

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

**FOR FOURTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2009
(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

SPEAKER : Commit your way to the Lord; Trust
in him and he will do this.

- Psalms 37:5

A resolution will be introduced today and it will be the main subject of today's business. However, we will begin with Question Hour. Let us begin with Starred Question No.31 asked by Mr. K. Liantlinga and will the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Mr. R. Lalzirliana please be ready to kindly furnish the reply.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the
hon'ble Minister for Rural Development
Department be pleased to state –

(a) Has the central government sanctioned ₹.100
crores for NLUP?

(b) If yes, can I have a copy of the sanctioning letter?

(c) Is there any intention to distribute ₹.1 lakh to each family?
If yes, when will it be implemented?

SPEAKER : The hon'ble Minister for Rural

Development Department, Mr. Lalzirliana may kindly provide the answer.

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

(a) We have requested ₹. 100 crores at the central government for the implementation of NLUP and the Planning Commission has accepted our request.

(b) The sanctioning letter cannot be produced at this time as the Annual Plan for 2009-2010 has yet to be finalized because of the MP election.

(c) A scheme will be created for each family through which they may avail up to ₹.1 lakh under the NLUP. It will be implemented when the Annual Plan Budget for 2009-2010 is in effect.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know if the planning and implementation of the scheme would be done transparently and may I be provided with the sanctioning letter of each central grants?

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : A supplementary question please, Pu Speaker. I am a little unclear regarding 'the point for consideration of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission' in the letter to the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia. The hon'ble Chief Minister said in page two of the letter that 'the entire programme would involve an estimated tentative expenditure of ₹.2500 crores over a period of 5 years. Therefore, even if the central has sanctioned ₹. 100 crores for this new financial year, wouldn't it take at least 25 years to cover all the family with the promised amount?

In his letter to the hon'ble Chief Minister, the Prime Minister of India mentioned the financial difficulty faced by India and therefore I would like to know how the NLUP would be accommodated from the normal budget. Can the government really implement such a huge programme with the economic and financial crisis currently affecting the world?

Pu LALDUHOMA : Two more questions please, Pu

Speaker. Firstly, Will the NLUP affect our Budget or is it a separate Prime Minister package ? Second, how will it be implemented? Will it be distributed in installments and how much will be given in the first installment?

SPEAKER : The hon'ble RD Minister may furnish the answer.

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER : I would like to assure the hon'ble member, Mr. Liantlinga that the sanctioning process will be wholly transparent. We have requested a 30 per cent increase in our budget and if that is finalized, we are confident that we may be able to implement the NLUP even from our normal plan budget. The amount given to each family would be impossible to predict because of the difference in the trade a family may have selected.

SPEAKER : As the House Leader is also the Chairman of the NLUP Board, I am sure he can provide us with more information about the project which might have been missed by the hon'ble RD Minister.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Precisely. As the Chairman of the Board, the House Leader would have more information to supply on that regard.

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, nothing has been finalized by the central or the state. We are going to implement the scheme as we have promised. So what is the purpose of making all this fuss when the government is only 3 months old?

SPEAKER : The Group Leader may add any

information he thinks are relevant.

Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we are trying to avail as much grants from the central as possible. I would also like to assure the hon'ble members that we will live up to their expectations. We have never said that the NLUP scheme will be implemented within 5 years. Furthermore, the policy makers never claimed that ₹.1 lakh would be given to each family. The amount will vary in accordance to the trade selected by a family. Instead of a single nodal department, a board has been set up to coordinate the implementation. We have decided to request a grant of around ₹.100 crores as a first installment because we are aware that with the lack of efficiency and discipline we will not be able to spend more than that.

Even if a special package is sanctioned from the central, we believe that it would be more useful if it is integrated in the normal plan. We will request the assistance of NGOs and the Church if it is necessary to ensure the success of the scheme. A social audit will also be organized to make sure the scheme is implemented transparently. A careful study of the scheme will be conducted to make sure that the farmers and peasants in the villages choose the most productive trades.

The scheme could never be implemented within 5 years and we have never made such claims. It is imperative to be cautious and such a huge encompassing scheme will take at least 10-15 years to completely unfold.

SPEAKER : We will move on to Starred Question No. 32. The hon'ble member, Mr. B. Lalthlengliana may ask the question.

