

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR SECOND SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 12th NOVEMBER, 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 LAL THANHAWLA**, Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House “The Twenty Second Annual Report, 2012-2013 of Mizoram Public Service Commission”.
3. **Pu R. ROMAWIA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House “The Mizoram Public Record Rules, 2014”.
4. **Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House “The Mizoram (Election to Village Councils) Rules, 2014”.
5. **Pu LAL THANZARA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House “The Mizoram Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Rules, 2014”.
6. **Pu LALRINMAWIA RALTE**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House “The Mizoram Shops & Establishments Rules, 2011”.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

7. **Pu R. VANLALVENA**, to present to the House the First Report of the “The First Report of Committee on Paper Laid on the Table”.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

8. **Pu LALSAWTA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The
Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of
Property Bill, 2014.”

ALSO
to introduce the Bill
to move that the Bill be taken into consideration
AND
to move that the Bill be passed.

5. **Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to
introduce “The Lushai Hills District (Village Councils)
(Amendment) 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 : But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

Deuteronomy 8:18

We will now take up questions and Dr. K. Beichhua, a member from Siaha Constituency will ask first.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, my question is for Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development: -

- a) How is BRGF Board in respect of Siaha and Lawngtlai District constituted?
- b) What is the amount of BRGF fund being allotted to us from the Central government? What is the amount which has already been released by the State government for the year 2013-2014 and 2014-2015?

SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development to answer the question.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is: -

- a) As per the BRGF guidelines of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Gov't of India, chapter 7-E (ii), District Planning & Implementation Committee (DPIC) on BRGF is constituted in respect of Siaha and Lawngtlai District under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner with concerned Autonomous District Council Member and BDO as its members.
- b) The sum of ₹2,527 lakh for BRGF for the year 2013-2104 has already been received from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Gov't of India and is fully released. As of the sum of ₹2,314.00 lakh for the year 2014-2015, step is being taken for the release.

SPEAKER : Any Supplementary question?

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : As known to us all, Pu Speaker, BRGF is a centrally funded provision for upgradation of the under-privileged district in which ₹1 crore each is sanctioned every year. Thanks to the concern of the central government, Saiha and Lawngtlai District are continuously receiving the fund for 5 years. Considering the amount sanctioned, we seem to have some sorts of development out of it but we are not so in Saiha District due to the process of forming its Board members in which DC as its chairman and only the ruling party members of the Autonomous District as Board members. I believe that due to this reason, the monitoring of the programme as well very weak. It will be much appreciated if the process is examined so as to expedite the monitoring.

SPEAKER : I call upon the minister concerned if he has something to

say.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the procedure of Lawngtlai District is slightly different with that of Saiha. According to the guidelines, Deputy Commissioner is the chairperson in the District Level Committee. In the case of Lawngtlai District in which there are two Autonomous District Councils, Members from both District Councils should be included as its member. So, if there is a demand for inclusion of concerned MLA as its member, we may consider it but we have not received such demand so far.

SPEAKER : Next, question to be asked by Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, Starred Question No.2 is again for the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development: -

- a) What is the number of Job Card holders under MGNREGA for the following years such as, 2011-2012; 2012-2013; 2013-2104 and 2014-2105?
- b) What is the number of Job Card holders MGNREGA for the year 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 in respect to each District?
- c) How is the component of MGNREGA categorized?
- d) How is the Work Agency/Supervisor of the Material Component appointed?

SPEAKER : Concerned Minister to give the answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, here is my answer: -

- a) 2011-2012 - 1,75,025 Nos.
2012-2013 - 1,78,200 Nos.
2013-2104 - 1,78,367 Nos.
2014-2105 - 1,85,929 Nos.
- b) The number of Job Card holders under MGNREGA for the year 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 in respect to each District are as follows: -

District	2013-2014	2014-2015
Aizawl	26,022	26,743
Lunglei	34,801	35,499
Saiha	13,519	14,221
Lawngtlai	26,809	27,936
Champhai	28,140	29,032
Kolasib	15,581	18,100
Serchhip	13,821	14,098
Mamit	19,674	20,300
	Total	1,85,929

- c) Allocation of not less than 60% from material component and not less than 40% from wage component should be made. Presently, allocation of the component under wages material from 60 to 40 is under process.

d) Regarding the appointment of Work Agency/Supervisor of the material component, 75% of the material component is of central share and 25% state share. According to NREGA Act, 2005, 50% of the total fund provision under MGNREGA should be placed at the disposal of VEC where as 60% of wages component is taken up under the supervision of VEC. The State Employment Guarantee Council underlines the appointment of 40% of material component as follows: -

District DRDA	-	40%
BDO and Programme Officer	-	40%
VEC	-	2%

SPEAKER : I call upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I would like to add a few points as it is apparent that some concerned VEC and the official frequently misused fund under the material component as so happened in some Village Councils. Thus, it is important to each member to keep a close attention of the dealing in our respective constituency as to whether the fund is utilized accordingly.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima, next.

PU LALRUATKIMA : I am concern about data in the latest issue of our Statistical Handbook and of 2011 and 2012 which are not matching. The problem is that any data entered in such Statistical Handbook is not reliable for official or personal use. From the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister, number of Job Card holders is increased by 276; I opine we should re-examine ourselves as number of Job Card holders indicates our economic status. What I meant to say, Pu Speaker is that our flagship programme which we claimed as successful is not that successful as number of Job Card holders increases by 10,902 Nos. since 2011. What I would like to know in this connection is: Who are the Ombudsmen of NREGA in the district level and if Social Audit is conducted on time? If not, what is the reason?

Secondly, as published in Vanglaini newspaper, the sum deducted from wages from the concerned employees under Serchhip VC-III amounting to ₹17,07,257/- and for what purpose such amount is utilized remains unknown. So, I request concerned minister to look into this case and take necessary action against persons who are found responsible.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : My Question, Pu Speaker is – Will there be an opportunity of another 100 days employment for BPL families before this coming Christmas?

SPEAKER : Concerned Minister to give the answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I believe the data used in various official matters are not matching with the increase number of Job Card holders where as it is supposed to increase by 3%; it is unbecoming to expect the increase more than this amount.

In the case of Serchhip VC, probably the fund might have been misappropriated by concerned BDO or some dealing officials or the fund is being diverted for other purposes. It is also possible that the allocated funds had not been utilized for the benefit of the public concerned as it depends on concerned VC's. Besides, it is a common practice in the Village Council level that the fund is utilized for other public purposes but only if the public concerned approved to do so. Anyway, such cases will again be re-examined so that such kind of fund is used accordingly.

Pu Speaker, many claims that this kind of mass funding scheme only instills idleness in the mind of the beneficiary as it also destroy our society as a whole; I opine is true to some extents but is wrong to reject it as unwanted scheme. As such, we need to be careful in the dealings.

As of the question of Pu R. L. Pianmawia, let us hope for it. In this connection, it should be noted by the members that this project was once set for 100 days labor budget; however, we now only have 54% as the central government deducted 46% of each state's share. Thus, it may be necessary to rename the project which is termed as 100 days labor project.

SPEAKER : Pu K. Sangthuama.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : It has already been stated in our meeting regarding deduction of 46%. Even so, Pu Speaker, only 3 or 4 days work is conducted in each District indicating 40 or 50 days work remains. Will the government put more efforts so that it is fully covered? I am afraid it is not fully spent as we have only 3 or more months to go. It will be appreciated if the case is clarified.

SPEAKER : Pu R. Lalzirliana, concerned minister to give the answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINKISTER: As pointed out by Pu K. Sangthuama, Pu Speaker, we also have another questions regarding irregularity of 100 days labor in some districts. It is not possible to increase the number of day on our own accord for there is a schedule to a particular district such as 3% labor for 3 months and 6/7 days labor in the next quarter. Many a time, our target of 100 days or 54 days labor could not be achieved whereas the highest record within this year is of 80 days labor. In this regard, it should be noted that the state government is not responsible for some irregularities which had been faced as work plans which have been forwarded to the central were not processed on time. Thus, the process on our part could not be resumed due to delay from the central in releasing the fund provisions. What I can say right now is that the effort is being given to regularize the work programme.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, I opine the exact point has not been given in regard to the question of Pu R.L. Pianmawia. I supposed the Hon'ble Minister is aware of the sanction amounting to ₹3,230.10 lakh is being received recently. Yet, it depends on the effort of the state government in approaching the central for issue of our matching share. If fund is made available, the people concerned intensely needed to continue with the work for Christmas season is approaching.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No.3 and Er. Lalrinawma will ask.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, my question is for the Hon'ble minister for Rural Development: Is there a plan in hand for for improvement of Sialhau - Chhiahtlang road?

