

NINTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 27TH 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, Chief Minister, 14 Ministers and 24 Members were present.

OBITUARY

1. PU ZORAMTHANGA to make reference on the demise of Pu Lalsawia, Ex-MP of Mizoram.

QUESTIONS

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

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS
BILL FOR INTRODUCTION**

3. PU H. VANLALAUVA to beg leave of the House to introduce the Lushai Hills District (Village Councils) (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

ALSO

to introduce the Bill.

DISCUSSION AND VOTINGS ON DEMANDS

4. PU LALHMINGTHANGA to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
5. Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

SPEAKER : Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.

Romans 13:7

Pu Lalrinchhana has begged leave of absence from the House.

Pu Lalsawia, Ex-MP the first Chief Executive of the District Councils has passed away. The House will observe obituary reference on his demise. Let us now call upon the hon'ble Chief Minister to make reference on the demise of Pu Lalsawia.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is sad that we have lost a remarkable person today. Pu Lalsawia was born on 3.11.1919 at Lunglei between Rev. Haudala and Pi Darthuami. He was married to Pi Rothuami d/o Pu H. Khuma on 19.5.1949. He has one son and 5 daughters.

Pu Lalsawia had passed matriculation from Calcutta Baptist Mission High School. While working as a teacher at Boys M.E. School in 1947 he has passed I.A. at Silchar. He used to be the General Secretary of the then YLA Headquarters.

In 1946 he joined the Mizo Union Party and later left the party and joined the Non-Cooperation Movement of the Mizo Union and was even imprisoned for 6 months. In the first 1952 election of the Mizo Autonomous District Council, he was elected and was the Chief Executive Member. He was one of the most important founding fathers of the Indian National Congress in Mizoram. He took active role in the campaign for NE Hill State and was even Vice President of the Eastern Tribal Union. When the Human Rights Committee was founded, he was the Executive Member and was the Convener of the People's Conference Party when it was formed in 1975. Later in 1978, he was elected as the member of the Rajya Sabha till 1984. While he retreated from politics, he was the Editor of the Weekly journal "Tunlai". Besides translating several religious books a 'History of India' which was a syllabus for class 6 was published by him. His autobiography - "Zoram Hming Hmel" was published in 1996.

Having many ill healths, he left us at 5:30 A.M. on 26.7.2000 at the ripe age of 80. It is a great loss for the Mizo people. We respect and are proud of him. It is our duty to show our respect and honour in this House.

S P E A K E R : Let us call Pu Lalhmingthanga, Deputy Chief Minister.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. When I was informed of the demise of Pu Lalsawia, I was quite shock. I have known Pu Lalsawia personally from 1961. During those times, he has already taken active part in Mizoram politics. Despite the wide gap of years between us, his courtesy has attracted us.

He was one of the most important working committee members of the Mizoram People's Conference Party. In the 1978 MLA Election, he contested from Tlungvel Constituency from PC ticket but lost the election. But, he was elected as the member of the Rajya Sabha in 1978. Being highly experienced in politics, he has contributed a great deal for the freedom of Mizoram.

He continued to work for the society after his term as MP was over. His death is a great loss for the people of Mizoram. And the people of Mizoram will never forget his work and contribution to Mizoram.

PU LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time. Today, I would like to deliver an obituary reference on the demise of Pu Lalsawia, who was a great statesman and our first Chief Executive Member.

Pu Lalsawia was proud of being a Christian and was the one who stood firmly on his religion. When Pandit Nehru visited Mizoram in 1953, he arrived on Good Friday. Pu Lalsawia refused to have an interview with the Prime Minister as it was Good Friday. He used to negotiate with the Central leaders in a simple and straight forward manner.

During his time Pu Lalsawia had taken vigorous steps towards the making of laws. Even after 50 years, many of the laws made by him are still in force. He has spent his ability for the progress of Mizoram. Today, I would like to mention the laws made by him Lushai Hills District Council Act No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 1953 House Site Act, Social Custom, Reduction of Fathang Act, Fisheries Act, V.C. Act, Money Lending by Non-Tribal Regulation Act, Revenue Assessment Regulation 1953, Taxation of 1953, Professional Trade Calling and Employment Taxation Regulation 1953, Administration of Justice Rule 1954, Chiefship Abolition Act, Jhuming Regulation 1954, Market Regulation 1954, Trading by Non-Tribal Rules 1955, Forest Act 1955, Administration of Town Committee Act 1955, Fisheries Act, Market Rules 1956. His death is a great loss for the whole of Mizoram. May the Lord bless his bereaved family.

Thank you

PU H. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Pu Lalsawia, Ex-MP, though senior than me, was my colleague in the service of the Church and the country. Besides being the first CEM and ex-MP to the Rajya Sabha his earnest service for the Country, his love and care for the under privilege is remarkable.

What cannot be left out is his efforts for the success of the negotiation between the Indian government and the MNF. His continuous prayer to God for Mizoram and his precious advice to us could never be forgotten. We remember the special treasurer he had left us. We should make up our minds to be able to follow his footsteps.

I would like to express my condolence to the bereaved family.

PU LALTHAN KUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Though I have many things to say, I will point out only a few.

Starting from the Mizo Union, and then to People's Conference and Mizo Convention Pu lalsawia used to be one of the leaders and his service for the progress and development of Mizoram is innumerable and will be very difficult to forget. He was a humble and benevolent person. All the efforts he had made for the country cannot be mentioned today. During his tenure as the Member of the Parliament, he fought a great deal against unjust activities. In the political field, he was like a father as well as a leader for us. After he withdraws from society due to old age and ill-health, he collected the histories of Mizoram political parties and even published a book on such subject. He has left a treasure for the future generation. It is sad that such a great man has departed from us. Today, it is a privilege to be able to have a condolence meeting for the departed former leader in the House.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalsawia was a great pioneer and his works for Mizoram cannot be said all within a short period.

Let us now stand and observe one minute silence (A minute silence was observed).

We will take question no. 95 to be asked by Pu Lalchamliana.

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 95. Will the hon'ble Minister incharge Finance be pleased to state -

- (a) Whether there is proposal for the establishment of a 2nd Treasury at Aizawl.
- (b) If yes, where ?
- (c) If yes, when ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, there is proposal for the establishment of another Treasury at Mc. Donald Hill, Aizawl. The government intends to open the Treasury as soon as possible.

PU LALTHAN KUNGA : A supplementary question please - It is pleasing to hear from the hon'ble Chief Minister that the government intends to open a 2nd Treasury at Aizawl. It will further be appreciated if more sub - Treasuries could be established at various sub - towns. Particularly, for Darlawn, it is necessary to open a sub - treasury as the government employees need to go to Aizawl Treasury each month which is a problem. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, I request the authority to consider this matter so that a sub-treasury could be opened at Darlawn.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. Lawngtlai has been declared a District Headquarter. But, the sub - Treasury remained the same. In this regard, I ask the hon'ble Minister if the existing one could be upgraded to the status of a District Treasury.

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon the hon'ble Chief Minister to furnish his replies.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the government has the policy to upgrade the existing treasuries and also open new ones. As for Darlawn, the matter will be taken into consideration.

Regarding Lawngtlai sub - Treasury, the matter will be earmarked for immediate upgradation.

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 96 to be asked by Nihar Kanti Chakma.

PU N.K. CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 96. Will the hon'ble Minister incharge Soil and Water Conservation Department be pleased to state -

The number of recipient of terracing aid given by the Soil and Water Conservation Department during 1999 - 2000.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the department of Soil and Water Conservation has not given any assistance on Terracing during 1999 - 2000.
Dy. CHIEF MINISTER

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 97 to be asked by Pu K.T. Rokhaw.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 97.
When will the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission come into effect.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, government notification has been issued on 9.7.1999 regarding the effective date of the new pay scale.
CHIEF MINISTER

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, according to the first government order, the effective date for the new pay scale was 1.1.1996. But, the hon'ble Chief Minister has just mentioned that the fifth Pay recommendation will come into effect from 1.5.1999. But, even the second order has not come into effect till date. Does the government intends to impound or give out as arrear.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, at the moment the government cannot make cash payment. The State Government has sought financial assistance from the centre. As soon as the Centre release fresh fund the fifth Pay recommendation will come into effect.
CHIEF MINISTER

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, the recommendation of the 5th Pay Commission cannot be made effective not only in Mizoram but in other States as well. Like Mizoram, other state's government have also sought financial help from the Centre. What is the Central recommendation regarding Mizoram? Is it hopeful to get fund from the Central?

