

**SECOND SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2001**

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

**PRESENT**

Pu R. Lalawia, Speaker, at the Chair, Chief Minister, 14 Ministers and 23 Members were present.

**QUESTION**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF MEMBER**

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

**PANEL OF CHAIRMAN**

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

**PRESENTATION OF REPORT**

4. The Speaker to report to the House the time table as chalked out by the Business Advisory Committee for the current session.

**LAYING OF PAPERS**

5. PU TAWNLUIA to lay on the Table a copy of the 9th Annual Report of the Mizoram Public Service Commission for the year 1999 - 2000.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

**BILL FOR INTRODUCTION**

6. PU TAWNLUIA to beg Leave of the House to introduce the Mizoram Water Tariff (Amendment) Bill 2001.

also  
to introduce the Bill.

**S P E A K E R** : Yea, let none that wait for thee be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Psalms 25 : 3

We shall take up questions, Starred Question No. 1 is asked by Pu Vanlalhlana and Pu J. Lalthangliana, I shall call upon one of them.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, starred question no. 1 is -

Will the hon'ble Minister incharge Food and Civil Supply Department be pleased to state -

- (a) Is Mizoram practising Antyodaya Anna Yojna, a project for poorest of the poor to purchase rice at the rate of Rs. 3/- per kg. ?
- (b) How the poorest of the poor families are chosen/selected.
- (c) Who select them.
- (d) Had the poorest of the poor families to purchase rice at cheaper rate under Antyodaya Anna Yojna Scheme been already selected.
- (e) When will these people get rice at a cheaper rate.
- (f) Had Antyodaya Ration Card been prepared.

S P E A K E R : I now call upon Pu Aichhinga, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies to answer.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question no. 1 is-  
MINISTER

- (a) Government of Mizoram had made proposal for this scheme. They will be given rice at Rs. 3 per kilo as soon as we receive sanction from Central Government.
- (b) This scheme is for the under privileged section/poorest of the poor. They are choosen/selected from BPL.
- (c) Staff from Food and Civil Supply Department particularly centre incharge do the selection in consultation with the concern VC and YMA.
- (d) The underprivileged families to purchase rice at a cheaper rate under Antyodaya Anna Yojna Scheme had already been selected.
- (e) Beneficiaries for this scheme had already been selected/chosen, and they can buy rice at a cheaper rate as soon as Government of India issued sanction.
- (f) Antyodaya Anna Yojna Ration Card had already been prepared.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question. Central Government used to make various scheme to uplift poorer section of the people. BPL Scheme had been introduced since 1997 and in Mizoram 53000 families should be selected to get rice at half of the price. But for 3 years this had been withheld. In the same manner, the hon'ble Prime Minister announced Antyodaya Anna Yojna Scheme on 25th December last year. According to which Mizoram had to select 10500 families from BPL families and these families shall get 25 kgs of rice in a month by Rs. 3/- per kg. This guideline is given to all members and it should be notified as much as possible. The hon'ble Minister had said that everything had been completed in this regard. From the copy of the sample survey, it can be seen that there are some families who are not in the BPL list. I would like to know whether correction will be made. Secondly, there is proper guideline so that poorest of the poor can be selected but it seems we do not follow the guideline and as a result not even the poorest of poor are included. So will it be good to re-select by

calling public meeting with VC and YMAS. Thirdly, there is Anna Purna Yojna under this very scheme according to which old persons above 65 age should be selected to receive 10 kgs of ration. Did the Government select such people?

Last but not the least, there is also a scheme to give rice at half price to NGOs like Orphan Home, Rehabilitation Centres etc. I would like to know whether there is any intention to give rice at half price to such NGOs.

PU J. LAWMZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the objective of AAY is to ensure food security for all and make India hunger free. In the guideline, it is clearly written that it should be widely published. I would like to know how did Food and Civil Supplies Department publish about this. I would also like to know the exact number of poorest of the poor families selected.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question. The success of this good scheme depends on fair selection of those who really deserve, which is clearly written in the instruction. About 10500 beneficiaries are to be selected from BPL. But some of the selected beneficiaries are not from BPL list. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether this matter will be reviewed. I also would like to explain how the beneficiaries are selected. Thirdly, I also would like to know as to why there is no adequate rice for BPL families. It seems that sometimes supply of rice finished before BPL families could make a purchase.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it seems the hon'ble Minister had wrong information in his answer to questions b & c. In my constituent villages where there are non MNF VC, the beneficiaries were selected by the public under the supervision of VC. But these were rejected and the MNF Unit make Selection which was accepted. Is the hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the selection made by the MNF Unit are not poorest of the poor.

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as pointed out by hon'ble Members the guidelines of AAY is received by all Members. It is written in the guideline that 'the tentative list may be read out in the meeting of the gram sabha'. The hon'ble Minister said the list had already been prepared. If so I would like to know whether the list had been read out in the public meeting. I think it is not read out in any village. If it is to be reviewed/re-selected, will it be read out in the public meeting?

