

**SIXTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 27<sup>TH</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, 15 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 8<sup>th</sup> Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Power and Electricity Department.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET**

3. General Discussion on the Budget for 2001 - 2002 to commence.

**S P E A K E R** : But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and future.

Titus 3 : 9

Pu Lalhmingthanga, Leader of the Opposition has applied leave of absence for the morning session.

We shall take business. Starred question no. 71 to be asked by Pu F. Lalthanzuala.

**PU F. LALTHANZUALA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 71.

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

Whether there are still bogus Muster Roll workers under Public Works Department.

**PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to starred question no. 71 is that there are no bogus Muster Roll workers under Public Works Department.

**PU F. LALTHANZUALA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. Reply to unstarred question shows that 575 bogus Muster

Roll labourers has been dismissed. In this connection, I would like to ask whether action is taken against the officials who enrolled bogus Muster Roll labourers.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, there are no enrolment of bogus  
MINISTER Muster Roll labourers in this Ministry. Hence, I have  
no knowledge of whether action is taken or not.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in reply to the unstarred question  
raised by Pu Zakhu, 575 enrollment of bogus Muster  
Roll labourers were dismissed in 2000 - 2001 under  
Public Works Department. The hon'ble Minister is expected to know whether action is  
taken because he is in charge of this department. Even if action is not taken, how can  
the government ignore such action ?

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask the duration of  
year for which this bogus Muster Roll labourers were  
enrolled under Public Works Department.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would further like to enquire the  
number of Muster Roll labourers during 2000 - 2001.  
Does the government aware that there are enrollment  
of bogus Muster Roll labourers in Public Works De-  
partment.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, there are no report of bogus Muster  
MINISTER Roll labourers enrolled under Public Works Depart-  
ment. However, if enrollment of bogus Muster Roll  
labourer is detected, action would be taken.

During the year 2001, there were 2173 Muster Roll labourers employed  
under Public Works Department. Those who are employed for sanction work are  
subjected to be dismissed as soon as their work is completed.

S P E A K E R : We shall go on to starred question no. 72 to be asked  
by Pu Zakhu Hlychho.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 72.

Will the hon'ble Minister incharge Health and Family Welfare Depart-  
ment be pleased to state -

The number of Drugs related death during 2000 - 2001.

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer to starred question no. 72  
MINISTER is according to the information we get from Excise  
Department, there are 139 drugs related death during  
the calendar year of 2000 and 12 death upto February  
2001.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, a supplementary question please. Regarding the record of death due to drugs related problem, I would like to suggest that the Civil Hospital should maintain the record of drugs related death so that the record could be accurate.

In the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister, he has stated that the government is vigorously pursuing priorities set towards solution of social problems which is very pleasing. If that is the case, does the government set any programme to achieve this goal? I would further like to enquire if it is possible that intoxicating drugs is more prevalent due to the enforcement of Total Prohibition. If this is true what measures are being taken to tackle this menace?

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, does the government establish de-addiction centres? If so, where?

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, what is the recorded number of deaths due to consumption of adulterated liquor. What is the intention of the government regarding the enforcement of Total Prohibition?

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, first, I will reply to the question raised by the hon'ble member from Saiha. Civil Hospital has maintained a record of all deaths within the Hospital, whether due to drugs abuse or others. In the case of drugs related death, we need to know that all drugs related deaths do not happened in the Hospital. Therefore, the record maintained by the Hospital cannot be accurate.

It is the policy of the government to take necessary measures to fight the menace of drugs abuse. Steps have been taken to refurbish the De-Addiction-cum-rehabilitation centre at Sethawn which was set up by the previous ministry.

Total Prohibition has earned a lot of debate amongst the public. As for me, I cannot make any conclusion on the controversy that the enforcement of Total Prohibition has caused the prevalent of drugs in Mizoram.

Regarding the question raised by the member from Tuipang, I cannot produce specific answer to the number of deaths due to consumption of adulterated liquor.

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 73 to be asked by Pu R. Lalziriana.

PU R. LALZIRIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 73.

Will the hon'ble Minister incharge General Administration Department be pleased to state -

Whether SDO could be posted at the towns which are earmarked as Sub-Division Headquarters (Civil).

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, steps are being taken by the government so that SDOs and staff could be posted at the Civil Sub - Division Headquarters. However, the matter cannot go into a fast pace as there are problem relating to the posting of staff. Anyhow, it is expected that the matter could be organised within a month or two.

PU N.K. CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask whether there is proposal for the posting of SDO at Tlabung Civil Sub - Headquarters. If so, when ?

I would further like to ask the ADC posted at Tlabung is proposed to be promoted to SDO.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we have heard from the hon'ble Minister that SDO would be posted on the basis of priority. If so, W. Phaileng within my constituency has faced law and order problem, since it is situated at the border area. As this is the case, I request the hon'ble Minister to earmark W. Phaileng as top priority.

PU P.B. ROSANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, against the proposed sanction for Rs. 35,000/- for the construction of the office building for SDO at Ngopa, it has been reported that the contractor has constructed Assam type building with an expenditure of Rs. 7 lakh. I ask if the hon'ble Minister is aware of this report.

PU N.P. CHAKMA : A supplementary question please. Pu Lalrema, SDO(C) posted at Chawngte was conferred promotion but it was cancelled again. This action has affected the prestige of an MCS official. What is the reason for this cancellation ?

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, can the hon'ble Chief Minister assure the House that SDO would be posted at the proposed Sub - Divisional Headquarters within 2/3 months.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is the desire of the government to fulfil the proposal. I can only assure the House that the government will do its best for the accomplishment of the proposal.

The member from Chawngte has mentioned about the posting of SDO at Tlabung. This matter has been under process.

