

LIST OF BUSINESS

EIGHT SITTING ON THURSDAY MARCH 30, 2001
(Time 10:30. A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

PRESENTS

4. **Pu R. LALAWIA**, Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, 14 Minister and 23 members were present

QUESTIONS

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

*** DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMAND**

3. **PU B.LALTHLEGLIANA**, Minister to submit various Demands under his charge to the vote of the House.
4. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to submit various Demands under his charge to the vote of the House.

S P E A K E R : 'But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal. "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Lets every one who names the name of the Lord deport from iniquity".
Timothy 2:19.

We shall go to our business. Starred Question No. 129 to be asked by Pu R.Lalzirliana.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : I asked Starred Question No. 129. Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Industries Department be pleased to state- (a) The number of Departments participating in the Millenium Exhibition Organised by Government. (b) The amount of expenditure incurred by the participating departments.

**Er. K.THANGZUALA
MINISTER**

: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Starred Question No. 129 (a) is that 33 Department have participated in the Millenium Exhibition. (b) The amount of expenditure

incurred are (1) Health Directorate - Rs. 18,000/- (2) Horticulture Department -- rs. 1, 73,000/- (3) Transport Department - Rs. 20, 000/- (4) Food and Civil Supplies - Rs. 6,247/- (5) AH & Vety. Department - Rs. 1,18,000/- (6) Art & Culture Department - Rs. 10,455/- (7) Excise Department - Rs. 50,000/- (8) Higher & Technical Education Department - Rs. 26704/- (9) Economics and Statistic Department - Rs. 20,000/- (10) School Education Department - Rs. 17,800/- (11) Fisheries Department - Rs. 60,344/- (12) Information & Public Relations Department - Rs. 9,200/- (13) Labour & Employment Department - Rs. 57,585/- (14) Agriculture and Minor Irrigation Department - Rs. 3,00,000/-. (15) Environment & Forest Department - Rs. 51,000/- (16) Land Revenue & Settlement Department - Rs. 15,000/-. (17) Home Guard - Rs. 500/-. (18) Police Department - Rs. 29,718/- (19) Printing & Stationery - rs. 10,000/- . (20) Public Health Engineering Department - Rs. 30,000/-. (21) Power & Electricity Department - Rs. 1,77,690/- (22) Public Works Department - Rs. 10,817/- (23) Relief & Rehabilitation Department - Rs. 20,000/- (24) Rural Development Department - Rs. 70,000/- (25) Sericulture Department - Rs. 1,565/- (26) Social Welfare Department - Rs. 20,000/- (27) Soil & Water Conservation Department - Rs. 30,000/- (28) Sports & Youth Services Department - Rs. 61,885/-. (29) Tourism Department - Nil (30) Industries Department - Rs. 9,67,836/-. (31) A.T.I. - Rs. 11,697/- (32) Co-operation Department - Rs. 39,128/-. Total - Rs. 23,71,032/-

PU R.LALZIRLIANA

: Mr. Speaker, a Supplementary Question please. It is a good thing that Millenium exhibition is organised. However, the expenditure incurred by various

departments is too high for a poor state like Mizoram. In this case I ask whether the govt. plans to organize another exhibition.

Secondly, Excise Department has spent Rs. 50,000/- for the exhibition. In the exhibition the department has lost. Heroin (No.4) which was on display. What is the approximate cost of this Heroin ?

Thirdly, "Hnam Chhantu" which is a private participant was awarded second prize. It is a matter of pride that a private firm could have participated in the exhibition. Does the govt. intend to give assistance to 'Hnam Chhantu'?

PU J.LAWMZUALA

: Mr. Speaker, the total expenditure incurred by the various departments is over Rs. 23 lakh. Can the Minister tell us the amount received as a return in department wise ?

PU H. LALTANPUIA : Mr. Speaker, different departments spent lots of money to participate in the exhibition. But, these departments that spent the highest amount are not the ones that received prizes. PHE Department has spent only Rs. 30,000/- but bagged the first prize. Horticulture and Agriculture Departments have spent over one lakh but did not even receive prize. In this regard I wonder if there is a possibility of corruption. Can the Minister i/c industries check these departments ?

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask whether the government has benefited from the millennium exhibition. What did the government do with the materials used for the construction of department stalls used for the exhibition.

**Er. K.THANGZUALA
MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker, in answering the question raised by Pu R.Lalzirliana, in view of the comments given by the public, there seems to be a suggestion to organize another exhibition. It is also the idea of the govt. that it is beneficial to be able to exhibit various steps taken by the govt. and the products of various industrial units. It is also our desire to organize this kind of exhibition every year.

As for the cost of heroin that was said to be lost, I cannot furnish the cost as it is not within my purview.

It is the intention of the Govt. to provide assistance to 'Hnam Chhantu' as much as possible.

Regarding the question of money returns, various departments have received good returns. Particularly, industrial units highly benefit from the exhibition.

The theme of that Millenium exhibition was 'Peace Pays'. The govt. is aware that great progress and development was made since the signing of the Peace award. In that exhibition these development could be exhibited and displayed before the public. This is regarded as highly beneficial. If Mizoram is still under insurgency those sign of developments would not be shown. It is also a sign of transparency of the govt. that the works of various department were shown before the public. Such exhibition also creates between the govt. and the public and the latter have put their confidence in the govt.

The participation of Police Department had also resulted in paving understanding between the people and the Police. Various arms which are never seen by the people were displayed to the people. It is hoped that there would be a better relation between the civilian, the police and the military. That liaisoning is very beneficial for us.

Special mention may be made of the impact Narcotic cell had made on the youths. Their exhibition brought drugs awareness among the youths which was considered beneficial.

