

**SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
(ELEVENTH SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR TWELFTH SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 1st AUGUST, 2012
(Time 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM)

QUESTIONS

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

2. * Resolutions

NGURTHANZUALA
Secretary

* Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 225, Sl No. 1-10 dated the 25th July, 2012 for relative precedence of Private Members' Resolution to be moved.

SPEAKER : Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.
(Romans 13:7)

Starred Question No.201 is shared by Pu K.Lalrinthanga and Pu Lalrobiaka. Pu K.Lalrinthanga may ask this question.

Pu K. LALARINTHANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Our question is for the concerned Minister for Social Welfare Department.

- a) Are old citizen/veteran pensions given on monthly?
- b) How many have enjoyed old age pension today?
- c) Why is the amount of their pension not equal?
- d) How many are enjoying the widow relief scheme?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister Pu Lalthanliana to answer the question.

Pu P.C LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble Ministers questions are: -

- a) We are unable to give the pensions on monthly basis because the list needs to be updated and it takes time. We have given pensions upto the month of March and we have received sanctions till the month of June.
- b) The number of persons who have enjoyed old age pensions are 26,359 and among them, 23,505 receive ₹250 per month and 2,854 receive ₹550 per month.
- c) Due to the difference of their age, 80 yrs and above receive ₹500/- from the Central government plus ₹50/- from the State government. Below 80 yrs of age receive ₹200 from the Central Government and ₹50 from the State Government.
- d) Under IGMWPS scheme, there are 891 beneficiaries and they receive ₹200 per month.

SPEAKER : Supplementary questions may be stated by Pu Lalrobiaka followed by Pu K. Lalrinthanga.

Pu LALROBIAKA : Thank you Pu Speaker. My supplementary questions are: -

- a) Is there a scheme under Social Welfare Department for widows who lost their husbands who are daily bread earners?
- b) Does Social Welfare still distribute Hearing Aid, wheelchairs and walking sticks for senior citizens and physically challenged?

SPEAKER : Pu K. Lalrinthanga may ask his supplementary question.

Pu K. LALRINTHANGA : Pu Speaker, my supplementary question is: -
When is the proper time to submit recommendations for senior citizens who does not have anyone to take care of them?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA , MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I will start with the question of Pu Lalrobiaka.

Under National Family Benefit Scheme, an amount of ₹10,000/- are given to 614 Nos. widows of age 18 years - 64 years.

In the year 2009 and 2010, 140 Nos. of hearing aid and Wheel chair were purchased from Alimco and were distributed among those who need it. The equipments were sent out to every CDPO office in every district for easy access for concerned beneficiaries and recommendation concerned doctor also is necessary.

Regarding the question of Pu K. Lalrinthanga, I think recommendations could be submitted to our CDPO and the names will be registered in the list at appropriate time.

SPEAKER : Our next question is shared by Dr. R. Lalthangliana and Pu. P.P. Thawla. Dr. R. Lalthangliana may ask the question.

Dr R.LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, starred Question No.202: -

- a) Does this ministry intend to resume projects initiated by the former ministry such as restructuring Transport Department?
- b) What action has been taken against the order for restructuring Transport Department which was released in 2009 and being cancelled in 2010?
- c) Are there any new strategies for administering Transport Department?
- d) Are the posts of Station Superintendent still lying vacant for Saiha, Lawngtlai and Lunglei?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister, Pu P.C Zoram Sangliana is out of station but Pu J.H. Rothuama will answer the question in his place.

Pu J.H.ROTHUAMA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble minister's questions is: -

- a) Plans for the succession of Re- Structure of Transport Department are ongoing.
- b) Plans for re-structuring are reviewed and will be proceed for implementation. We are still waiting for the result for proposal for re-structuring.
- c) It will be decided after the re-structuring of the administration of the department.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No.203 and Dr. R. Lalthangliana to ask.

Dr.R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, My question is - Is there a pool bus for the government employees working in new secretariat complex and those living in the nearby areas.

SPEAKER : The hon'ble minister Pu J.H. Rothuama to answer the question.

