

**FOURTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 23<sup>RD</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.

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S BUSINESS**

2. "Central Government be approached to make fencing at Mizoram International Border".

**SPEAKER** : O let the evil of the wicked come to an end,  
but establish thou the righteous,  
thou who trust the minds and hearts,  
thou righteous God.

Psalm 7:9

We shall take up Starred Question. Starred Question No. 31 is asked by Pu Vanlalhlana and Pu Lalrinzuala. I shall call either one of them.

**PU VANLALHLANA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 31 is -

Will the hon'ble Minister for School Education be pleased to state -

- (a) Is there a proposal for 398 teachers who used to take their pay from Non - Plan fund to draw from plan fund.
- (b) If yes, the reason thereof.
- (c) Total amount spent for pay of staff of Education Department in one year.

**SPEAKER** : I now call upon Pu F. Malsawma, Minister for Education to answer.

**PU F. MALSAWMA  
MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 31 is -

- (a) There is a proposal for 232 High School Teachers and 716 Middle School Teachers to take their pay from Plan Fund.
- (b) The proposal is made by Finance Department to arrange Plan and Non-Plan Funds of State Budget.
- (c) The amount spent for staff of Education Department in one year is

Rs. 1,37,00,15,000/- from Plan and Non - Plan fund. From Plan fund its Rs. 30,19,90,000/- and from Non - Plan fund it's Rs. 107,18,25,000/-.

PU LALRINZUALA : Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker Sir. While there is an intention to give pay from Plan Fund to the teachers who draw their pay from Non - Plan fund, according to the latest information we got, there is an intention to give pay to teachers who took from plan to non - plan fund. I would like to know whether this is true or not.

Secondly, in regard to the amount spent for School Education, The Vice Chairman of Planning Commission stated that School Education do not know the amount they had spent for the pay of their staff. In the last budget while their demand was 39 crore rupees, they were allotted 39 crore rupees yet it was not sufficient. I would like to know whether this is true or false.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir. supplementary question. The hon'ble Minister stated that in order to arrange plan and non - plan fund, 948 teachers were marked to take their pay from Plan fund but it appears that these teachers are taking their pay from non - plan. So I would like to know whether this is correct. Secondly, I would like to know the reason why daily allowance given to B.Ed Trainees and teachers who are undergoing training at DIET had been stopped. Thirdly, why Medical Reimbursement is not allowed for teachers even if they are hospitalised? Lastly, the reason for not fulfilling the judgement of High Court to take in trained teachers to Selection Grade.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we all know the problem recently faced by teachers regarding their pay. Is there a proper provision in our budget for 10+2 teacherls. Even last year, only after students had hunger strike, their demands were considered. I would like to know can the hon'ble Minister assure the House that such things will not happen in future ?

It is often said that students of today are leaders of tomorrow and as that is the case, their teachers have great responsibility to create/produce good citizens so it is important to give incentives to teachers and provide them various facilities enjoyed by other government servants. There are many a time that teachers have to work without pay? Can the Minister give assurance that they will be given salary so that they may work in peace.

There are various teachers under School Education like Primary, Middle, High Schools and 10+2 teacherls. It will be pleasing if the hon'ble Minister could tell the total numbers school wise.

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know why pay for teachers in the budget provision is only for 10 months while the budget is for one year i.e. 12 months.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, a number of post for 10+2 had been opened last year for which Post Graduate Teachers were employed as MR at the rate of Rs. 105/- per day. I would like to ask whether their status can be upgraded. Secondly, I've learnt that substitute teachers will not be appointed for those teachers who undergo B.Ed. Training Course and I

would like to know if this is true. Thirdly, is there any intention to employ officiating Post Graduate Teachers in the vacant posts of Higher Secondary Schools.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know the reason for not publishing/declaring the result of written test for Primary and Middle Schools teachers conducted on June, 1999 and also are there any officiatings in these posts ?

PU F. MALSAWMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, as plan sector allotment could not meet our requirement, pay of teachers had been drawn from non - plan. I would like to inform the House that be it plan or non - plan, teachers should get their pay hence arrangement had been made as such.

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know the reason for making them to draw their pay from plan to non - plan.

PU F. MALSAWMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, it was done according to the instruction given by Finance Department. In regard to the question - is there sufficient fund/sanction for the salary of the teachers, there is no sufficient fund both in plan and non - plan right from the beginning of the present financial year. In non - plan, it was insufficient by 10 crore at the first instance. From the rate of expenditure upto August, the requirement could be estimated at 13 crore in non - plan. As time passed on, Medical reimbursement bill rose to 182 lakh rupees and as the rate of D.A. Dearness Allowance had raised by 30% at December, the required amount had risen up to 16 crore, hence it is quite confusing. In our present condition, non - plan fund is considered to be sufficient while it is clear that plan fund is not sufficient. Planning Department proposed to use sanctioned from Prime Minister's Special Office for salary, so excluding this, there is fund for salary for 9 months in the plan. It is not possible to say the exact amount as we do not know the number of increment and Medical reimbursement bill to be forwarded by various DDOs.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if that is the case, why teachers are made to draw their pay like that.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, can PMGY be used for pay.

PU F. MALSAWMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, as PMGY is in Plan Sector, it does not matter whether it can be used for pay or not. Dearness allowance for B.Ed. and DIET trainees can not be given because of financial problem though they should be given.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is said that Dearness Allowance for various trainees could not be given due to financial problem, what is the meaning ?

PU F. MALSAWMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, do I have to answer all their questions? What is your ruling?

S P E A K E R : The main question be answered, hence the Member better listen to what is being asked.

PU F. MALSAWMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is not the case that teachers are not allowed to do medical reimbursement. As there are many staff in Education Department we give priority to referred case for outside Mizoram during the present financial year and we are trying to clear the case within Mizoram in the next financial year. In regard to the pay of 10+2 teachers employed on MR basis, it is expected to be in the Budget. It is a pity that these teachers having Master Degree are employed on MR basis and it is our wish that there should be no more problem. The question asked by the hon'ble Member from Suangpuilawn about the pay of teachers allotted for 10 months in the budget, I had mentioned the matter. If PMGY is allotted for pay, we can manage up to 11 months if not, there is no allocation more than 9 months. But it is the responsibility of the government to find solution by reviewing the matter. In regard to the question asked by the hon'ble Member from Saitual Constituency regarding 10+2 teachers on MR basis at the rate of Rs. 105/- per day, a proposal is being made by the meeting of Finance Department and Education Department to fix Rs. 4,500/-, for High School Rs. 4,000/-; Middle School Rs. 3,500/- and Rs. 3,000/- for Primary School teachers and the approval of Chief Minister is being awaited. Regarding the vacant posts of Primary School Teachers, it is not done as we received permission lately and even when we got permission it was only for few posts but the number of vacant posts had increased, the matter is being kept pending by the authority of the department. It will be settled as soon as it is released by the department.

