

**SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM  
( THIRD SESSION )**

**LIST OF BUSINESS**

FOR THIRD SITTING ON THURSDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2014  
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

**QUESTIONS**

1. **Questions** entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

**LAYING OF PAPERS**

2. **Pu LALSAWTA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House the following :
  - 1) The Mizoram Audit Manual, 2014.
  - 2) The Mizoram Chit Funds Rules, 2014.
  - 3) The Mizoram State Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme, 2014.
  - 4) The Mizoram Local Funds (Accounts & Audit) (Amendment) Rules, 2014.
  - 5) The Mizoram Lotteries (Regulation) (First Amendment) Rules, 2014.
  
3. **Pu K. SANGTHUAMA** to lay on the Table of the House the following :
  - 1) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 17th Report, 2011 relating to Transport Department.
  - 2) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 26th Report, 2013 relating to Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department.
  - 3) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 27th Report, 2013 relating to Health & Family Welfare Department.

- 4) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 28th Report, 2013 relating to Taxation Department.
- 5) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 29th Report, 2013 relating to Health & Family Welfare Department.
- 6) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 30th Report, 2013 relating to Horticulture Department.

#### **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

4. **Pu LALRINLIANA SAILO** to present to the House the First Report of Committee on Estimates on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of Committee on Estimates of the Sixth Legislative Assembly relating to Public Works Department on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
5. **Pu R.L. PIANMAWIA** to present to the House the First Report of Committee on Government Assurances.

#### **LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

##### ***Bills for introduction, consideration and passing***

6. **Pu R.LALZIRLIANA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Bill, 2014.

**ALSO**

***to introduce the Bill***

***to move that the Bill be taken into consideration***

**AND**

***to move that the Bill be passed.***

NGURTHANZUALA  
Secretary

....

**SPEAKER** : “Do not pervert Justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 16:19-20.

Pu Lalrinliana Sailo has applied leave of absence due to illness and he authorized Dr. Ngurdingliana to carry out his responsibilities.

I will now call upon Pu Lalruatkima to ask Starred Question No.31.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of SAD: –

- a) Is there an intention to purchase new vehicles for the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries?
- b) If so, what kind of vehicle and what is the cost price?

**SPEAKER** : The hon’ble Chief Minister, Pu Lal Thanhawla to answer the question.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, the answer is: –

- a) Yes, new vehicles will be purchased for the Ministers and the Parliament Secretaries whose vehicles are unfit.
- b) Verna 1.6 VTVT SX ‘O’ and Bolero for support vehicle are being purchased. Verna costs ₹9.60 lakhs and Bolero costs ₹7.96 lakhs.

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary question from Pu Lalruatkima.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, how many are being purchased as to Verna and Bolero respectively? Where is the SAD vehicle with registration number MZ-01 C-5891?

**SPEAKER** : The hon’ble Chief Minister may answer the question.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, vehicles were bought according to our needs and we will continue to do so. So far, we have purchased 7 Nos. of Verna and 10 Nos. of Bolero. Pu Speaker, since the other question is not relevant to the main question, I will not provide the answer. The State government allocates an amount of ₹341.50 lakhs for purchase of the vehicles for the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries and we will continue to do so as necessary.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, number of allotment of vehicles in respect of the aforesaid VIPs which was enough in the former ministry seems to be suddenly less sufficient in this ministry despite the fact that numbers of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries remain the same. What is the reason?

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, I have also been allotted used vehicle with some parts missing. Over the years, many have been repaired and many were condemned as new ones have also been purchased.

**SPEAKER** : I will now call upon Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

**Pu R.L. PIANMAWIA** : Pu Speaker, do we have any instance that we were sufficient of funds after our Statehood? How much is the annual plan lay-out during the MNF Ministry and how much in this ministry?

**SPEAKER** : Pu H. Zothangliana will ask his question but answer will be given later.

**Pu H. ZOTHANGLIANA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. During the MNF ministry i.e. 2005-2006, certain numbers of Baleno car were purchased whereas our GSD at that time was 108.9%. In comparison, our GSDP this year is 49.81% only. Considering the difference, how about the vehicles which were being purchased during the MNF ministry?

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, it is learned that the vehicle in question with Registration No. MZ-01/C5891 remains with the retired officer till today. It is further learned that the said officer still keeps with him two departmental

vehicles with its drivers who still draws their monthly pay from the government. So, I request the hon'ble Chief Minister to withdraw those vehicles from the said officer with immediate effect.

**SPEAKER** : The concerned minister will answer the question.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, there are instances as to when the government had not given much ado about every detail but only this time. Regarding vehicles as being remains with a retired officer, the case would have been settled if it is reported earlier. Anyhow, we will look into the matter.

**Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, may I suggest that only two or three supplementary questions be raised otherwise there will be no limitation.

**SPEAKER** : Starred Question No.32 and Dr K. Beichhua to ask.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu speaker, my question is for concerned minister of Power & Electricity Department: –

- a) Whether compensation is given to Pu S. Beirakhu, an MR Skilled-II labourer who had died of electrocution during his duty?
- b) Who is responsible for his death?
- c) Is action taken against the person who is responsible for the accident?

**SPEAKER** : The hon'ble Chief Minister to answer the question.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, the answer is: –

- a) Compensation has not been provided.
- b) Investigation is going on as of person responsible for the accident.
- c) Action will be taken against the person responsible for the accident.

**SPEAKER** : Any Supplementary question?

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, is there any law permitting M.R. Skilled-II laborer to climb the electric post? Earlier in 2011, an accident happened at New Latawh where a bus came in contact with an electric wire that cost the life of 9 passengers. Pu P.P. Thawla had inquired in the House if compensation may be given to those victims on which the hon'ble Chief Minister replied it was not impossible. But later on another incident of landslide at Tlungvel and Laipuitlang, the victims were compensated. So Pu Speaker, I feel ashamed that the government treats us as step-children as we have been neglected even in matter of life and death and whereas even death cattle of NLUP were compensated.

**SPEAKER** : The hon'ble Chief Minister may answer the question.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, compensation on death cattle happened under the MNF ministry and the member should be more certain in that matter. Pu Speaker, the victims of natural calamity are given compensation. Whereas unfortunately, Electric Department has no compensatory rules but since their work is highly risky, it is suggestive to create rules for this kind of incident. Since there is no rule of compensation for electrocution, the National Trade Union has given ₹41,500/ and an amount of ₹76,030/- by Staff Welfare, Sub-Division of P&E Saiha where as an amount of ₹22,000/- was spent for miscellaneous purpose by the concerned Department. Regarding person responsible for the death of M.R. laborer, an inquiry is in the process and action will be taken as soon as we get the result.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, if we are able to compensate the victims of the natural disaster, why not for man-made disaster also? The said accident occurred solely due to the negligence of the department. Complain has also been submitted to the Department by NGO's but there was no response from concerned department. Anyway, whatever is the situation may be, I the victim should be compensated.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, Pu Beirakhu had received a handsome amount of relief from Staff and other welfares. As

mentioned earlier rules, should be made regarding this kind of incident. As of death cattle under NLUP, replacement was made for those death-cattle were insured.

**SPEAKER** : We will move on to Starred Question No.33 and Er. Lalrinawma to ask the question.

**Er. LALRINAWMA** : Pu Speaker, my question is for concerned minister of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department: –

- a) Is the government aware of availability of LPG on black-market even in time of scarcity of the supply?
- b) What step has been taken to stop such practice?

**SPEAKER** : The concerned Minister, Pu John Rotluangliana to give the answer.

**Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble member question: -

- a) Yes, the government is aware of LPG available on black market.
- b) The concerned department is taking initiatives to stop this black marketing by acquiring cooperation from YMA.

**Er. LALRINAWMA** : Pu Speaker, even in the scarcity LPG, the supply is always available from black-marketers who have the same source of the agency with the department. May the hon'ble minister give more attentions towards the problem so that the problem is immediately resolved?

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, it is learned that black-marketing outlet being existed at Kawnpui. I request the hon'ble minister to investigate the case so that necessary action is taken immediately.

**Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, if information had been given earlier, actions would have been taken sooner. But since it has been stated in the House, I believe all trails of the evidence would have been hidden. The department and CYMA are now making intensive efforts to uncover the black marketers who are allegedly stationed in various areas.