The case of W. Phaileng has been taken as priority on ground of law and order problem.

The office building at Ngopa seems to be connected with Public Works Department, therefore, I am not clear with the matter. But, it will be looked into.

There can be various problems regarding the cancellations of the promotion of Pu Lalrema. However, I want to say that the government is following the procedure.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, is there any base on this cancellation?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the action is based on Sub-Divisional  
CHIEF MINISTER Rules. And it may not be convenient to point out the reason in the House.

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 74 to be asked by Pu K.T. Rokhaw.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 74.

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

- (a) The total expenditure incurred for the construction of Chief Minister's Bungalow.
- (b) The name and address of the contractors.
- (c) The amount of work allotted each.

PUR.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the total amount of expenditure  
MINISTER incurred for the construction of Chief Minister's Bungalow is Rs. 2,95,35,562/-. The civil works is allotted to Pu Hmingthanga, Electric Veng for Rs. 2,46,93,416. Air conditioning is done by K.C. Enterprise, Chaltlang while internal electrification is done by department. The expenditure for Air Conditioning is Rs. 17,23,730/-.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, what is the original estimate for the construction of Chief Minister's Bungalow.

Secondly, it has often been raised in the House that Air Conditioner should be fit inside the Assembly Hall. But, this suggestion is not fulfilled till date. Can the hon'ble Minister note this?

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Chief Minister's Bungalow is  
MINISTER equipped with Air Conditioner with an estimate of Rs. 47,46,089.55/-.

COL. LALCHUNGNUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know the reason for the rise of the expenditure.

How many Air Conditioners are fitted in the Bungalow?

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister to reply my question.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, decision is already made for the fitting of Air Conditioner at the Assembly Hall. The work is proposed to be funded by Capital Project. As soon as fund is received, Air Conditioner would be fitted in the House.

According to the size and number of rooms, Air Conditioners is fitted in the Chief Minister's Bungalow.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask whether this government received fund this year from Capital Project Fund.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in reply to the question raised by Pu H. Rammawi, we are awaiting for the fund for fitting of Air Conditioners inside the Assembly Hall.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, being the House Leader and occupant of the Chief Minister's Bungalow, I would like to give a few information to the House. As already said, the original estimate was only Rs. 47 lakh but go up to 200 lakhs. This difference in amount may be surprising to the members. According to the original estimate, the bungalow was designed to be a two bedroom bungalow was extended into a two storeyed bungalow which caused the rise in the expenditure.

S P E A K E R : Starred question no. 75 to be raised by Pu Zakhu Hlychho.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask starred question no. 75.

Will the hon'ble Minister incharge Higher and Technical Education be pleased to state -

Where does the government establish Residential Science College ?

PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, from the session of 2000 - 2001 Residential Science College had been renamed as Government Zirtiri Residential Science College.

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, is there any proposal for the acquirement of bigger land for the construction of the said college.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know the number of teachers and students at the college. Are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students being taught at the college ?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, as the name denotes, the college is

supposed to have hostel facilities. If that is so, can the place provide such accommodation? It is also learnt that the college campus is so congested that only 1<sup>st</sup> year students can be accommodated and other standards are taught at Aizawl College. Even practical classes are being conducted in other convenient colleges. If this is true, our education will certainly fail. It would be appreciated if the hon'ble Minister could clarify this matter.

PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the question of accommodation for students at Zirtiri Residential Science College, there are certain points to be clarified. The building is rather small to accommodate large number of students. So, it is being reconstructed and all the students cannot be accommodated for now. As mentioned by the members, only 1st year B.Sc. students are accommodated at the college and other classes are in Aizawl College. The building is proposed to be completed before the end of July. By that time, we expect to accommodate all the students.

Presently the department has been looking for bigger place for the shifting of the college and have earmarked freeland at Mualpui area. After the completion of all the necessities, Residential College is intended to be constructed.

It is the aim of the department to include Boys and Girls Hostel, administrative building, laboratory building and staff quarters. The department has been taking all the necessary steps for this.

I request the members to understand that I cannot produce specific number of teachers and students as the information is not available with me now.

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we have heard the replies of the hon'ble Minister. But, I want to ask why the government was in such a hurry to set up the college without having necessary infrastructure.

The Minister stated that the existing building is being reconstructed. At the same time, mention was also made that another land at Mual pui area is earmarked for the college. In that case, what will the department do with the college building which is being constructed.

If the students attend class in different colleges, how does the college authority run the administration?

PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I think there is nothing to be misunderstood. Even Mizoram NEHU Campus has been occupying several buildings in various localities for more than ten years but still running the administration efficiently. Most of the institutions have been started on a simple infrastructure. Even if the college is shifted to a new building, the existing one could be utilised for hostels and other accommodations.

As for the teaching staff of 2nd and 3rd year B.Sc, attendance is maintained at Zirtiri Women's College and transported by the College Bus to their destination. So far there has not been any complain from the Principal and Staff of the College.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, starred question no. 76.

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

- (a) The number of post created but not yet filled up in Government Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools.
- (b) Why is the posts not filled up ?
- (c) When will these posts be filled up ?

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answers to starred question no. MINISTER 76 are as below -

- (a) 13 posts in Government Colleges and 69 posts in Higher Secondary Schools.
- (b) The posts are not yet filled up as there is not sanction from the government.
- (c) Posts would be filled up as soon as there is sanction.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it seems that the department has not paid enough interest to schools and colleges. Even if these posts cannot be filled up for now there are several schools without Principal and Headmasters which needs attention of the department. Therefore, I suggest that qualified teachers may be promoted to the posts of Principal and Headmaster.