S P E A K E R : Supplementary questions had been asked by 6 persons regarding Education. Now, I shall call upon Pu L.N. Tluanga to ask Question No. 32 which is also to be answered by Education Minister.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 32 -

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

- (a) It is said that a new education policy is being prepared. When will it get ready.
- (b) What is the intention of the government to improve and develop education.

S P E A K E R : Let me call upon School Education Minister to answer.

PU F. MALSAWMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 32 is -

- (a) It will be readied in a short while.
- (b) Education Bill and Education Policy are being prepared to make qualitative improvement in various ways.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question. Mizoram Education Policy was prepared by Dr. Lalnuntluanga by consulting other learned persons and by conducting seminar and workshop. He submitted the policy he had prepared in the year 1999 and more than a year had passed since he submitted his draft policy. Is the government going to neglect/ignore the draft policy?

Secondly, School Calendar is being changed without consulting Teacher Association and public. I would like to know the reason for this.

Thirdly, we all know the importance of Headmaster and Principal in every educational institution. At present there are 8 Higher Secondary Schools without Principal and more than 30 Government High Schools without Headmaster. I would like to know why Education Department is neglected so much and the reason for these schools without head/principal.

In regard to education policy, we proudly said Mizoram has highest literacy percentage but this is not enough. Though we have highest literacy percentage, why does Education Department has poor planning and policy? Being number one, can we have good policy which will be copied by others.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Today we are asking about education policy. I would like to know whether the Government of Mizoram is aware of the fact that BJP which is the biggest constituent of NDA Government at Central has silent agenda in education policy. If not, can they admit that they know the policy from today? If yes, I would like to know what plan they have? I also would like to know whether there is an intention to follow various syllabus and text books prepared by NCERT, ICHR and CBSE. If yes, the reason for it. Besides these, to what extent do every state have an autonomy to prepare education policy and is the government intend to practise the maximum percentage as per the autonomy we have.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Education is the backbone of our Nation. I would like to know why the government did not give priority to Education Department? What is the reason for not making enough fund available for the salaries of our teachers. This year we have experienced that teachers have not taken their salaries for 3 consecutive months while all other departments had taken their salaries in full. They have no incentive to teach. Why did not the Government of Mizoram provide adequate fund for their salaries. We have heard from the hon'ble Minister that salaries will be available for some months. I am afraid we have lost the confidence of our teachers, their moral will be down. I would further like to know the number of teachers in High Schools and lecturers appointed as Muster Roll at 10+2 level.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is pleasing that Members are enthusiastic about our education system. In regard to preparation of education policy asked by the hon'ble Member from Tlungvel Constituency, I, myself had discussed many times with Dr. Lalnuntluanga who drafted the policy but it has to go through many stages so it is not an easy task to get it ready. I, myself sent not less than three reminders to each department where it got pending. At present, it is in Education Secretariat to be considered in the cabinet meeting. As the next question is about School Calendar, I will not answer the question asked by Pu L.N. Tluanga. Regarding filling up the posts of Headmaster and Principal there are certain problems. For the first instance it is not easy to create post, then it takes times to

have permission to fill up vacant posts. And while we were trying to settle this matter, there was High Court judgement in regard to High School, according to which seniority had to be drawn afresh. As it is necessary to get interpretation of High Court judgement from Law Department it is not possible to settle this matter as fast as we desire.

The government does not know about the BJP hidden agenda pointed out by the hon'ble Member from Aizawl East I but we carefully studied the curriculum. It was also examined many times by our experts/learned persons. In general, 32% regional interest can be included in text books and we do remember this. Besides, it will be good to take advantage for us their liberalism in religion. Though this has not been finalised, we had discussed 2/3 times about what we should do when it is finalised. So I would like to make clear that this government is not an un-reliable government, it can be trusted and is reliable.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, he had not answered my point. Is there an intention to apply/follow the curriculums and syllabic.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as we are not competent enough, our counterparts in various parts conduct open competitions. We have to apply/follow the course only in Class IX & X except Lushai before a new pattern is prescribed. It was the decision made while MPC & MNF formed the Ministry.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, since it is not possible for me to recollect all the decisions while we jointly formed the Ministry, I would be grateful if the hon'ble Minister could give me a copy of the minute.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I'll try to give the hon'ble Member a copy.

In regard to inadequate allocation of fund as pointed out by the hon'ble Member from Chawngte constituency, it is not only in Education Department. As the over all allocation of fund and grant is made in year mark system, it is quite troublesome for both Planning and Education Departments. As the hon'ble Chief Minister looks after Finance and Planning Departments, we had discussed with his advisers when there is inadequate sectoral allocation. However, I would like to say that it is not true that teachers did not take their salaries but I do admit that they could not take in time. I believe that various problems we had faced this year will alert even other departments and I would like to tell the House that we are trying our best to solve this matter.

SPEAKER : Now I will call upon Pu J. Lalthangliana to ask Starred Question No. 33.

PU LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 33 is -

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

(a) Why had Mizoram School Calendar (Academic Session) been changed?

- (b) Are the people of Mizoram or teachers or parents of the students consulted before it was changed?

S P E A K E R : Pu F. Malsawma, Education Minister will answer.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 33  
MINISTER is -

- (a) It was changed as the government thought it will be better. If you allow to give the more detail definition I can give.  
(b) All of them were not consulted. It was changed because the government collected and received various opinions and advices.

S P E A K E R : It is clear enough. Now I will call upon Pu Zakhu Hlychho to ask Starred Question No. 34.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 34 is -

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

- (a) Is there a recognised village in Mizoram which do not have Primary School?  
(b) If yes, the reason thereof.

S P E A K E R : I will call upon Education Minister to answer.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 34  
MINISTER is -

- (a) No.  
(b) Does not arise.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to inform the House that in my constituency, Mauzam is a recognised Village but there is no Primary School.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, that will be looked into. As some  
MINISTER villages do not exist any more, this has to be verified.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 35 is asked by Pu Vanlalhlana and Pu F. Lal Thanzuala. I will call upon Pu F. Lal Thanzuala to ask.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Starred Question No. 35 is -  
Will the hon'ble Minister for Education Department be pleased to state-

- (a) The numbers of High School and Middle School without headmaster.
- (b) The name of High Schools which do not have headmaster.
- (c) When will they be given headmaster.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, answer for Starred Question No. 35  
MINISTER is -

There are 33 High Schools and 23 Middle Schools without headmasters and step is being taken to give headmasters to these schools as soon as possible.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, he had not answered my question (b).

