

PROCEEDING OF THE 12TH SITTING OF THE 5TH SESSION OF THE
MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MARCH, 1990.

12TH SITTING ON FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1990

MEMBER PRESENT

1. Pu Hiphei, Hon'ble Speaker and the Chair; 8(eight) Minister and 14 Members were present.

QUESTION

2. Questions entered in separate list to be asked and answers given.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

3. The Hon'ble Speaker is to announce names of new Members for Public Accounts Committee.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BUSINESS
RESOLUTIONS

4. (a) Pu Lalrinchhana, to move :-

"Kum 1989-90 a kut hnathawh tuten Sawthing an tlanhhuah atanga hralh an duh sawng zawngte chu Mizoram sawrkarin Rs. 3.50p per (kg khat a cheng thum leh pawisa sawnga) zelin Aizawi ah leisak vek ni rawh se"

- (b) Pu Andrew Lalherliana to move :-

"Aizawi leh Lunglei District to hi District hrang hranga thendarh a, Autonomous District District Council pek vek ni rawh se".

S P E A K E R

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation, this
is my God, and I will praise him, my
father's God and I will exalt him.

Exodus 15:2

We shall now take up Question No.
103, Dr R.Lalthangliana to ask.

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DR R. LALTHANGLIANA : Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Public Works Department be pleased to state -

The reason why Lunglei District has not received the Bulldozer and J.C.B. meant for their District.

PU LAL THANHAWLA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, One Bulldozer had been service for along time in the District of Lunglei.

Another J.C.B. and Bulldozer was issued to the Executive Engineer, Lunglei Division last year. The number plate of the Bulldozer issued to the Executive Engineer was no.20341. This was to be taken from Saitual. The J.C.B. was issued on 20-9-1989 but as the condition of the JCB was not good, it is undergoing repair.

DR R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, it appears that the PWD has at its disposal 6(six) JCBs, 12 Bulldozers and 40(forty) Road Rollers. If it can be released soon, the project of the Buanpui-Lunglei Road and Thingsai road would be quickly resumed. As the Minister has stated, the JCB is in constant need of repair. We would be very grateful if a service engineer can be posted at Lunglei for the necessary repairs to be done. We also need other JCBs and Bulldozers for standleys. It also appears that we will be needing road rathers too. We would be very grateful if one road rather can be despatched to Lunglei.

Thank you.

PU LAL THANHAWLA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I understand the concern showed by the Hon'ble member. However, our resources are very limited. In future we will have to make over purchases on need bases. It also appears that our rock and soil formations have not been properly analysed. When these JCBs are in need of repair, we have to search for spare parts in different places and the companies are often not the same.

The number of 380812 Bulldozers cum Excavator and JCB are as follows :- There are 6(six) Bulldozers out of which 3 is under Mechanical Division-I, Mamit Division -I, Saitual Division-I, and Tlabung Division -I. At present 3(three) of these are deployed on the Kolasib-Bairabi Road which has been given priority in anticipation of Bairabi Railroad. Another one is deployed at the Khadicherra - Damcherra - Zamuang - Kawntithawveng - Luitkawn road (KDZKT). One is also deployed at the Saitual - Phullen road and another one at the Lunglei - Buanpui road. One under the Mechanical Division is under repair, and so is the one deployed at the Saitual - Phullen road.

S P E A K E R

: Question No 107, Pu Lalrawnliana is absent but the question will be asked by Pu Vanlalauva who has been authorised.

PU K.VANLALAUVA

: Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Agriculture Department be pleased to state -

(a) The amount of grant received by each family whose main occupation is Agriculture ?

(b) The rate of the grant

(c) How many families have received such grant ?

S P E A K E R

: The Hon'ble Minister in-charge Pu Saikapthianga has authorised Pu Liansuama in his absence.

PU LIANSUAMA
MINISTER

: Pu Speaker, the answer to the Agricultural grant for the year 1989-90 has not been furnished by the Department of Agriculture.

The Agriculture Department will carry out the scheme through the Rural Development Department.

PU VANLALAUVA

: Supplementary question please. why is it not possible for the Department of Agriculture to furnish the amount ?

It is also learnt that the grant given under NLUP in Vaphai was only Rs. 500/- per family. This was given to 20 families. Is the Government aware of this fact ? If so, what step have been taken against the same ?

PU LIANSUAMA
MINISTER

: Pu Speaker, all questions to be asked in the Assembly are sent to the Departments concerned for furnishing the required answers thereto.

The rule is that the questions should be specified by the member.

The Department of Agriculture and the Minister in-charge are not aware of the fact that 20 families in Vaphai have received only Rs.500/- each in the New Land Use Policy programme.

PU VANLALINGENA
DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Speaker, it is learnt that the aid for WRC at Suangpuilawn was not received in full. Can the Government find out the reason?

PU LIANSUAMA
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had already answered a question similar to this one.

S P E A K E R : Then let us take up question No. 108, Dr R.Lalthangliana to ask.

DR R.LALTHANGLIANA : Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Local Administration Department be pleased to state -

What step do the Government intend to take regarding the construction of three subji Bazzars in Lunglei?

PJ ZALAWMA
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, it has been planned to construct three subji Bazzars at Lunglei under the Revenue Department. However, a bigger sanction of Rs. 5 lakhs had been obtained from I-DSMT for a bigger project. The previous scheme has therefore been replaced by the letter and it will soon be implemented.

DR R.LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, I am glad to know that sanction has been made for Rs.5 lakhs. It means that we will be able to start work substantially. I hope that the project will soon be implemented.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Question No. 109, Pu Aichhinga to ask.

PU AICHHINGA

: Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Power and Electricity Department be pleased to state -

- (a) Is there any intention on the part of the Government to continue the Eairabi Hydel project ? If yes, what steps have been taken ?
- (b) How far has the investigation for Tuivai, Chhim-tuipui, Tuirial and Tuirini Power Project been made ?
- (c) Has work been started on the Serlui 'B' Power Project ?

S P E A K E R

: We request the Hon'ble Chief Minister, in-charge of the Department to give the reply.

PU LAL THANHAWLA
CHIEF MINISTER

: Pu Speaker, I have already answered question (a) Yesterday. (b) 92% CWC field work has been furnished on the investigation of Tuivai

Project. The team is satisfied with the result of the investigations.

The investigation of Chhintuipui has not yet been started, but Tuirial has been investigated, and estimated to generate 70 megawatts of energy.

Tuirini investigations one also yet to be made.

- (c) Construction work on Serlui 'B' Power Project has not yet been started. However, the state works have been carried out to a great extent. The Project is to be sponsored by the North Eastern Council, therefore we cannot start the construction works right away. Should any problems arise financially, it will be considered whether or not we can obtain a loan from world bank. The Executive Director of Asian Development Bank has also agreed to help if we have a substantial project to take up.

S P E A K E R

: Pu Aichhinga.

PU AICHHINGA

: Pu Speaker, a supplementary question. Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister please clarify the relation between CWC and the state Government on the matter of investigations carried out ?

PU P.C.BAWITLUANGA : Pu Speaker, another supplementary question please. The Tuivai Project is estimated to generate 70 Meghawatts of energy. It has been learnt that some problems have been created by individuals claiming ownership of the Dam sites. How is it possible to put forth such claims after the area has been declared to belong to the Forest Department ?

