

**SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
(Fourth Session)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

**FOR SECOND SITTING ON THURSDAY, THE 16TH OCTOBER, 2009
(Time 10:30 AM to 1:00 AM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM)**

PRESENT

Pu R. ROMAWIA, Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, Deputy Speaker, 9 Ministers and 25 Members were present.

QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION entered in separate list to be asked and oral answer given.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

2. THE SPEAKER to report to the House the time table as chalked out by the Business Advisory Committee for the current session.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

3. * Resolutions.

S P E A K E R : A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

Deuteronomy 8: 9.

We will now take up Questions and Answers. Let me call upon Pu C. Ramhluna to ask his question and answer may be given by Pu R. Lalzirliana, charge given by the concerned Minister and Chief Minister Pu Lal Thanhawla who is engaged to other important appointment.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Here is my question.

- (a) Under RGGVY (Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikram Yojna), how many villages had already been electrified within Lawngtlai District ?
- (b) How many villages remain and when will it be done to that respect ?
- (c) Is there a plan to put new Sub-Station?
- (d) If so, where ?

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

- (a) Within Lawngtlai District, no village had yet been electrified under RGGVY except a plan to do so for 68 villages.
- (b) Expected time for completion is March, 2010.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) At Chawngte.

S P E A K E R : Pu C. Ramhluna to ask supplementary question.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : My supplementary question concerns with a booklet received from the Chief Secretary on 31.8.2009 which stated that there are 20 nos. un-electrified and 38 nos. electrified villages within the constituency. Hence, total numbers as given by the Minister is confusing and may please be clarified. Besides, Pu Speaker, it may also be clarified as 3 villages reported as un-electrified village have already been electrified and other 8 villages which are reported as electrified village have not been electrified. It is necessary to resolve the problem immediately as it is connected with ZEDA, as such un-electrified villages may again be included. I also ask whether there is a possibility to provide solar power supply to the said un-electrified villages ?

S P E A K E R : Supplementary question from Pu Lalduhoma.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, RGGVY scheme has already been signed back in 2004, yet, the sanction has come only in 2008. As known to us all, this is a scheme which concern with free supply of electric power to BPL family and the areas which has not been electrified. My question is, why did the concerned authority selected non-Mizo firm whereas there are number of capable local contractors to perform the work? Regarding supply of such materials too, we, the Mizo afford to do so. In this connection, there is an instruction to set up Monitoring Committee in a Village Council of every village. In how many villages the said Committee had already been set up? If so, do the committee witnesses progress of the work ?

Besides, Pu Speaker, I want to know whether census of BPL for selection of beneficiary already been completed? And, if materials for that purpose is being made available, what is the expected time of its full completion? In the selected list, it is learnt that certain villages that already possessed transformer has also been included obviously for making some diversions. Hence, I opine it is important for the department to get more familiar with progress as well as the system of this project.

S P E A K E R : Pu R. Lalrinawma to ask supplementary question.

Pu R. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, regarding the question of number of un-electrified villages, my copy exactly matched with the answer given by the Minister and I wonder if there is another copy to that effect.

S P E A K E R : Pu R. L. Pianmawia.

Pu R.L PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, here is my supplementary question. Regarding RGGVY, 7 villages within my constituency such as Chhanchhuahna Khawpui, Sunhlupui, Khawpuar, Thingmun, Zokhawthiang, Mualchar and Palsang have also been included in the project. When will the work be started to that effect?

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Recently, we have heard grievances of the people of Khawlailung in connection with irregularity of power supply. In response, the government assured to place a Sub-Station there. My question is, what step has already been taken so far to that effect ?

S P E A K E R : Pu K. Liantlinga.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, I want to know whether provision under RGGVY is of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). If so, what is the amount which has already been obtained for this purpose ?

S P E A K E R : Pu R. Lalziriana, the Minister in-charge to give the answer.

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the main question as asked by Pu Ramhluna claimed my answer regarding number of un-electrified village contradicted a booklet from the Chief Secretary whereas another member claimed his copy as exactly the same with the said booklet. I, too, am confused of which copy to be accepted and it may be re-examined later. In the same manner, the question of other members too may be examined and replied later as concerned officers too, are now present here.

As of the question of Pu R.L Pianmawia, it is planned to be concluded all by 2010. Regarding selection of non-Mizo contractor, it has already been selected and changing will cost huge amount of funds as materials for the purpose too have already been supplied. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question to be asked by Pu P.P Thawla.

Pu P.P. THAWLA : Here is my question for favour of answer to be given by the concerned Minister, Higher & Technical Education Department. Is there an intention to fill up certain vacant posts of lecturer of Government College in Mizoram ?

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalsawta, the concerned Minister to give the answer.

Pu LALSAWTA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer is 'yes' and will be done through Mizoram Public Service Commission after obtaining permission from DP & AR and Finance Department.