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, from the replies furnished by the hon'ble Minister we know that 82 posts of head of institution has not been filled up. I would like to know the reason for this. I think the reason may not be due to financial difficulties because the hon'ble House Leader has often said in the House that fund is not a problem.

PU J. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, how many private schools have been upgraded to 10 + 2 schools ?

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, last year the salary of 10 + 2 teachers were withheld by the government and to show their grievances 10 + 2 students had even gone on strike. I would like to ask whether 10 + 2 teachers have received their due salary.

Plus 2 teachers are not given priority by the government. Besides restraining their due salaries, they do not even enjoy Medical Reimbursement facilities. As a result, Higher Secondary examination cannot bear fruitful results. Does the government have any programmes for the improvement of education in Mizoram ?

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Budget Book shows that there is a provision of Rs. 1,00,000/- on 'other expense and office expense' for Government Primary School. We have 893

Primary Schools in Mizoram. If so, it means that each Primary School can have Rs. 9.25 per month each for office expenses. How can we expect the schools to manage with Rs. 9.25 per month?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated that there are Higher Secondary Teachers appointed on a fix pay scale and are awaiting the result of their proposed new pay scale.

Labour and Employment Department has fixed the wages of employees who are appointed on daily wages basis. Does the Education Department have authority to make a proposal regarding salaries?

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I will first come to the question raised by the member from Saiha. As per norms of the department of Labour and Employment, Master Degree holder should be employed on the basis of Rs. 105/- per day which is found to be insufficient. In view of this, there is proposal from Finance Department to make a decision for the government. This matter has been processed by the department. However, if the members have any ideas in this regard the government decision will be based on that idea.

As pointed out by the member from Suangpuilawn it is true that each Primary School can have only Rs. 9.25 per month. As proposed by the Fiscal Reforms some kind of contribution is considered to be collected so as to cover a slight part of office expenses.

Coming to the salary of Plus 2 teachers, they are already given their due.

Regarding the question raised by the Member from Suangpuilawn, permission to open Class XI and XII is already given to at least 3 institutions. The department still opens permission to schools who are interested.

Member from Buarpui has enquired the reason for the delay of post filling for college and Higher Secondary Schools. Initially, the Selection Committee could not find the required number of qualified teachers for the posts. Later, when the posts was proposed for re-advertisement, it has to go through the approval of the Finance Department. The reason for the delay in the post filling is that the department cannot take action without the approval of the Finance Department and DP & AR. As soon as Finance Department release sanction, the vacant posts would be filled up.

S P E A K E R : Question hour is over, we shall go on to the second business.

Let us now call upon Pu H. Rammawi to present the 8<sup>th</sup> Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Power and Electricity Department.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and the House I present to the House the 8th Report of The Mizoram Public Accounts.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The copy may be distributed to the members. We shall go on to the next business, General Discussion on the Budget for 2001 - 2002. The Members will be allotted 15 minutes each. Pu H. Laltanpuia.

P U H. L A L T A N P U I A : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. The budget book shows that the total demand for grant is 1148 crore in which demand for development projects is not much. We have 723 crore in the non-plan budget of which 63% is earmarked for salaries, payment of deficit and office expenses. Out of the total 1148 crore, only 9.7% is earmarked for development project. The rest is supposed to be spent on revenue expenditure. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is regretting to see that this government has paid more interest to revenue expenditure than development plan as only 9.7% of our budget goes to the people share.

Whenever the Finance Minister delivered speech, government policies and top priorities are mentioned. If we recall the speeches made in 1999 - 2000, 2000 - 2001 and 2001 - 2002 it all mentioned that this government is vigorously pursuing the set priorities towards achieving self sufficiency in food. In reality, our economic condition has gone from bad to worse. The main reason seems to be that this government does not really give priority to self sufficiency in food. In 1999 - 2000 an amount of Rs. 30,03,638.93 was the budget estimated and revised estimate for Agriculture. Again, the Budget estimate on Agriculture for 2000 - 2001 was Rs. 20,00,153.02. This year, the budget estimate for Agriculture Department is only Rs. 1976.60 lakh. The budget demand for this department has been deteriorated during the last three financial years. If self sufficiency in the production of foodstuff is the set priority of this government why was the budget demand for agriculture become lower each year. If priority is really given, the government should allot more and more provision for the department. The people will lose their confidence in this government if the existing system is not changed.

Not only in Agriculture, but the budget demand for Horticulture is also cut down each year for the last three years. I think the speech of the Finance Minister clashed with the Budget Book.

Another point I would like to mention is that budget allotment for supply of material covered a large amount of the budget. It is even higher than the demand for development works which makes the action of the government doubtful. As we are all aware, supply of material has opened door for corruption. While other departments like Social Welfare and Sports are restricted with the supply of material, why is the government so generous for Agriculture and Horticulture Departments? Mr. Speaker Sir, I cannot help myself from feeling suspicious of the motives of the government.

The hon'ble Minister has mentioned Fiscal Reform Committee. Our expectation from this Committee is mainly to review the various expenditure of the government. At the same time, reasonable tariff is expected. Contrary to our expectation, we have heard of the function of the Committee from the Minister. It has made a recommendation for the collection of fee from under privileged students to cover office expenses. This is so terrifying ! why does Fiscal Reform Committee recommends such thing ? It has ignored provision of the rules laid down by Government of India that Primary education should be compulsory and free. Instead of checking the expenditure of the government, the policy of the Fiscal Reforms Committee seems to be collecting money from the people.

From the reply furnished by the hon'ble Minister, the total pending bill upto 1.3.2001 in the Treasury has amounted to Rs. 58 crore. If finance matter is not a problem, how can such a huge amount be kept pending in the Treasury?

S P E A K E R : Your time is over. Let us now call upon Pu K.T. Rokhaw.