PU N.P. CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, didn't the government make decision regarding adoption of the 5th Pay recommendation?

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, can the hon'ble Finance Minister furnish the proposed date for the implementation of the Fifth Pay recommendation.

The recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission has put Police Head Constable and ASI in the same pay scale. But, if we look into the present, the pay scale of ASI is higher than that of the Head Constable. Therefore, I ask if the two pay scales could be reviewed.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the States government has so far taken several steps for the implementation of the new pay recommendation. According to the latest development, the Central Officers' Committee who came to Mizoram have studied and reviewed the state's liabilities. Starting from the first of May, the Committee has made a recommendation and we are now awaiting the decision of the Centre. Other Indian states are also waiting the decision of the Centre. But, for Mizoram, the announcement of Peace Bonus has been an advantage.

(Pu Zakhu Hlychho : What is the estimated expenditure for a month as a result of pay revision ?)

Approximately, the additional amount to be incurred for one month will be 850 lakh and about 150 lakhs on pension and family pension.

As for the question of the pay scale of ASI and Head Constable, Pay Implementation Committee is set up to review those matter.

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 98 to be asked by Pu Nirupam Chakma.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 98.

Will the hon'ble Minister incharge Finance Department be pleased to state - Whether the government of Mizoram made any provision for construction of Sub - Treasury Building and Staff quarters at Chawngte during 1999 - 2000.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no provision for construction of Sub - Treasury Building and Staff quarters at Chawngte during 1999 - 2000.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. Sub - Treasury and Staff quarters are highly needed at Chawngte. Due to the absence of Sub - Treasury, State Bank of India is not interested to open Branch.

PU N.K. CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please, Sub - Treasury had already been constructed at Tlabung. When will the Sub - Treasury start functioning ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the member from Chawngte constituency has asked whether Sub - Treasury could be established at Chawngte. At present, there is no fund. But, the matter will be considered.

As for the question of the member from Tlabung, the Sub - Treasury at Tlabung will start functioning as early as possible.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, Tlabung Sub - Treasury building was constructed during the previous ministry and a Sub - Treasury Officer was even shifted for the same. However, due to certain circumstances, it does not function till date. What is the reason thereof?

Secondly, we have three District Councils in Mizoram of which the other two have Sub - Treasury and State Bank. But, due to the absence of Sub - Treasury at Chawngte, State Bank of India has no interest in opening its branch. Therefore, the new government has to make proposal for the establishment of Sub - Treasury at Chawngte and Tlabung.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Congress Ministry had taken steps for the establishment of Sub - Treasury at Chawngte and paved the way to some extent. If there is no plan fund for the same, I would like to urge the authority to make sanction from BADP. Can the hon'ble Chief Minister give us assurance in this regard?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, due to security factors, treasury and State Bank are not established at Chawngte and Tlabung as these two towns are situated at the border area. However, the underground elements that cause alarms are not severe now due to the peace agreement between the Bangladesh Government and the Santi Bahini. Therefore, let us expect development and the government will take the establishment of Sub - Treasury at Tlabung and Chawngte as a priority.

SPEAKER : As the question hour is over, we shall go to next business.

Pu H. Vanlalaiva, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce the Bill.

PU H. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission I beg leave of the House to introduce "The Lushai Hills District Village Council Amendment Bill, 1999".

SPEAKER : If the members agree, the Minister may be asked to introduce the Bill.

PU H. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I introduce, "The Lushai Hill District Village Council Amendment Bill, 1999".

SPEAKER : We will go on to the next business. Let us now call upon Pu Lahmingthanga, Deputy Chief Minister to lay on the Table various demands under his departments.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and the recommendation of the Governor, I move my demands amounting to Rs. 83,76,57,000/- to meet the expenditure for 1999 - 2000.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : If the members agree, let us call forth Dr. R. Lalthangliana to move his demands.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, Sir, I move the Demands No. 41, 43 and 45 for Rs. 70,91,40,000/- only for meeting expenses during 1999 - 2000.

SPEAKER : Two Ministers have moved their demands. We will have discussion on the demands. The members will be allotted 10 minutes each. Pu H. Laltanpuia.

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I will begin my speech with Rural Development Department. As we are aware the amount of fund coming from the Central for rural development are based on rural population and the number of groups. 47% of the population of Mizoram is declared as urban population and another 43% as rural population. As the percentage of urban population is high in Mizoram, rural development fund received from the Central is also very low compared to other states. Meanwhile, the majority population in Mizoram live in the rural area. Looking into the economic condition of the masses, it is evident that the majority population live in rural areas. It appears that without having second thought, our former leaders has declared many of the villages into Sub - towns. But, we have suffered on the other hand. Our share of rural development fund is reduced compared to other states.

Moreover, the amount of Rural Development fund received by a state is based on the number of RD Block in the state. There are only 20 RD Blocks in Mizoram besides the two newly declared RD Blocks of Phullen and Khawbung. However, government's notification has not yet been issued regarding the decision of the government. Hence, action cannot be expected from the Central. It will be appreciated if notification is issued regarding the declaration of the new RD Blocks of Phullen and Khawbung.

As mentioned earlier, rural development fund coming from the Central depends on the number of RD Blocks in the state and the percent of rural population. The government should also make its policies toward the declaration of more RD Blocks so that our share of Central fund could be increased. As for the DRDA Office, the Central has now provided fund for its function that results in the establishment of more DRDA branches. The government is also urged to open more DRDA so that the central could increase our share of fund.

Another point I would like to mention is that State Institute of Rural Development has been opened in most of the Indian States. Mizoram seems to be the only state left. In view of this, the Cabinet has decided to set up the Institute. I would even like to remind the departmental authorities and secretariat to pursue the matter.

As for the rural development fund, our existing matching contribution

should also be increased as only one-fourth is expected from the state and the other three are to be contributed by the Central.

It was already decided by the Cabinet Committee that Rural Development to be upgraded to a Directorate Status. The cabinet committee also decided to upgrade the PHE Engineering Wing to the level of Executive Engineer. It will also be appreciated if prompt action could be taken in this regard.

To conclude my speech, I would like to suggest that the outskirts of Aizawl City be included in the rural area as the standard of living and economic condition are widely differed, so that rural percentage would be lowered and more RD fund could be expected from the central.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Let me start with demand no. 43 Rural Development Department and DRDA have covered a wide range and the financial involvement is also very high.

During the last few months of the MNF Ministry, there has been partiality and inappropriate actions particularly where contract works are concerned. Of course, several developmental works are being done and the government accords high priority to construction of new roads. But this policy has been missed due to favouritism among party workers. Usually, minor contract works are given to the concerned VC or YMA. But, during this Ministry, the MNF party workers have many a times superseded the on-going contract works of the VC and sometimes obtain fresh work orders from the Minister that led to the cancellation of the foregoing works. In some cases, the work order for the construction of village community hall already obtained by the Village Council are snatched away by the MNF Party workers. Mr. Speaker Sir, another shocking incident is that the Block President of the MNF had demanded Rs. 2000/- each from the VCs of Bungtlang, Keitum, Hriangtlang, New Serchhip, Buangpui and Neihloh when they pursued their sanctioning letter from the BDOs Office. I have asked the hon'ble Minister whether sanction could be drawn from the RD or DRDA with the seal of Party Unit to which the hon'ble Minister replied as negative. In spite of this, on the 8.2.1999 the MNF Unit had obtained Construction of Internal Road at Keitum worth Rs. 18,000/- vide sanctioning letter No.DI.7011/1/98-99/DRDA/109/17 of 15.12.1998. I have quoted this only as an example. There are still many such cases that are not mentioned today.

Though our godowns are full of rice supplies, many of our people almost starved due to irregular distribution of foodgrains. Moreover, the regular financial assistance from the RD and DRDA have not reached beyond the MNF workers. Therefore, even if foodgrains are available, the people have problem of purchasing it due to financial problems.

Another point which draws attention is that a letter bearing Ashoka Pillar coming from Adviser to Chief Minister directing for allotment of Rs. 15,000/- to Mualkawi VC, the allotment was from the JRY fund which is meant for the people. Mr. Speaker Sir, if we continue to act illegally the people will become poorer and poorer.

