

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

**FOR FIFTH SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 21ST OCTOBER, 2009
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)**

MEMBER PRESENT

1. **Pu R.ROMAWIA**, Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, Deputy Speaker, 12 Ministers and 25 Member were present.

QUESTIONS

2. **QUESTIONS** entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

LAYING OF PAPER

3. **Pu H.LIANSAILOVA** to lay on the Table of the House the following reports:
 - (a) Sixteenth Annual Report of Mizoram Public Service Commission for the year 2006 – 2007.
 - (b) Seventeenth Annual Report of Mizoram Public Service Commission for the year 2007 – 2008.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

4. **Pu S.HIATO**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
5. **Pu P.C.ZORAM SANGLIANA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
6. **Pu P.C.LALTHANLIANA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

S P E A K E R : “In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”

(Proverbs 3:6)

We will take up Starred Question No. 51. Let us invite the hon’ble member Pu John Siamkunga to ask the question.

Pu JOHN SIAMKUNGA : Will the hon’ble minister for Health and Family Welfare Department be pleased to state –

- a) Is there any intention to let the 5th I.R. Battalion occupy the Referral Hospital?
- b) If so, is there a specified time frame?
- c) Is there any intention to elevate it to medical college status?

S P E A K E R : The hon’ble minister for Health and Family Welfare Pu Lalrinliana Sailo may furnish the answer.

Pu LALRINLIANA SAILO : Pu Speaker, the answers are –
MINISTER

- a) There is no intention from the government to let the 5th I.R. Battalion occupy the hospital.
- b) No, however, the Home Minister is worried about placement of policemen who completed their training and he came to me for advice. Looking at the Hospital on 2.10.09 we found that the quarters are damaged to a large extent mostly because it was not occupied. Therefore, my department is considering the Home Minister’s request, right now.
- c) Yes, the govt. is trying to develop the Hospital fully and we are intending to elevate it to a medical college. A committee has also been already set up on 8th May for the purpose.

S P E A K E R : We will call Pu John Siamkunga and Pu Lalduhoma to ask supplementary questions.

Pu JOHN SIAMKUNGA : What is the exact status of the Referral Hospital? How many doctors and workers are there currently?

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, the quarters were constructed by PWD deptt. but Health deptt. would not take over its maintenance after the constructions were completed hence there is no proper maintenance. I would like to know whether PWD could take it under their wing. Secondly, an incinerator was bought during the previous term but it was installed at Falkawn Hospital instead of Civil Hospital. It is left unused right now. I would like to know if the government can find a way to put it to work? Finally, there was an outbreak of pneumonia recently and I would like to know what is the reason for high mortality rate? Can the govt. provide special attention to the issue?

S P E A K E R : Pu T.T. Zothansanga.

Pu T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Why was the quarter constructed first? Was there not a proper guideline regarding the construction? How many quarters were constructed? How many quarters are occupied presently?

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble minister may answer the questions.

Pu LALRINLIANA SAILO MINISTER : The hospital is yet to be developed to its full potential. We are functioning with only 50 beds right now. 3 Medical Officers are posted there with 2 dental surgeons. In the matter pertaining to handing over the maintenance, I think both deptts. are equally justified because we are both afraid that the maintenance cost alone would tax our deptts. too much. However, we will try to find a solution as soon as possible. The govt. is aware of deaths due to influenza specially H1N1 we are doing our best to contain it. Around ₹.200 crores is required to set up a medical school and the criteria for setting up a medical college under the NRHM are, the area must be 15 kilometers, there must be at least 60 to 80 occupancy.

The central govt. has given us ₹. 40 crores and 53 lakhs for construction of the hospital and I think 132 units have already been constructed. The amount of ₹. 4 crores and 21 lakhs has been released recently but since they have huge liabilities, we had to clear that first. After we made the clearance, the fund was divided between Health Deptt., PWD, P&E, PHE and work has been continued using the fund.

S P E A K E R : Since Pu B. Lalthlengliana is sick and could not sit with us today, his Starred Question No. 52 will be asked by Pu Ramhluna.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Pu Speaker, question prepared by Pu B. Lalthlengliana is –

Will the hon'ble minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department be pleased to state –

Is the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department a fake? Since when did it lose its functionality?

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble Minister for Husbandry and Veterinary Department Pu Nihar Kanti may reply the question.

Pu NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA MINISTER : There is no reason to believe that the department is not genuine. Therefore, the second question is irrelevant.

S P E A K E R : Supplementary questions will be asked by Pu C.Ramhluna, then Pu P.P.Thawla.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Is the hon'ble minister aware that the incubator installed at Mampui is unable to incubate eggs? What can be done to successfully incubate the eggs? How many officers and staff are there at the farm?

- S P E A K E R : Pu P.P. Thawla.
- Pu P.P. THAWLA : The deptt is barely functional for sometime now, can the new ministry do something about the administration for better efficiency?
- S P E A K E R : Pu Zothangliana for supplementary question.
- Pu H.ZOTHANGLIANA : The officers and staff of the deptt. in my constituency are functioning in theory only and there is nothing to see of the work they do. Their offices are also extremely damaged and dilapidated. Can the hon'ble minister do something to develop their condition?
- Pu NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA MINISTER : We are trying to install a better incubator but we are unable to allocate money for that purpose in the Annual Plan hence we are presently focusing on stocking cows and pigs. The same financial reason applies to the hon'ble member Pu P.P.Thawla's question.
- Pu K. LALRINTHANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to know if the hon'ble minister can build a Vety Office or a veterinary hospital at Serlui area which is a good place to develop animal husbandry.
- S P E A K E R : The hon'ble minister may furnish the answer.

Pu NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA MINISTER : I will look into it as soon as possible, Pu Speaker.

Lt.Col. Z.S. ZUALA : Pu Speaker, I would like to know the requirements for setting up a Vety dispensary. Can it be set up at Salem Veng?

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, it is rumoured that certain amount of fund will be distributed to other deptts. for the implementation of animal husbandry programme. Has notification been released? What action plan is there to implement it?

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble minister may furnish the answer.

Pu NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I do not know the exact criteria for setting up a vety dispensary. It is usually set up to cope with the needs of the people. To Pu Liantlinga's question, an NLUP cell has been set up under our deptt. and works are being undertaken through the cell.