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister of School Education Department be pleased to state - when will the Primary School Hindi Teachers selected by the DPC be given appointments?

SPEAKER : The hon'ble Minister of School Education Department may kindly furnish the answer.

Pu LALSAWTA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon'ble member's question is: as the

sanction from the central has not yet been received, we are unable to say with certainty when the appointment will be given.

SPEAKER : No supplementary question ? Very well, let us invite the hon'ble member, Mr. B. Lalthlengliana to ask Starred Question No. 33.

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Department be pleased to state –

i) Has the Agriculture department distributed any potato seed, water pipe or net/wires for Sihphir and Sihphir Vengthar during January-February, 2009?

ii) If yes, who is the person responsible for procuring it? How many items were distributed and who will be the recipients?

iii) Was it intended to be hoarded by local party leaders and meant for party workers only?

Pu H.LIANSILOVA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the question are as follows :

i) During January-February 2009, the Agriculture department has distributed water pipes for 40 persons living in Sihphir and Sihphir Vengthar. No potato seedlings or net/wires was distributed.

ii) 40 rolls of HDPE 25 mm pipes was given to Mr. Lalthardenga and others for distribution in Sihphir and Sihphir Vengthar as the annexure-1 indicated.

iii) It was not meant only for party workers.

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, my information could be

wrong but it was rumoured that the pipes were taken from the agriculture office and stored at the residence of party leaders. If such an incident has really transpired, can the hon'ble Minister assure me that it will not happen again?

SPEAKER : A supplementary question from the hon'ble member, Mr. R. Lalrinawma.

Pu R. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, are these pipes normally given to civilians privately? Second, will it be safe to stock the pipes in the streets instead of a private residence?

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, where will it be safest to stock the pipes? Will it be safest at the Group President's house?

Pu H. LIANSILOVA,
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I have a feeling the hon'ble members know where the pipes would be safest. The recipients were genuinely in need of the pipes and if none of the pipes were lost, I see no further reason to create such a fuss.

SPEAKER : Let us invite Pu K. Liantlinga to ask Starred Question No. 34.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Department be pleased to state –

a) Is there any intention to create a Social Welfare Director Recruitment Rules?

b) Since when did the Social Welfare Department been elevated to a Directorate?

S P E A K E R : The Hon'ble Minister for Social

Welfare Department may furnish the answer.

Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA MINISTER : The answer to the Hon'ble Member's question, Pu Speaker, are-

a) Indeed we are planning to create a Director Recruitment Rules while a Draft Recruitment Rules has already been completed and is being finalized at this time.

b) The Social Welfare Department was made a full fledged directorate in 1983.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, my supplementary question is, is there a plan to enlarge the Directorate since there are about 20 officers in the entry grade who are sorely due for promotion?

Pu R. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, my supplementary question is – Do they hope to complete the task in three months when the previous Ministry was unable to do it during their term?

Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I would like to offer my gratitude to the Hon'ble Member for his concern about the Social Department.

It is no secret that the Rules have been submitted for approval several times in the past but it has not been approved so far. It is a department which requires specific expertise and hence creation of the rules poses a difficult objective for the department. The Department submitted the Recruitment Rules in 25th October, 2005 to the DP&AR and we hope that it will be approved soon. There is no intention to enlarge the Directorate at this moment but the government is planning to develop it gradually in the future.

SPEAKER : The hon'ble member, Mr. Nirupam

Chakma may ask the Starred Question No. 35.

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Department be pleased to state –

1) what is the amount of Special Central Assistance under Article 275 of the Constitution of India for the development of Tribals in Mizoram during 2007-2008, 2008-2009 financial years?

2) Whether the government of Mizoram has given any share to the Autonomous District Councils in Mizoram out of the fund received under the said Article.

Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA MINISTER : The answers to the hon'ble member's questions, Pu Speaker, are –

1) The total amount of funds received under Special Central Assistance under Article 275 during 2007-2008 financial year is ₹.3,53,38,000 and ₹.3,67,41,000 for the 2008-2009 financial year.

2) As the fund is meant for the development of the state as a whole, it cannot be restricted for the development of a particular district or council.

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, the Chakma Autonomous Council has not received any of the funds. Can the government make necessary arrangements to ensure that the Council will receive its due this financial year?

SPEAKER : The hon'ble Minister, Social Welfare Department may kindly furnish the reply.

Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA MINISTER : As I have said before Pu Speaker, the fund is meant for the whole state. A

particular district council cannot be favoured in its utilization. However, if a project is proposed and the government feels that the project is worth pursuing, we are always ready to extend assistance to the district.

SPEAKER : I would like to support the hon'ble member as the area is even more undeveloped than the rest of the state. The government should ponder more about how to improve their condition. Mr. Lalrinawma may ask Starred Question No. 36.

Pu R.LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister for Vigilance Department be pleased to state –

- a) Is there any intention to use the Central Civil Service Conduct Rules with more rigidity?
- b) Has the government employees submitted all the Property Return/Annual Return last year?
- c) In what way does the government propose to take action about the Property Return/Annual Return during 2009-2010?

SPEAKER : Let us invite the hon'ble Minister for Vigilance Department, Lal Thanhawla to provide the answer.

Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER : The answer to the hon'ble member's question is –

- a) It will be exercised in accordance with the Rules.
- b) We are unable to determine if all of them were submitted at this time but it is highly unlikely, from past experience.
- c) Necessary action will be taken in accordance with the Rules.

SPEAKER : Any supplementary question? No?

Very well. Let us invite Mr. B. Lalthlengliana next, to ask Starred Question No. 37.

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Will the hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Department be pleased to state – when will the Normal Housing Loan, the recipients of which were already selected by the previous ministry, be dispensed?

SPEAKER : The hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Department, P.C. Thanliana may kindly furnish the answer.

Pu P.C.LALTHANLIANA MINISTER : The selection made by the Board in the previous ministry was cancelled.

SPEAKER : A supplementary question from Mr. B. Lalthlengliana.

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, I would like to know why it was cancelled.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Can the government find a way to increase the amount of Housing Loans?

SPEAKER : Mr. P.C. Thanliana may furnish the answer.

Pu P.C.LALTHANLIANA MINISTER : It was felt that the Board in the previous ministry was not efficient in

its function as well as in the selection of applicants. The loan was granted to individuals who did not even apply and as the House Leader has said, a sanction is also yet to be made. Therefore, to rectify the mistake, we felt that a new Board should be set up and fresh application advertised.

As to Mr. Lalduhoma's question, we are trying to increase the loan amount. Thank you.

SPEAKER : With that we have finished the Question Hour. We have 3 members, viz. Mr. S. Laldingliana, Brig. T. Sailo and Mr. P.C. Zoram Sangliana absent. Can the members accept their request for pardon? Yes? Very well.

We will now continue with our main business of today. 9 resolutions have been submitted by the members and we will start with the first resolution.

Pu LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I would like to make a suggestion with your permission. Some of the resolutions appear to be subjects we would all agree upon, if the movers can discuss it simultaneously, we would save a lot of time for the other more complicated resolutions.

SPEAKER : That would depend on the members.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, the House Leader's suggestion is very reasonable. However, this is the first time we would discuss a business like this, so I would like to advise that we study the rule book first.

Pu LALDUHOMA : I think the suggestion is extremely

welcome since it might mean the passing of an opposition member's resolution.

Pu LALSAWTA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I think it is time we adopt a new system. I would like to extend my support to the House Leader's suggestion.

SPEAKER : In any case, we will not discuss the resolutions simultaneously so that it would not be too troublesome for those keeping records.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, some things can be modified with the members' consent. If we can pass three resolutions at a time, it would save us valuable time.
But if we will be able to finish the discussion anyway I have no complaints either way.

SPEAKER : Very well, we will try to discuss the common resolutions after the first resolution has been discussed. Each member will be given 15 minutes.
Let us invite the hon'ble member Lalpianmawia to move his resolution.

Pu R.L.PIANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker for allowing me to move my resolution entitled, 'proposal to amend the Mizoram Health Care Scheme for further benefit of the poor'.

The government of Mizoram has started implementing the health care scheme only last year and we have seen how useful it is, especially for the poorer section of the society. However, it would appear that the scheme can be utilized in an even more beneficial manner, and that is precisely why I have decided to propose the amendment.

The former ministry made a deal with Reliance company to implement the scheme but the government drew the fund from the state plan fund in

advance. Over ₹.27 crores was given to Reliance and the remaining two and a half crores was set aside for patients with terminal diseases. The scheme was a failure.