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, one of the hon'ble Members pointed out about BPL. When the MNF Ministry was formed, a list had been prepared and rice had been issued in arrear according to the list. Though it had not been given from the very beginning they got what they are supposed to get by now.

The policy of poorest of the poor is for 10500 families in Mizoram. Though it was announced by Prime Minister in December, we received the notification only in February, we tried to complete the list by 15th February but we could complete it only at the end of February. Mention had been made that for poorest of the poor, selection

had been made from outside BPL list. Truly speaking selection can not be made by public. We have to accept the selection made by the staff of Food & Supplies Department in consultation with their respective VC & YMA in every Supply Centre, we do not feel the need to have other agency beyond this.

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the guideline says public should select the beneficiaries. Will it be good to go against the guideline.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if it is to be selected in a public  
MINISTER meeting, classification of poorest of the poor will be quite different. As only 10500 families should be selected, all BPL families could not be included. So

we instructed the staff to select from BPL list the most underprivileged families and also to invite VCs and YMAs to help them. There is no secrecy in the selection of the beneficiaries for this scheme.

There was a question about Anna Purna Yojna which is not under this scheme. It is from Central Rural Development Department. As Social Welfare Department has proper registration of old aged we referred it to Social Welfare Department and we selected from their list. In regard to the question about supply of rice by half price to various Homes we are planning to implement this.

It was mentioned that there was no publicity in the selection but we feel that to consult VCs and YMAs is a good publicity. If there is any one selected not from BPL list the matter will be looked in to. The hon'ble Member from Tlungvel Constituency had pointed out that the list made by MNF Unit are accepted instead of the list of YMA and VC. Though there is no party feeling in this matter, I shall verify whether it is true or false. When we publish the list it will be clear as it will be read out in public meeting.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, my question about inadequate supply of rice for BPL had not been answered. Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state -

PU ZH ROPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I did not have the guideline. I am confused as to how the hon'ble Members from Lungpho and Suangpuilawn constituencies translated the guideline. Can you kindly tell me the correct one.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, whether MLAs could be provided with the guideline issued by State Government. I would like to know why the MLAs are kept in the dark, why have not we been issued or supplied the guideline by transparent Government. While the Central Minister could send us the guideline what does this State Government do here? We are being kept in the dark. Is it the function of transparent Government? Is it the fact that the selection procedure is very unfair. We know our respective constituencies clearly but if the Minister wants to defend himself here on the Department, it is up to him. But we know that the procedure is not fair enough. I would like to know whether the Government will review the list already prepared.

COL. LALCHUNGUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as the old aged list of Social Welfare

Department does not include all persons above 65 years of age, it is not fair enough to use the list of Social Welfare Department as a base for allotment of free ration to old aged. I, therefore, would like to ask whether this can be reviewed.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question. Can the hon'ble Minister tell how did they select the beneficiaries of 10500 families. Is it District wise or otherwise? Secondly, if I am not mistaken, only 3 families had been selected from Chhimtuipui District for Anna Purna Yojna and I would like to know whether it is true or false? Thirdly, as this scheme is not meant for a political party can the selection be made from the poorest of the poor?

S P E A K E R : Now I call upon Pu Aichhinga, to answer and we shall go to the next number.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in regard to the question asked by MINISTER Pu Vanlahlana, ration for BPL families had been issued in full but the Government knew that there are some retailers who used to tamper it and investigation had been done in this regard and necessary action is being taken. It is the desire of the Government to give full ration to the BPL families and it will be quite pleasing if you could inform such misdeed.

In regard to collection of old aged list from Social Welfare Department, we just did it as we got information from the Central. While Social Welfare Department gave us a list of 1000 old aged persons the amount sanctioned can cover 1400 persons only and this matter has to be settled yet. Truly speaking, we asked Social Welfare Department to give a list who do not get old aged pension, but we have to accept the list they provided.

Regarding the question asked by the hon'ble Member Pu Zakhu, Selection of the poorest of the poor from Aizawl West DCSO is 2500, from Aizawl East DCSO 2000, from Champhai DCSO 2000, from Saiha DCSO 2000 and from Lunglei DCSO 2000 total 105000. But I do not know that only 3 were selected from Chhimtuipui. The matter of Anna Purna will be looked into. I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that there is no party feeling in the selection, though ruling party may try to include their Members we do not entertain such thing.

S P E A K E R : Now I call upon Pu KT Rokhaw to ask Starred question no. 2.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, starred question no. 2.

Will the hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Department be pleased to state -

The amount of fund sanctioned to the following 5 Agriculture Districts- Kolasib, Aizawl W, Aizawl E, Lunglei and Chhimtuipui for land development and construction of Link Road during 2000 - 2001.

