

**TWELFTH SITTING OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE FOURTH MIZORAM
STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON MONDAY, THE 16TH April, 2001.
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1 : 00 P.M. and 2 : 00 P.M. to 4 : 00 P.M.)**

PRESENTS

1. **PU R.LALAWIA**, Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, 15 Ministers and 23 Members were present.

2. **QUESTIONS**

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

3. **LAYING OF PAPERS**

Pu B.LALTHLENGLIANA to lay on the Table a copy of correction of Answer to Starred Question No. 179 put by Hon'ble Member Pu L.N. Tluanga on 10.4.2001.

4. **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

Pu H. RAMMAWI to present to the House the 13th, 14th and 15th Reports of Public Accounts Committee relating to Food and Civil Supplies Department, Environment and Forest Department and Power & Electricity Department respectively.

5. **DISCUSSION & VOTING ON DEMANDS**

- 1) **Dr R.LALTHANGLIANA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
- 2) **Pu AICHHINGA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

SPEAKER : "Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourself"

Philippians 2:3

We will now, proceed on to our business and take starred questions.
Pu C.Thanghluna to ask starred question No.208.

PU C.THANGHLUNA : **Pu Speaker**, will the Hon'ble Minister Public Health Engineering Department be pleased to state –

- a) The name of contractor of water reservoir at Vathuampui village during 1999-2000
- b) The figure of expenditure borne by the Government for this water Reservoir.

SPEAKER : **Public Health Engineering Minister**, to answer the above Starred Question.

**PU TAWNLUIA
MINISTER** : **Pu Speaker**, the work is done by the Department itself. But **Pu H.Vanlalngaia**, Lawngtlai Vengpui is roped-in for work agency. The Government of Mizoram spent Rs.44,480/- only for the construction of this Water Reservoir.

PU C.THANGHLUNA : Pu Speaker, the water reservoir is constructed at the centre of Vathuampui Village. It was done without Iron rod and without plaster. It is useless and leaking at all sides what is the usefulness of such water reservoir? Is it the work to be done by the Department?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we will inspect the water reservoir and take necessary action.

PU C.THANGHLUNA : What is the exact estimated amount without the previous expenditure?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, Government spent Rs.44,480/-

SPEAKER : Pu R.Lalzirliana to ask Starred Question No.209.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Thank you Hon'ble Speaker, will the Hon'ble Minister Finance be pleased to state :-

(a) Whether Government of Mizoram notice a gambling centre at the heart of Aizawl City?

(b) If so, any intention to restrict much gambling?

PU LALCHAMLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answer to the above starred questions are : (a) They have sellers' appointment from Mizoram and other states Lottery Sale Distributors. They did not violate any rules. (b) The lottery ticket sale at Bungkawn and Canteen Square are usually complained by Social Defence Union. Lottery Office is also verified three times, no illegal lottery is found there.

PU P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Speaker, the rate of one lottery ticket is Rs.10/-. But it was sold at Rs.11/- per ticket whether the Government of Mizoram could enquire about this or it is approved by the government?

PU L.N.TLUANGA : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister said that they have no power to restrict sale of lottery ticket. Do we have no appropriate law for such prohibition?

PU LALCHAMLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we do not know that one ticket is sold for Rs.11/- instead of Rs.10/- we will verify it and take necessary action. As stated, we have no right to control or restrict selling of lottery tickets in our state. Since this being the case mizoram also decided to have state lottery.

SPEAKER : We will call upon Pu R.Lalzirliana to ask Starred Question no.210.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker will the Hon'ble Minister, Finance be please to state -

(a) Whether Government of Mizoram withdraws fund by means of overdraft during 2000-2001 financial year.

(b) If so, how many times with dates of withdrawal?

(c) The total amount drawn in each date?

PU LALCHAMLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answer to the above starred questions are :- (a) Yes (b) the exact dates are 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25 and 29 April, 2000. And 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 27 May, 2000, In 2001, it was drawn on 24, 27 28, 29 and 30 March.

The amount drawn on such dates are as follows :- Rs. 6.53 crores, Rs. 10.52 crores, Rs. 9.14 crores, Rs. 10.51 crores, Rs. 10.44. Rs. 16.38, Rs. 17.18. Rs. 18.95, Rs. 21.94, Rs. 22.77, Rs. 22.52, Rs. 15.70, Rs. 0.86, Rs. 0.31 Rs. 0.50, Rs. 1.61, Rs. 3.39, Rs. 2.289, Rs 9.18, Rs 16.26, Rs 10.62, Rs.10.68, Rs.11.85, Rs.14.08, Rs. 16.23, Rs.0.24. Rs.2.72, Rs.13.09, Rs.21.24, Rs.36.96, and Rs.49.95 crores respectively.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Pu Speaker, is there any restriction for drawing fund from Treasury other than over draft ? If so, the reason why ?

PU LALCHAMLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the Government of Mizoram imposed necessary restriction in accordance with its own will.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 211.

Dr LALZAMA : Pu Speaker, will the Hon'ble Minister Public Health Engineering Department be pleased to state -

(a) The number of water point constructed by Government during the year 1999-2000 ?

(b) The number of villages benefitted by Rain Water Harvesting Scheme from 1999 till date ?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answer to the above questions are -
(a) 124 water points.
(b) 3787 families from 49 villages.

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, how many houses were covered by Rain Water Harvesting Scheme at Tlangpuite ?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, 72 houses only.

PU J.LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, is it true that no family will be covered Rain Water Harvesting Scheme if the family do not want to join MNF party ?

PU K.L.LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, there are 42 houses only at Tlangpuite village. Has each house benefitted in double ?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, it was not possible to have the correct number of houses covered because some households are made to share with Sialhawk and Khawbung constituency.

Regarding Tuidam village, necessary step is being taken to cover 300 houses there.

S P E A K E R : Pu R. Lalzirliana to ask starred question No. 212.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Will the Hon'ble Minister, Political and Cabinet Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether MNF Ministry tried to abolish Chakma Autonomous District ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) If not so, whether the people of Chakma can live peacefully ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answers to the above questions are -
(a) It is the power of Parliament. Eventually, the MNF Ministry has no power to abolish the said district.

(b) Need not to answer.

(c) It rests upon the opinion of Chakma people.

PU R.LALZILIANA : Pu Speaker, just after swearing in ceremony on 3rd December. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that Chakma District Council will be dismantled. But now, replying to the question, he said that the matter is not within their purview but that of Parliament. Has there been no attempt on their part to put pressure on the Central Government to have constitution amendment so as to suit necessary action to be taken for State Government to dismantle Chakma district ? or that there is no more intention to abolish the said district ?

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, we know that some organised body of Chakma demanded U.T. What opinion the Government of Mizoram has ? They also submitted memorandum to the Central Government for extension of their area. What reactions does Government of Mizoram have ?

PU H.RAMMAWI : Pu Speaker, the three District Councils of Chakma, Lai and Mara were borned in 1972. Whether any Ministry demanded abolition of the three district councils to the Government of India ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the question is sensitive and communal to some extent. I was asked by the Newsmen whether we give importance to abolition of Chakma District Council. I said 'yes' to the newsmen. In fact, all Hon'ble Members as well as political parties gave importance to it. We used to discuss the matter in the House even during the former MNF Ministry. Eventually, no party had seriously taken up the said policy although they have it provided in the election manifesto too. (Interruption).

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, I also will speak about it if you can spare me time.

S P E A K E R : We never spare time for the opposition members to give answer in this House. Please give ear to the answer. You should listen to the answer whether he give wrong information. If he give wrong information, you may ask him again.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, as the question arises from the Hon'ble Members it is required to give answer.

S P E A K E R : You must listen to him. If he gives wrong information to the House, you may move the matter as the rules.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : I said that they did not have a struggle for abolition of
CHIEF MINISTER the said district. Because it is not very appropriate to tackle from Government level. If it was provided in the constitution it is difficult to abolish it. We have made pressure to the Central Government. The Central Government rejected the pressure. But we added that it is improper in principle.

And as regards to alteration of the constitution, we feel that it is not appropriate to tackle as it has been passed more than ten years ago. Not only that but also the Central Government tried to provide more power to the District Councils.

Regarding the demand for U.T. we do not approve or agreed upon us it is a policy for partition of Mizoram.

PU H.LALTANPUIA : Supplementary question. the Hon'ble Minister meant that local Newspaper issued wrong information to the public against the Hon'ble Chief Minister. If so, whether he would file defamation case against the Editor of Zonunmawi Newspaper.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Chief Minister seemed to have an idea that it is not appropriate for the Ministry to tackle an issue for abolition of the said council. Shall we regard him as the deceiver of the nation as press release issued by Engineering Associations?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, it is said that P.C. Ministry did nothing about the abolition of Chakma District Council. We had submitted memorandum tow/three times to the Prime Minister. Peace Emmissary Pu Aichhinga told us that the memorandum was the subject under peace process plan and asked us to stop the step taken. I do not satisfy with the statement and I asked you to expange such wrong statement from office record ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, regarding defamation case against
CHIEF MINISTER Editor of Newspaper I did not have any intention to file such defamation case. If it were, there is much to be filed. It may be everyday. If I were the deceiver of the nation, the vote of the people shall so decide it.

And I did not mean that P.C. Ministry totally did not struggle for abolition of Chakma District Council. I meant that it is hardly tackled. In fact, MNF did the best for peace. We had stopped the struggle for want of peace between Government of India and the MNF.