S P E A K E R : We will move on to Starred Question No. 53. Let us invite the hon'ble member, Pu Lalthansanga to ask the question.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Will the hon'ble minister for PHE Department be pleased to state - Has a pumping machine been installed at Tlawng Lui under Aizawl Greater Water Supply Scheme Phase II?

- S P E A K E R : Pu S.Hiato, the hon'ble minister for PHE may furnish the answer.
- Pu S. HIATO,
MINISTER : The answer to Starred Question No.53 is - the installation of the pump at Tlawng Lui is yet to be completed.
- S P E A K E R : Supplementary question from Pu Lalthansanga.
- Pu LALTHANSANGA : Pu Speaker, the AGWSS, Phase-II has been inaugurated quite a long time ago? How come it is still unfinished? Why are we still using only Phase-I? I would like to know when the govt. can start taking necessary actions?
- Pu R. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker which is correct, Aizawl Greater Water Supply Scheme or Greater Aizawl Supply Scheme? I would also like to know if Sihphir is included under Phase II. Is there any intention to connect the pipelines of Sihphir with Aizawl?
- S P E A K E R : Pu K. Liantlinga.
- Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, what is the estimate for installation of pumps under Phase-II? What is the reason for its incapacity to function?
- S P E A K E R : Pu Lalduhoma.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Unless Phase-II is functioning, why do we keep referring it as Phase-II. Are we not using all the pipes and machines from Phase-I.

S P E A K E R : Supplementary question Dr. R. Lalthangliana.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, I would like to know if the pumps under Phase-II are still working. When the Phase-II was opened, it was able to pump 12 MLV a day and the revenue was increased tremendously. What exactly went wrong? What is the plan of the govt. to mitigate water problem of Aizawl?

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

Pu K.S.THANGA : Pu Speaker, I would like to know why they let the DoNER Minister inaugurate Phase II if the installation was incomplete. The estimate has already been revised and a huge amount of additional fund has been approved. Yet, the deptt. is saying that ₹.70 crores is still required to complete it. Whose fault is this? Why was the original estimate revised? Why is the pump still not functioning even after revision of the estimate?

I would also like to know when the area around my constituency will receive water as originally planned?

S P E A K E R : Let us invite the hon'ble minister to furnish the answer.

Pu S.HIATO : I am sure you are all aware of the
 MINISTER difficulties involved from the beginning.
 Work has not been initiated mainly
 because the 100 per cent standby was
 omitted in the agreement. There may be confusion about the name because each
 ministry has a different name for it as we came in to power. The main objective of the
 scheme is simply to pump water from Tlawng to Tuikhuahtlang and the installation is
 almost completed. There is still 400 meters of pipe to lay and we are pressuring the
 contractor to start work as soon as possible but since he is unable to commence
 immediately, we are considering if the deptt. should take up the task.

Provision of water to the hon'ble MLA's constituency was indeed included in the original plan. Most of the pipes have already been laid but there are still many tasks that must be done. That is our main problem.

A 12ML Deep Pump has been installed but the installation is not yet completed. Therefore, the pump cannot function as expected right now. The total amount of fund we have received is ₹.108.29 crores, which is ₹.64.4 crores and ₹.44.17 crores from the central and state shares respectively. Even with the help of electric power, it is impossible to pump 12MLD because we are unable to receive sufficient power supply and even if we pump water for 24 hours, the incompleteness of the pump makes it possible to pump over 16 MLD only.

The contractor has undertaken works worth ₹.83.15 crores so far and ₹.65.44 crores has already been given to him. By our estimate we owe him ₹.71.71 crores. The rest of the job is estimated to be worth ₹.35.9 crores. Finally, the amount of ₹.108.29 has been used from the total estimate of ₹.178.81 and another ₹.70.50 is still required to complete the scheme. We have tried to avail the required fund from DoNER and the central but they would no longer listen to us. Therefore, we are unsure about what to do next. But this is something the public needed sorely and a lot of money has already been invested in the scheme. Hence, the state government will try to find a way to complete the installation as soon as possible.

The main obstacle from the very beginning was that the DoNER had specific guidelines which we are unable to follow point by point. They cut our pumps and still expected us to pump water. The demand for water is ever rising, Pu Speaker, but we are pumping water as much as we can, using diesel engine and electric power. Right now, water problems are decreasing tremendously as a result. I hope my general summary will answer all your questions, thank you.

S P E A K E R : We will now move on to Starred
 Question No. 54. Pu Lalrobiaka may ask
 the question.

Pu LALROBIAKA : Will the hon'ble minister for Social Welfare Department be pleased to state-

How much has the government spent for the construction of Tribal Art Centre at Tanhril?

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble minister for Social Welfare Department may furnish the answer.

Pu P.C.LALTHANLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, answer to Starred Question No. 54 is -

The amount of ₹.473.13 has already been given to PWD for the construction of Tribal Art Centre at Tanhril.

S P E A K E R : Supplementary questions from Pu Lalrobiaka and Pu K. Lalrinthanga.

Pu LALROBIAKA : Pu Speaker, the location appears to be privately owned. Who is the owner and how much compensation did he receive?

Pu K.LALRINTHANGA : I would like to know if the owner of the location is given 6 per cent from the project estimate.

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalduhoma.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, government has received ₹. 600 lakhs from Tribal Welfare Ministry. ₹.473 lakhs has already been used. Although the remaining amount seems to be more than enough, the govt. keep on saying that there was lack of funding during session last year. What is the reason for its incompleteness? Is it true about the

lack of fund? I would also like to know who will maintain it after it is completed. When will it be completed? Has the final bill released for the contractor? How will it be utilized after it is completed?

Pu P.C.LALTHANLIANA : The total estimate for the centre is ₹.600
MINISTER lakhs and ₹.473 lakhs has already
been transferred to PWD for the
construction. The remaining ₹.126.87
lakhs was released by central last year but we were unable to withdraw due to lack of
time. The money will be revalidated soon and handed over to PWD.