SPEAKER : I will call upon Pu C. Lalrinsanga, Minister for Agriculture to answer.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for starred question no. 2.  
MINISTER

The amount of fund sanctioned for land development and construction of Link Road to 5 Agriculture District during 2000 - 2001 is as follows -

Sl. No.	Name of District	Land Development by		Link Road
		Manual Labour	Machinery	
1.	Aizawl East	Rs. 33,50,000/-	Rs. 23,17,000/-	Rs. 6,97,000/-
2.	Aizawl West	Rs. 2,85,000/-	Nil	Rs. 60,000/-
3.	Lunglei	Rs. 15,00,000/-	Nil	Rs. 1,46,700/-
4.	Kolasib	Rs. 10,65,000/-	Nil	Rs. 18,07,500/-
5.	Saiha	Rs. 3,70,000/-	Nil	Nil
	Total	Rs. 65,70,000/-	Rs. 23,17,000/-	Rs. 27,11,2000/-

PU J. LAWZUALA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know the total expenditure for the whole country. In our last session, the hon'ble Chief Minister said that huge amount had been spent for construction of farm road. I would like to know whether it is connected with land development and Link Road. If yes, I would like to know the length of farm road constructed so far and the amount of expenditure incurred for this.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question. There are 5 (five) Agriculture Districts in which only Rs. 3,70,000/- had been spent for Chhimtuipui District while in Aizawl District more than 50 lakh rupees had been spent and I would like to know why there is such a big difference. Secondly, the hon'ble Chief Minister used to say in the House that Power tillers and Bulldozers will be given to farmers in subsidy and I would like to know the numbers given so far and if not the reason thereof.

Thirdly, it is known that DAO Office at Champhai had been constructed at the cost of 28 lakh rupees, and the contractor was Pu Chawngnhuna of Champhai though the post of Champhai DAO had not been created. I would like to know why DAO Office of Champhai is constructed even without creating the post of DAO.

Lastly, mechanisation had often been mentioned in the House and the Government estimated a sum of Rs. 45,000/- to mechanise one hectare of land. In reply to my unstarred question, a sum of Rs. 60 lakh rupees had been spent to flatten 70 hectares which means Rs. 85,714/- is spent for one hectare. According to this, government gives Rs. 28,49,980/- in extra to the contractor for 70 hectares. I would like to know the reason for this.

PU Z.H. ROPUIA : Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister said there was no mechanised land at Lunglei area. We saw area of land flattened by Bulldozer at

Thingfal this year and at Thiltlang some areas are being flattened. I would like to know whether they are done at free of cost.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in regard to the question asked by MINISTER the hon'ble Member from Lunglei South, Link Road and Land Development are not under the same category.

The hon'ble Member Pu K.T. Rokhaw said sanction for Saiha is too little but we can see that sanction for Aizawl West is only Rs. 2,85,000/-. However, more steps will be taken and it will be continued. Power tillers are being given to several farmers in subsidy. In regard to the amount spent for flattening of 70 hectares of land, it was clearly mentioned in the previous session that the expenditure also includes construction of farm road and land development.

In regard to the point raised by the hon'ble Member from Tawipui, I cannot answer it as I do not have any information. However, the matter can be seen from the department.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, Farm Road is not featured in the Budget performance - presented by House Leader.

PU J. LAWMZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, my question was not properly answered and I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to answer it clearly. Since Farm Road had been mentioned, I would like to know the length of Farm Road constructed so far in Mizoram and the amount of expenditure for this.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question. From the answer given by the hon'ble Minister, the amount sanctioned for Aizawl W, DAO is Rs. 285,000/- for Land Development by manual and I feel it is too meagre, may I know the reason for this.

Secondly, among these five Agriculture Districts why has sanction for Chhimtuipui District is much less than other Districts while there are vast potential areas to be explored. Is there discrimination for being Southern areas. And I would like to know why sanction/expenditure for Chhimtuipui Link Road can become NIL while we have the poorest road.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, my question about construction of DAO Office at Champhai even without creating DAO post had not been answered. If we go like this I should as well ask to construct DAO Office at Tuipang.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question. I would like to know the reason for big difference rate for manual and mechanised land development.

PU P.B. ROSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in January Session, it was pointed out that Sihthiang Area of Aizawl 'W' District was mechanised for WRC but now it is mentioned that there was no mechanised land development at Aizawl 'W' District. Does this mean the House is being given wrong information.

S P E A K E R : Now I will call upon Pu C. Lalrinsanga to answer.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the question asked by the hon'ble MINISTER Member from Lunglei 'S' is not quite relevant. However, if he wants information we can give him later. Regarding construction of DAO Office at Champhai, there is a proposal to create DAO post so the office is being constructed in pursuance of the proposal.

The question asked by the hon'ble Member Pu H. Rammawi is quite true. In the meantime, I would like to inform the House that we can not take up all steps at a time. It is not appropriate to leave/abandon Demand Area Development works without fulfilling them. Like wise great effort is being made to fulfill the steps we are taking. The Government is aware of the needs of Sourthern areas. But, as mentioned earlier, despite from State Plan and some amount from CSS, it is not possible to take all steps at once. Therefore, it is good to know that steps will be taken accordingly.

In regard to the rate of manual and mechanised land development per hectare we must know that the rate of manual labour is being revised. We hope that instead of manual labour work we will attain self - sufficiency in food grains by mechanisation.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, can the rate of manual labour work and mechanised work per hectare be of the same.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, this matter is under revision. MINISTER

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, let him kindly tell us the length of constructed Farm Road, this can not be ignored.