As for the question raised by Pu H.Laltanpuia, I think I am not the end to say whether this exhibition has opened

door for corruption. But, I am confident that the public appreciated what various departments have done.

Regarding the materials used for the construction of stalls, it was decided that the salvaged materials would be kept at Zuangtui Godown. The value of the Salvaged materials is approximately 4 lacks

PU R. LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, Agriculture and Minor Irrigation has spent 3 lakhs, Power Department has spent 1,77,690/- and industries Department has spent 9 lakhs. The hon'ble Minister may please furnish the detail expenditure and how the amount was spent by the department's respectively.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have noticed That a lottery is conducted. I do not Whether it is organised by the government or not. What is the amount collected through lottery?

Secondly, I think there was no proper arrangement. Hence more suitable place with proper arrangements may be made in the future.

Er. K. THANGZUALA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker I do not know the details on how the expenditure was made.

Regarding the question raised by Pu Chakma, the amount of profit received from Lucky Ticket and entry fee was Rs. 43,393/-

As for the venue of the exhibition, as suggested by the member, more convenient place would be expected the next time.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question 130 to be asked by Pu H. Rammawi.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker I asked Starred Question No. 130. Will the hon'ble Minister i/c School Education be pleased to state -
(a) Whether the govt. can fix school fee for residential schools in Mizoram. (b) Whether there is unsettled cases of pension benefit under Education Department. (c) Whether there is proper lists of dates of pension for employees under Education Department. (d) Whether there is proposal to approach central government for the constitution of Sainik School in Mizoram.

PU F.MALSAWMA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker, the answer to Starred Question No. 130 are as below -

- (a) There is no fixation of School fees for Residential School. However, Private School Association are directed to collect the lowest possible of fees from students.
- (b) There are some cases of unsettled pension benefit under Education Department.
- (c) Every SDEO and DEO are instructed every year to submit list of dates of retirement of employees within their area.
- (d) There was negotiation with Central Government to sanction fund for setting up of Sainik School in Mizoram. However, we have not received fund from the central till date.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question please. There are about 893 Primary Schools in Mizoram. According to the budget allotment, from these P/S the share for one P/S is only Rs. 9.25p per month. And there are 554 Middle Schools. The budget allotment for one M/S is 22.29p per month. This is for Office expenditure. For 187 Govt. High Schools their share in the budget is Rs. 445.58p per month. For 22 govt. Higher Secondary Schools, the budget allotment for each school is Rs. 378.75p per School. Mr. Speaker, the amount mentioned above is too meager. It will be very difficult to manage with only this much. How is the Government intend to assist these Schools?

There is no budget provision for their salary to last one year. Human Resources development is very important. How is the government intend to solve this problem?

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker, the reason for raising of Fees for Private Residential School is that most of them are established for commercial gain. I presume that government's permission is necessary to open private schools. If so, can the government fix the yearly fees for these private schools while giving permission to open school.

Secondly, the government has the tradition of leaving many sensitive cases of pension benefits. Usually, when a government employee retired, it would take two or three years to enjoy his pension benefit. In this regard, can the government find remedial solution to this problem?

PU LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, shortage of staff has always Been used as an excuse for unsettled Cases of pension benefit. If this is the Real reason, why don't the government employ staff on muster roll basis to clear these pending cases.?

- PU L.N.TLUANGA** : Mr. Speaker, some private residential schools have prescribed cane chair for work experience. Is there a way to stop this?
- PU N.K.CHAKMA** : Mr. Speaker, is there any proposal for Establishing tribal welfare residential school at Lunglei? Is it a fact that an amount of one crore is sanctioned by Tribal Ministry for the establishment of Tribal Welfare Residential School at Lunglei 'S'.
- PU J.LALTHANGLIANA** : Mr. Speaker, as shown by Centres provisional report, the literacy percentage of Mizoram is diminishing rapidly. What is the possible reason for this?
- S P E A K E R** : The Minister may answer the question
- PU F.MALSAWMA** : Mr. Speaker, I will start answering from
MINISTER the question raised by the member from Aizawl 'E' I. Planning Department has set Aside fund from PMGY for salary of teachers. However, I cannot furnish detail report on this matter as it is not within my purview. From the light of the discussion of the members, correspondence have been going on in the department which is expected to bring positive result.
- Member from Sangau has mentioned about tuition fee collected by private schools. The Govt. cannot decide to what extend they will interfered in private school as they have enjoyed constitutional rights. However, it will be preferable if discussion could be had with the Association in order to prevent too much exploitation of the public.
- Regarding pension benefits, there are a number of teachers who are condoned. The case of these teachers are brought to government office for reconciliation and it has been settled gradually.
- Suggestion for employing MR Staff is a good one. Though I supported this suggestion, only Finance Department could make final decision.
- I agree with the point mentioned by the member from Tlungvel. In support of his point, the Central Government realizing our weakness in work-experience concentrated on Information Technology.
- As we are at the transitional period, it is difficult to knows what would be best.
- There is proposal for the establishment of tribal residential school at Lunglei. But the matter has been processed in the center.

Regarding the decreasing literacy percentage of Mizoram, the present status is second next to Kerala. The possible reason for the down position may be influx of foreign nationals. Anyhow, the oral reason is hard to tell for now. (PU N.K.CHAKMA : I ask whether an advance of 1 crore is sanctioned for Lunglei tribal residential school)

Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of whether an advance is sanction for the establishment of Tribal residential school at Lunglei.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question no. 131 to be asked by Pu R.Lalzirliana.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, Will the hon'ble Minister i/c Home Department be pleased to state - (a) Whether the order issued by Home Department on 15.12.1999 that messing Allowance and out of pocket should be increased have get materialized. (b) The number of Home Guard Volunteer under the Government of Mizoram. (c) The allowances and amount given.