S P E A K E R : Pu C.Thanghluna to ask Starred Question No. 213.

PU C.THANHLUNA : Will the Hon'ble Minister Finance Department be please to state -

- (a) We came to know that Rs.20 crores for Rural Connectivity is demanded by Rural Development Minister from the Central Government. Whether this Rs.20 crores is included in the Annual Plan Budget for 2000-2001 ?
- (b) From Rural connectivity fund of Rs.20 crores what is the proposed figure for Chhimtuipui District ?
- (c) Whether there is any proposal for recovery of Public Works Department fund used for Rural connectivity ?

PU LALCHAMLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answer to the above questions are - (a) Yes, (b) Rs.297.44 lakhs is proposed for Chhimtuipui District. (c) No.

S P E A K E R : Pu C.Thanghluna to ask Starred Question No.214.

PU C.THANGHLUNA : Pu Speaker, will the Hon'ble Minister Finance Department be pleased to state -

The total amount of revenue collected by different Departments - department - wise during the year 2000-2001 financial year ?

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon Pu Lalchamliaana to reply the above starred questions -

PU LALCHAMLIANA MINISTER : Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, To answer the question of Revenue collected in department wise during the period 2000-2001 it has not yet been fully received and the amount which has already been received till 31st March are as follows :-

The sum of revenue received from Taxation department as other taxes on income or expenditure is Rs.339.19 and Rs. 604.40 lakhs from sales tax, Rs.136 lakhs from Luxury goods and Rs.47.94 lakhs on goods & passengers, Rs.36.83 lakhs from Taxes & Duties on commodities, Rs. 36.83 lakhs from Services. Totally Rs. 1028.36 lakhs.

From Land Revenue & Settlement the amount of taxes collected amounted to Rs.75.04 lakhs. From State Excise head Rs. 71.54 lakhs, from Taxes on vehicles of Transport department. 155.11 lakhs rupees from stamps and Registration of Account & Treasuries Rs. 5.95 lakhs, from stamps and Registration of Law and Judicial Department 0.05 lakhs rupees.

The total amount of revenue received from Tax revenue amounted to 75.04 lakhs rupees and from non-tax revenue of IF & SF Rs.4.07 lakhs as other fiscal services. From MPSC Rs.0.99 lakhs, Police Rs.14.89 lakhs, Jails head of Prisons 0.010 lakh rupees, from Supplies & Disposals of Food & Civil Supply 1.99 lakhs, from Supplies & Disposal of Transport, 1.02 lakh rupees and from Road Transport 148.35 rupees, from Printing & Stationeries Rs.22.25 lakhs, from Public Works Department Rs.13.17 lakhs and from Road and Bridge Rs.30.73 lakhs.

In regards to Accounts & Treasury Department, non Tax revenue from the contribution towards Pension & Other retirement Benefit 20.25 rupees is received. Miscellenous General Services of Lottery department 180.63 lakhs rupees, from the head of Education, Sports, Art & Culture of Education Department 5.4 lakhs rupees.

From Education, Sports, Art and Culture head of Higher & Technical Education Department Rs.12,58,000/- is received, from Sports & Youth Services Rs. 3,04,000/- from Art & Culture Department Rs.1,11,000/-, from the head of Medical & Public Health of Health and Family Welfare Department Rs.23,06,000/- from the head of Water Supply & Sanitation of Public Health Engineering Rs. 1,93,09,000/- from the head of Social Security & Welfare of Social Welfare department Rs.14,000/- from Sainik Welfare Rs.37,05,000/- from the head of Crop Husbandry of Horticulture department Rs.27.34 lakhs, from the head of Agriculture Crop and Husbandry of Agriculture Department Rs.31.80 lakhs and from Minor Irrigation Rs.4.74 lakhs.

From Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Rs. 21.33 lakhs is received from Fishery Department Rs.3.30 lakh, from Environment and Forests Department under the head of Forests and Wildlife Rs.87.00 lakh, from Co-operation Rs.21.66 lakh, from Soil & Water Conservation Department Rs.1.39 lakh, from Rural Development Department Rs.2,73,000/-, from Power & Electricity Department Rs.884.71 lakh, from Sericulture Department Rs.1.08 lakh, from various heads of Industries Department Rs.4.89 lakhs, from Village and Small Industries Rs.10,000/- from non-ferrous Mining Rs.10,000/- from Other Industries. From Civil Aviation Rs.41.43 lakhs, from Tourism Department Rs.2.51 lakh, from Trade & Commerce Rs.2.27 lakh and from Economic and Statistic Rs.2.97 lakhs.

From interest receipt under common to all departments Rs.263.02 lakhs is received and from Other Administrative Services Rs. 86.00 lakhs. From Housing Rs.20.61 lakhs.

Mr Speaker Sir, the amount received from Non-Tax Revenue is Rs.2245.05 lakhs and the total including Tax Revenue happened to be Rs.3581.10 lakhs. Assessment from the entire Budget, our Revenue is only 4% to 5%.

PU TAWNLUI
MINISTER

: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to inform the House that on 11.4.2001, 12:50 P.M. officials under Power Grid Corporation Ltd. and Mizoram State

Public Works department are being abducted by HPC 'D' Commander, who called himself Biaknienga and 5 other with arms entered Mizoram from Manipur by boat through the State boundary.

The following are the officials abducted from Tuivai, our boundaries with Manipur :-

1. Pu N.N. Bozo, Senior Engineer, Power Grid Corporation of India.
2. Pu R.K. Nath, Senior Attendant, Power Grid Corporation of India.
3. Pu K. Darmari, Attendant, Power Grid Corporation of India.
4. Pu S.K. Nath, Technician, Power Grid Corporation of India.
5. Pu Lalrintluanga, Overseer II, PWD Mizoram
S/o Pu Nunthuama, Bethlehem Veng, Aizawl.
6. Pu Rochungnunga, Driver PWD Mizoram
S/o Rosiama (L), Phaileng 'E'.
7. Pu R.Zodinliana, Manager of Contractor
S/o Pu Lalhleia, Sawleng.

Those officials from Power Grid Corporation of India were on duty to repair line 132 KV Aizawl, Jeribam Transmission line and those officials from Aizawl were on duty to maintain construction of National Highway No.150 Seling - Tipaimukh, Churachanpur Road. The abductors released 3 abducted officials as soon as they reached the nearest village Sihpuikawn. They are :- 1. Pu S.K. Nath (Technician) . 2. Pu K.Darmari (Attendant) 3. Pu R.Zodinliana (Manager of Contractor).

The Commander of the abductor then informed the concerned S.D.O., PWD that they kidnapped Pu Lalrintluanga and Pu Rochungnunga through the letter delivered by Pu Zodinliana the Vehicle used by G.R.I. and motor cycle of Pu Lalrintluanga has also been destroyed. Those abducted were being carried to Sihpuikawn by Truck and then met 4 other persons under their commands and altogether they are 10. It is learned that those abducted are being taken

towards Parbung village which is only 40 Kms from the border. On the 11.4.2001 ' they proceeded toward Taithu and then crossed Tuiruang river to Patpuihmun.

Names of the abductors which has been known so far are : -

1. Biaknunga s/o Piangruala of Saiphai. Commander HPC'D'
2. Rohuala of Haflong.
3. Bethela of Manipur
4. Joshua of Manipur.

As soon as the news is heard, a meeting was called on 11.4.2001 5:45 P.M. to determine rescue operation. DIG of Police and C.O. 1st Bn. MAP with one MAP Platoon left Aizawl to pursue their mission. After that 2 senior Bn. Magistrates and one Platoon of 3rd Bn MAP has been sent on the 12.4.2001 and immediate information has also been given to various Police Stations and BOP of Manipur and Cachar areas to be vigilant of such incident.

Mr Speaker Sir, the Government puts all the efforts to rescue those abducted. This is the third time that HPC'D' abducted innocent civilians within Mizoram. It is to be noted that the Government strongly condemned the abductors and shares the sorrows of the abducted families and the same thought is shared by NGO's and Churches. The Government, therefore writes the support of each of the people so that the abducted officials safely return to their respective families.

S P E A K E R : We will now proceed to the discussion of our Business. I now, call upon Pu B.Lalthlengliana, the concern Minister to lay a Copy of answers to Starred Question No. 179 asked by Hon'ble Member Pu L.N. Tluanga on 10.4.2001.

PU B.LALTHLENGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I now lay on the Table a Copy of correction of answer to Starred Question No. 179 made by the Hon'ble Member Pu L.N. Tluanga.

S P E A K E R : The copy may now be distributed to the members. I now, call upon Pu H.Rammawi, Chairman Public Accounts Committee 13th, 14th and 15th relating to Food & Civil Supplies Department, Environment and Forests Department and Power & Electricity Department.

PU H.RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission I hereby present the Report of PAC 13th, 14th and 15th to this august House.

S P E A K E R : The copy may now be distributed to the members. We now move to the next business, Discussion and Voting on Demand. As never has been done before, I opine it is more convenient to take up the demands of two Ministers at the same time, I do hope you all agree with me. Firstly, may I call upon Dr R.Lalthangliana, Minister to submit his demand.