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the following High Schools do not  
MINISTER have headmaster : Kawlkulh High School, Chawngtlai High School, Kawlbem High School, Phuaibuang High School, Saichal High School, Teikhang High School, Zohmun High School, Chalkunga High School, Kawrte High School, Bilkhawthlir High School, Suangpuilawn High School, Vairengte High School, Mamit High School, Kanghmun High School, Khawlian High School, Chhipphir High School, Reick High School, Ngopa High School, Hnahlan High School, Vanzau High School, N.E. Khawdungsei High School, Kepran High School, E. Lungdar High School, Khawlailung High School, Lunglei Venglai High School, Phullen High School. Kolasib High School, Thenzawl High School, Khumtung High School, Serchhip Higher Secondar School, J.I. Higher Secondar School, Government Lunglei HSS and Chaltlang Higher Secondar School.

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, there are 5 Government High Schools in my constituency out of which three of them do not have headmasters, Phullen High School headmaster was transferred just recently.

S P E A K E R : The Minister had answered about that, the Member better ask another question.

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, have this Ministry upgraded at least either one High School or Middle School to deficit status or provincialise during its two years term.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, there are many High Schools and Middle Schools without headmaster. I would like to know when will they have headmaster. The hon'ble Minister took various steps to improve education but it seems both Finance and Planning Departments are creating problems. I would like to know why Finance and Planning Departments oppress Education Department while we give much importance to it. I am sure the hon'ble Minister had discussed all these matters with Chief Minister. Why did not the Chief Minister approve of them ?

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. There are 33 and 23 High Schools and Middle Schools respectively who do not have headmaster and I would like to know the reason for this.



PU P.B. ROSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister said that those schools who do not have headmaster will be given headmaster as soon as possible which included six high schools in my constituency. I would like to know whether he can fix the date to appoint headmasters for these schools.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, among the names of High Schools without headmaster read out by the hon'ble Minister, Rawpuichhip Government High School was not mentioned which does not have headmaster. The headmaster was transferred to Aizawl without making any arrangement to take headmasters charge. This really hampers school administration. Even teacher association had reported the matter to Director but in vain. I would like to know why Rawpuichhip Government High School headmaster is transferred to Aizawl and how will the government judge the administration of this school.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if I am not mistaken, Kanghmun High School, Phuldungsei High School and Lallen High School do not have headmaster which were not included in the names of schools read out by the hon'ble Minister and I would like to know the reason and also can a teaching staff be employed in the office ?

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, even my constituent village Chakhang is not included in the list. Last year one person from Aizawl was posted for Chakhang High School who came once or twice. Now Chakhang High School is without headmaster. So I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to appoint headmaster as soon as possible.

S P E A K E R : Question Hour is over, but I shall call upon the Minister to answer the questions.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, let me answer form the last. The matter of Chakhang will be considered as soon as possible. Regarding High Schools in Phuldungsei constituencies Kanghmun High School was in the list and Phuldungsei High School has headmaster while Ngopa High School headmaster was transferred. I myself know the appointment made for Ngopa High School but I do not know whether he is at the station which shows the importance of Parents' Teachers Association (PTA). The headmaster of Lallen Deficit High School had been transferred to Bungkawn as there was some dispute with the village people. This matter is being moved by file.

Rawpuichhip High School headmaster is now attached to Aizawl as he needs medical treatment. As I had mentioned earlier, as Education Department is a big department we need to consider some cases on humanitarian ground.

Regarding the question raised by the hon'ble Member from Ngopa Constituency, we received quite a number of representatives regarding provincialisation of Government High School. This needs revision and after that it has to go to DP & AR and then DP & AR has to refer it to MPSC. At present we do not have MPSC Chairman so it is not possible to fix the date because it is beyond our control.

In regard to the question asked by Pu Vanlalhlana stating that both Finance and Planning Departments are creating problems, I would like to say that we had discussed our problems with them. But as these two departments do not have fund by themselves it is quite troublesome for them. As the hon'ble Chief Minister looks after these two departments, he is really concerns about our problem and we discussed many times with him how to solve our problems. While it is true we need improvement, it is pleasing that there is a slight improvement this year and let us hope that we shall achieve more improvement from our discussion.

The number of schools upgraded to deficit status asked by the hon'ble Member from Suangpuilawn constituency is out of question since there is no adequate fund even for the pay of teachers.

S P E A K E R : Question Hour is over. As today is meant for Private Members Business, Pu C. Sangzuala's resolution had been first in the balloting. So, I will call upon Pu C. Sangzuala as per our Rules No. 129 to move his resolution. There is also an application to make amendment which will be considered after he moves the resolution. I will give him 20 minutes.

P U C . S A N G Z U A L A : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to move my resolution which is important for all of us. My resolution is as follows - 'This House resolved that Central Government be approached to construct fencing along the Mizoram International Border'.

Though the exact length of fencing I proposed to construct is not known, it may be around 700 kms. We all know that Mizoram is surrounded by international border in all sides and as it is central subject I am moving this resolution to approach Central Government.

First, it is important to construct fencing for the safety of the people. Mizoram has a long international border and as there is no either barbed wire or Itta Wall or RCC Wall or Electric Wire till today for fencing, everyone can come and go easily and as a result we have various problems that can be avoided had proper measures been taken. The unfavourable incidents we knew about were caused by those who illegally crossed international boundaries. Had fencing been constructed we would not have all these. So, it is important to construct fencing along our international border for our security.

It is also important to protect our soil itself and properties of our state. While it is our responsibility, we can not do it by ourselves as it is necessary to approach the Central who can do it. I am proposing this. We all know about Lawngtlai Bank robbery. When an investigation was done, it was known that the culprits had crossed the border and hid at Myanmar. Likewise, our treasures and government's properties can be lost in such way. Even our forests are denuded as there is free movement along the boundaries. It can also be said that son of the soils can not use and look after our products freely. Therefore, it is important to have voice at the centre to construct fencing so as to protect our land and our properties.

Besides these, it is also important to construct fencing to prevent social evils. Among many items taken from the east as merchandise, the most problematic one is drug. In most of the cases of heroin and drugs, many foreigners get involved. Not only this, one important chemical called 'Ephadrin' which is used to make various drugs and heroin had also been seized Mizoram which was to be taken to foreign land. Such things used to cross our

border which brings many problems for our state. As recorded by Excise Department in 1999, among 89 who died because of drugs 5 of them died because of heroin and last years 139 died because of drugs out of which 6 of them died because of heroin. As that is the case most of the illegal drugs are believed to be smuggled in through the international border. Hence it is important to prevent and stop these things.