S P E A K E R : Pu Tawnluia seems to have another supplementary question.

PU TAWNLUIA : Pu Speaker, will the Hon'ble Chief Minister please clarify the location for the Dam site of Tuivai Project ? How energy in terms of Meghawatts will be generated from this project ? As the area lies on the border of Manipur what will be the arrangements between the two states of Manipur and Mizoram ? And as these are projects of National importance, should not the Government consider the expensive ways of procuring the required areas of land ?

PU LAL THANHWIA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, no matter what Project is taken up by the Government, our present system is very unsatisfactory. Every time a certain project is taken up by the Government, certain individuals create problems in the hope of inquiring compensations.

I believe this is the case in every Ministry. Therefore, the cost of compensations are very high and sometimes even higher than the cost of the project. This system has to go.

At present the system followed by the power Department is to negotiate if the land genuinely belongs to any individual. As such, claims have been made in the Serlui Project. The Government is making enquiries on the matter, and if the land claim is genuine, the Department will negotiate for a bargain. The CWC is an expert in Hydel Projects. If they consider certain rivers to have Hydro potentials, they discuss the matter with the Department of Power and Electricity Investigations follow and the necessary clearances obtained.

Regarding the Tuivai Project, I cannot say the exact location complete, and we cannot say how long it will remain in the hands of the Central Government. However, if I am not mistaken, this project will generate about 420 Meghawatts of energy. I do not know exactly what terms and conditions are to be made with our neighbouring states. In this connection, the Dam site constructed by the Government of Assam and Manipur on our

border is going to bleed certain areas of our state. The Bramaputra Board is considering what measures to take in this matter. We are trying to make some benefits out of this situation in consultation with the Chief Engineer, BRTF.

S P E A K E R : What is quite clear, we shall take up Q. No. 110, Dr R. Lalthangliana to ask.

DR R. LALTHANGLIANA : Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge be pleased to state -

What is the reason for the recent inconsistency in power supply ?

PU LAL THANHAWLA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the reason for the poor supply of Power is due to the line break down of grid Power from NEEPCO and Assam. As a result there was great shortage of Power. The total energy we did not receive was about 11 Meghawatts. We hope the situation will normalise soon.

S P E A K E R : A supplementary from Dr R. Lalthangliana.

DR R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, it appears that we get our supply of grid Power from NEEPCO and Assam. What is the Annual expenditure for these two sources ?

PU LAL THANHAWLA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I do not have the exact figures at present. The cost per unit is different in these two. The assessment of Power required at peak load hours is 42 meghawatts. We received 11 meghawatts from NEEPCO and Assam. Our own power generation from Mini Hydel Project and Diesel engine is 20 Meghawatts. We are therefore constantly short of about 11 meghawatts to meet our daily peak load requirement.

We have made more requirements to NEEPCO and Assam to meet the short fall of 11 meghawatts. We are trying our best to convince the North Eastern Regional Power Board (NERPB) in this matter

PU P. C. BAWITLUANGA : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question. Sometime ago there was a line fall in Chhingohhip because the line had been list by a bamboo. The J.E. told the concerned party to pay a fine of Rs. 500 and until the payment was made, he would cut their power supply. And these some of the reason for power cuts ?

S P E A K E R : Pu Aichhinga may also ask his question.

PU AICHHINGA : Pu Speaker, the Department of Power and Electricity constantly, face problems regarding Power line installations. In a growing town like Aizawl Problems arise when houses was constructed below the installation of high tension lines. It takes up great expenditure and effort to remove and transfer the lines elsewhere. It would be much lighter for the Department if some Rules are framed for these matter. I would like to ask if there is a possibility to frame such rules ?

PU LAL THANHAWLA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble member from Lungpho was veng well informed. I would appreciate it if he can furnish us with more informations so that we will know what to do.

Pu Aichhinga 's questions was more of a proposal, it was a good suggestion, yes it is a very difficult task to alter the existing power lines installed in the city. We are truly at a loss as to what steps we should take. I do not know how the Department handles such problems. I am also facing this problem right now, a high tension line of about six or seven lines are installed just between my house and the house next to us. It is very dangerous and we have requested the Department to shift the line else where, however nothing has been done so far. It is also a veng expensive job to shift these lines. However, these problem will be solved when the Department installs the cables underground which is an on-going scheme at present.

PU TAWNLUJA : Pu Speaker, the Department of Power and Electricity has installed lines throughout the jungles in the rural areas. Could these inflict problems if these areas are allotted for land use policies ?

S P E A K E R : We will request the Hon'ble Chief Minister to reply.

PU LAL THIANHAWLA : Pu Speaker, these power lines are
CHIEF MINISTER similar to the telephone lines.
It can be obstructed by trees and
over-growth of grass and bamboo.

The Government has not exactly considered what steps to
take in these matters. A lot depends on the convenience
of the Departments in the infrastructure of their work.
However, long range plans have to be made so that these
lines may not clash with the development in future.

S P E A K E R : That would be enough for today.
A days back a motion was moved to
fill up the vacancies in the PAC
and Estimates Committee. Nominations were filed and as the
candidates were lesser in number than the vacancies, the
following members were declared elected.

Public Accounts Committee

1. Pu P.C.Zoramangliana
2. Pu Lalrawnliaana
3. Pu H.Rammawi
4. Pu K.Vanlalauva.

Estimates Committee

1. Pu P.C.Bawitluanga
2. Pu Lalhuthanga
3. Dr R.Lalthangliana
4. Pu J.H.Rothuama
5. Pu Romawia

There are the member who will have
their tenure along with the existing members. We shall now
take up private member's Resolution.

I shall read out Pu Lalrinchhana's resolution :-

"This House is of the opinion that,
the ginger harvest of 1989-90 marketed by the cultivators
be purchased by Government of Mizoram at the rate of Rs.3,50p
per Kg. in Aizawl".

The mover of the Resolution may move
and each member will be given 20 minutes for the debate.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Pu Speaker, thank you for allowing
me move my resolution in favour
of the cultivator's so that they
may receive their due profit out their Agricultural products.
(Deputy Speaker takes the Chair). For the last two or three
years, Ginger cultivators have managed to sell their products

without much difficulty. Knowing that it is a good cash crop the cultivators have increased their cultivation of Ginger. The harvest this year has been better than the past years.

However, Ginger producers are still left without a market for their products. Many have tried to sell it at Sairang where the price is Rs. 3,50p per Kg. But the dehydration Plant at Sairang is not capable of procuring large amounts at a time. Although the price is not very high, ginger producers need to sell their products in bulk so it is important that the Government should purchase it at least at the price of Rs. 3,50p per Kg.

When we consider the problem of Ginger market in our state, it does not appear that the market outside Mizoram has gone down. It is mainly because the Government of Mizoram has not taken adequate steps to upgrade the market of Ginger within our state. The price is what the buyers fixed from Cahchar. The Merchants from Silchar procure our Ginger products according to their rate. That is why it is difficult to sell Ginger at a price higher than Rs. 2.00 per Kg. within our state.

