

FIFTH SITTING ON MONDAY, THE 26TH 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.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

2. PU H. RAMMAWI to present to the House the 7th Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Environment & Forests Department.

**DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS
FOR GRANT FOR 2000 - 2001 AND
VOTE ON ACCOUNT FOR 2001 - 2002.**

3. Discussion and Voting of Supplementary Demands for grant for 2000-01.
4. Discussion and Voting on Vote on Account for 2001-02.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

5. Bills for introduction, consideration and passing.
 - (i) PU ZORAMTHANGA to beg leave of the House to introduce the Mizoram Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2001
also
to introduce the Bill
to move that the Bill be taken into consideration
to move that the bill be passed.
 - (ii) PU ZORAMTHANGA to beg leave of the House to introduce the Mizoram Appropriation (Vote on Account) No. 2 Bill, 2001
also
to introduce the Bill
to move that the Bill be taken into consideration
to move that the bill be passed.

SPEAKER : 'Fret not yourself because of the wicked, be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass, and ither like the green herb.'

Psalm 37:1-2

We shall take Starred Question. Pu Zakhu Hlychho to ask Starred Question No. 51.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Starred Question No. 51.

Will the hon'ble Minister incharge Public Health Engineering Department be pleased to state -

- (a) What is the name of the firm to take up Aizawl Greater Water Supply Phase II.
- (b) The estimated amount.
- (c) The year in which the estimate was made.
- (d) If the estimated cost is revised what is the revised estimated amount.
- (e) When is the revised estimate was made.
- (f) What is the expected time for completion of work ?

S P E A K E R : Pu Tawnluia Minister to answer the question.

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, the construction work of Greater Aizawl Water Supply Phase II and not Aizawl Great Water Supply Phase II is taken up by M/S Johnson Eastern Power, Aizawl and Public Health Engineer Department.

The original estimate of Rs. 71.80 crores was made in 1996. The original estimate is not revised so far. The project is expected to be complete in 2004.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is my understanding that the tender amount for this project is around Rs. 33 crore. But, the hon'ble Minister has just said that it was Rs. 71.80 crore. What is the reason for this difference in the amount? While the tender amount is only Rs. 33 crore, the contractor is given Rs. 71.80 crore. How can the government afford to pay this much to the contractor?

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, how many firms have bid for this tender?

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, there has been important questions on this project. As we know, 4 companies comprised of Integrated Project of Aizawl one of which is Greater Aizawl Water Supply Phase II, with an estimated amount of Rs. 71.80 crore. This project has been submitted to Urban Ministry, N. Delhi and was approved in 1997. In the same year, tender was floated where 5 Firms had bid for it. The government has set up Work Advisory Board under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. The tender was classified into Part 'A' which is the technical bid and Part 'B' which is the price bid. The Work Advisory Board has set up Technical Committee under the approval of the government. After thorough examination of the tender, the Technical Committee dropped firms on technical ground. Out of the three remaining firms, Mather and Platt India Ltd. has bid for 182 crores, Kirloskar Electric Company Ltd. bid for 156 crore and Johnson Eastern Power bids for Rs. 129 crore which is the lowest. These firms are also instructed to submit alternative offer of

single stage pumping. Here also Johnson Eastern Power is the lowest bidder with an amount of Rs. 105.339 crores. After thorough examination, Technical Committee decided to opt for single stage pumping which is low in maintenance. Its decision was processed to the Work Advisory Board and the latter decided to accept the tender of Johnson Eastern Power which is the lowest bidder with an amount of Rs. 105.339 crore. Work Advisory Board had negotiated with this firms and eventually the firm also decided to reduce its bidding amount from 105 to 99.33. On 23rd November, 1999 an agreement was signed by the State Government and Johnson Eastern Power.

The reason for the increase of the amount is that the government instruct the firms to submit their bid by calculating price escalation for five years so that revised estimate would not be necessary. Thus, the amount paid to the firm was higher than the tender amount. On the other hand we are able to negotiate with an amount that is much lower than the lowest bidder. Still the amount goes to 99 crore.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 52 to be asked by Pu L.N. Tuanga.

P U L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you.

