

5TH SITTING ON TUESDAY 21ST MARCH, 1989.

PRESENT

PU HIPHEI, Speaker at the Chair, 8 (eight) Ministers and 10 (ten) Members were present.

BUSINESS

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bill for consideration and passing Dr.H.Thansanga, Minister in-charge Parliamentary Affairs Department etc. to move -

"That the Mizoram Salaries, Allowances and Pension of the Members of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 1989 be taken into consideration."

SPEAKER : But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my Salvation; my God will hear me.

Mika 7:7

We have no question this morning except in the portfolio of our Chief Minister's and we have to wait his arrival. According to the rule, 15 days must be elapsed between the date of submitting questions and the Session. Even though some questions are admitted by asking the suggestion of the Minister concerned there is no question this morning and we will do our Second Business that is Bill.

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, the questions which had been submitted at the right time had always been delayed by the Department concern, there are many questions forwarded by Assembly Secretariat which had not been answered till date. Therefore, I want to ask the Departments to furnish their answer as soon as possible from now on.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU : Pu Speaker, 52 Amendment -  
'growing of age' must be adopted in our House. Why don't we step now? (Speaker : Do you mean ratification?) Adoption is needed in our State All other States adopted this. (Speaker : We will adopt).

SPEAKER : What had been said by our Hon'ble Member, Pu Liansuama have to be noted by our Ministers. They must try to answer all the questions of the members. Before we let Dr.H.Thansanga move his Amendment Bill I want to tell you that a corrigendum has been made in Clause 4 of this Bill. In Clause 4, in lieu of the sentence 'a member shall be paid constituency Allowances of Rs.1,000/- per mensem,' It has to be "A member shall be paid Constituency Allowances of Rs.1,000/- per mensem and he shall be entitled to Constigency Allowances of Rs.1,000/- per mensem. Now let Dr.H.Thansanga, Minister in-charge Parliamentary Affairs beg the permission for consideration of Mizoram Salaries Allowances and Pension of the members of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 1989.

DR.H.THANSANGA : Pu Speaker, I beg permission of  
MINISTER this House for consideration of the Mizoram Salaries Allowances and Pension of the Members of Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 1989.

SPEAKER : Do you agree? (Members : agree).  
If we agree, let him speak first.

DR.H.THANSANGA : Pu Speaker, It has no real dif-  
MINISTER ference from what had been discussed yesterday. The objectives of this Amendment Bill are to reduce the salaries of MLAs by Rs.500/- and to raise the maximum amount of pension from Rs.1,000/- to Rs.15,000/- And no more allowance for postal, telephone, water supply etc. Only Rs.1,000/- for Constituency Allowance. Besides, the facilities provided to the member like telephone in section II which has been paid in cash has also been changed.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Liansuama to speak.

PU LIANSUAMA : Pu Speaker, while our salaries is going to be reduced it is very pleasing that the grativity for those who meets accident has also been included in this Amendment Bill. And it is also very pleasing that the maximum ceiling of the pension has also to be raised. Regarding Telephone and Water connection for MLA, these facilities are found useful for his/her neighbours. Therefore, in my opinion, this Amendment Bill is good enough and it must be passed without further discussion.

PU VAIVENGA : Pu Speaker, it is necessary to understand clearly why we are going to reduce our Salary. During election campaign we promised the people that if we formed Ministry we would reduced our salary. The reason is to make benefits poorer people in any way we can.

Formerly, T.A. Bill was made by the members claiming the remotest Village in their respective Constituency as their Headquarters. But, we, the Congress will use our true residence as our address. It is also very pleasing in my opinion that this Bill which has no benefit for us is made by our Hon'ble Minister. Thats all I want to say.

Thank you.

PU P.C.BAWITLUANGA : Pu Speaker, it is not easy to agree to pass this bill which has to cut down our salafy considering the inflation we are facing today. And I am also surprisè that we are considering to reduce our salaries while almost all government servant are demanding to raise their salaries.

In fact the said facilities, Telephone and Water connection are just in name because as we all know, our Telephone is always unable to use and regarding Water connection, Power Supply is very irregular. Therefore, these facilities will not have useful meaning.

Therefore, from one point of view this Amendment is discontentment for us. But on the other hand, this Amendment is very pleasing as it is for the benefit of the people. Therefore, Pu Speaker, what I want to point out today is I am very glad that we are going to pass this Amendment Bill which shows our sacrifices for the people and for our country. But in my opinion it is a pity that our Opposition Members are not present today to pass this remarkable Amendment. I want them to know their responsibilities to the people who elected them for their representatives. So, if we love the people and our country in this Session. To end my speech I want that this Bill be passed unanimously.

Thank you.

PU ZALAWMA :  
MINISTER

Pu Speaker, in my opinion, this Bill is very good and great.

We are not self-supported though we are no in a state. Our

revenue in this year is only about Rs.15,000,00/-. The fund we have received from the Central is about Rs.338.87 crores. It shows that we are still depending on the Central Government almost in every way and we still far away from the position of self-supporting.