PU C. LALRINSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in land development the total expenditure during 2000 - 2001 by manual labour is Rs. 65,70,000/- and by mechanisation it is Rs. 23,17,000/- whereas the total expenditure for Link Road including culvert and retaining wall etc. is Rs. 27,11,200/- MINISTER

S P E A K E R : Question Hour is over now. This morning I received notice for Short Duration Discussion from the hon'ble Member Pu K.L. Lianchia and let me read it out.



The Secretary,  
Mizoram Legislative Assembly,  
Aizawl.

Subj. :- Notice for Short Duration Discussion.

Sir,

As provided under Rule 55 of Chapter 10 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, I request you to let me avail Short Duration Discussion period as I think it is necessary to highlight problems faced by ginger growers in Mizoram.

As provided by our Rule 55, the notice is supported by Col. Lalchungnunga Sailo MLA and Pu Vanlalhlana MLA. Since ginger is one of the most important agricultural products of our farmers, I have to admit this notice if they face problems. However, we shall keep the time permitted by our Rule No. 56, it should not exceed two hours. I would like to request all members to bear this in mind and not to violate our Rule. So, I will allot Pu K.L. Lianchia 15 minutes and other members from each group 10 minutes. Then I will call upon the concern Minister to make necessary explanation and after that the House Leader if he desires. Now, I will call upon Pu K.L. Lianchia.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, will it be good to announce first the  
CHIEF MINISTER time table chalked out by the Business Advisory Committee for the current session and also members to whom leave of absence is granted and also other necessary announcement if any. I think such announcement will not take long. It may last only 2/3 minutes.

S P E A K E R : Shall we follow the proposal made by the House Leader.

The date for consideration and passing of The Mizoram Land Holding & Settlement Bill, 2000 is 18.1.2001 and the date of assent by Governor is 12.3.2001. The Mizoram Ancient Monuments & Archeological Sites and Remains Bill, 2001 was considered and passed on 18.1.2001 and the date of assent by Governor is 12.3.2001.

Leave of absence from the sitting of the House is granted to Pu Lal Thankunga, Deputy Speaker.

I will announce Panel of Chairman for the current Session - Pu Sanghmingthanga H. Pautu, Pu L.N. Tluanga, Pu K.T. Rokhaw and Pu H. Rammawi.

Now I am laying the report of the Business Advisory Committee held on 8.3.2001 for 9<sup>th</sup> Session. Can the House accept it? (Members accepted) Thank you. Let the copy be distributed.

Now, I will call upon the hon'ble Minister Pu Tawnluia to lay on the table of the House a copy of 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Mizoram Public Service Commission 1999 - 2000.

PU TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I lay on the  
MINISTER Table of the House a copy of The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

of the Mizoram Public Service Commission for the year 1999 - 2000.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Let the copy be distributed.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. As we all know, ginger is one of the most important cash crops. As that is the case even the Government issued an order in 1999 relating The Mizoram Agriculture Product Prohibition of Movement Amendment Order. Now ginger growers are facing great problems in marketing, they can not carry their products outside Mizoram because of this, many of them are not willing to harvest their gingers. Even the Association issued press release in this connection. The association expected that 2,50,000 quintals of ginger will be harvested this year while Horticulture expected 2,14,220 quintals. The rate of ginger at the first instance was considerably acceptable but as the procedure for marketing is not properly chalked out, ginger growers are very desperate. Government of Mizoram made arrangement to buy ginger through MAMCO. After this, quotation was called and four persons answered the quotations among which the third highest bidder was selected namely S.T. Khama who was asked to deposit 2 lakh rupees and that he has to buy ginger at the rate of Rs. 11/- per kg.

It is learnt that S.T. Khama bought ginger at the rate of Rs. 11/- per kg at Vairengte Gate from 16<sup>th</sup> February till 21<sup>st</sup> February and the amount he could buy was only 20000 quintals. It seems that he could not continue to buy and this creates a big problem for the growers. Even the hon'ble Members Col. Lalchungnunga Sailo and Pu H. Laltanpuia went to Vairengte on 2<sup>nd</sup> March to see the exact condition. At that time there were 30 - 40 unloaded vehicles and even the contractor could not pay attention to weighting of the products. After they repeatedly request the contractor, weighting was done and he simply gave chit to take the money. But till now they could not get the money and they are really desperate. They could not even meet the Minister to tell their problems. At the same time the Government is going to distribute ginger loan hence prohibition imposed on the movement of ginger is their main problem. To purchase ginger seed 6.05 crore rupees had been allotted and if ginger is purchased at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kilo, Government could buy 60500 quintals and with the quantity already purchased by Pu Khama the total amount sold could become 8485000 quintals which means there are 1655000 more quintals in Mizoram. If we do not know the intention of the Government we the MLAs do not know how to alleviate their problems.

As that is the case we also travelled throughout Mizoram to see the situation. Everywhere along the road we saw sacks of gingers and as it gets dried up day by day it loses its weight too. This clearly reveals how desperate the ginger growers become.