Will the hon'ble Minister incharge Public Health Engineering Department be pleased to state -

- (a) Whether Public Health Engineering Department has taken up link drain system from Public Works Department.
- (b) If so, the reason thereof.
- (c) The number of contractors for the construction of link drain system.

P U TAWNLUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to Starred Question No. 52 -
M I N I S T E R

- (a) Public Health Engineering Department has taken up Aizawl Town link drain system since 1998.
- (b) Through discussions, the two Departments decided that drainage system will be implemented in Aizawl by Public Health Engineering Department and Public Works Department as integrated project. Public Health Engineering Department will take up construction of link drain and development of natural drain. Public Works Department will take up construction and maintenance of Road side drain within the build up area.
- (c) Construction work of link drain is given to 123 persons.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 53 to be asked by Pu R. Lalzirliana.

P U R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I ask Starred Question No. 53.

Will the hon'ble Minister incharge Trade and Commerce be pleased to state

- (a) List of tenderers for supply of ginger with their quoted rate.
- (b) Where does the supplied ginger being stocked?
- (c) To how many families does the government intends to give ginger loan.
- (d) The amount thereof.
- (e) Whether the government is aware that ginger cultivators are charged Re. 1 each for 1 kg. of ginger at Vairengte Check gate on their way to Silchar Bagha.
- (f) Whether contract agreement was made to pay Re. 1 each for 1 kg. of ginger.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, answers to Starred Question No. 53-MINISTER

(a) Tenderers with their rates are as below -

(i) K. Thanchhunga	-	Rs. 17.75 per kg.
(ii) Lalrawnliana	-	Rs. 11.50 per kg.
(iii) ST Khama	-	Rs. 11.00 per kg.
(iv) Remruata	-	Rs. 7.50 per kg.

Against the withdrawal of the first two bidder, the third one Pu ST Khama was selected.

- (b) Ginger is stocked at Food & Civil Supplies Godown at Vairengte.
- (c) Ginger loan is proposed to be given to 121000 families.
- (d) The amount is Rs. 5000/- each.
- (e) The government is not aware that an extra Re. 1 is charge for Ginger at Vairengte Check gate.
- (f) There is no agreement for the charging of fee on ginger at the gate.

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a fact that ginger planters are charged Re. 1 per kg. of ginger at Vairengte Check gate. we have collected this fact from the contractor and the ginger cultivator themselves. Even if the government have no knowledge of this, I have informed of this fact today. Hence, how will the government take action in this regard?

In the meantime, more than 5000 quintals of ginger is being stocked at the godown and are about to rot. In view of this, can the government arrange to make payment to ginger cultivator from the 20 lakhs security deposit of the contractor so that grievances faced by the growers could be solved.

COL. LALCHUNGNUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as stated by the member who stood before me, the contractors have charged cultivators at the Check gate. In this regard, can the government take step to repay the cultivators.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, during the Congress Ministry, a large number of under privileged families were given financial aid under NLUP scheme. This ministry that claims to have no financial problem should have been able to provide financial aid to rural cultivators for ginger plantation.

What is the terms and condition for ginger loan ?

When will the government withdraw the order for the prohibition of selling ginger outside Mizoram ?

The hon'ble Minister had stated in the short duration discussion that ginger rate would be higher in April - May. Does this signify that the rate will go up to Rs. 17.75 per kg. ?

PU J. LAWMZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Ginger loanees are expected to plant ginger. In his Budget Speech, the hon'ble Chief Minister has mentioned that only good quality seed would be supplied. In this regard, how does the government take steps ?

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Contrary to what the hon'ble Trade and Commerce Minister has said, ginger seeds is supplied to cultivators through middleman. As this is the case, the middleman collects only low quality seeds which are usually low price. Is this the policy of the government ?

Secondly, monsoon season is coming. How does the government intend to take steps to solve the problems of ginger cultivators as they have stocked large quantities of ginger to be disposed ?