Pu Speaker, it is kind of difficult for the department to resolve the problem instantly as the government is not directly involve in the selection of LPG agency. But approach has been made to concerned Minister of Union Petroleum & Natural Gas to resolve our problem with the supply as we have already discussed the matter with the Manager of Mizoram and the official in-charge of the North East region. Thank you.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, India imported 75% to 80% of LPG from Iraq on which the entire families in the country depends upon. As the hon'ble minister mentioned earlier, this is the case which concerns with the company, the agents and the distributors.

**SPEAKER** : Next, Starred question No.34.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health & Family Welfare Department: -

- a) What is the problem for posting of Gynecologist and Pediatrician at Civil Hospital, Saiha?
- b) What step has been taken by the government to minimize high IMR within Siaha District?

**SPEAKER** : The concerned miniter, Pu Lal Thanzara to answer the question.

**Pu LAL THANZARA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, the answer is: -

- a) Due to the insufficient number of doctors, we are unable to post as yet, Gynecologist and Pediatrician in Civil Hospital, Saiha. Gynecologist will be posted as soon as possible whereas for Pediatrician, posting order remains in the hand of concerned official for signature.
- b) The following steps have been taken by the government to minimize IMR of Saiha District: -
  - 1) All children are registered in Health Sub-Centre.
  - 2) All pregnant women are encouraged to have delivery in the hospital as intensive step is being taken for promotion of the Janani Suraksha Yojna (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) in Siaha District.
  - 3) Free service of ambulance is provided to pregnant women to have a delivery at the hospital.



- 4) Step has been taken to provide 7 types of vaccine to infant below 1 year of age.
- 5) To improve the quality of health services, Doctors, Nurses and Health Workers are given a special training course of Midwifery and Nursing Care.
- 6) Since it is impossible for Health Department alone to minimize IMR as public cooperation also is required, awareness is given in full swing.
- 7) Inter-sectoral Co-ordination has also been conducted on 26.6.14.
- 8) Funds received from the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission will be utilized for construction of Health sub-Centre and Unit Centre as the proposed sites has also been inspected. The project will be implemented on joint-partnership with UNICEF.

**SPEAKER** : Dr K. Beichhua.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, Saiha District ranks 7<sup>th</sup> place in IMR in the world. So, to alleviate the problem, projects such as JSY, JSSK have been carried out in full swing as vaccines and public awareness have also been given by acquiring assistance from various NGOs. During the period from April to June, IMR of the said indicates 48%. Though we are now equipped with Newborn Care Unit, we still do not have a Pediatrician to monitor the unit.

**SPEAKER** : You may give the details later.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, this concerns the life and death, though. Due to the absence of gynecologist, Pi Lalrinngheti, (27) w/o John William died on delivery.

**SPEAKER** : If you remain on the same question, we will proceed to the next.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, why do our Health sub-Centres and PHC's have not taken step for reduction of our IMR? I have the evidence, Pu Speaker.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, it is gratifying to know that we received an outstanding award for reduction of IMR.

**SPEAKER** : If you do not have a supplementary question, we will move on to the next question.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, how many vehicles are bought for the service of IMR?

**Pu LAL THANZARA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, we are well aware that infant mortality rate is very high in Saiha District and we also believes many pregnant women came from outside to deliver a child which might have been affected our IMR. Due to insufficiency doctors, we are unable to post a gynecologist and a pediatrician in time but order have been signed to fill up there vacant posts. If the service of Health workers is not satisfactory, I Suggest written complaint should be submitted and we will take measure to resolve the problem.

Regarding Pi Lalrinngheti, she was brought to the Sub-centre for continuous bleeding and if she had reached the hospital before her labor pain, such tragic incident could be avoided.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : I visited Pi Lalrinngheti at the sub-centre and she had died of unattended low level of hemoglobin as no such device is available there.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalruatkima to ask starred Question No.35.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : One moment, Pu Speaker. Due to high rate of mortality in our State, the Central makes intensive efforts to reduce it. We are also giving awareness to the public regarding the safety of child delivery at the hospital or acquire assistance of ASHA while giving birth. Apart from this, it is important for concerned mother to be aware with her intakes and the danger of substance abuse.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, my question is for the concerned Minister of Land Revenue & Settlement Department: –

- a) What is the total amount of tax collection of the Land & Settlement department during the year 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014?

b) Is there a plan to increase taxes on Land & Settlement?

c) If so, what is the reason?

**SPEAKER** : The concerned Minister, Pu R. Romawia to give the answer.

**Pu R. ROMAWIA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the answer is: –

a) The revenue received by the department is as follows: -

2010-2011	-	₹5,30,80,888
2011-2012	-	₹3,67,95,587
2012-2013	-	₹4,30,95,682
2013-2014	-	₹5,86,27,916

b) Yes, we have a plan to increase taxes on Land & Settlement.

c) The reasons are as follows –

- 1) In order to increase our revenues from Land & Settlement, the government is planning to increase taxes gradually so that it is not a burden to the people.
- 2) Since the significance of land has increase immensely, we believe it is high time to increase the taxes.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, the increase of tax is gazetted as plan has also been made to increase property tax. If we look into the increase rate of taxes, the percentage is very high for Grade-III and middle class families which will be a great burden. So, I request these rates should be reviewed once again.

**SPEAKER** : The concerned minister to give the answer.

**Pu R. ROMAWIA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, we also believe that the proposed rate is quite high as so we are reviewing it once again.

**SPEAKER** : We will now move on to Question No.36.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, you should have a glance on both sides as you seem to favor the opposite side more.

Pu Speaker, I would like to inform the House that there was once a proposal to increase taxes during MNF ministry but in vain, due to strong objection

from some unknown groups. Considering other states, our contribution particularly on land revenue happened to be of the smallest despite our poor economic status. When the CPI was in power in West Bengal, I was offered a house site at Kolkata by my colleagues. Thus, to obtain my pass, I personally had to go through at least 3 offices on which I have spent more than 20 lacs for a small plot of land. From my experience then, I feel the need to improve our land revenue system in which some people easily obtained land and then sold the next day without making any profit for the government. In other states, it is necessary to build a fence for every house-site so as to evade the boundary dispute. As such, it is important for us also to improve our system as concerned authority has now determines to increase tax on land revenue. In the meantime, we have to give awareness to the public also as even the Bible approves to increase any tax. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu R. Vanlalvena to ask question No.36.

**Pu R. VANLALVENA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question is for the concerned Minister of Health & Family Welfare Department: - Do we have a laboratory for testing a medicine as to whether it is suitable for consumption? If not, is there any plan to have one?

**SPEAKER** : The concerned minister to answer the question.

**Pu LAL THANZARA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker the answer is: - No, we do not have such laboratory but we are planning to have one which may be funded by DoNER. We are now using the laboratory of RIPANS for the time being.

**SPEAKER** : Dr. K. Beichhua to ask starred Question No.37.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, my question is for the concerned minister of GAD: - Is there a plan to reconstruct DC Office, Siaha?

**SPEAKER** : The hon'ble Chief Minister to answer the question.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, the answer is - Yes, there is a plan but could not be carried out as yet due to financial constrain in the government.

**SPEAKER** : Any supplementary questions.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, as an appeal to the hon'ble Chief Minister but not as a Supplementary question, I would like to make a request that the building which was once occupied by IAS officer during the time of our UT has now becomes worn-out and in need of reconstruction as so are other office buildings in Saiha. It will be much appreciated if the hon'ble Leader of the House concerns the problem I have stated. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Moving on to starred Question No.38, May I call upon Er. Lalrinawma.

**Er. LALRINAWMA** : Pu Speaker, my question is for the concerned minister of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs: -

- a) Is there a plan to implement Food Security in Mizoram?
- b) If so, how much fund is needed for the implementation?

**SPEAKER** : The hon'ble minister will answer the question.

**Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the answer is: -

- a) We are still examining whether the Food Security Act is practicable in our state and we are waiting for further notice from the Central Government.
- b) Food Security Act will cover 706,000 Nos. of people of the whole population. In our present practice, the whole population is given ration but the existing allocation seems to be less enough. So, we have to purchase an extra amount of 80,000 quintals every month. We are unable to chalk out as yet fund requirement to that effect since we do not know if the additional allocation will be granted or the retailer margin, charge for loading and unloading and inter-state transportation.