Besides these, the quality of ginger seed supplied is of low quality, and if you allow me Mr. Speaker Sir, I brought those seeds and I will give it on the table of the House for House property. Meanwhile the season for marketing ginger is almost over. If it could not be sold within April and May, it will get rotten. It is so regretting to know that all these problems are created by the government. First, it prohibited ginger movement, next it did not allow to sell ginger without going through the contractor and the contractor could not buy them all, at the same time the government wanted ginger seeds and prohibit to sell and harvest ginger. There is no way out for the growers.

Because of all these problems, some ginger growers carried their products to Karimganj through Kanhmun but as soon as the government know about this a gate was made even at Kanhmun and thus stopped even Kanhmun road. From the reliable source we received, to pass Kanhmun gate one has to pay Rs. 5/- per bag. One point I forgot to mention is that since the contractor could no longer buy at Vairengte, some pay Rs. 100/- per quintal to pass Vairengte gate and sold their gingers at Karimganj. From all these points we can imagine how desperate will gingers growers be.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, what I would like to know today is, will the Government as it already promised to the farmers to buy all the gingers at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kg at their respective places or at Rs. 11/- per kg at Vairengte by cash down. If this can not be done the concern Minister should resign for the love of the farmers.

COL. LALCHUNGUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as we know, we, the MPC & MNF have joint manifesto which is to search good market for disposal of cash crops produced by our local farmerls. While we desperately want to fulfil our manifesto, we seem to be away from achieving it. In view of the prevailing situation particularly in regard to marketing of ginger products. The people have been greatly encouraged to grow ginger hence large quintals are harvesteld. Had all these been marketted at the rate mentioned earlier, financial difficulties we have will be alleviated to a great extent. It is however, regratted that the Government could not find a mean to dispose of what our farmers produced. Our farmers are now really in a pitiable condition.

It was disheartening to see the true condition of our farmers when I, with Pu H. Laltanpuia went to Vairengte to verify the situation and the difficulty faced by the farmers on 2nd March. Tons of ginger are unweighed and the farmers coming from far places waited for more than a week to have them weighed and get the money expecting that everything will be settled properly as the government and the contractors have assured them. Being their representatives, we made a request to the contractors to do immediate weighing and to give money to these poor farmers who had waited for so long. The hotel owners were also requested to accomodate them while waiting for the time they get money.

The next day we went back to see the outcome of our request but according to information collected, it seems that ginger weighing was done without giving the money. The growers are really in dire straits condition. Is this the way the government should treat the poor ginger growers ?

Another thing we found in Vairengte was the manner check gate was manned. Not being able to have their products sold at Vairengte, some of the growers desperately tried to sell them off outside in Silchar and Bagha. But at the gate was an order that no truck/vehicle carrying ginger products are allowed to pass through the gate. But those who get favour could pass through the gate by giving Re. 1/- per kg. of ginger even though they could not tell where they would sell their products. Instead of waiting for so long wasting time and money at Vairengte, many of them are now desperately wanting to sell at cheaper rate if they could get the money. If Re. 1/- is collected for one kg. of ginger it will be around 7 lakh rupees collected from around 70 trucks. I do not know who the contractor/contractors or the persons involve but by what right has the money been collected ? In certain cases, ginger products are not allowed to be sold except through the contractors. If this is the case, what will become of tons of ginger which are yet to be sold ? Unless the government take positive measures, there is going to be immense problem.

If the government could not buy all the products at the rate specified, the growers should be given freedom to sell to anyone they like to their own rate. This will be an easier process for growers living in far placels. The government should be aware of the problems faced by our farmers and it is the responsibility of the government to find a solution to the problems faced by ginger growerls. It is my request that the government take immediate steps towards this end.

Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : Now, I call from Congress Party, Pu R. Lalzirliana.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA:** Mr. Speaker Sir, as this is a serious matter, it is shameful that some of the Members and Ministers are taking it lightly. It can be said that 80% of the farmers have lost their hope. The said contractor S.T. Khama had strong connection with Sundar Ali Syndicate who bought ginger at Bagha. The bidders 1 & 2 withdrew their bidding knowing that there will be problems. As mentioned earlier, weighing and purchasing of gingers started on 16th February and Sundar Ali & associates created problems as already guessed. They stole all the gingers and about 4 lakh rupees was also lost and even some person got injured. Though the Government of Mizoram knew about the problem, no measures were taken to solve the problems stated.

As that is the case, they tried to find another way out from Lengpui site but there also the contractor hired YMA to check these poor farmers. Meanwhile, as mentioned by hon'ble Members, they let pass through Vairengte Gate by paying Re. 1/- per kg. of gingers. I would like to challenge the government who were these who charged money at Vairengte Gate - the contractor or Trade & Commerce? By what right does the government charge money from farmers from their products, it is not written in Indian Constitution, hence it violates our constitution.

Before the prohibition was imposed, anyone could buy ginger at the rate of Rs. 9/- per kg. even in remote places which is more profitable for the growers to sell instead of selling in Vairengte at the rate of Rls. 11/- per kg. But it is regretting that Under Secretary, Trade & Commerce issued an order prohibiting movement of gingers outside Mizoram.