There is nothing shady about the acquisition of land because the govt. initially looked for suitable land and the present owner was generous enough to donate it. The govt. has no knowledge of giving the landowner, Pu Saizahawla in this case 6 per cent of the funds from the project estimate. The govt. will decide how to utilize it best after the construction is finished. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The question hour has come to an end.
We will now move on to other
businesses at hand. The hon'ble
member, Pu B. Lalthlengliana could
not sit with us today due to an illness. Members including Pu Chawngtinthanga, R.L.
Pianmawia, House Leader Pu Lal Thanhawla all went to Darlawn on an important
business.

The hon'ble Minister, Pu Liansailova will now lay papers -16th
Annual Report of Mizoram Public Service Commission for the year 2006-'07 and 17th
Annual Report of Mizoram Public Service Commission for the year 2007-'08 on the
table of the House, the copy may please be distributed.

We will begin discussion on Demand for Grant 2009-2010
from today and we will accept the Demands of ministers, Pu S. Hiato, Pu Zoram
Sangliana and Pu P.C. Lalthanliana. Let us first invite the hon'ble minister, Pu S.
Hiato to submit his Demand nos. 25, 40, 43 before the House.

Pu S.HIATO : Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of
MINISTER the Governor of Mizoram and with
your permission sir, I move my
Demand nos. 25, 40, 43 for
Rs. 141,84,87,000 for meeting expenses during 2009-2010 in respect of the following
departments – Demand no. 25 - Water Supply and Sanitation, amount

₹.108,81,32,000, Demand no. 40 – Industries, amount ₹.27,72,45,000, Demand no. 43 – Tourism, amount ₹.5,31,10,000. Thank you, sir.

S P E A K E R : Pu P.C. Zoram Sangliana will now submit Demand nos. 18, 23, 42 before the House.

Pu P.C.ZORAM SANGLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission sir, I move my Demand nos. 18, 23, 42 for ₹.41,46,40,000 for meeting expenses during 2009-2010 in respect of the following departments.

Demand no.18 - Printing and Stationery – ₹.9,16,00,000, Demand no. 23 - Art and Culture – ₹.7,08,55,000, Demand no. 42 - Transport – ₹.5,21,85,000, coming to a total of ₹.41,46,40,000. Thank you, sir.

S P E A K E R : Finally let us invite Pu P.C. Thanliana to submit Demand nos.19 and 29 before the House.

Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission sir, I move my Demand nos. 19 and 29 for ₹. 85,08,12,000 for meeting expenses during 2009-2010 in respect of the following departments.

Demand no. 19 - Local Administration Department – ₹.24,84,65,000, Demand no. 29 - Social Welfare Department – ₹.60,23,47,000 coming to a total of ₹.85,08,12,000. Thank you, sir.

S P E A K E R : Very well, the ministers have all submitted their demands. We will now begin discussions on the 8 Demands they have submitted just now. Each member will have 10 minutes to express their opinions. Let us invite Pu PP Thawla first.

Pu P.P. THAWLA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. May I request that the opposition be given an additional 5 minutes because there are very few of us?

S P E A K E R : That is not my decision entirely but I will give you 2 minutes more at the most.

Pu P.P. THAWLA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The day I became the CEM of Mara Autonomous Council for the shortest duration on record, I delivered a speech at the inauguration of Saiha Greater Water Supply Scheme. The scheme has seen huge progresses but the level of development is far from satisfactory. When I was in the ruling ministry, we demanded that a PHE division be set up at Saiha but it was shifted to Mamit district at the last minute. However, our demand has been fulfilled now and I am pleased that the minister is from our constituency. The fund for our district has also been increased by ₹.180 lakhs and hence, I am sure we will have development at a faster pace now. I would like to request the government to develop the PHE division facilities so that they will be able to serve the needs of the public more efficiently in future.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the hon'ble minister the hardships faced by the people of Tawngkawlawng village due to scarcity of water. The pipes which were used to draw water from the rivulets are all badly damaged now and they have no means of pumping water by themselves. If the minister could take a look at their condition I am sure the local residents would appreciate it extremely.

In the meantime, I would also like to request the hon'ble minister and the Cabinet to set up Geology and Mining sector under a separate Directorate.

Art and Culture Department under Demand no. 23 is an important department for preservation and exhibition of our culture. We are able to allocate ₹.300 lakhs in the plan fund now, and I am sure the department will do its utmost to develop itself. I am very grateful that MLA's are given subsidy quotas for musical instruments and equipments. Demand no 42, Transport department is also an extremely important department for developments in communications. I would like to bring to your notice that Phura pilot project was initiated way back in 1977 by the first ministry in the UT. However, after 25 years and with an expenditure of ₹.329, the road is still not completed. I even introduced it as a resolution in the House in 2004, and the resolution was approved by the House. I would like to request the hon'ble minister to take necessary actions for the betterment of Saiha area residents.

On the matter of inland waterway, we have the biggest river in Mizoram over there. The NEC has given us ₹.300 lakhs ten years ago to develop the river into at least a speedboat thoroughfare. But huge amount of funds were wasted on the survey alone. By 2006, only ₹.176 lakhs was left. I profoundly regret to see that only ₹.5 lakhs is left for inland waterways in the demand. I know if we are able to travel between Longmasu and Darzokai at least, it will ease much of the difficulties of the area residents.

Demand no. 19, LAD is concerned with distribution of housing loans and I request the concerned minister to give each MLA a few quotas.

I also request the Social Welfare minister to give us funds for old age pension in my constituency. We are extremely poor people and we are dependent on these useful schemes and project to a great extent. In the meantime, I am grateful that the department has made several developments in looking after children. We have benefited greatly from your work.

The people in my constituency often ask me if they could somehow receive these benefits from the government and as their representative, I request the concerned ministers to allocate some money for my constituency from the demand. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalrinawma.

Pu R. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am pleased that PHE department under Demand no. 25 has seen huge increase in their funding. I would like to know where the National Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme is to be implemented. As you know your constituency and mine, Pu Speaker, are facing several difficulties due to scarcity of water and hence I would like to know if we are included in the 124 habitation target.

Although a few pipes have already been laid in my constituency under Phase-II, the scheme could not be completed due to several problems as the hon'ble minister has said. Therefore, I would like to know if it is possible to create a minor project to pump water from nearby rivers for the area. Meanwhile, I am pleased to see that ₹.154 lakhs has been put aside in the demand for Emergency Water Supply by truck. Supplying water by truck in dry areas such as my constituency goes a long way and by increasing the amount of fund allocated in the demand, I hope that the truck owners will be able to receive their bills without trouble. This in turn, will mean regular water supply for the people.