After this Ministry has assumed power, the hon'ble Chief Minister, Lal Thanhawla and the hon'ble Health Minister, Lalrinliana Sailo tried their best to continue the scheme. Due to their effort, the central government has agreed to sanction the amount of over one crore to assist the failing scheme. However, stipulated time is drawing closer and the Reliance company has given only ₹.10 crores while they have received ₹.25 crores from the government. As a result, the poorer sections of the society are suffering from the inefficient implementation of the scheme and it has almost come to a standstill.

If appropriate actions are not taken at the earliest, the underprivileged are going to continue suffering for no fault of theirs. It is therefore, imperative that we devise an improved version of the scheme so that it may once again be utilized fully by the section of the society it was intended for.

As we are aware, the scheme has been implemented for the benefit of the poor although we have huge debt issues. If we are going to continue using it, it is vital that we utilize it to its fullest potential and it falls in our hands to improvise it to suit the needs of the people. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble members to pass the resolution unanimously. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon'ble member has moved the resolution. We will now begin discussion with each member allotted 10 minutes to have their say. Let us invite the hon'ble member, Col. Z.S. Zuala first.

Lt.Col. Z.S. ZUALA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The exception includes sickness due to drug abuse and alcoholism. However, they are usually not the ones bearing the strain of the hospital costs. These abusers could be from BPL families. In which case, they need the assistance even more. Therefore, if they could be included in the scheme, I am sure it would ease much of their burdens.

Secondly, I would be extremely grateful if dental treatment is included in the list. Apart from that, I support the resolution wholeheartedly, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, let us invite Pu Lalduhoma next.

Pu LALDUHOMA : We all know how helpful the scheme is for the people. The only misgiving I have is that the MNF ministry introduced the scheme only at the concluding term of their ministry when they could have helped so many people during their ten years rule.

The scheme was implemented using the loan from ADB without any regular source of finance. And the question remains, what will happen in the next year and the year after that. Now that a new health insurance scheme has been introduced by the new ministry, I welcome it with wide open arms. However, as patients are facing numerous problems recently, it is imperative that the new scheme should be implemented after a thorough examination of the pros and cons.

First of all, neither the patients nor the doctors or nurses do not receive any cash payment through the bill. If the bill has been approved and the Reliance company has released the bill in cash, I would like to know where the money ended up?

Sometimes the patients are compelled to have themselves admitted in private hospitals where the costs are much higher. Even after availing the bill, they are forced to pay the excess hospital bills from their own pockets. If arrangement could be made to ensure that all the costs are provided by the government, it would be of real help to the poor.

We have to think about the future as well. We must follow a policy that will be reliable even if there is a change of government. The government must fulfill its promise and implement a scheme that will be permanent in terms of financial support as well as infrastructure.

Finally, we have to do something for the patients who are stranded between the old and new scheme. The government should find a way to pay their pending bills. I sincerely hope a new reliable, encompassing bill will be formulated for the people. I am grateful that the resolution has been moved in the House and I extend my full support for its passing, thank you.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I am deeply thankful today that a resolution to improve the old health care scheme has been moved in the House.

The main issue faced by the old scheme was the involvement of the Third Party Administrator (TPA). The new scheme, however, has assigned for the third party to be present in the office itself so that necessary files will be promptly attended to. I am sure it will be a great improvement for the patients.

I have been wondering if allocation can be made for the scheme in the Budget, in case the interest from the ADB loan is insufficient. As my fellow member has said, there are hundreds of terminal patients who are stranded between the two schemes. The government must therefore, make arrangements to pay for their bills.

Several changes have been made in the new proposed scheme. If provision could be made for drug abusers and alcoholics, it would surely ease the burden of their families. The new system of empanelment of hospitals, I am sure will create an atmosphere of competition among the private hospitals.

Finally, the resolution is quite good in my opinion and I would like to request all the concerned officials to give their best effort for its early implementation, thank you.

Pu LALSAWTA : I would like to make a few MINISTER suggestions, Pu Speaker. First of all, I think we should fix an income limit so that the wealthy businessmen and other non-government employees above BPL would not be included among those who could avail the benefits.

Secondly, I do not think it is appropriate to select certain illnesses in order to avail the benefit. The patients did not voluntarily acquire their illnesses. Therefore, the scheme should cover all kind of illnesses except cosmetic surgeries and such like.