**PU TAWNLUIA
MINISTER** : Mr. Speaker, the answer to starred question No. 131 (a) is that the order issued by Home Department on 15.12.1999 is already enforced. (b) We have 1132 Home Guard personnel; 978 guardmen, 109 non-ministerial and 45 ministerial, Altogether, there are 1120. Home Guard volunteer.

Other allowances enjoyed by Home Guard personnel is Rs. 110 per month for coy. Sgt. Major and coy. Qm (Havildar), Rs. 90 per month for Platoon sgt., Rs. 70 per month for corporal, Rs. 50 per month for L/corporal.

PU H.LALTANPUIA : Thank you Mr. Speaker. There are a number trainees at CTI Sesawng. Is the government aware that these Home Guard trainees are sent to work in the field of Home Guard officials daily.

PU LALRINZUALA : Mr. Speaker, though the Minister has said that allowance are already given to Home Guard personnel vide government order dated 15.12.1999, but the Home Guard personnel have approached me with their grievances.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA : Mr. Speaker, first I would like to say that Home Guard personnal are not given messing allowance and out of pocket allowance. Home Guard personnel are entitled to only five days casual leaves a year. Can this be reviewed?

PU VANLALHLANA : Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask whether there could be a reservation of posts for Home Guard personnel in the Police Department.

PU TAWNLUIA MINISTER : Mr. Speaker, with the recommendation of the commandant, Home Guards and the SP Aizawl, Home Guards personnel are regularized to IR and Police Constables. Regarding the point mentioned by the member from Suangpuilawn, I will look into the matter.

I would like to ask the member to provide clear information regarding the allowances of the Home Guards personnel so that the matter could be checked. If there is any who do not receive their dues I will investigate the matter.

S P E A K E R : Question hour is over. Let us now call upon Pu H.Rammawi to present the 10th Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to PHE Department.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Mr. Speaker, with your permission and the approval of the House, I now present in the House the 10th Report of P.A.C.

S P E A K E R : The copy may be distributed. Today's business is Private Members resolution. The members will be allotted 10 min. each. The members are requested to behave as a true parliamentarian.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker, if the situation has forced us to act as we did yesterday.

S P E A K E R : Let us now invite Pu Z.H.Ropuia to move his resolution that "Seling - Zokhawthar road be taken as a national Highway"

PU Z.H. ROPUIA : Thank you Mr. Speaker for allotting me time to move my resolution that - "Seling-Zokhawthar road be made National Highway" We are all aware, that as a result

of the steps taken by the Central government and the State government; Mizoram has made progress towards Border trade and center of Zokhawthar is being opened. But, communication system is far from good particularly Seling to Zokhawthar road. The road is too narrow for heavy vehicles. In view of the importance of various roads like, Lunglei - Saiha, Aizawl to Champhai and Lunglei to Tlabung, the central government has given priority to these roads and steps are being taken for improvement into for national highway. At the same time, for our development and security of the nation, these border roads are vital and hence, widening of border

roads is a must for various reasons. Being situated in an international border area, our roads are very important. The first important trade center we have is Zokhawthar therefore link road should be given priority. Aizawl to Seling road is already made National Highway and if Seling to Zokhawthar is announced as a National Highway, it will be very beneficial for our economy. Presently, due to the poor condition of the said road, transportation charge is very high which results in the price like in foreign commodities. Hence, we need wider roads. For the above reasons, I request the members of this House to pass my resolution and to bring the matter to the notice of the Central Government. Thank you.

**PU K.VANLALAUVA
MINISTER**

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the outset, I would like to say that I support the Resolution moved by the member from Tawipui Constituency. Today has been an

auspicious occasion because the member has a mind to move this resolution. Hence, it is our responsibility to press the Central Government for materialization of this resolution.

As already mentioned by the mover, the said road is rather narrow for heavy vehicles. But to carry goods, heavy vehicle is convenient. At present, P.W.D. cannot maintain the road beyond the existing condition. Therefore, we must stand together in this resolution and pass it. Thank you.

**PU AICHHINGA
MINISTER**

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allotting me time. As stated by the member before me, the said road need special attention.

As we are all aware, Mizoram have National Highways. Steps are also taken to make more National Highways within the State. But, eastern belt is being neglected. The eastern side of Mizoram is thickly populated but, steps are not yet taken for widening of roads. Eastern area is a potential area for various cash crops. For this reason, importance should be given to road communication, Zokhawthar has been earmarked as a headquarters for border trade with Myanmar. Hence, the road connecting Zokhawthar should be a National Highway. The present road is only BRTF road and is not wide enough for easy passing of vehicles. If the existing road is made into a highway, the curved areas could be straightens and the route would become shorter.

I am very familiar with the road and during monsoon season communication by road is too difficult due to the poor condition of the road. There are 4 rivers to cross and the bridges on these rivers are not satisfactory. If is made as a National Highway, all these problems would be solved.

By the time border trade is taken up in full swing, Seling to Zokhawthar road would become busier and hence we have to prepare new for that time. It takes 4 hours to reach Zokhawthar from Seling. But, it will take less hours in a highway. We, the people would be the ones to benefit from it. Therefore, we should pass this resolution unanimously. Thank you.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the outset, I want to say that I support today's Resolution moved by Pu Z.H.Ropuia.

Though this Resolution seems to be important, I doubt whether a national highway linking to international border would be possible. But, if the Central government is willing to take the road as a national highway, it is well and good. The members who stood before me have pointed out that the said roads are too narrow and the transportation fee was perhaps the highest in the world. We have, many roads in Mizoram where the condition are worse than Seling to Zokhawthar road or many parts in Mizoram which are not jeepable road not to speak of highway. Therefore, when I stand to speak in favour of National Highway, my feeling goes to those areas where there are not even road to name.