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, ginger loanees are expected to plant 5 quintals each. Practically, this expectation cannot be done. If 5 quintals of ginger seeds is supplied to 121000 families, the total will become 60500 quintals. Still, large quantities of ginger seeds are left to be disposed of. What is the intention of the government regarding the remaining seeds ?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, my first question relates to the security deposit of the contractor. The contractors have to give a security deposit of Rs. 20 lakh. I think 20 lakhs is too high for scheduled tribe. On what basis is this calculation made ?

Regarding the loan on ginger, what is the terms and conditions to be followed by the loanees ?

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in the case of the question riased by MINISTER Pu Laltanpuia and Col. Lalchungnunga, I would like to inform the House that the government have no official knowledge that Re. 1 per kg. of ginger is charged to ginger growers. Therefore, there is no decision on this matter.

As for ginger stock at Vairengte Godown, the matter is supposed to be decided between the contractors and ginger owners. If the contractors are unable to pay the owners, the government will have to look into the matter.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I think the hon'ble Minister does not understand the situation. Now is the right time to use the security deposit as the owners are facing crisis.

PU AICHHINGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if there is misunderstanding between
MINISTER ginger owners and the contractors, the government will interfere. If not the government have no say in the matter.

As stated earlier, it is not the policy of the government to purchase ginger from the planters. However, the government is ever prepared to find market.

From the member, there is criticism on ginger loan. This policy is introduced in order to encourage rural farmers to cultivate ginger.

It is the intention of the government to increase ginger rate by the month of April.

In regard to the question raised by Pu J. Lawmzuala on the quality of ginger seeds, as far as the government is concerned, ginger produced in Mizoram is regarded as the best quality.

The member from Buarpui has mentioned about middleman, as far as I know there are no middlemen except only in Khawzawl who was also warned to stop acting as middleman.

There is a question on the intention of the government regarding the disposal of ginger that is already harvested by the growers. In this case, as soon as the existing process is completed, new step will be taken.

As for the distribution of ginger seeds, it is the policy of the government to give out in kind not in cash.

In regard to the question raised by Pu Zakhu Hlychho, there is no fixed rate on security deposits for scheduled tribes. However, I would like to say that an amount of Rs. 20 lakh is fixed as security deposit which is to be incurred in time of need. There is no law that prevents usage of this security deposit.

In the question of the terms and conditions of ginger loan, as the cash is to be paid through certain bank, we have to follow the conditions laid by the Bank. Accordingly, the loanees have to make a light mortgage for availing the loan.

SPEAKER : Question hour is over. We will carry on our business.

Let us now invite Pu H. Rammawi to present 7th Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Environment and Forest.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and approval of the House I now present 7th Report of Public Accounts Committee.

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed.

We will go on the next business. Let us now call upon the hon'ble Chief Minister to move Supplementary Demands for grants for 2000 - 2001.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I move to the CHIEF MINISTER House Supplementary Demands for grants for 2000 - 2001 for consideration of the House.

S P E A K E R : Can the House agree to pass without discussion.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : We cannot agree to that.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, I suggest that the House carry out this matter in an uncomplicated way.

S P E A K E R : If the members decides to have a discussion, that can be done. And, each member will be allotted five minutes each.

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in the first page of Supplementary Demands for Grants, we find the remark 'Nil' against the head of State Legislature. This is the point I would like to extend. Mr. Speaker Sir, with your initiative, Budget Committee is set up in which I was one of the members. The Budget Committee has carefully studied the revised budget for the next year. After carefully calculating the revised budget and the liable expenditure, the estimated budget is submitted. But the Finance Minister has cut the budget for State Legislature which is submitted by the Budget Committee. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Finance Department has no right to alter the decision of the Budget Committee. Only the Speaker can change the Budget estimation. The Budget estimates are recommended by the Committee and after approval of the Speaker it shall be forwarded to Finance Department for incorporation in the State Annual Budget. As a matter of fact, the Budget estimation as forwarded shall not be subjected to scrutiny by the Finance Department or any other Committee of Government. If the Finance Department has any observation to make, it shall be submitted to the Speaker for his consideration. In the event of any difference of opinion between the Committee and the Finance Department, the decision of the Speaker in consultation with Leader of the House shall be final. In connection with the above, the hon'ble Speaker has approved the recommendation and has it sent to Finance. But after that the budget recommendation for State Legislature already approved by the Speaker was omitted. I think this is an act of contempt of the House and breach of privilege. The Budget Committee which is set up on behalf of the House has made a recommendation which was approved by the Speaker and was even finalised has come to nothing. If this is the way we are going, there is no use to have a Committee. If the Committee is to be disregarded in this manner, Mr. Speaker Sir, I have no hesitation to withdraw as a member of this Committee.