Regarding ginger loan, it is good if we could give loan to 40/50 MNF families in a village. While there was a commitment to give 10 quintals to each families, only 5 quintals could be allotted. Can assurance be given to buy ginger at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kilo or can we be given quarantee? Even if the government did not encourage to grow ginger, we used to have marketing problem. Since, the government has taken initiative steps for growing ginger, it is the responsibility of the government to find a way of its market.

Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : From Ruling I now call upon Pu K. Sangthuama.

**PU K. SANGTHUAMA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, the rate of ginger which used to be **MINISTER** Rs. 1.50/- per kg. had now risen up to this much. The contractor is buying at the rate of Rs. 11/- per kg. now. As there were some problems and as the government is going to buy as much as 60,000/- quintals of ginger for seedling, it is necessary to impose a prohibition. If the government did not impose prohibition there may not be ginger seed to buy which will be disheartening for the growers. I would like to inform

the members that government will take steps for marketing. If ginger is not controlled by the government, we had experienced that it was sold at the rate of Rs. 4/5 per kg. at Silchar. Sometimes it was not even possible to sell at that rate especially when the rate is low at Calcutta. I think the rate is quite considerably good now since controls its movement.

It is pleasing that the hon'ble Speaker admits the motion for discussion of problems faced by our farmers as we all want good market for what our farmers produced. It is also the responsibility of the government to find good market for what the state produced.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now I call upon Pu Lalrinzuala.

P U L A L R I N Z U A L A : Mr. Speaker Sir, today we are discussing about the problem faced by the majority of the people of Mizoram. It is regretting that as the gap between the poor and some of us is too wide that we do not understand their problems. It is also regretting to learn from the leaders of Ginger Grower Association that they could not meet the concern Minister to tell their problem and I wonder how the Minister could take lightly of this serious matter. There are many ginger growers who waited their money at Aizawl for a long time unwilling to go home empty handed. The intention of the government is to favour the one who bids at the rate of Rs. 7/- per kg. instead of selecting the once bidding at the rate of Rs. 11/- per kg. It is clear that because of this unhealthy intention movement of ginger is prohibited. The House should consider this matter carefully. Both the contractor and the growers are worried as ginger lost its weight day by day which is a great lost for them. Besides this I would like to inform the House that after rainy season buyers do not want to buy ginger after rain had washed off the young buds.

So, Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to point out the two mistakes committed by the government - first, it is wrong to call tender without consulting ginger growers which is very serious and secondly it is also wrong to impose prohibition to market outside Mizoram. In our last session, we asked by what rule was prohibition imposed. The Mizoram Gazette Extra Ordinary published by Authority was quoted for imposing prohibition. According to the quoted rule, movement of ginger had been controlled to prevent the existence of middleman and to prevent unhealthy marketing which is good if enforced justly. But this good rule is being enforced vice versa. The products/harvests of hard working farmers are controlled now. Hoping to solve their problems they carried their products with great difficult through Kanhmun but as soon as Trade & Commerce Minister knew about this, he ordered to make check gate there too. Mr. Speaker Sir, I think this effects each of our constituencies. It will be well and good if the government buys all the ginger production including those which could not be bought by the contractor. If not, movement of ginger should not be restricted, let them be free from today. If this can not be done, let the concern Minister resigns. While the government could send an escort to carry money why not send escorts for our agricultural products. If the House Leader can not assure in his wind up speech to find means to dispose of the products of our farmers we have to find another means, even the people of Mizoram are willing to do this.

Thank you.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, upliftment of labourers and farmers is the main theme of budget laid by Central and State Governments. In the recent Central Budget laid by the hon'ble Finance Minister he clearly pointed out that no tax should be taken from any agricultural products. But in Mizoram various gates like ginger gate, sesame gate, chilly gate, cabbage gate, etc. had been made to collect tax from these agricultural products. Introduction of gate system is not fair and justified and I would like to request the government to consider this matter carefully. In the meantime, I would like to know whether the government classified ginger as essential commodities. If not, why does it control its movement. If ginger is not declared as essential commodities its movement can not be controlled. Is it controlled only because we have another interest behind its movement? Therefore, it will be good to be more careful in the way we enforce the Rule. The hon'ble Minister mentioned about purchase of ginger by the previous ministry. It is true that the previous ministry bought ginger and lots of gingers laid rotten on the street and a large sum of money had been spent to clear off rotten gingers. The previous ministry did this with great loss for the love of the farmers/growers. It is the policy of the government to lose rather than making the people suffer. In the same way if gingers growers can not sell their products, let the government at least give them price support. The government should interfere if our farmers have problems. But now we are doing things vice versa, the government tries to get profit from its people. As mentioned earlier, how can they float tender from the products of our farmers? This is against the Indian Constitution as well as the policy of Central Government. Hence I would like to urge the government to reconsider this matter.

Thank you.

PU SANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am delighted to know the concern  
H. PAUTU the Opposition members have for our farmers. According to Parliamentary procedure, Members/Ministers have no right to reply during short duration discussion.