Pu P.P THAWLA : Pu Speaker, supplementary question. There are 7 vacant posts of lecturer at Saiha College. The College, being established in 1978, is among the senior most colleges in Mizoram. In recruitment of part-time lecturer for the

said college also, usually applicants from the central part of Mizoram who temporarily worked just to wait for better jobs at better places, were usually appointed. It is therefore, desirable if applicants from that region were given priority from now on. May the concerned Minister give his assurance to do so as desired ?

S P E A K E R : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

Pu LALSAWTA MINISTER : To answer that supplementary question, Pu Speaker, it is to be noted that there have been so many colleges other than Saiha College with vacant posts of lecturer. The main reason seems to be of UGC norms which will be and being introduced in favour of the employees for increase of and extension of their services. In order to do so, it is necessary to possess appropriate Recruitment Rules (RR). It is therefore, intended to set up the said RR in parallel with the latest UGC norm so that any college Principal or lecturer be placed at the college where he or she is supposed to. As soon as it is completed, recruitment will be done through MPSC. As of recruitment of part-time lecturer, it is done so as to resolve the problem of few colleges but at lower pay. It is not a matter of partiality as there are number of posts which cannot be filled up as desired. Yet, we have been determined to give priority to those applicants who will not be having problem with transfer or place of appointment. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 3 and Pu Hmingdailova Khiangte to ask.

Pu HMINGDAILOVA KHIANGTE : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Here is my question for favour of answer to be given by the concerned Minister of Land Revenue Department. Regarding Oil & Natural Gas Production Plant at Hortoki, is it possible to inform the House of the name and address of compensation beneficiary who applied by the name 'Lalthakima'?

Pu J.H ROTHUAMA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, 5 persons have applied compensation from the site of the said Oil & Gas Production Plant. Name and address in question cannot be given as it is not included in the list of the said beneficiary.

Pu HMINGDAILOVA KHIANGTE : Pu Speaker, this is of a controversial matter in ONGC Public Hearing and I have discussion with their V/C members too and no one knows who the person is. I, therefore, suggest the government to prevail an enquiry by the department in regard to an unidentified person who availed the said beneficiary but whose name not included in the answer list. Obviously, the name in question is deliberately deleted by the concerned department as a question of his identity is raised in the House. I believe the following beneficiaries who availed the said compensation and the amounts given here is correct :

1. R. Kapthanga of Hortoki Vengchhak	₹ 1,00,000/-
2. Rohnuna -do-	₹ 2,00,000/-
3. Lalbuatsaiha -do-	₹ 40,000/-
4. Rochanmawia M/S Rental Car, Upper Republic	₹ 27,00,000/-
5. Lalthakima	₹ 13,00,000/-

In that connection Pu Speaker, drilling work of Phase-II from Hortoki to Meidum is now under preparation and had already been notified by D.C Revenue, Kolasib. I want to know whether the Government and Directorate are aware of that situation ?

S P E A K E R : Pu J.H. Rothuama, the concerned Minister to answer the question.

Pu J.H. ROTHUAMA MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. as far as my knowledge is concerned, the name, 'Lalthakima' is not included in the list of the said compensation beneficiary.

As D.C Kolasib submitted the said list to Revenue Department on 24.10.2008, he included the said name. Consequently, the name was deleted by the technical staff of D.C Kolasib as land owned by Lalthakima is not included in the selected area. The sum allotted too, remains unclaimed. Besides, Pu Speaker, the name in question is not 'Lalthakima', but 'Lalkima' of Hortoki. If the said allotted sum is drawn in the name of Lalthakima, the department will take immediate action.

Pu HMINGDAILOVA KHIANGTE : Pu Speaker, let me clarify that Lalkima was Ex - VCP of Hortoki. Since a question is raised in the House regarding the identity of Lalthakima, it was intended to change the name as Lalkima of Ex-VCP. I know it very well that he was not the one in the list.

Pu Speaker, I want to say that the main concern during our public hearing is the identity of Lalthakima, who had drawn ₹ 13 lakh. I don't think it is necessary to discuss the detail issue here as the hon'ble Minister has already assured to conduct department investigation to that effect. Moreover, Pu Speaker, it is much desirable if the government as well as its concern Department is immediately involved in the said Drilling Work Phase-II. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, Starred Question No. 4 and Pu Lalduhoma to ask.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Here is my question for favour of answer to be given by the Minister, Information & Communication Technology Department.

- (a) What is the size of staff under the Information & Communication Technology Department ?
- (b) Is there a plan to set up the International Institute of Information Technology in Mizoram ?
- (c) How far the government witnesses setting up of Call Centre at Aizawl and whether the government considers the said to be encouraging ?

S P E A K E R : Pu Zodintluanga, the concerned Minister to give the answer.