All these cases have reminded me of the words of the hon'ble Minister before the Synod Executive on 11.2.1999 that he was so busy that he had no time to pray. Possibly the Minister is so busy looking after his department that he cannot spare time for prayer. In spite of all his dedication, it is most regretting to see that funds meant for the people are misused and are not utilised for the rightful purposes.

Coming to Soil and Water Conservation Department, I donot know if the department is to be extended as the number of staff is to be increased. The existing department building has been rented for Rs. 25,000/- per month. But, I donot understand why the hon'ble Minister resolved to shift the office to another building at the rate of Rs. 60,000/- per month.

Thank you.

PU K. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. We have seen Industries under demand 47. Considering the past years, it is sad to see that there is nothing great to see in our industrial centre at Zuangtui. Many industries have been set up in name only just for the sake of getting central subsidy. There has been several bogus industries that do not exist or function and no outcome to be seen. However, I have high expectation in this ministry and let us presume that industries would be promoted and developed. At the same time, the basic factor for the successful implementation of an industry is power. The department of Power and Electric is also responsible for the promotion and development of industries in the urban areas. As for rural electrification, though most of the villages within Mizoram is electrified, power supply is very poor. Most villages have more or less receiving power. As for the department, efforts are being continued for the improvement of power supply in the State. As we know, most of power supply in the State has come from outside the State. Therefore, the government has accorded high priority to generation of electric power.

Coming to demand no. 43, as already mentioned by the member from Suangpuilawn, the number of block should be increased. The existing number of villages under one block is rather high which can cause a hindrance for the BDO. We need at least 30 blocks within Mizoram. I have mentioned this matter so that the cabinet could form a policy toward this.

PU H. VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to begin my speech with Rural Development Department. As already stated by my colleagues, it is necessary to create more RD Blocks. There are more than 2 lakh people under Tlangnuam Block which is the biggest block area. The second largest block is Khawzawl and Kawnpui have covered the population of only 60,000. Therefore, the boundary of block should also be reviewed.

Coming to Industries Department found under demand no. 47, I would like to emphasize on the importance of Extension Officers. As we may be aware, this is a graduate post. But, the scale of pay is only Rs. 1,400/- which is found to be inappropriate considering the workload and the qualification it demands. Hence, the pay scale and service rules for Extension Offices in the Industries Department should be reviewed. The office building of District Industries Centre (DIC) is also badly in need of reconstruction as it is found to be unfit for human occupation. I have brought up the point so that the authority could make plan for the reconstruction of the said office building.

On page 476 of the Demand book, we have seen various corporations like ZIDCO, ZENICS, MIFCO. Some amount of money has been allotted for these industrial corporate bodies. As we have known, our corporate bodies are prone to be bankrupt. It seems that the government has failed to contribute its share of money to these corporations that is partly responsible for their failure. Therefore, I would like to remind the authority to give more attention to the progress of such corporations.

It is also important to take steps towards the progress of Industrial Growth Centre at Luangmual. The people are looking forward to the time when the entrepreneur could make use of the industrial growth centre at Luangmual.

PU P.B. ROSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I will start with the department of Soil and Water Conservation Department. This department is very important for rural farmers. But, I have come to think that the government has neglected this department as seen in the budget demand book. Hence, the demand for this department may be reviewed.

Coming to demand no. 47, an amount of Rs. 50 lakh has been allotted for tea development. When the government initiated tea cultivation in Mizoram, the project was started in Ngopa Constituency. Several families were selected for cultivators in this project. Site for factories were selected and cultivation was also started in Pawlrang village. Many families selected for such cultivation were also allotted plot of land by the Village Council for the project. However, this project is being abandoned by the government and not a single assistance is provided to the selected cultivators. In this regard, how is the government plan to take steps?

Coming to Rural Development Department, as the name implies plans made under this department, it is mostly the programmes for the upliftment of rural poor. And the funds are mostly for labour incentive especially funds coming from Centrally Sponsored Scheme. However, as pointed out by the member from Saitual, these funds are misused and utilised for the wrong purpose. This is not the object of the Central government. Therefore, we should be more careful in the manner by which Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented and the funds are being utilized.

Mention may as well be made on the unequal distribution of GCI sheets. The former ministry was often criticised for its unequal distribution of GCI sheets. But, this new ministry also seems to be following the footsteps of the previous ministry in this regard. Therefore, I would like to contribute my advice to the authority that only the deserving families be provided.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I would like to begin my speech with the department of Rural Development as it is of great significance for the people. As we are aware, this department mainly works for the upliftment of rural people. But, the number of Blocks is not enough. At least the number of blocks should be equal with that of the number of constituency so that there may be faster progress. I would like to urge the authority to increase the number of Blocks. I would also like to second the point of the member of Saitual that developmental funds meant for rural people are misused, particularly during the previous ministry, the share of the people had gone to the wrong people that led to more poverty. However, I am glad to witness that developmental funds are beginning to be utilised for the right purpose in this ministry which I would like the members to know.

Coming to demand no. 45, while the budget provision for BADP is sufficient, the share of Rural Development is not enough considering the development steps need to be taken. Hence, the concerned minister is requested to take steps in this regard.

Soil and Water Conservation Department is found under demand no. 39. I understand that coffee plantation is also within the purview of this department. The soil of Mizoram is ideal for growing cotton and so, there is plan to introduce coffee plantation in my constituency. It would be appreciated if the hon'ble Minister acknowledges this plan.

Regarding demand no. 47, I have come to think that our industrial corporations like MIFCO, MAMCO, ZIDCO and ZENICS should be attached with greater emphasis. Otherwise these Corporations would face total failure.

As regards to Central Transport Subsidy, the existing practice should better be abolished. Only the deserved firms and persons should be selected to receive Central Transport Subsidy.

The members are aware that cultivation of tea have started under the supervision of Industries Department. I would like to inform the House that the soil of Biate area is ideal for tea cultivation and the quality is also found to be of good and tasty. Therefore, the hon'ble Minister is requested to note this and take steps accordingly.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I want to request the hon'ble Speaker to allot extra time in my favour.

Let me start with demand no. 31, that is District Council. As we are aware, being within the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, the District Councils are preserved by the latter. The members of this House have sworn to preserve these District Councils. Today, I feel it important to mention our mentality towards the three District Councils. I am not pin pointing this Ministry but the previous ministries were not favouring the Councils. Within the last 27 years. Our autonomous district councils have been dissolved and suspended for five times which is degrading considering the attitude of our neighbouring states towards their district councils. The manner in which the government has taken action against Lai District Council recently is found to be inappropriate. As written in the government's order, Lai Executive has been dissolved due to the resignation of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and that of the Panel of Chairman refusal to take Chair. According to the Rules and Regulations of the District Councils, Rule 13 provides that, in case of the resignation of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, the administrator shall make fresh appointment for the vacant post. But, the government had acted on the reverse and dissolved the whole executive instead, which is difficult to bear. Another inappropriate action taken by the government is the dismissal of the MDC. While the existing Act 1975 allows the Member of District Council to become MLA, the hon'ble Member Pu C. Thanghluna who was also the member of the Lai District Council was dismissed by the government on the ground that he becomes the member of the State Legislative. The hon'ble Member was dismissed against the Rules. This action is solely violation of the constitution. Further, the Indian Constitution states that in case of the dissolution or dismissal of a member of the District Council, the reason shall be laid before the legislature of the State. Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not laid the reasons before the House which is also violation of the constitution. The government is fortunate that the matter has not been moved as a legal case. This is a serious matter and it has a deep impact on the people of the District Council. If the government do not fully recognise the existence of other tribes within Mizoram, our integrity could be endangered.

Next, on demand no. 43, the department of Rural Development is very important for the upliftment and development of rural areas. But, there are various

unfavourable cases in this department regarding EAS works. EAS work supposedly for the people are grabbed by the party workers. Like in the case of Lawngtlai Division, where the EAS work amounting to Rs. 9 lakhs was distributed by the Division President among party workers. The Minister had also approved of the selected workers which was the favourites of the Division President. The BDO of the area have no authority in this matter as the party president has finalised the selection by himself. Similar case had also happened at Darlawn Village. If the hon'ble Minister does not stop this untoward practise, the people in rural areas would suffer.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I would like to counter attack the member who stood before me that Congress Ministry was the first one that had dissolved District Council in Mizoram. The Constitution does not allow to dissolve or suspend District Councils without reasonable reasons. When the Congress Ministry dissolved the District Council for the first time, the member who stood before me was the one who was highly in favour of it. District Councils can never be dissolved without the pressure from the concerned community. I have heard the case of the dissolution of Executive at Lawngtlai. The fact is after the resignation of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, the Government has appointed new Chairman as provided by the Rules. Unfortunately, the newly appointed Chairman has also declined the post. Having no other option, the government has suspended the executive.