As mentioned earlier, during the previous ministry, gingers got rotten at Hunthar Godown and large amount had been spent to clear off the rotten gingers. When the MNF & MPC ministry was formed, the rate of gingers was tendered so that non Mizo buyers will not alter the rate as they wish. According to my knowledge, tender was called to protect our farmers after which the rate of ginger became moderately acceptable. The then contractor Sunder Ali raised his rate from Rs. 5.75 to Rs. 8/- by himself even without retendering. The main reason was when the government protected the farmers, other buyers came to Mizoram to buy ginger at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kg. Knowing this, Sunder Ali himself raised his rate. The government also now intends to buy at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kg. and give loan to the growers and 6 crore rupees is estimated for this as it is difficult for most of the growers even to buy 10 kgs. According to this, many had submitted application; however, some applications were rejected due to technical reasons while others were also rejected due to inadequacy of fund.

When the government made this policy, ginger growers sold their products and the government requested YMA to check/verify their respective area. So, those who have gingers reported to the YMA and the amount they have in quintals. After this we tried to verify the amount we could have for the seed but no one wanted to report for this. Bearing this in mind, government takes control of its movement. We must know that this is not to oppress the farmers and if I am not mistaken it is only for a short period. I am saying this as I understand this matter because it seems that the opposition members are twisting the policy of the government.

Thank you.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Today I am happy to know that members pay interest to gingers which is the most important cash crops in Mizoram. We all know how gingers were wasted in the past. As soon as we formed the Ministry with MPC, we tried to search good market with reasonable price for disposal of ginger products. We thought it is better to find good market instead of buying the products. As that is the case, government gave priority to find good market. In order to fulfil this, it is felt that we should have proper rule to restrict movement of cash crops hence The Agriculture Produces Movement Restriction Order 1999 was passed in 1999. Before restriction was imposed, the hard working farmers could not find good rate for disposal of their products, it was non Mizos businessmen and maruaris who controlled the prices. This order was passed so that our farmers themselves could control the price. At the first instance, a tender was called and it was bid at the rate of Rs. 5.50p. As it was clearly mentioned in the tender, the rate could be revised at any time and we raised/modified the rate according to the rate of contractor and at the end of the season it was Rs. 18/- per kg. As it is known to all that ginger is perishable item because of which we used to face some problems every year. Meanwhile, I would like to explain that those who tried to meet me were not Ginger Grower Association, they were rather the Commissioned Association. Just recently, I met the Association and as their topic was about the contractor's money I told them to discuss and settle the matter with the contractor.

Many of our Members do not know how the contractor was selected. A tender was called two years back and we used to select the highest bidder. This year also the highest bidder Pu Lalthanchhunga (Valtea) was selected who bids at the rate of Rs. 17.75p. But after studying the rate and also because of the death of his brother, he withdrew himself. After that the second highest bidder Pu Rawna who bids at the rate of Rs. 11.50p was offered and he was asked to deposit 20 lakh rupees but as he did not wish to deposit such amount, he withdrew himself again.....(interruption).

S P E A K E R : Why do you interrupt before he speaks for 5 minutes. It is not good to interrupt while the Minister speaks, you should listen patiently.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, many problems can be taken/considered lightly but to those who do not want to take lightly/consider it lightly, it could not be lightly considered. So the third highest bidder has to be offered who would deposit 20 lakh rupees as security at the rate of Rs. 11/- per kg.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as to why did the amount of security deposit was not reduced at one fifth, this has to be explained. Just to say a long history will not heal the feelings of our farmers. So, let him just say the intention of the government.

S P E A K E R : You must wait his explanation without interrupting him.

PU AICHHINGA MINISTER : Besides this, I would like to request the hon'ble Member from Saiha to look the list of essential commodities where he could find that ginger is in the list

of essential commodity/control item and even potato is included from last year. I would like to inform the House that the list is mended in accordance with the rule. As for the reason why we called tender for ginger, we feel it is not good to control the rate by the buyers, so it is important for the government to control the rate hence we called tender for it. And the highest bidder was selected. Now also the highest bidder who bid at the rate of Rs. 11/- per kg. was selected. If we want to select our favourite ones, we could do so but we did not do it. The contractor just started buying gingers but the contractors used to have acquaintances and Sunder Ali's son had been arrested who is in jail till today but we do not know all their acquaintances. We only know that the contractor really bought gingers. As mentioned earlier, there arose some problems and we reported the matter to Silchar DC and SP requesting them to arrest those who created the problems. The present problem is that the acquaintance of the contractor Pores Paula of Silchar did not want to buy more gingers when it is not appropriate for us to involve directly. Meanwhile we are searching good market from various places.