In Mizoram drugs menace is a controversial issue these days. I am afraid there will be no more Mizos in the near future as many young boys and girls have drugs problems. The main reason is there is an easy access to smuggle drugs from the east. Therefore, it is important to have international border fencing to stop all these. Due to an easy access of banned items, our business system also suffers which cause heavy loss in revenue.

Another point is that it is important to construct fencing to keep the morality of our people up. Killings, lootings, raping etc. for the love of money increases. This shows it is important to have proper international fencing.

It is also important to have international border fencing to check the incoming of foreign nationals into Mizoram which is a big political issue in Mizoram.

Thus, Mr. Speaker Sir, there are many advantages to have fencing along the international border of Mizoram which will be mentioned by other members.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The owner of the resolution had moved his resolution. Now I shall read out application submitted by five (5) Members to amend the resolution.

To,

The Secretary,  
Mizoram Legislative Assembly,  
Mizoram, Aizawl.

Subj :- Application to amend private resolution submitted by Pu C. Sangzuala, MLA.

Sir,

As permitted by Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, Chapter 16, nos. 129 and 131, we request you to allow us to make an amendment of the above subject as follows - This House resolved that Central Government be approached to construct all weather road, security post and Entry & Exit Gate along the fencing at Mizoram International Border as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,  
Lalhmingthanga,  
Lalrinzuala,  
H. Laltanpuia,  
K.L. Lianchia,  
J. Lawmzuala.

I carefully examined this application though I respect their rights/freedom I can not admit it after I had carefully studied Practise and Procedure of Parliament.

In page no. 157 of Practise and Procedure of Parliament it is written that admissibility of amendment 'must not be vague or indefinite ..... should not be unduly big nor should raise multiple issues, ..... should not seek to widen the

scope of the Resolution, ..... amendment proposing to raise and altogether new subject beyond the scope of the Resolution is out of order'. Even our Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business said in no. 129 that a copy of the application should be given to the owner of the Resolution. Judging from all these, it is my decision to discuss the resolution as it is, without making any amendment as security post can be made by State Government anywhere and entry and exit gates had been made near Bangladesh and Meghalaya boundary lines. So, we shall discuss as it is for which each member will be given 10 minutes while there may be consideration for Opposition Leader and House Leader.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we can not question your ruling but I would like to request you to give us more than 10 minutes.

We submitted the amendment because we support Pu Sangzuala's Resolution, as it is important for our state. Our State is different from other states of India as we have 75% of international boundary. Indo - Bangla border fencing had been done in North East States like Tripura and Assam from non - plan fund of Central Government. Indo - Bangladesh Border fencing and construction of road were in item no. 14 when the Prime Minister made an allotment of fund on 21st January, 2000 from non - plan fund to non - lapseable pool fund, where 1335 crore rupees had been sanctioned, even Central Government formed an expert committee for this.

In our case, the hon'ble House Leader used to mention about fencing at eastern border but Indo - Bangladesh border is usually meant by this. In this matter, evaluation and mileage assesment had been done to some extent. As such we feel it is important to approach Central Government as suggested by Pu C. Sangzuala. The aim of Pu Sangzuala's resolution and the amendment we submitted is the same. As we feel that Pu Sangzuala's resolution is not completed we submitted the amendment which is not unduly big. I would like to say that we do not object this, we rather did make application for things mentioned for the good of our state. It is not enough just to have fencing if there is no patrolling to check smuggling of drugs and infiltrators. Even in other states, along the fencing all weather road and security posts used to be constructed to regulate entry and exit. The hon'ble mover moved excluding all these. Therefore, we submitted amendment so that this good resolution will be in a complete form. However, as we can not challenge your ruling I would like to mention that we submitted the amendment with good intention.

This matter had been discussed with Government of India. We must know that Mizoram has the most international boundary along riverside which can create some dispute with our foreign neighbours while constructing fencing. To avoid this, we wanted to make amendment to construct all weather road. This matter had been discussed in 1980 with Government of India while Brig. F. Sailo was Chief Minister.

In regard to giving a copy of the proposed amendment, as our Rule says 'any Member may subject to all the rules relating to resolution moved, an amendment to such resolution a copy of which shall be given to the Member moving the resolution,' we have not given him the copy but we got it ready to give him. And according to our Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business no. 130 the amendment copy should be sent to the Secretary one clear day before the day fixed for the discussion of the resolution, we submitted the copy and we are glad that you received gladly. In the meantime, as the rule says 'any Member may object to the moving of the amendment and such objection shall prevail unless the Speaker, in his discretion, allows the amendment to be moved,' I request you to re-consider our application since we all want to construct fencing along the internationa border of Mizoram. I am sure this will safeguard us politically, socially and economically as clearly moved by the mover. Therefore, it is my request to both of you Mr. Speaker Sir and the hon'ble Member who submitted the resolution to re - consider our application for amendment. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : So we will continue our discussion. Now I call upon Pu Nirupam Chakma.

P U N I R U P A M C H A K M A : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I respect Pu C. Sangzuala's resolution. In Indo - Bangladesh border, there already is a scheme and about 150 km road had already been constructed and black topped. Phase - II will be done this year from Borapansuri to Parva, Marpara - Khawthlang which will be about 250 km. BRTF engineer said sanction for phase - II is being awaited. Main power had already been installed at Borapansuri and Marpara. In phase II fencing is also included, the record is with Chief Secretary. If the government make a statement it will be clear that it is not a necessary to move separate resolution as it is an on - going scheme. It will be understandable if the resolution is to make Myanmar border fencing. I, therefore, would like to request either the Home Minister or Chief Minister to explain about the on - going scheme of around 400 kms.

S P E A K E R : If you look at the resolution carefully, it is not only about Bangladesh Border Fencing, it is about the whole of Mizoram International Border.

P U N I R U P A M C H A K M A : Mr. Speaker Sir, the scheme for 400 km had already been approved and sanction is being awaited.

S P E A K E R : The scheme was only for Bangladesh Border so it will be good not to mention it. You better say whether you support it or not.

P U N I R U P A M C H A K M A : I just said the on - going scheme.

S P E A K E R : There is no scheme for international boundary. International border is not only along Bangladesh but also along Burma. Had there been approved scheme for international border fencing, I would call either Chief Minister or Home Minister to explain.

P U N I R U P A M C H A K M A : Mr. Speaker Sir, we will be clear about this subject if either the Chief Minister or Home Minister explain and we can know how to discuss. It is, therefore, meaningless to submit a proposal to Central Government to construct fencing at Bangladesh border as the road is under construction which is expected to be completed soon. I, therefore, would like to urge the Government to tell the House what permission it has.

S P E A K E R : I now call upon Pu C. Thanghluna.