Pu J.H. ROTHUAMA, MINISTER : The answer to the hon'ble member question is - City bus deployed by the State Transport Authority was discontinued by the owners but arrangement is made as M.S.T Bus is in service during this stop gap.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No.204 to be asked by Pu C. Ramhluna.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Pu Speaker, my questions are: -

- a) Is there a proposal to hand-over Vety Farm at Mampui to LADC, Lawngtlai District?
- b) If so, when will it be done?
- c) When will the incubator be repaired?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister Pu Nihar Kanti to answer the question.

Pu NIHAR KANTI, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, my answer is: -

- a) Yes.
- b) It is not possible to give the specific time.
- c) It will be exchanged with a brand new machine.

SPEAKER : Question No.205 will be asked by Pu K. Liantlinga.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question No.205 is for the concerned Minister of Environment & Forest Department: -
What progress has been made so far regarding shifting of riverine forest reserve?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister Pu H. Rohluna to answer the question.

Pu H. ROHLUNA, MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer is -

Under the chairmanship of the hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forest Department, a meeting was held among the senior officers on Dt.4.7.2011. A Joint meeting was held with the concerned ministers of Land Revenue & Settlement, Environment & Forest Department and Local Administration Department and in pursuance to the conclusion made by the committee; State Level Committee was established under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. Under the chairmanship of each concerned Deputy Commissioner, District Level Committee was established as per the Notification No.B.11020/6/20110-FST Dt.14.5.2012 to take the following initiatives as: -

- 1) Identify the settlement area within the riverine reserve forest.
- 2) Identify families who have revenue pass and utilize the land for cultivation.
- 3) Identify the area which is good for cultivation.
- 4) Identify the area of forest which may be exchanged with riverine reserve forest.

Revenue Department will not issue any land pass until all the initiatives are completed which is expected within six months. A review meeting may be held after three months.

SPEAKER : Supplementary questions, to be asked by Pu K. Liantlinga and Pu Lalduhoma.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Even though the project has not been fully implemented, has it been notified to the Central Government regarding this scheme? Thank you.

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

Pu H. ROHLUNA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, it has not been notified to the Central Government but I have once mentioned regarding this scheme in 2009 at the All India Forest Ministers' Meeting. Official information to the Ministry of Environment & Forest will be given only after the statistic is ready.

Regarding the question by Pu Lalduhoma, there have been so many encroachments which happened to be our main problem in the dealing. The concerned department has to take steps according to the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 but unfortunately, the former ministry had issued number of LSC within the riverine forest reserve area which also creates problems. Hopefully, encroachment problems will be resolved with the help of our resolutions.

SPEAKER : Pu T.T. Zothansanga to ask his question.

Pu T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : Pu Speaker, my question is for the concerned Minister of Environment & Forest: -

How many reserve forest do we have in Mizoram?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

Pu H. ROHLUNA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answer to the question of the hon'ble Minister is: -

The reserved forest in question comprises the following areas: -

- 1) Very dense forest - 134 sq. kms.
- 2) Moderately dense forest - 6,521 sq. kms.
- 3) Open forest - 12,855 sq. kms.

Total - 19,240 sq. kms.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question to be stated by Pu T.T. Zothansanga.

Pu T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : Pu Speaker, in Murlen National Park of my constituency, we have 20 Nos. of employees who have been working on M.R. basis for 20 years. Is there a way to promote them to a higher skill as suggested PCCF?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

Pu H. ROHLUNA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we have no plan to promote the said MR employees at the moment as their appointments are of centrally sponsored scheme. Since

most of our forests are being reserved as Sanctuaries, National Park etc., we may all take our parts in reservation of our forests.

SPEAKER : Next, Pu K. Liantlinga.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question is for the concerned Minister of Health & Family Welfare Department, starred Question No. 208: - Is it against the Rules that the government is not having plan for recruitment of 66 Nos. doctors on 3F Regulation?

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, this does not break the Mizoram Health Services (MHS) Rules, 2009.

Pu JOHN SIAMKUNGA : Pu Speaker, starred Question No.209 for the concerned minister of PHE Department: - When will the Greater Hnahthial Water Supply Scheme at Tuichang be completed?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister Pu S. Hiato to give the answer.

Pu S. HIATO, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the ongoing work of Greater Hnahthial Water Supply Sheme at Tuichang will be completed before March, 2013.