Pu ZODINTLUANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answer to Starred Question No.4 is :-

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalduhoma to ask supplementary question.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, it is learnt that there was a plan to set up IIIT in Mizoram during the previous government for which I personally found it to be encouraging. But it is regretted to learn that this government is not having that plan. My question is: Whether it is appropriate to let this business operate freely without the knowledge of the Government of Mizoram whereas many people were kept in a lurch due to failure of the company to provide job opportunity. It is much desirable if the government has the right to involve in its functioning so as to proof whether the operation is harmful or satisfactory for our society.

S P E A K E R : Pu Zodintluanga the concerned Minister may give the answer.

Pu ZODINTLUANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, to clarify the first question, government of the previous ministry has taken the step to set up IIIT in Mizoram. Yet, a Study Group to that concern found out that the said institute is not of centrally planned and decided not to continue with the plan on ground of lack of dependability.

As of the question of Call Centre, it concerns with the department of Industries and my department, therefore, have no answer to that respect. Call Centre is usually taken up by Private Company. What can be done by the department to that concern is to provide internet connectivity. In this relation, the neighbouring states such as Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland have already achieved Optic Fibre Cable with the of Power Grid. Thanks to the steps taken by the hon'ble Chief Minister, the concerned authority is now determining to obtain a separate connection of that type for our state, If the project is achieved, I am confident that major private companies will then enter into Mizoram to start their business with the help of the government owned Power Grid. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now, Starred Question No. 5 and Pu R. L Pianmawia to ask.

Pu R. L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, Mauchar and Palsang have not been included in the question obviously by mistake. It is not necessary to ask the question again if the said have to be included.

S P E A K E R : I believe the said names were not included in the question by mistake, but being recalled only after question is asked. Anyway, let the concerned Minister clarify it.

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA
MINISTER : The said names were not included in the question and may be examined later.

S P E A K E R : Alright. Now, Starred Question No. 6 and Pu P.P Thawla to ask.

Pu P.P THAWLA : Pu Speaker, here is my question for favour of answer from the Minister, Higher & Technical Education Department: When will construction of Government College buildings within Mizoram which have already obtained Administrative Approval be started?

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalsawta, concerned Minister to answer the question.

Pu LALSAWTA
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, here is the answer. Financial sanction for the said has not yet been released by DoNER and no Administrative Approval has yet been obtained. Hence, the work cannot be started in condition now.

Pu P.P THAWLA : Pu Speaker, it is learnt that approval from DoNER for the said had already been obtained during the previous ministry but no further step has yet been taken till today. Is it because the said is included in the retained list only in principle but depends on priority list of the State Minister? As far as my knowledge is concerned, it is being delayed despite approval from DoNER. May the concerned Minister state the matter in more detail?

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalsawta, the concerned Minister.

Pu LALSAWTA : Pu Speaker, there are certain colleges for which the Detailed Reports have not yet been submitted. Since Mizoram is situated within earthquake prone area, the concerned authority is carefully scrutinizing reports for the said and could not be completed instantly, I supposed Saiha College too, remain at this stage. To speak in short, Detailed Reports for the said have not yet been completed.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 7 and Pu Hmingdailova Khiangte to ask.

Pu HMINGDAILOVA KHIANGTE : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Is the government aware of the fact that many LSC are being processed for some private lands with the hope of benefiting compensation from the new project of construction of road from Bagha to Hortoki and Meidum road? If not, is there any other authority besides Revenue Department who is able to process the said LSC?

Pu J.H ROTHUAMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is true that it is important for the government to be careful in dealing with the problem of compensation as excessive amount is often entertained in the previous years. Furthermore, there are many people in Mizoram who would like to avail compensation benefit by any means. Hence, I truly appreciate the member for his valuable suggestions.

To answer the main question, the government has no knowledge of the existence LSC of private lands being processed for want of compensation benefit. Answer to question (b) there is no authority other than Revenue Department who could issue LSC.

Pu HMINGDAILOVA KHIANGTE : Pu Speaker, I beg the House to understand my question as it does not fully express its main purpose. Hence, I have to make supplementary question that there are numbers of two lanes road from Bagha to Serkhan. The concerned Minister may, later, clarify who processed such LSCs? Again, it is learnt that effort had been made to do the same in the project of construction of road from Hortoki to Meidum. I, therefore, make this question keeping in view of the damage which had been made with Tuirial Hydel Project. If Revenue Department is responsible for the said, I wonder if the concerned officers are pursuing their duty with true concern for the welfare of our land, Mizoram. It is much desirable if the department determines improvement of the quality of its works since each of the staff is supposed to offer his/her ability for the sake of the country and our state. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Any one to answer the question?

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, as far as my knowledge is concerned, some actions have already been taken whereas one officer is being suspended relating to that case.