P U K . T . R O K H A W : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. At the outset, I would like to request the members from the Treasury Bench not to lead the state blindly into the coming financial year.

Last year, the government had been going on for eight months on guess-work. Today, we have reaped the result particularly in the procurement of ginger. Speaking of ginger, ginger loan is proposed to be given to 20,100 families for Rs. 5,000/- each, the loanee require to mortgage plot of land as security. It is so distressing that rural people are monopolised in this manner. For people living in the remote areas, they have to pay a lot to come to Aizawl to get a mere Rs. 5000/- and that also get only two third of the total amount of Rs. 5000/-. With only that much how can we expect them to be successful in ginger growing? During the Congress Ministry, New Land Use Policy was introduced but was severely criticised by the members who now sitting on the Treasury Bench. But, today we have witnessed the result of NLUP. Through this policy, many families were assisted with Rs. 30,000/- purely on grant plus a plot of land to grow any crop of their choice. Perhaps all the beneficiaries are not successful. But, the money has reached the pocket of the rural people. This only is an achievement not to say the outcome. Most of them are successful and are now reaping the results. As for ginger, Rs. 5000/- is given as a loan which needs mortgage. The amount is rather small to earn their livelihood.

We have great expectation from the newly set up Planning Board and I have high regards for the Vice Chairman for his experiences. Even the members of the Board comprised of scholars and intellectual persons. But all our hopes and expectation are shattered as the Board has barely functioned for the last 2 years. Nothing is accomplished by the Board for the last 2 years. The only function to be seen was the two meetings called by the Chairman where the agenda was having refreshment and introduction of the Board members. The case of the Budget Committee which was debated yesterday was also the result of the negligence of the Planning and Finance Department.

Coming to Agriculture, it is shown that 4.488 crores was spent for seeds and seedlings and another 129 lakhs on Horticulture. If the seeds are really planted there would be a result to be seen. Even in my constituency, there is no sign of step being taken.

As for the distribution of fund for different district, I feel that the government is partial. Compare to the allotment of Rs. 50/60 lakhs to other districts for the construction of link road and land development, only Rs. 3 lakh is sanctioned for Chhimtuipui District. Mr. Speaker Sir, I feel so disheartened for this partiality. The government has transferred Pu R. Thansanga to the post of Additional Secretary from the post of the Director of Agriculture. And in his vacated post, a non - Mizo Official is promoted while there are many officials available among the sons of the soil. The new Director has not paid any interest for the progress of agriculture in Mizoram. Since he occupied the Director's Office the condition of rural agriculture has deminished. Why can't the government take back Pu R. Thansanga who used to be so earnest in agriculture. It can be suspected that there is a secret connection between the non - Mizo Secretary and the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister has owned a farm at Neihbawi for which 700 angle iron was obtained from Agriculture godown on 24.3.2001. The iron was carried by a vehicle no. RV

1520 owned by Agriculture Department. These iron angle is worth Rs. 4,40,100/-. It is surprising to note that the Chief Minister has acted in such a manner while we are having Budget Session.

Finally, the MNF Ministry does not make any achievements at all. The only new things we have seen seems to be changing of the colour of taxis from black to white, altering Town Bus into City Bus and giving all the contract and supply works to Lunglei and Aizawl Districts and most of all, giving false promises to ginger growers. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Chief Minister has often stated that there is lots of money but in reality it is only in words that there is money.

PU L.N. TLUANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. The total Budget estimates for disbursement under the consolidated fund of the state during 2001 - 2002 is Rs. 1148 crore, out of which 49.68 crore is expected to be contributed by the state. Generally, non-plan budget like office expenditure has to bag 723 crore which is 63% of the total budget. The remaining 37 percent sums to go to development works. Mr. Speaker Sir, this division of the budget shows our poor standard of the budget. If we closely examine the budget it is difficult to tell the interest and priorities given by the government. The hon'ble Finance Minister often asserted that self sufficiency in food and electricity is the main priority of the government. In reality, the budget provision for Agriculture and Power is diminishing each year.

Recently, user charges like water, electricity, room rent in government accommodation, bus fare, house tax and motor tax have been revised upward which is enough burden for the people. I am not fully against the imposition of tariff, however the government should also consider the system which does not bring burden to the people.

We have said the measures taken by Fiscal Reform Committee. We need to examine closely several corporation under Public Undertakings. We have ZIDCO, MAMCO, MAHCO, MIFCO, ZENICS and ZOHANDCO. These corporations are supposed to make profit. But, these corporations have been running at a loss. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, something has to be done and the government need to look closely inside these corporation. Similarly, the performance of Transport Department also needs carely study. We have just heard that this department had lost Rs. 43 lakh during last year. Privatization may also be a good suggestion. We have often said fiscal reforms and emphasized on reduction of expenses. At the same time, the telephone bill for the last 12 years for the Ministers was Rs. 25,67,249/-. This shows that we really need to take financial measures.

Regarding Planning and Implementation, we have several Planning Board while the department concerned are expected to look into the steps to be taken, there seems to be no proper coordination between the Planning Board and the department concerned. This has really hampers the development works.

Coming to Finance Department, I have the opinion that this department is rather nonchalant in the control of finance matters. This department never release departmental fund at the right time. This has hampered departmental works and it is also an easy way of corruption.

In reply to the unstarred question, the total amount of loan taken by the Government of Mizoram comes to Rs. 4,13,10,96,760/-. Compared to the population of Mizoram, the above amount is too high. It is hard to tell how the government is going to manage with it. Therefore, I would like to request and hope that this government will spend the budget for the rightful purposes.

Thank you.