**SPEAKER** : Any Supplementary question?

**Er. LALRINAWMA** : Pu Speaker, my supplementary question is: - Is there a way to continue with issue of rice on special permit for important occasions such as weddings and other community events?

**SPEAKER** : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

**Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I request all the members or others not to expect special permit of rice from the government. For consumption on important occasions as stated by the members, I opine one who can afford to serve feast for the mass would surely have no problem to purchase a bag of rice which may be obtained at less expenses.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalruatkima to ask Starred Question No.39.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, my question is for concerned Minister of Finance: -

- a) What is the amount of financial liability of the government for the periods 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014?
- b) How much, at present?
- c) What step has been taken so far to minimize our financial liability?

**Pu LALSAWTA, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer is: -

- a) The financial liability of the government for the given periods is as follows: -
 

2011-2012	-	₹4548.45 crores
2012-2013	-	₹5114.20 crores
2013-2014	-	₹5334.81 crores
- b) Our financial liability for the present year i.e. 2014-2015 is estimated as ₹5,651.27 crores.
- c) The State Government takes the following steps to minimize our financial liability: -
  - i) Restriction is made for availing loans unless on unavoidable circumstances.
  - ii) Recovery of loans previously availed is done on time.
  - iii) State's Own Tax and Non-Revenue Tax are made to increase gradually.
  - iv) The government determines to avail the Additional Resource Mobilization (ARM)

- v) Step is being taken to minimize the Non-Plan Revenue Expenditure.
- vi) An appeal was made to the Central government to make recovery of loan availed by our government with interest rate of 9% and above as well as High Cost Loan and as a result, recovery of `216.70 crore to loan portion of ADBI has already been made up to 2011-2012.
- vii) During the last 5 years, the government had neither upgraded any school nor established addition IR Battalion despite strong demand so as to avoid supplementing our liability. Apart from this, no vacant post in various departments left unfulfilled during the given period for the same reason.

**SPEAKER** : Question hour is over and we will move on to the next business. The hon'ble member Pu Lalruatkima has asked for a special mention regarding college admission. He may now have his time.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, thank you for the permission to avail special mention regarding college admission.

Pu Speaker, we have number of students who have completed class XII but could find admission to any college in Mizoram. I am aware that the hon'ble Minister of Higher & Technical Education, the Director and Secretary as well as MZP has tried their best to solve admission problem of such students. Most of the College has already opened since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July whereas 409 students remain without admission.

Pu Speaker, it is truly appreciated as the Central Government takes initiatives to develop Higher Education through RUSA (Rashtria Utchatar Shiksha Abhiyan). Under the project, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and OBC's will be able to enjoy a special advantage where as our state's matching share is 10%. So, I suggest the State Government would pursue this opportunity so that problems of our educational institutions are resolved. At the same time, it will help many students in getting admission in the desired colleges. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Since no discussion is held on special mention, we will move on to Laying of papers.

**Pu R. ROMAWIA, MINISTER :** Pu Speaker, being concerned minister, I would like to say a few words on this issue.

I am grateful that the pass percentage class XII students this year is quite a remarkable. A meeting was held with all the College Principals, the Director and Officials from the Secretariat regarding the problems of our students.

Our Educational institution has now follows the UGC norms in which semester systems is in practice where as attendance is taken into account. Since it is difficult for any college within Aizawl to accommodate numbers of student in one classroom, we are trying to resolve the problem. In other colleges outside Aizawl such Lunglei, Serchhip, Mamit, Kolasib etc., many seats are usually available. As suggested, the MZP leaders encouraged some students to admit themselves in the remaining colleges, they insisted to get only in some colleges in Aizawl which is our main problem. Yet, we are also trying our best to be more flexible in our dealing with case as to find the best solution for this problem.

Regarding RUSA, we have established State Higher Education Council and we also have selected consultancy firm to prepare the Detail Project Report. After it is completed, it will be submitted and funds will be issued. As it is done by RMSA and SSA, RUSA will also provide aids to our educational institutions.

Pu Speaker, the government gives priority to job oriented study as so plans are made to establish Polytechnic in all 8 districts. Hopefully this will help us in the developing the educational system of our State. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

**SPEAKER :** It is noteworthy information indeed. We will now move on to Laying Papers; I call upon Pu Lalsawta, the hon'ble Minister to lay 5 papers on the table of the House.

**Pu LALSAWTA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay the following papers on the table of the House: –

- i) The Mizoram Audit Manual, 2014.
- ii) The Mizoram Chit Fund Rules, 2014
- iii) The Mizoram State Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme, 2014
- iv) The Mizoram Local Funds (Accounts & Audit) (Amendment) Rules, 2014.



v) The Mizoram Lotteries (Regulation) (First Amendment) Rules, 2014.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. Now, I call upon Pu K. Sangthuama to lay the papers.

**Pu K. SANGTHUAMA** : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay the following papers on the table of the House: –

- 1) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 17th Report, 2011 relating to Transport Department.
- 2) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 26th Report, 2013 relating to Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department.
- 3) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 27th Report, 2013 relating to Health & Family Welfare Department.
- 4) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 28th Report, 2013 relating to Taxation Department.
- 5) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 29th Report, 2013 relating to Health & Family Welfare Department.
- 6) Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 30th Report, 2013 relating to Horticulture Department.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. We will now move on to Presentation of Reports. Pu Lalrinliana Sailo is unable to present his reports due to his health and he has authorized Dr. Ngurdingliana to lay the papers in his stead. May I now call upon Pu Ngurdingliana.

**Dr. NGURDINGLIANA** : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of this august House, I present the first Report of the Committee on Estimates on the Action taken by the Government against the recommendation contained in the Committees first Reports on the Table of the House. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. Pu R.L. Pianmawia may now lay his reports.

**Pu R.L. PIANMAWIA** : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of this august House, I present the First Report of the Committee on Government Assurances relating to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Six Legislative Assembly of Mizoram on the Table of the House. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. We will now move on to the Legislative Business. The hon'ble Home Minister, Pu R. Lalzirliana may now move the House to introduce "The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Bill, 2014".

**Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. I move the House to introduce "The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Bill, 2014".

**SPEAKER** : The hon'ble minister has moved the House to introduce "The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Bill, 2014" and he may now introduce the Bill.

**Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I introduce "The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Bill, 2014".

**Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to introduce "The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Bill, 2014" in the House. On the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1972, the Mizoram Excise Act, 1973 was drafted and implemented on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1984. During that time, there were 4 liquor shops in Lunglei and two whole-sellers in Aizawl. As Mizoram attained the statehood on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1987, The Mizoram Excise Act, 1992 was drafted since the former Act was considered not to be good enough but it was not implemented. Later on, 'The Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act,1995' and " The Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Rules, 1996" was passed by the House during the congress party ministry headed by Pu Lal Thanhawla and was then implemented from the 20<sup>th</sup> February,1997.

MLTP Act does not cover the three Autonomous District Councils where as Liquor license is permitted to security forces as the following are license holders: -

1. Field Ambulance.
2. Assam Rifles.
3. CE Project Headquarters, Pushpak.
4. 24<sup>th</sup> BRTF Headquarters, Seling.
5. DIG, Tlangnuam.
6. BSF, Durtlang.
7. BSF Headquarters, Mizoram Range.
8. Assam Rifles, Khatla.
9. Assam Rifles, Zemabawk.
10. BSF.
11. 4<sup>th</sup> Assam Rifles.
12. CIJW Schools.
13. Any qualified doctor is authorized to prescribe liquors as medicinal purpose as there are 214 Nos. civilians and 2162 Nos. Ex- Servicemen of license holders.

Though this Act seems to be effective at first, it does not last long. The rate of imported liquor seized by NGO's, Police Department and Excise & Narcotics is increasing. Under Section-II of MLTP Act, 'The Mizoram Excise & Narcotic Rules, 2008' was then prepared as winery license being issued to Champhai Grape Growers Society and Hnahlan Grape Growers Society. Under Rules 16 of MLTP Rules, 1996, the State Prohibition Council and the District Prohibition Committee was established and the Report which may be submitted in every three months for further examination.