S P E A K E R : Now, Starred Question No. 8 and Pu Lalduhoma to ask.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, my questions for favour of answer to be given by the Minister Horticulture Department.

- (a) How many types of Green House are there?
- (b) For the year 2009-2010 how many beneficiaries have already been selected so far and how many are the rest?

- (c) Is it alright to issue the said materials without its contractor and directly to the beneficiaries?

S P E A K E R : Pu H. Liansailova, concerned Minister to answer the question.

Pu H. LIANSILOVA : Pu Speaker, here is my answer.
MINISTER

- (a) Green House is divided into three types:
- (1) Low Cost Green House.
 - (2) Medium Cost Green House.
 - (3) Hi-Tech Green House.
- (b) (1) 250 beneficiaries have already been selected for the year 2009-2010 under Low Cost Green House and 100 more will again be selected.
- (2) Due to lack of provision, no action has yet been taken for Medium Cost and Hi-Tech Green House.
- (c) There are certain materials for Green House which may be made available to the beneficiaries. Particularly Low Cost and Medium Cost Green House, it is usually given in materials. As of Hi-Tech Green House, it may be allotted to approved firm only since it is of high technology materials and takes an expert to build it at the spot.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, if we carefully examine the progress of Green House in Mizoram, I must say that the outcome is not balancing with expenditure of the concerned authority to that effect. It may be more productive if the said provision is concentrated only in one firm as we have no knowledge of bill amount of each of the firm.

Moreover, Pu Speaker, it may be suggestive to the concerned authority not to introduce Dripping System as no firm uses the said satisfactorily and it increases the amount only and therefore, may be modified the system so that it is in parallel with our local custom.

Besides, Pu Speaker, it is doubtful that provision for Hi-Tech Green house is allotted to the approved firm only as there are beneficiaries who have no experiences and build their Green House by imitating others. Hence, Pu Speaker, I want to know whether provision for Hi-Tech Green House is allotted to approved firm only and, whether the concerned beneficiaries are given an option to acquire contractor or not in setting up their Green House. Since acquirement of contractor involves certain amount of charges, it may be more appropriate if the concerned beneficiaries do the works themselves with structures and shade nets provided by the department. This will certainly relieve expenditure of the department thereby, covering more beneficiaries. So, Pu Speaker, may the concerned authority give priority to the decision of the beneficiary in setting up their own Green House?

S P E A K E R : Pu H. Liansailova, concerned Minister to give the answer.

Pu H. LIANSAILOVA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, since the question concerns matter of the previous ministry, let me answer with this information, its context though may not be complete.

Green House, a scheme from Technology Mission, is introduced in Mizoram since a couple of years back only and is being applied as per guidelines of the Central authority. As pointed out earlier, cost of installation of Hi-Tech Green House is very high as it exceeds ₹ 6 lakh. Hence, few farms which I have visited are said to be successful as the owner of one of them from Khawzawl stated that he had earned more than ₹ 75,000/- from his Green House's tomatoes during the previous year. One from Champhai had also informed me that he had earned more than ₹ 10,000/- from his Green House during last year only and he still needs to give more efforts.

Even so, there is opinion that the scheme may not be continued due to high cost of its maintenance for which general people could not afford to do so and may be taken for granted if it is done only on experimental basis. In this regard, it is to be noted that Central authority introduced this scheme only as a model. The concerned department, therefore, is in the opinion to give more concentration on Low Cost Green House alone.

S P E A K E R : Starred Question No. 9 and Pu K. Liantlinga to ask.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, here is my question and the concerned Minister may please give the answer. What is the amount of provision received from CSS annually by Land Revenue Department for implementation of land survey works since 2005 – 2009?

S P E A K E R : Pu J.H Rothuama, concerned Minister to answer the question.

Pu J.H ROTHUAMA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, from 2005-2009, the department received provision for implementation of land survey from CSS for 2005-2006 is ₹376 lakh and for 2006-2007 is ₹304 lakh. It has not yet been received for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 and the total amounting to ₹.680 lakh.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Even though my question concerned with the said expenditure from 2005-2009. I also want to know the amount received from Central authority before the period in question, and how far land survey work has already been completed? Is there an intention to expedite land survey work for immediate completion? Whether there is an intention to bifurcate land survey/record and land settlement?

Pu P.P THAWLA : Supplementary question Pu Speaker, please. From the amount ₹.680,000.00 received from the Central for taking up land survey works, whether payment has also been made to three Autonomous District Councils which the Mizoram Government Land Revenue & Settlement excluded from payment of its matching share? If so, how much to each district?