Champhai to Zokhawthar road was constructed by the previous government and I found the road in a good condition. Seling to Zokhawthar road is much better than the condition of many roads within Mizoram. Nevertheless, the said road is important because we are going to have border trade with Myanmar. In the commercial point of view, National Highway is significant. Therefore, I support the resolution moved by the member of Tawipui Constituency.

PU RUALCHHINA MINISTER : Mr. Chairman it is a matter of satisfaction that we have a resolution of this kind to discuss today. It will be even more satisfactory if another earmarked trade center at Tlabung road also be included. Because for the development of the country, road communication is vital. Hence, I strongly support this resolution.

The State government alone cannot accomplish this project but we are depending on the center. The better communication we have, the more developed we will be. If Seling to Zokhawthar road is taken up as a National Highway, Mizoram will not only be the one to benefit, but the whole of India.

Not only from the commercial point of view but for tourism development, it is important to take up National Highway in that area. There is the famous Rih Dil in the area which will attract many tourists. Now, Champhai has become District Capital not to mention the most important town in the eastern area. Hence, the road connecting Champhai should be a National Highway. Therefore, I support this resolution and many gratitude to the mover for his resolution. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Let us now call upon Pu F.Lal Thanzuala.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA : Mr. Chairman, the mover of this resolution is the Chairman of High Power Committee in Lunglei District. I admire his concern for the improvement of roads outside his constituency. Therefore I fully support his resolution. Whereas I give my full support I want to share my opinion to this House.

Firstly, I believe that our leaders are concern with the improvement of our State some of you seem to love only a specified area. No one will oppose national highway as it is for the welfare of all of us. Whereas we are trying national highway for certain areas, there are roads not plyable during monsoon period. From these areas we cannot help ourselves from supporting today's resolution with disappointment. For this reason I want to remind our leaders not to care only for a particular area.

Secondly, we all must be aware that narcotic drugs and adulterated liquor are prevalent in Mizoram. All these have been entering Mizoram through the border. With the making of good roads, better and stronger custom force would be necessary. If precautionary measure is not taken before hand, national highway to Zokhawthar would bring disadvantages to Mizoram. At the sametime within my constituency, due to the poor condition of roads, transportation becomes very difficult. We cannot find vehicle to carry rice from place to place and many people have been facing problem. Such is the case in some areas. If we really want to develop Mizoram we should not be bias in our action. In my opinion, this government has regarded Champhai as a special category area perhaps because it is the constituency of the Chief Minister. Mr. Chairman, the roads within the constituency of opposition members are usually neglected. Hence, whereas I support this resolution, I want developmental works cover the whole area.

**PU LALRINCHHANA
MINISTER**

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I have an important point to say in regard to Resolution. The resolution moved by Pu Z.H.Ropuia deserves support. No one will oppose to the resolution itself. I have been sitting in this House for more than 10 years. I have experienced that most of the resolutions passed by the House are abandoned or left unaccomplished. Even after 10 years, many of them are not implemented. Hence, we need to know whether resolutions passed by the House will be beneficial or lower the dignity of the House. To state one example, a resolution that 'Paite language be recognized in Mizoram' was passed by the House ten years back. But, it has not been accomplished till date. The resolution that Mizoram University be established in Mizoram' which was passed ten years ago have no significance. Therefore, today's resolution is well and good in itself, but, before we make our decision, we need to know if passing the resolution would be beneficial. I know that Seling - Zokhawthar road is an important route and will be even more important in the future and we need better and wider road. But, what will be the outcome of this resolution. The resolution for the making of Aizawl - Thenzawl - Road a national highway was passed some time back. But, as we have witnessed, there is no fruitful result. If the hon'ble P.W.D. Minister and the House Leader could inform the House the advantages of passing this resolution and if it is really advantageous we should certainly pass it. Thank you.

**PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA
MINISTER**

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, there are two kinds of resolution- One is a subject on which State Government has authority for its fulfillment where the other is in the hands of the Central government. As we are aware, Mizoram had only one national highway. Since the formation of the MNF Government, 2 other national highways have been initiated. What we have to know is that in the case of centrally sponsored scheme, all the expenditure is borne by the central government. In the case of Zokhawthar road, the project is being taken up by the BRTF but is beyond satisfaction. Hence, work is again initiated from the state

fund. Despite shortage of fund, construction has to be continued. If the central agree to convert it into a national highway, one of our problems would be solved.

The government is fully aware that there are many roads that require attention as pointed out by the member from Hnahthial Constituency. Sometimes, only a mere state fund fails to cover satisfactorily. For this reason, we need to acquire more fund from the central.

Today, there are a member of resolutions to be discussed. Therefore, if the members are not specifically against this resolution let us pass it so that we could have time for other resolutions. It appears that all the members have supported this resolution if a national highway could come out of it. Hence, I request this august House to pass this resolution unanimously.

**PU K.SANGTHUAMA
MINISTER**

: Thank you, Mr. Chairman sir, At the outset, I would like to say that it is a matter of pride that the previous ministry could have undertaken National Highway

No. 54 which is Silchar – Aizawl road. This is a big achievement. If Seling – Zokhawthar road which is 224 Kms., could get materialized, It would be a great achievement for Mizoram and its people. At the sametime, I agree with the member from Hnahthial for his concern for the many roads within Mizoram that requires attention.

As for my constituency, there are various roads that required maintenance, and some roads are not even fit for vehicle during monsoon season. The authority is also reminded to concentrate on this matter.