If the Government can buy it at the price of Rs. 3,50p per Kg. here, the co-operative Department may find means of disposing it outside Mizoram, say in Calcutta without any loss. This would greatly lift the burden of the cultivations, as the Jhum control scheme are being introduced by the Government. If the cultivations can be assured of the fact that the Government will buy at the rate of Rs. 4.00 per Kg, the poor cultivators will be very speedily up lifted from poverty.

It is therefore degrading that one or two manwans should control the rate of Ginger in Mizoram.

Therefore, if this August House resolves that the Government should purchase Ginger at the rate of Rs. 3,50p here, the Government could provide loans to the co-operative or Mizofed to dispose these same outside our state. It will be a fruitful step towards the policy of Land Use in our state. I therefore, request this August House to pass this resolution.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Liansuama may speak.

PU LIANSUAMA MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, Ginger market has been our problem for many years even during the previous Ministries.

Personally, I have had many thoughts about the Ginger Dehydration Plant we have at Sairang. The Government of Mizoram has had this problem since the inception of the Union Territory Government prior to 1977. The Ginger Plant at Sairang is of two types. The project was sponsored by the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI)

Our main problem is in the dehydration section. It is because this dehydration process does not work enough to supply the main mill, that more supply of raw Ginger cannot be purchased in bulk. The two mill are about 6 Kms apart and if they are amalgamated in one place it would solve a lot of labour.

I feel that it is necessary to discuss in this House the possibilities of purchasing more dehydration mills so as to meet the need of the local products. At the rate we are going now, the future is not Mysore, and it is expected to have two shifts of eight hours work load and estimated to turn out 12,000 quintals per season.

However, owing to lack of sufficient power supply, work cannot be carried out as it should. The use of Diesel oil is very expensive but the Department tried its best knowing that it was the only means of procuring our local products.

First, the Ginger is dehydrated then it is grinded into fine power. Next it is processed for the extraction of oil which is known as the olio-resin oil. The capacity can be increased per year according to the supply of power, very bright for Ginger cultivators in Mizoram.

As I have already said, it would be a big difference if we can assure the public that the Government will purchase their products at Rs.3,50p or Rs.4.00p per Kg.

The Department of Industries is also quite ignorant about the olio-resin machinery. When the machine arrived for installation, it had to be installed in the open air because nothing had been constructed to house the machine. After four years in 1984 the machine was pulled out from the wild overgrowth of grass around it. It had rusted due to the exposure to wind and rain. It is therefore, important to take first necessities first before installing any other machineries in future.

The Department of Agriculture has also proposed certain preservation of crops. We must therefore bear in mind that things half done will be of no benefit even if the schemes are progressive by nature. We need to have new lines of thinking on these matters before playing into them, that is all.

Thank you.

PU AICHHINGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, our resolution is indeed a very good one. We are all aware of its importance. It is the obligation of the Government to find means of disposing the local products of each. Crops very year.

The New Land Use Policy will take about five years to have real impact on the economy of the rural people. At present we are in the trans-seasonal period, Ginger cultivation is a good cash crop which would be able to save the rural people from their trans-seasonal difficulty. If such is the situation, the Government is

obliged to help in the disposal of the Ginger products. That is why this resolution has been moved in this August House.

Our Ginger plant at Sairang has very limited capacity. Therefore, the Government has to find other means of disposing them. If the Government can give assurance that it will purchase at a certain rate here in Aizawl, it would help a lot. As we have already said before, it is not a very reasonable thing that the manwaries should control the Ginger market in Mizoram. Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a resolution which will uplift the plight of Ginger cultivators in our land, therefore it is important that we should support it. This House should therefore unanimously pass this resolution.

Thank you.

PU DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu P.Siamliana may now take his time.

PU P.SIAMLIANA : Pu Deputy Speaker, this resolution
MINISTER is a resolution that concerns us very much. Not that we are speaking ill of others, these matters are mentioned only in time of election campaigns and neglected later. We often ask why we cannot market our Ginger when the rates in Calcutta and Delhi are Rs.7/- per Kg.

It is the same case with Chillies and other cash crops. The public have to be educated in this matter. The public should learn that it is better to sell their products in bulk at a lower price than sell at a higher price in small amounts. The price of Ginger faces great fluctuation in the big cities, we have to consider many aspects in every angle. That is all I have to say.

Thank you.

PU TAWNLUIA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I believe that move of the Hon'ble members present here would disagree with this resolution. The Ruling party had this as its election manifesto and so did the MNF.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also mentioned this in his speech on the eve of India's 42nd Independence Day last year. He said that the Government would purchase all the cash crops produced in Mizoram and pave way for the cultivators. This would be taken up by the marketing corporation. This resolution is only to confirm the manifesto of the Ruling party, and we are present here to confirm it. We are obliged to carry out this resolution no matter who sits in the ruling Party.

The Government purchased Ginger at Rs. 3.90 per Kg for the Sairang Ginger Plant. If it could purchase at Rs.2.50p per Kg at the doorsteps of the cultivators I am sure they would be very happy. The Government will also know how to dispose the left-overs of last year's products. We need not repeat the fact that Ginger rate in Mizoram is controlled by a few Mamvaris in Silchar.

The main problem faced by Ginger cultivators is the storage. It would therefore be a grant blessing in the Government could purchase at their doorsteps even if the rate is only Rs.2.50 per Kg. That is all.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalhuthanga may now take his time.

PU LALHUTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, it is the manifesto of every party that cash crops should be sold at a good price and marketed by the Government. However, all good things are not easy to accomplish. During the previous congress Ministry, I was Chairman of the Ginger Marketing society. We made great efforts as to how we could market our products and we contacted the dealers in Calcutta several times.

In the course of our dealings, we were told that most of the Ginger they procured was from South India and Sikkim. These were of very high quality Ginger, much longer than the ones we produce here in Mizoram. The market value could therefore never be the same. They also told us that South India and Sikkim supplied them enough. We had a great loss of over Rs. 10,00,000/- in the year 1985 due to lack of marketing. The storage is our biggest problem. Half of the weight is reduced during a short period of one or two months. In the year 1985, we purchased a huge amount which was left to rot.

We have to work out this problem otherwise, we will be repeating the same mistake year after year, I do understand the urge from the cultivators, but frankly speaking the cultivators bring up this issue only when the price is low, I therefore would like to request the Hon'ble member mover of the motion to please withdraw his resolution.

Thank you.

PU NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the resolution
MINISTER moved by Pu Lalrinchhana in such
again by the Government for purchasing the Ginger at the rate
of Rs. 3.50 per Kg. at Aizawl. I think it is a good resolution but purchase of Ginger by the Government it seems

to admit that because marketing should be done by any marketing agency on some other corporations. I sincerely admit that Agriculture marketing is an important component of co-operative movement, But due to certain constraints several difficulties we cannot equip itself to do our best and I would like to inform the House that as we have experience Ginger marketing in Mizoram undertaken by Mizofed at a joint bank service with NAFED and this joint banks are got a very serious set back, because of these MIZOFED is still suffering and still could not recovered itself.

There may be several at the reasons but among those reasons the most importance are the failure, what I mean is the failure of the Ginger rates is that firstly Mizoram Ginger is normally graded as secret and prices outside Mizoram is not encouraging. Secondly, the MIZOFED is not equiped with grading and focusting arrangement because it is a still in a poor state. Then there is lack of managerial experience at the result of which large quantity of Ginger was damage. Fourthly, being perishable items Ginger were transported by train to Calcutta for terminal market serve at heavy shrinkage and damage.