After 14 years in January, 2011, a study group of MLTP Act was then set up under the chairmanship of Pu H. Raltawna, IAS (Rtd) with the Commissioner of Excise & Narcotics as the Member Secretary. A Representative was then appointed from all political party and NGO's. As per collective opinion of all concerned NGO's such as YMA, MHIP, MUP, Mizoram Bar Association, Mizoram Academy of Letters, Mizoram College Teachers Association, MJA, Mizoram Driver's Union, Zoram Taxi Owner's Association and 5 other NGO's, MLTP Act was proved unsuccessful, yet, 3 NGO's opined it is successful. Some opined that liquors may be sold under strict regulation where as some opined it needs amendment. At the same time, Law Department is of the opinion that MLTP Act is strictly exercised and that the 360 CRPC may be abolished. It is further suggested that a minimum penalty of 3 months imprisonment under Section 8, Clause I may be reduced to 1 month.

According to the analytical report of the Medical Superintendent, 520 cases of alcohol related liver disease is found in Aizawl Civil Hospital after the implementation of MLTP Act whereas 282 cases before implementation of MLTP Act. In Kulikawn Hospital, 482 cases of alcohol related mental problems were found before the implementation of MLTP Act where as 1686 cases after the implementation of MLTP Act.

At the same time, the Report of a Study Group on MLTP Act, 1995 was then submitted to the State Prohibition Council and after carefully examining the report, it was then concluded that the MLTP Act, 1995 was not successful and that a new Act should be made. The report further stated that a profitable income had been created in the border areas as the MLTP Act came into force in Mizoram which necessitated revision of the MLTP Act.

Pu Speaker, I would like to make few more points regarding this Bill which excluded Lai, Mara and Chakma Autonomous District Council. Chapter 2 gives the details of the retail sale license, bar license as well as for winery, the manufacturing and packing of beer as the Commissioner is authorized to issue or terminate such licenses.

Whereas, under Section 2, the Commissioner is again authorized to issue special permit for the manufacture and retail sale. It also gives a detail on which condition the Commissioner may declare a Dry Day. Chapter 4, Section 15 to 23 comprises issue of license and other necessities. Chapter 5, Section 24 to 27 comprises the taxes which may be collected from import liquors and local made liquors. Chapter 6(a), Section 28 comprises the authority of the Commissioner to issue or terminate the license. Chapter 7, Section 29 states the authority eligible to inspect liquor related issues and of confiscation. Section 30 states that Excise & Narcotics or Police Officers or rank not lower than Asst. Sub-Inspector may inspect or seize any vehicle, boat and others which are used for illegal trading.

Section 36 states that NGO's or individual may apprehend any person who is found breaching the laws of liquors. Section 37 states that landlord of any suspected criminal should give the detail information to Excise & Narcotic Police regarding breaching of the standing laws. Section 40 states that the any offence is

cognizable/non-bailable under these laws. Chapter 8, Section 42 states that under this Law, one who does not hold a license/permit/pass is not allowed to involve in dealing with export/import, trade and manufacture of liquor. It is further stated that consumption of liquor in public places and gathering is prohibited by the Laws so as driving after consumption of liquor.

Again, Section 42 states that those who may breach the law relating to the manufacturing, import/export and consumption of liquor will be imprisoned not less than 6 to 5 years with a monetary fine of ₹5,000 - ₹10,000/-. Permits will be cancelled to those who breach these laws and they will do public works under the vigilance of Excise and narcotics.

It is further stated that any medical practitioner/doctor is eligible to check as to whether an individual or person has consumes alcohol and that breath analyzer may be used by Police and Excise officer for this purpose.

Whereas, denaturing of alcohol is strictly prohibited by the laws and any offender will be fined ₹5,000/- to ₹10,000/- and those who manufactured liquor which is not befitted for consumption may be fined ₹5,000 - ₹10,000/- with conviction at least for 3 months - 3 years. Mixing of alcohol with other contents may be convicted to 6 months - 5 years and will be fined ₹5,000 - ₹10,000/-. Any landlord having a tenant under the influence of alcohol and committing crime by making loud noise may be convicted with at least for 3 months - 3 years imprisonment and will be fined ₹2,000 - ₹5,000/-.

Illegal import of liquor without having license will be convicted for at least one month to three years and will be fined ₹2,000 - ₹10,000/-. Section 52 states that anyone who is attempting to breach the aforementioned laws will be punishable where as one who attempt harmful act to any member of NGO's, Excise & Narcotics or Police Departments on duty will also be penalized least for 3 months - 3 years imprisonment with a monetary fine of ₹2,000 - ₹5,000/-. Also, Section 54 clearly underlines that one is punishable for abetting any offense.

Section 57 underlines the penalty on denaturing of alcohol without license. He will be imprisoned at least for 2 months - 2 years and will be fined ₹ 2,000 - ₹5,000/-. Section 58 states the penalty for license holder or his employees who acts

against MLPC Act may be fined ₹500 - ₹2,000/- and his license may also be terminated by the authority. Section 66 further stated that there are many more penalties in addition to the enhanced punishment which have been underlined.

Pu Speaker, I request my fellow members to kindly determine this case which concerns the welfare of our state. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : We will start our discussion and each member will have 10 minutes.

**Pu ZODINTLUANGA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, thank you. It is grateful that the hon'ble minister is able to lay 'The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Bill' on the table of the House. Since it is a burning topic, there are many controversies regarding this Bill.

Pu Speaker, as we are aware, the MLTP Act was implemented on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1997 and 17 years have passed since its implementation. During this period, many are of the opinion that many youth turns to abusive drugs due to restriction of liquor. With that opinion, the government now determines that liquor should be sold under a strict regulation and control so that drugs problem among our youths may be resolved. Pu Speaker, YMA, which is known as the most powerful NGO in our State has given intensive efforts to minimize the growing rate of drugs abuse but it does not seem to have much effect. The government thus decided to take new steps for the same purpose and suggested implementation of MLPC Act.

Pu Speaker, with your permission, I would like to quote the words of Pu Laldenga, the former President of MNF Party in regard to liquor.

The late leader opined that 'Liquor is neither the enemy of our State nor a friend. Thus, it may be wrong to say it is good or bad. If water is placed in front of me, it is not harmful for it is not a friend or foe. It is just water as we should not characterize it as bad. Hence, we should not debate upon any statement relating to liquor which may be made by the churches but we should rather keep quite as leaders of a secular state. It is not necessary to ask the opinion of the doctrine of Christianity, Hinduism or other religions in this regard.' Such was the opinion of the late leader Pu Laldenga which deserved wholehearted support of the members especially of the

MNF Party. So, I kindly ask each of the members to vote in favor of passing of “The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & control) Bill, 2014.” Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Next, Pu K. Sangthuama.

**Pu K. SANGTHUAMA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1984, the government issued liquor license which was later banned on 31.3.1988. As a matter of fact, no such license is again issued by the MNF party. Pu Speaker, I need to make a clarification as this morning, I came across in the newspaper which highlighted issue on liquor which claims the MNF party as being revised liquor permit during its ministry. Pu Speaker, I would like to inform the House that the allegation is completely of misconception. The truth is; no liquor permit is again issued by the MNF party since it was banned on 31.3.1988.

Getting to the main topic, this Bill, Chapter-10, Section 79, No.1 & 2 and Section 80, No.1 & 2, states that ‘the limit which will not be included in the Legal Proceedings’ which is think is a bit confusing. I request this may be clarified.

Section 79 and Section 80 defends the Excise & Police in implementing the law but I think this is excessive and so may be reviewed. This Act is drafted by our experts and I am sure they are quite reliable in every aspect whereas churches and NGO’s have pleaded not to pass it. I think it is wise to carry out very strong if it should be implemented. I opine it may be manned by the patrolling department with befitted equipments. If the new Act is implemented, it is obvious that alcohol abuse will increase and many drunks will be seen on roadside and public places. Some might have thought MLTP Act was a total failure but in my opinion, it is quite effective. Even under MLTP Act, many of substance abusers are found here and there. As such, I opine that free access of liquor will only supplement their addiction as we all are aware that large amount of foreign liquor are imported in our state despite implementation of MLTP Act. Liquor has it negative effect generally in a family, our society and even in the churches as it causes separation to numbers of married couple as it kills many for drunk driving. One may claim he is not affected by his consumption of liquor but he should aware of his status being degraded in our society.