P U C. T H A N G H L U N A : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. It's not that I oppose the resolution moved by the hon'ble Member, I feel it is not sufficient. We know about the work done so far and how things come from Central Government and how BRTF had done Indo - Bangladesh border in the west. pushpak CE told us at the beginning of March how they plan to do

International boundary road construction and fencing at border area. What we must know is that Central had already approved Indo-Bangladesh border fencing scheme and also that fund had already been allocated for 1st phase and 2nd phase. Thus it is an on-going scheme. In the meantime, work had not been started for Myanmar border area which is expected to be going on. It is not that we neglect ignore eastern area but that while the work is being done at western area as an on-going scheme, will it be suitable to move this kind of resolution. According to work programme, Indo-Bangladesh border phase-I is expected to be completed on 31.3.2001 Construction of road had already been started which will be completed soon. At the West, fencing had to be done around 400 km. In phase-II, fencing will be done from Thantlang upto Parva for which 52.60 crore had been earmarked. In phase-II for fencing along it is said that 11150 lakhs had been allocated. The remaining work of road construction in phase-I will be continued in phase-II i.e. Borapansuri to Parva where there will be a number of bridges. Thus it is not that necessary to move a resolution while 50% of the work at western area had been completed.

S P E A K E R : Construction of road is not included in the resolution as per our Rules no. 128, so you better speak about fencing.

P U C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am talking about even the fencing. In phase-II, they are going to do fencing. It is not possible to do fencing without road. Therefore, it will be good if it is amended as 'fencing be constructed in border area of Myanmar side'. Is it necessary to include the on-going scheme for which fund had already been allocated.

P U H. VANLALAUVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I am glad that the hon'ble Member from Aizawl South-II constituency had moved a resolution to approach Central Government to construct border fencing along Mizoram International Border. We, including the opposition all know the importance of it and some of the hon'ble opposition members submitted amendment as they were not satisfied with the present resolution. It is meant to urge Central Government to carry this on-going scheme and work as steps had not yet been taken in fencing work. It's been a long time since even State Government takes steps in this regard and also that Central Government said they had taken steps.

The mover had mentioned the needs to have fencing and I am sure we may know more points. The most important reason to have fencing is to check influx of foreigners. If we have proper fencing and can check illegal entry of foreigners, it will be easy to carry out detection work of foreigners in Mizoram. I would like to request all members of this House to think positively what is best for our country.

It is also important to have proper fencing to stop/prevent various insurgency groups to enter Mizoram freely and spoil our precious peace. As mentioned earlier, it will be easier to stop many untoward incidents like killing, looting, raping which threatened public life. In regard to the material for fencing, one military officer told me that barbed wire is better than Brick Wall for fencing at International border. When I asked the reason he said fencing is done in double by barbed wire, the distance between the wire is about 10-15 kms and in between the barbed wire, a roll of barbed wire had been scattered so it is not an easy task to cut those scattered wire thus it is more safe than brick wall. I think this will be true.

So, as pointed out by the hon'ble Member from Lawngtlai Constituency, to strengthen the on-going programme of Central at Western Belt and the steps taken by the government and to urge Central Government to construct fencing including road which is not

considered as yet I would like to request all Members to pass unanimously the resolution moved by the hon'ble Member from Aizawl South - II as it is.

Thank you.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, had this resolution been passed some years back, it will be better. As mentioned earlier, Mizoram has international boundaries on all sides. If protection of land is not strongly taken up by the Government, the land/state can severely suffer. Knowing this, Chin Hills Regulation Act was enacted during British ruled India to safeguard we, the tribals. Australia which is larger than India has no international boundary yet Australian Government is very strict in giving visa/passport. In this way, advanced countries are protecting their land. Since we have our own Government from 1972, we have to protect ourselves in various ways, there are many steps to be taken in this matter. Border Road Task Force (BRTF) had of course constructed border road under Defence Department but this is not what we mean border road. In any border area, construction of road is compulsory if fencing is to be done. Had there been an order from Central Government to do fencing by BRTF they should have done it. They of course, had constructed the road and will continue in the meantime State Government will also do its responsibility in the boundary. If we do not take stern steps to protect ourselves, the said Chin Hills Regulation and Inner Line Regulation are very fragile.

If Inner Line Regulation is withdrawn, we the people of Mizo will be assimilated within 15 years. Once also Home Minister of Central Government announced that Inner Line Regulation will be withdrawn but as we strongly condemned that decision it has not been withdrawn till today. In the same way, we must be aware of the importance to have fencing to check all unfavourable items and illegal entry of foreigners, I, therefore, would like to request the House to pass this resolution as it is.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : It's 1 : 00 P.M. we shall have recess now and resume our meeting at 2 : 00 p.m.

Recess till 2 : 00 p.m.

**2 : 00 P.M.**

S P E A K E R : We shall continue our discussion. Now, I call upon Pu Z.H. Ropuia.

PU Z.H. ROPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. As we have around 500 kms. of international boundary we are facing various problems. So, it is important to approach Central Government to construct international fencing along the boundary as suggested by the resolution. In Western belt, there is international boundary. We all know that last year our security personel were ambushed by group of insurgency where a number of police personnel lost their lives. I visited the spot and saw how important it is to have fencing. Kazalanga forest of Bangladesh is very near and the range of Mausuri - Patrasuri and Marpara is ideal for insurgents to attack Mizoram. Had we have proper fencing, they should not dare to trouble us, now they can cross boundary within 4/5 minutes as there is no fencing. Therefore, it is important to have proper fencing for security reason. Beyond security measure, fencing is important to check infiltration from Bangladesh. I clearly saw while we had Electoral Roll Revision. They were in Bangladesh for sometimes and in Mizoram for sometimes as it is easy to cross the border hence there are many foreigners in our Electoral Roll.

Even in Eastern Belt, insurgents used to enter Mizoram from Burma side freely. Therefore, it is important to have fencing to check the entrance of insurgents even in the Eastern Belt. As there is no proper fencing, they entered Mizoram from various passes by detouring police duty posts. We are also facing drug traffic problems because of lack of proper fencing. Besides, we lost many revenues which can be collected from various items because of no fencing. Even Central Government can earn more revenue if there is proper fencing. There will also be some problems to enforce Animal Movement Bill for Veterinary Department if there is no proper fencing. At the same time, it will alleviate the problem faced by Central Government in security matter if there is proper fencing. So it is not only the interest of State Government, but the interest of Central Government as well. Thus, considering all these points, I would like to request all members to pass this resolution so that Central Government can take steps in this matter more effectively.

Thank you.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Today, I am glad that the  
MINISTER : hon'ble Member moved this important resolution which  
had been mentioned during the previous Ministry and even  
after forming this Ministry, the hon'ble Chief Minister had mentioned about it some times back.