SPEAKER : The Minister for R.D. Department to give the answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, improvement work of Sialhau - Chhiahtlang road has already been done under the wage component of MGNREGA.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, concerned VC members visited the spot last night and verified that the work is done up to Sialhau only. Since this road is of an important approach to the headquarter of my constituency, I earnestly request concerned minister that R.D. Department continued to undertake the portion which has not yet been completed.

SPEAKER : The Minister of R.D. Department if he has something more to say.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: As already stated, work scheduled for construction of this particular road for the current year is done and I supposed the remaining portion i.e. 4 kms. is scheduled for the next project.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 4, to be asked by Pu K. Sangthuama.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, Starred Question No. 4 is for the Hon'ble Minister for PWD – Is it possible to expedite construction of Kawnpui - Kolasib road so that it is completed within this dry season?

SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Chief Minister to give the answer.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the road in question is scheduled for completion within this dry season unless unavoidable circumstances come.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question from Pu K. Sangthuama.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, the condition of this portion of road is quite poor as known to us all and I am thankful for receiving a positive answer from the Hon'ble Chief Minister. In addition, I request that improvement of Sairang - Lengpui road has also been covered at the same time.

SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Chief Minister, if he has something more to say.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, before answering the Supplementary question of our fellow member, let me mention that following the Improvement of Right in Quality Programme, ₹2610.78 lakh has been sanctioned on the 26th September, 2013 covering 95 kms – 118 kms as work order is allotted to the Overseas Private limited whereas the agreement amount is ₹2017.76 lakh and work order was issued on 23.9.2013. It is scheuded to be started within 15 days after receiving the work order being issued.

As confirmed by the experts and Geologists, most of our soils are of unstable type and so categorized us as landslide prone area. As we do not have in our state a solidified type of soil, we have even imported it from the Assam for construction of Lengpui Airport and the approach road. However, it does not last long due to heavy traffic. Anyway, necessary step is being taken up as of patch repair work.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No.5 which is of Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, my question is for PWD Minister: – When will the work for construction of Polytechnic building of Saiha be started?

SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister for PWD to give the answer.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, construction of the Polytechnic building of Saiha is planned to be started within 2014 – 2015.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : We are much thankful that the Polytechnic building will be constructed at Saiha. As far as my knowledge is concern, sanction has already been received for that purpose as plan estimate as being processed for extension of the proposed site which is found to be of quite congested. However, the process of any plan such as our Hospital generally is quite slow. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Chief Minister to expedite the process.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: To inform the concerned member as well as this august House, Pu Speaker, the amount sanction for Saiha Polytechnic Institute is ₹800 lakh.

The Administrative Approval as well as expenditure sanction amounting to ₹200 has already been received. Saiha Polytechnic Institute is planned to cover the course of Electronic, Telecommunication, Electric and Electronic Engineering. Buildings which will be constructed are the Administrative building, Hostel and 2 Nos. staff quarters for which detail drawing is being processed. The detailed estimate will be made as soon as such drawing is completed where as work tender will soon be floated. It is appreciated as we have already obtained approval for setting up the Polytechnic Institute and Nursing School in every district. In this regard, it is to be noted by the members that recurring expenditure for the maintenance will be borne by the state government. Hence, it is necessary for us to carefully examine the case so that we may not take the burden which is unaffordable for our government. Apart from this, we have to carefully determine as to whether could we afford the recurring expenditure as well as having one in each district would be excessive considering our population.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 6 to be asked by Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, Starred Question No. 6 is for the Hon'ble Minister for R.D. Department –

- a) What is the sum amount received under MGNREGA during the financial year 2013-2014?
- b) How many working days are allotted to each district?
During the financial year 2014-2015, what is the sum amount which has been received so far?
- c) So far, how many working days have already been allotted to each district?

SPEAKER : The hon'ble Minister concerned to give the answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is –

- a) The sum amount received under MGNREGA during the financial year 2013-2014 is ₹25,668.964 lakhs.
- b) Number of working days allotted to each district during the financial year 2013-2014 are as follows:

Sl/Nos	District	Number of day allotted
1	Aizawl	80 days
2	Lunglei	78 days
3	Saiha	79 days
4	Champhai	85 days
5	Kolasib	71 days
6	Serchhip	81 days
7	Lawngtlai	72 days
8	Mamit	84 days

During the financial year 2013-2104, the average work days of 79 is allotted. The sum amount received under MGNREGA during the financial year 2014-2015 is:

- i) Central Share - ₹6,708.13 lakhs
 - ii) State Share - ₹225.483 lakhs.
 - Total - ₹6,933.613 lakhs**
- d) Number of working days allotted so far to each district during the financial year 2014-2015 are as follows:

Sl/Nos	District	Number of day allotted
1	Aizawl	15 days
2	Lunglei	10 days
3	Saiha	7 days
4	Champhai	9 days
5	Kolasib	10 days
6	Serchhip	10 days
7	Lawngtlai	10 days
8	Mamit	10 days

SPEAKER : Supplementary question.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. We have been through half a year already but the average of work day allotment quite less in which more efforts should be given. My question is – Whether the sum deducted from 3 days work wages for Champhai District for remuneration of its staffs has already been recovered?

SPEAKER : Concerned minister to give the answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am not aware of as to whether deduction is made as pointed out by the hon’ble member.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, payment of wages for 3 days work for Champhai District has actually been received by concerned laborers but wages for one day labor is deducted for remuneration of staffs. I opine this is quite unbecoming as it was meant for the benefit of poor laborers who are striving for their livings. So, it is wise for concerned minister to verify the case so that it is not repeated in future.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am glad that all the members including the oppositions seem to concern the well-being of such laborers. I opine it is wrong to save such kind of information to be given another day otherwise verification could have been made if the incident is reported on time. Anyway, we will pursue the case as necessary.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 7 to be asked by Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, my question is for the Hon'ble Minister for R.D. Department – The amount sanctioned for Saiha District for implementation of IAY generally is ₹193 lakhs. However, the amount for the year 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 decreases to ₹56 lakhs only. What is the reason?

SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister for R.D.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the following are the actual amount sanctioned to Siah District for implementation of IAY: -

2012-2013	-	273 lakhs
2013-2014	-	193 lakhs
2014-2015	-	63 lakhs

As pointed out earlier, since the financial year of 2014-2015, the Central Ministry reduced allocation to all the states. Whereas Mizoram received fund allocation for construction of 3661 households for the year 2013-2014, we received 1291 only in 2014-2015 out of which Saiha district is allotted 63. As per IAY Operational Guidelines of 2013, allotment to Saiha District is determined on the basis of number of permanent wait list as well as 25% of number of BPL family.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, if the case of Saiha District is as pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister, comparing allotment to Saiha District with that of Lawngtlai for the year 2013-2014, there is a huge difference. What is the reason? Does it mean that the economic condition of the poor in my district is suddenly improving? I request some sort of clarifications, Pu Speaker.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the member seems to know very well of the difference of the population of Saiha District with that of Lawngtlai as allotment is made on that basis.

SPEAKER : Next, Pu R.L. Pianmawia to ask Starred Question No. 8.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, my question is for the Hon'ble Minister for PWD: -

- a) When will the two bridges such as Tuirial and Tuirini be repaired?
- b) Is there a proposal to take up Zohmun - Sihar via Bagha road as Inter-state connectivity project?

SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Chief Minister to give the answer.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is: -

- a) Yes, it is. But it is not possible to say when it will be started as sanction has not yet been received.
- b) No.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, sanction received for the repair of the said 2 bridges is apparently being diverted for construction of E. Phaileng - Zuangtui Bridge. However, neither the two bridges in question nor the latter are being repaired or constructed. So, I request the Hon'ble Chief Minister to give more attentions in this regard as we have been suffering intensive problem as a consequence of the collapse of Tlawng Bridge.

Regarding proposal for E. Phaileng – Zuangtui road, Pu Speaker, we are anxiously waiting for the outcome as such lands so acquired had already been compensated. If it is completed, we will then be able spend less expenditure with less time for travelling as the route will be shortened by 30 kms. So, I ask the Hon'ble chief Minister if the project is expedited.

SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Chief Minister to give the answer.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, one more I would like to inform our fellow member is that the project of Tuirini – Tuivai Bridge is proposed from PWD Annual Plan 2014-2015 for maintenance of the National highway whereas ₹900 lakh for Tuirini and ₹2,000 lakh for Tuivai. In order to construct such bridges, it is necessary to prepare DPR first by hiring consultants. Thus, payment for RPF is sanctioned from the office of the Chief Engineer for National Highway as the tender was floated on 29.9.2014. Since we received only one applicant, it was retendered. As soon as selection of consultant is made, DPR will be prepared and will then be sanctioned. So, the project can be taken up only after such sanction is received. It is, therefore impossible to say now when the work will be started.

Under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highway, New Vervek-Zawngmun-Vairengte road has been declared as the National Highway. I supposed the work pointed by our fellow member may be included after implementation of this recently declared National Highway.

As of the damage roads pointed out by Pu K. Sangthuama, it is under the responsibility of concerned contractor unless liability period is expired. If liability period is still validated, instruction should be given to them; but if it is expired, then, the department is responsible.

PU LALROBIKA : Supplementary Question please, Pu Speaker. When will the project of Tlawng Bridge be completed?

PU LALRUATKIMA : More Supplementary Question, Pu Speaker. The condition of our bridges is of controversial issue nowadays. Most of the Work Orders for bridge construction issued in 2009 remains incomplete till today. Pu Speaker, the people in the western region are in distress following the collapse of Tlawng Bridge which happened to be of their lifelines. Whereas it is learned that Tantia Company to whom the work is allotted have numbers

of another contract works in hand and thus unable to make any progress with construction of Tlawng Bridge. So, I request the Hon'ble Chief Minister to give assurance to the House that Tantia Company will be blacklisted by our government.

SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Chief Minister to give his answer.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I do not think the work remain incomplete for the reason stated by the member. Since the work involves highly technical matter, it is possible that the process of the foundation might have been wrong from the start which results in slow progress of work. Pu Speaker, most of such contract works in the western region are generally being delayed due to ignorance of concerned contractors about Mizoram as they have applied for the work on unworkable rate which often compels us to allot the work to them. It must also be noted by the members that having multiple contract works in hand does not necessarily affect the progress of any contract work.

Pu Speaker, it is sad that the practice of fraud is deep-rooted in our society chosen by God despite claiming ourselves as of 100% Christianity and it is difficult for concerned authority to prevent such practice. It is a shame to learn that numbers of barbed wire for construction of a bridge between Serchhip and Thenzawl were theft even though a Chowkidar is deployed in the site to protect such materials for it is impossible for him to watch overnight. It is regretted that fraudulent takes over our sense of belonging to such materials which concern our welfare. Thus, it is our mutual responsibility to revive sense of belonging in the minds of our people so as to eradicate such practice.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, I, on behalf of the people of my constituency extends my appreciation to the plan for taking up New Vervek to Vairengte road under the National Highway project. At the same time, I would like to have a clarification to my question relating E. Phaileng to Zuangtui road as nothing is done as yet despite lands within the proposed site have already been compensated.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Before our time is up, I would like to mention regarding numerous contract works taken up by Tantia Company. During 2012-2014, it is learned that contract work amounting to 139 to 145 lakh is being allotted to Tantia Company. Including the previous allotment of work at two places, this Company has the on-going work more than enough. If the project of Tuirini and Tuivai Bridge is again allotted to them, no project will be achieved on time.

SPEAKER : I now call upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister to give the answer.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Tantia Company has not alternately undertaken construction of Bairabi and Tlawng Bridge but by two separate contractors. The case might have been different if we have rules to decline application of Tantia

Company for one particular work just for the existing work in hands; but there is none, Pu Speaker.

As of the question of Pu Piana, I would like to inform him that it is not included in the PWD work schedule.

SPEAKER : Question hour is over. Before moving on to the next business, I would like to inform the House that Pu C. Ngunlianchunga, Col. Z.S. Zuala have applied Leave of absence and were granted where as Pu Zoram Sangliana and Pu K.S. Thanga have given prior information that they will be late for today's Session.

We will now take up Laying of Papers. First, the Hon'ble Chief Minister will lay on the Table of the House, 'The 22nd Annual Report, 2012-2013 of Mizoram Public Service Commission'.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: With your permission and of the House, Pu Speaker, I lay on the Table of the House, "The 22nd Annual Report, 2012-2013 of Mizoram Public Service Commission". Thank you.

SPEAKER : The Paper is laid on the Table of the House. Let the copy be handed out to the members.

Pu R. Romawia, the Minister will now lay on the Table of the House, "The Mizoram Public Record Rules, 2014".

PU R. ROMAWIA, MINISTER: With your permission and of the House, Pu Speaker, I lay on the Table of the House, "The Mizoram Public Record Rules, 2014".

SPEAKER : The Paper is laid on the Table of the House. Let the copy be handed out to the members.

Pu P.C. Lalthanliana, the Minister will now lay on the Table of the House, "The Mizoram (Election to Village Councils) Rules, 2014".

PU P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER: With your permission and of the House, Pu Speaker, I lay on the Table of the House, "The Mizoram Public Record Rules, 2014".

SPEAKER : The Paper is laid on the Table of the House. Let the copy be distributed to the members.

Pu Lal Thanzara, the Minister will now lay on the Table of the House, "The Mizoram Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Rules, 2014".

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: With your permission and of the House, Pu

Speaker, I lay on the Table of the House, “The Mizoram Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Rules, 2014.”

SPEAKER : The Paper is laid on the Table of the House. Let the copy be distributed to the members.

Pu Lalrinmawia Ralte, the Minister will now lay on the Table of the House, “The Mizoram Shops & Establishments Rules, 2011”.

PU LALRINMAWIA RALTE, MINISTER: With your permission and of the House, Pu Speaker, I lay on the Table of the House, “The Mizoram Shops & Establishments Rules, 2011”.

SPEAKER : The Paper is laid on the Table of the House. Let the copy be distributed to the members.

Pu R. Vanlalvena will now lay on the Table of the House, “The First Report of Committee on Paper Laid on the Table”.

PU R. VANLALVENA : With your permission and of the House, Pu Speaker, I present to this august House, “The First Report of Committee on Paper Laid on the Table”. It concern of Rules which had already been passed in the House during 2006 but have not been implemented by the Rules. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The Paper is laid on the Table of the House. Let the copy be distributed to the members.

We will now move on to the Legislative Business. Today, we are having 2 Bills to be passed by the House. We will take up the first one, “The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2014.” I call upon Pu Lalsawta, the Minister to move permission of the House to introduce the Bill.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: With your permission and of the House, Pu Speaker, I move the permission of the House to introduce “The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2014.”

SPEAKER : The Minister has moved permission to introduce “The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2014” and he is granted. He may now introduce the Bill.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. To begin with introduction of this Bill, “The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Rules,” in the previous years was being implemented in accordance with our traditional practice. Though Mizoram is a small state, we, the inhabitants have our own tradition and practices relating to marriage. As

such, it often caused problem for the court to resolve such cases which further indicates our customary law is no longer applicable.

Moreover, it is to be noted that even older and a more advanced societies in the world have made their own rules to suit themselves. Thus, the main objective of “The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2014” is to maintain uniform practice in regard to marriage and divorce. However, those under Autonomous Districts may not be covered for they have their own traditional practices.

As known to us all, there was once a plan to quotify the process and so a committee was then set up. However, the committee remains without function for 30 years due to the demise of Pu R. Vanlawma, a renowned expert in this particular field. Thus, an opinion for legislation of our customary laws comes into being within this term.

This Bill has even been forwarded to Law Department for review as to whether any point is made against the rules. I am sure that some weaknesses are seen in the framework for which I appeal to the House for understanding. As seen in clause 3(P) of this Bill, there is a typing mistake of ‘bride’s family’ which may be corrected as ‘bridegroom’s family’; it may be accepted by the House as patent error.

Lastly, it may be noted that this Bill is prepared by the Law Commission by giving all efforts so that it become an ideal Bill. Whereas the name of John Siamkunga is worth mentioning as he too has rendered a relentless efforts for the sake of this Bill. I appeal to all the members to participate in the discussion of this Bill by contributing their valuable ideas and thoughts. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : The Minister has now moved the Bill for discussion in the House. As permitted by our Rules No.320, only 5 minutes will be allotted to the members for we have two Bills today. I call upon Pi Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu to start the discussion.