Third, I think we should set up a society instead of signing a deal with insurance companies. The society would work closely with the government and would formulate a plan to repay the Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL). I do not understand why we should require the help of the insurance companies when we already have the fund. I honestly do not know the role of the companies but wouldn't it be more profitable if we handle the fund ourselves?

Fourthly, the success of the scheme is based on our integrity and honesty. The scheme must be implemented transparently so that the real target population will have no trouble availing the benefit.

Finally, the government must actively involve the opposition as well as social workers and specialists for the scheme to succeed. Pu Speaker, I support the resolution wholeheartedly, but as I have said, some changes should be made to avoid the past mistakes. Thank you.

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, the main problem faced

by the last Health Care Scheme was the involvement of the Third Party Administration. The company handled neither the bill process nor the sanction or hospital negotiations. We already have the fund and we can utilize it as we see fit. If we really want to improve the scheme, I say let the company go, let it be taken up by the society. It does not matter who heads the society. The most important thing is that we implement the scheme ourselves.

If we want expert assistance, we can hire a TPA ourselves and they can make all the necessary arrangements while we control the funds. My fellow members have mentioned the BPL families and I think the BPL list should be re-examined. The existing list was made during the ministry of the MNF and several families were omitted because they belong to Congress party. Unless the list is made anew, several poverty stricken families will continue to suffer.

As the hon'ble Minister, Pu Lalsawta has said, it is imperative that we fix the annual income limit so that only the true target population will be able to avail the benefits of the scheme. The staff of the Autonomous District Councils of Lawngtlai, Saiha and Mara are unable to avail the MR Bill due to lack of funds and I would like to request the government to include them in the scheme. In the matter pertaining to selection of the illness, I think we should seek the advice of experts first. I would like to reiterate my support of the hon'ble member Pu R.L. Pianmawia's resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. R. Lalthangliana.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, the mover of this resolution seemed to dwell on one specific point, i.e. the bank deposit made by the Bajaj company in the previous scheme. I do not have much information about the technical matter, but a health care society was set up comprising of NGO representatives. The bank deposit was made on the recommendation of the society. Therefore, I would like to request that we refrain from making accusations at former legislators who are not here with us now.

I feel that there were some points that required modification in the previous scheme. Speaking from my experience, the health care scheme caters to the poor who are unable to avail MR Bills. We were unable to help all the poverty stricken patients personally but the health care scheme provided an opportunity to attend to the sick without too much strain on their financial conditions. However, I am concerned that an advance on the fund cannot be released for the patients. Some patients are referred to other hospitals outside the state and they have to book air tickets. In those situations, financial problems become the first hurdle and without an advance on the fund, it would be nearly impossible for them to get better medical help.

I think the MNF government was the first to have implemented this type of scheme in the country and I am pleased that this government has continued the scheme. I am sure there are some minor points that require changes to suit the needs of all the people in the state. Finally, I would like to suggest that the mover request the House to pass his resolution since all of us apparently support it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We still have 10 minutes left and we will call Pu Lalrinmawia next.

Pu LALRINMAWIA RALTE : Thank you Pu Speaker. One of the reasons the bills are often rejected is that they failed to receive the applications within 15 days from the patients' discharge. But there does not seem to be any point in the agreement between the government and the Reliance company which states that the application must be submitted within 15 days from discharge. As you all know, it is almost impossible to submit the application within 15 days if you are from a remote corner of the state.

In the agreement, the insurance claimant is defined thus "Dependent parent, husband, wife, dependent sons/daughters." The scheme allows roughly 5 persons per family to register as a claimant. I think this should be changed since we are usually joint families with grandparents living with their grandchildren under one roof and family members are normally more than 5.

Rejections have also been made recently based on the age of the claimant. When a person reaches the age of 21, he is supposed to be independent but the social lifestyle and culture of the state is in direct contrast with this argument.

Another point in the agreement which caught my attention is the empanelment of hospitals. 11 criteria has been defined which includes possession of ECG, X Ray machines, etc. Our PHC's however, are not equipped with those kind of facilities and if their applications are rejected based on the said 11 criteria, I think the mode of selection should be changed.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly approve and support the resolution.

Thank you.
SPEAKER

: The forenoon sitting has come to an end. After recess, we will resume discussion at 2:00 PM

Recess at 1:00 PM

2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER : We will continue our discussion. Eight members have already taken the floor. Let us invite Pu K. Liantlinga next.