SPEAKER : Dr. R. Lalthangliana to ask his supplementary question.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, my questions are as follows: -

- a) It is learned that there is a plan for construction of another water supply scheme for Lunglei area. So, how and from which the project will be funded and what progress has been made in this regard?
- b) What progress has been made in regard to Buarpui water supply project?

SPEAKER : The concerned minister to answer the question.

Pu S. HIATO, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, regarding Lunglei Greater Water Supply, we are surveying Mat river and DPR will be prepared after surveying work is done. Regarding Buarpui water supply scheme, we have made a survey and after the completion, application will be submitted either to DoNER or Urban & Rural Development, the Govt. of India.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrobiaka to ask Starred Question No.211.

Pu LALROBIAKA : Starred question No.211, which is for the concerned Minister of Transport Department: - The system of taxi services on every alternate day is no longer in practice. Is it because of the initiative of the Taxi Owners Association?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

Pu J.H. ROTHUAMA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, it is not due to the initiative of the taxi owners or taxi drivers.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ramhluna to ask starred Question No.212.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Pu Speaker, my question is for the concerned Minister of Transport Department: -

- a) What is the cost of high security number plate?
- b) Is anyone being assigned to take up the work?
- c) What is the deadline for every vehicle to have a high security number plate?
- d) Does the transport department take VAT from high security number plate?

SPEAKER : Pu J.H. Rothuama to answer the question.

Pu J.H. ROTHUAMA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answer to the question of the hon'ble member are as follows: -

- a) The costs of high security number plate for various types of vehicles are as follows: -
 - i) Two wheeler (scooter) - ₹669/-
 - ii) Two wheeler (motorcycle) - ₹668/-
 - iii) Three wheeler (passenger & goods) - ₹940/-
 - iv) Light, Medium & Heavy Commercial vehicle/trailers combination - ₹945/-
- b) Yes.
- c) The 26th April, 2014.
- d) Transport Department does not impose VAT in this regard.

SPEAKER : Pu T.T. Zothansanga to ask starred Question No.213.

Pu T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : My question, Pu Speaker is: - Is anyone filed a court case in regard to the election of MADC?

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

Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, it is not known that a court case being filed regarding MADC election.

SPEAKER : Pu T.T. Zothansanga to ask Supplementary question.

Pu T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : There have been many complaints relating to EVM in the recently concluded election of MADC. Pu Speaker, if the hon'ble Chief Minister who also is in-charge of the Election Commission is aware that the Election Commission takes any complains against EVM as of serious matter?

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

Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, anyone have the right to freedom of speech. I will inquire if the Election Commission finds this offensive but I have read that EVM cannot be muddled.

SPEAKER : Dr R. Lalthangliana will ask starred Question No.214.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, starred Question No.214 are as follows: -

a) Revenue Collection of Transport Department for the last three years i.e. 2009-2010, 2010-2011 & 2011-2012 by the following Wings: -

- i) MST Wing
 - ii) MV/STA Wing
- b) Total Number of employees under (i) and (ii).

SPEAKER : On behalf of concerned minister, Pu J.H. Rothuama may give the answer.

Pu J.H. ROTHUAMA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, here is the answer.

a)

Sl/No	Wing	2009-10 (in lakh)	2010-11 (in lakh)	2011-12 (in lakh)
1	MST/ CPP	202.11	232.82	214.58
2	MV/STA	813.71	929.23	1852.11

b) Total No. of employees under: -

- i) MST Wing - 527 Nos
- ii) MV/STA Wing - 113 Nos.

SPEAKER : Pu K. Liantlinga to ask starred Quesiton No. 215.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, my question is: - May the hon'ble Minister gives the amount of tax received from different types of vehicle from the year 2008 -2012?

SPEAKER : Since concerned minister is absent today, Pu J.H. Rothuama may give the answer in his stead.

Pu J.H. ROTHUAMA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer is: - The amount of vehicle tax received from transport department during the period 2008 - 2012 is ₹2,804.36 lakhs.