PI VANLALAWMPUII CHAWNGTHU: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am truly appreciated as this Bill concern of upgrading the status of women in our society. As such, I express my gratitude to this government headed by the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Pu Lal Thanhawla. At the same time, I invite to all the members to contribute their valuable ideas in the discussion of this Bill for we all are married and having a family of their own.

In the case of divorce, the condition of the Mizo women is not good in our society. It often happened that women are compelled to file a divorce on the basis of ‘Sumchhuah’. For that reasons, this bill is highly appreciative for all women concerns. I appeal to all the members to vote in favor of passing of this Bill. Thank you.

(Deputy Speaker is at the chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon'ble concerned minister has clearly stated the objective of this Bill. Before calling up the next in line, I would also like to make few points from my chair.

As already stated, this Bill concerns the need of the day yet, it takes careful manipulation. It had already been initiated in the last term of the MNF's 10 years ministry but being left as 'Divorce Ordinance'. As the Congress party assumed the ministry, under the leadership of Pu Lal Thanhawla, we are able to have 'Divorce Act' just by passing the ordinance initiated in the previous ministry. However, with the opinion that passing the Divorce Ordinance before having Marriage Act inappropriate, the Law Commission came into being. I would like all the members to know that we are able to discuss this bill today as the Law Commission prioritized this matter. As known to us all, members of the Law Commission comprises number of law experts as well as Senior Advocate such as Pu R.C. Thanga, Pu Michael Zothankhuma, Pu L.H. Lianhrima and Pu A.K. Rokhuma, Public Prosecutor and other official members from the Mizoram Law & Judicial Service and Court. The draft of this Bill could not be ready for submission during my chairmanship at Law Commission but now it is duly forwarded with the efforts of the present Chairman, Pu John Siamkunga. I am sure that this will be of a remarkable achievement as it concerns the welfare of our future.

Now, I call upon Pu T.T. Zothansanga to express his opinion on this Bill.

PU T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I must say that today is, for any Mizo women, the day good news prevails. Our party, may be because we are under the leadership Women in the central, our main concern is for the welfare of women as we now have formulated a remarkable Rules which concern women. Not only this issue, we have even implemented 1/3 reservation for women as a member of AMC.

Pu Dy. Speaker, considering this Bill being the efforts of many Law experts, I asked myself if it is necessary for us to discuss any further. However, this Bill takes a careful manipulation for it will become a rule and any idea or suggestion, thus should be made if deem important. So, I would also like to point out my appreciation for separate definitions of Acquired property and Ancestral property seen at page 3. However, I opine it is unnecessary to keep the term, 'For the purpose of this Act' and if insisted to, may be put within bracket. In page 5, spelling mistake of 'marriage' may also be corrected. At No.7 of page 8, Solemnization of marriage, clause (1), the wording, 'rites, ceremonies and custom of the religion' may also be understood as religious denomination. It is appreciated that supplementary point is given regarding condition on which marriage should be objected. We the Mizo generally regarded elopement as marriage but it will no longer be accepted unless regularized.

The point given in page 10, section 11, sub-No.2 is of which affect the practice in the churches and thus may be good to give information regarding the context of marriage certificate. In the last sentence of No.3, a spelling mistake of 'conclusive' may also be corrected. In section 12, I opine it is good to make a timeframe for compulsory registration of marriage like a month or so after marriage. In No.13 of page 10, I opine the wording 'irreconcilable incompatibility' is

incorrect when reading from the previous sentence. Likewise, the wording ‘on ground that the respondent the wife refuse to on law’ is incorrect which may also be noted down. In page 12, seventh line, the wording ‘By mutual consent’ may also be read with ‘the respondent’.

Regarding welfare matters, page 13, we have seen that the existing 125 CRPC is made to cover ‘the Permanent Alimony and Maintenance’; I have found this a good idea. Again, Section 18 underlines that ‘Where the decree for dissolution or nullify of marriage has been passed and either the time for appeal has expired’. Here, period for the appeal has not been given and thus may be included. It may also be wise to include Lok Adalat to make necessary arrangement next to Magistrate as given here. I appreciate the point which is given as one of the reasons for dissolution of marriage in such case when a woman is insisted not to enter into the house of the bridegroom for her action invites dissolution of marriage. Likewise, I appreciate the condition that 50% of the property is made to be the share of a woman in the case of marriage dissolution.

In general, I found this Bill as quite good as it will safeguard the status of women in our society. Thus, I conclude my speech by expressing my support to this bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next, Pu Vanlalzawma.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I am glad that we are able to discuss an important Bill which concern preservation of the status of women in our society. I had been there in the Committee on Customary Law 15 years ago and I remember that it was not an easy task to resolve certain cases. An eminent MHIP member jokingly states that Women in our society are like a truck vehicle that works with all effort but left empty handed in the divorce settlement which I find to be true in certain ways. Hence, I am glad that we are able to discuss means to safeguard the status of women.

As already stated, we may have seen some weaknesses in this Bill due to changing of our custom and tradition or mistake of the context. Even so, it is wise to pass it first and then make amendment as necessary for it concerns the need of the hour. I find this Bill prepared by Law Department is good enough except typing mistake which is found in many places but may be corrected as necessary. Thank you.

Dr. NGURDINGLIANA : Pu Dy. Speaker, of the the four Bills which have been discussed in this Session, this Bill, “The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2014” takes most of my time for preparation due to my ignorance of our customs and traditions for I have spent most of my youths outside from Mizoram and married off as soon as I came back. All I knew was that any marriage ceremony is taken place in a church. Times passes by as we have a daughter of our own to be given away which compelled me to read the pros and cons of our customary laws.

I am interest mostly with this Bill for I have four daughters and I need to know the details for everyone is bound to face good or bad in future marriage. Where as it is obvious that the minister concerned and the officials too are well-prepared for this Bill and I would like to extent

my appreciation for that. As stated by Pu T.T. Zothansanga, we are supposed to pass this bill without much ado for it concerns the welfare of women. I invite all my fellow members as well to vote in favour of this Bill. Thank you.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Dy. Speaker, considering the importance of this Bill, it is regretted that it does not receive enough attention from the members. With the needs of a careful examination to the Bill, I supposed we are able to make it as a controversial issue. We have heard appreciation to this Bill from various members. It is fortunate that when the memorandum of Settlement was signed by MNF and the Central government, the central Government has no power to include matters which concern our customs and traditions, in a special provision under the Article 371(G). Despite the Marriage Act formulated by the central, various Churches within our state could not accept it thoroughly as we have our own customs and traditions in practice. Thus, I opine it is important to deal with this case in consultation with churches leaders.

On issuing of Marriage Certificate also, it will then be necessary to indicate “The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Properties Act, 2014” therein, as the issuing authority. Besides, it will further necessitate any license holder or the issuing officer to make the registration anew. Thus, it is necessary to have prior discussion with the authority of various churches.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I opine it is necessary to carefully examine particularly chapter 4, section 18 which underlines “Liberties of Parties to marry again” before implementation of the rules; whereas others may be taken for granted for the time being. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next, Pu R. Romawia.

PU R. ROMAWIA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we may accept the fact that our customary laws need some sorts of modification with the changing of the world. No one is willing divorce to be happened in our family or society but it is unavoidable sometimes. Hence, we have to strengthen rules which concern marriage and divorce and in order to have it; it is time we have to pass this Bill so that it is enforced with immediate effect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now invite Pu T. Sangkunga.

PU T. SANGKUNGA : Pu Speaker, I truly appreciate this new Bill which has been laid in this House. Before getting to the point, I would like to state that the status of women in our society indicates the position of our society as a whole. It is the woman who binds us together as a family and makes a home comfortable. However, our current customary law put the condition of our women in its lowest form. In the past, proposal for amendment of our customary laws had often been objected with the conception that amendment as not possible. However, this Bill is expected to transform the status of our women in our society in a positive ways. If this

Bill is opined as not to be good enough, we can make amendment from time to time. This should be regarded as a golden law for all women in our society as well as for Mizoram. So, I am happy to give my support in regard to this Bill, Pu Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It may be difficult to decide which church should be consulted in this regard as there are various denominations in Mizoram. The fact is, this Bill is not against any practice of any church. Now, I invite Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAAWMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I must say that today is in a way, a remarkable day for all women concern as the share of women in the case of divorce as proposed here is much better than that of the previous. In the mean time, in section 32, 'Inheritance of women personal property gives me a lot to think about as it underlines the condition that when the wife died, the husband will be the sole inheritor. Today, it should be noted by all women in our society that their inheritance are bound to go to her husband irrespective of tribe of the husband. It is interesting to know the reaction of woman concerned that her husband of another clan will take away all her inheritance.

