. We expected that it will be implemented after a few days.

And the problem pointed out by the hon'ble Member will be true. We hope that we would be able to solve such problems when separate office at each District Headquarter is set up.

And regarding the improvement of ITI, what Pu H. Rammawi had said is true. But the amount of money is Rs. 14.75 lakhs. It was sanctioned in 1993 & 1994. The former Government used for ITI improvement. But it is not possible to recover for the time being. But we had cleared the debt.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, we lost Vocational Training Centre. I was worried about it.

Col. LALCHUNGNUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is taction taken by the former MINISTER Government. I knew nothing about it. It's enough for we had recovered the said debt. We can now make demand for such Vocational Training Centre again.

And regarding Industrial Training Institute (ITI), sanction is made for two Institutions. But we have one Institution. We are now comparing Lunglei, Saiha or Lawngtlai for its location. But no sanction is received. When enquired, the hon'ble Minister of Central Ministry said the matter has been lying in the hands of Planning Commission and when Planning Commission was approached, they said that fund for 13 Institutions has been sanctioned of which, one is for Mizoram. They think that sharing of sanction will not be advisable as there are 8 states in the North East.

Regarding Social Welfare Department, it is true that we are looking for a building to rent as the present office is not suitable. The poor handicapped and villagers have difficulty in reaching the office. We are spending Rs. 45,850/- for rent as the building purchased for the office cannot accomodate all the branches. Besides, it

is more convenient for the public if the office is located at suitable place which can easily be reached especially to deliver articles distributed by the department. It is expected that we will have better office building when Assam Rifles is evicted.

Regarding reservation of 3% of posts, it is proposed under categories A,B,C & D. But this reservation is not yet practised in our state. If we are to apply this, the existing Recruitment Rules will have to be amended. We will go carefully about it and we will apply this after careful scrutiny.

There are 1341 Anganwadi Workers waging Rs. 500 each. We wanted to make amendments and necessary alterations but there is no provision in the budget. But we will try to make alteration as necessary. That's all I can clarify about my demand.

Lastly, I beg the House to pass my demands under Labour and Employment Department and Social Welfare Department.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Col. Lalchungnunga Sailo begged the House to pass his demands under Labour and Employment Department Rs. 1,50,28,000/- and Social Welfare Department Rs. 6,69,75,000/- respectively. Do you agree to pass? (The demand is voted and passed).

Now, Pu Lalrinzuala Mister to wind up and beg the House to pass his demands.

PU LALRINZUALA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. My demand of Prison and Transport has been discussed and nine members participated in the discussion and they all feel my demand inadequate.

Most parents sent their wayward children to prison for reformation. It is pleasing that the hon'ble Members do not have wayward children, for, only three Members seemed to be interested in the demands of Prison.

We know that ganja, drugs and intoxicating drinks are taken into Jail especially at Central Jail, that's why, the children sentenced to Jail are not in want of such intoxicable drinks and drug etc. I was, therefore, encouraged to try my level best. As a result of the progress and steps taken by the department, such in flow has now been checked and controlled. Before, Prison Department is neglected by the Government. Hence, we have not yet had Jail Manual of our own. Assam Jail Manual was adopted which do not meet our requirements. It is not convenient to apply in our state, the main reason being the limitation of its custody. The custody is meant for 500 prisoners but 800 or 1000 prisoners are sometimes sentenced. Therefore, the Central Jail is just like a big school for learning evils as minor cases and major cases are grouped together. As such, the first step to be taken by the Government is to make separation as far as possible. Therefore, District Jail vacated by Social Welfare Department is to be readied for drug and alcohol abusers who are under the age of 21 years. It is intended to separate minor and major cases. Solution to our problem is being sought. But our time is too limited and we need further action. The hon'ble Members gave due

importance to making Jail a reformation Centre. I also agreed with the idea. Now, its name only surprised the people of Mizoram.

Previously, Jail is regarded as the residence or home of wrong deers and not fit for visiting. But now, that concept had changed and jail is now regarded and expected to be a reformation centre. As such, officials posted there are guided to have such idea.

In the budget, Rs. 4,67,80,000/- is provided which may not be adequate. But, as stated by the hon'ble Chief Minister, additional fund is expected in the Revised Estimate. I am glad that the hon'ble Members are aware of the importance of Jail as a reformation centre. As new districts come into existence, district jails will have to be constructed. The Government gives much importance to prison as it regards to be a reformation centre. Department received fund for modernisation both from State and Central Government. The Government tried its best to use for such purpose. I expect the hon'ble Members to visit our Jails for who knows our children may happen to be sentenced someday.

And the hon'ble Members said that only Central Jail has doctor and no doctor is provided to other jails. It is right. We are now provided fund in the budget, other jails may also have doctor. Not only that, but also we tried to provide 15 (fifteen) bedded Hospital to the Central Jail as prisoners usually have physical ailments. And the workers in jail are inadequate to meet the requirement in various jails. We demanded post creation from DP & AR and we hope we will be successful. As there are now many female prisoners, female staff are now being required. Now, Tlabung jail is nearly completed. We have a proposal to construct jail at Serchhip, Mamit and Lawngtlai. We have a plot of land at Lawngtlai for jail. But with paucity of funds we will not do within this year. If we have fund, such jail will be constructed as early as possible.