Pu LAL THANHAWLA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, if there is no one CHIEF opposing the resolution, would not it be sensible if we simply pass it? We will save a lot of time that way.

SPEAKER : Very well, is there anyone who would like to say anything in opposition to the resolution? Pu K. Liantlinga.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The fund has been received from the Asian Development Bank and 10 per cent will have to be repaid while 90 per cent is a loan grant. However, we are currently implementing the scheme without any return interest from the capital fund. We should deposit the fund in trusted nationalized banks and use only the interest to implement the scheme. There are several ways to increase the capital ourselves and it would be a good idea if the Health Minister could take a look at it with the assistance of experts.

As the Governor has said, we are going to introduce a new health insurance scheme and we must also formulate a new management system in order to implement it to its fullest potential. We must implement the scheme based on a solid foundation, taking every foreseeable issue into account. Unless we devise a thorough plan of expenditure, we will soon exhaust all the remaining fund and we will be forced to terminate the scheme, leaving the poor in the same predicament as before. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will now conclude the discussion and unless the House Leader and hon'ble Chief Minister has something to add, we will give a few minutes to the mover of the resolution, Pu R.L. Pianmawia. He may also request the House to pass the resolution.

Pu R.L. PIANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like

to point out to the hon'ble member Pu R. Lalthangliana that we are not the first state in the country to have implemented the scheme. The state of Karnataka has successfully implemented it since 2003.

I am profoundly grateful that my fellow members took a sincere interest in the improvement of the scheme.

Finally, I would like to request the House to pass my resolution, 'proposal to amend the Mizoram Health Care Scheme for further benefit of the poor'. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The concerned member had asked to pass his resolution on Mizoram Health Care Scheme. All in favour to pass his resolution say 'Yes' and all those who do not agree to his resolution say 'No.' Since we all agree to the decision, we will now move on to Resolution No -2. May I now call upon Mr K.Lalrinthanga to move his resolution.

Pu K.LALRINTHANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you for permitting me to move my resolution, 'The government should take steps to promote and develop our youths in the field of sports by constructing sports stadium' The 12th Finance Commission had sanctioned 25 crores for Aizawl Sport Complex which can be passed in 2010. This new ministry had managed to find a good location for the construction of sports complex in Mualpui. This complex will be able to provide an arena for Javelin, shot put, and a track with 8 lanes with a length of 400 m. For the sake of the coming generation I hope the government could complete the construction and I am positive that it will lead the youths in the right direction. So, I want to conclude by moving that the government should make the best effort to complete the construction of sport stadium in Mizoram. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The concerned member had moved his resolution and we will now have a discussion. Anyone who are willing to discuss will have their time.

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, I want to support the resolution moved by the hon'ble member Pu K.Lalrinthanga regarding

the construction of Sports Stadium. My question is, why do we concentrate ourselves only in Aizawl, why not construct sport stadium in different places like Lunglei, Thenzawl and other like Chawngte etc. I wish the government could have a wider scope in the resolution and we must also concentrate on looking out for talent in rural areas for more progress in the field of sports. Thank you.

Pu K.LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is good to know that plans are made for the construction of Sports Stadium in Mizoram. We, the Mizos are well athletes but due to the lack of gymnasium and other sports facilities we are unable to excel ourselves in the field of sports. But I fear the sanction amount is much too less considering the expenditure needed for the stadium since the expenditure for a complete stadium needs about a ₹.100 crores and the sanction we have amounts to only ₹.25 crores which will not be sufficient. So, I hope our officials could put more concentration and effort in this regard. Like other states it will be better if 5% is kept for the development of sports from our budget. I want to conclude by saying that I give my support to the motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Nobody seems to oppose the resolution? Does the House Leader have anything to say?

Pu LAL THANHAWLA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. First, I CHIEF want to state the reason why we do not build our stadium in Assam Rifles ground is because we were not permitted to construct a stadium in their area. Knowing our needs, the Police Deptt. permits us to construct the stadium in their region which could accommodate 400 meters track and many other athletic events. The fund sanctioned by the 12th Commission amounts to ₹.27 crores which is enough to construct one Gallery Block only. So, as stated by the hon`ble member there is a great chance that this fund might lapse, so in order to prevent this and since we need the fund to construct the stadium, we shifted the place to Mualpui. Since we do not seem to have any member who is against this resolution, I trust that we are going to pass this resolution with consent. Thank you.