Pu J.H ROTHUAMA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, in reply to the question, I have no knowledge of the government receiving provision of CSS scheme in and before 2005 and I have prepared my answer only for the period in question. Expenditure for the year 2005 – 2006 is ₹45,000.00/- for strengthening of Revenue administration and updating of land records form in respect of Autonomous District Councils. I have no knowledge of other expenditure to that respect. Besides, ₹195 lakh is used for Aerial Photograph Survey under which 2573 sq/km of land, particularly within Mamit District have already been surveyed. Again, ₹135 lakh for continuation of Summon Survey and Recalled Operation under which 9544 sq/km of land and 114014.59 bigha has already been surveyed. Moreover, the fund is used for procurement of 4nos. of survey instruments, one GPS and minor instruments such as measuring tape, compass etc.

Besides, Pu Speaker, ₹304 lakh is received during 2006 – 2007 for strengthening of Revenue Administration and updating of land records and physical achievement is shown here below:
₹173 lakh is spent for implementation of ongoing project under which 3395 sq/km land has already been surveyed and its maps, already been received.

Regarding the question of bifurcation of the department, it is now under consideration. Yet, it may not be possible to do so instantly due to financial constrain in the government.

S P E A K E R : We will now move to our next business i.e. Presentation of Report. It is the detailed programme of our Session prepared by Business Advisory Committee held on the 24.10.2009 and is now being laid on the table of the House. The copy may be distributed to the members. Is this permissible?

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, I opine it is inappropriate to discuss this matter today as two days have already been gone. This business should have been taken up on the first day of the session. Yet, I find no objection to discuss today if the House agrees to do so.

S P E A K E R : If so, we may proceed with the business. As usual, Private Members' Business is taken up in every Friday of the session for which 15 resolutions have been received. After deciding by ballot, it has now been put forward and will be taken up in order of ballot. The first resolution is of Pu Lalthansanga suggesting Geology & Mining Wing to function as a separate directorate. I now call upon the member to move his resolution.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This resolution is submitted with determination to improve the state's revenue. In my opinion, the Department of Geology & Mining could be of the most resourceful revenue for the state if effort is given. Geology & Mining Wing was established in Mizoram back in 1980. Having discussed the importance of its functions by the following year, the Government of Mizoram and Planning Commission of India determined to maintain it as a separate directorate for which Dy. Advisor to Mineral Planning Commission too had even made his recommendation. Not only this, a resolution that concern had also been discussed in the meeting on Task Force for Development of North-East States headed by Adll. Secretary Ministry of Mining. Government of India with a recommendation of enhancement of each of the Geology & Mining Wing in the North-East States for a full-fledged directorate.

In 2003, the visiting Advisory board Planning Commission of India discussed the same with the then Minister of Industry, Government of Mizoram. Press release had also been issued to that effect on 25.3.2003 where as the Department of Industries submitted its proposal for the same in the previous year on 25.2.2003. While determining financial constrain in the state government, we have to consider that staff strengthening of the department is well equipped whereas there are 74 staff with 4 vacant posts. Besides, financial involvement of the department too, is considerable to compare with the newly enhanced I.T Department whose strength happened to be only 38 staff. I, therefore, think enhancement of Geology & Mining would be difficult for the government whereas a separate Head of Account with its FAO, office superintendent, technical & non-technical staff, Self-sustained Workshop, a multi-storage office building and staff quarter headed by Joint Director with financial power of Schedule-II, being provided already.

Again, it is highly necessary to enhance the said department to a full-fledged department as it is now difficult for Directorate of Industries to particularize each of the matter that concern Geology and Mining as most of the correspondences are of scientific and technical matters which links with Geology Survey of India, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation, India Bureau of Mine, Atomic Mineral, Central Mine Research Institute, Central Mine

Plan & Design Institute, National Institute of Oil & Mechanic, Central Ground Water Board, Directorate General of Mine & Safety, Directorate of Generation of Hydro-Carbon etc.

Besides, Pu Speaker, there are number of projects which has now been initiated under Geology & Mining such as Detailed Ground Water Investment and Management covering the whole of Mizoram, Geo-Technical Investigation for slope and stability problem of various government constructions within Mizoram, Hydel project and Modern Geo-Technical Laboratory funded by NEC, Moreover, there is a project for exploration of oil & natural gas within Mizoram for which the government already signed Deed of Agreement for exploration of natural gas with Central authority. The department further involves in Aizawl Development Authority in connection with Disaster Management and Notification. For all the said reasons, it is utmost necessary to upgrade Geology & Mining Wing to expedite the on-going projects.

In July, 2007, the Government of Mizoram signed an agreement with National and Six International Agencies concerning oil & natural gas exploration which covers half the area of Mizoram. Considering the importance and for completion of 30 years of its establishment, I opine the department truly deserves up-gradation. Hence, I appeal to the House Leader and the members to give importance to this resolution and give their support so that it is passed unanimously. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble member has now moved his resolution. To start with the discussion, I call upon Pu S. Hiato, Minister for Industry Department to make his speech.