As already mentioned by other Members, Mizoram is surrounded in all sides by international boundary. As we all know, while in Mizoram Drug trafficking is being spread widely, we also learn from newspapers that there is arms smuggling and trafficking. While that is the case, most of our problems are from outside our State. Kidnapping case we had last year was done by outsiders and even the ambush of the police personels was also done by outsiders. These incidents really showed the importance to have fencing. At the same time, we are now having border trade at Tiau and steps are being taken to have the same at Tlabung, it is important to have proper fencing to have border trade smoothly so as to regulate smuggling goods as well as to collect more revenue from various items. Therefore, it is important to have proper fencing for the success of border trade.

Besides, it is known to all that Arakan is one of the main centres for arms smuggling. It is believed that various insurgent groups from Naga, Chin and Manipur used to smuggle arms from Arakan through Mizoram because of this we are facing many problems. Even the police and Indian Army had chased them upto the boundary. Had we have border fencing we would not face those problems and spent large amount of money.

(Speaker : Meeting will be chaired by Member from Panel of Chairman)

Mr. Chairman Sir, as mentioned by the mover, the life/moral of our youths is going down because of drugs and we can say the main reason being an easy entrance and exit from Myanmar. To check all these it is important to have proper fencing at the border. If we plan to continue border trade we also need to have proper fencing. Border fencing is also important to stop murderer or raper or any wrong doer fleeing from Mizoram.

In the meantime, one of our main problems in Mizoram is about foreigners. Great efforts had been taken to check foreigners even through electoral roll. If we have border fencing, it is clear that the influx of foreigners will be very low. Thus, to prevent social evils and to check foreigners, it is important to have border fencing and I would like to request this august House to pass the resolution as moved by the hon'ble Member.

Thank you.



PU LALRINCHHANA: Mr. Chairman Sir, first of all I would like to say that  
MINISTER I do support the resolution. We used to know how strict other countries are in their international boundaries. Even a famous Berlin Wall was constructed to separate E. Germany and W. Germany when there was a separate government and they could not cross the boundary without proper pass though they were the same nation. In our case, even our fellow Indian citizens can not enter our state without Inner Line Pass while we do not have gates to check entry from outside International boundary be it Bangladesh or Chin Hills. So, in our present situation, it is difficult to check the entry of those who cross international boundary freely. This creates a big problem for us. Truly speaking, smuggling was not in the mind of the people of Mizoram. As we are not strict in our international boundary, smuggling had spread widely in Mizoram. In the meantime, free entry of smuggling goods can also effect Indian economy not to mention state economy. We may not know this as we depend on Central Government. Not only this, where there is excessive practise of smuggling, the value of life decreases for love of money. This is the result of free entry of smuggling goods in our state and this really demoralise our society. It is, therefore, important for Government of India to check this.

Besides this, there are many Burmese from Burma and Bangladeshis and Chakmas from Bangladesh which are difficult to differentiate which resulted in high crime rate. It is important to take steps to check this. What most important is to make fencing at the border. The implication of making border fencing is road and security posts. So if we can have border fencing, our economic condition will be improved, and our social life will also get improved. However, when we talk about border fencing, we do not mean to neglect our fellow citizens who are on the other side. When there is a time for unification, the border wall will automatically be dismantled.

There is of course free flow of food stuffs and other commodities in our state because of free exit and entry but this greatly affects our health. Truly speaking, most of the livestocks we eat are from Burma and AH & Vety Department take steps to check the health of these livestocks but it is not an easy task to implement Animal Movement Act. In order to implement this Act, it is important to have Border Fencing and other check posts will also be made where necessary, so that we can have healthy meats. Because of all these, it is important to have border fencing which will be very expensive for State Government hence we need to approach Central Government. I, therefore, would like to request all members to pass this resolution unanimously.

Thank you.

DR. LALZAMA : Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you. Today our resolution is very important. Even the hon'ble Opposition Leader had pointed out the steps they had taken. There is also a proposal to amend the resolution. However, if fencing is constructed, the points raised in the proposal to amend will automatically be settled.

Border fencing is important considering the growth of Chakma population in Mizoram. In 1931 census there were no Chakmas but as time passed, Chakma population appeared in 1941 and 1951 census and now it is difficult to differentiate Chakmas who settled permanently in Mizoram. It can be thought that had there been proper fencing Chakma issue would not be such a big problem.

We had listened various problems we are facing because of drugs and other smuggling goods. Many social evils which are commonly known now which we have never known in the last 20 years ago. It is, therefore, appreciating that this resolution is moved in the House.

Due to the growth of population, there are many foreigners in Mizoram and it is quite a problem to issue even Ration Card for the department. The main reason for this is that there is no proper border fencing and there is free entry at the border. If there is proper fencing, there will be security post and it will be safe and peaceful for villages near the border. Hence, it is therefore necessary to have proper fencing at the border. In addition to these, border trade can be ran smoothly/successfully if we have border fencing. Border Trade will pave way for development and will also distinguish true citizens.

To live together with all kinds of people also affects the health of the society. Even healthy and unhealthy livestock are easily passing thro the border both from east and west of the country. In Mizoram, we never know about bird flu, foot and mouth disease etc. which is very common now. To safeguard Mizoram from all these it is very important to have border fencing thus I support the resolution.

Thank you.

PU H. LAITANPUIA : Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you. In the morning we had listened that International border in particular Indo - Bangladesh Border is an on-going work. I would like to inform the House that any resolution - be it private resolution or official resolution, the opposition party never object to pass. This time there are quite a number of resolutions and the present resolution we are discussing had been balloted as no. 1, even resolution no. 2 is very important and I wish we could take it up. In my opinion, it is good to pass resolutions as much as possible. But it seems we are being delayed so as not to take up the second resolution.

Another point I would like to mention is Mr. Chairman Sir, we used to pass resolution in the House. Even in our last session we passed your resolution and even the Public Works Department Minister said it will be done. But in Work Programme, 10 lakh rupees had been alloted for Sangau to Lungpher which was not mentioned in your resolution. I wonder why the resolution passed by 40 MLAs was not included in the Work Programme. As that is the case, even if the present resolution is passed I am afraid that nothing will come of it again.

Thank you.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Chairman Sir, as the resolution moved by Pu Sangzuala is a big and an important issue, it is my desire that the House will pass it and even the government will take stern steps to urge Central Government to implement it.

Thank you.

PU RUALCHHINA MINISTER : Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you. The resolution we are discussing today is important to protect our land, it is also very important for security reason. The necessity to have border fencing had risen in various ways.