In Section 26, the case of committing adultery that the wife will get 25% from their property; may I know on what basis the percent will be determined?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you read the details, you will see that it should be determined on the basis of assets of the couple after marriage.

Er. LALRINAWMA : I believe it is kind of difficult to separate 25% or so from the assets. However, let us assume that we may make amendment to some clauses/sections which are opined as unsatisfactory. From this law alone, I supposed it will be appreciative only for women concerned who are married within our tribe. Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next, Pu P.C. Zoram Sangliana.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA: Pu Deputy Speaker, our bill today is of utmost important and anticipated for our tribe. Especially for the women, it is a step up to safeguard their dignity in our society. It is thankful that the hon'ble Minister, with the help of the officials and legal experts is able to lay on the table of the House for discussion and passing. I think it is the right time for all women concerned to ring a jubilee bell in honour of this bill. If necessity arises, we may make amendment by consulting Women' Groups as it is their main interest. This government headed by our Chief Minister shows that women interest is prioritized as it is introduced to the House. I am happy to have a discussion on this bill and give my wholehearted support to pass it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu K. Sangthuama is next.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, members who have spoken before me discussed this bill with skill and passion for it is important not only for women but also for men as well for most of us have daughters and thus it affects us all. Many women work hard to earn a living as many have even made huge income for the family; however, they lost it when the marriage broke up. Hence, it is thankful that this bill is introduced in the House.

As stated already, we may have seen some weaknesses on this bill but let us know that it can be amended from time to time. Women, as we have known are the victims of our shortage of laws. Our own perspectives towards women in our society often wrong where as in other clans also, women are badly treated. As for our society, let us hope for a change as it is immoral to sideline women in respect of inheritance and other assets. This bill may, to some extents clashes with our traditional customary law; however, I support to pass it as women will have the right to claim their inheritance and other assets.

Yet, I would like our law experts to explain regarding clause 27 which underlines 'exceeding 50% of the acquired property'. What does this entails? Below, we again see 'mutual arrangement'. What does this signify? Generally, other portions are good. By saying 'a women share', it concern all of us we all have daughters. I opine that giving a share to the wife is a sensible thing to do in case of divorce, whether we have the binding law or not. I support this bill for pass. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalrobiaka.

PU LALROBIAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I am thankful that we are having a good time to discuss this Bill. It comes into my mind that our women today, though capable, intelligent and clever in many ways often received ill-treatment when marriage trouble comes on the way. Meanwhile, speculation on the opinion of churches has comes; however, I do not see anything that will clash with the practice of any church.

As our usual tradition, we distribute the price received for our daughters to closed relatives and use some churches for the wedding ceremony. In fact, this bill does not make any change with that regard. In the meantime, I think it will be necessary for all concerns to make a new registration of birth or weddings. In the past, we do not have specific rules which concern division of the property. However, this bill covers all such cases even for compulsory divorce in which women will have a share in their property.

As my fellow members have pointed out, a bill cannot become complete at a time, but we could make amendment later as necessary. As for now, I think this bill is enough and compact for us. As already pointed out, this bill will bring women liberty in our society as there will be many advantages in society for all concerns. I, therefore, give my support to pass it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu K. Lalrinthanga.

PU K. LALRINTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I first of all would like to mention that marriage between mizo and non-mizo is not an issue here.

Getting to the point, First, I opined that the cost of woman should be raised from ₹420/- to ₹10,000/- so that expenditure on marriage will be reduced. In page 15, section 18, we see, “It shall be lawful for either party to marry again when person become single after the death of his/her spouse”. I opine it is more appropriate to set a period for both the parties to marry again.

Section 13 underlines that “On the death of the head of the family, the wife will automatically become the head of the family if she remain a chaste widow and look after the welfare of her minor children”. While this is the case, the role of the eldest son’s wife, if he is married is not mentioned. Do we have to focus on this case also? Page 22 underlines that the youngest children will have an extra share. In many cultures as well, the youngest children is supposed to inherit all the properties while in some cases, it goes to the eldest. Is there a way to divide the properties so as to settle the dispute between both parties? I support this Bill as it seems to be satisfactory for all concerned parties. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We still have 5 minutes and I invite Pu P.C. Lalthanliana.

PU LALTHANLIANA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. This Bill underlines that “... this Act applies to any person who belongs to any mizo tribe” and, “It also applies to marriages where male members of the parties belong to any mizo tribe”. May I know what the second one is trying to indicate? Does it also meant to a wife who is not belong to mizo tribe? I request clarification regarding this sentence.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Deputy Speaker, our bill for today concerns not only women, but also men as both parties will benefit this bill. In this connection, I would like to suggest if specific amount is fixed for the cost of bride. And, I give my support to this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will have a recess and discussion will be resumed at 2:00 p.m.

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now continue with our discussion. 14 members have participated in the morning discussion. I will invite the Minister to make clarification on the points raised by the members. Is there anyone else to speak?

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Deputy Speaker, let me say before getting to the point that my party concern the welfare of women more than by this ministry. Regarding the wording ‘marriage price’ used at Chapter 11, page 7, I opine it is more appropriate to use ‘settlement of

marriage' and the wording 'marriage price' may also be put as 'bride's price' as it concern the price of a bride. If the said is corrected, then I give my support to pass this bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you for keeping your time. Now, I will invite the Minister to wind up our discussion and beg the House to pass the Bill. Before that, as the House Leader is absent, I call upon the Deputy Leader if he has something to say. If not, let us invite the Minister.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. First, I would like to convey my appreciation to all the members for contribution of their valuable ideas in regard to this important Bill which concern the welfare of women in our society. However, some suggestions seem not to be applicable such as suggestion for increase of the price of a bride from ₹420/- to ₹10,000/-. So, we have to keep up some old practices as far as possible.

Regarding suggestion of taking advice from the Churches, Law Commission has done it as much as possible while preparing this bill and in the process, priority is being given to the opinion of the authority of major churches. This Bill does not include the Autonomous District Councils for they have their own customs and traditions in practice. It may also be noted that the wordings in this Bill such as 'sin' and 'crime' differ from the Church perspective to the Court.

Pu Deputy Speaker, I am happy for being able to take the main role in the process of rules which concern safeguarding the status of women in our society. We all have known the opinion of church in regard to divorce, however, we sometimes cannot abide by such opinion as the situation compels. For the same reason, the Church also has to issue Remarriage License within the time limit. Therefore, this is the situation we are in and that we decide to set up appropriate law to that effect.

Regarding the point raised by Pu Rinawma of marriage between mizo and non-mizo, it should be noted that this Bill concern only mizo and it does not include any other tribes. If one marries a non-mizo, she is bound to follow the tradition of his husband-to-be. If we look into the tradition of worlds around, we will know that women always follow the rules of men except in matriarchal society. As of amendment, we can do as necessary from time to time. In this Session, we are going to move a Bill which concern amendment of the Constitution 121. Every law needs amendment as time goes by as this rule which may be passed today will also need amendment as the world we live is changing.

Regarding 50% share of women as stated by Pu K. Sangthuama, it is clearly underlines that the amount shall not exceed 50%, half a portion of the properties. Regarding price of a bride, we all seem to know that in the past, one had to struggle to meet the price of bride. However, as the situation changes, one can hardly afford to meet the bridal price with scarcity of buffalo or mithun, the animals which were commonly demanded and so in the stead, ₹420/- is demanded in cash; this remain our traditions. In some cases, more than ₹420/- may also be demanded as our bill does not stated as to whether it should be exactly ₹420/-. Therefore, the demand may be higher if both parties agree.

Regarding the naming of bridal price, we have consulted the MHIP and some officials also; the MHIP does not want to name it as 'bridal price' for a woman cannot be bought. So, in order to avoid conflict, we put it as 'marriage price'. Thus, we may use 'bridal price' or 'marriage price' according to the case.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I want to share a few words on the work done by the Law Commission in respect of our bill 'The Mizo marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2014'.

The Law Commission deals with matters which concern law. There are laws which are useful once becomes obsolete and no longer applicable to some cases. The government instructed the Commission to abolish such kind of law and be amended as necessary or enacted a new one. Pu John Siamkunga, our fellow member is the existing Chairman and under his guidance, the Law Commission is busy constructing legal matters in addition to its own works.