DR. LALZAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time. I would like to extend the point raised by the member, Pu K.L. Lianchia. From the list of the speech delivered by Pu Lianchia, we have known that the Finance Depart-

ment has gone beyond its purview. If the recommendation of the Budget Committee is approved by the Speaker it shall become final. Finance Department have no authority to change. In the event that Finance Committee has any suggestion, it shall be considered with the Speaker and that, too would be finalised by the Speaker. I think the departments do not fully comprehend the position of House Committees. Moreover, there are certain department officials who have no respect for the position of the members of this House. This mentality has been going on for a long time.

As stated by the member the Budget Committee has high authority which is not fully comprehended by the Finance Department. I agree with Pu Lianchia that this is contempt of the House and should not be ignored. The government should better review this matter and consider reappropriation of the budget recommendation for State Legislature which was omitted by the Finance Department.

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, being one of the members of the Budget Committee I would like to point out a few things. Under the Chairmanship of the hon'ble Speaker, the 40 members of the House unanimously decided to constitute Budget Committee. As listened before, the Committee recommends only Rs. 3.3 lakhs for State Legislature as Revised Estimate. The hon'ble Speaker has given his assent. But, it is not reflected in the Budget which is found to be disheartening for the members. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, this situation is very harmful and should not be ignored because it affects the House members. The person responsible for this matter is the Chief Minister who is also the Finance Minister. If we are going to take up financial matters in this manner, there is no use having Budget Committee. Therefore, I, too would like to assert that I resign from this Committee from this moment.

Thank you.

PU P.B. ROSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. First of all, I would like to say that if the legislators have no respect for the law, we cannot expect officials to have respect for the law. As already mentioned, the officials of Finance Department may not fully understand the rules, but the Chief Minister who, himself was the one to legislate the law should inculcate the officials. The Chief Minister do not respect the Committee which is set up by him and other members. This act has lowered the dignity of the House. Therefore, we cannot expect officials to have respect for the Committee.

As, we have repeatedly mentioned in the previous budget Session, to have a budget without figure is a doorway to corruption. Fund not voted in the Session does seem to be freely spent which we so dislike as in the case of Public Health Engineering Department and other departments. But, today, are forced to pass the supplementary demands as we are not in a position to reject it. As a matter of fact, fund cannot be spent without the passing of the House. But this is the system we are following. Such was the importance of this legislature. But, today, we have heard that the fund which is a mere 3.3 lakhs is neglected. To have a Finance Minister who have no respect for the legislature is regrettable and sad.

PU C. THANGHLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the supplementary demands for 54 Departments have been reflected in the budget book but the budget demand for State Legislature which is only Rs. 3,30,000 is not reflected. I feel ashamed to have participated in this discussion. This denotes that the committee we have set up is meaningless. Mr. Speaker Sir, you, too, must feel degraded by this matter. I think this is a good reason for the hon'ble Speaker and

the Deputy Speaker to leave their chairs. As for the Committee, this is quite a good reason to resign from the Committee. It seems that there is a good reason behind this as only Rs. 3,30,000 is not a problem for Finance Department.

I understand that there is a file being processed to instruct the Secretariat to spent last year's remaining budget. This process could have been avoided if a mere Rs. 3.3 was approved in the first place. As stated by other members, I find no use being one of the members of the Budget Committee and therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission I inform the House that I have resigned from the Committee.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is my deliberation that the hon'ble Finance Minister will seek apology of the House while presenting the demands. But, to my disappointment, he has not done so to the House or to the Speaker. Therefore, I want to say that I have nothing to say in the supplementary demand.