Pu S. HIATO : Thank you, Pu Speaker. At the out set, I would like to extend my appreciation to the mover for his enthusiastic speech concerning my department. As pointed out, the department of Geology & Mining, though not a popular department, is regarded as having the best prospect to all other departments. Hence, Industry Department too, put its best effort to that concern. It is true that unless the government gives concentration on exploration of our natural resources, over all progress of the state would not be achieved. Keeping in mind of the necessity, various types of survey have been prevailed by the government and also approached major companies from Russia, France and England and even called for a global tender.

As pointed out by the mover, surveying work of 58.9 of the area of Mizoram has already been completed and the report too, already been submitted for certain areas. Surveying work is completed for Saiha, Lawngtlai, Hnahthial and Serchhip whereas for Thenzawl and Hortoki, the work is now in progress and the only thing the department could do now is backing them up. Regarding bifurcation of Geology & Mining Wing, suggestion had already been made by the visiting Central Planning Commission in 1987 with an immediate approach to our government by sending their task force. But the plan could not be complied with due to poor condition of our state. Yet, approach was then again made in 1997 which was after 10 years, but ended up with no positive conclusion. The previous ministry of our government too, prepared a memorandum to that effect but again ended up in a smoke. As the new ministry came into existence, it is pleasing that a resolution for the same is now being moved, yet we have to consider whether it is a matter to be passed officially by the House or a meeting of cabinet as we have also been prepared a cabinet memorandum which contains the same points raised by the mover but could not be carried out instantly as we still have this budget to pass. I, therefore, suggest if the mover withdraw his resolution as the other one is now being processed and will soon be laid in the cabinet meeting. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Next, Pu Lalduhawma.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, this resolution concerns with manifesto of the ruling party and a cabinet memorandum being prepared, and surprisingly the Bible Verse being read out this morning goes very well with this resolution as if it was chosen for it as it also concerns exploration of natural resources. To think of this coincidence, it may be important to pass it by any means.

Pu Speaker, considering many hidden resources in our land, we have to count blessings from above, yet in certain ways, it is shameful of our ignorance to explore such wealth. As known to us all, the Government of India classified Mizoram as proven potential area for which effort of global experts being acquired from Russia, France and England companies. The said experts divided those proven potential areas into 4 zones in which 58.9 of the area of Mizoram too, lies under the coverage. I believe mover of the resolution too submitted his resolution keeping in mind of the need for us to pave the way for the coming opportunity.

Pu Speaker, it is obvious that the department of Geology & Mining would turn out to be the most resourceful department if it is enhanced with a full-fledged department. According to Deed of Agreement, large

amount of revenue is beginning to flow in from license fee as the rate per sq.km is ₹50/- at the starting year, ₹100/- by the second year, ₹500/- by the third year, ₹700/- by the fourth year and ₹1000/- by the fifth and successive years. Thus, the department already collected more than one crore rupees only from license fee.

Besides, the agreement underlines that 12.05 percents of royalty will be of ours if it is oil and 10 percent if it is gas which is considerably profitable for the state. Not only this, Pu Speaker, according to the recommendation of 12th Finance Commission, net profit would be shared by the government of India and the state on 50 – 50 profit. Considering all these prospects, it is extremely important for us to give priority to enhancement of power to the said department. It is to be noted that Mizoram will never have another prospect which is resourceful than the present one. I must say that it is good enough and urgent efforts should be made so that the department is upgraded immediately.

Secondly, it is to be noted that if the said project is initiated, it will automatically generate employment as number of qualified B-tech in Petroleum, Mining and other chemicals, MBA and other staff will be required immediately whereas on the other hand, it is grateful that the said agreement further underlines that in the selection, priority should be given to any qualified sons of the soil. In this connection, the department of Geology in our University too, should be upgraded and this particular subject be introduced in all the 3 Science Colleges we have in our state keeping in mind of the said opportunity. It is pleasing to learn that our MP, Pu C.L Ruala is making efforts in paving ways to our students for their higher studies.

In this connection Pu Speaker, I want to point out that while Forest department taken up maintenance of stone-quarry and sands, the department hardly submitted a revenue of ₹12 lakh in a year whereas Geology department submitted more than ₹1 crore last year only. Is it not the duty of our government to give priority to the department with an outstanding performance?

Pu Speaker, the concerned Minister seems to make an excuse of financial problem of the government so as to decline this important resolution. He should not worry of that financial problem as the department already have its own building with 22 bighas of land, staff quarters, workshop, qualified officers with adequate staff and the only thing left to be done is issue an order of enhancement of the department. If this resolution is voted out due to this unreliable excuse, the reason will not be justifiable as no extra expenditure is required.