SL.No	Financial Year	Road Tax	Passenger & Goods tax	Total
1.	2008 - 2009	285.89	143.83	429.72
2.	2009 - 2010	311.92	134.45	446.37
3.	2010 - 2011	352.34	193.27	545.61
4.	2011 - 2012	1180.38	202.28	1382.66
	Grand Total	2130.53	673.83	2804.36

SPEAKER : Next, Pu John Siamkunga to ask starred Question No.216.

Pu JOHN SIAMKUNGA : Pu Speaker, my questions are as follows: -

- a) When will the post of a doctor at South Vanlaiphai be filled up?
- b) Is it possible to post more doctors at Hnahthial CHC?

SPEAKER : Since the concerned Minister is absent, the hon'ble Minister, Pu R.Lalzirliana may answer in his stead.

Pu R.LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER : The answer are as follows: -

- a) Due to the lack of manpower, we are unable give a specific timing for filling up the post of doctor in South Vanlaiphai.
- b) Due to the lack of manpower, there is no plan for posting of more doctors in Hnahthial PHC.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ramhluna to ask starred Question No. 218.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Pu Speaker, my question is for the concerned Minister for Health & Family Welfare Department –

- a) How many posts of Health Workers are there in Mizoram?
- b) How many male and female health workers are appointed on regular appointments, under state contract, RCH and NRHM?
- c) What is the amount of remuneration provided to those of State contract employees and Central contract employees?
- d) When will the contractual employees be regularized?

SPEAKER : Pu R. Lalzirliana may answer the question since the concerned minister is absent today.

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER : The answer is: -

- a) There are 382 Nos. of male post and 388 Nos. of female post in Mizoram.
- b) The present status of Health Workers in Mizoram are: –
 - i) Regular - 237 males and 310 females.
 - ii) State Contract - 20 males and 13 females.
 - iii) RCH Contract - 12 males and 79 females.
 - iv) NRHM Contract - 110 males and 231 females

Total - 379 males and 633 females.
Grand total - 1012.
- c) The amount of remuneration to State Contractual employees - ₹11,360/- and Contract Employees under Central contract schemes are: -

Category I	-	900
Category II	-	2
Category III	-	10800.
- d) We are unable to give the timing for regularization of contractual employees.

SPEAKER : Pu T.T Zothansanga to ask starred Question No.219.

Pu T.T ZOTHANSANGA : My question is: - What are the awards received by Health Department?

SPEAKER : Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the question.

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer is: - The Awards received by Health department are as follows: -

- 1) Second position in outstanding improvement in NRHM, 2010.
- 2) Award for Most improvement in State Health Sector Small State, 2011.
- 3) Award for Outstanding Improvement in Programme Implementation of RSBY in North East Region, 2011.
- 4) Population Foundation of India in J.R.D - Tata Memorial Award, 2012.

SPEAKER : We have come to the end of question hour and we will move on to Private Member's Resolution. I will call upon Pu Lalduhoma to move his Resolution, "Skilled-I of the Mizoram Home Guard Volunteers may be placed at the status of work-charge".

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, there are about 1020 Home Guards in Mizoram out of which about 80/90 are deployed in different parts of Mizoram and about 150 in the ministerial service. Much progress had been made to promote their status, but at the same time, many improvements as of the advantage they can enjoy needs to be made.

Earlier, the hon'ble member Pu R.L. Pianmawia submitted the same resolution but unfortunately it was not selected in the balloting but it gives me immense pleasure to know that we share the same opinion regarding my private resolution. So, I move this resolution that, "Skilled-I Mizoram Home Guard Volunteers may be placed at the status of work-charge" and appeal to the House to pass this resolution.

SPEAKER : We will start the discussion and each member will have 10 minutes. The concerned minister raised his hand so Pu R. Lalzirliana, the hon'ble Minister may have his time.

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, in comparison to all the other states' Home Guards, Mizoram is the second best in India in the advantages and services they enjoy. They enjoy 15 days paternity leave and 45 days maternity leave, as their duty allowance have been increased. They also enjoy rifle allowance and ration allowance as their washing allowance has also been increased and rank pay for Corporal, Sergeant.

Work-charge status can only be given to technical department such as PHE, PWD and Power & Electricity Department and after completion of a project, they are automatically terminated. So, if we have to put our Home Guards on work charge status, they will all be terminated from their post. So, as a concerned Minister of Home Department, I know it is impossible and I think we do not need to discuss this any further.