First of all, it is necessary for security reason. As most of the underground insurgents are at the border, sometimes they used to destabilise peace, hence people who live at the border. Can not live in a peaceful life. If there is border fencing it will be easier to safeguard the lives of the people and border trade can also run smoothly.

In the case of Myanmar border, illegal entry of foreigners has been a problem and it is difficult to differentiate the foreigners has been a problem and it is difficult to differentiate the foreigners in terms of appearance. This results unfavourable consequences

like robbery, smuggling and others. Hence, it is important to have border fencing. In the check gate, all goods and commodities will be checked so that we can have free and fair inter trade relation which is convenient for both sides. It has been aware that some people are crossing the border through different routes other than Zokhawthar carrying all sorts of materials. Besides, even criminals could flee from the law across the border. In order to check all these, it is important to have border fencing. For the success of border trade which is being undertaken border fencing is a must. Another significance of border fencing is that it will be an important means to tackle international crime.

I would like to further emphasize that the then East Pakistan Government was also busy trying to check the Chakmas who tried to flee from Bangladesh to Mizoram through the border. Due to the absence of border fencing they could do nothing which resulted in large increase of Chakma population in Mizoram. Without proper border fencing inter trade with Bangladesh can not be prevailed satisfactorily.

As we are all aware that border fencing has to be funded by Central Government, I request this august House to pass this resolution unanimously and the matter may also be processed to Central for prompt action.

Thank you.

PU J. LAWZUALA : Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you. It seems that members have spoken in favour of the resolution. The advantages of border fencing had been said enough and we are wasting time by making the repetition. It will be good if we could save time to discuss resolution no. 2.

As seen in the North East News Letter, the Central Government has made a provision of 1335 crores for fencing N.E. States and Bangladesh border project. Even Tripura Government has already received 8 crores from the Central for Bangladesh border fencing. Thus let us not waste time so let us pass it and urge the Central Government to take prompt action.

In order to save time for resolution no. 2, I suggest to pass this resolution and take up the 2nd resolution as time is money.

Thank you.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA: Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you. Though I support the resolution moved by Pu C. Sangzuala it will be more appropriate if it is about to approach the Central to take more steps as Central had already taken up this matter. According to the mover, the reason behind the resolution is to protect and preserve the land and forest which does not convince me. As far as my knowledge is concerned even a slightest bit of our natural resources and forests including the land had not been exploited by foreigners. We have to examine ourselves as we had severely exploited our forests.

Hon'ble Ministers and other Members from treasury bench emphasised the necessity of border fencing to check drug trafficking and other smuggled goods. But I have a strong view that barbed wire fencing will not prevent these.

Another point mentioned by the mover is that fencing is a must to protect the soil itself. This too does not convince me because it is not applicable as some part of the border crosses river. Even for BRTF it will be difficult to construct road around the border. In my opinion, proper duty post should be made in order to check free crossing of the border. Hon'ble Members from treasury bench said that there is large entry of foreigners

due to lack of border fencing. At the same time, they said that foreigners, Chakma foreigner had not been detected, so they are contradicting themselves.

It is not that I am against fencing itself, but I am not convinced by the objectives of the resolution furnished by treasury bench. However, I believe that it is important from security point of view. The hon'ble Chief Minister, stated that his first task would be to dissolve Chakma District Council and even before this is fulfilled why should we concentrate on other matters.

To conclude my speech, I would like to say that instead of exploiting our forest resources and forest products, let us try to maintain proper administration through which Mizoram will automatically be protected.

Thank you.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Mr. Chairman Sir, today's resolution is important not only for the present but also for future generation. As we are all aware, the people of Mizoram have been facing difficulties from foreigners. Our forest resources are being exploited through the border, even precious lives are lost in the hands of Chakma foreigners. There has also been community clashes on religion and others issues. We can not deny the fact that it is difficult to detect Chakma foreigners due to lack of specific evidence. We can not simply tell which is Bangladesh Chakma or Mizoram Chakma as they are all mingled. Chakma foreigners could easily pass through the border and reside in Mizoram as a citizen.

We can trace back the first entry of Chakmas to Mizoram way back in 1872. Initially they entered Mizoram as potter for British armies, gradually more Chakmas entered Mizoram. The first government order was issued on 1933 that permitted Chakmas to set up a village within Mizoram. In spite of this order, the British Commissioner never treated those Chakmas as sons of the soil. As found in the inspection note, the Superintendent of Lushai Hills on 2.12.1949 it read that - 'no new passes are being issued. These people are foreigners and I do not see any reason why they should not pay tax at the foreigner's rate of Rs. 5/- each. Taxes must be paid at this rate from 1950 - 51. All Chiefs and CIs should be asked to report the names of Chakmas and Tripuras who entered the district in violation of that order after 1944. All Chiefs should be warned accordingly'. Gradually Chakma population increased in Mizoram. On 17.4.1984 leaders of the Chakma District Council submitted to the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi which stated that only 42,000 which is one third of the Chakma population in India resided within the District Council area. If that is so, in 1984, 126000 Chakmas already lived in Mizoram whereas there was only one Chakma Village in 1933 the number had increased to 120 now. Though the Chakmas were not included in the Scheduled Tribe list in 1950 Pu Media Chakma was appointed for the elected seat. Further, the Chakmas vied for elected seats and even an MLA and Minister seats. Mr. Chairman Sir, the Indian Government had accepted those Chakmas who resided in Mizoram before 1950 as citizen of India. These Chakmas wanted to shut themselves off from these foreigners. Hence, it is believed that reliable fencing is the best solution for this problem.

As for the international border on Myanmar side, foreigners have been coming and going as they like. Therefore, border fencing is a matter of urgency to safeguard our state and its sons of the soil.

PU LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we, Members from the Opposition have stated that we support this resolution. But the ruling Members are wasting time as they do not want to spare time for the second resolution.

The hon'ble Minister who stood before me had emphasized the case of Chakma foreigners. But the Home Ministers' statement had made it clear that there were no foreigners pushed back during 2000 - 2001 which proves that the government has not given importance to the Chakmas.

What I would like to emphasize is the root cause for the emergence of this resolution. The Assamese have found out the menace of foreign infiltration and so border fencing was suggested.

Col. LALCHUNGNUNGA SAIO : The case of border fencing had been included in the agreement signed upon the Assam dispute. With this aim in view, the Government of India had also allotted fund from non lapseable pool fund for border fencing. As this is the case, keeping in view the need for border fencing, this resolution has been strongly supported. The main object of the resolution is to check illegal entry of foreigners. Along with this, there are other things which are vital for us such as roads. If we could have better roads in border areas, it would be a great development for Mizoram. Fencing along is not considered enough so the inclusion of road is suggested in the amendment. Border fencing is not expected only to check illegal entry of foreigners but also doing smuggling as well. To safeguard and protect ourselves from foreign influx border fencing is a must.