₹.21.50 lakhs has been set aside for minor works under Industrial Estate Minor of Demand no. 40. Pu Speaker, I wonder which industrial estate would be targeted. Zuangtui Industrial Estate was set up a few years back but the government was unable to play its role in developing private industrialists. Several people invested money on industrial projects which culminated to nothing but trouble. The residents do not have sufficient financial assistance from the government and they are asked to renew their plot permit every now and then. If the hon'ble minister could do something to ease their problems, I am sure they will be extremely grateful.

Moving on to Demand no. 43, which is Tourism, government has set up tourist attraction centre at several points. If a centre could be built at Sakawrhmutuai Tlang, I am positive it will generate a huge amount of revenue because it is one of the highest mountains in the state and you could see as far as Cachar from the highest point of the mountain. It is not far from Aizawl and I am sure it will attract many visitors.

Demand no. 18 is Printing and Stationery. We have sophisticated printing machines now with qualified experts to work them. I do not understand why we are still not printing our own official calendars, text-books, etc. ourselves. What would be the purpose of installing these machines if they are not put to use?

I am deeply pleased that ₹.1.25 crores has been allocated for conservation of heritage for the year 2009-2010 under Demand no. 23, Art and Culture. Conservation of heritage is a must, However, I wonder why it is not mentioned in the work programme.

Pu Speaker, let me move on to Demand no. 42, Transport. The previous Congress ministry utilized the old buses which are no longer fit for long distance travels by using them to pick up government employees in Aizawl. They pay season tickets and the buses pick them up at appointed places. The routine saves a lot of time and money for the employees. However, the succeeding MNF ministry stopped the service and the employees have to go to their respective offices by bus. I would, therefore, like to ask the hon'ble minister if these buses could be put in service again.

We can see that Social Welfare department under Demand no. 29 has done a lot of work in the recent past. They have constructed link drains at several public points which, I am sure, will be of great service to the people. I commend the concerned minister and officials for making a detailed work programme encompassing the whole of Mizoram. I am also grateful that ₹.56.9 lakhs has been set aside to develop squash plantation at Sihphir. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Who will take the stand next? Very well, Pu Lalduhoma.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to start with Demand No. 25, Water Supply. The need of sufficient drinking water in the city is extremely urgent now. We have ₹.200 crores in the contingency fund of our budget. Why not use the fund to complete the Aizawl Greater Water Supply Scheme Phase-II? The work has already been started and it would be irresponsible on the part of the government to leave it now.

In the past, PHE would construct water holes at places where it would cost less. It would be much better if these constructions are done at places suggested by the local VC's and other BGO's because they are the ones who will be actually using them.

I would like to add few words on Zuangtui Estate included in Demand no. 40. The government has only started activity 24 years after the land was bought from private owners. It should be noted that the government released a notice to re-apply for the plot in 2000. The form was sold at ₹.40 a piece and over 100 applicants bought it without receipt. No word was heard from the government until November, 2008 when another notice was released. The form was sold for ₹.100 and again, no receipt was given. A notice was released this year as well. Where did the money received from these sales go? Why is it that there is no plot allotment even now?

Residents of the estate are not given regular water or power supply and therefore, they are unable to operate efficiently. It is important that the government recognize their necessities and if possible, even let them pay lower taxes. If we could privatize many of our government aided industries, I am sure we will be able to generate higher profits than before. Even in my constituency, there is an industrial area which has been left untouched for several years now. The roads are getting worse and the quarters are almost completely damaged. If the hon'ble minister could do something about it I am sure it could become a good location for setting up small scale industries.

I will move on to Demand no. 29, Social Welfare. We have several fit and unfit institutions and homes in our state now. These institutions receive monetary assistance and other benefits from the state government. However, even though they receive BPL rations, they are unable to collect them every month. This is a huge problem for them since they have no funds to pay for 4/5 months worth of ration at a time. If the government could amend the regularity of the rations, it would ease the problems of the institutions immensely.

The department also received ₹.64 lakhs from the Ministry of Social Justice in 2006-2007. But so far I have seen or heard no indication of work being done with these funds. It would be extremely sad if they are used for nothing. I would, therefore, like to request the concerned hon'ble minister to examine the system of its reception from the central and where and how it is utilized. I would also like to suggest the adoption cell of Social Welfare to be strengthened by providing more staff.

DSWO are supposed to be set up in every district but so far, there is only one each in Aizawl, Lunglei and Saiha. It would be a great development for the residents if it could be set up in all the districts. Regarding the post of CDPO, some of them are permanent while some are employed co-terminus. I am sure if these employees could be all confirmed, their work will be even more efficient.

The central government has pressured us to elevate the Women and Child Development to a separate department for quite some time now. I think the Chief Minister has also included it in his budget speech. I think the department should be created as soon as possible so that our women may be able to receive the benefits from the central schemes.

Under Demand no. 42 which is Transport, the Motor Vehicles Act, 1998, Section 146 requires each of us to insure our vehicles. But the insurance companies would not insure them and I have mentioned this in the House two or three times in the past. It is my opinion that the government should issue strict order to these insurance companies to insure every vehicle irrespective of their condition.

In reply to my question a few years back, 7717 taxi permits were given out up till April, 2006, it would mitigate the problem of congested traffic in the city if taxi permits are not given out anymore. There are too many taxis in service anyway.

In regard to Demand no. 19, the government has no appropriate rules for setting up a new village. The government should, therefore, create a set of regulations to carry out administration in these new villages. This is extremely important because new villages are born every now and then, and without proper regulation from the beginning it is apparent that they will have problems in the future. The ADA should supervise their building constructions so that these problems may be avoided.

Let me address Printing and Stationery department in conclusion. One problem the department constantly faces is that they are unable to

supply the needs of other department in quantity and quality. Therefore, I suggest that the printing machineries and other equipments be sold to private entrepreneurs or at least be rented out on contract basis. The department obviously cannot assume total control of the business and hence, I am sure it will be better if private entrepreneurs are involved. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

S P E A K E R : Pu Hmingdailova Khiangte.