So these are the most important factor why the joint banks by MIZOFED and NAFED was the failure. And due to this NAFED or TRIFED they are not careful these days to undertake Ginger marketing particularly from Mizoram state.

Now, we should not discharge from embanking a fresh marketing activities, but to take initiatives how to overcome these difficulties.

Now, the co-operation Department has estimated Ginger production. I mean the harvest of this year is approximately 30 thousand quintals that is 8 thousand metric tones. This is a very big harvest infact and marketing agencies should be very careful if they want to take any sort of marketing with in colleberation on enjoyment service either NAFED or TRIFED or any other marketing agencies.

However the co-operation Department has written to National co-operative Department, National Agriculture and Co-operative marketing Federation which we called NAFED or TRIFED. Tribal co-operative marketing development federation limited its headquarter at Delhi, and they had branch in Gauhati also to explore the feasibility of marketing of Ginger. Gauhati branch has response Centre that means TRIFED has responded us. And they have written into see that we can make a deal with MIZOFED.

According to their request as here it is written, as here it is applied I mean, replied to the managing Director TRIFED, New Delhi in which we had given terms and conditions so as to make a deal. Now along this terms and conditions it is written that purchase can be made through co-operative societies in the areas where there are marketable surplus of Ginger.

Secondly, to purchase right from Village and bring them by the MIZOFED on Transport to Aizawl. MIZOFED would like to hire the Central warehouse Godown at Aizawl. Hiring charge will be born by MIZOFED.

If TRIFED collect Ginger from Aizawl, the delivery can be made from Central warehouse Godown and the onward transportation will be responsibility of TRIFED.

In case how much TRIFED insists for our delivery at Silchar MIZOFED can arrange transportation by hiring trucks which mainly go empty to Silchar on by their own truck.

Now these are the conditions made by MIZOFED so as to make deal with TRIFED and the rate we have given to them is that, if they want they can lift Ginger at Aizawl, it can be Rs.350/- the lowest price. If they insist us to deliver Ginger at Silchar it should be Rs.280/- But if this deal is finalised on if they agree with terms and conditions also the MIZOFED will not be able to buy at rate of Rs.350/- what the resolution written here.

Now, the price Maximum will be fixed by MIZOFED if the deal is agreed between the two parties. Otherwise, no positive act that can't be taken which is mainly depend on the TRIFED with which they are making the deal, and also NAFED, they have not given any replied here.

Now, under this circumstances Mr Deputy Speaker, I don't think that this resolution will make any gap whether we pass on it is passed in the House unless and untill we assure that Ginger can be marketed in suitable terms and conditions and MIZOFED can contribute nothing. So my personal opinion is that we should be withdrawn and let the Government take initiative because we had been taking and we are very much aware that the production of our state will go to outside so farmers can gain remunerated prices and also to help them, not only the grower but the Government and any other agencies.

Thank you.

PU R.ROMAWIA : Pu Deputy Speaker, it appears that we have great faith in our Ministry as this is only a private resolution. We cannot therefore say it is a party oriented resolution.

Last August, the New Ministry announced its intention to purchase the Ginger harvested by local cultivators.

The public therefore expects the Ministry to stand on its promise. No member should give excuses regarding the rate and prices of Ginger. It was one of the Party's manifesto. Not only Ginger, it also includes other cash crops harvested in Mizoram. We expect them to fulfill their vows and that is why we are discussing this day.

According to the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Co-operation Department, the Ginger rate at Silchar is Rs. 380/- per quintal. If that is so, the Mizofed could hire trucks from Transport Department for Rs. 700/- and still make a profit of Rs. 2000/- per truck load. This does not appear to be a difficult task.

However, our main objective is how to lighten the burden of the public and help them in their difficulties.

The area needed for cultivating Ginger is much less than that required for cultivating paddy. Commercially it is much more profitable to cultivate Ginger than paddy. (Pu Deputy Speaker :- Please excuse me, it is now time for recess, shall we give 10 minutes more to Pu R. Romawia so that he may finish his speech ?)

Pu Deputy Speaker, I am about to finish speaking. Our main point is that the Ministry should stand on the promises it has made regarding Ginger marketing. This is the only way to lighten the burden of the people. It is a service to the nation. I do not think much capital is needed in this project. A meagre sum of Rs. 50,000,00/- will suffice. That is all, thank you.

Recess till 2:00 P.M.

2:00 P.M.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Andrew Lalherliana may take his time.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. The Hon'ble Member mover of the resolution appears to feel for the welfare of the rural people. This is a great thing. However, what comes into my mind is why other cash crops have not been included here ?

In our Budget this year, there is ample allocation of fund for the rural people, such as Land Use Policy, distribution of G.C.I Sheets etc.

If I am not mistaken, the Government has plans to set up new marketing Co-operations soon. Therefore the government appears to be preparing the necessary infrastructure for such marketing Co-operatives.

For example, if we look at the State of Maharashtra the State purchases most of the crops cultivated by the rural people. They look for ways and means to dispose the local products.

However, it is not easy to buy up these local products unless there is a proper set up of infrastructure. Tribal Development Corporations are set up with revolving funds which are the Capitals used to procure rural products.

Such infrastructure is still lacking in our government and this is where we are stuck.

The government is having plans and projects to build up these important frame-works and we have to bear patiently for such development to come. We will have to have revolving funds therefore what we expect now is like 'putting the cart before the horse'. Let us bear patiently for the set up of the infrastructure and the rest will come up automatically, that is all, Pu Deputy Speaker thank you.

PU DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now call upon Pu P.C. Bawitluanga to speak.

PU P.C.BAWITLUANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, most the Hon'ble Members who have spoken on this resolution opined that it is a good resolution but not yet practicable.

I believe that this is a rather formidable problem. The Hon'ble member Pu Lalhuthanga had already informed the house about the marketing problems faced outside Mizoram. We have also heard about the great amount we have lost in the ginger business.

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In spite of this, ginger cultivation is still going on in many parts of the rural areas.

The election manifesto and the speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister was mentioned by the member. We have also heard from the Hon'ble Minister, Industries that the government is purchasing the cash crops of funds and the limited capacity of the Dehydration Plant at Sairang. It is therefore a great risk to purchase perishable goods which could ruin us. It is therefore, very important to re-consider this resolution and if necessary, the Hon'ble member may withdraw it. That would be the best thing to do.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : PU. P.C. ZORAMSANGLIANA

PU P.C. ZORAMSANGLIANA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the Hon'ble member mover of the resolution appears to have the welfare of the rural people in his mind.

In view of the rural people I feel that this is a very appropriate resolution.

However, in considering any business of public importance, the government has to be extremely cautious.

The MIZOFED has been the ginger agent of the government for two consecutive times.

Just yesterday, the General Manager, MIZOFED returned from Calcutta. The wholesale rate at Calcutta today is Rs.4,50p. If the government purchases ginger at the rate of Rs.3.50p here in Aizawl, we can imagine the loss through packing and transportation to Calcutta.