In regard to restriction imposed on selling of ginger outside Mizoram, we got a loan of Rs. 6.5 crore to buy ginger seed for those who could not buy the seed, there were 13000 farmers who wanted to grow gingers for which 605000 quintals of ginger seed is required. According to our calculation, we expect to harvest 1,20,000 quintals out of which 60500 quintals is acquired for the seed. There will be around only 45000/55000 quintals to marketl. So we decided to restrict selling of ginger products outside Mizoram. Instead of selling at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kg. at Vairengte .... (interruption) As the price of ginger increases, we do hope it can become Rs. 18/20 in the month of June. At the same time, we are searching a way to market it at Bangladesh and we do hope it will be settled by the next year. Therefore, if the rate of ginger is not controlled by ourselves, non Mizo buyers will control as they wish and we will be facing the same problem as before. I am glad that members had shown interest and I would like to request all members to tell the growers wherever they go that ginger will be sold at a better rate very soon, thus to keep safely what they had harvested.

Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : As it is not question hour, our discussion is quite enough. We will have recess now and resume our sitting at 2 : 00 P.M.

Recess till 2 : 00 P.M.

**2 : 00 P.M.**

**S P E A K E R** : We will continue our business. Now, I call upon Pu Tawnluia, Minister to introduce Mizoram Water Tariff Amendment Bill, 2001 in the House.

**PU TAWNLUIA  
MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg leave of the House to introduce Mizoram Water Tariff Amendment Bill, 2001.

Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : Do we agree to introduce the Bill? (Members agreed) Now I call upon him to introduce the Bill.



PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and with the permission of the House I introduced 'The Mizoram Water Tariff Amendment Bill, 2001' in the House.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : 'The Mizoram Water Tariff Amendment Bill, 2001' is introduced in the House and the copy had been given to all members. Now I call upon the Minister to ask the House to consider and pass the Bill.

PU P.B. ROSANGA : In our programme, today is meant for introduction and I prepared myself according to our programme, so is not it good to go according to our programme and not consider it, as this Bill will affect the people. It has to be studied carefully. Hence, I suggest another day for its consideration since it has been introduced.

S P E A K E R : Let me explain the matter, we made a slight mistake in our List of Business for today and I apologise for the mistake. Since Budget had been presented, there are many things for the members to study and at the same time this Bill had been practised. I do hope members will understand me. So, instead of adjourning the whole afternoon, is it better to do it now?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as pointed out by the hon'ble member of our group, introduction is included in our business while in other List of Business, Consideration and Passing of the Bills used to be included. Even tomorrow we can have Government Business and no budget discussion will be held tomorrow. I do request you to leave it for tomorrow. Even in the proposed amendment, the main Act is not included and at the same time our Legislature Party members prepared according to our List of Business, we did not prepare ourselves to discuss it today.

PU LALRINCHHANA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, though it is not mentioned in our List of Business, Consideration and Passing of the Bill, it is our practice to consider and pass the Bill on the day of its introduction. The present Bill is also meant to be passed on the day of its introduction, the copy was sent to us two weeks ago. At the same time, Question Hour and Amendment Bill are proposed for today's business, we also have the whole afternoon for it, so it will be good to do it today.

DR. LALZAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in the notification, we are requested to bring the copy at the time of introduction which clearly indicated that we are going to consider and pass it as it is clearly mentioned in the List of Business - introduction of the Bill. Therefore, it will be good to do it today.

PU C. SANGZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as it was written in the notification, even we, the less experienced member understood that

it will be considered and passed today. It will be good if it is done today.

S P E A K E R : I will ask Pu Nirupam Chakma, the opinion of their group.

P U N I R U P A M C H A K M A : Mr. Speaker Sir, we are not prepared to discuss/consider and pass it today as it is not in the business so kindly allot another day for this. Now, members from our group have not turned up yet as they have important things to do.

P U H. R A M M A W I : Mr. Speaker Sir, as pointed out by some members, in our List of Business, only introduction of the Bill is mentioned. Since you had apologised from the Chair for the mistake and I do hope even the opposition members will accept your apology. The main target of this amendment Bill is to amend Water Tariff which is not difficult.

P U L A L R I N Z U A L A : Mr. Speaker Sir, in order to maintain the dignity of this House it is better to go according to our List of Business, otherwise we will leave untoward precedence.

P U S A N G H M I N G T H A N G A : Mr. Speaker Sir, I do appreciate your apology. As mentioned by some members, in the notification notified to us on 13<sup>th</sup> March, it is written 'since the copy of the ..... is very limited, you are requested to bring this copy at the time of introduction and consideration in the House'. In our usual practice if we are notified like this we used to discuss and pass it. If the opposition members can not accept your apology I feel that we should obey your rulling.

S P E A K E R : May I know the opinion of House Leader.

P U Z O R A M T H A N G A : Mr. Speaker Sir, since it is not mentioned in our List of Business, I do accept the opinion of Opposition members and there is nothing wrong to leave it for tomorrow. At the same time, it may be good to accept your apology and the request you had made.

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalhmingthanga.

P U L A L H M I N G T H A N G A : Mr. Speaker Sir, today we are asking your sympathy as we didn't prepare to discuss it. As it is not written in our List of Business we did not even bring the copy. Though we accept and respect your apology we ask your sympathy.

SPEAKER : Since you can not accept my request, I shall adjourn our sitting for today and resume our sitting tomorrow at 10 : 30 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 2 : 15 P.M.