PU F. LALTHANZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. The Budget is a mirror that shows the policy and interest of the government. As this is the case, from the Budget we can tell that the government has no priority for education which is very regretting. Education is very important for future generation. We have to make Education Department into a super government and more fund should also be allotted for it. Even great countries like the USA and UK have given top priorities to Education. When George W. Bush became the President of the USA, the first priority he had in mind was to make better education in the country. And Tony Blair, the Prime Minister of UK has stated that Education was the heart of his government. Such is the importance given by leaders of great countries. To give priority to education is an important factor for the development of a country. As for Mizoram, only about 16% of the total budget is set aside for education which covers the salary of the teachers for only 9 months. How can we expect our education to flourish in this way. The way in which we emphasize on the budget is wrong.

Secondly, I want to emphasize a few points on matters concerning MPSC. MPSC has played an important role in the recruitment of government employees. Hence, I would like to warn the government that there should be no partiality in the selection. If the MPSC shows special consideration for relatives or shows favour to close friends that will bring unfavourable consequence to the administration of the State. We have heard from the Minister that the Commission has barely functioned nowadays due to the absence of the Chairman. For the Chairman of the MPSC, a person must be efficient, contingent and even clean from an act of corruption. If these vital points are disregarded, it will be an offence to the nation or to the state.

Thirdly, I would like to say that there is regional prejudice in the division of our budget. While there are some projects that highly require attention, the budget seems to be concentrated on other project which the authority has favours on. I cannot help myself from mentioning my constituency. The road between S. Vanlaiphai and Cherblun really needs attention. Even small vehicle cannot go through it. The road is only 26 kms but provision for this road has not been reflected in the budget. Due to poor condition of the road, food supplies is hampered especially during the monsoon season. Sometimes, the contractors have abandoned their supply works due to the poor condition of the road. Therefore, I request the authority to examine the condition of all four corners of the State and make budget allotment according to the necessities.

PU C. SANGZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. It is a pleasing matter to note that there is progress in the preparation of our Budget book and its explanatory memorandum. For those who are not accustomed to the Budget Book, we could easily understand that there is progress in the making of the Budget Book. Plan, non - plan and even fund received from the NEC and CSS are clearly classified in the Book. So, I would like to express my gratitude to the officials who have prepared the Budget Book.

Another point that is closely connected with the above is the furnishing of the performance under Plan 2000 - 2001. I have generally studied the performance book and I have found evidence that the criticism thrown on the MNF Ministry is baseless. In the Performance Book, we can find several new things that are connected with the Budget. We should be grateful that the Performance Book of 2000 - 2001 is released and open for commend. Further, it is a new experience for the House to be able to see the work programme of working department under plan for the year 2001 - 2002. Another point of gratitude that could be seen is in regard to the financial management. There was a time when the officials responsible for financial management are blamed. However, if we look into the summary of essential position thus annual financial statement 2001 - 2002, we can see how financial condition of Mizoram was managed. It is indeed a great progress. There may be

criticism on the system in which the annual budget is divided. But, in general, we have to accept that there is progress. At the same time, I am not saying that the budget is excellent, there may be certain points for dissatisfaction as in the case of the point raised by the hon'ble Member from Hnahthial constituency. As for my constituency, we have not even heard of rural connectivity. But, I hope and expect that the authority would take action at the right time. Generally our budget for this year is satisfactory and I believe that the state would take steps forward with the budget.

Some members have shown their disapproval on the amount of allotment for salaries. How can this be avoided if the number of employees was too high since the time of the previous Ministry?

Thank you.

PU N.K. CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I have gone through the Budget speech of the hon'ble Finance Minister. I have found nothing new but only fiscal measures taken by this new government. In the Budget Speech, it is clearly stated that charges like electricity, water, room rent in government accommodation, bus fares have been increased. This will certainly be an extra burden for the general public. The budget is not oriented to the poor as there is no proper plan and programme.

An Agriculture Department there is no positive results to be seen. The area under Tlabung constituency which is considered a very fertile land has been neglected by the government and minor irrigation facilities have not been provided by the government. The project under National Watershed Development Programme under rain fed area and Water Development Programme under shifting cultivation is also not up to satisfactory.

The performance of Power Department within my constituency is the worst. Still, there is no provision for it in the budget. In most of the villages within my constituency, there are no basic facilities like water and medicine etc. Therefore, the budget is not development oriented.

Money does not reach the people. The government has done nothing to improve the poor people. In regard to BADP proper procedure is not followed. Most of the work under BADP is not followed. Most of the work under BADP is entrusted to the outsiders. While they get the money, no work is done. Last time, I had visited Malsuri, the people informed me that out of the sanctioned fund of Rs. 2 lakh only, Rs. 7000/- was spent for the construction of link road between Malsuri and Tobhisuri. This is the condition of my area. In reply to my question, the hon'ble Minister had stated that there was no Primary School without teachers within Tlabung Constituency. Still there are many schools where there are no teachers.

Coming of trade, the case of border trade at Tlabung is publicised by the government. It was further stated that concrete step is being taken for the construction of infrastructure for the purpose of Indo - Bangla trade at Tlabung. But, in reality nothing is done. At one time, Legal Metrology Department was functioning at Tlabung. But, now, the office stopped functioning. Even there is no full - fledged SDO at Tlabung. All these have proved that this government has not taken interest in the rural areas.

If we look into the Budget Speech we can see that nothing new is shown but a reflection of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between this Government and the Central on 8.4.1998. There is no development.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The House will have a recess till 2 : 00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 1 : 00 P.M.