DR R.LALTHANGLIANA MINISTER : Mr Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, I move the demand No. 12th, 30th, 43rd, and 45th for

Rs. 56 crores 14 lakhs 28 thousands only for meeting expenses during the year 2000-2001 of the following departments. Demand No. 12 Secretariat except Parliamentary Affairs - Rs. 25 crores, 25 lakhs, 28 thousands, Demand No. 30 - Information Rs. 3 crores, 50 thousands Demand No.43 - Rural Development Rs. 19 crores, 85 lakhs , 50 thousands. Demand No. 45- Other Special Areas Programme Rs. 8 crores. Total Rs. 56 crores 14 lakhs 28 thousands only.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Thank you. Dr R.Lalthangliana has now submitted to this House the Demand No. 12, 30, 43 and 45 amounting to Rs. 56,14,28,000/- I now call upon Pu Aichhinga the Minister to submit his Demands.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Mr Speaker Sir, on the recommendations of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission. I move the demand No. 16, 25 and 53 for Rs.89,78,30,000/- for meeting expenses during the year 2000-2001 of the following Departments, Food & Civil Supplies Department Demand No. 16 Rs. 83,12,75,000/- Demand No. 25 - Art & Culture Rs. 3,51,15,000/- Demand No. 53 - Other General Economic Services Rs. 3,14,40,000/- - totally Rs. 89,78,30,000/-.

S P E A K E R : Pu Aichhinga the Minister has now submitted the demands No. 16, 25 and 53 for Rs. 89,78,30,000/-. We will now take up the discussion 10 minutes each will be allotted to each member. To start with, I call upon Pu K.L. Lianchia.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Mr Speaker Sir, as we have heard from the radio News Broadcast, that restriction is imposed on Ginger movement. One additional Contractor be allotted the work of purchasing at Vairengte @ Rs. 10/- per K.g.

Mr Speaker Sir, in the last short duration discussion, the concern Minister assured this House that the rate of the said item would be improved. It is surprising that the rate remain unimproved till today.

Secondly, I would like to mention about construction of playground for New Chalrang from Non-Lapsable Pool fund of Rural Development Department. Construction work is undertaken departmentally with the allotted fund that is Rs. 75,000/-. Actually, the supervision of BDO Khawzawl. Complying with my request, the concern VLW provided me expenditure and assessment for the construction and the sanction is obviously spent fully.

A Committee on this matter was then called and after determining the whole process, it is opined that financial missmanagement is evolved. I therefore strongly demand to take verification in this regard and if the culprit is found, necessary action must be taken against him.

Moreover, Mr Speaker Sir Rs.1,50,000/- is sanctioned for the construction of Community Hall and the work is maintained by the concern BDO. During the construction, it is learned that the concerned VLW purchased some valuable assets from this fund. The matter may also be verified immediately.

Thank you.

PU J.LALTHANGLIANA : Mr Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble member before me have just explained the performance of Rural Development in the eastern part. In comparing the department performance in my Constituency. They are much fortunate for having playground and Community Hall constructed. Mr Speaker Sir, in my constituency Rs. 2,00,000/- is sanctioned for the construction of Community Hall at Marpara and the contract work was allotted to one MNF worker. But it is surprising to learn that the concerned contractor have not done anything yet although almost a year has elapsed since then Mr Speaker Sir, i opined that misuse of development fund for rural areas further corrupted the minds of the rural people too which is of a serious case. In the same way, fund from BADP too are often misappropriated. It is regretted that even the sanction received before village council election was wholly spent by MNF for the campaign.

Next, I would like to pointed the system of maintenance of our Art and Culture department, Even the Hon'ble Chief Minister flashes in his Budget Speech the achievement of each of the department under the Government of Mizoram but missed Art & Culture which show negligence of our Government towards Art & Culture Department. Moreover, no sufficient amount of budget fund has never been allotted to this important department. If my memory serves are well, the Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned plan of the Government for the construction of Auditorium with a capacity of 10,000 persons. Consequently, plan and estimates for the construction was then prepared. But no sooner everything is ready the plan is renamed as Millenium Trade Centre which left the concern contractor in an awkward position. Primarily, the department of Art & Culture were delighted keeping in mind construction of Auditorium could also provide spacious room for the State Library but all the hope ends up in smoke since the building was re-planned for Millenium Trade Centre.

Coming to demand No. 30. Information department, no provision is seen for the progress of the department if we study this budget carefully. It may, therefore be necessary for the government to spare provision from non-lapseable pool fund for this department as soon as possible.

Regarding Demand No.16 Food and Civil Supplies Department, we are fortunate that Central Government provide us favourable scheme with the thought that no person should be starved in the democracy form of Government. In pursuance of this policy, 60,000 families will be supplied rice at a subsidised rate. Not only this, the supply will be provided at more cheaper rate to the families of poorest of the poor of 15,000 families. Furthermore. there is provision for free supply of 10 Kgs of rice to aged persons of above 65 years of age.

Lastly, I would like to mention that the supply of rice is now being received. In order to have regular supply of rice in all reason, it may be needed to stock certain amount of distribute the material on need basis. In such a way expenditure of the department could also be reduced.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr Speaker Sir, first of all, I want to speak on Rural Development at Demand No. 43. I have submitted one Assembly Question regarding the Block level vigilance Committee held by the different Committees. If you see, the answer is how the department functions. The reply we are given in this House was unstarred question 136. Please furnish the list of Block level Vigilance Committee constituted by the Government of Mizoram. The Rural Development Department indicated clearly the number of sitting held by each Vigilance Committees during 2000-2001. Pu Speaker, all the member of the Block Level BLCC member, sitting M.P. and MLAs of the Block area; including representative of the National Parties recognised by the Election Commission and the state BDOs are members Secretary. The member of sitting held by each Block Vigilance and Monitoring Committees is indicated in the Annexure I.

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Tlangnuam | - | Nil |
| Aibawk | - | No information as per replies received |
| Reiek | - | No information. |
| Thingdawl | - | One time sitting. |
| Phullen | - | Nil |
| Ngopa | - | No information. |
| Khawzawl | - | One sitting. |
| Khawbung | - | One sitting. |

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| E. Lungdar | - | One sitting. |
| Darlawn | - | Nil |
| W. Phaileng | - | Nil. |
| Zawlnuam | - | One sitting |
| Lunglei | - | Nil |
| Hnahthial | - | Nil |
| Bunghmun | - | Nil |
| Lungsen | - | Nil |
| Lawngtlai | - | One sitting |
| Tuipang | - | Three sitting. |
| Chawngte | - | One sitting. |
| Sangau | - | Nil. |

Mr Speaker sir, as per the Constitution of the Block Level Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, MLA is also a member. But when sitting is held, proper information has not been given and I do not know what kind of sitting is that.

The schemes are implemented, and monitored through few sittings. Whatever there is corruption or not would be clearly understood. During the Budget session last year, almost all the members of the opposition benches have spoken about the corruption prevailing in the department, in the implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes under BAD?. What is the result? The same thing no going on I can give many example from my constituency alone.

Mr Speaker Sir, regarding Ngharum to Dolchori Road, I have seen in the reply of the Minister here that 8 lakhs of rupees was provided during this year. Not a single road was constructed. Mr Speaker Sir, this is the statement from the MLA of the constituency. Please verify and fix responsibility for it. Last year, Rs.5 lakhs was provided for Kamalanagar to Udarkhana Road. No work was done nor we informed of steps taken by the Government. Government is inactive because the mechanism for verification lies in the hands of the Block Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee which is not functioning. Unfortunately, many of such cases is known in the functioning of the Committee. We have given lot of information but till today there is no improvement.

Mr Speaker Sir, the Rural Housing Schemes such C.C.S. and IAY. I think the beneficiaries must be scrutinised properly. And for your information Mr Speaker Sir, in the implementation of the schemes when annual action plan are prepared, we are supposed to be a member of the Vigilance Committee but we are completely kept in the dark. Even in the meeting last year, we have been informed but due to this session we could not attend. There must be some times fixation of time for Committee from the Higher authority when time is convenient for the MLA to attend such meeting Mr Speaker Sir, if the department functions like this, and if the government does not implement, we have no option but to make complain in the Central Government.

Thank You.

PU H.RAMMAWI : Mr Speaker Sir, to start with I would like to make few points regarding Demand No. 53. If we come across page No. 27 blank is seen against the column of Registration of Firms & Society and the same happened last year also. I therefore request the concern Minister to clarify the reason.

Secondly, regarding ginger production, it is the desire of every concern people if the department determined marketing for the products. But there seems to be some problems involved. The concern Minister may pater clarify the whole situation of the problem.

Regarding the rate of ginger, Pu Laldenga, the former Chief Minister, issued notification that the government would buy ginger in every village at the rate of Rs.3/- per K.g. Consequently, private traders went to various places and bought it with higher rates. In this way, ginger problem was solved for the benefit of the cultivators. But the end of MNF Ministry was followed by lowering of the rate of ginger.

Now, during this year, due to the efforts of the Government the rate of ginger rises up again. Therefore, I wish all of us not to blame the government in this regard. I opine that our speech should be in the form of constructive base.

Next, I would like to mention about the achievements of Rural Development. I think there are many things to point out as this Department concerns every village. But in my constituency, two villages are communicable by motor vehicles due to the efforts of Rural Development Department. Besides, this Department proposes Cheural Pottato Link Road to be constructed. There, it is obvious that Rural Development Department takes steps very remote corner in my constituency.

And in regard to Food and Civil Supplies Department, I request the Hon'ble Minister to note down that one of the supply godowns in Sangau is dismantled, only one godown can not provide our requirement. Therefore, problem can be there in the monsoon season. I request the Hon'ble Minister to take rapid step for the construction of another godown or to extend the existing one.

Thank you.