With this, Pu Deputy Speaker, we hope to evade problems like claiming of inheritance, dead body etc. in a particular families. Hopefully this will become our moral or social guide with our society. Thus, I request each member to vote in favour of passing of "The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2014". Thank you.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, regarding the definition that 'it extends to the whole of Mizoram except the three Autonomous District Councils in Mizoram' where as there are numbers of mizo living in that areas. Does this bill cover them?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon'ble Minister has made clarification in that regard. We cannot force them to adopt this Bill; however, the Mizo living in that area may apply if they are willing. This bill covers all the Mizo tribes of domestic and international level. Is there anything else?

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, it would not hurt if we repeat that clarification. All Mizos, whether living in Chandigarh, Delhi, or Washington, if they want to marry in mizo tradition, it covers them all. In the case of inter-marriage, it is applicable if both sides agreed. In Chapter 2, we have seen "Application of the Act: This Act applies to any person who belongs to any Mizo tribes". It concerns the individual who is applying the rules. As I made request, I beg the House to allow permission for correction of typing mistake found in this bill.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, to avoid any misunderstanding, I want to say that the people within the Autonomous District Councils areas also are Mizos for we all have the same origin. This Bill excluded the Autonomous Councils for they are empowered to make its own laws. Again, I want this House to know that we all are Mizos.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are some mistakes which need correction. As our usual practice, we will allow correction made. The Minister has wound up the discussion and

makes clarification as necessary and begs the House to pass this Bill. Those who are in favor to pass this Bill say, 'aye'. This House has unanimously passed "The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2014".

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will go to our next bill; I invite Pu P.C. Lalthanliana, Minister, to introduce "The Lushai Hills District (Village Councils) (Amendment) Bill, 2014" in the House.

PU P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, with your consent and the permission of this august House, I introduce "The Lushai Hills District (Village Councils)(Amendment) Bill, 2014".

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister moves permission to introduce the bill. Do we agree? If so, let us invite him to introduce the bill and move it for discussion so as not to waste the time.

PU P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. Today, we are going to have a discussion on the function of the Village Councils as I introduce this important bill for discussion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has been many years since this august House has not been witnessed a women representative. We are fortunate that today we have Pi Lalawmpuii Chawngthu who is elected from Hrangturzo constituency. Her presence is beginning to have its meaning as we deals with a bill concerning women empowerment.

We will have a discussion and each member will have 5 minutes. Let us invite Pu K. Sangthuama.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, we are going to discuss a bill which concern amendment of Village Councils Rule. I, at the outset would like to mention regarding seat reservation for women. In my opinion, it is necessary to make such reservation of seat as we have numbers of efficient and intellectual women who are strong enough to contest in the election of Village Council. If any woman is interest in politics, she has her own freedom to follow that interest as so done by Pi Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu. Apart from this, it is somewhat difficult to find an enthusiast women candidate as we have experienced in the election of AMC. It would be more honorable for women if one has fought for her own seat with her own effort and strength. Thus, I criticize the idea of reservation of seat for women.

Pu Deputy Speaker, Section 5 underlines the term as 5 years. I think it is too long for a Village Council as it may invite misconduct for the ruling members as well as for the opposition. I, therefore opine that 3 years term is appropriate. Apart from this, we have seen that the term

may be extended upto 18 months which opine to be too long. Is there a way to amend these two points? If not, I am afraid that in future, the term is extended up to 6 years by referring the previous cases. In the meantime, I appreciate supplementary made in section 26 concerning a group of temporary village as we have often encountered problems for this cause in the past. Likewise, I appreciate reducing permissive day of absence for the V/C meeting from 10 to 3. Pu Dy. Speaker, I have shared these few points to so that the members may diversify their thought on this matter. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next is Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I opine our bill is quite good. However, the time allotted for absence is too short as I have some experiences in that regard. Being the opposition member of Village Council in my previous years, I have never received the notice of committee when there was an agenda relating to finances. I believe the same happened in other Village Council as well. As such, I opine continuous absence of 3 times is not practicable. If we are going to put this to be effective, we have to lay rules with specific ground, if not; some Village Council members may find themselves being excluded from their position. May the time be increased to 5 instead of 3?

In the last para of page 6, Section 26, sub-section (2) of (a), it defines the subject of a group of temporary village as 'person or persons individually to vacate the place within a period of one month from the date of such notice'. Instead of the wording as 'one month', I opine it is more appropriate not put it in figure as the date of a month may be different from time to time.

Regarding reservation of seat for women, I opine it is appreciative as it will open opportunity to women concerned to enter into politic. Let us consider this as a preliminary for all women concerns to enter into politic. Apart from this, women's participation in the committee of a Village Council will make the sitting more interesting. Let us hope that this opportunity will pave a way for them to contest in the election of the AMC and MLA as well. I, therefore, give my support to this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Who will be the next? Pi Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu.

PI VANLALAWMPUII CHAWNGTHU: Pu Deputy Speaker, I am thankful that this government introduces this bill for discussion. This Bill indicates that the government gives important to women concern on which i want to convey my thanks to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and concerned Minister.

Since the time of our ancestors, women are expected not to involve in matter concerning administration as we have been looked down. However, time changes and many intellectual women emerge as we now have numbers of eligible women to contest in the Village Council. Being a female candidate, I have even received some rejections within my party as well as I was proposed to contest in the election. However, I have taken their dissatisfaction for granted as I

understood their situations. However, by the grace of God, I have learned that women can do what men can do. Therefore, I am sure that this will be a good training ground for the women to contest in the MLA election as well. So, I earnestly request all the male members to support this bill which concern women's welfare. Thank you.

PU T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, it seems that from our discussion, the opposition members are not in one mind. However, with times, they will become mature and this will be a turning point for them to enter in to politic.

Pu Deputy Speaker, we see the definition "It shall come into force with effect from" in the short title commencement. I think it will not be harmful if we delete the wording 'with effect' and the sentence will read as "It shall come into force from the date of its publication". In No. 3, there is the subject which concern reservation but I will not dwell on that for I think it is good enough.

Pu Speaker, the reason I have found this bill to be most appreciative is introduction of odd number for the existing number of members. In the previous ministry, we have practiced even number such 4, 6 and so on which have often becomes an indecisive factor when elected members from both party are equal. Now, we will be able to evade such kind of incident.

Page 3 No.11 underlines that "The report on election of the new President shall be sent to the State government without delay". Here, I opine it is more appropriate to fix the date instead of using the term, 'without delay'. Besides, I praise the Minister for introducing new sections not only in the amendment No.10, but also in other sections. The name Treasurer has also been mentioned in particular the last line of page 5 where as in the present rule; the President and Vice President only are mentioned. Again, in the past, almost all the funds are kept by the President as the rule does not clearly specify the post of Treasurer. As a whole, I thank the Minister for his ideas and efforts to introduce this bill. Thank you.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA: Pu Deputy Speaker, I congratulate our Minister for being able to introduce this bill. I must say that today is a red letter day for all women concerned. This Seventh Assembly Fourth Session is programmed with a whole day discussion of women empowerment. I am thankful to God and the people of my constituency for giving me an opportunity to be one of the members to discuss this important Bill.

It is often said that women topped men in our state in many ways. However, their condition remains unimproved as most of the major churches do not recognized women's power. In fact, their voice is not effective as it should be. While this is the case, this ministry, under the leadership of our Chief Minister introduces bills for the benefit of women in our society. This is one reason for all women concern to vote in favour of Congress party in the coming general election.

This government has also laid down safety measure for the people of grass root level in the administration of Village Council as it shows the power and function of not only the President, but also the Executive Body, Treasurer and Secretary. Besides, it also lays down rules for V/C members who are in the habit of skipping the Council meeting as absent of 3 continuous times will be stripped-off their membership. To put this into effect and avoid the problem, attendance signature may be taken in every sitting. It is grateful that the LAD Minister has further laid down the power and function of the V/C in definite terms.

As already stated in our morning discussion, it is clear that some women are better than men in many ways. However, it is important for them to put more efforts in order to gain trust and loyalty from men; they should try to meet the expectation of the government who give them trust. Then, Pu Deputy Speaker, I give my support to pass this bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us invite Pu T. Sangkunga.

PU T. SANGKUNGA : Pu Deputy. Speaker, I am thankful that the LAD Minister has put forward an amendment bill for discussion. Rules are amended from time to time not only in our country but throughout the world. This bill proposed to extend the term of V/C from 3 years to 5 which in my opinion is quite an idea as it will reduce expenditure of the government for conducting such election. So, I support this 5 years term on ground of economic and of administrative measures. Dr. Panda, the Addl. Secretary of Panchayati Raj, as he visited our state pointed out the need to implement Women Reservation in order obtain more funds. Our bill for today is thus aimed to fulfill the direction of the Central Government.