**2 : 00 P.M.**

S P E A K E R : We will take up the next business, Pu R. Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Unlike other budget speeches delivered, the hon'ble Chief Minister has started his Budget Speech by quoting the presentation of the Supplementary Demand for 2000 - 2001. He had mentioned the Supplementary Demands for 2000 - 2001 because that demand was passed though the plan has not yet been finalised by the Central Government at that time. And the state annual plan was made at the level of the previous years plan allocation. Hence, the budget was considered to be the worst budget ever. In the 1999 - 2000 budget speech, the hon'ble Chief Minister had emphasized his desire for the practise of 'Zero based budgetting'. Two years have passed but the introduction of zero based budgetting seem to have been forgotten.

I feel so disappointed to hear the budget speech of the hon'ble Chief Minister. It is further disheartening to hear about the set up of Fiscal Reform Committee and various fiscal reform measures to be taken. It appears that his government is set to follow unfavourable fiscal policy. Looking into the various economic measures taken by the government, we can say that the extra expenditure incurred by various departments are being over looked but focussed only on the public. The upward revision of water and power tariffs, room rent in government accommodation, bus fares and land tax are burden to the common people. In spite of the repeated mentioning of the release of Peace Bonus by the Central, the presentation of the budget plan shows that the financial condition of the state is still critical.

In his speech, the hon'ble Chief Minister has emphasized that the Peace Bonus has reduced the state's fiscal deficit. But, by the end of the year, the deficit will rise to 148.59 crore. Moreover, it was further stated in his budget speech that the balance amount of Peace Bonus of Rs. 82.45 crore for clearing some of the accumulated liabilities of the State Government was due to be released in May, 2001. But, we are now only in the month of March. In order to obtain what he expects from the Central, the hon'ble Chief Minister had made a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central government. In pursuance of this agreement, the government has to take new programme. That programme has victimised the poor and the under privileged section of the people. Therefore, it is disappointing to see the budget for this year. Whereas the Planning Commission has finalised the plan allocation for other North East state to allot more fund, the plan allocation for Mizoram is increased only from 401 crores to 410 crores which is only 8.74 crores. Nagland and Tripura can also get a special package from the Centre. Therefore, the hon'ble Chief Minister should clarify whether that is also Peace Bonus or insurgent bonus. The hon'ble Chief Minister had stated before the officials at Vanapa Hall that if he wants he could get 500 crores from the Centre. If this is so, why didn't he do so because Mizoram is desperately in need of that amount.

In the Explanatory Memorandum of the Budget 2001 -2002, we find an earmark scheme for 9,587 lakh from the 41,000 lakh provisioned by the Planning Commission. There are 10 schemes under this head. But, the Chief Minister did not mention any of these schemes. Again, in the Demand for Grant, there are provision for 360 lakh for Cardamon plantation and 280 lakh for Bamboo plantation. But, it was not clearly shown as to through which department these projects are to be taken up. The Chief Minister has not made any mention on this matter.

Emphasizing on ginger issue, it is suggested that instead of loan, financial assistance may be given to interested persons as already practised by the Congress Ministry in the form of NLUP and SDS. Prior to his Chief Ministership, the hon'ble Chief Minister had stated that Mizoram would reach the status of self-sufficiency in food stuff within 3 years. Now 2½ years have passed but self-sufficiency is far from it. Hence, Mr. Speaker Sir, if money is not a problem, why has not the budget allocation reflected the share of the people?

Lastly, I would like to extend one point on the matter mentioned by the member from Tuipang. The Central BJP President has resigned following the alleged corruption amounting to only Rs. 1 lakh. Today, we have heard of the Chief Minister who has mis-used iron angle worth Rs. 4,10,000/- meant for Agriculture godown. If the Central BJP Leader can resign due to such a simple cause how will the Chief Minister react to this charge?

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. Since the first session in this Ministry, we have often emphasized that there is no share of the people in the Budget. It is hoped that the members from the Treasury Bench would realize their fault from the right of our criticisms. Unfortunately, we have had three budget presentations, but, their election manifesto of 'budget for the poor' seems to have been forgotten. This government has no proper plan which result in the poor preparation of budget. Sometimes, the government concentrates on bamboo project, and another time they focus on ginger or privatisation. However, there is only words but implementation is far from it. Due to lack of proper plan and programmes nothing can go right. The previous government has made economic plan according to the climatic condition of Mizoram in consultation with experts and resource persons. That economic plan has been abandoned today. It will be fruitful if that plan has been revived by this government.

The hon'ble Chief Minister in his speech before the assembly of officials said that it was his choice not to go on credit. However, in contrast to his statement, the hon'ble Chief Minister had again stated on 10th October that without loan, development works cannot be taken up for a poor state like Mizoram. His contrasting statement has a bad impact on the State.

In the Budget Speech, the hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that Fiscal Reform Committee was constituted with an object of improving our financial position. This Committee started functioning at once and submitted its recommendation. From the light of the replies made by the hon'ble Minister, we can see what was recommended by the Committee. Those are collecting fee from Primary School students, upward revision of water and power tariff, increase of room rent of government accommodation and various other fees. Hasn't the government is taking measures by causing more burden to the poorer section of the people?