Unfortunately, the ginger produced here in Mizoram is of a slightly inferior grade.

Therefore, according to the mover of the Resolution, the government should purchase at the rate of Rs.3.50p. This would be a great disaster. The annual production of ginger in Mizoram is about 80,000 quintals. The financial involvement therefore would be quite high.

It is therefore clear that the amount of loss incurred in purchasing 80,000 quintals of ginger at Rs.3.50p would be tremendous.

The loss between Aizawl and Silchar alone would be Rs.20,00,40.

Can our State afford such loss? We talk about over-Drafts and mud-slinging the government and its policies.

With the ginger market rising, it is not month the effort of Cultivation. It is therefore my opinion that the Hon'ble mover member may kindly withdraw his resolution.

Thank you.

PU K. VANLALAUVA

: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me this time. The debate had been slightly staying off the point I think.

Ginger can survive for about three years underground. On the second year it multiplies and this growth continues till the third year. We know this because we have seen it ourselves.

However, it is not in the cultivator's mind to leave it un-harvested for three years. Cultivators are eager to cash in their harvest as soon as possible.

The greatest mistake we have made is that every politician encourages the cultivation giving them false hopes. Not a single politician has given them the bitter truth that the government might not be able to purchase their ginger harvests.

I am therefore of the opinion that this Resolution has been moved in a desperate manner. The Government is the only hope of the public. They look up to it as their parent.

If we are going to mention only the hardships and problems of the ginger market, I pity the plight of the cultivators. How are we going to tell them about this? Why haven't we told them to cultivate less ginger if the Dehydration Plant cannot absorb such amounts? It is already known to us that the Plant has very limited capacities. We have not been brave enough to face these facts.

The reason why ginger faces such a crisis is due to its vulnerability. Unlike other cash crops such as sesame etc, ginger is damaged very easily on storage. The cultivators are facing severe blows both financially and mentally. The hurt is very deep. Their only hope is the government and not some wealthy contractor to lift them up from this sorry situation. That, Pu Speaker is our present position.

Thank you.

PU ZORAMHANGA

: Pu Deputy Speaker, I am glad to have this opportunity today.

This Resolution has been discussed rather thoroughly in this House regarding all the pros and cons of the issue. Ginger is a very expensive crop in that it devastates the soil.

If stored for long periods the crop is prone to decay and drastic weight loss.

Had the government warned the cultivators of all these hazards it is possible that the public would have listened.

Regarding the rate of ginger the government had already fixed it at Rs.3.50p per Kg. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had already declared in their Election Manifesto, that the government would purchase cash crops produced in Mizoram at a reasonable price.

I do not think there is anything to worry about the financial involvement. We never utilise our budget estimates exactly as it is estimated. The government can if necessary divert the fund from other Heads if the need arises.

I really appreciate the steps that have been taken to up-grade other rates of cash crops in Mizoram. We are deeply thankful for this.

We rely strongly on the Election Manifesto which the Hon'ble Chief Minister stated on the eve of Independence day. (Deputy Speaker :- You may have a glass of water, you seem to need it) The member mover of the Resolution requested purchase only in Aizawl and not in othertowns of Mizoram. This would not be hard for the government to do so.

If we could make a provision of at least Rs.50,00,000 it would suffice and the rest would go as revolving funds, of course, this is only my personal opinion.

I am sure the government must have taken care of the rates and mode of disposal at Calcutte and also the storage problem for stockage. Our only problem is to implement the already existing policy of the government. Thank you.

PU ZALAWMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, this ginger
MINISTER problem could be politicised and
used as a political propaganda.

It is not a new problem to us. We have had this going on since Mizoram was a Union Territory.

The government had used the MIZOFED as the marketing agent and tried to find ways and means of marketing products.

Looking back at these times, the government of Mizoram under the able leadership of the Chief Minister had assisted the farmers at a loss of Rs.30.40 lakhs in 1984.

In these lines, it was proposed to have Ginger Dehydration Plant at Sairang with a capacity of 10,000 quintals.

What we have to consider is whether or not ginger cultivation is month as a livelihood in Mizoram.

As we know, ginger cultivation takes up a great amount of soil fertility. Once ginger has been cultivated, the soil is not good for any other crops the next year.

It has to lie fallow for some years to regain fertility.

Therefore the government tried to find other means of stable livelihood other than ginger cultivation. In this respect the introduction of New Land Use Policy was made.

It also appears that farmers do not think that ginger cultivation would be the best means of livelihood. They have not opted for it. The rate of ginger also fluctuates to a great extent in the whole of India.

As the Hon'ble Minister i/c Co-operative has said, an Officer is being sent to Guwahati to negotiate with NATED.

It is not that we do not have the welfare of the growers in mind. Rather it is a question of stable livelihood.

It would be more appropriate if the criticised for its low capacity. But to expect full procurement at a fixed rate is rather irresponsible as we are responsible for this.

Even those who are now sitting in the Opposition will next day be in the Ruling Party. It would be wrong to make a president of anything such as this.

However, the government is going its best to procure local products and will continue to do so. It would therefore be very good if the Hon'ble Member mover of the resolution satisfies in the pursuance of the government's ginger procurement. Thank you Pu Deputy Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu H. Rammawi will speak before the Minister i/c winds up the debate.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Pu Deputy Speaker, we all understand the principle of the resolution today.

In view of our present day situation, it may not be easy to implement the resolution right away.

However, from the discussions we have had so far, there is a tendency to depict ginger as a total failure, a crop not worth cultivating. It is also depicted as an agent for damaging the fertility of soil.

In my opinion, cash crops include not only ginger but other varieties such as chillies, Cotton, cabbage etc.

There is also a tendency to think that money spent on ginger marketing is a sort of wastage to the government.

It would be good to consider the amount of money that the government has spent on wet rice cultivation (WRC) in the Department of Agriculture

There is a Marketing Division in the MIZOFFED which some of us may not be aware of.

The Hon'ble member from Saitual also lamented not having a corporation. We have an existing separate Head for this, therefore it will not hamper the project.

All the money spent on purchasing Bulldozers during the M.N.F. Ministry was also reflected in the Budget, so was the expenditure on the New Land Use Policy.

It is in the hands of the Government to divert funds where the need arises.

Therefore I do not think there is any fear of disrupting the Budget.

It is also good to point out our outstanding debts for future vigilance.

On the whole, there is too much speculation about this ginger business. Some say the price fluctuates too much others say that the government is to blame.

What we should know is that in business everything is at risk. In India there is no commodity that does not face fluctuation, including the price of petrol. Our own lives are at risk too. On top of this, the Ruling Party has made ginger one of their top election manifestos.

Would it be wise to say that ginger cultivation destroys the fertility of the soil after we have just set up a Dehydration Plant at Sairang.

Yes, we are aware of the loss on the part of the government.

But if this is the only means by which rural people can cash in their crops, let the loss be loss. It is in complete keeping with the Election Manifesto whether it be of the Ruling Party or not.

Is it not the obligation of the government to establish a market for the disposal of agricultural products? Why have we established the Co-operative Society? Is it not to check the high rising prices of commodities? I am very proud of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister i/c Social Welfare. The Government should do what it is obliged to do, notwithstanding the hazards. We need the courage to carry out what we are obliged to do no matter how hazardous it may be.