There has been many false allegations regarding the policy of the government towards District Council. I would even like to advise the Government to be careful when taking action regarding District Council. The Governor has been vested with special power to dissolve or suspend the District Council. To make the Governor satisfied, reasonable material ground should be produced. The Government of Mizoram should not be blamed without considering the initiation.

Coming to Rural Development Department, we have witnessed the failure of this department during the last 10 years. Large amount of Government fund had been wasted. The system of distribution of GCI sheets had brought only grievances to people who were not in favour of the Congress party. As that is the case, it is very difficult to reform the old practices. Its impact is being faced.

If we look back how District Council fund was spent during the last 10 years in Mara District, the existing Executive is the worst in taking steps during the Congress Ministry. Sometimes, the Executive failed to give monthly salary to Government Employees.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, if the member cannot provide evidence that Government employees were not given monthly salary his allegation should be erased.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, we can see the fact from the reaction of the people from the District Council.

In the administration of the District Council, Financial Rules is the most important. The only remedy for the reformation of the existing administration is to review the District Council Fund Rules.

Emphasizing on the Power & Electricity Department, power supply has

been very poor in my constituency during the last five years. In some rural areas, power supply was available only during the visit of VIP and when it was time to give electric bill. It would be appreciated if power supply could be more regular especially in rural areas.

To conclude my speech, I request the hon'ble Minister to clarify the reason for the unequal distribution of BADP fund for different Districts.

SPEAKER : We will have recess till 2 : 00 P.M.

2 : 00 P.M.

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

DR. LALZAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. We have heard from the speeches of the members that there is severe shortage of food supplies in various parts of Mizoram. My Constituency is no exception. If we analyse the reason behind this shortage, the administrative failure of the former ministry has contributed to the factors. From the light of the discussion, I have come to think that the Congress Ministry had neglected and failed to uplift rural poverty and that led to the grievances of the people. As this is the case, the department of Rural Development has loads of work to be fulfilled for the progress and upliftment of rural poor. In some areas particularly in the Western belt, the number of beneficiaries of Rural Development assistance are higher than that of the population of that area. This has made me think that fair and clean work is needed. Moreover, the budget allocation for the Department of Rural Development is not sufficient. It is also a mistake to report that only 53% has covered rural area compared to the report of around 80% in our neighbouring North East States. If utmost effort is not rendered for rural upliftment, the condition of rural poverty would be going from bad to worse. It is high time to live in reality and not on imagination. We should make the people to be aware of the importance to support the government. Though it is futile to point out the fault and mistakes of the previous ministries, there are some points which cannot be missed. Like in the case of Serlui Hydel Project. This project was started during the former ministry but was abandoned without a good reason. It would be appreciated if the hon'ble Minister could clarify the reason for the abandonment of the said project. At the same time, it is pleasing to note that this ministry has planned to continue the project.

Coming to demand no. 46, we need not be reminded of the importance of power in Mizoram. However, I feel rather disappointed that the budget provision for rural electrification is not sufficient. Not only in rural areas, but, there are many areas in towns and cities where more power supply is required. I request the hon'ble Minister to note this. Special mention may be made about the case of Chaltlang area where more power supply and electrification is needed.

Thank you.

Er. K. THANGZUALLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Let me start my speech with the department of Rural Development. Most of the members who stood earlier have brought forward various constructive suggestions to be followed by this department. Contrary to what the members have already said, I would like to inform this House that the people of my

constituency have put their confidence in this department and so far satisfied with the work it has rendered for the development of rural people.

It is true that the Block President of Serchhip had collected donation from the people as mentioned by the member from Saitual constituency. I, myself, has enquired this matter. The truth is that the donation was organised for the assistance of the poorer section of the community. However, there are certain critical cases that were not resolved since the time of the previous ministry. As for this ministry, it can be seen that there has not been misuse of rural development fund so far.

Since the suspension of VDC, the concerned BDO's have entrusted the works to some trustworthy agencies. But, it happens that some members have misunderstood this agents as being greedy. In this regard, I want to say that these agencies are officially entrusted the works of the VDC for the time being.

I will go on to Industries Department. There are various industries like furniture workshop, bakery etc. within Aizawl City. The government has procured land at Luangmual and Zuangtui to be utilised for industrial estate. Industrial smoke has polluted air which can cause health hazards to the people. Therefore, I want to suggest that various industries should be shifted to the industrial estate at Luangmual and Zuangtui.

We have seen that 15 lakh has been allotted for Minor Mineral Development. This wing has been geared up to start functioning and so, it is pleasing to note that the government has allocated separate fund for the same.

On the demand no. 45, there is the budget head of 'Other Special Areas Programme' to which Rs. 680 lakh is allotted for areas under DC Aizawl, while only Rs. 10,000 each is allotted for other districts. In this case, I would like to suggest if more fund could be allotted for other districts.

I will go on to demand no. 46 which is Power & Electricity. As seen in the budget book, the Bairabi Thermal Project is shown as coal base power project with a generating power of two mega watt. However, the project is understood to have based on furnace oil which can generate 20 mega watts according to other sources. In this regard, I request the hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister to clarify it.

As soon as the new Ministry is formed, the Electric Inspectors are terminated from their post. The Indian Electrical Act has provided for the appointment of Electrical Inspector. And those who are licensed Inspectors obtained license from the neighbouring state. In this regard, I would like to enquire the validity of these license. Also, when will the government appoint new Electrical Inspector for Mizoram ?

If I am not mistaken, agreement on Tuirial Project was signed between NEEPCO and the State Government. According to my information, no real work has been done. Moreover, due to certain reason, there is communication problem and equipments could not be carried to the spot. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know the progress of the said project.

Formerly, Bungtlang had been electrified from Hnahthial and electrical wiring was also connected from the same. However, Bungtlang electrification is shifted to Serchhip division. As this is the case, wiring and supervision also seems to be taken up by Serchhip division. I request the authority to make proper arrangement accordingly.

Thank you.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I would like to say that Rural Development Department is highly important for the rural people. We have seen that a new pattern has been set up by the Central Government and let us assume that the new pattern would be beneficial for the lower section of the people.

It is true of what the members have stated about rural population. Our neighbouring states like Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura have higher percentage of rural population than Mizoram. Therefore, increase of our percentage of rural population should be notified.

I would like to remind the members sitting on the left that this new government intends to treat all people alike no matter what political party they belong. If we look into the report of the other north eastern states, the number of Block is quite high compare to Mizoram. Arunachal has 50 Rural Development Blocks, Meghalaya 39, Nagaland 52 and Assam with 137 while Mizoram has only 20 Rural Development Blocks. If the number of Rural Development Block is not increased, development cannot be achieved.

Coming to demand no. 44. I would like to emphasize on MIFCO. An amount of 74 lakhs is allocated for this Corporation which is rather meagre as it cannot even clear our liabilities. I think it is time to recognise the importance of the function of MIFCO. This august House should also realise that this corporation plays an important role for the upliftment of horticulturists.

Various food processing activities have been initiated by MIFCO. However, due to acute financial crunch, rapid results cannot be seen for now.

Another point which needs to be mentioned is that out of the total plan outlay, only 0.17% is allocated for MIFCO. As this amount is found to be rather small, I request the hon'ble Minister to reflect this matter in the Revised Estimate.

Currently, MIFCO has a new project to be taken up and the financial involvement is 85 lakhs. As we know, Pork and Poultry Processing Plant has been set up at Zemabawk. One person was even sent for training to China in this regard. For this project, I understand that the government has sanctioned a matching contribution amounting to Rs. 101 lakh plus share capital contribution of Rs. 84 lakh. It will be appreciated if the hon'ble Minister could make note of this.

In order to provide oil production in the state, MIFCO plans to set up oil extraction plant in Mizoram. The main objective in setting up the plant is to provide atleast half of our oil consumption.