In regard to room rent in government accommodation, while the rent for VIP room is Rs. 60/- per bed, the common people who are on medical referral case have to be charged Rs. 200/- and students and others have to pay Rs. 350/-. Mr. Speaker Sir, on what purpose is the Mizoram House built? Isn't it for the people? But, we are now making it into the luxurious den of the VIP. I think the room rent are fixed in comparison with the hotel rate. Mizoram House is built for the public and I would like to remind the authorities that the service rendered by the government is service to the people of Mizoram.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we are all aware that Mizoram State is facing financial constraints. But, I want to remind the authority that the reason for this do not lie with the people. We should not try to recover the State's financial deficit by collecting more taxes,

fees or by raising room rent in government accommodations. In fact, the annual emoluments of those 200 MR labourers who are dismissed following the recommendation of the Fiscal Committee is only Rs. 40 lakh. Our fiscal reforms should target higher position holders not the lower section of the people. This government is trying to make fiscal reforms by suppressing the poorer section of the people. At the same time, a supply bill for Rs. 3 crore rejected by the previous ministry on suspect of fraud is being renewed by this government. Another bogus bill which was rejected by the previous government is also being processed by Secretariat Administration Department. Mr. Speaker Sir, I have mentioned this to show that there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor. If the government is really interested in finding out the real factor for our financial problems the answer would be found in Supply Department where unnecessary items worth 4 crores have been supplied, and in Agriculture Department where bogus plant seeds worth 5 crores are being supplied. Again in Transport Department and Health Department large amount of fund has gone for fencing alone. These are the reasons for the formation of Fiscal Reform Committee. Even if we have passed the budget, the largest amount would go to higher authority and the budget would have no meaning for the general public.

Lastly, what most important is to implement various developmental works under proposal. As for my constituency, there are several incomplete works whether construction of building or road. The hon'ble Minister should have visited Chawngte Hospital. The contractor has already drawn more than Rs. 20 lakh but not laid even one post for the hospital. Therefore, I remind this government to take up developmental works in reality.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to conclude my speech by saying that it is disappointed to witness that the people have lost their confidence in this ministry.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time. At the outset, let me express my gratitude to the hon'ble Speaker for the efforts he has made through the House Committee. Further, I convey my gratitude to the hon'ble House Leader that the work programmes and financial achievement made in the previous year have been reflected in the Budget Book. Last year, when the budget was presented, I had made a remark that the budget was the worst ever. The hon'ble House Leader had reacted positively on my remark and this year we could have a better budget presentation that worths mentioning. As I have already said yesterday, I do not hesitate to praise the performance of the government if necessary.

I have carefully analysed the nature of our budget and came to the conclusion that it is anti people and anti poor that will brings burden to the people.

The budget does not contain major projects that will create opportunities for more fruitful employment. Small projects which can open door for party favouritism have occupied a major place. From this point of view, this budget does not bring any advantage for the State.

On para 12 of the Budget Speech, the House Leader has reflected the Budget policy. His first priority is achieving self-sufficiency in food which is being said for the last three years. Initially, he had stated that within two years, Mizoram would be mechanised. But, the House Report stated that only 70 hectares was mechanised with an expenditure of Rs. 60 lakh. How can we expect to be self-sufficient with mechanisation of only 70 hectare? Another budget policy reflected is accelerating the pace of development and creating opportunities for gainful employment. Two and half years have gone by, but the people do not witness creation of gainful employment and there is no evidence of the government taking steps towards acceleration of pace of development.

Another budget policy reflected is solution of social problems and promotion of trade and commerce. We have seen how social evils have attacked our society. Every year social problems like drug abuse, death on account of drug abuse and others have been increasing. Hence, the budget policy have no reality.

Promotion of trade and commerce is also emphasized by the Finance Minister. But, here also, we have not seen any indication of the steps taken by the government towards promotion of trade and commerce. Therefore, we can conclude that this budget have no reality in nature.

The second point I would like to raise will be based on the explanatory memorandum. The total plan budget is Rs. 1148 from plan and non-plan budget plus token provision from NEC and CSS. The accumulated liabilities of the state government has almost equal to the states plan budget. Such was the condition of the state budget that 131 crore is set aside for payment of liabilities which is about 14% from the total budget. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, we are about to face more financial difficulties.

Within the two and a half year reign of the MNF Ministry, the liabilities of the state have been increasing at a fast pace. From the total budget, only 1,11,04,000/- is set aside for capital formation which is only 9.70% while 14% from the total budget is earmarked for repayment of debts. This proves that our budget is unhealthy and the state government is also inefficient in its financial management.

Another point that requires close analysis is the rate of the increase of our plan budget. The plan budget for this year is Rs. 40 crore and is increased by only 8 crore than last years plan budget which is a little more than 2%. The average rate of the plan budget in other Indian States have increased by 16% while it is only 2% in the case of Mizoram. The reason behind this seems to be that the Planning Commission have clearly seen our financial performance and physical achievement and it doesnot find us worthy of getting more fund. At the same time, the House Leader has stated in his speech that the Planning Commission found the aggregate plan resources of Mizoram to be commendable in comparision with other North Eastern States. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is easy to say in words but I demand a certificate to support his words.

Out of the total fund in the budget, more than half have been set aside for office expenditure and establishment while only 111 crores is earmarked for capital formation. Therefore, there is no point in feeling pleased for the budget's presentation.

Another disappointing matter mentioned in the Budget Speech is the formation of Fiscal Reform Committee. The 10 points of recommendation made by the Committee is shown. Much to our dismay, the Committee did not focus on the misuse of the people's money and inappropriation bill being drawn in favour of the non-Mizo suppliers. Instead the victims of the Committee are the people who are hopefully awaiting for their two shares from the government. In the Budget speech, new policies have been reflected. Privatisation of Government vehicle, voluntary retirement for driver and medical insurance for Government employees ..... (Interruption)

Mr. Speaker Sir, it seems that the governments intention is no privatisation but personalisation. As for voluntary pension of drivers, how can we compel them to go on voluntary pension without their decision?

In regard to Medical insurance policy, government employees are entitled to claim medical reimbursement. But, the government has plan to revoke this entitlement and instead arranged insurance scheme by collecting premium from employees. This policy violate the law and I am strongly against it. If we go on in this manner for another five years, there will be no proper budget for Mizoram. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Let us now call upon, the hon'ble Chief Minister to wind up the general discussion of the budget.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you. I appreciate various suggestions and constructive criticisms contributed by the members. From the light of the discussion, I have noted the points which requires modification and review.