It is all in keeping with the New Land Use Policy of the government.

A person does not gain any profit when he purchases a Bus. In fact at that moment he is in great loss. The profit will come gradually as it plys in service why can't we understand this? God has given us this small land for us to cultivate and reap the harvest. We should be ready to suffer in order to gain profits.

Therefore, in order to encourage rural cultivators I feel that we should pass this Resolution. I am sure that your august person is also much convinced in this matter.

Thank you.

PU R. TIANGHMINGTHANGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, Ginger marketing problem had been a major issue during the MNF Ministry in 1987/88.

I was also assigned to find out some means to help solve the crisis. One company offered to purchase at our doorstep for Rs.2.50 per Kg. However, we managed to sell at Rs.4.50 per Kg. without any further problems.

In this time of crisis I feel that it is high time for the Government to step in and evaluate the price of Ginger as soon possible.

If this resolution is dropped today, there will be a general feeling of frustration among cultivators of all cash crops in Mizoram.

Our land use policy and slogan that Mizoram marches towards prosperity and self sufficiency would have no meaning. All sections of cultivators would see no point in labouring if their crops have Agriculture itself would be total failure.

The previous Ministry's debt for sale of Ginger was also cheated during the MNF Ministry. What I wish to emphasize today is that if we do not pass this resolution today, our cultivators produce more than their family's this important resolution unanimously.

Thank you.

PU VAIVENGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, our discussion has been somewhat lengthy. One thing is clear, we had already promised the public that the Government would purchase all cash crops produced in Mizoram.

8 Ginger market has been a prominent issue for along time, The Government has also tried to market Ginger at the highest rate possible.

However, error you have made is the fixation of the price. Negotiations with NAFED is also going on and we are making headway gradually,

Marketing policy of cash crops in Mizoram is being processed at present and if you have fixed the rates for Ginger it will pose problems in the negotiations. The Government and this House is not in a position to accept this fixed rate of Ginger.

This resolution in itself is very limited. It says that the Government should purchase all Ginger products in Mizoram. This leaves no choice or freedom for the cultivator. It binds the cultivator to the Government and will not be free to sell his products elsewhere.

Therefore, for the Governments points of view this fixation of rate is an error. Pu Deputy Speaker, the Resolution is fine mines the fixation of the price of Ginger, The Government may even be able to purchase at a higher rate on it could also be at a slightly lower rate.

It is a fact that the party had made this issue as one of its Election Manifestos. However, it is the fixation of the price that is hindering us. Otherwise, the principle is acceptable, it is in keeping with the policy of the Government. Unless the rate of the Ginger is omitted, I do not think this resolution is acceptable.

DR R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble member who spoke before me gave the implication that the resolution gave no freedom to the cultivators. However, if we look at the words of the Resolution as it is only for the year 1989-90. Therefore, the question of the rates does not pose any problem. If we are to bring out of the difficulties, I could also mention quite a number,

In spite of the existing problems, we can find a solution for our problem.

This Government has given selfless aids to the rural people. Distribution of GCI sheets were totally without any payment. We greatly appreciate this generosity of the Government. In such circumstances why can't this same Government purchase the Ginger products of the rural people? It should be a policy of 'No loss no gain'.

Regarding the rate of Ginger market, we should know that prices cannot remain the same. Fluctuation is increasing and what we fix today would be very the next year.

If the Government cannot purchase the Ginger produced in Mizoram. If such is the case, it is useless to have the Dehydration Plant at Sairang if there are no raw materials to be fed.

Our neighbouring state Meghalaya is far ahead of us in this business. They have marketing systems very well planned. For Example, they produce a lot of brooms which is sold for only Rs. 3/- per one broomstick in their state. However, they sell it at a very good price in states like Maharashtra where such types of broom are not produced.

Therefore, we are to really mean business, we have to work out our problems and take a bold step.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have had a lengthy debate in this matter. We shall now request the Hon'ble Chief Minister and House Leader to wind up the debate.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the resolution
CHIEF MINISTER moved by the Hon'ble member from Ratu is a very good one. It has also been thoroughly discussed by most of the members. It is also party correct to say that the Government is not yet ready to market Ginger produced in Mizoram. I also agree with the Hon'ble member who opined that Ginger cultivation is damaging the fertility of the soil. That is why I find this resolution very particular.

Fixation of the rates at present may also pose certain problems later due to high rise of inflation. It would also be a risk on the part of the Government as some members pointed out. However, it should be a meaningful risk. We have to be careful and we have to know that the election manifesto was not chalked out carelessly.

We have Departments like co-operative, Trade and Commerce and Industries. These Departments are all very eager to take up the marketing. However, it is not easy to speed up these matters and we have to bear with them.

One thing we have know is that there is a tendency to think that the Government can use any amount of money at any time for any purpose. This nation is prevalent even among Government employees and this is very regretful. We have to do away with this way of thinking.

Our condition till today is very dependent on other states. If any problem arises in the supply and Transport via Silchar, we can be stranded to face famine. That is also the case with our budget we are still dependent on the Centre.

In spite of this we are aware of the constant accusations made by other political parties alleging that this Ministry is mis-appropriating funds etc. It is therefore important that we are careful in spending money.

From all the speeches of the Hon'ble members, it reflects great compassion and care for rural cultivators in our land. While this is highly appreciated, we have to be aware of our own capacities.

The Department is at present purchasing Ginger at the proposed rate of Rs. 3.50 per Kg. However, the assesment of the co-operative Department of about 80,000 quintals to be harvested this year will not be fully produced by the Department.

The Government has shown great concern for Ginger grows and has done all things possible for their benefit. The Department of Industries has also

summoned officials to consider upgrading the rate of Ginger from Es. 300/- per quintal to Rs. 357/- per quintal.

Meetings were held to discuss the matter. Procurement has been made through MIZOFED and other corporations under the Department of Industries. Mizofed is also procuring other cash crops such as sesamum and mustard. Proposals have also been made to procure cotton and brooms in the near future.

At present negotiations are going on with NAFED and TRIFED to find means of absorbing all these cash crops without causing any problems to the cultivators.

The Government is intending to fix the price of Ginger at a rate not less than Rs. 3.500 per Kg. notwithstanding any loss on the part of the Government. It does not make any difference as to what each member opines. The principle is the same the Hon'ble Ministers has already stated the steps already taken in this matter and I do not think there is any reason why Ginger cultivators should be downhearted.

The Government has gone to such extent as to say that they would purchase all their products even if it has to be thrown away at Tlawng River.

However, being a deficit State we have to be very frugal in our fiscal policy, this prevents us from committing ourselves without considering the pros and cons. It is therefore necessary to bear with us patiently. We have to find a market outside Mizoram before buying the Ginger. If this is not done, we will face the problem of storage and decay.

Our problems would be easily solved if we could absorb all our products within our state.

As such I am truly glad that this resolution has been moved today.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not know exactly how I should wind up this debate. We need to have a good working system between the Co-operation Department and Industries Department.

However, we are not in a position to control the rates and as the Hon'ble member has already said, our Ginger is not of a very high quality.

Quality improvement should also be our aim in order to have a good market.