PU P.B. ROSANGA : Mr Speaker Sir. Thank you. First of all let me speak about Demand No. 53 . In regard to the rate of ginger, I would like to support the speech of the Hon'ble Member from Sangau Constituency. In the year 1982, the Government of Mizoram announced that it would buy ginger at the rate of Rs.3/- per K.g. But, private traders went to various places and bought it with Rs.4/- or Rs.5/- per K.g. There was no ginger to buy for the government. Like this, I would like to give suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister to declare ginger a free trade item for every traders other than making restriction on it.

Next, in regard to Demand No. 43 the former Ministry launched NLUP, which has been implemented in many Rural Development Blocks, but there are some Rural Development Blocks which have not been covered. I aware that this Ministry does not continue NLUP and there has not been its alternative policy. If we had banned NLUP we need to introduce its alternative as soon as possible.

Next, the Budget for Social Education seems to be less. Can the Hon'ble Minister ask for more fund even from the Central Government ? I opine that this will be revised again.

And in regard to Demand No. 45, which is other economic services. In the last Session I asked question in this regard. From the answer to that question, I opine that there are misuse of BADP fund in some areas. For example, the cost for construction of road under Bunghmun Block was Rs.50 lakh. But when I visit the site, I think, the actual expenditure will not exceed Rs.5 lakhs. Also in my Constituency, Rs.5/- lakh is set aside for construction of Mimbang to Tuisa Valley road of 7 K.m. in length. But no work has not been done till now. Therefore, I wish to renovate the Village Development Committee to execute the said works, so that BADP fund can be used better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr Speaker Sir, thank you. First of all, in regard to Demand No. 43, the expenditure for construction of road from Galili to Dialdawk river is Rs.2.5 lakhs. I opine that the work is quite bad comparing to the amount of expenditure and the road cannot be used for motor vehicles. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister to take more steps for the construction of Jeepable road in this area. This will help the Cultivators of that area.

Secondly, in regard to Demand No. 53. The Hon'ble Minister of Trade & Commerce, in his answer to starred question, expected that the rate of ginger to be higher in the month of April and May. But today, the rate seems to be lowered from Rs.11/- to Rs.10/- per K.g. In this regard I opine that calling of tender through MAMCO is the main source of problem. I wish the Government not to interfere in ginger business. Let us permit any private trader to deal ginger if they wish, so that there will be competition among the buyers and I hope the rate will be increased. Restriction on ginger business is useless. If the rate cannot be raised, giving price support to the Cultivator is good enough to help them.

Besides, our ginger loan system is also very bad. The supplier of ginger seed generally supplied bad quality and 3 - 4 quintals are supplied to the farmer but they are recorded as the borrower of 5 quintals of ginger seed. Mr Speaker Sir, If we introduce ginger loan to the farmers, let them get Rs.5000/- each and bought the seed by themselves from wherever they wish.

In regard to Food and Civil Supply Department the Hon'ble Minister said that the reason for not finalising the recruitment of new supply inspector is that they have not received acceptance from Finance Department. But, if I am not mistaken, I am aware that two non-mizos who have not faced written examination and personal interview are selected for these posts. If so, it can cause dangerous effect. And, in regard to L.P.G the former Ministry had initiated Gas Bottling Plant near Sairang Village. I request the Hon'ble Minister to take quick step for early completion of this Bottling plant. Thank You. Mr Speaker Sir.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr Speaker Sir, Thank You. First of all, in regard to Demand No. 25, I wish the Government to take initiative step for the establishment of State Library. And, in regard to Demand No.43 which is Rural Development Department, I request the Hon'ble Minister to implement various schemes such as PMGY, SAY. Housing and Habitat Development and other centrally sponsored schemes in Mizoram. So, that we can get more funds in addition to our normal budget. And I would like to ask one question that will the distribution of G.C.I sheet be continued this year ? There is no proposal for this in our budget book.

Next, regarding the appointment of two Supply Inspectors, I opine that the government ignores proper formality, written test and interview organised by the department was meaningless. No result was published but appointment was given to someone. There is something wrong in this regard.

And, Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to mention that the government of Mizoram fixes the rate of lodised salt to be Rs.2.20 per kg. But there is no lodised salt to be bought at this rate. We bought it at the rate of Rs.8/- and Rs.10/- per kg. This clearly shows that many good policies we have to alleviate the poor people cannot reach the poor people. Many BPL families never get their quota from the retailers.

And, in regard to selection of A.A.P families, which means poorest of the poors, there is no transparency in our state. Lastly, I would like to mention about Border Trade. The answer to starred question in this regard was that we have received Rs.1.84 crore from the central government and another Rs.5 crore is still expected. If so, I request the government to use this amount of money in the right place because Border Trade is an important key point for the development of the poor people in Mizoram. Thank You.

COL LALCHUNGUNGA : Mr Speaker Sir, Thank You. I would like to mention about Demand No.16. In this regard I am sorry for the decline in the rate of ginger. At the sametime, it is said that about 100,000 quintal of ginger are still there in Mizoram, now the season has almost over. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to take rapid steps for

quick disposal of such ginger. Otherwise, there can be a heavy burden for the cultivators. Besides, there are about 500 quintals of ginger credited by the buyer at Vairengte godown. I wish quick solution of this problem. And in regard to free distribution of rice to the old age people of above 65 years, the government seems to collect the list from Social Welfare Department. But, I would like to say that MUP (Mizoram Upa Pawl) would be better than Social Welfare Department to make such list.

Next, regarding Demand No. 43, our budget for Rural Development is quite less than last year. Particularly, for JRY, EAS, IAY and PMGY are quite less. As these are the source of development for rural villages we require more fund. Development cannot be done properly in rural areas due to shortage of fund. I wish the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development Department to work harder in this sphere.

Next, in regard to Demand No. 25, I request the Art & Culture Department to organise festivals and other ceremonies to attract more tourists. In this way this departments will require good cooperation with Tourism Department.

Lastly, I would like to mention about L.P.G. connection, the rate of new L.P.G. connection is still Rs.2500/-, this includes the price of Gas Stove. So, I wish the consumers to have freedom to buy Gas Stove from wherever they like. But our normal practice forces the consumer to buy L.P.G. Stove from the agent only. I request the Hon'ble Minister to note this.

Thank you.

Dr LALZAMA : Mr Speaker Sir. Thank you. First of all I would like to say that the rate of ginger, although varies from time to time is quite good enough. I think that the Hon'ble Minister himself would like it to be Rs.30/- or Rs.50/- per K.g. But it might not be possible at all. If we look back some years past, we sold it for Rs.2/- or Rs.3/- per K.g. Therefore, I opine that we ought to have optimistic view. Besides this, we also point out many things on BPL, I am keeping in my mind that our policy should aim at reducing the number of BPL families in our State. In this way we need to try our level best. On the other hand, there is no proposal to construct more community Hall in the Budget of Rural Development Department. Every village wants to have good Community Hall. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister to have such idea in future. At the same time, I am happy to know that many new schemes like PMGY, IAY etc. have been introduced to help the poor families in rural areas. Again, I appreciate the proposal to construct Black-topped road to link almost all villages under the Central Ministry of Rural Development.

Mr Speaker Sir, new DRDA is inaugurated in every district. This would be a new step for our State. Besides, a proposal for establishing State Institute of Rural Development is still going on, which will serve as a training centre for the village people. Besides the above, seven projects under the Integrated Wasteland Development Project is already approved by the Central Government. These Projects targetted the utilisation of more than Rs. 30 crore. All the efforts are made to develop the economic condition of Mizoram.

Lastly, I would like to mention that our main problem on the supply of L.P.G. has been solved in regard to Border Trade with Myanmar, we have received Rs.2 crore from the Central. Therefore, there is much progress and development in Mizoram,

Thank you. Mr Speaker Sir.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr Speaker Sir. Thank you. First of all I would like to mention about Demand No. 16, which is Supply Department. This Department has great financial problem. The Hon'ble Minister, in the question hour said that more than Rs.10/-crores, (Rs.10,64,34,844/-) is still debt by the department for carrying bill. At the same time, the annual budget for this department is only Rs.7 crores. Besides after the formation of this Ministry, Supply Contractors from Chhimtuipui District never get their carrying bill. Therefore, I opine that this department requires more fund.

Next, in regard to the rate of ginger, Rs.10/- per K.g is not good enough because the value of money decreases year by year. Therefore, we need to work harder to increase the rate of ginger. And in regard to food supply for BPL families, I would like to point out what had happened in Lawngtlai A.O.C. veng. The retailer Pu Liangkamlova did not allow his rice to the BPL families with cheaper rate. I request the Hon'ble Minister to note this. Therefore, I propose direct distribution of BPL quota from the Supply godown to the BPL families. Otherwise the poor people will suffer much in this Ministry.

Again, in the southern corner of Mizoram, formerly known as undivided Chhimtuipui District, development work is very poor, only a little development is done under DRDA. Meanwhile, almost all the contract works are done by the relatives of the Hon'ble Ministers. The local people never get contract works. Therefore, I request the Government to favour the local people to do contract works in that district.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr Speaker Sir, thank you. It is very difficult to deliver Demand wise speech, especially in Rural Development Department. Commissionerate is turned into Directorate but the salary of the staff are not fixed properly. Besides many centrally sponsored schemes are kept in the Plan Sector. Is this the normal pattern ?