We all aware of the significance of national highway without elaborating much what is more important is its implementation. If we are not united for the execution of this resolution, I am afraid that it will come to nothing.

It is worth mentioning that step has been taken for the improvement of the existing national highway No. 54. it is desirable that all the important centers of Mizoram could be connected by national highway. Hence, Mr. Chairman, I support this resolution and I have anticipated that it will be passed by the House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN

: The House will have a recess till 2:00 P.M. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

2:00 P.M.

S P E A K E R

: We shall resume our business. Let us now call upon the House Leader, Pu Zoramthanga, who is also the member of the concerned constituency.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER**

: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important to pass this resolution and put more pressure to Central Government. Some members said that too much attention is paid towards Champhai Constituency which is true to some extent, but the people of the constituency regarded it as a compensation for them being neglected for 10 years.

This road is important as it connects international trade route. In spite of the poor condition of road, large quantity of foreign goods are coming from Myanmar at cheaper rate which attracts people from outside the state. This road is important as it connects Zokhawthar. Which is a border trade center. We have the same center at Tlabung.

There is a report that oil deposits had been found at Champhai area but we do not have equipments to explore it. If a national Highway is constructed it will be easier to collect equipments like heavy machineries for exploration works. Besides, in economic field, Champhai is the main center for cash crops like rice, passion fruit and grapes. With good road, it will be convenient to move these products to various places.

In Mizoram, National Highway had been constructed towards North, South and West except East. It is therefore a must to construct National Highway towards the East. Therefore, I support this resolution. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Let us call upon Pu Z.H. Ropuia mover of the resolution.

PU Z.H.ROPUIA

: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is pleasing to know that members are in favour of this resolution. As Seling - Zokhawthar road and as the population in this area is dense, it is important to upgrade the existing road. If this resolution is comes out successful, it will be profitable for the state.

As pointed out by some members, there are many programmes to be taken up at Lunglei and Chhimtuipui under the funding of World Bank and NABARD. The Government is also aware of the point mentioned by the hon'ble member from Hnahthial Constituency.

As already mentioned by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, we need to have national highway to transport heavy machineries needed for exploration of our underground resources. I am pleased to know that members supported my resolution hence Mr. Speaker I request this August House to pass my resolution that 'This House resolves that Central Government be approached to construct Seling - Zokhawthar national highway. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Mover of the resolution had wind up and asked the House to pass it. Members who agree to pass may say 'Yes' and who disagree may say 'no' (Members agreed). The House passed this resolution unanimously.

We shall take up next resolution that is Dr. Lalzama's resolution which read out as follows - 'Roads within Aizawl city be widened to the best possible mean'. Now I call upon Dr. Lalzama to move his resolution.

Dr. LALZAMA : Thank you Mr. Speaker. As we all know, Roads in Aizawl have become congested. With the increasing number of vehicles and it is un-safe for pedestrians. Hence it is highly necessary to find a way to widen the roads. In other cities, house site is allotted only after having appropriate plan of roads but our pattern here is vice versa and we have a great problem of traffic system. In order to resolve the problem we need to extend the area of Aizawl city. The government have now even proclaimed an extension area next to Zemabawk and in the west Luangmual as town area provided with appropriate LSC what is important for the members is to direct our thoughts towards planning of our city for the betterment of increasing population and for generations to come.

Speaking of the problem of traffic system of Aizawl city and other towns it is very important for the concern authority to maintain appropriate plan with the increase number of vehicles. Unless we find a solution from today I am afraid it will never be achieved as number of vehicle is increasing day by day. We must now prepare appropriate plan road for heavy and light vehicles and enough sized foot path for the safety of the public. It will then be easier to maintain healthy side drain when appropriate footpath is made.

Mr. Speaker sir, I have moved this resolution supporting all the members would cooperate with the idea of widening of road within Aizawl city as much as possible. Thank you.

COL. LALCHUNGNUNGA SAILO : Mr. Speaker sir, I first of all would like to express my support to the resolution Moved by Dr. Lalzama, a member from Aizawl North - I Constituency. As already mentioned, widening of Aizawl city and its road is an urgent need due to rapid increase of population and vehicles. In doing this, we should not forget the need to improve our roads so that each and every corner within Aizawl city is linked to the heart of the city for the convenience of the people living in the remote areas.

As a member from Aizawl city like to stress the need to improve roads within my constituency. It is unfortunate that only few areas within my constituency are linked by Bus road. Various steps has already been taken in order to achieve usable road in my constituency. The concern owners of lands are also very open to provide their piece of land in order to achieve the said road.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker sir, since my constituency also covers the areas where no vehicle has reached for example Lawipu, it is our main problem to fetch the essential needs from other places. I, therefore earnestly request the concern authority to include appropriate plan for the point I have mentioned in the resolution moved by our fellow member Dr. C.Lalzauva. Thank you.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I would like us to maintain our time so that we may have time to take up another resolution move by Mr. Z.H.Ropuia.

Being one of the members from a constituency within Aizawl city, I would like to concentrate my speech on my constituency Aizawl East - I since the inhabitants of Chandmari 'W' and Vengthar are newly immigrant families, they desperately needs the support of the government. There are two roads which are essential to maintain for the livelihood the concern families. Fortunately P.W.D. has taken up certain roads but not the most important road that linked BRTF road from Company Peng. The department may kindly also include this road in the existing plan.