What is most important is that we should be satisfied at any reasonable rate should the negotiations with NAFED and TRIFED prove to be unsuccessful. I believe that this is the only way this House can find animus. Could the Hon'ble member from Ratu constituency think likewise?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now request the mover of the Resolution to take up about 5 minutes.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I am indeed happy that my resolution has been thoroughly discussed in this August House.

However, I am deeply hurt that instead of supporting the rural Ginger cultivators, we have almost set up a political party platform trying to blame each other. I find that this is totally not inkeeping with my resolution.

This is a time when we should back up rural cultivators and not condemn them.

None of the Ginger growers are well to do people. There is a tendency to think that rich people are monopolising the cultivation of Ginger for business reasons. This is not so, rural growers are the poorest of the poor who look forward to selling their crops to provide some means of livelihood. The concept has been greatly mistaken.

At the time of processing my Resolution, the rate of Ginger was Rs.4.50p is purchased by the Department of Agriculture, and Rs.3.50p as purchases by the Department of Industries. That is why we have fixed a rate of Rs. 3.50p per Kg in the Resolution.

The Department of Agriculture purchased at a higher rate due to the fact that the Ginger quality. Therefore, we did not think that Rs.4,50p could be fixed for the ordinary Ginger produced on masse. The present rate of Ginger is Rs.3.50p as procured by the Government this year. We have therefore fixed the rate according to the existing rate of the Government. It would not be fair to find a different rate while there is an existing rate of the Government.

Our main concern at present is that Ginger has already been harvested and the growers are anxious to sell them as they do not have any storage facilities.

This principle should be our main key for consideration whether we belong to the Ruling Party or not. The harvested Ginger is nothing away.

I therefore, request this House to consider carefully casting aside Party feelings and pass this Resolution in favour of the growers.

Thank you.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Deputy Speaker, if this resolution is not passed we do not consider it to be contradictory to our manifesto. We have informed the House all the negotiations and dealings the Government has made regarding the sale yet failed in our Ginger.

We have not yet failed in our negotiations with NAFED and TRIFED, therefore we do not think it wise to try other new methods. The Hon'ble member should not forget that the Government is considering not only the market for Ginger but also the market for oleonesin as well.

Ginger growers should not be discouraged should this resolution be dropped.

Lastly, if this resolution should be passed not with standing our pleas to wait for the results of our negotiations, it would tantamount to distrust and no confidence of the steps taken by the Government.

In such a case, we are sorry to say that we will not be able to take part in it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nineteen members have participated in the debate. It is difficult to have one mind.

If you one to withdraw your resolution you will have to ask permission of the House.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I cannot withdraw my Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take voice vote on the Resolution of Pu Lalrinchhana which reads.

This House is of the opinion that, the Ginger harvest of 1989-90 marketed by the cultivators be purchased by Government of Mizoram at the rate of Rs. 3.50p Kg." All those who agree to pass may say 'Yes' and those who do not wish to pass the resolution may say 'No'.

The majority goes to those who do not wish to pass. The resolution is therefore dropped by the House. We shall now have a short break for refreshment and resume our sitting again at 5:20 P.M.

Resess till 5:20 P.M.

S P E A K E R : I shall read out the resolution of Pu Andrew Lalherliana.

"This House is of the opinion that the District of Aizawl and Lunglei be re-organised several Districts and be given Autonomous District Councils". The resolution may now be moved by the Hon'ble member.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you for accepting my Resolution. I shall now move my Resolution which reads. "This House is of the opinion that the District of Aizawl and Lunglei be divided into several Districts and be given Autonomous District Councils".

I am sure we can see the diverse effects it will have and other interests that can come out of it. As we know, the Central Government has provided special provisions to safeguard our interest as scheduled Tribes and Castes. This provision has been made in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution of India. These are reasonable restrictions to safeguard our interests as tribals. We did not have any complaints or problems during the times when Mizoram was a Union Territory.

However, as time went by, we had expected our brothers from the underground to come home with better provisions. The Accord brought about certain provisions but on closer study there are certain things that are not exactly as we expected.

No specific mention was made in respect of Trade and Commerce.

Our neighbouring state Meghalaya is a good example regarding autonomous district councils. We have surrendered what we had so it is now very difficult to regain what we have lost.

At present the 6th Schedule is not applicable in the districts of Lunglei and Aizawl. In order to make this applicable again it is necessary to confer the status of District Councils in both these districts. There have been proposals to bifurcate or trifurcate the district of Aizawl. If that is so, the same could be done in Lunglei District and could be given Autonomous District Councils. This would be our conclusion.

Although we are Tribals, we are not in the Tribal Area. As the 6th Schedule is no longer applicable in Lunglei and Aizawl, it is necessary to impose the status of District Councils in these two Districts along with de-centralisation of Administration.

This would again be in keeping with the proposal to break up the District of Aizawl and Lunglei into smaller District.

There is no clause in the constitution of India which can justify our exemption from income tax payments. This would be a hand hlow to us. As it is, we can hardly manage to joint in the mainstream of India due to severe financial of economical backwardness. All our earnings would have to flow down the maintream of our country's economy and it is therefore imperative that we return to the status of District Council under the sixth Schedule of the Indian constitution.

The late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's policy of the Panchayati Raj on de-centralisation of power appears to be the grass roads of the whole thing.

In Mizoram, we have Village Councils but they are very micro-scopic Units. However, there is a power vacuum between the Village Council and the State. Something has to bridge this gap between the Panchayati Raj and the State as it is done in other states.

Other states of North East India have also adopted their District Council status under the Umbrella of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

It is we who have made the mistake. We have to ratify this by passing this Resolution. I am sure that the Central Government will give importance to this matter to be discussed in Parliament.

Therefore, in order to revive the status of District Councils, it is necessary to bifurcate the districts of Lunglei and Aizawl.

On the other hand, we have three District Councils at present. However, these three District Councils have not been appropriately designated or named. It is not wise to name them tribble-wise because it could be the root cause of disintegration. It is a regret that we have made precedents in this matter. The best thing would be to give autonomous district councils area wise. Creation of more autonomous district would open the door for more apportunities. The administration net work will enlarge and it will solve a great deal of unemployment. I therefore feel that it will serve the interest of all. I hope that the Hon'ble members will agree with me as I request the House to pass my resolution.

Thank You.

S P E A K E R : Let us try to restrict our speeches to 10 minutes.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Pu Speaker, the Resolution has come from a part of the Treasury Bench, the MNF 'D'. We shall listen to what the Congress party members have to say.

S P E A K E R : Are you speaking on behalf of all the members of your group ?

PU P.SIAMLIANA
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I would like to add a few more words to what has been said by the Hon'ble. Looking back at history, Mizoram had been an Excluded area as defined in Section 311 of the Government of India Act 1935. It is also to be found in the Chin Hills Regulation 1896, where the Government had made ample provision to safeguard and protect the natives of the Lushai Hills. Our position till the struggle for independence was very protected. I feel that it is necessary to safeguard our status under the Sixth Schedule.

At the outset of the disturbances in Mizoram in 1966, professor G.G. Swell asked a question in Parliament as to why the Government of India attacked and treated Mizoram as though it was not a part of India. Unless I am mistaken, we were considered almost outside the Indian Territorial Jurisdiction. That was the debate in Parliament.