In regard to Demand No. 35, the rate of ginger greatly falls down after the coalition Government falls. I opine that it is the duty of the Government to solve the problem faced by the ginger growers. Mr Speaker, I wish the ruling Ministry to remember that this Government is not an underground government. So, it should have systematic policies. Ginger Loan policy introduced by the Government seems to be good but practically the seeds of ginger distributed to the Cultivator was very bad. I, myself see many rotten ginger seeds. Therefore, I can say that ginger loan policy would not be successful.

Again, in regard to Rural Development Department, Mr G.K. Pillai, the Joint Secretary, Central Ministry of Home Affairs and the Chief Editor of N.E. News letter reported the achievement of Mizoram under DRDA 'unsatisfactory' among all the States of North Eastern Region. In the beginning of this Session, on the day of General Discussion of the Budget, if I am not mistaken, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that they get a certificate from the Central government showing satisfactory utilisation of central funds. But here in this report, Mizoram has a remark of unsatisfactory. It is difficult to believe in the speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Besides, Mr Chairman, I would like to say that Mizoram receives least fund from the central among the north East States. Sikkim lesser population than Mizoram gets more fund. Therefore, I wish the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development Department to work harder for more funds from the Central Government.

In regard to Food and Civil Supplies Department, we have a large amount of deficit for carrying bill. Mr Chairman, it is good for the Government to take rapid steps to minimize such debt. And in regard to mid-day meal for the School Children, assessment is done on the basis of 1997. Therefore, we require to have up-to-date assessment as the number of pupil increases every year. Lastly, Mr Chairman, I would like to convey my thanks to the Hon'ble Minister of Supply Department for making proposal to construct Store Keeper's quarter at khawlian and Phuaibuang in my constituency.

Thank you.

PU C. SANGZUALA : Mr Chairman, thank you. Today, our speech is generally calm and it is quite pleasant to listen to them. First of all let me mention about the rate of ginger. Although Rs.10/- per K.g. might not be our desire, we are all credited to say thanks to the government for its valuable contribution to sell gingers. We also need to give instruction to the people in this way. Let us try our level best. Secodndly, in regard to Rural Development, the fund allocation for some agencies seems to be less than last year but we see many increment in others. For example,

the budget of PMGY is greatly increased by Rs.114 lakhs. Besides, new DRDA are also inaugurated though financial problem still prevail in our State. On the other hand I request the Hon'ble Minister to describe the reason why there is no budget for construction of Village Community Hall. And in regard to Rural connectivity, I suggest balance development constituency wise. I request the Hon'ble Minister to note down this.

And in regard to Demand No. 45, we see rs. 800/- lakhs for BADP. When I ask about this in more detail, there will be another 400 lakhs in addition to the budget. I appreciate the untiring efforts of the concerned Minister.

In demand No. 12, we see increased budget in every way. Among which, the increment of evaluation and monitoring is too great. It is from Rs.30 lakhs to Rs. 280 lakhs. Is this increment excessive? I request the Hon'ble Minister to describe this. I suggest equal increment as much as possible.

In Demand No. 12, which is Information Department, although their budget is not much they have but great achievements. I praise their performance. Therefore, I ask for more funds for this department so that their performance would be better.

In regard to Demand No. 16, Food & Civil Supplies department. I appreciate the performance of this Department for stocking adequate food stuff. Besides, our main problem on L.P.G. has also been solved due to the efforts of this department.

Lastly, in regard to Art & Culture Department, I congratulate their increase budget. I am also happy to know that this department would take new steps for upgradation of Public Libraries and Heritage Protection. I convey my thanks to the officers and staff of this department as well as the Hon'ble Minister of this department. At the same time I am not satisfied the Publication Board. It seems to be decreasingly by Rs.1.95 lakh. Therefore, I request the concerned Minister to allocate more budget for this, so that its performance would be better.

Thank you.

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr Chairman, Thank you. Let me start from Demand No. 43, which is Rural Development Department. Last year, there was much noise in this August house due to difference in our view when Rural Development was discussed. But now, I would like to say that there is some progress in this department though it does not fulfil all our desires. As said by the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, we are trying to be a constructive opposition. Being a member from rural constituency, we are deeply depending on this department. Now, I am aware that Rs.500/- lakh is in 'K' deposit. I wish to release that amount of money and I request the Hon'ble Leader of the house to note down this. Again I would like to make suggestion that the concerned MLA's be consulted in making proposal to develop rural areas. I think there is a way to utilize the MLA's better. Besides, among the 40 constituencies of Mizoram, my constituency would be one of the most backward constituencies. Many villages are still unapproachable by motor vehicles. Therefore, I ask for special development.

In regard to Demand No. 53, we have listened much from the members, I have not point to praise the Government in its policy on ginger. There is some hidden things behind this policy. Let us be careful in our performance. This ginger policy does not aim at the benefit of the growers.

Mr Chairman, in regard to Food & Civil Supplies, I would like to ask how far has the government taken step to implement central's policy towards free distribution of rice to the old aged persons of above 65 years? In this regard, Social Welfare Department's list might not be correct. Can you entrust MLA's to make list in their respective constituencies.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

PU N.K. CHAKMA : Mr Chairman, Thank you. First of all I would like to speak about Demand No. 43, which is Rural Development Department. As we know, in the last budget session there was a big noise and most of the opposition members walked out while the budget for this department was passed. However, the functioning of this department has not yet been improved. Being a member from a sensitive area, we expect much development from Rural Development Department especially from BADP. Most of the development works are done on contract system in my constituency. It is very regretting to say that the contractors had withdrawn the money without doing the works. After submitting complaints many times the department had not rectified its works. The concerned department as well as the government of Mizoram does not follow the rules and guidelines given by the government of India. Should we blame the concerned Minister? Who will take the responsibility on this? Being an opposition constituency, is my constituency neglected by the State government? Besides, Mr Chairman, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development department to shift some villages under Bunghmun Rural Development Block to Lungsen Rural Development Block for better development.

And in regard to Demand No. 13, Information & Public Relation Department. I request the Hon'ble Minister to make atleast one post for Assisstant Information Officer at Tlabung.

And in regard to Demand No. 16, which is Civil Supply Department. I got a report from Chawilung village that the retailer, after drawing BPL rice from the godown never distributed to the people instead, he sold it in the market at higher rates. I request the Hon'ble Minister to enquire this.

Lastly, in regard to Demand No. 25, Art and Culture Department. During the coalition Ministry, this department organised cultural Programme at Tlabung which is very important for national integration. I request the Hon'ble Minister to organise such programmes regularly for the progress of national integration.

Thank you.

PU J. LAWMZUALA : Mr Speaker Sir, thank you. First of all I would like to mention about Trade & Commerce Department. I am sorry to say that there is fluctuation in the rate of ginger. Now, it is Rs.10/- per K.g and it is not good enough to satisfy our wishes. Therefore, this policy on ginger should not be followed again in the next year. Besides, we heard the news on Border trade and now initiative steps has been taken in the eastern front. In this matter I propose the western side of Mizoram too to make good border trade with Bangladesh. So, I request the government to take rapid action on this front as it had done in the eastern border.

And in regard to water ways, there is mutual coordination between the Government of India and Bangladesh. I wish the Government of Mizoram to play an active role in this matter. And Mr Chairman, the Government of Bangladesh constructed Kaptai Dam for electricity purposes which destroyed a large part of Mizoram. Can not we claim compensation for this?

Next, in regard to Supply Department, 1997 census was based to distribute midday meal to School children. Now the number of pupil still increases. Therefore, I wish to revise this as early as possible. Besides, there is no sanction for transportation charge to carry midday meal rice from the godown. This led to selling of some rice. Is there any way to make proposal to meet carrying expenditure?

Mr Chairman, monsoon season has started now, what is the condition of our stocked food stuff as much as possible before monsoon season has really begun.

Thank you.

PU L.N.TLUANGA : Mr Chairman, I would like to mention two important things only. In Khanpui village, the only two retailers are from MNF Party. They sold their rice at cheaper rate to MNF party member only. They do not allow other parties to buy rice at BPL rate. There is great discrimination among the people.

And, in regard to Rural Development Department, the Vice President of MNF party drew Rs.8000/- to make public water point. He employed two labourers and they worked for one day only. Rs.4000/- was given to them and the remaining Rs.4000/- was distributed among leaders of MNF party. Such thing greatly defame the ruling party. Besides, it is very regretting to say that there is no provision to construct Village Community Hall in our Budget this year. That is all I want to say.

Thank you.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr Chairman, Thank you. First of all I would like to mention about Demand No. 45. As we know that the former Ministry had introduced NLUP. Under this policy, about Rs.2000/- lakh to 3000 lakh had been set aside every year to develop the poor people in rural areas. Besides, S.D.S. was also introduced for the urban people. There was no discrimination. Members from Congress party, MNF party or MPC party were the beneficiaries of these Development policies. But now, the State Ministry has changed and the MNF party banned NLUP and S.D.S. without making any alternatives. This is very bad. Now -a -days, ginger loan is said to be introduced. I opine that it will not be better than NLUP or S.D.S. It is very difficult to understand loan system as a token of our love to the people. The former Congress Ministry could give a money of more than Rs.30,000/- to each family. Why cannot this MNF Ministry give at least Rs.5000/- each ?

And, in regard to Demand No. 45 due to the efforts of the former Chief Minister Pu Lal Thanhawla, the Central Government agreed to release some amount of money for implementing Border Trade with Myanmar and Bangladesh. However, Mr Chairman I would like to say that this MNF Ministry greatly misused BADP fund. All the contract works under this Department are given to the relatives of our Hon'ble Ministers from Aizawl and Lunglei. Therefore, I request the government to revise this policy for better development in the border area.