We are making History by passing this Amendment Bill today. No bill which will reduce the salaries of MPs or MLAs had never been passed in any other states at all. So, it is very great to make this Amendment Bill for the members. It shows clearly the sacrifice of the members for the people and their readiness to serve the people and the country. And it also shows their intention to develop the country. It is the first step to save the people from poverty.

The Government is starting the work of raising the standard of living of the poor by distributing G.C.I. Sheet to the poorer people for their roof and it also gives aid to those people who have no regular work for their living. We must know that we are elected to serve the people and our country and also to remove poverty. Therefore, I want our Opposition Members to be present in this Session as it is their responsibility to the people.

I know that this Bill will benefit the people and it is very great that the new Ministry had made the Amendment Bill. Therefore, in my opinion, this Bill must be passed without any objection.

Thank you.

PU P.SIAMLIANA  
MINISTER

: Pu Speaker, thank you for giving me time. I want to say something about this bill. But my fellow Hon'ble Members had already said some of what I wanted to say.

What I want to say is about other facilities!

As the member of Lungpho said earlier that the 'other facilities' are just about water connection, electric and telephone. In fact these are essential facilities not only for MLA but for everyone. Therefore, what I want to include in this 'other facilities' is vehicle.

Regarding lodging, we have no good facilities. We could not use Mizoram House in New Delhi and Calcutta when we went there in the Orientation course with the member from Ngopa Constituency. Even within Mizoram we could not use I.B. and Bungalow if they are occupied by the Department Officers. Therefore, I want Vehicle and lodging for the MLAs be included with the 'facilities' We were always suffering from many problems due to the lack of these two facilities.

PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU

: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to say that to reduce the salary of the MLA. is not really necessary. We are paid Rs. 3500/- per month. In the last Ministry our salary had been increased from Rs. 650/- to Rs. 3,500/- and we know that the increment was very large, but the reason why we had increased by this much is our standard of living and the standard of government servants demanded it. Even the Carpenter earned Rs. 80/- daily.

And we have no good facilities. Other States like Maharashtra, U.P and Bihar, their MLAs enjoy good facilities. Today, Rs. 1,200/- is needed to hire motor/jeep to reach even the nearest Village in Ngopa or Khawbung Constituency. Besides, we also have a family to look after. And in our Constituency there are some veru poor people who are badly in need of our help, I always ask the government's help for them but the government could not help all of them so we have to help some of them ourselves.

Besides, when the people of our Constituency and also not from our Constituency came to Aizawl they came to us for fooding and lodging and we have spend much money for this purpose. More serious matter than this is when some of our people came to Aizawl to take medical treatment and if some unfortunate persons die we have to carry the dead body to their Village by our own vehicle.

Pu Speaker, while such is our case some of us said that our salary is too high. It is our case some of us may regarded it too high because they can live luxuriously and even their relatives can use government vehicles and they could have their own vehicles. So how can they love the people if don't understand the position of their fellow members? Therefore, I don't regard our salary too high.

The former Ministry had given Rs. 2 lakhs to the MLAs for Car loan and Vehicle loan. If we have to repay within five year we have to pay Rs. 3,300/- monthly without including its interest. Therefore, how can we repay these loans if we are going to cut down our salary? In my opinion this amendment Bill needs careful reconsideration.

In my opinion the inclusion of the Chief whip in '13' A of this Bill is very pleasing. We must afford as possible to the Chief Whip. Because he is entitled as he is a Chief Whip. I opine that he must also be given the same amount of house rent as other Ministers. Now his house rent is Rs. 2,500/- only while our Ministers house rent is Rs. 5,000/-. Therefore, it will be reasonable to give the same status in this regard. Besides, he must also be entitled to vehicle.

And we employ our personal attendance against the rule of our State. According to our rule the lowest fixed Wage is Rs. 28/- daily. But now we paid our personal attendance Rs. 800/- only. We have to pay atleast Rs. 840/- a month. If we act against the rule it will be difficult to take action to those Officers who acts against the rule.

Pu Speaker, it is said that our salary is to be reduced, but in fact it will not be reduced. Calculating the expenditure on our facilities we can find that our total income will be increased by Rs. 580/- instead of reducing by Rs. 500/- But we consider this Bill for the reduction of our salary. We said that Rs. 1,62,000/- will reduce our salary but Rs. 1,87,920/- will be lost if we pass this bill instead. Nevertheless, to have a good facilities is very pleasing. So, I want to say that what we have discussed today is very pleasing.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, In my opinion this bill must be passed without further discussion I want to say that Pu Zosiama had said about the expenditure on facilities is not accurate, because we may not spend the maximum ceiling limit of the fund for facilities. During MNF Ministry, the fund for facilities is given in cash to all members even if all of them may not use these facilities. Therefore, the government lost much money.

And the government will save much money from T.A. now. We, the MLAs are all poor people and we need much salary, but as we are the leaders of our State we have to do for the benefit of the people. When our salaries had been raised during MNF Ministry it led to many grievances regarding pay among the government servants.