Coming to demand no. 46, it is pleasing to note steps taken by the hon'ble Minister for electricity department. As this government is earnest in accelerating the pace of development with a new vision, approach and priority, several new projects are expected to come up. The government is intensifying efforts aimed at improving power supply in the state by taking up several mini Hydel Projects. Besides, Thermal Generation based on coal is also being under headway. It is also important to re-equip the existing Diesel generator. I have understood that 80 lakh has been set aside for this diesel generator for rural area. But, with only 80 lakh we cannot achieve much.

The existing Power generator placed at Mualthum 'N' is being under repair and in the meantime, smaller generator is installed as a replacement. But, many of the neighbouring areas have not received power supply since then. Hence, the hon'ble Minister is requested to note this and take necessary action so that the mentioned areas could get power supply.

In regard to the repair of power generator, I would like to suggest that our own mechanics should be employed instead of sending damaged machineries to other states; so that repairing charge could be saved to some extent.

This government aims to mobilise our economic resource and for this Soil and Water Conservation is an important key point. This department has made efforts to bring about effective land use management to ensure production development and conservation of the soil. The department also lays emphasis on the propagation of plantation of cash crops like coffee, rubber, tea and others to prevent soil erosion. As this is the case, the activities of this department can be said as multipurpose. The department also proposes to take up watershed management programmes besides the water resource development. But, the budget allotment for the same is found to be less than that of last year. Therefore, this matter may better be reviewed.

Thank you.

PU LALTHAN KUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Let me start with Rural Development Department. As already pointed out by the members who stood before me, the declaration of rural area of Mizoram is only 53.77 percent while our neighbouring states have declared more than 80 percent each. At the same time the state's per capita income is only Rs. 239/- compared to Rs. 445/- from our neighbouring North East States. While, we are high in urbanisation our per capita income is the lowest which is not corresponding to each other. Therefore, I have pointed out this matter so that it could be reconsidered.

Community Blocks that are not covered by NLUP Scheme are earmarked for priority. The House was even informed in the previous session that those community Blocks would be taken as priority. I have remind the authority to note this.

Emphasising on Industries Department, it is necessary to open more District Industries Centre especially in the District Capitals. The DIC building at Aizawl is in need of reconstruction as the office building becomes old and damaged. This may also be taken as priority. Being slow in the development of Industries, Mizoram has a lot to do. The existing spices processing plant also needs to be extended as it can provide good revenue earning. Besides, Coffee and tea industries should also be developed. Steps should also be taken for the adoption of the Mizoram Industrial Act. It is also suggested that auction be initiated to open Bamboo processing Industry in the State.

Coming to Power Department, I would like to ask the existing amount of increase for the acquirement of power supply from outside. I have raised this question because it appears that our budget allotment for power supply has not been reduced even after we have generated more power supply by ourselves.

As for my constituency, power sub - station is proposed to be set up at Darlawn. It would be appreciated if this proposal is initiated as soon as possible. Ratu and its surrounding areas have not received regular supply of power though they are expected to pay power tariff regularly. I request the authority to install a generator at Ratu or Sakawrdai so that power problem may be solved.

The villages of Khawpuar, N. Khawdungsei, Thingsat, Tinghmun, Palsang, Mauchar and Sunhluchhip are reported as electrified but even electric wiring has not yet been done till date. I ask the hon'ble Minister to note this.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the budget provision for Rural Electrification has been increased this year. At the same time, the problem of evacuation of transmission in rural areas has to be solved as the public grievances have been focussed on this matter. It is time to materialise our objectives.

It is also pleasing to note that the budget provision for Rural area Development and Engineering Cell in the Soil and Water Conservation Department has been increased. However, I like to request the hon'ble Minister to explain the function and activities of Plot Valley Project where an amount of Rs. 843 lakh is allotted.

I would like to conclude my speech with the department of Industries. Under the New Industrial Policy, N.E. Development Financial Corporation has sanctioned 20 crore for Techno Economics studies for Industries and Infrastructure in Mizoram. In this regard, I ask if the government intends to utilise and implement this.

Thank you.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. The people have chosen religious persons and church leaders as their representative as they have hope and aspiration for peace, harmony and progress in this government. Looking at the chosen representatives we can see that the people have confidence in the administration of the new government. Therefore, it is our duty to fulfil their hopes and expectations. It is the duty of the government to serve its citizen for their welfare. In the political field, even a religious person always fails to rule justly and party discrimination will soon appear. The people of Mizoram have put their trust and confidence in this new government. But, it appears that the people's hopes and expectations are about to be let down due to the emergence of partiality. My hopes and expectation have been shattered when I see the failure of administration in the Rural Development Department. This department has missed its purpose of developing rural areas. Only party members are being favoured. EAS works are allotted only to MNF Unit workers, Party favouritism have reigned. We may say that this department can be named Party Development Department. I request the hon'ble Minister to note this.

According to the reliable source, I was informed that at Khawbung Village, GCI sheets have been allotted to 160 MNF families and 2 MPC families only but families belonging to other parties are not given any.

The policy of Rural Housing Scheme is to provide housing to rural families, it is the duty and responsibility of the government to fulfil this policy.

I would like to say a few words on District Council. In the past, State government is usually the one that manipulates the District Council. It is not the rightful decision for any Ministry to dissolve or suspend District Council.

PU C. SANGZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I shall start with the department of Rural Development. For the past 7 years, this department has been taking steps by implementing various rural development programmes. It is a matter of satisfaction to see steps being taken for the improvement of the economic conditions of rural people. Let us hope that within the period of 5 years, rural poverty would be removed. It has already been explained to the House that NLUP would not be continued. But, considering its importance, I think it may be better to increase the work connected with the scheme. At the same time, it may also be suggested that the member of Rural Development Blocks be increased so that it may be a solution to most of our problems in rural areas.

As for demand no. 47, there seems to be no clear policy and programmes for the progress and development of industries. Emphasis has also not been laid on rural industries. I want to suggest that activities for the development of rural area should be initiated as far as practicable.

Coming to Corporations like ZIDCO and ZENICS, the budget allotment for the two corporation is rather meagre. As for ZIDCO, it plays a vital role towards the upliftment of the poorer section of the people. The service of KVI has been meaningful for the people. Being a statutory body, the state government has responsibility to a certain extent. Therefore, the budget provisions for these corporations needs review and reconsideration.

I would like to mention a few points on demand 46. It has already been stated that preliminary work for the 60 MW Tuirial Hydel Project and Tuivai Hydel Project was started by NEEPCO. In this regard, I would like to ask what progress has been made so far.

Despite the government's efforts, to improve the power supply in the State, visible progress has not yet been seen so far. Particularly within my constituency, even night reading is difficult due to poor power supply. In this case, I would like to urge the authority to note this.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Let me start with demand no. 31 District Council. The Plan size for this year is 360 crores as stated by the hon'ble House Leader. However, the State's government has not released sanction from the normal plan increase. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to clarify this matter.

I have come to understand that several schemes have been brought up to the Central Government. However, much to our dismay, the schemes submitted by the District Councils are rejected by the State Government. I would like to question the hon'ble Minister in this regard. I have already mentioned in the previous session that not a single amount in the non - plan was sanctioned in the Revised Estimate stage for District Councils. I would like to urge the authority to note this and make allotment of non - plan budget for the same.

Coming to Rural Development Department, the hon'ble Minister had informed the House in the previous session that 12 blocks were not yet covered by Rural Development scheme. In this regard, it is wrong to abandon NLUP Scheme without making an alternative while there are many families depending on NLUP. At the same time, it is pleasing that there is sanction for the completion of the on - going scheme for the blocks. If possible, NLUP scheme should be revised, if not, alternative scheme should be introduced.

The hon'ble Chief Minister has announced Agriculture Department as priority sector. But, it is disappointing that no proper policy has been intensified till date. It is demanded that proper programmes and policy be announced.

Regarding Village Development Council, approval has not yet been made till today within my concerned Rural Development Block. The newly formed VDC is not yet approved by the VC and we are left without it and we are mainly dominated by MNF workers of the area. Even the BDO is under their authority. Even the Vigilance Committee consisted of MNF workers and all the available contract works and the people's share were grabbed by the MNF workers. I suppose the authority

should look into this matter. Otherwise, all the privileges and facilities are snatched by the MNF worker. I am not saying that the Minister is responsible, but the action of the party workers on the ground level should better be examined. To increase membership, several assistance and GCI sheets are being distributed. In my Constituency, other party members have no say or share in these matters.