Next, I would like to mention about the fake bill on Cable Supply for SAD with the involvement of Rs.2,70,00,000/-. The former Ministry had cancelled this fake bill as there was no supply of any cable to the department. But the MNF Ministry revives it and Rs. 1,50,00,000/- would be released in addition to the above amount. I have clear documents to prove it.

And in regard to Supply Department, we have listened from the Hon'ble Minister that there is profit of Rs. 14 crores in the distribution of rice. Such profit can easily be made rising the rate of its selling price. But this may not be good for the poor people. That profit, as said by the Hon'ble Minister really come from the poor people which the former Ministry did not want to apply. So, there is nothing to be proud of. Does not the Government fear God. I want this Ministry to fear God and to love the people.

Thank you. Mr Speaker Sir.

PU Z.H. ROPUIA : Mr Speaker Sir, thank you. Today, I am happy for we can have good atmosphere to discuss our demands. First of all I would like to mention about Demand No. 53, that is Trade and Commerce Department. Due to the efforts of this Department, the rate of ginger is greatly increased. Although we do not achieve our desire it is good enough comparing to the past years. I hope the opposition members would also acknowledge about this.

And in regard to Demand No. 16. I would like to convey my thanks to the Hon'ble Minister of Supply Department for sufficient supply of rice and cooking Gas. Due to his untiring efforts, many problems which we had faced in the past have been solved this year, especially the availability of cooking gas greatly help in the conservation of forests.

And in regard to Demand No. 25, which is Art & Culture Department. As we know that new offices would be opened in Lunglei and Chhimtuipui Districts. However, the staff in Lunglei are quite few and they need to draw their salaries from Aizawl and they need to get all their T.A. and Leave permit from Aizawl. Therefore, I suggest more staff with higher power.

And in regard to Demand No. 43, Rural Development Department. We had a noisy discussion last year during the discussion period of this Department. But now, we have great progress and business is quite smooth. This Department concerns with every coner of the rural areas. Therefore, problem might be there easily. This year, there is a good news on Rural connectivity Policy under Rural Development Department. It is a good thing for all of us and especially for the members from rural constituencies. In this policy, as said by the Hon'ble member from Buarpu constituency, I also hope much more fund as my constituency is one of the most backward constituencies in Mizoram. And in regard to Social Education I opine that the proposed budget seems to be less. Therefore, I suggest more fund if possible in the Revised Estimate.

Lastly, in regard to NLUP which is mentioned by one of our members, many villages had been covered by this policy in my constituency also but no succesful results. Therefore, I praise this Ministry for stopping such bad scheme. Its alternative will be introduced soon which is now still under thinking. Let us expect better policy than NLUP soon.

Thank you.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr Speaker Sir, thank you. First of all I would like to mention about Rural Development Department. As said by the Hon'ble member from Saiha constituency, all development works are done under contract system and which are given to the relatives of the Hon'ble Minister from Aizawl and Lunglei. There is no contract works for the local people in my constituency. This clearly shows that MNF Ministry does not care the southern corner of Mizoram. Besides, in regard to the utilisation of IAY fund there is great discrimination on the basis of party. The beneficiaries of IAY in my constituency are from MNF party only. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister to enquire this.

Next, I would like to mention about Supply Department also, Now, monsoon season has to come soon but rice stock is not sufficient in my constituency. Therefore, Supply Department should take rapid steps to stock food stuff as much as possible before this coming monsoon season.

Again, I would like to repeat what I had said some days ago. There is Kawlchawlui between M.Lataw and Kawlchaw village and there is no bridge across this river. Therefore, I beg for construction of atleast temporary godown at M.Lataw. In this way Phura, Tongkolong and Vahai villages can get rice during monsoon period. And, Mr Speaker Sir, it is said that the Supply godown at Kawlchaw "E" and Maubawk are to be shifted. Is this the fact? If supply godowns are shifted to other places, I would like to warn this House that the local people will organise mass demonstration against this plan. So, I request the Hon'ble Minister to keep these godowns remain at their same places.

And one important thing which I got from a faithful person is that supply Department has cut off 10% of the carrying bill from the contractors. The reason as said by the Supply Department is that 10% of the carrying bill is spent to bribe the staff of Finance Department. If this is true, it will really be a big corruption. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether he knows about this? Therefore, I request him to enquire this as soon as possible. Thank You. Mr Speaker.

PU F.LALTHANZUALA : Mr Speaker Sir. Thank You. First of all I would like to express my thanks to the Hon'ble Minister of Supply Department for constructing supply godown for very remote villages of Khawhri, Aithur and Tarpho in my constituency. Before the construction of that supply godown these three villages bought their supply quota from the retailers of Hnahthial which is about 26 Kms for. But today, the traditional problem of these three villages has been solved. Therefore, I, on behalf of the people of these villages convey my thanks the hon'ble Minister, Pu Aichhinga.

Secondly, I was the Chairman of MAMCO for sometime and I am still interest in the affairs of this corporation. We know that, the rate of ginger was Rs.11/- per kg. While we are expecting higher rate in future the rate now goes to Rs.10/- per kg. Can the concerned Minister tell me the reason for this ?

And, in regard to Rural Development Department, I would like to mention that there are many developmental works under this Department and I do not mind whether the contractors are from ruling party or not. What I rather care about is the quality of the work. I wish every work to be in good quality. Otherwise, we can sow the seed of unfaithfulness in the minds of the people which will have bad effects in future. Let us work together to reform the moral of the people.

Thank you.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, thank you. Today, our demands are very important as they concern the livelihood of every important to upgrade the living standard of the rural people. First of all, I would like to mention about the demands from Rural Development Department. Here we see Secretariat Administration. In this regard there are some staff like LDC, Driver, etc. who work under Muster Roll basis. Some of them are too old to search for another jod. Therefore, I wish them to give special consideration to regularise them in their services.

In reagrd to Rural Development , there are many good projects and policies from the Central Government to upgrade the living standard of the rural people, and proper guidelines are also made for the implementation of such policies. But, I opine that the Government of Mizoram never pay attention to such guidelines. For example, the development works like construction of intervillage roads, School building, etc. are generally done with bad quality. We have no great things to be inherited by the younger generations. Therefore, I suggest this Ministry to be careful in the way Central fund is used. Otherwise, the victims will be no other communities. They will be our youngones. Misuse of Development funds from the Central Government needs to be stopped from now on. If we use our funds to favour the ruling party members only, it will bring moral corruption and the valuable schemes made by the Central Government will not bear fruit.

In regard to Demand No. 16, which is Civil Supply Department. India is self-sufficient in food stuff. The Finance Minister of India in his budget speech said that there will be alteration in the policy of the Central Government. This means that the Central subsidy in the transportation of food-stuff should be reduced. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Food & Civil Supplies Department to make schemes carefully to suit such alteration policy of the Central Government. And now, some of our debts for carriage bill has been paid from the peace bonus. As said by some of our members I wish the small contractors to be favoured first.

And, in regard to Trade & Commerce Department, we are preparing two points for border trade at Zokhawthar and Tlabung. The steps taken by the government of Mizoram at Zokhawthar point is good enough but I opine that Tlabung is more important than Zokhawthar. Because Tlabung will be a centre to sell our agricultural products such as ginger etc. Therefore, I wish the Government to take more progressive steps for Tlabung trade point. Lastly,

in regard to the rate of ginger, we are expecting higher rates in the month of April and May. But now, the rate goes down to Rs.10/- per K.g. Besides this, the new contractor is appointed without depositing security to the government. From my point of view, there is some hidden thing behind this. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister to realize the sufferings of the poor ginger growers and to take better steps for this benefits.

Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

PU SANGHMINGTHANGA H.PAUTU : Mr Speaker Sir, Thank you. Today I would like to express my thanks to the opposition members for observing parliamentary etiquette in their speech and behaviours. Regarding our business for today, I have many things to point out. Let me start from Rural Development Department. This Department makes much achievements, five new DRDA has been inaugurated and new Districts in Mizoram has separate DRDA. The Central Government also allows Mizoram to establish SIRD (State Institute of Rural Development) for the rural people to get training on their favourite trades. All these projects are to be financed by the Central Government. Besides the above, we can get seven projects which will amount to Rs. 30 crores under IRDP.

And, in regard to BADP, during the period of the Congress Ministry we got about Rs.5 crores to 6 crores every year. But due to the hardwork of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development we have received Rs.13.20 crore this year. Besides, Mizoram is among the four States who get rewards from the Central Ministry of Rural Development. Our additional fund in this reward is Rs.4 crores. For all these reasons, I would like to express my thanks to the Hon'ble Minister and the staff of Rural Development Department.

And in regard to Social Education, I opine that our budget is quite less. So, I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to arrange more fund in the Revised Estimates. Because, there are many on going projects like construction of Community Hall in many villages.

And in regard to Food & Civil Supplies Department, I appreciate the hard working efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Minister of this Department. Due to their efforts cooking gas is easily available in every street in Aizawl. And Food stuff is also stocked in every godown, the flying challan, which was very popular during the former Ministry has been stopped now.

Lastly, in regard to Information and Public Relation Department I am proud of their performance though their budget seems to be less.

Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

S P E A K E R : Now, we will call upon Dr R.Lalthangliana, Minister to have a wind-up speech and let him beg leave of the House to pass this demands.