In School, let us remember that jail is not mean for punishment but for reformation and I request you to impart that idea in the people in each of our constituency. We will need preacher for them to teach prisoners the inner quality. We are now going to get progress and hope to be successful by the grace of God.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, will the diet rate of prisoners be increased ?

PU LALRINZUALA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, the diet of convicted prisoners and the under trial prisoners are different from one another. Diet rate convicted is Rs. 23 while the under trial prisoner's is Rs. 22. This rate is fixed by the experts. It can be adjusted in accordance with the rise in price of commodities. Regarding Transport Department - Nine Members have made speech on the department, but most of them dwelt only on transport difficulties during Christmas season.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it's not right to speak in such a way by the hon'ble Minister. I think many of them did not stand to speak as the time is limited.

PU LALRINZUALA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, it's right. Regarding Road and Water Transport, the hon'ble Members said that there was no

fund for water transport. That's true. It appears as Road and Water Transport in the budget. The department concern is taking by studying the Modern Indian Ferry Act. The department tried to adopt it in Mizoram for the progress of water transport. Hence, we will have boat service in Western Mizoram.

And the hon'ble Members said that Transport Department is not profitable, and that it is better to hand over to a corporation. This may be true, but all transport buses are running on concessional route at concessioned rate. That means, transport served the poor people where no private bus wants to have service. The fare is also less than private buses. If the House wants, the fare could be raised equal to that of private buses.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, is not the difference in the rate only 10 paise ?

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, its distance and its route is different. MINISTER For example - the difference in Lunglei Night Bus Service is Rs. 69/- per ticket. Profit is not Government policy, it is to serve the people. The Government counts loss as profit so long as the people are rightly served. The loss may be high, but it is not Rs. 1½ lakhs everyday as alleged by the opposition leader.

Before, many drivers and conductors are said to be drinking alcohol while in service, but such cases are not heard of now and no report of such is being received and our revenue increases day by day.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Opposition Leader said that no compensation is given to the victims of Tuipang to Lunglei Bus accident. But, this was the case before the present Ministry came into power. Anyhow, I feel that it is good to give such compensation if it is not yet given to them. Mr. Speaker Sir, no transport bus met accident till date by the grace of God. It's not our goodness but only the grace of God. That's why, no compensation is given to the passengers who died on accident.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I think all the members know that Lunglei Bus which met an accident is not Transport bus. The statement is given to the House. But for Tuipang Bus accident Rs. 50,000/- was given for interim relief. Compensation to be given is to be done through motor accident claim tribunal. That's the new pattern of this Government. If not so, there may be a loop-hole. The MACT can do the necessary without the participation of advocates. In such a way, Mr. Speaker Sir, this government is going to run transport bus without any accident during this period by the grace of God. I, therefore, request the prayer of the people.

And regarding amalgamation, the consultative committee too had recommendation. But the practice of other state is to be examined. Accordingly, it is to be or not to be amalgamated. As it's not good for the people, the same procedure is adopted again for our practice.

Regarding Central Workshop, it was set up for repairing of all Government vehicles. But the former state government did not do as proposed. This Government now examines the matter and it will be done according to the will of the Government.

Tyre Retreading plant is also there, but retreading is done outside the plant. I had spot visit to the plant as soon as I take charge of Transport Department. The tyre retreading plant is fit but not utilised. We are now collecting materials and we will utilise it as desired.

Mr. Speaker Sir, MST Buses are generally very old for long journey. As soon as the service buses returned, necessary repairing is usually done for the next day. In such way, buses are servicing due to earnestness of mechanics at the Central Workshop. This year, we have eight routes in addition to the existing routes. As the former government do not pay much attention to buying new buses, the number of existing bus could not cover all the routes adequately. Now, three new buses have been purchased and body construction on eight buses is being under taken. There is also a proposal to purchase ten buses. I hope that my demands will be passed and new pattern would be followed in the service of transport buses. I, therefore, beg the House to pass my demand of Rs. 4,67,80,000/- under demand no. 14 and the demand for Road and Water Transport.

Thank you.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, demand no. 14 is typed as demand no. 15. It may be better to accept the main budget book.

SPEAKER : Let it be regarded as Jail. The Finance Department also may have made mistake.

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, my demand under Jail is Rs. 4,67,80,000 and demand no. 50 under Road and Water Transport is Rs. 10,56,77,000/-, the total is Rs. 15,24,57,000/-.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinzuala, Minister incharge Jail and Road and Water Transport begs this House to pass his demands of Rs. 15,24,57,000/-.

(The demand is voted and passed).

It is very pleasing to have finished our business without difficulty. We will resume our sitting tommorrow at 10 : 30 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 6 : 30 P.M.