Not only this Mr. Speaker sir before passing of this resolution, I would also like to point out the need to improve the road near the church of Chandmari down to Sairang road since it is one of the most important roads within my constituency. Moreover, there are another roads that link Ramthar 'N' and Sihpui ruam which also needs repairing. In regard to PWD road, I have even submitted suggestion to P.W.D. for improvement of road that links Pu Hrangbana point and Zion street which is one of the most important roads within Aizawl city. There is another road which links Sihpui ruam, Ramthar Veng, Bawngkawn and ITI Veng which badly needed some improvement. Mr. Speaker sir, those roads within my constituency has being neglected because they are lying within the constituency of a opposition member which is of unhealthy judgement for the government.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker sir, in order to improve traffic system of our congested city, it is wise to improve roads that links Sihpui ruam, Chite lui upto Zemabawk and it will also be one of the greatest diversions. It may also be suggestive to consider this as an alternative for the road that links Ratu and Lunglei and this will also solve traffic problem. What is first necessary before taking up this plan is to study the system applied by the neighbouring cities such as Shillong and Guwahati which were much congested in the past decades.

Mr. Speaker sir, I may not proceed further so as to give the chance for discussion of the next resolution. It will be much appreciated if we have time to discuss atleast upto the matter concerning Education department. Thank you.

PU C.SANGZUALA : Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I first of all would like to express my appreciation of this resolution and its mover for his concern for the public interest. Widening of road is of utmost necessary considering rapid increase of vehicles and population. Keeping in mind openness of the concern land holders for widening of road within Aizawl city I strongly hope it will soon be achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the detail needs for improvement of road within my constituency as done by a member from Aizawl E-I. It is very much convenient to construct a Ring-road from the road coming from Damveng toward Kulikawn and back to C.P. Road. I request the concern Minister to note down points I have mentioned for favour of inclusion in the work programme.

Mr. Speaker sir, it is very unfortunate to learn that some people are facing traffic problem on their way to hospital on emergency case such problem will be solved when the programme is achieved. Not only this Mr. Speaker sir, this programme is appreciated as it also boost up moral of the people since it is the interest of public.

**Pu H. VANLALAUVA
MINISTER**

: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I would like to make few points as this resolution concerns the essential needs of the public as a whole. I first of all convey my thank to the mover of this important resolution as it concerns the public interest. Widening of road does not concern only vehicle and its owners but also improvement of basement and footpath for pedestrians.

Mr. Speaker sir, we all seem to know that the city of Aizawl is un-planned. It is desirable to have planned city as of the neighbouring states and other cities abroad. With the increase number of vehicles, the pedestrians hardly find a place to walk safely and keeping in mind of this problem, the government is preparing, project Report amounting to 4 crore rupees for construction of appropriate basement and footpath the result of which is expected soon.

Mr. Speaker sir, this resolution reminds me of widening of Ramhlun Veng road during the previous MNF Ministry of 1987 - 88. In these days, the then concerned Minister received a number of verbal attack for taking up that programme. But we now come to learn the benefit and no one brothers to talk about that programme except their appreciation.

Within a short period of this Ministry too Mr. Speaker sir, we have seen achievement of the government in the widening of approach road to Pachhunga University College of Republic Veng, Dawrpui - Bungkawn to Electric Veng road, unless the concern land holder sacrificed their valuable piece of land, the programme will never be achieved I, therefore express my appreciation for their deeds and contribution the public interest.

In the same way Mr. Speaker sir, if all the members give their cooperation to this resolution I dare to say it will soon be achieved. I would also like to mention that the cabinet has now prepared master plan for widening of Aizawl city and will soon be handed over to Aizawl town and country plan board for further action. We will then drive away insecurity of the pedestrians and the people living in Aizawl city. I, therefore express my full support to this resolution. Thank you.

**PU LALRINCHHANA
MINISTER**

: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I first of all have to express my support of this resolution, Fortunately, I have been made in-charge of Land & Revenue Department for the two successive terms. With earnest effort of the hon'ble PWD Minister and the concern Officers study has been prevailed to find a solution to the problem faced due to congestion of Aizawl city and immediate action was taken for improvement of certain roads.

If this resolution is passed, what will be most important for the achievement is the openness of the concern land holders. It is the duty of every member to convince those concerned land-holders so as to achieve the programme as it is expensive for the government to compensate each concern family as demanded. Approximately, 100 crore rupees will be spent only for compensation and the state government will not afford such amount. It may

therefore be necessary to acquire the support of central government. It is very much important for the public as well as the government to sacrifice our belongings and efforts with a vision for generations to come so as to achieve this favourable programme and I support its passing. Thank you.

**PU F.MALSAWMA
MINISTER**

: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, While discussing this favourable resolution moved by Dr. Lalzama, I would also like to express my desire to include those that concern not only Aizawl city but also Lunglei, Champhai, Saiha and other District Capitals. I would like to make three suggestions in regard to this widening programme. Firstly, it may be wise to put the effort on widening on both side of the existing road from the normal budget. Secondly, it may not be possible to build double lane road considering geographical feature of our land as a whole. It may, therefore be necessary to take alternative measures by building fly-over bridge in order to resolve the existing congestion problem of the city.

Thirdly, it is also important to construct by-pass road so as to evade traffic problems. Suggestion raised by Pu C.Sangzuala and Pu Lalhmingthanga will be applicable for construction of by - pass road.

Mr. Speaker sir, I am making these suggestions in support of resolution moves by Dr. Lalzama. Thank you.

PU L.N. TLUANGA

: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, 25 years ago I was allotted contract works of widening of road of Kulikawn to Raj Niwas via Tlangnuam and Republic veng road on starting the widening work. We cannot proceed any further due to obstruction of the concern land holders. But after putting strong pressure to those concern families, I finally convinced them by offering the works to their respective lands so that the works could be continued. It is, therefore important for the government to have awareness of various possible means to solve obstructions which may be faced while taking up the programme. It may be necessary to convince all the concern land holders in the areas cover by the programme. Thank you.