Last, but not the least Pu Speaker, I opine it is important for us to immediately comply with offer made to the government of India considering opportunity for our state. For this reason, we, the members of the opposition are expecting a positive outcome with this resolution. Once it is

passed, no one can cancel it and then we would be able to proceed to the opportunity that lies ahead. Hence, I earnestly appeal to this august House to pass this resolution unanimously. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The concerned Minister had made an appeal to the mover to withdraw his resolution since the government made the same plan already. Let us hear the opinion of Pu Lalthansanga, mover of the resolution.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : As a mover to this resolution, I have already stated my reason with this resolution. Yet, I want to emphasize the need for the concerned authority to upgrade earning department like Geology & Mining for which it may be more appropriate to pass this resolution by the House instead of referring it as a cabinet memorandum. I earnestly appeal to each of the member to support passing it by the House to commemorate the departed leader and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh who gave so much concerning this matter. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Alright, the concerned Minister have already pointed out the matter in detail whereas mover of the resolution insists on passing it here by the House, if so, we may continue with the discussion. I call upon Dr. R. Lalthangliana to have his speech.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, members from three different parties had raised their opinion on this resolution. Although there is a slight difference in those speeches, they seem to have a common interest which certainly is highly appreciated.

Ministry of the previous government too, gave it thoughts concerning this matter whereas in 2004, Deed of Agreement was signed. The government too, gave it thoughts the enhancement of the department but have to step down before achieving it. It may not be wrong to consider the matter at a cabinet level, yet necessary for the House to take initiative so as to

expedite the plan. If it is passed by the House, each of the party will have sense of collective responsibility and that the process be expedited. Thank you.

Pu R. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Deputy. Speaker. It is a matter of concern to enhance Geology and Mining department. The government too, is giving efforts to expedite the process. In this regard, I opine that if matters of such kind have to be processed in the House as resolution, there will not be time for the House to discuss other important matters. There are number of departments which had been bifurcated in the past but none were necessarily done with resolution. It is therefore, wise for us to see steps which have been taken by the government and the enhancement of the said to a full-fledged department may reduce revenue of the government unexpectedly. In the same manner, if the department has to be bifurcated as demanded, it should also be considered the contrary which departments have to be amalgamated compulsorily. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Next, Pu P.P. Thawla.
DEPUTY SPEAKER

Pu P.P THAWLA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I opine it is necessary for the House to pass the resolution moved by Pu Lalthansanga as it concerned exploration of our resources. It is important for us all to examine the reason why Mizoram remains without a department that concerns exploration of our natural resources even after passing 35 yrs as a separate government. Even if a cabinet memorandum is being processed to that concern, it is important to pass the same by the House where each of the members could participate in making this important decision. I, therefore, fully support the idea of passing this resolution here at the House. Thank you.

Pu K.S THANGA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker, we all seem to have a common opinion concerning this matter, yet separate only by time factor.

As stated by the concerned Minister, a cabinet memorandum on this matter is being processed. I wonder if the mover

submitted his resolution with a forehand knowledge of this cabinet memorandum and I think it is a ridiculous idea to do so with an intention of superseding the government's plan. As the concerned Minister stated the matter in detail, I do not think it is necessary for any member to insist on passing of this resolution. As the people lay their confidence in the government, we, the members should also give our confidence in the government's plan to some extent. Thank you.

Pu T.T ZOTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. This resolution truly concerns an important matter. I should say that the mover seems to comply with the request of the Speaker to withdraw his resolution yet, decided to go on after consulting the member next to him. I, therefore, decided to make my speech to that concern too.

It is true that there is a plan for bifurcation of Geology & Mining since 2003 and a press release to that effect had even been issued during the previous ministry with a proposal of enhancement of the said department. Not only these, Deed of Agreement had been signed 2 or 3 times yet the plan could not be expedited due to certain problems. As such, members from that party hardly have point to make to that concern.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the concerned Minister requested the mover to withdraw his resolution as the same is being processed as cabinet memorandum. But it is regretted to learn that the opposition parties decline the request. As the saying goes, 'there is a season to everything', we have to wait and watch when this plan will be achieved. We, the members should know that the government is aware of appropriate time for bifurcation of the said department.

Mover of the resolution must accept that it is not a matter of withdrawing his resolution, but the plan being determined by the government may be left to the cabinet for necessary action. Thank you.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. We all seem to have a common opinion to upgradation of Geology & Mining Department yet separated only by time factor. In this regard, I opine it is important for the ruling party to reconsider their opinion as it so happened in the previous ministries that certain resolutions from the opposition bench being unanimously passed by the House. In the same manner, it will be pleasing if unanimous decision is made by the House this time as all the members express their desire to fulfill enhancement of the said department.