Pu HMINGDAILOVA KHIANGTE : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Let me summarize the developments made by different departments.

The first thing I would like to speak about is in regard to Demand no. 29, Social Welfare. There is a de-addiction centre at Sethawn village which is no longer used. I am sure the building could be utilized for other purposes. It would be extremely sad if the government takes no action in this regard.

Concerning the demand for water supply under Demand no. 25, I am sure other constituencies are also in dire need of sufficient water supply. But I request the hon'ble minister to prioritize Tuirial constituency because the location is very awkward in terms of economical or political centre. It is not too far from Aizawl and hence we do not receive separate benefits like other constituencies which are remotely located. In other words, development bypasses our constituency and although we are not far from Aizawl, we rarely receive benefits which are due us. For example, Thingdawl is a farm area and they receive water supply from a water reservoir. But the reservoir is hardly sufficient to supply the needed amount of water. If the government could construct huge water tanky in the middle of the village I am sure it will ease the problems of the village to a large extent. Moreover, if government officials of SDO or JE level could visit the villages in the constituency, they will be able to ascertain their needs and developments could be obtained at a faster pace.

Under Demand no. 43, there are several rest houses along the range but there are no proper lodgings. I would like to suggest to the hon'ble minister to construct lodges along the road for easier travels and better accommodations.

Coming to Demand no. 18, Printing and Stationery, the government has advanced and sophisticated equipments and machineries now. So why are we not printing our own calendars and other official documents? I am sure we will save a lot of money by printing these things ourselves.

S P E A K E R : Pu Nirupam Chakma.

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I have tried to look up the websites of PHE and Industry on the internet but could not find any. They are one of our biggest departments and they should maintain a website.

In the meantime, I would like to offer my gratitude to the hon'ble ministers for their hard work. Their respective departments have seen numerous developments and they have always listened to our problems and tackled them as necessary. For that, they are extremely commendable and I wish them all the best.

In regard to water supply, Pu Speaker, several projects have failed after huge amount of funds were spent. This is clear evidence that we should be extremely careful in selecting projects. The projects should be scrutinized at different levels such as planning, and assessing, etc. Appropriate procedures should be followed. If these measures are not followed, then we are sure to spoil everything. Having said that, I request the hon'ble minister to start a project big enough to supply sufficient water to Chawngte constituency.

Concerning Industry, the previous Congress ministry has set up a sub-divisional office for which the local council has also given us land. Several buildings were then constructed and a handful of staff was also posted there. However, there were no activities during the last ten years or so. As a result, the buildings were dilapidated and all the staff has left. I want to know what happened during the MNF ministry.

With respect to Tourism, we are a dry area, but we must have a tourism strategy. It is important to keep an open mind because tourists do not want to visit places which are devoid of liquor. It is indeed important to restrict liquor but we have to make it flexible enough to attract tourists. In the meantime, we can also collect huge amount of revenues from the sale. We made plans to set up tourist spots at Rajmandal, Diltlang and Chhunkhum when I was a minister in the previous Congress ministry. The proposal was, however not pursued by MNF ministry. I would like to request the minister to please continue the project that was shelved by the MNF.

The hon'ble member, Pu Lalduhoma suggested that some sections of the Printing and Stationery department should be privatized, but I think that it would be better if the facilities within the department are developed and better equipped to cope with the demands.

One thing I would like to say about Art and Culture Department is that the districts of Mara, Chakma and Lai all have district offices. To ensure a smooth and efficient development, I think these district offices should have a cooperation of some sort.

Coming to Transport Department, Pu Speaker, I think government should set up a driving school in every district. About LAD, we should also hike the power of the VC's because their responsibilities have doubled in the recent past. And I would also like to request the hon'ble minister to increase the rations. We should also give out housing loans as much as possible.

The department of Social Welfare have made several progress through different schemes. Therefore, I think the department should receive better funding. old age pension needs to be revised in accordance with the hike in pay and allowance of government employees. Thank you.

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

Pu K. LALRINTHANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the government because of its concern for the welfare of its employees. Looking at our budget, each department has received an increase in their funding and I am sure the government employees are profoundly grateful to the government.

I will not be able to summarize the progress made by all departments but I would definitely like to request the hon'ble minister to give strict orders regarding water distribution by the muster roll employees. Water should be distributed evenly to all families but most of the time, the MR's give more water to those who bribe them. Government must make sure that water is distributed evenly to all families.

I went to the district office of Industry department at Kolasib and while they have a good building, they have no sufficient staff to do the works efficiently. This means that there will be no effective industrial development at Kolasib. Government should take a look at this and take necessary actions immediately.

Moving on to Printing and Stationery, I am pleased that the hon'ble minister has made several improvements in the department. Having said that, the Purchase Board should be aware that when they release a quotation, they should select only those who will supply good quality stationery items. Since there are no good quality press in the state as yet, the government should be the one to initiate it.

The LAD should find a way to cover the maintenance of villages as much as possible. There are still several villages which have no proper village managements. Instead of focusing all their efforts in and around Aizawl, I think the department should tackle the problems of these villages at the earliest.

Finally, I would like to request the Transport Minister to arrange an appropriate control procedure for buses in service in remote villages. If departmental heads at the level of at least a Deputy Director could look into these problems by going there themselves, it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Our discussion hour has come to an end for now, we will resume session at 2:00 pm in the afternoon.

2:00 pm :

S P E A K E R : We will continue our discussions now. Each member will have 10 minutes like before. Let us start with Pu K. Lianzuala.

Pu K. LIANZUALA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to begin with Demand No.25. The people of my constituency are suffering due to extreme lack of water. Although the department has tried its best, the pipes which were used to draw water from Hmuifang Tlang are old and rusty now. If the hon'ble minister could replace these rusty pipes I am sure much of their hardships could be eased. If a PHE Sud-Division could be set up at Tlungvel, it would be extremely appreciated.

Due to the effort of the hon'ble Chief Minister, a Sainik School will be set up at Chhingchhip very soon. However, our main problem will still be scarcity of water. Water lines are kept damaged by road construction and other developmental projects. Therefore, I would like to request the concerned minister to think of a new way to supply water such as pumping it from Tuikum.