PU F. LAL THANZUALA

: Mr. Speaker sir, I would also like to express my opinion in regard to this resolution. It is clear from various point of views that financial involvement will be very high in the widening programme. As a member from Rural Area, I am afraid that development fund for rural areas may be diverted for achievement of this programme. It is regretted that the majority of the people living in Aizawl as of Mizoram. It is important for the members to show our concerns for the people not only for our constituency but for the whole area of our state. It is not that I don't support this resolution, but we should not ignore the problem of rural areas too. Thank you.

**Er. K.THANGZUALA
MINISTER**

: Mr. Speaker, sir I also have to share my views on the practical side of this resolution. We all seem to accept the need to extend Aizawl city and its roads and it is not necessary to explain any further. But we have to determine 'how'. In the previous master Plan for Aizawl Road improvement has been prepared in consultation with Central Road Research Institute. The plan underlines the place to build fly over bridge and Turning Points. One of the main problems for

widening of road is caused by private owned land. The government therefore, notified scheduled road which is not encroachable. Since almost all the roads within Aizawl City needs extension, the expenditure is not affordable for the state government. It is therefore necessary to give priority only to certain areas. In order to solve traffic problem and improve size of the road of Aizawl city, it may be wise to give priority to the main road which is Bawngkawn - Kulikawn road and this may be called one way traffic road. In the same way, it is possible to prepare Chaltlang to Bawngkawn road and Chandmari - Zion Street road etc. By preparing a number of one-way traffic road, I strongly hope our problem will be solved to some extent. It is therefore, necessary to give priority to those mentioned roads. Thank you.

PU SANGHMINGTHANGA H.PAUTU : Mr. Speaker sir, our main topic today seems to be traffic problems within Aizawl city. In addition to various suggestion made by the members, there is a convenience to construct the road from Mualpui towards the direction of Kulikawn so as to stop vehicles coming in from Republic road to Treasury Square which seems to be the main reason for the existing traffic problem.

Secondly, I would like to make suggestion to take measurement again of the lands along the scheduled roads. It may not be convenient to mention a particular name here in the House but those lands belonging to certain people seem to be fenced excessively. It may, therefore be necessary to check LSC of the suspected people but not without consulting them before as suggested by the member from Tlungvel Constituency.

It may not be best to lay the blame on certain leaders with whom I had discussed this problem in the previous year, as they were no longer with us. But I used to share the necessity of having atleast 6ft reserved area on both sides of the road along Bawngkawn - Kulikawn with a view to the existing traffic problem. I therefore truly appreciate the resolution moved by Dr. Lalzama and give my full support for its achievement.

Regarding formation of Ring-Road in certain areas of Aizawl city I support the idea of a member from the opposition bench as it will be much effective as diversion is made as suggested.

Once again, I support the opinion of a member from Serchhip Constituency of Fly-over - Bridge in certain areas. And, as suggested by my the members, it may be wise for the department of Land & Revenue to check LSC of the concern owner of lands along the scheduled road so as to clear up the first obstruction on widening of needs. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : I now call upon the Minister, PWD as our present topic is of his concerns department. As per request made by certain members, I do not object to taking up the resolution moved by Pu H.Laltanpuia as it is up to the members but we should not cross 4:00 P.M. Before that let me call upon Pu Nirupam Chakma.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker sir, I may not take my chance as you do not seem to be giving chance for discussion of the next resolution.

S P E A K E R : All right. I now call upon the Minister PWD to take his time and then wind up. After that we will move on as necessary.

It may not be fair to object the request of Pu Nirupam Chakma where as chance is given to other members. I would rather invite him to have his speech before calling the Minister P.W.D.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Mr. Speaker sir, let us try to take as Many as resolution as possible to day. With that spirit, we come together here for discussion and we have been sitting the whole day. We have supported the first solution as well as the second one. The Ruling members try to take all the time upto 4:00 o'clock and this is unfair as you do not give us the chance to go for the third resolution. That is why sir, I am standing now.

We must first look into ourselves of whether we really wish to achieve any resolution we have passed. This is an important question. A number of resolutions has already been passed here in the House but has not been pursued properly. I am afraid that what we pass today too would not be achieved again and turn into a disgrace for this august House.

As a Minister concern for PWD, I too have a number of experiences on the maintenance of roads within Aizawl city and we did what we can. The main problem is, there are a lot encroachment which has to be sorted out. Those who are having vehicles should have parking places of their own. That will improve lots of traffic congestion. The government should come up with parking places like Palika Bazaar in New Delhi. This is one suggestion from my side.

Secondly, although it may be expensive or may be difficult, but in the long run it will be good for us. One member perhaps already spoken about the rope-way. To reduce the traffic congestion, places like hill station can have rope-ways. It is high time for Aizawl city to make some diversion of the main road. Mr. Speaker sir, since we all agree plan for the development of roads of Aizawl city, we should also equally concern for the road development in rural towns. That is why. PWD should take more initiative. I think it may be better still if the hon'ble Chief Minister constitute a Committee of Minister concerning PWD. Revenue Department, LAD and other relevant Department to have discussion on this matter. So, that Master Plan for all other towns could be prepared as well.

PU K.SANGTHUAMA : Mr. Speaker sir, my first suggestion in this regard is that the department of Land Revenue may take marking all over again. But already pointed out it may not be best to surprise the concern persons in taking up the steps since a number of families which I've known are of very open in regard to this programme. I have

recently visited the whole area of scheduled roads and I dare to say that those concern land holders have no hesitation to sacrifice 5 or 6 ft. of their land for improvement of Aizawl road.