SPEAKER : Pu R.L. Lianmawia.

Pu R.L. PIANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Regarding this resolution, I, a simple man who does not know ways of establishment in the government share the same opinion with Pu Lalduhoma, but considering the rules and regulations of the establishment of the government, I support the concerned minister and request the hon'ble member to withdraw his resolution as this is an impossible. Thank you.

Lt. Col. Z.S. ZUALA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Many of our ex-servicemen are recruited as Home Guards and for sometime they were look after by ex-servicemen. They have also established a training centre at Sesawng. Work- charge level is a CPWD terminology and they are not link with the department at all and though they are very favourable to promote them to a work- charge level, it will be against the code of conduct and of the government rules. So, I oppose this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalthansanga.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Pu Speaker, funds for taking care of our Home Guards are a matching share between the Central government and the State Government. At present 232 posts are lying vacant and I opined this should be filled up as it will provide employment to many. Home Guards are deployed in different station, from guarding the VIP to the FCI godown. So, considering the importance of their duty, I propose we should at least increase their salary and take initiatives for them to enjoy a pension scheme if we are unable to promote them to a work-charge level. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu K. Lalrinthanga.

Pu K.LALRINTHANGA : Pu Speaker, the hon'ble member Pu Lalduhoma is also a veteran and I am sure he will know the ways of establishment in this issue. I also think he is aware that work-charge status could only be given in technical departments like PHE, PWD and P & E. We should also keep in mind how work-charge appointment is automatically terminated after completing the project. So, I do not have much to say regarding this resolution but suggest we should not pass this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Hmingdailova Khiangte.

Pu HMINGDAILOVA KHIANGTE : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Our Home Guards are trained by Army pensioners as so unlike other states, their standards are also different and they are also equipped with rifles. They will befit perfectly if they have to enter into the police academy. But, to put them to a work-charge status is technically impossible since it is only applicable in PHE, PWD and P & E Departments. So, it may also be wise to withdraw this resolution and I suggest we do not pass this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu R. Selthuama.

Pu R. SELTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, this resolution is very thoughtful and will be very beneficial. Our Home Guards are very commendable and they are also efficient in performing their duty. But work-charge status is under central PWD manual and will not be applicable for them. Though I would like to support this resolution very much, it is technically impossible to accede to this resolution. So, I suggest that we should only discuss this and not proceed to pass the resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu K. Liantlinga.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, the status of our Home Guards has been promoted in the former session and I am sure we are all aware of the importance of their duty. They are deployed in the House of VIP's, Banks, Godown and other important places. I think we should have a broad mind in this matter; let us take the term 'work-charge' as an error and use another word like, 'IV Grade'. So, I think we should be more open minded and consider this as an effort to give a better privilege to our Home Guards by upgrading their status as this will benefit the people. As Legislators, we have the authority to make a change in the rules for the benefit of the people and I think this is the time to exercise our powers. SO, I request all my hon'ble fellow members to be more open minded in this issue and pursue to pass this resolution for the benefit of the people. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ramhluna.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The State Government gives importance to our Home Guards and I am glad for the initiatives they have taken.

From our discussion we seem to be of the opinion that it is impossible to pass this resolution because of the the rules. But I want to say that we are legislators who are here to make the rules or change it if needed. So, let us consider this very carefully. The 232 vacant posts are still not filled up and from the CAG report, 2002 – 2011; Home Guards are deployed in 9 different agencies. Pu Speaker, they are very useful and I think we should consider the merit of this resolution and I suggest we should all agree to pass this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Chawngtinthanga.

Pu CHAWNGTINTHANGA: Pu Speaker, considering all the advantages made by the State government to benefit our Home Guards like the ration allowances, rifle allowances, rank pay and many others, I am glad that Mizoram holds the 2nd best position in the administration of Home Guards all over India. Pu Speaker, the hon'ble member Pu Liantlinga stated that we can amend and make the rules and to consider this resolution with a broad mind. But we have to know that we are bound to our constitution and we cannot amend and make laws which might breach the constitution.