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, three members of the Budget Committee has claimed that this is a prestige issue and even tendered their resignation. Budget Committee is set up by the House and its recommendation is ignored by the Finance Minister. Therefore, this is a serious matter and should not be set aside. The Supplementary demand can not be discussed today. The Finance Minister should discussed today. The Finance Minister should make a corrigendum accompanied by his apology and only after that this demand can be discussed.

SPEAKER : A corrigendum is made and asked my permission to distribute it.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, this is contempt of the House and the Speaker.

SPEAKER : The copy of the corrigendum may be distributed.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we should follow the procedure. The corrigendum is made to correct errors in the Supplementary Demand for Grants. The Minister incharge should have moved the corrigendum.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, there is a signature of 'Lalremthanga' at the corrigendum. This person is not a member of this House nor a Minister. Therefore, he has no right to distribute corrigendum in the House.

SPEAKER : There is no specific rule for only the member to sign in the corrigendum (Interruption - Recess)

SPEAKER : We shall resume our business. Before that let us invite the House Leader.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. It is my intention to make
CHIEF MINISTER apology to the House. I have thought of making
apology before the discussion. However, I had decided
to do that later. Anyway, I would like to express my
apology to the members for not explaining the error in the first place.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as this is the first practice for us there is communication gap between officials and the Committee. When the proposal of the Committee is moved to the Speaker, I was on tour to N. Delhi. However, I was in contact with the Speaker and decided to approve the proposal. But when the demand came out in Book form, demand for State Legislature is found omitted much to our surprise. When the error was detected, there was no time left to prepare another publication of the Budget book. So, it was decided that the budget estimate be reappropriated from the previous year remaining budget of the Assembly Secretariat.

Further, I would like to say that Finance Department has assented to the recommendation of the Committee. And I want to extend my deepest regret for the mistake and error. I hope that all the departments will recognise the importance and authority of the Budget Committee in future.

As for the State Legislature, Rs. 3.3 lakh is decided to be re-appropriated and I request the House to accept this order.

I understand the complains and criticisms made by the members. Even members from the Ruling have pointed out the defect in this matter. Therefore, let us conclude that it will not happens again since this is the first time there are slight mistakes and once again I apologise on behalf of Finance Department. I request the members to understand the situation.

I would also like to request the members to withdraw their resignation. It would be appreciated if the House proceedings is carry on as usual.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call upon the Minister of State to beg leave
of the House for distribution of the corrigendum.

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the House Leader has laid on the table
MINISTER Supplementary Demands. He is now authenticating
the corrigendum.

S P E A K E R : What I have meant is after authentication, you may ask
for the permission of the Speaker to distribute the
copy.

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as per our norms, 2 or 3 copies
MINISTER should be authenticated and submitted.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, the corrigendum should be authenti-
cated and then proceed formally.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, in that case, there may be other papers
that were left unauthenticated.

- S P E A K E R : Any paper to be distributed in the House needs authentication.
- PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, due to shortage of time this morning, 4 copies of the corrigendum was authenticated which was submitted to the Secretary. Therefore, I beg leave of the House to agree to distribute the corrigendum as it is.
- CHIEF MINISTER
- S P E A K E R : As requested by the House Leader it may be permitted. Let us now call upon Pu H. Rammawi.
- PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, as this is the first time we practise this procedure, it is not surprising that we have certain problems. However, let us hope that the prerogatives of the Budget Committee would be final in future.

Secondly, there seems to be an error in the typing of figures between page no. 64 to 68 under head no. 2702. I request the hon'ble Finance Minister to explain the matter.

On Demand no. 54 we see Medical and Public Health under the head of 2201 with the budget estimate of 9,11,22,000 lakhs. But, if we look into Supplementary Demands various departments with their heads are shown on page no. 101 to 105. Here also, Medical and Public Health is not shown. This may also be explained.

In the Supplementary Demand on Demand no. 44, under the head of 2552, a provision of 4 crores has been shown which is coming from North East Council. Whereas other Public Works Department projects like NABARD, World Bank and Rural connectivity in the work schedule of the Public Works Department and the previous said project coming from North East Council is not shown under the Public Works Department work schedule. It would be appreciated if this point can be clarified.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. The amount of the Supplementary Demand constitutes 1/3 of the total budget amount during 2000 - 2001. I would like to emphasize on improvement of budget preparation. While preparing the budget the measures and projects to be taken up should be envisaged by the departments so as to save large amount of fund.