CHIEF MINISTER : Budget preparation is not an easy task. The amount of budget allocation is not the sole factor for the development of a state but the manner in which it is spent matters most.

Let me start my clarification with non - plan budget. As the members are all aware, a little more than 90% of the State's plan and non - plan budget has to be funded by the Central government. The rest has to be realized from the State's own effort. Therefore, the state has to wait for the sanction released by the Centre and further needs to make adjustment accordingly. Without the plan allocation from the Central, the states cannot finalise its own plan size.

Another point which requires clarification is in regards to salary. The recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission has exceeded the state's own income so high that there is inappropriation in the salary portion. In 1997 about 23 crores was spent monthly for salary component along with pension, the amount has increased to Rs. 45 crores in the present time. The non - plan budget allocation for salary has not been in proportion with the estimated expenditure for salary. For this reason, Mizoram is beginning to face the same problem faced by other states. Certain departments with larger number of employees have suffered the most. However, I would like to tell the House that it is the priority of the government to give due salaries to government employees.

As for maintenance of School Education, the government has realised shortage of fund in the management of establishment in Primary School. It is the intention of the government to make adjustment in the Revised Estimate stage.

I have noted down the points raised by the members regarding Health Department and Police Department. We will look and consider those points.

I have considered the points raised by the members in regard to plan size. It is always the agenda of the Planning Department to decide the amount of fund to be taken as loan. However, as stated by the Members, it may not be the best decision to increase the state's liabilities. And the Planning Department targetted 410 crores. Mention has been made about the increase of plan and non - plan budget of the other North East States. In fact, these states have just increased their liabilities. As for Arunachal Pradesh, besides the total 445 crores Rs. 220 crores is to be produced from the state's own resource mobilisation. It is only that the state has made more burden for itself. When approach the Planning Commission with the case of Arunachal Pradesh, the reaction we get was that we, too could have increased our own liabilities by raising our crore plan. Such is the case with other states as well.

There is direction from the Planning Commission which we have to follow regarding loan. There is also certain rules to be followed in our spending of plan fund. There are many earmarked sectors from the 11th Finance Commission. Hence, diversion of fund as and when we think necessary cannot be made.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Is it a fact that the government pulled back Rs. 22 crore from Public Works Department regardless of the earmark sector and another 3.5 crores from Social Welfare Department.

In the statement made by the hon'ble Education Department it was said that only 9 months salary was allotted for Primary School teachers. The rest would be diverted from PMGY. But, PMGY is a earmarked sector, the statement made by the hon'ble Education Minister clashed with the words of the hon'ble Chief Minister. According to the hon'ble Chief Minister, if divisible rule cannot be applied regarding spending earmarked fund, how can the government pulled funds from Public Works Department and Social Welfare Department?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, this problem prevailed in all the  
CHIEF MINISTER Indian States. The State Government do not cross the guidelines made by the Planning Commission. However, there are certain conditions where the guidelines are relaxed to some extent and we grabbed that chance.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Rs. 22.94 crores which is already  
appropriated has been reflected again in the Supplementary Demand for reappropriation. Please clarify this.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, spending of certain fund under plan  
CHIEF MINISTER fund are within the state financial power. In certain cases, there is reappropriation as guidelines given. This is the Budget system we have been practising all along and that is the reason why supplementary demand has to be done.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I demand a specific reply to whether  
fund has been pulled from Social Welfare and PMGY.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as I have stated before, fund will be  
CHIEF MINISTER reappropriated as permitted by the Planning Commission.

Earlier, the hon'ble Opposition Leader has demanded for a certificate to show the appreciation of the Planning Commission on our State's financial management. Mr. Speaker Sir, if you permit, I will produce the version copy later.

Coming to the subject of self-sufficiency in foodgrains, it is understood all along that Mizoram cannot achieve self sufficiency in foodgrains within 3 years. As for financial matters, I donot say that there is lots of money. What I meant was that there is indeed lots of fund in the plan sector but we need to be economical in the non-plan sector. That is the policy of the Indian Government which we, too have applied.

As for voluntary retirement benefit, it is optional and no one is forced to take this policy.

I will go back to financial matters. On plan sector alone, an amount of Rs. 1,00,100 crore is earmarked, out of which 10% is set aside for North Eastern States and Sikkim for 2001 - 2002. However, that fund would not be simply release to us. We need to forward schemes and projects to the centre. Only after the approval of the Planning

Commission, fund would be released. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, the budget presented for this year may have flaws and unsatisfactory.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, how many departments have not created any schemes under this provision and how many departments have already received fund under this provision.

PU ZORAMTHANGA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, the list of departments would be CHIEF produced later. Last year Mizoram received 90 lakhs under this provision.

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, how can we receive only Rs. 90 lakhs while there is a provision for 1000 lakhs?

PU ZORAMTHANGA CHIEF MINISTER : Mr. Speaker Sir, still Mizoram is regarded as the best in its financial management. Even the plan and schemes provided by the state is regarded as the best amongst the North East States. This is the reason why we need more efforts in making schemes and projects. We submit the projects and schemes to the Commission. After the projects are approved, fund is released. Only after utilisation certificate is forwarded, we get another sanction of fund. Therefore, if we really make efforts, there is adequate fund in the plan sector which is quite enough for the development of the State.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The General Discussion is over. As mentioned by the hon'ble Opposition Leader, it is a matter of satisfaction that the government has presented performance budget and work schedule programme in order to have transparent government. This is for the information of the Members.

Meeting adjourned till 10 : 30 A.M., 29.3.2001.

Meeting adjourned at 3 : 40 P.M.