Regarding the placing of our Home Guards in 'workcharge' status, we all know that it is technically not possible as this status is only applicable to departments like PHE, PWD and P & E. Besides they will be terminated soon after the completion of the department's project. But I understand the benefits it will bring to our Home Guards. So, I suggest that we try to form or create another way in another resolution? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Morning session is over and we will resume the discussion at 2:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m.

SPEAKER : So far, eleven members have their say. We will now invite Pu K.Lianzuala.

Pu K. LIANZUALA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to urge our respected member to reconsider his resolution as I believed that he is not well prepared and not well informed.

We are aware of the importance of Home Guard service and the tremendous service they provide to the people. Their performance and discipline is even superior to the army and police services. The government has provided them with numerous incentives and additional services to them and I hope that they will continue in the future.

However, I believe it is in the interest of all persons concerned that this resolution should be retract as the mentioned Work-charge Skilled I is not practical as they do not have existing work-charge for the volunteers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu P.P. Thawla

Pu P.P. THAWLA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I believe the current resolution regarding Mizoram Home Guard is rolled out in good faith with acute understanding of the workings and accomplishments achieved by them. Over the years, the current ministry has bestowed several allowances and benefits for the service and I believe that it will continue to do so in the future.

I am among the lucky individual who get to witness the commitment and sincerity with which they perform their duties. Their importance is in par with the police service and their current number is not satisfactory. In order to entice the youth to volunteer for this service, we need to make the benefits and allowances more attractive and as such, I would like to pledge my support for this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu T.T Zothansanga

Pu T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. First of all, when submitting their resolutions, I would like to urge the members to keep the public and their betterment foremost in their minds. I would also like to mention that I have tremendous respect for the owner of the resolution.

In regards to the promotion of home guard volunteers to work-charge or work-charge level, I completely support the statement made by our respected home minister as I believe that our current situation is not comparable to other more developed states in India and as such cannot bestow all the benefits that it has given to their subjects.

I find it disheartening that they are being used as a symbol due to political reasons. Due to our current financial situation I believe that it would be more practical to improve their ration, uniforms and other benefits instead of changing it to work charge level. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu R. Lalrinawma

Pu R. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. There were times when the home guard services have given up hope of ever receiving benefits and improvement from the government. However, during the last few years the current ministry has introduced several benefits, medical facilities and allowances. As an ex-legal adviser for the home guard, I would like to thank the ministry for that.

In regards to the resolution, the ministry is still working on ways to improve benefits and allowances with the possibility of becoming a full time employees of departments such as excise, environment and forest, police and prison departments. At present promoting them to work charge level is not feasible as it means that they can be allotted at departments such as PWD, PHE, P&E etc which do not require their services. Lastly, we are all aware of the work the ministry has done for them and can be misconstrued by other services that do not enjoy the same and as such I would like to mention that the resolution should not be passed during this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu S. Laldingliana

Pu S. LALDINGLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. We have all heard of the amazing and sincere work performed by the home guard volunteer services and I would like to add that they have also performed outside of their normal duty all over Mizoram.

Having said that the government has favored them and with your permission I would like a few of the changes made for them. Duty allowance has increased from ₹ 143 to ₹184 and since 1.7.2010 increased to ₹ 235 which means that even the lowest rank can now receive ₹ 7855 a month. They now have enjoyed ration allowance, rifle allowance and washing allowance. The allowances of corporals, sergeants and quarter masters have also been increased.

The above statement clearly shows that the government recognized the work performed by the services and as such bestow several benefits and allowances whenever possible. Also, we have also heard the reasons why this resolution cannot be passed, and why it will not change the current setup even if we passed the resolution. As such I would like to respectfully urge our respected member to retract his resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrobiaka

Pu LALROBIKA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I empathies with the owner of the resolution as I also felt that the Home Guard has performed a great service for the people of Mizoram and would like to see them rewarded as much as possible. As mentioned before, we are

all aware of the benefits and allowances they have received from the government such as rifles allowance, ration allowance and washing allowance. Be that as it may, I believe the resolution is not in line with the opportunities available within the service.