On demand no. 35, there is provision of Rs. 150 lakh for relief to victims of natural calamities sanctioned by the Government of India as recommended by the 11th Finance Commission. Where is this fund and how was it spent?

Again on demand no. 49, we have seen that 68 lakhs was required for payment of compensation to the land owners of Lengpui Airport. If I am not mistaken, payment was already made to land owners sometime back. If so, why is another 68 lakhs is needed for Lengpui Airport. The hon'ble Minister may better clarify about it.

As already mentioned in the morning Session, the Budget Committee set up as per the Rules was obstructed in exercise of prerogative which makes the Committee

meaningless. When the sanctity of the committee become meaningless it affects the privilege of the members and the Speaker. This is not a question of fund, it is a question of the sanctity of the Committee. I hope that this kind of action could not be repeated in future. The Privilege Committee should also look into this matter.

PU Z.H. ROPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Under your guidance, several new systems have been introduced. Even new committees have also been constituted. We are still studying the norms of these committee. And as stated by the hon'ble Chief Minister there are certain cases where flaws and defects can not be avoided. In this connection, it is pleasing to hear the apology of the hon'ble Chief Minister.

As for the Supplementary Demand, I find the preparation a bit unsatisfactory. It would be appreciated if the budget preparation could be done more accurately.

As already mentioned by the member in the morning Session we, the Members of this House are representatives of the people. All the steps taken by the members are solely for the people. I agree with the member that some department officials do not clearly comprehend the position of the members of this House. And coming back to the issue of the Budget Committee, I hope and expect that the Budget Committee may be respected in the future.

PU J. LAWMZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. The Supplementary demand is presented within a short duration and the members have little or no time to scrutinize to discuss it. The members are allotted only 5 minutes each to discuss the demand and as usual we will be left with no other alternatives but to pass it hesitantly. It is even degrading to participate in a discussion where the demand book is not even fully prepared. As stated by the hon'ble Chief Minister, there seems to be communication gap between the Committee and Finance Department. It is difficult to tell whether it is due to negligence or misunderstanding. Whatever the reason may be, it is necessary to be careful in future.

PU F. LALTHANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am pleased to hear the apology of the hon'ble Chief Minister. However, I would further like to say that House Committee was set up way back last year. How can the existence of this Committee could be ignored as though it does not exist?

The hon'ble Chief Minister who is also the Finance Minister seems to be rather busy. He has burdens and responsibility of heavy tasks. That may contribute to the factor for the defect in the regulation of the Supplementary Demand.

There are Rules laid down by the Budget Committee. As per the rules, the recommendation of the Budget Committee for the budget provision of State Legislature should be pass on to the Speaker for his approval. After getting his assent, the recommendation should be sent to Finance Department and the latter has no authority to alter or reject it. In case of any misunderstanding, the recommendation has to be discussed in consultation with the Speaker. As for the Supplementary Demand for this year, all the rules mentioned above are ignored and even omitted the budget provision for State Legislature. This is quite serious and degrading for the Speaker and the House.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. The situation we are facing today is unprecedented that some members of the House Committee have to submit their resignation due to the inefficiency of the government. It is a matter of pride that those members acted in order to safeguard the sanctity and dignity of the House. The justification made by the hon'ble Chief Minister that the practice was new and not used to by the Finance seems to be lame excuse. It should be intolerable for the Committee Members that they are being ignored in this manner and I appreciate their reaction. There has been suggestion from Members from the Treasury bench that this matter may be brought before the Privilege Committee. Such was the seriousness of this issue. Finance Department has adopted the policy that it has full authority over financial matters. This is the reason why the decision of the House Committee was ignored in the first place. This attitude should be removed for the future. Once again, I want to express my appreciation of the stand made by the members for safeguarding the dignity of the House.

Thank you.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, the problem we face today has come up due to lack of proper policy and negligence of law by this government. We have constitution and norms to be followed by the State Government. This government has no respect for the norms but go beyond the rules. This is the reason why our financial administration has gone from bad to worse. Therefore, let us hope that our problem today will be a lesson for us.