Regarding eviction of membership, it cannot be practiced now unless appropriate rule is made first and it is thankful that we are now going to have such rule on eviction of V/C membership. If we look into the practice in some countries of Europe, women are not allowed to cast their vote in election. In India as well, any women IAS Officer, Air Hostess and Nurses were once prohibited to get married. However, things have changes as women are given freedom gradually as the opinion arises as to give them reservation so that they will able to fight for their own Rights. If we read the Parliamentarian paper distributed by the Assembly, even the Africa women are given reservation of seat in their Parliament. Thus, the majority in the world around opines that seat reservation for women should be made especially in Africa and Asia.

Pu Dy. Speaker, this bill will then opens a door for women to participate in leading our country. As the first step, they will learn from V/C level and then from AMC, MLA and even MP. I am thankful that a well prepared bill for better functioning of V/C is introduced today and I give my support to pass it. Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, I first of all would like to mention any Bill which is opined to be good should be supported regardless of the member who introduced such

bill. Thus, I appreciate this Bill as many other members. Yet, I would like to express my opinion as well.

As known to us all, the previous bill concerns for upgradation of the status of women in our society the House passed it unanimously. Again, we are now discussing another bill which concern women as if we are trying to degrade the status of men below women. Therefore, I opine that this Ministry does not regard them highly. As opined by my fellow member who has spoken before me, giving reservation to women could cause problem as we have experienced in selecting a candidate in MADC election since eligible woman candidate could hardly be found in some localities. It does not mean I am against the reservation, but concerned women have to give more efforts to contest in any election.

I support the opinion of Pu K. Sangthuama in regard to amendment of Section 5 which concern extension V/C term; I opine that 6 months is enough where as extension of its term from 3 years to 5 is quite agreeable. In Section 7, the term, 'executive' may be changed with 'executive body' so that it will be read as "There shall be an executive body consisting of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and each Village Council".

One thing I do not understand in Section 23 is power to make rules. Why it is necessary to obtain approval of the Governor to make such rule? In any election conducted by the Election Commission, we have to determine if approval of the Governor is obtained to make rule. Is not it enough to follow the existing system? If so, why necessitate approval of the Governor? This is not right from my point of view. Thank you.

PU K. LALRINTHANGA : Pu Speaker, I, at the outset would like to express my appreciation to amendment of Section 4(g) which underlines, '.... holds any office of profit under the Central Government or State Government' as many members of Village Council hold the office of profit which led them in neglecting their responsibility as V/C members.

The amendment section 5 concerns extension of the V/C term to 5 years which is of the same with MLA term. In this regard, I opined it is agreeable for having election one after another usually brought a negative impact in our society particularly in rural areas. Besides, it will reduce expenditure of the government in conducting the election.

We have seen in the amendment Section 6 regarding control of absence of V/C members from any meeting which is here reduced to 3 days. This is a necessity as many V/C members deliberately absent from the meeting despite their important duty. Such persons hardly give important to their duty which I opined as unlikely behavior to any member. If this rule comes into effect, it will compel any member to maintain regularity.

In amendment of Section 8, clause 4, we see "The Village Council shall be accountable to the Gram Sabha for all its function and decision taken in each meeting". This is quite appreciative as execution of work under any V/C usually entails suspicion of the general people.

If we have this kind of specific instruction, I believe such suspicion will be wiped off from the public minds.

Again, the Amendment No.10, Section 8(a) mentions regarding “to convene social audit for successful implementation of development in the village” which relate the subject we have been discussing. This portion is appreciative as for any V/C, it will no longer necessary to approach the department time and time again for work component or development funds as necessary information will be given to his place. Hopefully this system will give him more time to concentrate on his village concerned. I am also happy to see the amendment No.7 which underlines “To raise fund for public utility within its jurisdiction by passing resolution subject to the approval of the State Government” as it will open opportunity to concerned V/C to raise more funds for local area development. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Dr. B.D. CHAKMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. We should celebrate the 12th November as a Red Letter Day for Mizo Women. This bill, “The Lushai Hills District (Village Councils) (Amendment) Bill, 2014” is very important as it concerns seat reservation for women in the V/C election. We may witness that mizo women are more advance in the field of education than men but they are intensively backward in politics. Thus, this Bill will hopefully awake their sense of responsibility in the field of political as well. There may be a question from MHIP if women are entitled as well to contest in the election outside reservation on which I opined they are, as men.

Regarding Section 5, I appreciate that the term of V/C is extended from 3 years to 5. I opine 3 years is too short since the Executive Body of Village Council is an elected establishment like MP, MLA, MDC and Municipal. It is much appreciated as we are able to maintain uniformity to all elected establishments by extending the tenure of V/C to 5 years. Besides, I would like to suggest concerned officials to underline a clear definition of the condition of V/C members who have skipped three continuous meeting. It may also be appropriate if this bill underlines that the reason for any absence should be enquired and attendance is taken in every meeting by obtaining written signature of any concerned member. And, in case any member shows his negligence of the order of the president, the conduct of such member may be discussed at least in 3 consecutive meetings and further action may be taken.

I support this bill with the hope to bring more progresses in maintenance of our Village Councils. I invite all the members to support this bill as well. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalthanliana.

PU LALTHANLIANA : Pu Speaker, proposed term of the V/C seems to be appropriate but on the contrary, could be very long for members sitting in the opposition. In my opinion, having a long term in the ruling party usually invites misuse of power as well as development funds. While having uniform term for any elected representative may be opined to be good, I opine it is not the best. If the term of V/C is extended so as to evade the burden of

conducting election, I believe such extension will not alleviate the burden where as expenditure or efforts it may cost will remain the same. So, we have to reconsider the case.

Secondly, regarding section 6 which concern dismissal of member who are absent from the sitting for continuous three times, we have to think carefully if it is actually practicable. In order to dismiss a member, rest of the members should act more reasonable. Can we amend this at least by 50/50 percent? I opine it is quite sensitive to put into practice. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next, Pu R. Romawia, Minister.

PU R. ROMAWIA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, amendment of section 6 is clearly defined in the original bill such as, 'If a member absent himself continuously in ten consecutive meeting of Village Council without permission of the Village Council, the Village Council may, in a meeting, specially convene for the purpose declares his seat vacant after giving him an opportunity for a hearing in such case. The Village Council shall communicate decision to the State Government'. We, therefore, should not worry whether it is 10 or 3 days. However, I think 3 days is appropriate but we have to consider the original bill.

SPEAKER : Er. Lalrinawma is next.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, it is thankful that today we are able to introduce the Lushai Hill District Council Amendment. Let us consider that we want a systematic administration. Regarding seat reservation, our fellow member has mentioned that a strong woman could not be oppressed. Likewise, the Congress party follows the leadership of allegedly strong and capable woman for quite a long time. It is unbelievable that some men are able to look upon woman as goddess like Pi Jayalalitha is being treated in the South. That is how women are treated in our country. While this is the case, we are discussing here a bill which concern upgradation of the status of women in our society. I opine this only indicates our lack of respect to the honorable status of women. I believe efficiency or strength is not something which can be given to others. Likewise, woman who is strong and confident may stand out without special reservation for women.

As pointed out by my fellow members, I opine vacating seat of a member for absence of 3 continuous meetings is not applicable since it is possible that such member may not be given information of the meeting intentionally. We therefore have to deal with this matter very carefully. Thus, it is appropriate if any member is given information of the meeting by obtaining his signature on delivery even if such letter is sent by post or other means. As of limitation of absence from the meeting of 3 continuous times, I support the opinion that it may be increased at least by 5. Regarding attendance of any member for 6 meetings, I also opine it is appropriate. Pu Speaker, I am thankful that this bill is introduced so that the function of our Village Council is improved.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, I am thankful that this august House has taken up discussion of “The Lushai Hills District Council Amendment Bill, 2014”. I have found a petty error on the cover of this Bill which is written as ‘Bills’ whereas inside at page 1, it is written as ‘Bill’; I supposed it is a typing mistake. In the Amendment Section 3, definite plan are made according to the Villages in respect of seat reservation. I think this was introduced after careful study and examination. However, base on the condition of our society, we can face a problem in minority area. It may not seem impossible in a large city as in Aizawl; however, it is quite a problem in rural areas.