I believe this resolution has already been submitted even before the existence of the said cabinet memorandum and then came out today for discussion by chance. It is, therefore, necessary to discuss the matter today. Since the resolution concerns the welfare of our state, there is no reason for the House to delay the matter as the department too is in a condition to face the challenge whereas Central authority has given instruction to do so in 1987 and 2003. What should be done by the House today is passing the resolution in order to evade any delay with the plan. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Next, Pu John Siamkunga.
DEPUTY SPEAKER

Pu JOHN SIAMKUNGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, Mizoram is said to have been blessed with abundant sources of natural wealth. In August, 2007, national news-paper pointed out that a global tender had been floated for exploration of natural resources in the country for which 7 international companies applied the work within Mizoram whereas 2 for Tripura and 1 for Manipur. This indicates that Mizoram is having a good prospect in natural resources. We have further listened that surveying work in our state is in progress.

Certain members pointed out regarding sources of Uranium in our state and I want to add to that point that some believe that Uranium enriched materials such as Thorium, Thorax and Plutonium may also be found. In this connection, it is to be noted that the government is giving it's best effort to that concern which enabled some foreign companies to make their exploration to our very own soil.

It is true that Geology & Mining is a revenue earning department. But before making the decision of its bifurcation, we have to consider achievement made by the departments which had been bifurcated in the previous years without predetermination of its corresponding department in the central. In my opinion, it is necessary for us to study the system of Ministry of Tribal Welfare before giving full concentration on enhancement of the said department.

Besides, Pu Dy. Speaker, we should also consider of whether financial condition of the government is satisfactory in order to bifurcate the said department. It is, therefore, more appropriate for the House to comply with the idea of referring the matter to be discussed as a cabinet memorandum. Thank you.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. Regarding the idea of referring this important matter to a cabinet, I opine it should be decided by the House as long as it concerns the welfare of our state. The members too, irrespective of the party we are from, must not hesitate to support the resolution if it is done so for good.

As pointed out by certain members, an instruction for the said bifurcation has already been received from Central authority in 1987. It is therefore, necessary for our government to take immediate step without delaying the matter by making some excuses with our financial implication and problems. We, members of the House should unanimously stand out for the welfare of our state. What we have to do is to put this scheduled II of the penal at first place by voting it 'yes' or 'no'. Now is the time for each of the member to use our respective conscience. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : One minute remains. Now, Pu R. DEPUTY SPEAKER Lalzirliana.

Pu R. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. This MINISTER resolution moved by a member from Hrangturzo constituency concern with an important matter which my party too manifested during the recently concluded general election. For the same purpose, the government had even allocated more than 300 lakh rupees instead of pulling fund from other budget provisions.

Regarding exploration of our natural resources, it is to be noted that the plan had not been initiated by the previous ministry but by ONGC around 1990 as plant which can be seen in the area of Thingdawl. Exploration works also has been going on steadily with changing of ministry of the state government and without involvement of the government which is worth mentioning. As the central government floated a tender for that exploration, nine major oil companies entered into Mizoram to pursue the work.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the said exploration work covers more than 58.9, which is more than half the total size of Mizoram. This indicates that those companies who are engaged in the exploration are having high hope.

Pu Dy. Speaker, as the government gives priority to enhancement of Geology & Mining department, it is pleasing to learn that the opposition party too shows their concern by moving this resolution. Even if this resolution fails to win vote of the majority, it is to be noted that the

government is giving priority to the same purpose by moving it as a cabinet memorandum. As for this reason, it may be appreciated if the members comply with obligation of the government. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : As we all seem to give importance to
DEPUTY SPEAKER bifurcation of Geology & Mining, I
may now, call upon the mover to
make his conclusion.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I am
very happy to learn that no member
make objection against this important
resolution that concerns the welfare of
the Mizos. This common opinion of the members indicated the necessity of
passing my resolution with immediate effect.

Pu Dy. Speaker, we have been told that a cabinet memorandum for the same concern has also been existed and is much appreciated. Yet, I am afraid that speech made by certain members may misguide opinion of our official concerns as this resolution is alleged to have been extracted from the said cabinet memorandum. So, Pu Dy. Speaker, I want to tell them that it was not true as the plan had already been existed since 1980 when my party was in power. I, therefore, earnestly appeal to each of the member to accept my resolution as an Official Resolution and be passed accordingly.

On the other hand Pu Dy. Speaker, as the ruling ministry seems to put this matter as their flagship programme, it will be the first achievement of the Minister concern too, if it is passed by the House. I, therefore, request the members to vote in favour of the resolution. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Alright, mover of the resolution has
DEPUTY SPEAKER now moved to this House to pass the
resolution, 'Geology & Mining Wing
may be upgraded to a separate
Directorate'. The members who agree to pass it may say, 'aye' and those who
don't may say, 'no'. (Members: 'No'). The resolution, 'Geology & Mining Wing
may be upgraded to a separate Directorate', moved by Pu Lalthansanga is
rejected by the House.

Our business for today is finished. Tomorrow being a holiday, there will be no sitting. It will be resumed on Monday, 10:30 AM. Sitting is adjourned.

Sitting adjourned at 1:15 PM.