Taking example of other states such as Karnataka, it is learned from a study on the affect of liquor that one who spend ₹10 for purchase of liquor generally spends ₹16 on health issues. In Minnesota, USA, the amount spent on liquor during

2011 was ₹286 crores whereas on liquor related healthcare, it was 17 times more than the revenue income from liquor. So, I suggest that if MLTP Act should still be in use, its implementation should carefully be enforced. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : We will continue our session at 2:00 p.m.

**2:00 p.m.**

**SPEAKER** : I will now call upon Pu K. Lalrinthanga.

**Pu K. LALRINTHANGA** : Pu Speaker, I am glad that we have the opportunity to discuss regarding MLPC Act here in this august House. Pu Speaker, under Total Prohibition Act, Excise & Police Department has taken intensive measure to reduce alcohol in our State. Despite the service of Excise Police and NGO's to terminate supply of liquor in our state, it remains available. It is known to us that numbers of family are engaged in manufacturing liquor to earn their livelihoods. There are some youths who are into drugs instead of liquor since consuming the latter could easily be identified from its smell whereas the former is not which causes increase of drugs abuse among the youths

So, keeping in mind the welfare of our future, our leaders today came up with this Bill. Chapter 8, Section 42 of the Bill clearly covers the regulations and control of liquor in public places and offices and the actions which will be taken against the offence. Hopefully, this will alleviate alcohol related accidents and other mishaps. Anyone who is caught under the influence of liquor in public places will be deployed to do public work as punishment.

So, I will conclude by saying that it is good to implement MLPC Act for the future of our environment in the society. Thank you.

**Pu K.S. THANGA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am grateful that we are able to discuss a very important Bill, The Mizoram Liquor Prohibition and Control Bill, 2014.



Pu Speaker, when we talk about prohibition, liquor has been prohibited for the last 17 years whereas people in the neighboring states are taking advantage by opening liquor stores in the border area. Any consumer is aware of the fact that it is illegal to import liquor and the consequences in our economy as many continue to purchase it at all cost. Even a great nation like America had also failed in prohibiting liquor 100 years back and their conclusion is that 'You cannot legislate morality and behavior of human.'

In a State like Nagaland, those who drink liquor may be considered a Christian but not those who smoke and chew betel nuts. So, we have to be careful in our opinion on liquor. Pu Speaker, the objective of this Bill is not selling liquor but to be sold under strict regulations and control. I am glad that the hon'ble Minister and concerned department is able to bring out this Bill as I express my support for this this Bill.

**SPEAKER** : Next, Pi Vanlalawmpuii.

**Pi VANLALAWMPUII CHAWNGTHU:** Pu Speaker, I thank the Almighty God and our leaders and the people of my Constituency for giving me the opportunity to sit in this august House and much as well, to all female citizens in Mizoram for their valuable supports.

When we talk about MLPC Bill, it does not mean anyone is free to buy or sell or consume liquor but MLPC Act will strictly be regulated. So, I express my support to pass, 'The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Total Bill, 2014'. I also invite all my fellow members to support this Bill for the welfare of our future. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Next, hon'ble Minister, Pu R. Romawia.

**Pu R. ROMAWIA, MINISTER :** Pu Speaker, being a Christian and of the Mizo Society, I do not think there is anyone who support selling of liquor but we have to bear in mind that there are necessary evil in this world which cannot be erased from the face of the earth, but it can be controlled and regulated. I think we should concentrate more on how to regulate liquor which cannot be controlled under total prohibition. Pu Speaker, I have gone through this Bill that comprises 10 chapters and

82 sections. Most of the content of this Bill is of the penalty of law breakers, its consumption and manufacturing as well as other related issues.

The issue of permit will help any social worker to have a clear target on the persons concern for counseling. Pu Speaker, I think we are all aware that Laws needs to be reviewed and amendment has to be made very often. The Indian Constitution had also been amended more than a 100 times in 65 years. So, I suggest we should all support this Bill and its implementation and if necessary, it may be reviewed from time to time. This Bill is drafted with a hope to improve our social status. So, with that, I will conclude by saying that I give my support to this Bill. Thank you.

**Pu LALTHANLIANA** : Pu Speaker, according to the financial memorandum, ₹30 crores of revenue income is expected from selling of liquor. Pu Speaker, it is so unbecoming for the members of a 100 % Christian State to lay our hopes on whatever the profit which may be made out of liquor business. Pu Speaker, any professing Christian would agree that drunkenness is immoral as it is condemned by the Bible. It is clearly stated in Proverbs 23: 20-21 that “Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor.” Do we have gluttony to become rich? The Bible clearly indicates that we will become very poor if we sell wine. The Corinthians-I, 6:10 states that ‘nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God’; it is also seen in Habakuk 2:15 that “woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors”. So, Pu Speaker, by passing this Bill, we are merely providing means to increase mishaps which pervades our society. I cannot agree or give my support to pass this Bill. So, I appeal that the government should continue with the implementation of the MLTP Act for the future of our state. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Next, Pu Lalrinmawia Ralte.

**Pu LALRINMAWIA RALTE, MINISTER** : Thank you, Pu Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Pu Speaker, I have an experience as YMA leader that I have been on a duty to implement total prohibition Act inside and outside Aizawl. Pu Speaker, we know that with implementation of the total prohibition for 17 years, no positive impact is found. In fact, liquor manufacturers are flourishing as imported liquor increases whereas quality of the supply very poor which causes health problem

to many consumers. Out of 190 countries, 15 countries prohibit liquor and so far, all have failed. Pu Speaker, from the records of excise departments during the 17 years of total prohibition, an amount of 4 lakhs and more than 9 thousand Nos. of IMFL had been seized amounting to more than ₹22.63 crores. At the same time, numbers of local made liquor which had been seized amounting to more than ₹14 lakhs. Whereas, there were 51,704 persons involved in the case out of which 46,901 Nos. were convicted. The record clearly shows that MLTP Act does not seem to have much consequence in minimizing supply of liquor in our state.

Pu Speaker, it is a fact that liquor which is not befitted for consumption is available as it continues to cause death and illness. So, judging from the condition of our state, I believe we need to legalize the selling of liquor under strict regulation and be controlled by the implementation of MLPC Act. Thank you.

**Er. LALRINAWMA** : Pu Speaker, it is a heartbreaking to talk about The Mizoram Liquor Prohibition Control Bill, 2014. I do not think legalizing the selling of liquor will do any good though some of my fellow members have stated their opinion on how they think it will have a positive impact. But many who are suffering from liquor related health problem are now lying on their dead bed without any chance to dream of heaven or meet Jesus but being haunted by some demons.

It has been mentioned earlier by some members that MLTP Act is a failure. If we have passed this Bill, can we guarantee that it will be a successful? If this ministry cannot exercise MLTP Act successfully, how will MLPC Act be successfully implemented?

Apart from these, we are a democratic country and it is only fair that we take the opinion of the people and of the church. We all are eligible legislators who deeply concern the welfare of the people. As such, we have to take their opinion into account as to whether the majority agrees to pass this Bill. Whereas, on the other hand, there is no reason for our churches to agree with this Bill but we should not take their consent. So, I request all my fellow members to vote in favor of this Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu T.T. Zothansanga

**Pu T.T. ZOTHANSANGA** : Pu Speaker, MLTP Act had been passed by the former Ministry in 1995 hoping that it will bring about a positive change to our society. But judging from the results, it does not seem to have much impact on our society. If we consider this carefully, we are merely amending MLTP Act with a better solution. We are not moving this Bill not because we encourage consuming liquor, its selling or manufacturing. Since MLTP Act is found to be unsuccessful, we are simply trying to find a better solution to our problem.