Dr R.LALTHANGLIANA : Mr Speaker Sir, Thank you, Today I get many valuable suggestions on my Departments from the Hon'ble Members. Therefore, I would like to convey my thanks to all those who deliver speech on my demands. First of all let me mention about Demand.No. 30, which is Information & Public Relation Department. We try our level best to make rapid improvement in this demand. One of our objectives is to make good cooperation between the Central Media and the State Media. Now, Mizoram has 96 Accredited Journalists which is much higher than our neighbouring States in North East India. And, regarding the rate of advertisement, the former Minister, Pu F.Malsawma worked very hard to increase the rate of advertisement. Besides, Auditorium and Conference Hall are being under construction to held Press conference and other necessary assemblies. The Conference Hall is expected to be completed during this year.

Mr Speaker Sir, Multi-media Publicity campaign will also be organised in Aizawl and other places in Mizoram where delegates from the Central Ministry of Information & Broadcasting are expected to join us.

And in regard to publicity, we have a news bulletin called 'Zoram Thlirna'. Besides, we also made other useful items such as brochure, booklet, calendar and Diary. There is also a proposal to buy new Video Camera which is very important to cover the tour of VIPs and VVIPs. And if I am not mistaken, it seems that Mizoram is the only State in India to give live coverage of Assembly Session. We also organised Press Tour for the journalists to visit other States. Press Tour seems to be very important and we try to organise it again as frequently as possible. There is a proposal to provide better facilities to the accredited journalists.

In regard to the speech of the Hon'ble Member from Tlabung constituency. I cannot promise to establish Information Office at Tlabung, but I know its importance and I will remember this.

And in regard to Demand No.12, SAD. I also want to regularise many Drivers and LDC's who have been working for many years under Muster Roll System. But, not only Mizoram, the whole India faces financial problems so, we cannot fill up all our vacant posts. Meanwhile, we try our level best and the Finance Department and DP & AR have allowed 5 driver posts to be filled up. And Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not know about the fake bill with an involvement of about Rs.3 crore which is pointed out by one of the hon'ble Members. Anyway, let his speech be a source of information.

Regarding the vehicles and their maintainances, we try our best to minimize our expenditure. S.A.D provides 19 vehicles to the VIP's such as Ministers, etc. and another 32 vehicles are also provided to high officials like commissioners, Secretaries, etc. Besides, we still have 17 pool vehicles. We also made strict control on POL ceiling. Ambassador car is provided to consume 55 litres of petrol and 45 litres to Maruti Gypsy per month.

And Mr Speaker Sir. In regard to Rural Housing, there is a new scheme known as PMGY (Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana) introduced by the Central Government. The fund allocated for Mizoram under this scheme during the last financial year was Rs.6.06 crore. This scheme aims at the construction of houses for the poor people. Here, Rs.22000/- each should be given to build one house. Therefore, we have proposal to build 2098 new houses under this scheme. Besides this, Rs.10000/- each is also proposed to repair one house. We hope that Rs.10000/- each should be given to 1149 families. In this regard, many hon'ble members asked me whether we will distribute G.C.I. Sheets or not. In my opinion, we should not distribute G.C.I. sheets but we will better give amount of money to the poor people under PMGY scheme. And, as mentioned by the hon'ble leader of opposition, we should be very careful to select the beneficiaries of this scheme.

And, one thing which I would like to mention is that we have fund from Rural Development to buy Portable Chulha, which is a kind of wooden stove to be fed with less fire wood but produces high voltage of heat. Such Portable Chulha is proposed to be distributed to the people. I hope that we can buy 4694 portable chulha during this year.

And in regard to NLUP the decision of the Cabinet Meeting was not to take up new blocks under NLUP other than those blocks already covered during the previous Ministry. It was also decided that allotment of fund will be done where needed for completion of the project which term ends this year i.e. 2000-20001. All the beneficiaries of NLUP are 54853 families and the total expenditure is Rs. 184 crores to 190 crores. Therefore, the request of the Hon'ble Member from Ngopa constituency cannot be implemented. And I would like to say that due to the efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister new project will be introduced to replace NLUP. That project was made as we get suggestion from the Central Ministry of Rural Development

And, in regard to Social Education, we cannot have fund from the central Government. Therefore, we cannot continue construction of Community Hall. I request each member to understand this. And we have listened too much about BADP. This is a Plan Scheme with 100% centrally Assistance. There are rigid criteria for this programme, which are : (1) the length of the border line, (2) the population of the Block along the border, (3) the area of the bordering block. For our information, Mizoram has an International border of 404 Kms with Myanmar and 318 KMs with Bangladesh. And in regard to population, the eastern border area has about two lakh population and the western border area has about one lakh population. Besides, the number of Rural Development Block in the eastern corner of Mizoram is much more than the western side. Therefore, the fund allocation for the eastern side is greater than the western side under B.A.D.P. I would like to inform this House that we cannot make projects as much as our desire, we need to follow the central guidelines.

The State Government is authorised to appoint any department for executing agency of B.A.D.P. Therefore, many departments are used for executing agencies (Pu Nirupam Chakma : Mr Speaker Sir, I request points of clarification on the appointment of Supervisor during 2000-2001) Mr Speaker Sir, we have power to appoint contractors. B.A.D.P. is different from E.A.S. Therefore, the state government has a vast power to appoint the executing agency, the contractors and the supervisors. In Mizoram, we have State level Committee on B.A.D.P. which is known as screening Committee. Chief Secretary is the Chairman of this Committee and various departments have representatives. This committee is responsible to make work schedules.

In regard to allotment of funds, there are two instalments. First Instalment is generally released in May - June and second instalment in October. However, there can be some problems in the government which affects to delay the functions of the Committee. Anyhow careful measures are taken to avoid such problems. And, as mentioned by the hon'ble Member Pu Sanghingthanga, we have to receive Rs.4 crore in addition to our normal fund for BADP, which is a reward won by four states only due to good spending of our early funds. Therefore, we are very lucky this year.

Mr Speaker Sir, the Union Ministry of Rural Development introduced new programme known as IWDP (Integrated Wasteland Development Programme). As I had mentioned in the question hour, 7 projects have been approved from Mizoram which will cost Rs.30.80 crore. Under this new scheme, District Level Wasteland Development Committee is needed to form and now proposal is still going on for this purpose. This IWDP can cover full development on agriculture, Soil conservation, forest conservation, Horticulture, Construction of roads, etc. Therefore, it is very important. Now, IWDP has been started first in Rangvamlal and its surrounding villages where training is given to the farmers by the Rural Development Department and Agriculture Department. All the fund under this programme should be 100% central assistance and no need to make matching share from the State Government. D.R.D.A would be the nodal department for this programme and now we have received Rs.2,30,41,800 (Rupees two crore thirty lakh, forty one thousand eight hundred) only to initiate our projects.

Next, in regard to Rural connectivity, I would like to say that it is a development programme under the PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Savak Yojana) to make all weather roads for the communication between the capital and rural villages. As we get suggestion from the Central Government, we made and submitted a huge project costing Rs.1730 crore to the Ministry of Rural Development in the month of June this year. Later on, the Prime Minister of India, in his Independence Day speech made official announcement of this programme. The main objective of this programme is poverty reduction and 250000 KMs long metalled road is proposed to be constructed under this new programme. The programme also aimed at construction of all weather road for the villages with a population of more than 1000 before 2003 and further, villages with a population of more than 500 before 2007. In Mizoram, we are given special consideration to include villages with a population of more than 250 under this programme. IWDP is a timebound programme. So, our projects are expected to be completed during 9-12 months. no revised estimate is allowed and no liabilities is entertained under this programme. Internal and external audit should be needed regularly. This programme is launched to minimize PBL families all over the country. There is clear guidelines, according to which state level screening committee is formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. Besides.

Programme Implementing Unit (PIU) is also to be created in every district. Fund should be given to released to PIU. The state government is authorised to appoint the executing agency. The Executing Agency should have Quality Control Unit (QCU) to invigilate the work quality.

Mr Speaker Sir, as said by the hon'ble member from Suangpuilawn Constituency, I also want to receive much more fund from the Central Government. But, most of the Central Rural Development funds require State matching share of 25% (N.K.Chakma : Mr Speaker Sir, there are some villages such as Mauzam, Murder and Puankhai under Bunghmun Block. Is there any possibility to shift all those villages under Lungsen Block ?). Anyway, we try our level best to win the Central Government to release more funds for Mizoram. Besides, according to our census report, the rural population is less in Mizoram than our neighbouring states, Inspite of this, we ask for Special Consideration and we hope a bright future, but it is difficult to give assurance in this House. (PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister has guidelines for PMGY, can he distribute the copy of that guidelines to the members. besides, I have mentioned in the morning that there is no proper functioning from the block level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee. Can he promise proper functioning) Mr Speaker Sir, I will try my best for the proper functioning of that committee and I will circulate the copy of the guidelines mentioned by the hon'ble member, Pu Nirupam Chakma during this session. I also appreciate better cooperation from the member as said by some of our members. Mr Speaker Sir, I beg leave of the House to pass my demands.

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| (1) | Demand No.12, (Secretariat Administration except Parliamentary Affairs) | - | Rs. 25,25,28,000/- |
| (2) | Demand No. 30, (Information and Public Relation Department) | - | Rs. 3,00,50,000/- |
| (3) | Demand No. 43, (Rural Development Department - | - | Rs. 19,88,50,000/- |
| (4) | Demand No.45,(Other Special are Development | - | Rs. 8,00,00,000/- |
| | TOTAL | - | Rs. 56,14,28,000/- |

SPEAKER : Now we have listened the explanatory speech from Dr.R.Lalthangliana, Minister on his demands and he also begged leave of the House to pass will say 'yes' and those who disagree will say 'no'. Yes, the demands of Dr.R.Lalthangliana, Minister, has been passed by this House unanimously.