Secondly, under demand no. 2 there is provision for purchase of 6 numbers of Ambassador car for Ministers. I wonder if the budget provision is utilised for the right cause as I have seen Ministers having other expensive cars but not Ambassador. The living standard of our Ministers is too high that the State has nearly failed to afford their lifestyle. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, the State Government needs to examine the financial management of the State.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I have not much to say on the Supplementary demand for Grants as I feel that nothing could come out of it. It is the budget already spent and there is no use to argue about it.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the recommendation of the Budget Committee is not shown in the Supplementary demands due to technical lapse. After having a critical discussion, the hon'ble Chief Minister has tendered his apology to the House. The Members should appreciate his apology. Being in the opposition does not mean that we are sitting in the House to criticize the government but to contribute our abilities for the development of the country.

Secondly, since there is no time to comment on demand wise I will try to come as in principle. Fund in the Supplementary Demands is always high, therefore, it is favourable that the House has enough time to discuss it. However, according to the present system, Supplementary Demands is presented in the House only after fund is spent. As this is the case, the House has no alternative but to pass the demand hesitantly. Therefore, as I have already suggested last year, Supplementary Demand should be discussed in January or December so that appropriation could be made accordingly. Even the Indian Constitution, Article 203 and 204 have demanded that such demand should be presented with the estimate and after voted by the House, it may be appropriated. In the case of Mizoram, this provision is ignored and the present practice is going on as a convention. Whenever the demand is

presented with figure it deserves to be discussed in the House. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to suggest again that presentation of Supplementary Demand on the eve of financial year should be stopped in future.

In his Budget speech, the hon'ble Chief Minister had stated that Peace Bonus amounting to 82.45 crores was released on May, 2001. This should be corrected as May 2000. There seems to be clarification regarding this Peace Bonus. Though the hon'ble Chief Minister has named it Peace Bonus, it comes as a special package for the North East States.

If I am not mistaken, fund we spent from ways and means has to be recovered from state fund, whereas special ways and means, if given by Central has to be recovered from Central Government. Hence, I do not understand as to why Rs. 100 crore we have spent from Rs. 182 crore coming as a Peace Bonus would have to be recovered for ways and means. This will mean that fund already given to us is again used for recovery of fund given to us as an advance. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Chief Minister to raise this point at the Centre though I do not know whether it is justifiable legally.

As for the presentation of Supplementary Demands, on May 27th last year, various works and their sanctions were passed by the House. However, work projects have not been started subsequently which opens door for diversion of fund and even corruption.

Now, we have heard about the purchase of building for the office of the MNF party for Rs. 64 lakh. I wonder how the party could have raised such an amount. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, I suggest that let us stop passing demands towards the end of the financial year.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Let us now invite the hon'ble Chief Minister to wind up the Supplementary Demand 2000 - 2001.

P U Z O R A M T H A N G A : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I am pleased that the House could have proper discussion on the Supplementary Demand. Most of the members have shown their displeasure in regard to the treatment meted out towards Budget Committee. I have already informed the House of the many lapses that brought this problem. Though the Budget Committee was set up last year, this is our first practise and due to misunderstanding of the magnitude, we come to this problem. Whereas I feel so sorry for this mistake, I feel that this will be a good experience which would make us more aware of the importance of Legislature Committee.

As for errors in figure, there is a possibility of printing mistake and normally, the mistakes are authenticated and accepted by the House.

The hon'ble Members, Pu H. Rammawi has mentioned certain mistakes and let us presume that the mistakes would be reviewed and corrected.

Pu Nirupam Chakma has raised question on Lengpui Airport. Due to pressure from the Airport Authority, the area beside the airport has to be acquired. Initially, this matter was proposed during the previous ministry. This ministry has executed that proposal.

Regarding the question of detailed disbursement of fund for Natural Calamities, I am not the Minister concerned and thus detailed reports is not presently available. Anyhow, if demanded, detailed expenditure can be made available when budget is discuss in demand wise.