Though we need good facilities. We could not afford all our needs because we are a very poor country.

If we calculate rightly and carefully the government will save much money by passing this Bill. So, in my opinion this Bill must be passed without further discussion.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : I want to inform you that the said telephone call is for quarterly not for monthly.

PU LALHUTHANGA : Pu Speaker, It is very pleasing that our Minister had made this amendment Bill which has proper rule for the use of facilities. And it is also very pleasing that the Ceiling limit had been made for telephone and electric.

Pu Speaker, the sacrifice of our members had been pointed out by the member from Kawnpui Constituency. I also want to say about T.A. formaly, members used one of the Villages in their respective Constituencies as their addresses and they had made their T.A. Bill using those addresses. Therefore, they always take much money as their T.A. Not only that they used the false address but they also made many false bills saying they used horse or hire motor or hire labourers to carry their luggages on their way from their false addresses. Like this they made false bills and their T.A. Bills were always very high. To remove this practice the new Congress Ministry had requested all the members to use their true address. Almost all of us are living in Aizawl town. Therefore, the government will save large money in this way.

This amendment bill shows clearly our sacrifice for the people and our country. And it also glorifies this House and the government. And this bill is good enough for the people. It is also good to pass this bill. Thank you.

Dr.H.THANSANGA  
MINISTER

: Pu Speaker, this salaries, Allowances and Pension bill had been discussed so far by the members. It may seem unreasonable to reduce our salary while other government servants are demanding to raise their salary. But we feel that it is necessary as we are the servants of the people and our country. Moreover, our Ministers suggested to reduce the salary as we are the ones who should act example for the people.

I will point our some important points from what our members had said. Section 4 is amended as a member shall be paid constituency Allowance of one thousand per mensem, as he shall be entitled the contingency Allowance of one thousand. The Constituency Allowance and the contingency Allowance are Rs. 1,000/- each. Before this the constituency allowance had been Rs. 1,500/- therefore Rs. 500/- has been cut down from the Constituency allowance So the amount of the Salary becomes Rs. 3,000/- and it has to be drawn in cash.

Regarding the pay scale of the government servants the salary of MLAs is not much at all. But considering the standard of the whole people and our little source of income this amendment is regarded necessary.

Hon'ble Member Pu Zosiama Pachuau had said that the salary will not be reduced calculating all the expenditures over the facilities, and it has been raised by Rs. 580/- instead. Pu Saikaphthianga had explained about this matter and it is very pleasing.

I also want to give the explanation the charge for water is Rs. 30/- per month and for electricity 300 Units is allotted for every member but we may not consume 300 Units in a month. Generally, a faaily consumes 70 Units only in a month. Therefore, some may consume 300 Units while others consume 100 Units only. And the charge for 300 Units is Rs. 210/- only. The maximum Ceiling limit of telephone is 5000 calls quarterly. It is 56 calls a day.

Many of us will not use 50 calls in one day. Besides some of us have no telephoone and for those who have no telephoone it is meaningless. Therefore, the government will gain large sum out of this amendment bill. All these charges must be given by each members and they will be re-imbursed afterwards.

Regarding the Chief Whip, in this amendment bill he is provided a quarter and if there is no quarter for him he will be given Rs. 2,500/- for rental charge. He is also to be given a motor car and one IV Grade Staff. The facilities given to the Chief Whip is not same in every States. Therefore, we are going to provide these facilities to our Chief Whip for the time being. The work of the Chief Whip is very important therefore he is entitled to these facilities.

Regarding other facilities, when any member go on official duty we know that they always have vehicle problems. And regarding the accomodation in Mizoram Houses and Inspection Bungalows it is also said that they were not given good treatment from the Official. In this regard there is a protocol and in the protocol the Status and order of precedence of the members are written clearly. Therefore, they must receive treatment as their Status and the protocol must be maintained. The government is not responsible for this matter. It is the responsibility of the officers in Mizoram Houses and Inspection Bungalow and protocol officers. Nevertless there is an existing rule in this matter therefore to treat our members according to their status is to honour our state, ourselves, our Assembly and our government.

In my opinion there is not much criticism on this bill. I therefore beg the house to pass this Mizoram Salaries, Allowances and Pension of Members of Legislative Assembly of Mizoram Amendment Bill 1989.

S P E A K E R : This amendment bill has seven Clauses and now who ever agrees to pass the 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 Clause of this bill say 'agree' (Members say 'Agree').

Now, who ever agrees to pass Clause 1 of this bill say 'Agree' (All members say 'Agree') Alright the Mizoram Salaries Allowances and Pension of Members of Legislative Assembly Amendment bill is passed.

Any members who ever needs vehicle has to report to the Secretary or Deputy Speaker or Speaker stating where and when they want to use. We will try to make vehicles available to the members during this session.

Now we have finished our business for today and the sitting will be resumed on Thursday at 10:30 A.M.

House adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

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