DR.R.LALTHANGLIANA : Mr Speaker Sir. Thank You.
MINISTER.

SPEAKER : Now, let us call upon Pu Aichhinga, Minister to have wind up speech on his demands and let him beg leave of the House to pass his demands.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr Speaker Sir, Thank You. First of all I
MINISTER would like to convey my thanks to members who render valuable advice on my departments. However, I do not deny that I am not a perfect man and I think there may be some undesirable happenings in my performance. So, I noted down good suggestions and advice from the hon'ble members and I believe that they will be guide in my future. I will try my level best for the betterment of my departments.

Today, I would like to say that I have enquired the allegation of Supply Department regarding 10% cut from the Bill of Supply carrying contractors, no guilty found till today. If this really happened in this department, I request every member to give me better information, so that necessary actions can be taken. And in regard to carrying bill, we have two types of routes - (1) Main route and (2) District route also known as Directorate route. Food

Corporation of India is responsible for the Main Route and when they released funds for the main route, the contractors could get their carrying bills. But District Route is under the State Government and as we know that liabilities on carrying bills have been accumulated since 1996. Our budget for this department is only Rs.3.26 crore last year while we required more than Rs.7 crore. In spite of this, due to the hard working of the hon'ble Chief Minister we can reduce our liabilities from the peace bonus. Anyhow, we are searching for every possible way to clear our debts. But it is difficult to do it at once. In regard to the problem faced by Saiha and other Southern Districts as mentioned by the hon'ble member from Saiha constituency I will remember their problems.

Regarding the supply of Mid-day-meal to the school children. I would like to say that Supply Department is the distributing agency only and Education Department is more important to give information to the central government to increase our share. And regarding compulsory buying of LPG Stove from the Agents, people are free to buy LPG stove from wherever they like. Action will be taken if it happens again.

From the speech of the hon'ble members, we know that we all want to stock food stuff as much as possible before the coming of Monsoon season. But we cannot get sufficient money to fulfill our desires. Besides, we have selected 26 centres to stock food stuff for monsoon season because other centres are not communicable during the monsoon period. So, we still work every hard to have food stock in these 26 centres and we hope that we can complete this work before this monsoon season due to the hard working of the staff of this Department.

Next, in regard to BPL families, in the past years, but the central Government gives us chance to select poorest of the poor families, under which 10500 families are added to the existing BPL families. So, there are more than 70,000 families to get benefits from the BPL families as mentioned by some members. But, generally, I opine that our selection is good enough. Ration Card is also made for them and they will get it soon. Besides, we also take steps for Boarding Schools, Hostels and various Homes to get BPL quota. And in regard to distribution of sugar to the public, our performance is good enough and we still ask the central government to issue more sugar for our state and I hope positive results in future.

And, regarding POL, although we cannot have sufficient supply of petroleum products, we have no great problems on scarcity of petrol and diesel. Besides, we try our level best to stop adulteration of petrol and black marketing of petrol. And in regard to LPG, due to hard working of the Hon'ble Chief Minister most of our problems have been solved. Steps are also being taken to make bottling plant within our State. The construction can be started soon.

As I had said last year weight Bridges have been installed in five places and we will install in other PDCs.

PU C. THANCHLUNA : Mr Speaker Sir, the weight Bridge said by him are not good enough, there is great shortage, so, they need to repair.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr Speaker Sir, our weight bridges are installed by a reliable company, they are ready to repair any damage
MINISTER some day ago, they came and checked the weight bridges at Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Serchhip and Aizawl. They are always ready to respond any complaint. Any way, it is a new instrument. So, we also need to have training to operate them. And, the Central Government will give us W.T. frequency to used in various Supply centres. Installation should be completed within six months.

During the last financial year, Supply Department built 70 buildings for staff quarters, godowns etc. Among which 4 big godowns under the C.S.S. are included. C.S.S. fund can be expected again according to our Progress Report. Therefore, I hope that another fund

would come soon from C.S.S. for constructing more Godowns. And in regard to administration, we have new DCSO's office at Champhai and proposal is still going on to inaugurate DCSO's office in every district.

Regarding the profit made by this Department, the amount of money drawn from the budget is less than the amount of money that we submitted to the State Revenue during the last financial year. The total profit amounted to more than Rs.17 crore. Further, we hope that about Rs.2 crore would be again collected during this year. In spite of this, our balance sheet, which have been accumulated since many years cannot be cleared at once. But, making profits is a great achievement due to the hardworking efforts of the officers and staff of Supply Department. So, I am proud of them.

In regard to Trade & Commerce Department, most of the members mentioned about the rate of ginger. However, I would like to say that the rate of ginger during the previous ministry was generally Rs.3/- or Rs.2/- per Kg. Sometimes, it was Rs.1.50 per Kg. Besides, I think we still remember that many ginger had decayed. Therefore, this Ministry, from the beginning tries its level best to raise the rate of ginger and we called tender from the contractors. In spite of this, we do not deny the our policy on ginger might not be the best one and we should not be the wisest leaders. But, we try our best and we see our achievements. Generally, the rate of ginger, during this ministry, never goes down below Rs.10/- per Kg. My desire is higher rate than this, but there are many problems in this regard.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr Speaker Sir, some days ago, before the closing of ginger gate some traders could sell their ginger at the rate of Rs.14.50 per Kg. In Assam State. But the government of Mizoram closed the gate and there was no way to carry ginger to other States. And now, it seems that the Government would appoint new contractor. Does he bid the tender too ? Or do the former contractors agree to buy ginger at the rate of Rs.10/- per Kg ? Does the new contractor have security deposit of Rs.20 lakhs ?

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Mr Speaker Sir, I do not involve in the selling of ginger between the contractor and the private traders. And in regard to appointment of new contractor, there is no proposal to appoint the new contractor. We rather send someone to other States to search for better ginger rates. Therefore, there is no need to have security deposit as we have not plan to appoint new contractor. In this regard, I invite the Hon'ble members to cooperate us for the betterment of our ginger policy. If anyone knows better rates, I ask for his advice.

Mr Speaker Sir, in regard to Border Trade, progressive steps are still taken, most of our problems with Myanmar have been solved now and Rs.2 crore is sanctioned from the Central Government. While we want Mizoram PWD to construct Trade centre. The Central Ministry of Commerce appoints BRTF for this purpose. Now, BRTF camps have been set up there. And in regard to Border Trade with Bangladesh, we select the trade centre there which requires approval from the Government of India and Government of Bangladesh. It will be discussed in the first coming quarterly meet between the Government of India and Bangladesh. Therefore, quick initiativestep cannot be taken to start construction work for Trade Centre. Anyhow, we have to get Rs.2.42 crore and from which Rs.1.33 crore have already been sanctioned. Thus we hope that necessary work can be started soon.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to point out the other performance of Trade & Commerce Department. We subsidised Ginger dryer machine to those who want to buy this machine. The actual price is Rs.17,000/- but after subsidised , they can buy it for Rs.2000/- only. We also take steps to improve inter-State trade, we still search for way to sell Tung oil. Besides, after we had taken over market management, we notify the area of the market for better management and now three markets such as Aizawl New Market, Vaivakawn Market and Bawngkawn

have been completed. Proposal for other Markets in Mizoram is now still going on. Market management is also proposed to be privatised. Now, disposal of garbage is done by private auction bidders.

Next, in regard to Art & Culture Department, I was not so familiar with it as I am a new Minister for this department. So, I have many things to study. But, the main objective of this department is to preserve our culture and identity. We try to utilize YMA and other Youth Organisations in this regard.

We have formed Language Board to feed the Publication Board in its performance to spread and preserve our folk tales. But due to the shortage of staff, it is difficult to achieve our goal. Museum is also established but we have no Museum Guide. There are many works to be done by the Tribal Research wing. The main problem faced by this department is the shortage of staff. There is Archive Wing under this department, this wing collected the old records. All departments of Mizoram State are expected to submit their old documents to the Archive Wing, however, we have not received such old documents from any Departments.

There are many things to mention, the building of our Museum is too small and bad, now we are searching for better side. The State Library has been without its own building. Besides, as said by some members, renovation of Vanapa Hall is greatly needed but there is no fund for this purpose. And, in regard to Legal Metrology, now member has mentioned about this Department. There are only six Inspectors in this department and shortage of staff is our main problem. It is needed to enlarge this department as there are many works to be done.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg leave of the House to pass my demands :

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| (1) | Demand No.16 Civil Supplies | - | Rs.83,12,75,000/- |
| (2) | Demand No. 25 Art & Culture Department | - | Rs.3,51,15,000/- |
| (3) | Demand No. 53 Other General Economic Services. | - | Rs.3,14,40,000/- |
| | TOTAL | - | Rs.89,78,30,000/- |

S P E A K E R : Now, we have listened the wind-up speech from Pu Aichhinga, Minister, and he begs leave of the House to pass his demands. Those who agree to pass will say 'Yes' and those who disagree will say 'No'. Yes, Pu Aichhinga's demands are passed unanimously.

P U A I C H H I N G A : Mr Speaker Sir, thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, we have finished our business for today. Meeting will be resumed on 17.4.2001 at 10:30 A.M. Session adjourned (7:00 P.M.)