It is not as we accused the government to sell liquor openly. It just that the government is going to sell systematically under her control. The opposition accused us of moving this bill because of its taxes. That is not the main purpose. The main purpose is that as we cannot go without liquor, we are trying to find a solution where we can get a good and clean liquor. As we are from the east, we witness many unfortunate incidents because of liquor. From the east diluted liquor were shifted in which is very dangerous. This kind of liquor causes many death. Right now many supporters of this bill though that we are going to sell liquor freely. However, that is not the case, restriction on this bill will be so severe that they will face a lot of problems. Besides, those who criticize this bill will know in time how good this bill is and will praise it later. Therefore, I give my support to pass this bill.

Pu Speaker, regarding the proceedings. The English version and the Mizo version are not the same. While in the Mizo version my speech occupy about 109 pages, in the English version it only make 20 pages. What is the meaning of this? That 20 lines is not what I said in 10 minutes. As we are going to put this in the Library, will it cause a problem in the future. What is our procedure in this regard? Is there a way to complete our speech in the House as it is in the English version?

**SPEAKER** : Dr. K. Beichhua.

**Dr. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. Our bill for today is very important and need hard thinking. The merit and demerit of our discussion will have a great effect in our State. Unfortunately, whatever we said from this side, whether they are good or bad will not have an important effect in the passing of this bill. However, I want to discussion about my opinion in this House.

Some of us said that they never touch alcohol. However, I have an experience in drinking alcohol in the past but I become dry now. Comparing the merit

and demerit in drinking, I support becoming dry is far better than drinking. So, I do not support and embrace to change MLTP to MLPC. Our Party also does not support this because first, it is not our policy. According to our economic situation, we are not in a situation to pass MLPC. As our leaders often said we are poor and depend solely on the Central. While this is the case, it would not be appropriate if we become a beggar, a drunkard, a dealer and an excessive drinker.

Secondly, if the law & order enforcement is strong, MLTP will not fail. The Law, the Act does not fail, but the enforcement fail. How can we control that has no sound while we cannot control bikers putting proton in their bike that produce a sound like Jet Fighter. Therefore, my fellow members, let us make a new effort to control our current Act as we are responsible for its failure.

Beside these, having in mind the condition of our infrastructure, we are not capable of passing this bill. Our roads are small and bad and decay every year. In our current road condition it would be suicide for drunk driver to drive a vehicles especially our youth. Besides, it will have an evil effect in our social live which is very free. Our youth will indulge in sex freely without control under the influence of alcohol. Today if our youth use alcohol freely there will be a lot of troubles which cannot be seen with our naked eye. There will be scientific damage like contraction of HIV/AIDS. If we look into our Statistic we will know that sex is the main factor in contraction of AIDS. Beside AIDS, there are also other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD), Hepatitis C and Hepatitis D to consider. Passing of this bill will give birth to all of these as my profession in the field of medical for 20 years touch me.

We all know that a good quality of liquor is more disastrous than the local brew. These quality liquor from foreign countries are the main cause of death to the sons of the rich people. In reality, it is the rich people who suffers from internal bleeding, liver cirrhosis and others diseases as they have easy access to these liquors from outside States and from Assam Rifles. Therefore, I cannot give my vote.

It will also have a negative reaction in our work culture from my experience as a drinker to a non drinker. It will decrease our work efficiency as many will suffers from hangover. In addition, if we go through with this, many parents will lose their child before its time. Besides, I believe that the voice of the Church is the voice of God as God speak to us through His Church. Therefore, let us keep in mind that the voice of the Church is the voice of God. If we do not heed this warning we will have no time to recover from our mistakes. Our punishment will come suddenly

before we are aware of it. Let us also respect the voice of NGO. I invite all Members to heed the voice of the Lord and dispense with this bill.

**SPEAKER** : Let us invite Pu Vanlalvena as he raise his arms first.

**Pu R. VANLALVENA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today, our Excise Minister after hard thinking introduce an important bill for the betterment of our country. From his speech we know that he uses his time for the welfare of our country. He stressed in his speech that while our country enforce MLTP for 17 year without success, it would be beneficial for us if we slightly turn around to meet our demand. What my fellow member said about condom and sex if we pass this bill is very interesting. However, we suffer that kind of incidents for 17 years without having its cure. We have to accept that we are fighting a war we cannot won.

Today our bill clearly shows us that for the past 17 years we are not in a good condition. Our NGOs especially MSAC are trying to control the spreading of HIV/AIDS by distributing condom. However, it does not solve our problems very much. This bill, “The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Bill, 2014” is introduced to safeguard stale liquor and to prevent our youth from this. Therefore, we need to think along this line and I think it is a good bill.

I think that the concern Minister and the Officers deserve praise for their hard work in preparing this bill. Among our youth, there are many who can control themselves from touching alcohol. Whether we give permit or not, I think we can control ourselves. In our community, it is important that we preach about consumption of alcohol. If we educate ourselves and give all our might to oppose drinking, the passing of this bill will not have an evil effect.

Besides, due to the hard work of our Home Minister and others, the lighting of fire cracker during Christmas and New Year festival slowly decreases. Likewise, I hope that this bill will become a success under the supervision of our Home Minister. Pu Speaker, I give my support to pass this excellent bill and hope that all my colleagues will work hard to become a success in its execution, thank you.

**Pu LALSAWTA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, thank you. I am happy to have an opportunity to speak my mind. I think it is cowardice not to have the strength to speak our own mind.

There is no way to praise liquor as we all know its impact. Many parents suffers and there are more in the world who suffers from their children drinking. Supporters of this bill do not want and like liquor. However, the condition of our country makes us to introduce this bill. Therefore, liquor is not good and it would be most welcome not to drink it. However, after witnessing 17 years of Prohibition we need to introduce a new measures. In this regard, it would be appreciate if the opposition and the people give us their support. This is our country and we have no other. Therefore, if it fails we have no one else to accuse but ourselves.

Thirdly, the government have to stand firm. I hope we will pass this bill. In that, NGO and the government and all others have to stand together to make it work. The people also need to hate it and take action as necessary. We all have to stand together.

Fourthly, we need to make our lives capable of living around liquor. There is always going to be evil in this world. However, we have to strengthen ourselves in order to survive among those evils. It is God design for evil to be present in this world and we have to make ourselves capable of facing that evil. We need to make ourselves capable of facing liquor without touching it.

We know how afraid we are of AIDS when we are introduced to it. They propagate using condom from that stage which I detest, later I find myself very foolish for thinking like that. We do not against our children to pursue higher education in foreign and outside states where there are plenty of alcohols. However, we have to instill in our children mind not to touch alcohol. It is not right how we are destroying by alcohol these days. Whether it is murder or robbery, we cannot escape. It is with a strong mind that we introduce this bill knowing what effect it will have and ready to take the blame if there is one. I do not like using the Church to stir up trouble in this regards. We all believe in the Church and are all church goers. Therefore, shedding all the drama and acting let us use this House to rule with dignity and integrity, thank you.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, I study our bill diligently and make copy for distribution to some I thought would like to share their opinion. I received many feedbacks and am very thankful. It gives me a sentimental feeling about the

MLTP Act as this government introduces a new Bill instead of an amendment bill of the former bill. It look like that we are in one accord to do good or bad things.

As we all know, in 5.10.1995, Pu Lalrinchhana, MLA laid a Private Bill of “The Mizoram Prohibition of Liquor Bill, 1995” in this House which was declined. After one or two months in December 24, 1995, Pu Hrangthanga Colney, Excise Minister introduced an Official Bill of “The Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Bill, 1995” and was passes unanimously. While Pu Lalrinchhana’s bill, being a private bill is not pass the Official bill concerning the same subject was passed without haste.

We all know on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1997, our State Day, the then Excise Minister Pu P.C. Zoram Sangliana announced MLTP Act will become effective excluding District Councils. I have a sentimental feeling about that day and its atmosphere as we are involve in YMA. We make MLTP Act with pride and then discard it by saying it is not effective. How can we look after financial crisis if we are unable to look after MLTP Act? We have no intention to strengthen the mother department to enforce this law. Also, how much will be needed to cover the medical expenses effected by this bill? How much fund will be needed for strengthening the enforcement agency? We have to think this carefully. We have the Church to see to our spiritual needs as we need the Government to see to our spiritual needs in this world.