Keeping in mind the financial issues the government is currently facing, I believe the current resolution is not possible even though they have excellent performance. They have 24 hours duty in several banks, jails, VIP duty, FCI, supply godown and even as traffic duty. I would like to mention the benefit they have enjoyed which I was not aware of. On top of 45 days maternity leave, they are also entitled to 15 days paternity leave and 30 days medical leave. They also have quotas in different departments such as Police – 10%, Excise – 5%, Forest – 5% and Prison – 5%. They also have ex-gratia grand. Keeping in mind the number of benefits and allowances they have and are currently enjoying and with the current financial situation of the government as it is, I believe this resolution is not possible and would like to kindly request our respected member to retract this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Nirupam Chakma

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. With all due respect, the current resolution is not at all possible as the Home Guard service as they do not have any Work attached and thus do not possess any work to charge. However, I do believe that the government should find a way to upgrade their status and improve the facility provided to them since their nature of duty is quite important which include security related duties.

SPEAKER : Are they provided with the appropriate firearms?

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : They perform the same duties and carry the same responsibilities as CRP. They are provided with firearms during their duties....

SPEAKER : While you are standing, does the government allot security from the Home Guard Service instead of Police at Pu Nihar Kanti's residence?

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Yes, Pu Speaker, that is the case at my residence as well. Even though I do not support the resolution, I believe their status and position should carry the same level of respect as the CRP and as such they should be rewarded with the appropriate facilities and benefits and their level of position should be upgraded. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinmawia Ralte followed by Pu H. Zothangliana.

Pu LALRINMAWIA RALTE : Pu Speaker, thank you. As mentioned before me by our respected members, I wholly support the importance, involvement and service provided by the Home Guard Service. However, I do believe that the current resolution does not reflect their current situation due to the fact that they are not in possession of work and as such the work cannot exist for them to charge.

I would like to state the government has done and intend to do everything it can to improve and upgrade the current situation of the home guards. Next to Punjab, Mizoram is the highest state to bestow benefits and allowances to the home guards in India. Even though their

nature of duty and their fitness and training is in par with police, it is not possible for them to receive the same remuneration as them given our financial situation at present. The state government has paid for 70% of the cost for their maintenance and the rest is funded by the central government. However, the central government still owed more than 14 crores since 2002-2003 for their upkeep and the government is still pursuing this so that they can receive the fund owed to them.

Even though they deserve all the financial and non-financial upgrade mentioned before, at present the government has no available resource to make that happen and as such I would like to voice my opinion and would like to mention that at present the resolution should not be passed. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Zothangliana

Pu H. ZOTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. As mentioned before me, I wholly support the exceptional duties performed by the Home Guard service and believe that they deserve rewards and benefits in line to their nature of work. However, due to several reasons, one being the financial strain the government is currently facing I believe it is not possible to pass the resolution as it is.

Taking the resolution in another direction, it can be interpreted as creating a vacant post i.e. reserved post for them in departments such as PWD, PHE and P&E as they did in departments such as police, excise & narcotics, E&F and prison. Again, this is also not possible at the moment due to financial reasons.

As mentioned earlier, 70% of the Non-Plan expenditure is spend as salary for government workers with only 30% leftover for the general public. And as such I would like to mention that the resolution cannot be passed during this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Joseph Lalhimpua followed by Dr. R. Lalthangliana. After that we shall have to invite the House Leader followed by the mover.

Pu JOSEPH LALHIMPUA: Pu Speaker, thank you. We have heard many times the work performed by the Home Guard Services and I also have seen and visited their training centre several times and have seen firsthand the amount of discipline they possess and the level of training they received and would like to mention that it is one of the best and the quality of their training and service is no less than the police department or other services.

One suggestion I would like to contribute is the introduction of skill development under trade or industries department. This will enable and prepare them for life beyond the service. I would also like to mention that the men within the service are on duty for 24 hours while other home guards within the country are on duty for only nine hours at one time. This shows their dedication to their work and I believe that they deserve recognition and commendation for this alone.

Having said that, even though this resolution will greatly benefit the service I believe during this time the government has no possible solution to make this resolution happen. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. R. Lalthangliana

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. This resolution has an added value due to the fact that the owner of the resolution has firsthand experience within the force as well as being under his area of constituency. Due to this, I feel that we should try our utmost to make this resolution a reality and should not stop at just commending the service on their tremendous contribution to the people of Mizoram.