The hon'ble Minister had released Mizoram Ten years Master Plan for Power Development in the House. But, many of the project shown are already started and completed during the Congress ministry. I request the government to continue those projects already started during the previous ministry.

Coming to Soil Department, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to check the function of Range Office.

Regarding Industries, sub-Division Industries Office had already been set up during the previous ministry. The Minister is requested to make it function properly.

PU K.T. ROKHAW

Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to speak. I will start my speech with the Rural Development Department under demand no. 43. During the last General Election 56 houses were dismantled in Zawngling and Loki. I have brought up the matter to the hon'ble Minister. As a result, the hon'ble Minister informed me to submit the list of those 56 families so that GCI sheets for housing may be provided to them. I have already submitted the list to the office of the hon'ble Minister. I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister to see that GCI sheets be provided to those 56 families listed.

During the latter period of the previous Ministry, list of recipients for GCI sheets was issued. But, the material was not yet issued when the Ministry changed. Unfortunately, when the MNF Ministry came into power, the order for GCI sheets recipients was cancelled and fresh list was made. Those already selected have not received GCI sheets till date. It is wrong to cancel order that was already made by the previous ministry. So, Mr. Speaker Sir, I request the hon'ble Minister not to make a repetition of such deed.

It is a matter of satisfaction that ample supply of rice has been stocked within my constituency. But, the people have financial difficulties and unable to purchase their needs. At the same time, RD/DRDA has not provided employment. The MNF Unit has taken authority on all the available works. Perhaps, the Minister have no knowledge of this. Most of the rural people are depending on Rural Development fund. Therefore, the hon'ble Minister is requested to see that all the government assistance may cover the people as a whole.

I would like to say certain points regarding the issue of permission to Industrial Units. As we know, certain industries like motor workshops and bakery could create problems and hardships for the surrounding areas. Therefore, prior to giving registration and permission, the location of the industries should be considered.

As for the PMRY loan, it is customary to include representatives from NGOs like MHIP and YMA as the member of the Board but MZP is never included. It will be appropriate if representative from MZP could be included in the Board of PMRY loan.

Emphaizing on Cooperation Department various Cooperative Undertak-

ings fail to make profit as expected. This is because the States Government cannot make out the matching contribution which is 50%. While the Central Government has contributed 50% fund another 50% is to be regarded as the matching contribution of the State's Government. But, we fail to make this contribution. This is the main reason for the loss of MIFCO. Therefore, if we expect to see profit on Cooperative Societies, interest should be given by the State.

Regarding Power Supply, despite the vast connection of electric, power supply has always been very poor particularly in my constituency. And yet, the consumers are expected to pay tariff without fail. The hon'ble Minister is requested to note this and take necessary measures.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. This government has fairly distributed GCI sheets and other assistance to the people who need it. Mr. Speaker Sir, according to Indian scholars, rural development is an intricate task. Providing various assistance to the under privileged people have made them wanting more and more. And hence, new programme for the upliftment of lower section of the people is chalked out. The government of Mizoram has also considering adoption of such new scheme. Proper education to the people on these scheme will be necessary for successful implementation. Looking back to the last 15 years, developmental fund for rural areas was utilised for the rightful purpose. Our Christianity has been disgraced because of corruption in every corner. 5 years ago, various Christian denominations held a Convention at Bangalore where one Roman Catholic Father had commented Mizoram as the only Christian State but the most corrupt that left the contingents from Mizoram in shame. As this is the case, every developmental works should be handled with a new approach and vision.

We have seen Industries on demand no. 47. Various industries in Mizoram have not been successful due to several problems and difficulties. In this regard I want to suggest that tools for carpentry and blacksmithy may be distributed on free of cost or in a subsidised rate. For the present condition, this will be the first step at the initial stage. As electricity and industries go together, our industries would be flourished when power supply in the State is highly improved.

Thank you.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I will start my speech with demand no. 46. In the department of Power and Electric, employees are engaged in different nature of works amongst which the work of linesmen is the most complicated one. Their work demands life treating jobs and there are many who lost their lives while some of them became handicapped. These linesmen are not contented with the latest recommendation of the Pay Committee and so they submitted an appeal to the Minister in this regard. I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister to consider their case.

Coming to demand no. 39, I would like to emphasize the menace of Soil erosion in Mizoram. Amongst the people, Soil erosion has not yet been aware of. Therefore, the programmes and policy layout in the department of Soil and Water Conservation is found to be inadequate. In view of this, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister if there is a programme and policy to arrest the menace of soil erosion in the State.

In the department of Rural Development, there has been debates over the beneficiaries of GCI sheets. We have seen that the State Government has been

spending large amount of fund for implementing various rural development programmes. But, we should consider if rural area is really developed. It is important to see how far rural areas are developed. Does Rural Development fund utilized for the rightful purpose? I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to see that development fund is utilised for the rightful purpose.

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I would like to say that I agree with the view of the hon'ble Opposition Leader that there is a sentiment for seperation of Chhimtuipui district from Mizoram. If such sentiments do really exist, the government should pay head as this is a serious issue. Further, this issue gives me an idea and I question whether it is best to give District Council in the name of the concern tribe or clans like Chakma or Lai and Mara District Councils. Anyhow, the government should take the matter seriously and check that such sentiments may not exist in future.

The department of Rural Development invites lots of debates as it concerns with rural development. There seems to be lots of grievances and discontent amongst the rural people in regard to government assistance and employments. Possibly, development fund means for rural areas are not utilised in an appropriate manner as the Village Development Committees in charge in development funds in rural areas are not yet formed by the new government. If there is no proper executing agency, problem is sure to exist. Hence, the Minister is requested to look into the matter.

Most of the members have stressed the requirement of more fund but omit the importance of acquiring more revenue for the state. So, I would like to make a suggestion in contrast with the views of most members. The new government should make programmes and policies regarding the accumulation of more revenues through power tariff and others.

It is very disappointing to come across the CAG report on Mini Hydrel Project in Mizoram. Maicham Mini Hydrel Project which was started with an estimated cost of 4.94 crore was revised at an amount of Rs. 11.06 crore. Though the original estimate was exceeded with an amount of Rs. 54 lakh the project has not yet been completed. Till the year 1998 the Congress Ministry had lost Rs. 1,31,00,000 each year in this project as shown by the Report of the CAG. The Budget Book does not show any particular new project to be taken this year. However, there are projects that were abandoned by the previous ministry and the task of continuing these projects would be quite a job.

As for the distribution of GCI sheets during the 10 year ministry of the Congress, GCI sheets are provided to those families who are regarded as worthy by the government. As for now, the government will provide assistance to families who are considered worthy of government aid.

SPEAKER : We shall have a recess till 4 : 20 P.M.

SPEAKER : We shall now call upon Pu Lalhmingthanga, hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister to wind up his demands.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset I would like to convey my gratitude to the members for their constructive suggestions and informations.

I will try to furnish my replies as brief as possible. Starting with demand no. 46, I have noted down the points mentioned by the members. With the changing of Ministry programmes and policy also changes. The first and foremost policy of this government is to continue projects started by the previous ministry if it is for the development of the State. This government will not simply abandon the projects started by the previous ministry.

In regard to Power and Electric Department, we know that dependable power supply is one of the most important basic inputs for development. The policy of the previous ministry regarding Power was to devolve major Hydel Projects to Central in order to save fund. However, this government follows the policy of taking up major projects by itself. With this aim in view, the government decided to commission several hydel projects as state factor. The total capacity of power expected to generate from various state factors comes to 500, 600 mega watts. Being the only North East State with peaceful conditions the Central Government has become generous with Mizoram. Since the formation of this Ministry the Central leaders had convened 4 meetings with the government leaders of Mizoram where we are given assent to make assessment of plan on Bairabi Hydel Project. Approval has also been given to take up Chhimtuipui Phase I and II as joint sector. The three projects are expected to produce a generating capacity of 475 mw of power.

Further, Mini Hydel Projects like Teirei, Tuipang and Kau - Tlabung that are left incomplete by the previous Ministry are being continued and is near completion.

Dependable power supply cannot be obtained within 4 or 5 months. When the three Mini Projects mentioned are completed a capacity of 3 mw of power is expected to be generated during monsoon season. But, the capacity will be decreased during dry seasons.