Secondly, I would like to mention that the department of Transport has offered piece of land in the area of Ramhlun North for widening of road. But no action has yet been taken by P.W.D. I inform the concern Minister for favour of immediate action. Moreover, in my constituency, the road from Sihphir to Pushpak Mandir is constructed from the fund under Rural Department and only few portion is left unfinished. This road may be useful to solve the congested traffic if it is fully completed as this route will be much useful especially for heavy vehicles.

As already suggested by the opposition Leader, I opine that setting up of Ring Road from Zemabawk to Ramthar via Bawngkawn road will be much helpful in solving traffic problem.

My next suggestion is to put pressure on the concern authority so that road along Assam Rifles Camp could be widened even before they move out. In this, way our traffic problem will be solved to a certain extend. Thank you.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Speaker sir, as I come across this Resolution. I asked myself which portion of the road should be counted as main road and whether roads in other areas are also include in the programme. If the programme includes all the roads mentioned by members concerning Aizawl, it appears that there will be no share left for the development of rural towns. It is, therefore necessary to make a clear cut scheduled road for this programme.

During my visit to Chawngte in the previous month, I asked one J.E. at work of the estimated time for completion of the concern road and I was surprised by his answer that provision is given for smoothening of only 1 Km. Road per year. Since then I accept that PWD concerns only for improvement of road within Aizawl but not for rural areas. I, therefore find it difficult to give my full support to this resolution on first thought. It is not that I don't feel the need to resolve the problem of traffic of Aizawl but we should also equally concern with the provlem in rural areas. What is necessary for the mover or Minister concerning P.W.D. is to clarify road scheduled for improvement so as to clear our confusion.

Secondly, I agree suggestion made by the Minister of Education in regard to widening of road. Usually, widening of road in Mizoram means slicing off lands on the upper side of the road. It may be wise to prevail the widening of the road as already mentioned. In this way, adequate space for footpath could be spared for the safety of pedestrians. Regarding the idea of making fly-over bridge in certain areas, I don't think it is suggestive as it will take a number of pieces of land of private land holders and the government could not afford to compensate all the families. I opine the idea is practically not applicable. Thank you.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA :
MINISTER

Mr. Speaker sir, as a Minister concerning the road, I have to express my appreciation of the suggestions made by the members. During the budget discussion I used to expect from the members the demand for increase of allocation of budget for construction of roads. But instead it may be easier to speak against the work of the department. In this regard, it is important for the member to know that the department is functioning to achieve plan with the fund allotted by the government. I supposed that the department is working at its level best.

It is true that the programme of widening of Aizawl and its roads could not be carried out only from the state fund. The intention of the government is to make this project from the amount of 16 crore rupees which is expected to come from the central government.

As we have listened, we all seem to agree to pass this resolution. Major Plan has already been prepared for the programme and the report is submitted to the central government. But while we expect to have our budget increased it is falling down almost to half the size of the budget of last year due to financial crisis in the central government. Because of that, it may not be possible to entertain the whole suggestions of the members in the programme. For the members from Rural Constituency, there is no reason to be sad as 20 crore rupees has already been allotted separately for rural connectivity. In this regard, I invite suggestion and advice of the concern members in respect of their constituency and may also inform us their priority.

Mr. Speaker sir, I am making these few points in support of the resolution moved by Dr. Lalzama. Thank you.

PU ZORAMTHANGA :
CHIEF MINISTER

Mr. Speaker sir, we have listened various views and suggestions in regard to widening of road within Aizawl city and also the amount of budget allotted for rural connectivity. We all seem to agree the idea of the programme but the important part is how to proceed.

As we have seen in other neighbouring cities, steps have been taken for improvement of their respective internal roads in various means from different sources of income for the programme. Some state government make the source by collecting tax from vehicle ranging from 5/- to 10/- for 20/30 years without depending on fund from the government. Even for us, it may not be possible to take immediate step but Master Plan could be prepared beforehand.

Regarding shifting of the Assam Rifles from the city, it is to be noted that necessary step has been taken by the government. But the place allotted for them has not been completed. So, far Construction of approach road is yet to be taken up by BRTF and for construction of internal road in which 3 contractors applied. On the other hand, the government is taking immediate step to the placed vacated by the Assam Rifles by constructing approach road and a number of buildings.

Mr. Speaker sir, our support to the resolution paves the way for the achievement of the programme, I invite all the members to cooperate with the government for the betterment of our people and for the generations to come. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : I now call upon Dr. Lalzama, mover of this Resolution to wind up and then ask to pass by the House.

Dr. LALZAMA : Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I first of all Express my appreciation of all ideas and Suggestions contributed by the members. It is informative to hear about several suggestions and how to give priority on the programme of widening roads. To answer the question of schedules road for main road, most of the congested roads within Aifzawl may be accepted as main road. It may not be necessary to mention the needs to pass the resolution once again as various members have already pointed out about it.

I therefore beg this House to pass this resolution for the welfare of the public as a whole. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Dr. Lalzama has now moved to pass the Resolution – ‘widening of roads within Aizawl be taken up’. The member who agrees to pass may say ‘yes’ (member say ‘yes’).

This House has passed unanimously the resolution moved by Dr. Lalzama – ‘widening of roads within Aizawl be taken up’.

Dr. LALZAMA : Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

S P E A K E R : As a rule, no resolution has been taken up after 4:00 P.M.. I myself don’t intend to cross the time inspite of the request from the opposition to take up another resolution as it could be of an unfavourable precedents for future discussion

PU Z.H. ROPUIA : Mr. Speaker sir, it is necessary for you to take precaution for the possible precedence in the future as you have mentioned. I, therefore agree with your discussion.

S P E A K E R : We may close discussion for today. The meeting be resumed on Monday the 9th April.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 P.M.