Pu Speaker, moving on to Demand no – 40 regarding Industries, I hope we are familiar with Pu Chana and his followers residing at Baktawng Tlangnuam. They have been manufacturing different utensils and window frames etc. which are sold not only in Mizoram but also in other places like Tibet proving that they are very industrious . Therefore, can the hon`ble minister locate a Mini Industrial Estate in their region.

Moving on to Demand no – 43 Tourism, in my constituency there are many areas which are suitable for tourist attraction site like Ngentiag and other like Tawi sanctuary and there also exist endangered species like tigers and

cheetah and there are also many other cultural heritage, using this as a bait to attract tourist the govt. could create sites for tourist attraction and lodges in this area.

Recently, vehicle accidents happened in different areas and though we cannot hold anyone responsible, it is crucial to take every form of precautions to avoid it. Strict prohibitions should be made regarding the use of cell phones and smoking while driving etc. Regarding Demand no – 19, Local Administration, I hope the govt. could pay more attention to rural areas since it is not covered by Urban Development. Though there are many points, I will stop for now since my time is up. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Mr. Lalthansanga.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Regarding Demand no – 25, Water Supply & Sanitation, we are facing a hardship in my constituency and I hope the govt. could pay more attention to this problem since water is of vital importance.

Under Industry, Demand no – 40, villages like Khawlailung and many other have produced sugarcane in a large scale and they are very interested in building a small scale industry. I hope our minister could consider this and assist them in any possible manner.

The govt. should note that many staff in Tourism Dept. are recruited as M.R and this could result in inefficiency in performing their duty. We are glad that there is 400 lakhs in rural programme under Demand no – 19 since construction of steps and roads are a must for development. I also want to state that we do not have any I.B or lodge in my constituency and I hope the govt. could give importance to this issue. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Who will be next ? Pu T.T. Zothansanga.
DEPUTY SPEAKER

Pu T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Under Demand no-25, I want to say that villages under my constituencies like Champhai and others like Hnahlan etc have been facing hardships in water supply for a very long time and I appeal the govt. to provide us with more public points.

Moving on to Demand No – 40, regarding industry, it is pleasing to see that the office expenses had decreased. DIC have been inaugurated in Champhai, Kolasib, Serchhip, Lawngtlai and Mamit, but without the post of a General Manager makes them unable to function properly so, I hope our minister could keep this in mind and we the Congress party will be looking forward to the day our DIC`s function properly.

With its natural beauty of flora and fauna there are many tourist attraction sites in Champhai region and I suggest that the govt. make use of this opportunity to create sites to draw tourist.

Though Tuipui area is not under my constituency, I advise that this area should be renovated as there are many cultural heritage in this area. I suggest that the Dist. tourism Dept. should also be inaugurated in this region.

Art & Culture Dept. is our mean to show our true culture and its heritage. I find it pleasing that the sanctions had increased, at the same time, I suggest that office should be established in Champhai. Under Demand No – 42, Transport, after privatization seems to have fallen and the people in my constituencies are suffering the consequences. They are denied of the advantages they can enjoy. So, I propose that govt. transportation service should be arranged in this area.

It is satisfying to know that LAD work programmes under Demand No – 29 shows that ₹.548 lakhs are sanctioned for developmental work. Like Aizawl, problems regarding sanitation will be faced by Dist. capitals like Lunglei, Champhai, Kolasib and Serchhip. So in order to overcome this, I suggest that proper plans should be made in this regard. Lastly, I want to thank our minister for the plans in Social Welfare Deptt. for the benefits of the people and at the sametime creating a challenge. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Who will be next? Col. Z.S.Zuala.
DEPUTY SPEAKER

Lt.Col.Z.S.ZUALA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. On the subject of Demand No-25 P.H.E, we are facing hardships regarding water supply in different areas and outskirts the city are neglected. I suggest that this should be monitored by J.E`s or other officer levels. On Tourism Demand no – 42, I believe that Art & Culture and Tourism should go side by side since they compliment each other. Art & Culture highlights and preserves our cultural heritage while tourism uses this for tourist attraction. Under Demand No- 40, Industries, the govt. should re-consider about our Public Sector Enterprises. It is expected that these enterprises should assist the govt.

in making profits but failed. At this rate, our number of deficit will go higher effecting our economic status.

Under Demand no – 19, LAD, I understand that minor works are conducted. Residents from the west do not have proper place for accommodation like Mara or Lai. It will be pleasing if such minor House could be constructed for them.

Since salaries of govt. servants have increased, is there a chance for the increment of old age pension?

Under Art & Culture, we have modified our cultural dances in many ways, and I am afraid that this will lead to modernizing of our dances without preserving its true origin. I suggest that our minister should keep an open mind in this matter.

Under Demand no – 42, Transport, we could see in the allotment that we have ₹.4 lakhs for Inland Water Transport and I wonder where such amount will be operated. Railway Out Agency which was started by our former Chief Minister Pu Lal Thanhawla proves to be very convenient for service and ex-servicemen. I suggest that this should be modernized for better advantage. I am also happy about Motor Tax Collection which will increase our tax collection.

Regarding Printing & Stationery, is there a possibility to modernize our machines and if the office is not spacious enough, they could be moved to another location having more space in order to have more quality product. Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Pu Rinmawia Ralte.
DEPUTY SPEAKER

Pu LALRINMAWIA RALTE : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker, under Demand no-43, Tourism, I want to highlight about the west side of Mizoram, this area is bordered by Tripura, Assam and Bangladesh, meaning it is frequently visited by people of other states. We have many requirements in this area like tourist lodge and we are looking forward to a better development.

Under Demand no- 42, Transport Department, before the construction of Airport Rd and Hachhek constituency via West Phaileng, today ZDU and different organizations recorded this as an approved distance. So in case of emergency like carrying a dead body, we have to pay extra 30 Kms. For example, Kawrthawveng is about 170 kms while the actual distance is less than 140 kms. We

can go back and forth in one day but we still have to pay for 170 kms. So, I think this has to be re-considered.

Regarding Demand no - 25, I am grateful to know that we are known for rain water harvesting and plans to develop ground water recharging is also in the process.

Demand no – 40, under Industries, it is obvious that Mizoram economy is agriculture economy, looking at the employment status, though service does not have much employment, they contribute the highest in GSDP which is quite strange. So, I believe that we are not suitable for manufacturing and I suggest that we should focus more on service industry.