The government plans to take up Furnace Oil based thermal project which can generate 20 megawatt of power. Feasibility Report of the project is made and a detailed project report is being under way. When the hon'ble Prime Minister paid a visit to Mizoram he has been kind enough to announce a Special Package of 50 crore from non-lapsable pool fund for Mizoram. 10 crore from the package is earmarked for this Thermal project near Bairabi. The project is expected to complete within 2½ years.

Another worthwhile programme of the government is the continuation of Serlui 'B' Hydel Project. Most of the members have enquired the reason for abandoning of the project and the expenditure incurred so far. This project has been abandoned as the tenderers had filed a court case and so the work was delayed for some time. The Cabinet had to abandon the project. The expenditure incurred for the project was a little more than 50 crores. The Cabinet has revised the project and a revised estimate was made where the 9 mega watt project is increased to 12 mega watt. If the project is successful it will be completed within 3 years.

There are questions regarding the launching of more diesel generator sets. As Diesel Set is quite expensive there is plan for the construction of oil furnace thermal project at Bairabi in stead. However, depending on the financial condition diesel generator sets would be targetted. For now installation of Diesel Generator is not our prime target.

Rural electrification has been so far satisfactory. The government have no plans to electrify more villages but to maintain the existing condition. For this matter around 61 crore has been planned which the Central Government has approved. This scheme aims to improve and reorganise obstruction of transmission system.

The hon'ble member from Ratu raised the question of whether there is a deficit inherited from the previous Ministry in regard to the purchase of power from outside. From Manipur and Assam we get power supply. The biggest power project which is a gas base is installed at Tripura. This project can generate 8 megawatt of power for Mizoram. Regarding the cost of power, the previous government has left a deficit of 29 crores. Due to acute financial cruch the government is not in a position to repay the deficit. At present the State Government has sought financial assistance from the Centre to clear our liabilities.

There is proposal for the project of Darlawn sub - station. Besides, Saitual - Darlawn 133 KV transmission line has been included in the work programme for this year. The government does not miss the problem of power supply that has befallen the rural areas and has been trying to make improvement. However, rapid result cannot be seen for now.

The member from Ratu Constituency has mentioned the problem of power met by Darlawn and its surrounding areas. The generator sets installed at Darlawn has been out of order. Even if the generators are repaired it cannot satiate the power demands for the areas as it can generate only 1.25 megawatt. Therefore, the government propose to connect the sets with grid power.

As for Mualthuan Power House, only one generator set can function as the other two sets are out of order. It is the desire of the government to set up a technical repair centre within the state. The government plans to encourage local firm to undertake the repair works so that all the repairing works could be done within the state. For the time being we have been looking for a firm that is interested in the policy.

The hon'ble member from Serchhip has suggested for the creation of electrical Inspector. During the last 15 years the tasks of Inspector were mainly taken up by mere linesmen. The government has become aware of the importance of the creation of the posts of licenced Inspectors. However, due to financial difficulty for post creation there is proposal for the diversion of one Division. The government has been taking rapid steps for the matter.

There has been many complaints on poor power supply. The government is aware of the irregular power supply in rural areas. And yet, the consumers have to pay power tariff regularly. In this regard, I would like to clarify that Power and Electricity Department is based on a Parliament Act and should function accordingly. Even if a particular area does not receive power supply the government needs to maintain the transmission line and the sub - station. There has been contineous expenditure for the maintenance of the whole machinery even when there is no power supply. The main Act has provision for minimum charge on maintenance. So, until connection is withdrawn the consumer has to pay the bill inspite of irregular power supply. After connection is done the consumer is expected to pay the bill regularly. The government does not simply collect energy charge. But, electrification is a permanent asset the people are expected to understand and pay minimum charge.

I will go on to Industries Department. Only 11 crore has been allocated for Industries Department. The members have mentioned certain points of importance for various corporations. Besides the corporations, the government attaches due importance to the Electronic Wing also with a number of wings to monitor, Industries Department is very light financially. In spite of this, promotion and development of industry in the state occupies an important position. In order to achieve industrial success, various steps have been taken. The government also accepted the idea that the

condition of our corporated bodies require promotion. However, in order to make achievement in our corporations the people have an important role to play. The people should be aware of the importance of the corporations and should play their role dutifully. Due to poor repayment of various loans by the people some corporations are facing problems. At the same time, it is pleasing to note that the commission has sanctioned the budget for KVI this year without deducting even a single amount. There is proposal to organise campaigns and seminars to create awareness amongst the people in this regard.

One member has suggested for the set up of industrial unit at Zuangtui estate. It is the interest of the government to open industrial unit. If necessary, entrepreneur development programme will be organised under the guidance of resource persons.

The Centre has announced a special package of Rs. 15.25 crores for the Industrial Youth Centre at Luangmual. The Shukla Commission has also given its approval and Rs. 50 lakh has already been released but has not yet utilised as the previous government did not detail an implementing department. Also, an Enforcement Committee was not established during the previous ministry. This government has recently assigned Industries Department as an implementing department and an Enforcement Committee is also set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. The Director of Industries has also visited the site and verification is being done. Hence, it is expected that works on this Growth Centre will be started soon.

That there is suggestion from the member for the making of State Industrial Act. However, the whole of India has been under the Industrial Development and Regulation Act, 1956. India is classified into various zones and the North East zone comprised of Mizoram and other North East States. A separate policy is made for the North East zone which is compatible with our social economic backlog.

The government is actively engaged in the proposal for planning technical strategy for utilisation of our rich bamboo resources. The government is intent on adopting privatisation policy so that talented and interested party could take up the industry. Government undertaking is difficult to succeed and so, measures have been taken for the establishment of a reliable consultancy for private sector. We have been looking for expert consultancy company. It is pleasing to announce that the hon'ble Chief Minister has special interest in Bamboo based industry and has been planning to visit Taiwan to look into the technology there. A Fund provision has also made for this matter.

The Governor has issued notification on the new industrial policy. From this new policy adjustment will be made and steps shall be taken.

Then, just a few words regarding Tung Oil. The maintenance cost for Tung Oil is very less. Therefore, families can use it for main source of income, or for additional annual income. Tung oil is used for dyeing materials. It could be a great resource for the state if laboratories are set up to certify the quality of Tung oil found in the state. The merchants of Tung oil are based in Bombay, we had talk with these merchants. Therefore, it look like things could materialised out of this Tung oil.

Then, regarding pay of different working groups, from different department. As the hon'ble Chief Minister has mentioned, Pay Implementing Committee will be set up very shortly. Therefore, I want the hon'ble members to know that there is a positive answer for this.

Hon'ble members spoke of pollution caused by Industries. I just want the hon'ble members to know that steps shall be taken in this regard. However, I cannot give the pin point details of what step shall be taken.

We know that India is among the advanced country in information technology. This Ministry is also taking steps in Information Technology. In Aizawl Personal Computer Hardware Training Centre has been set up and is functioning at present. In Lunglei, software academy is opened and is functioning now. Then within this year, centre for Development of Electronic Design Technology will be set up in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics. Therefore, at present we are satisfied with steps we are taking.

The hon'ble member from Hnahthial constituency has emphasized his concern for Soil and Water Conservation. As the member has suggested it is our policy to create awareness to the people regarding Soil and Water Conservation. For the last 40 years soil erosion has been a silent problem in Mizoram. Forest clearing has also caused soil erosion. The government attaches great importance to the protection and conservation of our forest. Due to acute financial crunch rapid steps and measures cannot be taken. However, programmes have been made for this department.

The subject of Mat Valley Project has appeared each year in the demand. The department of Soil and Water Conservation has neither started the project nor utilised the fund as there has never been any party to finance it. For this matter the Ministry of Water Resources has been negotiated. But, the ministry can finance project on accelerated irrigation benefit programme only. Therefore, it has been agreed that only the irrigation component would be financed by the Ministry. It will be an important activity of the department to promote plantation of cardamom and coffee in the area. However, as I have stated earlier, we do not have adequate fund for the project.

I would like to clarify the point mentioned by Pu R. Lalzirlana in connection with renting of private building for the office of Soil and Water Conservation. This department has been renting private building at Zodin Square. The then Minister concerned during the previous ministry Pu Lalbiakzuala had the opinion that the area was not suitable for an official building and therefore considered shifting the office. He, later made instruction that the office be shifted to another suitable place immediately. At that time, suitable private building was found for the department at Tuikual. However, prior to an agreement, the owner of the building refused to lease out the building due to certain personal reasons. As that is the case, the department has been searching for suitable building to rent. As for the instruction of the then Minister, I, too agree with his view regarding the location. This matter is only the continuation of the instruction of the previous ministry. I would also like to clarify that this is not to be taken as a political issue, but only for the interest of the department.

Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I request this august House to pass my demands totalling Rs. 83,76,57,000/-.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister has requested the House to pass his Demands. We shall now take vote. Those who agree to pass may say 'Agree' and those who are against it may say 'Not Agree'. (The members said 'Agree').

The House has passed the Demands of Pu Lalhmingthanga, Deputy Chief Minister unanimously.

Let us now call upon Dr. R. Lalthangliana, Minister, to wind up the discussion.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time. At the outset, I would like to convey my gratitude to the members for the constructive suggestions and concern for my departments. I would like the members to realise that Rural Development Department deals with the under privileged and poorer section of the people. It is also the objects of the government to be oriented towards the rural poor. The government is aware of the inappropriate actions and untoward traditions within the department and its concern. This government stands to eradicate those problems. The support of the members is also needed for this.

I am not denying that there are certain untoward incidents in connection with rural development at Chhimtuipui District. As shown in the guideline EAS and JRY should not be taken as contract works. However, these guidelines had been violated for quite some time and is not an easy task to make a change all of a sudden.

I would like to clarify on the speculation that the misuse of Rural Development fund has brought a sort of economic hardship in rural areas. Actually, the fund allocation for rural development is inadequate. Under the new scheme of SDSY Mizoram has an allotment of Rs. 68 lakhs only as the first installment while other North East State like Assam is given Rs. 3962 lakhs. With only Rs. 68 lakh rural development programmes cannot be fruitful.

It is true that rural and urban population structure needs modification. In view of this, in order to ensure more benefits of rural development programmes of the government, there is a proposal of increasing the present number of Rural Development Blocks. With the increase of Rural Development Blocks DRDA will also automatically increase. Under the new Rural Development Scheme the government is expected to open DRDA in each District Headquarters. As stated by one member, it is time to focus our attention on the solution of our economic and financial problems. The per capita income of Mizoram is the lowest in the National level. This shows that we need to take vigorous steps towards development. In regard to the financial problem, it is a matter of satisfaction that the hon'ble Chief Minister has taken all attempts to find a solution to it. As a result of the steps taken by the hon'ble Chief Minister, the Central has announced special packages of Rs. 20 crores for calamity fund and another Rs. 50 crores as Peace Bonus. All these are the achievements of our dedicated leader.

There is suggestion for the conversion of Rural Development Commissionerate into a Directorate. This matter is already approved by the Cabinet Committee and is being processed to the DP & AR and Finance Department. The notification order is expected to be issued in the near future.

I am pleased to inform the House that in order to address various technical aspects of construction activities undertaken by Rural Development Department, the government has decided to create an Engineering Wing in Rural Development Department. This decision is expected to materialise soon. The government also plans to establish an Institute of Rural Development where the workers in Rural area could undergo training. This institute is proposed to be set up within the current calendar year.

Matters concerning Border Area Development Projects has not been mentioned a lot. The project has been undertaken at Indo - Myanmar border area and more fund is being expected from the Centre. The amount of fund sanction by the

Planning Commission depended on these factors like the length of international border line, the population of the border line and the number of Rural Development Blocks within the area of the border line. According to this criteria, 4 crores each has been sanctioned for Bangladesh border area and Indo - Myanmar area. In this regard, the Secretary of Planning Commission was also consulted to sanction more amount of fund. Fortunately, I would like to inform the House that the Planning Commission has agreed to our appeal and committed to sanction more fund.

We have known that NLUP Scheme has been taken up by Rural Development Department since 1990 and the total expenditure already incurred for the scheme comes to more than 10,000 lakhs. Considering the amount of expenditure for the implementation of NLUP, the outcome is not fruitful. In view of this resource persons are consulted for their opinion. From their opinion they do not speak highly of the scheme. In view of this, the Cabinet Committee has decided to take fresh steps on NLUP. However, those families who are already engaged in activities under NLUP would be given their dues. The ongoing scheme is expected to complete by the year 2001. There - after the scheme would not be continued. During the year 1997 - 98 the previous government has liabilities of Rs. 3,37,310 on NLUP scheme. In continuation of the previous sanction 9483 families are still left to be covered. But, the previous ministry did not leave a single amount for the project. Out of the total budget provision for Rural Development Department, Rs. 1500 lakhs has to be set aside for the implementation of the ongoing NLUP scheme. Though the budget amount is quite high half of it have to be spent to clear the liabilities already existed during the previous ministry. Apart from the NLUP programme a new scheme known as 'Special Development Scheme' was evolved during the previous ministry. The third installment is not yet released. It is proposed to render financial assistance of Rs. 2500/- as a third installment per family which comes to a total amount of Rs. 469 lakhs. Now, the new government has liabilities of Rs. 1500 lakhs from NLUP and 469 lakhs from SDS to clear. Therefore Mr. Speaker Sir, the members are requested to understand our problems.

Although no members have mentioned about Community Hall, I would like to enlighten the members that there are some problems in this matter as well. I would like to become transparent in regard to the case of Saikuti Hall at Lunglei. Initially, 300 lakhs was estimated for the construction of the Hall. The previous government has made a revised estimate amounting to Rs. 885 lakhs which seems to be a pleasing matter as it is proposed to be a special Hall. On the contrary, it is disappointing to note that while Rural Development Department has Rs. 150 lakhs for construction of Community Halls we are left with liabilities of Rs. 4 crores on Saikuti Hall alone. Therefore, I want to inform the members that we are not in a position to sanction fund for the construction of community halls. However, ongoing construction is proposed to be completed. So, Mr. Speaker Sir, this government has faced serious financial problem from the beginning.

I had been sitting in the opposition bench for the last ten years and had experienced that whenever there was a natural calamity within my constituency the matter was always brought up to the authority, but, I remember that I was never succeeded in my recommendation of GCI sheets for roofless families. It is not our intention to adopt the policy of 'Eye for eye, tooth for tooth'. But, we cannot blame them if those who have been suffering for the last ten years have taken some benefits now. As I have stated earlier, we are now in a transitional period and there may be certain flaws in the administration. But, it will be wrong say that the ministry is a failure. I would like to inform the House that approximately, 6770 roofless families are already assisted by providing GCI sheets by this ministry which can be regarded as an achievement. Due to the efforts rendered by the hon'ble Chief Minister the Centre has sanctioned an additional Rs. 100 lakhs for Rural Housing. It is proposed to assist 8045 families under Rural Housing.

I would like to share another remarkable incident with the members. This year Planning Commission has come to Mizoram to have Plan discussion which is a new practice.

The member from Chawnge Constituency has pointed out that the scheme on Peace Bonus submitted by the District Council to the government was rejected. In this regard, I would like to inform the members that the matter under question has not yet been finalised. This ministry has placed the District Council under special category. The fact will appear in the Revised Estimate.

In respect of DRDA, Schemes like IRDP, MWS, JRY and TRYSEM have been terminated and instead a new scheme called Swanjintiagram Swarojar Yajna is introduced. Under the new scheme it is proposed to encourage groups of families to take up identical trade and financial assistance like loan and grant-in-aid will be rendered. In regard to financial loan 50 % has to be contributed by the Bank while the other half is the share of the government. Here, the payees faced problems with the Banks in regard to the release of the loan amount. Realising this problem a meeting between Bank officials and the government authority is proposed to be held on 29.7.1999 at Aizawl where subject relating to solve this problem would be discussed. However, this scheme is not a replacement for NLUP and being newly introduced it will not be undertaken in a big project at the initial stage. Only one village from each constituency will be selected for the project.

These new schemes introduced by the Centre are being studied in the State and there is not a time yet for implementation. However, from next financial year I hope that our efforts would become meaningful.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I request this august House to pass my demand no. 31 for District Council and no. 45 for other Special Area Programme and no. 43 Rural Development, totalling Rs. 72,91,40,000/-.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Those members who agree to pass may say 'Agree' and those who disagree may say 'No'.

Well, the House has unanimously passed the demands of Pu R. Lalthangliana, Minister which is a total of Rs. 70,91,40,000/-.

The House will be adjourned till 10:30 tomorrow. Meeting adjourned.
6:15 P.M.