In 1972, Mizoram became Union Territory and the District and the District Council ceased to exist.

However, we had a Regional Council in the Pawi and Lai region. If we study the History of India and the Indian Constitution, nowhere do we find a Regional Council. The state of Meghalaya still retains its District Councils upto this day. It would therefore be irrelevant to say that we cannot have District Councils once we have become a state.

The present Administrative system has a large gap or vacuum between the V.C., MLA and Minister. The Administration is suffering and administrators are having a terrible time. Looking back at the time when we were under District Council Administration, it appears that Primary Schools were in better condition. It is a fact that there were less funds at that time. We seem to have slackened in our Education systems since Mizoram became a Union Territory. We have a lesson to learn from the Nagas. The different tribes of the Nagas, are United under one name. Similarly if Lushai, Paite, Hmar, Pawi and Lakher have separate District Councils and be United Under the name of Mizo, it would bring us together.

Another Administrative error is that we still have Villages in the towns, and sub-towns or satellite towns, where as we have subordinate counts on the other hand. Assimilation would also be prevented if we are protected under the umbrella of the Sixth Schedule. We would like to know the opinions of the Hon'ble members from the opposition party. As for us we will have to abide by the decision of our leaders.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : If others are not inclining to speak, we shall request the Leader of the House to wind up the debate.

PU LAL THANHAWLA
CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I do not know why some of the Hon'ble members do not wish to express this opinion in this matter.

The Resolution appears to have two tiers. First, the districts of Aizawl and Lunglei are to be re-organised into several districts, Secondly, to give Autonomous District Councils to these districts.

The principle is a very good one, however it will require a big budget.

Re-organisation of districts has been discussed since the time of Pu Ch.Chhunga's Chief Ministership.

The principle was welcomed but the real action was not taken due to the great financial involvement. Secondly, it is a politically very difficult.

This Ministry also feels it necessary to re-organise the districts. In order to do this, a powerful Committee has to be set up. This has to be done without Political consideration therefore senior Officials will have consider the possibilities with the Geographical conditions in view.

In re-organising the District of Lunglei, I am afraid that it may hurt the sentiments of the people there. The question is therefore very sensitive and delicate. It should therefore be free of politics solely to be handled by senior Officials. We will consider it only when it has to reach the political level.

The District Council itself as moved by the Hon'ble member, Pu Andrew Lalherliana does have its merits and de-merits. Our neighbouring tribal state of Nagaland do not want district Councils. We therefore do not know exactly which of these is better.

At the time of our upgradation from District Council to Union Territory, delegations were sent to Delhi many times to convey to the Centre that it would not be wise to have District Councils in the name of different tribes.

However, another memorandum was submitted tribewise such as Chakma, Pawi and Lakher. It is also said that at that time a Lakher Chief went and intimated to the centre that it was impossible to work together with the others unless a separate Council was given to them. Shortly afterwards, the North Eastern Re-organisation was

set up and the district councils of Chakma, Pawi and Lakher were created. There was a grant deal of mud slinging among the political parties because of this outcome. There have always been two ways of thinking as to having District Councils or not.

There is a tendencing to think that the District of Lunglei is being neglected. They say that the Chhimituipui Autonomous District have better facilities having their own Government, and Central financial assistance.

Whereas, it is thought that the District of Aizawl has most of the benefits as it is the capital of the state and the station of all the Ministers and Officials.

Suggestion have therefore been made on these grounds to give Autonomous District Council to the District of Lunglei. In this connection this Ministry considered setting up Lunglei District Development Board with a senior Minister at the Chair, D.C. as Secretary and other senior Officials as members.

Such consideration are going on and giving more power to the people in Local Self-Government is also being considered.

There is a tendency to think that we are losing all benefits as Scheduled Tribes in Tribal areas just because we are no longer under the Umbrella of the Sixth Schedule. So far, we do not see any such drawbacks.

Our neighbours the Nagas do not want District Councils. Do they miss out on the benefits because of this option? It would be wise to find out. We have to consider all the merits and demerits of the matter.

Personally I feel that we should do something about this Panchayati Raj system. It is evident that some sort of Autonomous body has to bridge the gap between the State Government and the Village Council. The re-organisation of Aizawl and Lunglei is now anecessity.

However, we cannot say whether Aizawl District will be befuncated or trifuncated. Neither do we know exactly what sort of Autonomous will be necessary.

Therefore, although the principle of the resolution is greatly appreciated, it may not be wise to pass it now.

On top of that, it appears that Parliament has to offer Autonomous District Councils to the re-organised districts. If that is to be so, we will have to consult experts on the matter.

If at all we are to have District Councils it should be such that no political demands can be made that can cause dis-integration of our unity.

We will have to feel the pulse of Central Government in this matter. Let no have a thorough

study first before we leap into anything as this will have a long lasting effect. If the Hon'ble Member mover of the Resolution would please restrain and appreciate the matter.

Let us see how our neighbouring States are doing and refrain rushing into the matter. If we could all see it in this light, Mr Speaker I feel that we will be wise to wait and see, that is all,

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Can the Hon'ble member Pu Andrew Lalherliana, agree to withdraw his resolution ?

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA: Pu Speaker, I do not think the Hon'ble Chief Minister meant withdrawal. If you could give me give minutes I shall try to explain in conclusion.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister more or less gave us an assurance. In moving this resolution I made a mistake in not consulting the other members of the joint Ruling Party. In a joint ruling party like ours, the pattern followed by the Centre is a good example. The Ultra-rightists BJP for instance are very mature in their stand. They do not wish to bring about any precedents that can cause disintegration of the nation. In the Kashmir issue the BJP accepted the decision of the Prime Minister although their views were not exactly the same.

In our case, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has given assurance that the matter would be considered and if necessary action will be taken in pursuit of the resolution. He has requested postponement of the resolution, which I do not object.

Secondly, it is true that we have much to study from our neighbouring states. In Meghalaya, there is a feeling that the Sixth Schedule has better prospects while the Administrators think that it will diminish their powers. However, they are now content in their present status.

Any way, the Sixth Schedule is being amended, it will be up to us whether or not we will accept it as it is.

Therefore, it is a good proposal that we postpone the resolution and have a thorough study of the matter.

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PU VANLALNGENA : There is one sensitive point there.
DEPUTY SPEAKER The Chief Minister has not given assurance as the member has presumed. The matter is being examined critically at present so, it is not an assurance.

PU P.SIAMLIANA : It does not mean that the Resolution
MINISTER has to go through at all cost.

S P E A K E R : We have an assurance Committee which will pursue the matter. The Resolution cannot be postponed, it has to be withdrawn.

PU ANDREW LALHERLIANA: Pu Speaker, if it is under consideration, the Resolution does not have to be through. I shall withdraw the Resolution without undoing the policy of the Party. I therefore request to withdraw my Resolution.

S P E A K E R : The consent of the House is necessary, Does the House consent to have the resolution withdrawn?
(All agree)

The Resolution of Pu Andrew Lalherliana which reads :- 'This House is of the opinion that the Districts of Aizawl and Lunglei be re-organised into several districts and be given Autonomous District Councils,' is declared withdrawn.

We shall now adjourn the sitting till 2-4-1990 at 10 : 30 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

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