Under Art & Culture Dept. I want to suggest that since we have a variety of cultural dances, other dances should also be put in the light beside Solakia, Chheihlam and Cheraw.

The former Congress ministry has given an area for micro-minority in Luangmual area and I presume that this has to be taken care of by Social Welfare Dept. There also exists micro – minority in Mizoram and I believe they should also enjoy special advantage. Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

Pu LALROBIAKA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. As stated by other hon`ble members, among the many problems faced by the westside, one of our major difficulties is water & sanitation. Water is so scarce that even our hospital at Phaileng has to use vehicles to acquire it which results in bad sanitation and effects our health condition. Due to shortage of water one school in Reiek is also closed down. The govt. has taken a survey regarding this and steps for development in this matter has been planned.

Regarding Industry, I propose that we should concentrate on wood base industry since we are blessed with wood and bamboo.

We know that we can make a great profit in Tourism, for e.g organizing anthurium festival at Reiek make good profits, but the road is very rough and bumpy, I hope our minister could keep an open mind in this matter. Apart from these, linking ourselves with sports we have Khuangchera Puk and is frequently visited by trekkers, we need to develop and preserve this kind of places which also exist in different places like Kanhmun, Khawrihnim.

Speaking of Tourism, I believe it is strongly linked with Art & Culture Dept. and I want to thank our minister for his hard work resulting in different developments like our library. It is obvious that we can be much more improved in Printing & Stationery and steps are also taken in this regard.

Under Transport, it is pleasing to know that we have more than ₹.25 crores. I suggest that our authorities should take better measures for the safety of our travelers and at the same time knowing the importance of our drivers, I believe better accommodation should be given to them since the lives of the passengers are in their hands. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Who will be next ? Pu Zothangliana.
DEPUTY SPEAKER

Pu H.ZOTHANGLIANA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Under Demand no – 42, Transport, I want to express my gratitude in the House to our minister for heeding our words regarding bus services and placing a new DTO Office in Lawngtlai & Mamit.

Regarding Demand No -22, Art & Culture, on behalf of our constituency, I want to express my gratitude in the House for their help and assistance since we are a little backward and I hope this will continue even in publication.

Social Welfare Deptt, under Demand no – 20, we are manned with only one CDPO Office which is not sufficient and judging from the population we need at least 10 nos of CDPO, and we need more Anganwadi Centre in rural areas like us.

Under Demand no – 19, Budget for Autonomous Dist. had increased and I hope funds from LAD could also increase in proportion to this. Lastly, regarding Water Supply & Sanitation, with the help of our minister and officers and Mizo financial advisers from NEC, we are concentrating on additional sources of fund which will be utilized for Sangau Water Supply Scheme. Since we are only starting this project, I appeal our govt. dignitaries for their support and attention. Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

Pu LAL THANZARA : Thank you, Pu Dy.Speaker, on Demand no-29, Social Welfare Department, on the matter of disabled persons, the sanction amounts to ₹. 70.6 lakhs only, so, is there a way to revise the sanction and work more rapidly for the success of “Person with Disability Act” and I request the Social Welfare Department and our minister to give more effort in this regard. Apart from these, many NGO’s run on fund they received from central which are very irregular and I request our minister to examine this matter and find solution to receive funds more regularly and on time. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Pu John Siamkunga.
DEPUTY SPEAKER

Pu JOHN SIAMKUNGA : Thank you, Pu Dy.Speaker. On Demand no-25, Water & Sanitation, ₹.154 lakhs had been reserved for emergency from our budget and I hope that it will be utilized for solving water shortage problems. Since 400 lakhs had also been put aside to manage and operate rural water supply. I trust our minister to note this and we will be looking forward for the change.

On Demand no. 40 - Industries, in a state like ours the major problem we have in running an industry is supply of raw materials which is always short and high labour rate. Since the labor cost is also high the production cost also rises. Industry set ₹.184.5 lakhs for investment, keeping this in mind, I suggest that efforts should be made in developing small and agro-based industries in order to be independent in their production.

Regarding Tourism, this year our budget had increased by ₹.31.99 lakhs. Using this as a mean for development in making our state a place for tourist attraction, I propose that proper arrangements be made for the advancement of this department in the best possible way.

Regarding improvement of Art & Culture, I opine it is necessary for the government to give more efforts. It is highly appreciated that the hon'ble minister for Art & Culture Department, keeping in mind of the need to expose our culture to the world, initiated plan for the Mizos, a chance to hold Guinness Book of World Record as the highest number performing 'Cheraw dance' at a time and is being achieved accordingly. In this connection, I opine it is, as well important for the government to give importance to construction of 'Tourists' attraction at the site where the body of Ropuiliani was laid.

Coming now to Transport Department, the hon'ble Chief Minister, who is also in-charge of Finance, pointed out in his budget speech that transport department is one of the most important sources of revenue for the government. What is important for the government is to give awareness to the public, the necessity to submit road tax to the department as there are number of defaulters who do not even care to give the said tax accordingly.

As of the collection of parking fee, it is now becoming one of the most important sources of the state's government revenue, thanks to the effort of the concerned minister. In connection with this, Pu Speaker, it is learnt that the department is planning to purchase not less than 30 number of new buses. If so, I request the concerned hon'ble minister to have MST bus service to the remote places within my constituency such as South Vanlaiphai, Muallianpui and Hnahtial.

Again, Pu Dy. Speaker, it is learnt that there is a provision of not less than ₹.770 lakh in LAD which may be utilized for improvement of rural areas. Hence, it is important for the government to give priority to plantation of trees, the plan which may be made by each concerned village instead of wasting the said fund for construction of some retaining walls, steps or approach roads. The same plan may also be applied to the areas covered by BADP.