The Opposition Leader has emphasized on the advance of special ways and means. The advance coming as special ways and means is always to be repaid. During the time the state has financial constraint, our deficit goes on. The Central government has advised the State Government to repay our deficit from the Peace Bonus as it was non - plan fund.

The system adopted in India is very confusing. As we all know, 90% of the Budget is contributed by the Centre, only 10% is to be contributed by the State resources. The Central Government is always behind schedule in sanctioning of State Budget. This is the reason why the State Government has to pass budget in advance. As for last financial year, our plan allocation was more complicated than the previous year. Our plan and non - plan budget provision has to be based on the 11th Finance Commission. This year the plan from the Finance Commission came behind schedule. However, we are instructed to make budget plan at par with the previous financial year.

Regarding suggestion raised by the Opposition Leader, our plan allocation has to be approved by the centre. Without their approval, the State government cannot pass it in the House. As for this year, the Centre's approval came very late. Therefore, we cannot avoid presenting the demand at the last minute. As usual, the supplementary demand is presented at the end of the Financial year this time. While some of the provisions are newly allocated there are some that should be adjusted from funds already spent. Centrally Sponsored Scheme amounting to 100 crore has come which the state has not included in the Budget. As a special category state, 6000 crores is raised from 10% each of the plan allocation. According to the level of the scheme submitted by each North East State, the amount has to be distributed amongst the North East States. If the state could convince the Planning Commission with various schemes made under Centrally Sponsored Scheme the plan allocation could be sometimes higher than the annual plan budget. In short, fund can be obtained from the Centre depending on the scheme we have. The Centre is always open to receive our scheme. Officials and departments are also being encouraged to take steps in this regard. We cannot foresee when these fund will come, it all depends on our efficacy and tactfulness. We can only tell that there is adequate fund available in the Centre. Therefore, Supplementary Demand has come in large volume.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the tentative programmes of various departments are briefly reviewed in the latter part. Let us anticipate that Demand wise discussion could be had in the budget discussion.

I now commend Supplementary Demands totalling 4,11,61,21,000 for approval of the House.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble Finance Minister has made explanation and clarification on the Demands. We shall now take vote on it. The members who approve the Demand may say 'yes' and those who are against it may say 'no'.

The House has unanimously approved the Supplementary Demand for 2000 - 2001.

We shall now take vote on Account for 2001 - 2002. The Minister may be asked to move and beg leave of the House to pass the Supplementary Demand.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Since this session has to
CHIEF MINISTER cover the month of April, I commend the Demand of
Vote on Account amounting to 105,80,60,000/- for the
year 2001 for passing of this House.

S P E A K E R : Member who agree to pass may say 'agree' and any
member who disagree may say 'disagree'.

Well, the House has passed the demand on Vote on Account.

We shall now call upon the Finance Minister to beg leave of the House
to introduce 'The Mizoram Appropriation No. 1 Bill', 2001.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission I beg leave of
CHIEF MINISTER the House to introduce 'The Mizoram Appropriation
No. 1 Bill' 2001 amounting to 419 crores 9 lakhs 15
thousand.

S P E A K E R : If the House permits, he may be asked to introduce.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and approval of
CHIEF MINISTER this august House I introduce 'The Mizoram Approp-
riation No. 1 Bill' 2001.

S P E A K E R : Do you all agree to pass? The Bill is unanimously
passed by the House.

The Finance Minister may be asked to introduce 'The Mizoram Appropria-
tion No. 2 Bill', 2001 amounting Rs. 105,80,60,000/-.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : With your permission and approval of the House, I
CHIEF MINISTER move to introduce 'The Mizoram Appropriation No. 2
Bill', 2001.

I also request this august House to pass Vote on Account, No. 2 Bill, 2001
amounting to Rs. 105,80,60,000/-.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We shall take vote. Any member who agree to pass may say 'yes', those who disagree may say 'no'. (Members agree.)

Well, the House has passed 'The Mizoram Appropriation (Vote on Account) No. 2 Bill, 2001 amounting Rs. 105,80,60,000/- unanimously.

The House is adjourned till 10:30 A.M. tomorrow, the 27th March, 2001.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 P.M.