I would also like to mention that the previous ministry also played a role in improving and upgrading the benefits and allowances enjoyed by the Home Guard volunteers. These upgrades include increasing washing allowance, trading allowance, mess allowance and out of pocket fund among many others.

The duty area for the Home Guard volunteers is quite broad than we expected which includes central and district jails, power house, FCI godown, DC offices and residences, VIP duty, radio station, medical stores, Lengpui airport and many others. Due to this they were given opportunities and quotas in several departments.

I believe this House should try our utmost and should look for ways to upgrade and improve their position given the amount of work they performed with dedication. We can remove the technicality of the rules and amend the rules so that their future ends at just skill-I and rule out the nature of work-charge so that this resolution can be passed. Lastly I would like to mention that I support this resolution and would like to urge the members of this House to support this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Although Pu P.C. Lalthanliana has raised his hands, I have to deny him his say regarding this resolution as we are almost at the end of our session and running out of time. We will now invite the concern Minister.

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. I have already had my say and would like to mention just one point. I have no doubt regarding the performance and discipline shown by the home guards and if possible would like to pass this resolution. However, we do have existing rules and regulations and under that rule, we cannot pass this resolution if we do not amend the rule first. As the time for amendment has already passed I believe this resolution cannot be passed during this time. This is not to say that we can always come back and reconsider the rules to make this resolution happen in the future. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Would the House Leader like to have his say?

Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. After all said and done, this resolution is an interesting and important one and I wholly agree with our members in the sense that they deserve recognition and rewards for their endless service to the

general public. I would also like to mention that any resolution, regardless of the owner will be passed by the House if they benefit the general public as a whole.

As explained earlier by our respected Home Minister, the resolution as it stands is not in line with the existing rules. If the resolution has come as a way to amend the rules, then that makes it a whole different situation and we might be able to make that happen. However, with the rules currently as it is, the resolution is not possible to be brought forward.

I also believe that it is unfair to compare them to other work charge departments such as PWD and PHE as their area of work and duty completely varies. As mentioned earlier, I believe Mizoram home guards are one of the most decorated and recognized within the entire country. I, for one would like to commend them on the amount of discipline and commitment they have shown to their work and duties and regret to say that during this time this resolution cannot be passed due to the existing rules and the current financial situation. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now invite the owner of the resolution and he has the permission to request for the adoption of this resolution.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. The one thing that is foremost in our minds when submitting resolution by opposing MLA's is that "Will the resolution be passed? Will it get through?" We seldom submit resolution that we feel will not be passed.

One of the main reasons for my submission of this resolution is that there is no file of any sort prepared by the Cabinet during 20th March 2009 which was mentioned by the Home Minister. On the contrary, the Home Guard Association is at its wits end due to nonexistent action from the government.

I would like to explain and clear the air regarding the definition of 'Work Charge' mentioned earlier. We do not have to take the work literally as it simply means to explain the scale or level of their positions well as their pay scale. It means that instead of ending their service at just Skilled-I level, they should be promoted to Work Charge level. As for the mentioned rules and regulations, there was never any change in rules when the Skilled-II workers were promoted to Skilled-I, it was just decided by the Ministry. If that was possible before, why is it not possible now? Why the mention of rules now?

SPEAKER : Just a minute, we are nearly out of time now.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, I am almost done. What I am asking for is not much, Pu Speaker. Even if they are promoted to work charge level, they still would not be in the level of Grade-IV regular post. The Home Guards are self-sufficient and pays for themselves when they perform their duties. If we can develop them and invest in them, they can be used in the same cadre as IR Bn and we will also benefit more if we can promote them to regular force. Lastly, I would like to request the House to take into consideration the benefits that can be seen from passing this resolution and would like to beg them to support this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will now take a vote on the resolution "Promotion of Mizoram Home Guard volunteers from Skilled-I to Work Charge level", all in favor of the

resolution say “Agree” and those who do not say “Disagree”. The voice vote has a majority of members who do not agree. At this time the resolution “Promotion of Mizoram Home Guard volunteers from Skilled-I to Work Charge level” has not been passed by the House.

We have completed our business for the day and will continue our session tomorrow, i.e. 2.8.2012 at 10:30 AM.

Sitting adjourned at 4:05 PM