As I have said earlier, women do not interfere in the administration in minority areas and as such, we sometime have to make some pressures. In case no women candidate is available, will such reserved seats be left vacant? Can we make other decision like reducing the number to 1 as it concerns the whole state? I am afraid if we are pushing too much for this reservation despite scarcity of women candidates in certain localities. It is wise for us if we leave this case as any woman who may come up always has the opportunity to contest as men as well.

Pu Speaker, likewise in AMC, we have reservation for women which often cause problems to various political parties in finding a candidate. May this case be left for reconsider another time?

I appreciate the mentioning of office of profit in the Amendment section 4. As concerned Minister has pointed out in his opening speech, we had faced in the past many problems relating to this matter. Regarding extension of the tenure of V/C to 5 year, I opine it is too long as enough time is left for the officials to misuse their powers. Therefore, I opine it is wise for us to leave this unchanged. As of proposal for extension of the term to 18 months, we have to consider that the term could cover 6 and half a year.

In the Amendment of Section 6, we see a subject relating to dismissal of member who may fail to attend the meeting for three consecutive times. It is possible that a group of members may take that chance for dismissal of another member whom they cannot cooperate. So, I opine absence from five consecutive meetings may be more appropriate.

We have seen something new here in Section 8(a), are witnessing something new in Section 8 (a). However, while using the term, ‘State government’ is having a strong impression, the wording ‘the government’ is seen in some contexts. If we have to use the term, ‘State government’, why not use in other portions as well to maintain uniformity? It would be appropriate if we maintain uniform term.

In Section 8(a), sub-section 7, we see that fund may be raised by obtaining the approval of the State government. Since we have introduced a new Gram Sabha, I opine it is appropriate if it is provided with power to make the decision of raising any fund as it is a regular problem with concerned V/C of remote areas to approach higher officials in the headquarters.

In Section 11(a), it is grateful to learn that Gram Sabha Village Assembly is being introduced. In this regard, I opine that meeting may be convened in every quarter instead of three times a year as a frequent meeting as well as interacting with other members always builds a good cooperation. Generally, this bill is good though it is known that any point in it may not be fulfilled instantly such as point regarding dissolution of V/C as seen in Section 25. We will now have a provision to dissolve a Village Council by giving show cause notice where as in the past; some Village Councils were being dissolved without show cause notice. Thank you.

SPEAKER : It is almost 4 p.m. We may continue with our discussion by calling Pu Vanlalzawma.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Pu Speaker, I, on behalf of my party would like to convey my thanks for a chance to participate in the discussion of this Bill regardless of our weakness in the debate. It seems that both sides from your chair are in one accord in regard to this Bill.

I must say that this Bill is truly appreciative as it concern reservation of seat for women. At the same time, I have found few points which may be improved. In Section 3, the term 'household' remain in use to denote the strength of a particular village. As practiced by AMC, we should use the term 'voter' which I think to be more appropriate as the strength of a village cannot be predicted from any household as number of a family members may varies from one household to another. I opine the term in used is quite unclear.

Regarding the term of Village Council, I opine 5 year is too long whereas extension of 18 months has its merit and demerit. Also, regarding the dismissal of member for failing to attend three consecutive meetings, the amendment of section 6 has shown less time than the original. We also have to think carefully as to whether the reduction of times from 10 to 3 as limited time for absence for a member will create more problems to concerned members in rural areas as most of them needs to attend their cultivations.

Here, a new Section appears in this bill in the form of Gram Sabha Village Assembly which underlines that the members shall meet at least three times in a year. However, I opine the quorum as quite less for it is only 10% of the voters. I suggest we increase the percent from 2 to 15%.

Pu Speaker, I would also like to mention regarding point which has not been raised i.e. Anti-defection Law. Is this law applicable in regard to Village and Local Council as well? It is known to us all that misconduct of a member could bring problem to the whole administration as it can even dissolve concerned Village Council. I, therefore, suggest if Anti-defection law is made applicable to Village Council and Municipal Council. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, I call upon the House Leader if he has anything to say.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I have nothing much to say as I have missed the whole discussion due to important programme. However, I am thankful that some bills were passed unanimously.

Regarding the suggestion made by the Opposition Leader regarding Anti-defection Law, it was not in our thought while preparing the Bill but it can be added anytime if it is opined to be necessary. Pu Speaker, it is a fact that one can cause problem to the constitution of AMC or Village Council whereas I assure all the opposition members that such problem will not come from our side. If any bill is opined to be important, we will give our support whether it is in the form of a Private Resolution from any member.

I appreciate the decorum shown by the Opposition Leader Pu Vanlalzawma as he went outside the House and came back during Pu Rinawma's speech and waited in the back row until the speech is finished. No member should pass across the Speaker's chair and the member who is engaging in a discussion. I am glad that he has set a good example to the members in the House.

SPEAKER : Now, we will invite Pu P.C. Lalthanliana to wind up the discussion, make clarification and beg the House to pass the bill.

PU P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am thankful to my fellow members for participation in the debate as well as for their valuable advice. The House Leader pointed out the gist and its content as well as opinion of the government on this matter.

Pu Speaker, it is a fact that the administration of Village Council is of an important matter. Regarding Village Council, we have two types of administrative body in the State and Village level where as the administration of the State level is smooth, the other is not and so we cannot achieve our goal. Hence, in order to achieve that goal, the government, under the guidance of the Leader of the House is making an intensive effort to prevail a clean and fair administration. We have passed Ombudsmen Bill in the previous term to avoid dissolution. As of now, we have ombudsmen and we cannot dissolve a V/C as we like.

I have not included in my previous speech regarding the cost of election. So, it may be noted that expenditure for the election of the Village Council is not funded by the Central Government but by the LAD of the state government. Effort has been made to hand over the election conducting to the Election Commission as mentioned earlier so as to avoid heavy expends.

Pu Speaker, various members expressed their opinion regarding seat reservation for women. However, it is disheartening that some members alleged this reservation as a mean to show our look-down disrespect of women. As we have reservation for VIP, Women Reservation in my opinion indicates our respect for women as we wish them to participate in the

administration of our state. As a family needs a mother to make it whole, we need women to complete our administration.

Some members are afraid that we may not find women candidates in some areas. There is a possibility; however, it was in practice even the time we were in the District Council. Even if no women candidate is found, it is not a problem. Regarding eviction of a member who is absent from the meeting three consecutive times, it is not the time that is important, but the reason of his absence. Some members are deliberately absent from the meeting just to create a problem. In such cases, we may add points to prevent such practices.

There are members who opined extension of V/C term as too long by extending another 18 months. Pu Speaker, it does not mean that we have to apply it compulsorily but only in the case of a critical condition. We have had some incidents which necessitated extension of such a period. However, we cannot exceed such a period under any circumstance; otherwise, we have to dissolve the V/C. It will not be applied unless it is needed.

Some members have opined V/C term as too long as it may be, for some of us. I opine a complaint does not have a limit even if it is 5 years or 3. The concerned department and our leaders are in the opinion that our system will be affected if a change occurs consistently. If a longer term is opined as unsatisfactory, we can always make an amendment as our House Leader pointed out. I, therefore, hope that all members will understand it.

Gram Sabha is a new body which is quite welcoming. Now the Rural Development Department has set up Gram Sabha in every village under their concern. The Social Welfare Department, under the Forest Dealer Act, also set up Gram Sabha in every village for its implementation. Regarding the term 'household' as stated by the opposition group leader Pu Zawma, it is not included in this amendment but remains in the original bill to determine the number of candidates entitled by a village.

Pu Speaker, there is one thing which I did not mention in regard to the submission of the Report against VCP. After taking enquiry, we have no rules to support for suspension or release and so we include that provision in this bill where as it is wrong for one to keep V/C seal and other materials while enquiry is in the process.

Pu Speaker, I am thankful to the Members for giving their valuable thoughts and time in the discussion of "The Lushai Hills District (Village Councils) (Amendment) Bill, 2014". I beg this august House to give permission for correction of patent errors and then pass the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon'ble Minister begs the House to pass the bill; those who are in favor say 'ayes'. Do we all agree? As we all agreed, I declare that this House has unanimously passed "The Lushai Hills (District Councils) (Amendment) Bill, 2014".

PU P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : As we thought we are going to be late we order refreshment. I invite you all to take time for the refreshment. Now, we will adjourn the meeting for resumption tomorrow, the 13th at 10:30 a.m.

Sitting is adjourned (4:25 p.m.)