SPEAKER : May I now call upon the Pu K. Lalrinthanga to request the House to pass his resolution.

Pu K.LALRINTHANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I want to thank our House Leader and the Sports Minister for extracting ₹.35 lakhs for Lunglei Zobawk Sports Academy and ₹.30 crores for Serchhip and my fellow members for supporting my resolution which is to develop our Mizo youths in the field of sports. So, I appeal this august House to pass my Resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The resolution moved by Pu K. Lalrinthanga is, 'The government should take steps to promote and develop our youths in the field of sports by constructing sports stadium.' All in favour to pass this resolution say 'Aye' and all those who oppose this resolution say 'No.' The resolution moved by Pu K.Lalrinthanga, 'The government should take steps to promote and develop our youths in the field of sports by constructing sports stadium' is passed by House. (Pu K.Lalrinthanga : Thank you, Pu Speaker)

We will now move on to the third resolution which is No-5 in our Bulletin. This is a resolution by the hon'ble member Pu Lalduhoma, "Uplifting the status of the Mizoram Home Guard Volunteer" May I now call upon Pu Lalduhoma to say a few words on the topic.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, thank you for giving me time to move my resolution 'Uplifting the status of the Mizoram Home Guards Volunteer.' Though they are recruited like a voluntary force, they perform their duties like other regular forces. In the earlier years, they performed their duties only on a half time basis but now they perform their duties full-time regularly. In the meantime they use their honorarium to feed their families. They are deployed in different important places like Airport, Jail, D.C Residence, Rural and State Bank etc and their seniority does not have any effect in their honorarium. Though their duty equals other regular forces they do not enjoy any facilities like leave, rifle allowance, ration money etc. They do not have any rules and regulations and very few are given appointment on regular basis but the greater percentage do not enjoy or have any privileges. I want to request the government to regularize them and give them regular appointment.

I appeal the government to study and develop their facilities and improve them in the best possible way and to convert our Home Guards into a regular force and to pass this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma had moved his resolution, may I now call upon anyone who wants to share their opinion in this resolution.

Pu LAL THANZARA : Pu Speaker, thank you. From the light which Pu Lalduhoma had said, it is now very clear how our Home Guards are useful for the government. I fully support Pu Lalduhoma's resolution and the government will surely study and take steps to improve their status. Thank you.

Pu CHAWNGTINTHANGA : Pu Speaker, as stated by the hon`ble member I have seen our Home Guards carrying out their work with sincerity. Even our M.R's have 'Schemes for Regularisation of M.R,' giving them a good chance of regularization. So, I want to say that I fully support the resolution moved by the hon`ble member and that the government should try to improve and develop the condition of our Home Guards. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : From what the hon`ble member
DEPUTY SPEAKER said, the condition of our Home Guards is very pitiful. It will be good to regularize them and turn them into a battalion which will be very beneficial for Mizoram as well. So, I wholly support the resolution moved by the hon`ble member. Thank you.

Pu S.HIATO : Today we can witness a great change
MINISTER in the House. Earlier, any resolution raised by the oppositions are turned down by the ruling party, but today the ruling party agrees to the resolution raised by the opposition which is an immense improvement and our House Leader had mentioned earlier that any development which will prove beneficial for our state will be fully appreciated and steps will be taken for the success of the plan.

Our Home Guards do not enjoy any safeguard in their service. They do not have G.P fund, leave or other since they bear the name of a volunteer, but looking and considering on how dedicated they are to their work and duties which is

equivalent to other regular forces, I support the resolution moved by the hon`ble member. Thank you.

Pu H.ZOTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I want to support the resolution moved by the hon`ble member. Considering the well disciplined behavior that have displayed in different important places like our Bank etc and their dedication, they truly deserve to enjoy a better status. Like our hon`ble Deputy Speaker stated earlier, I believe that they truly deserve a far better position and I support the resolution whole heartedly. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Does anyone oppose to the resolution? Dr R. Lalthangliana, do you oppose the resolution? May I now call upon Dr R.Lalthangliana.