While the Church tries their best to awaken us, we are not going to take their advice. Meanwhile, on June 2009 in Vanglaini magazine we read that the hon’ble Chief Minister says that without consulting the Church, their Party will not make any decision in respect of whether to continue MLTP Act or not. However, today, we are trying to pass a bill which will give us the power to sell liquor.

According to the study of Synod Front, 2011, the dead rate of alcoholic and drug addict is lower after MLTP was introduced. In addition, in crime against body or life, Mizoram and Gujarat have restriction act on liquor. This resulted in the development of health care. Infant mortality rate in Gujarat decreases while Mizoram also received 3000 lakh in prize. The economic development in Gujarat is as we know very well. According to the study of economic the tax collected from liquor is called sin tax. Some members hinted in their discussion as if they desire the tax. I hope we rethink and try to see what it will cause.



While there are many point to say in regard to liquor, we know that it create havoc in our lives. Whether it is an individual or family or society, liquor brings hardship to us all. We will need more fund to control its result.

Lastly, as I grew up under the guidance of the Church and the representative of Aizawl West II, I cannot give my support to this bill. Having in mind our nation and society best interest at heart, I request the Minister withdraw his bill and instead strengthen the Law Enforcement Agency and work with different NGOs.

**SPEAKER** : If there is no one to stand we will invite Pu Joseph Lalhimpuia.

**Pu JOSEPH LALHIMPUIA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. We are discussing a very important Bill, “The Mizoram Liquor Prohibition & Control Bill, 2014”, I do not intend to dwell on the content of the Bill but rather pointed four points that I think are important. First, I do not think that the content of the Bill carries whether liquor is a bad thing or not. The fact is that during the last 17 year, our records were not very good and this Bill is simply a means to rectify the limitation of the previous Act concerning liquor prohibition.

Second, Pu Speaker, as a Parliamentary secretary, I overlook the Industry department in conjunction with the sitting Minister and under Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006, Alcoholic drinks is added as a food items and if we want to developed our Food Processing Industry, we have to follow this Act.

Third, I also wanted the people to know the reason behind our financial constraint, from 1998, the funds for many teachers salary were switch from Non-Plan to Plan Budget but many non-government teachers were paid from the Non-Plan and because of this, from 2000, there were no funds for their salary.

**Pu LALRUATKIMA** : Pu Speaker, as it does not concerns our Bill very much, can we stop for now and the time is over anyway.

**SPEAKER** : Alright, let him finish it.

**Pu JOSEPH LALHIMPUIA** : Pu Speaker, finally, we have tested the MLTP Act for 17 year and we are here now, I wanted to give my support to the Bill proposed

by the Excise Minister, Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition & Control) Bill, 2014, thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Now, let us call Pu Vanlalzawma.

**Pu VANLALZAWMA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. As we have already heard, we are discussing an important Bill today but I will not be dwelling on the pros and cons of the Bill but rather to point out some concerns that I have regarding it. From the Financial Memorandum, it looks as if there will be no funds involves in its enactment but the Bill itself seems to demand more personnel as well as more funds for its enactment and it was further mentioned that about 30 crore a year would be expected from tax should it be pass, be that as it may, from our side, it looks the same thing as passing a murder law so that murder can be committed lawfully.

One other concerns that I have is that it will raise tension with the Church as the Synod as well as the MKHC (Mizoram Kohhran Hruaitu Committee) openly expressed their opposition to this Bill, so, I wanted to suggest that we let the Bill die and not take it as a matter of wounded pride.

**SPEAKER** : Right, Pu John Rotluangliana:

**Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, I will not take long. We do have a daunting task ahead of us and that is why we need to work together. If this Bill is passed, many alcohol drinkers would have access to better liquor and the fatality due to alcohol would diminish and it is also important to remember that it is not only a right to sale bill but also a prohibition bill concerning alcohol. I think that the penalty needs to be stricker than the one laid out presently and stricker still for commercial vehicles drivers because they hold many people lives in their hands. On the Financial side, it is not matters of how much fund needs to be spend or how much funds can be collected from tax, the reason is that our society compelled that we have such an Act. So, I wanted to express my support for this Bill, thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu John Siamkunga.

**Pu JOHN SIAMKUNGA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. We all agreed on the importance of the Bill we discussed today. What I wanted to highlight again is that alcohol is apart of Mizo custom as it was and still is all over the world. As a Christian State, our deepest wish is that not a drop or bottle enters our State but this is not the case, alcohol will continue to be imported. It can be compare to a force of Nature, we

cannot stop it, but it can be controlled. We will not and cannot erase evil from this world, a Christian will stand on their belief and continue to fight but this does not mean that we will transfer an evil to another place. So, as a government, we must look ahead for our younger generation and whether we are a Christian State or not, we must control it and so I voiced my support for this Bill.

**SPEAKER** : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

**Pu C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, I am thankful that I have an opportunity to stand here today. As we have heard, we have tested the MLTP Act for 17 year and we failed. What i want to state is that the MLTP Act does not affect those of us from Autonomous District, liquor is free but we do not have an overwhelming AIDS, domestic problem, alcohol related rioting or murder nor sex problem because of the absence of any prohibition act. What the government wants is that those who wanted to consume alcohol have at their disposal a better quality liquor than they used to have and I also do not think the government wants to be in contention with the Church and I think it never will.

Going further, if those who know the how of making local liquor are correct, it seems that Robin (a strong detergent) was mixed in the fertilization to make the liquor stronger and this is one reason that there are so many alcohol related death. Today, even if we repeal the MLTP Act, those who do not drink will continue to not drink and I think it wrong that we try to persuade the public opinion against this bill. So, I wanted to express my support for this Bill, thank you.

**Pu LALROBIAKA** : Pu Speaker, I am very glad that we are discussing a new and important matter for Mizoram today. I think the Bill is solid as far as its content goes and I applauded the Excise Minister for his preparation. I think it is a wrong concept that we imagine things to turn chaotic if we repeal or relax the MLTP Act, we must remember that the Bill is Liquor Prohibition & Control Bill, the word 'total' is simply absent from it. It is a quirk of human nature that once a thing is prohibited, its desire for it increases and because of this, I am glad that we are discussing such a bill today.

Having said that I have one or two concerns, I wanted the Department to be careful regarding Chapter 8 Section 44 under the Illegal Possession in Small Quantity for Personal Consumption of any Intoxicating Liquor in the proposed Bill when they make the Rules and also to exercise caution on Limitation of Persecution

under Miscellaneous Section 18. Another thing I wanted to point out is that those who researched on prohibition around the world has picked out a 12 point arguments against total prohibition and some of which are; Disregard for Law, polarization of faith, organized crime, corruption among law enforcer, extra burden on Police and Courts, financial, emotional and moral obstacles for the people, domestic violence etc. To sum up, due to the demand of the people, I proposed that we pass this Bill, thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu P.C. Lalthanliana:

**Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, I have received many question from local church leaders as well as acquaintances and I wanted to express my thought on this today. The alcohol drinkers may rejoice because of this Bill but as the Minister point out, there is more opportunity for them to be prosecuted and put to jail. We have a saying in Mizo, “there is more than one way to kill a chicken” and we are simply trying the other way to find a more successful containment than the MLTP Act and it does not point to a free run on liquor.

I also think that our views on this is affected by where we stand in society and the way we want to tackle the problem will depend on whether we are church leader, Y.M.A. leader or TKP/KTP leader. But in the end, our goal is the same, the prohibition and control of liquor.

Our leader put aside party welfare and place patriotism above it and looked back on 20 years and proposed this Bill while looking ahead 20 years from now. Our perspective cannot be the same and those who do not agree with this Bill cannot be condemn and they in turn cannot condemn those who support it and continuing on this line, I convey my support for this Bill, thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu T. Sangkunga

**Pu T. SANGKUNGA** : Pu Speaker, Thank you. We are discussing alcohol today and it made me think of the uniqueness of alcohol. We all want the same thing but the ways we want to accomplish our goal simply differ. Whether I am lucky or unlucky, I tend to be in the thick of thing when alcohol is concerns, starting with our local effort at Dinthar to Central Y.M.A. and from my experience, the supply do not stop, it simply changes the location from whence it came and what our

Minister propose today is that we start giving our youth better quality liquor than they used to have and maybe curb alcohol related death.