Moreover, to protect our state, security force is also important. However, to deploy security force the State Government has no total authority in the international border. If there is provision of fund, Defence Ministry will not make any opposition for such matters. Hence, border fencing is necessary for Mizoram and I would further like to request the government to take steps accordingly.

Thank you.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, from the speech of the hon'ble Minister I have the opinion that when Central Government is approached for this resolution, the main objective highlighted would be I think to check illegal smuggling of drugs from Burma. If that is reported to Central Government, State Government would be advised to be alert at Mizoram Burma border area, but border fencing will be rejected by Central Government. I think Centre would not take up border fencing just for the cause of drugs movement. Before moving this resolution, we need to consider whether it effects national security or if there is any incident in the border area.

According to the reply made by the hon'ble Home Minister to my question raised on 17.1.2000 there are no Chakma foreigners in Mizoram, whereas over 1400 foreigners from Burma were detected and sent back to Burma. This information was obtained from the hon'ble Home Minister. While this government has detected not a single Chakma foreigners, over 1400 Mizos from Burma were detected as foreigners and some are even put into jail. These are all Mizos who have Mizo names. Where has been our Christianity and the said Mizo Unification gone? Therefore, the reason behind this resolution has not significance and I suggest that the resolution be withdrawn for now.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I agree with the Transport Minister's statement that it becomes difficult to differentiate between Bangladesh Chakmas and Indian Chakmas. But it appears that the Ministry has forgotten what they had done prior to the election of 1998. During that time, the MNF had detected more than 2000 Chakma

foreigners. From this base, even the Electoral Roll was made. But now, the hon'ble Minister said that they can not detect Bangladesh foreigners from Indian Chakma citizens. This is because all Chakmas have become members of the MNF Party. Perhaps the mover is not aware of the sentiments of MNF leaders for he has suggested the introduction of border fencing. The PC Ministry had already approached the Centre to take up border fencing while Mizoram was a Union Territory.

S P E A K E R : I think the member had made a mistake. The 1984 proceedings has clearly shows that the then Chief Minister Brig. Thenphunga had rejected border fencing.

P U K. L. LIANCHIA : That was boundary fencing but not border fencing.

S P E A K E R : The member must have misunderstood. The then Chief Minister had rejected border fencing and suggested construction of road instead.

P U F. LAL THANZUALA: Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I would like to express my true feelings to the House. A resolution is discussed in the House and passed by members of the House. What I feel is whether the government is sincere enough to execute the resolution passed by the House. In the last session, a resolution moved by the hon'ble Member from Sangau was passed by the House. All the members expressed their support for the resolution. But the resolution is not executed till date and is not even included in the work programme.

Today, we are discussing foreigner issue. We all agree that we are facing foreigner problems. But in my opinion, border fencing is not a remedy for foreigner problem. At the same time, I do support this resolution. But there is more important thing to be considered. The main reason for the increase of foreign population in Mizoram is not due to the absence of fencing at the border, but it is due to our political feelings. It had been reported that there is no foreign entry from Bangladesh side. This is because Chakma foreigners are convinced to vote for MNF and so they are not regarded as foreigners. Physical fencing will not check foreign entry. We could check a small number through barbed wire. The only method to check illegal entry of foreigners is to have a true feeling of nationality.

P U LALRINZUALA : Mr. Spcaker Sir, thank you. I decided not to stand to save time so that there would be time for the second resolution. However, members from Treasury Bench are wasting valuable time in order to avoid the second resolution. Now it seems that there should be no time to discuss the second resolution I made up my mind to say few words on the resolution which is being discussed.

We, members from the opposition have ever wanted to include road construction in the wording of the resolution. Mr. Speaker Sir, I hope you would agree to that. The most important thing as stated by Founder President of the MNF is our mentality. If we do not have right mentality, today's resolution would be fruitless. Even if border fencing is implemented it would only mean that the existing foreigners staying in Mizoram would feel more at home. Before border fencing is done, the foreigners should be ousted first. If the hon'ble House Leader could assure us that Chakma foreigners would be pushed back before taking up border fencing we can support this resolution.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call upon House Leader to wind up our discussion.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. The resolution moved by  
CHIEF MINISTER the hon'ble Member, Pu C. Sangzuala is a serious matter and hence the government is serious on this issue. The Centre is frequently being approached over this matter. In order to put more pressure to the Centre it is necessary to pass this resolution in the State Assembly.

International border fencing is not an easy one. However, in our case, it is necessary to check not only entry of foreigners but also insurgency, drugs and other menances.

In technical side, I have no specific idea. But let us hope we could have a technical committee to study the matter. It is also the principal programme of the Centre to take up border fencing by the year 2001. But we have a view that the Centre would not be in a hurry to follow this programme. Moreover, not only Bangladesh border but the side of Burma is also required to be fenced. As for the check gates and police outposts, it will be set up according to convenience. Fencing will not be done on the specific border line and would not be accepted as border line.

Besides infiltration and smuggling, there is also law and order problem. Stolen materials could easily be taken through international border. People who suffered most are those who live near the border. According to the quality of fencing, border fencing will become effective. If border fencing is found to be ineffective, government would not ready to spend large amount of fund for it. It may not be cent per cent effective but it had already been experienced in practical so we too have been supporting this cause. Even before this resolution is moved, the government has been moving seriously to the Centre. This resolution is just a reminder. Therefore, I invite all members to pass this resolution unanimously.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call the mover to wind up, he is allotted 5 minutes.

PU C. SANGZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I convey my appreciation to the members for supporting my resolution. I further appreciate the suggestion contributed by opposition members. I can see their fear that this resolution might not be workable. Keeping in mind that it is the Central scheme I have moved this resolution. But only Bangladesh fencing is covered by Centre's Scheme it is required to moved for Myanmar border as well. As already stated by the hon'ble Chief Minister, Central Government has been approached to include Myanmar border in the scheme. Hence, this resolution is expected to be of much help in this matter.

The amendment proposed by hon'ble Members was out of enthusiasm. If fencing is constructed, other details like construction of all weather road and security/duty posts are imperative.

Considering our political, moral and economic securities our main objective should be to accomplish this resolution.

The hon'ble Chief Minister had make clarifications and even other members are not against it specifically. I, therefore, would like to request this august House to pass my resolution - This House resolves that Central Government be approached to construct fencing along the Mizoram International border unanimously. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now take vote. Members who agree to pass this resolution may say 'Yes' and those who do not agree to pass may say 'No' (Members agreed).

Thus this Resolution is passed by the House.

The House will resume its sitting on 26.3.2001 Monday at 10 : 30 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 4 : 40 P.M.