Dr R.LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, I do not think anybody would oppose the resolution moved by the hon`ble member. I just want to state that we have to have a wider look into our situation, we must not only concentrate on their honorarium but also put our attention to privileges which they are entitled and privileges enjoyed by other government servants which they are deprived of. So, I support the resolution and hope we could pass the resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Thawla had raised his arm, may I call upon him.

Pu P.P.THAWLA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Last year I have heard about the pitiful condition of our Home Guards from The Mizoram Home Guard Commandant General. Considering their hard work and how they carry their 24 hours duties with sincerity, they truly deserves to enjoy the same kind of advantage and status enjoyed by other government staff. The ruling and the opposition party have agreed to the resolution and I too support the resolution completely. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Zira had raised his arm, may I now call upon him.

Pu R.LALZIRLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I respect the fact that the hon`ble member raised this resolution to benefit our Home Guards. But we must not miss to look at some facts like their recruitment condition. They are financed by the central govt. and the Mizoram govt. by 50/50 and they are recruited as 'volunteer force in case of emergency.' Besides our House Leader had considered this matter earlier before it was raised by the hon`ble member. I also fear that if we pass this resolution, we will have a political issue in this matter regarding the party passing the resolution and the member who had raised the resolution. Nevertheless I support the resolution but since I am incharge of the department I will add by stating that if we pass this we may get ourselves tangled into something which will be a burden for us. Thank you.

Pu R.L.PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Apart from the fact the hon`ble member Pu Lalduhoma had stated, I would like to add a few. Despite of the fact that they are very humble, they feel inferior to other and they also suffer a lot of verbal abuse from people in different places since they bear the name of a volunteer. So, if 'Force' could be added to their name like, 'Home Guard Volunteer Force' it will help to uplift their morals and their mental status since they are called and expected to perform their duties like other regular forces. We must study this issue with care and work with a real intention of developing their condition, so, I wholly support the resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Does the House Leader have anything to say?

Pu LAL THANHAWLA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, first I would like to CHIEF convey my gratitude to the hon`ble member Pu Lalduhoma for his resolution since our party have considered this issue while we were the opposition party. Pu Speaker, it is not possible for us to make amendments regarding the status of our Home Guards since they are funded by the central and the state govt. Any change or major amendments can be done after the approval of the central govt. If we make the amendments with our own will, the state liability will increase. But studying their condition, it is a must to develop their status since they work 24/7 though they are 'voluntary force' by name only. Apart from these, they are deployed in different important places like, 3 different banks, FCI godown, D.C Bungalow and his residence, AIR, Mizoram State Transport, Public

Service Commission, Chakma House etc etc. Looking at their duty stations I do not need to point out their importance. The Law Deptt. are now drafting the 'Home Guard Act.' Pu Speaker, their D.A amounts to ₹.143.00 since they are under 'minimum wages skilled labour' Grade – II. The upgrading of their D.A in different ranks, ration money and their Rifles Allowance are all, 'subject to discussion with the central govt./ Minister' So, we have to study this issue with care.

They are equipped with 303 rifles borrowed from the Police Dept. with a strength of 1037. In the meantime, the initial expenditure is provided by the central govt. and the rest by the state govt. and they can be called for duty anywhere and anytime by the central govt. if the need arises. So, is it best to utilize the money which does not entirely belongs to the state? At the sametime, since they do not have any death gratuity, I trust that we, the state could also provide them even without the help of the central govt. My gratitude goes to the hon`ble member Pu Lalduhoma for opening our ears in this issue and I support his resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : May I now call upon the hon`ble member Pu Laduhawma to ask the House to pass his resolution.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, I convey my heartfelt gratitude to the House Leader and the hon`ble ruling party members for supporting my resolution since we have never observe this kind of co-operation from the ruling and the opposition party in the House. I am positive that our Home Guards and their families will enjoy a sound sleep from tonight. I trust that this resolution will be a subject for discussion with the central govt. and that effort will be made for its accomplishment and I appeal the House to pass this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma had requested the House to pass his resolution, 'Uplifting the status of Mizoram Home Guard Volunteer'. All in favour of passing this resolution say 'Aye' and all who oppose to this resolution say 'No'. Since nobody oppose, the resolution moved by Pu Lalduhoma, 'Uplifting the status of Mizoram Home Guard Volunteer' is passed by the House.

Our session will be dismissed for today and we will resume our sitting on Monday.

Sitting adjourned at 3:30 PM.