I think that our view differ simply because where we sit in the House, if our fellow member change their seat, our view will be the same. Furthermore, our Minister has stated that it was after much prayer that he proposes this Bill and i think God also agree seeing and hearing today's discussion. So, i will support this Bill, thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us invite B.D. Chakma.

**Dr. B.D. CHAKMA, MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, I wanted to respond to this Bill in a more scientific manner, I have the data and according to this, there were 252 liver disease cases before MLTP Act and 500 cases after MLTP Act. There were 482 alcoholic mental cases before MLTP Act and 1686 after MLTP Act. Concerning Hepatitis B, C, AIDS, I do not think it is related to alcohol consumption, I think it was more of lack of knowledge about us and lack of knowledge about them. So, as medical doctor, I implore one or two member from the opposition to support this Bill as there are also technical as well as medical doctor and Ph. D. among them. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu H. Zothangliana.

**Pu H. ZOTHANGLIANA** : Pu Speaker, Thank you. I will make it short. Some of the comments and articles that we see about this Bill makes me think of several things, among them the Ostrich. When an Ostrich sees an enemy, it buries its head in the sand and thinks it is safe from the enemy. Whether we want to or not, liquor is present and will continue to be there in our State and while the means to controlled it was introduced, continuing to ask for prohibition when we know that it does not work is nothing more than hypocrisy. So, in order that we can control what cannot be eradicated, i express my support for this Bill.

**SPEAKER** : 24 Member of the House have discussed and debated this Bill which is truly amazing. We shall now close the discussion time and invite our Chief Minister to make a sum up comment after which, the concern Minister, Pu R. Lalzirliana will have his closing speech.

**Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, we all want

the best thing for everything in this world but this is not always the way it happens and so we substitute for it or we take a slightly inferior way to it. This is true regarding our fight against AIDS, posters and speech did not do much to stem it, so we distributed condom to prostitute. We know that is not the ideal way but it is the best way we know, the same is true for syringe distribution among drug users. This is also true for Alcohol, we know that this is not the best way, but it is the way we know and can implement.

Also, we are not in contention with any churches today nor do we want to be in contention with them. We want them to be on our side and we are not disregarding the Church but we are doing what we must do as leaders of our State, who should look out for the welfare of their citizens. Another thing I want to mention is that I do not think that God concerns Himself much over this matter, if He did, I think we should not have been routed in the Election, who have follow the desire of the Church and implements the Total Prohibition Act. The Minister himself have ask God to stop this if it is not good for the people but even after a mass prayer, nothing has happen and it is wrong to put God in the middle for every little thing that we want to be done.

What this Bill aims at are the people who are in the Church and about the people within the State. Another point i want to make is that we are too tolerant of drunk. We think they are not aware and thought it beneath us to engage with them but they are very aware and conscious. We need to be a nation that is intolerant of drunk. Let this Bill make us a nation that is intolerant towards drunk. Every nations and tribes have liquor in one form or another, so let this Bill make us an enlighten people who took steps along with the rest of the world regarding alcohol and I wanted to end my comment with my support for this Bill, thank you.

**SPEAKER** : We shall now invite the Minister-in-charge, Pu R. Lalzirliana to sum up and ask for the House support to pass this Bill.

**Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER** : Thank you, Pu Speaker, including our House Leader, 25 Member has joined the discussion and I was thinking that all of them are good debators. But one thing that troubles me is that although our Opposition members are all highly qualified academically, it was sad to see them unable to express their personal opinion regarding this Bill as they are more informed and cognizant about this subject.

There are remarks and posters indicating that we are doing this because we are greedy for the tax that can be collected from it. This is not the intention of the Ruling Party and has never been mentioned as a factor. We are doing this so that our State can have a brighter future. The concern expressed over the inadequacy of Excise personnel is unfounded because they will not be rounding up people in the streets instead of chasing them into the forest but this does not mean that they will cease to perform such duties if the need arises. The concern conveyed by House Member Pu Sangthuama regarding Section 78, 79 and 80, which safeguard strongly the Excise personnel and Police are necessary if they are to perform their duty effectively and this clause is also present in ND&PS and MLTP Act.

Even if a government employee commits a wrongful act during duty, there are Conduct Rules to punish said employee. Pu Speaker, I think it wise that I repeat some comments in my wind up speech. We have used the MLTP Act for 17 years and we have all agreed that it has failed. This conclusion was drawn from Study Group at Mizoram University, and different NGOs' opinion. So, an opinion arises that questions whether the MLTP Act should continue to be in use, as it is not working as there are many reports regarding alcohol related deaths and illness.

We wanted the MLTP Act to work but as this is not the case, we are proposing this Bill so that our land can reach a new step in the right direction just as those who voted us in power expected of us. It is also necessary to know that there are many provisions that NGOs and the people can take action against an offender of this Bill if it should become an Act. Every law is made carefully looking into the future, not for just 2 or more years and covers a wide range. A provision is made in this Bill so that a shop or Distillery can be open under this Act but this does not mean it will happen overnight.

When we have the new act, it will make a clear category of who can buy and also how much a person can buy. This Bill is proposed so that the number of Drug users will decrease and that those who took alcohol will have a good quality alcohol. I mention that the Church will not be consulted regarding this Bill, this is done not because we do not want their views but to safeguard the sacredness of the Church.

The opinion that 'The Mizoram Liquor Prohibition & Control Bill, 2014,' is made to make alcohol free in the State is not the intention of the government nor its goal. The intention is to review the MLTP Act and replace it with something

that makes controlling alcohol better and those who drink it. Under the MLTP Act, since it is a prohibition, the Act alone skyrocketed the crime rate in our State and this is not in keeping with the status of us as a Christian State.

This Bill aims not only to relax the consumption and sale of liquor but also to boost the economy through sales of agricultural product like ginger, sugarcane, pineapple and grape which can be used for making alcohol. The difference between the former Act and this Bill will be the people will have better quality and restriction on the number of how much they can buy. It will also have much strident penalty for those who violate its rules and these rules will be implemented as effectively as possible.

After 40 to 50 years of practicing igniting fireworks during our most important festivals, Christmas and New Year, we are now able to have a quiet Christmas and New Year depending on God, so also, i think this Bill is a means through which we can have a cleaner and peaceful street in the future.

So, I urge all Members to support this Bill so that the controlled of liquor can be successfully implemented in our State. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Now, our Minister has requested “The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition and Control) Bill, 2014,” be pass by the House, those who agree to it say ‘aye’.

**Pu VANLALZAWMA** : Pu Speaker, your pardon, we have a good opportunity to discuss “The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition and Control) Bill, 2014,” in the House and you gave us, the Opposition Party, a fair opportunity to state our opinion and listen to our arguments against it. But since it looks like the Bill will be passing anyway, we are sorry that we cannot take part in it and we ask you to excuse us. We ask for your understanding.

**SPEAKER** : Now that those who do not agree have leaved the room, they leave in protest but since those who agree are greater in number, I declare “The Mizoram Liqour (Prohibition and Control) Bill, 2014,” is now passed by the House.

**Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER** : Thank you, Pu Speaker.



**SPEAKER** : We shall finish the 7<sup>th</sup> Mizoram Legislative Assembly, the third sitting. Although we have only three days, we have 69 Starred Question admitted out of 71, those that are in the List of Business are 49, those answered within the House are 32 and those unanswered are 17. Unstarred Question submitted was 57, out of which 51 were admitted, 6 were rejected and one was clubbed. Some questions are answered satisfactorily by some Departments and others who are still pending their answer. I urge our entire Minister to take control our respective departments.

We also pass Vote on Account for August-November and 5 Bill was admitted and four were passed unanimously although we can say the last was also passed unanimously. 28 papers were laid on Table of the House and 2 reports were given.

The way we conduct the House is very Christian, personally, i know of no other way that we can best portray that we are a Christian State. There were no fights, no out of control discussion but instead we finish what we are expected everyday. All members except those who beg leave on account of Health were present throughout the Session and i am happy that i am a Speaker to a House that have such discipline and sense of duty. The House will now be adjourned indefinitely.

The House is adjourned *Sine die*. (5:54 P.M.)