Regarding our system of maintenance of the Angawadi under Social Welfare Department, I opine it is necessary to set up a regular system for the concerned teachers as they actually are pre-school teachers. Since the Right to Education does not allow school admission for children who are less than 6 years of age, improvement of the system is much important. Unless the system is improved, the said children may fail to acquire educational knowledge that a 6 years old child is supposed to have. It is, therefore, necessary to build up the concerned children's mentality from the stage of Angawadi so as to help them befitted in the school. It will be appreciated if the concerned minister note down points I have mentioned. Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : It may be appropriate if the time is DEPUTY SPEAKER kept in balance so that members from each party get sufficient time to speak. Let me now call upon Pu C. Ramhluna, who is raising a hand first.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Let me start with Demand no. 25. I wonder if the department is changing in a negative direction as allotment of Plan budget for this year decreased by ₹.3,293 lakh. What could be the reason for the decrease as the hon'ble Leader of the House pointed out that no budget provision of any department will be effected by introduction of NLUP? If we look into work scheduled of the department, there is a provision of ₹.460 lakh and ₹.400 lakh respectively for Drinking Water Supply Scheme and Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Scheme. It is regretting that work scheduled does not include my constituency and will be much pleasing if such provisions are used for the benefit of the people of my constituency too. Regarding allocation of Rs.3100 lakh for minor works under Urban Water Supply Scheme, I was expecting that a member from Lawngtlai East would urge the concerned authority to include Lawngtlai Water Supply but it was not pointed out. Hence, I request the concerned minister to explain the exact situation.

Again, Pu Dy. Speaker, there is a remarkable change in budget allocation of Industries Department in which the amount decreased by ₹.1624 lakh compared to last year. What is the reason? It will also be much pleasing if DIC at Lawngtlai, Mamit, Kolasib and Champhai are put to function as it is done so with

DIC at Aizawl, Lunglei and Saiha. It is also necessary for the government to re-examine the condition of certain corporations such as Handloom, KVI, MIFCO and ZOHANDCO.

Tourism Department, Pu Dy. Speaker, we see that the planned budget is increased by ₹.42 lakhs which is much appreciated.

Regarding selection of beneficiary for Housing Loan in July, Pu Speaker, 235 persons were selected for MIG and 280 for LIG. As my knowledge is concerned, the said loan has not yet been released till today. It will be pleasing if the concerned authority consider immediate release of that loan. In that connection, the concerned Board made a recommendation for increase of the amount of the said loan to be raised to ₹.1,50,000/- for MIG and ₹.1,00,000/- for LIG and it will be much appreciated if this recommendation is approved immediately. It is learnt that there is a provision of ₹.505 lakh for that purpose. Pu Dy. Speaker, it may not be possible to meet the requirement with that amount as it is supposed to be divided in 8 districts. It means that share of each district is less than ₹.100 lakh. Hence, I opine it is necessary to increase allotment of that provision.

Regarding Budget allotment in respect of Social Welfare Department, it is regretted that the amount is considerably decreased compared to last year allotment. Since the department is concerned with supply of materials to the public in rural areas such as P.A set, kettle, large cooking pot, guitar etc., I opine reduction of budget provision of the said department is very unfortunate. Hence, it will be pleasing if the government reconsider the case so that sufficient budget allotment is made in respect of Social Welfare Department.

In relation to this, Pu Dy. Speaker, I want to convey my thanks to the concerned minister for providing 2 Nos. of P.A. set for my constituency which is said to be no less in number with the same material provided to Home Minister.

Again, Pu Dy. Speaker, I want to point out that one Anganwadi teacher in my constituency is reportedly in the habit of selling nutrition items for his personal benefit. I have given information to the concerned CDPO and Project Officer and they assured to prevail investigation yet, no action has been taken till today. The concerned minister may note down this point if he is interested to take action.

Pu Dy. Speaker, it is also important to allot more financial provision to maintenance of physically handicapped and old-aged persons. Relating to this matter, I want to say that there is a family in my constituency with 4 blind members who truly deserved financial assistance from the government. It will be highly appreciated if the government is able to consider increase of the amount of financial assistance which may be given to the deserved persons.

Regarding the National Assistant programme, it is learnt that District Level Committee has already existed under the chairmanship of D.C., yet no committee is called till today. Hence, it will be pleasing if the concerned minister note down the point so that immediate action is taken. In the meantime, Pu Dy. Speaker, I truly appreciate that budget allotment in respect of Transport Department, Art &

Culture Department and Printing & Stationery Department are increased by ₹.234.78 lakh ₹.42.8 lakh and ₹.41.38 lakh respectively.

As one of the members of Consultative Committee, I have attended the committee held at the Minister's office chamber 3 times and I am very happy to find out that the concerned minister is giving great interest in the functioning of his departments as he seems to particularize each of the matter which concerned his departments. It is also much pleasing to learn that there is a plan to set up North-eastern Printing Institute in Mizoram as it will surely be a valuable asset for our state. Not only this, there is a plan for construction of Modern Art Museum under the Department of Art & Culture. Much as well, Pu Dy. Speaker, it is pleasing to learn that the government is making intensive effort for improvement of road within Aizawl city. In this connection, it is pleasing to learn that the government is able to set appropriate routine for service of taxis so as to resolve traffic problem within Aizawl city. Yet, it may be wise for the concerned authority not to exercise the same to private vehicles. In the meantime, it is noted with thanks that the government makes the best use of Ch. Saprawnga Terminal so as to alleviate the problem of congested traffic within the city. Hence, I want to thank the concerned authority. Thank you.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Let me now call upon Pu K. Liantlinga
DEPUTY SPEAKER from the opposition bench.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. This is my
first time in the discussion of Budget
Demand so, I want to make my speech in
general.

As never been practiced in the Assembly discussion, it is much pleasing that we have now seen Work Programme, Performance Budget and Plan. Yet, some errors might be there since it is prepared only for the first time.

What I would like to say, at the out set is that the capital section of Demand no.25 in which budget allocation is ₹.3089.97 lakhs where as ₹.165.120 lakhs only is allotted under Work Programme. In Tourism Department, we do not see work programme except ₹.25 lakhs for minor work.

Regarding Printing & Stationery, ₹.191.38 lakhs is allotted under Work Programme yet, capital section is nil. In the same manner, no allotment is seen under capital section of Art & Culture Department and ₹.110 lakhs for minor works with ₹.33 lakhs under Work Programme. Regarding Transport Department, we see ₹.256.80 lakhs with ₹.600 lakhs for Work Programme. Since it is necessary for the members to carefully study the budget statement, allocation of budget is supposed to be matched with work programme so that performance budget is clearly understood.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I must say that Work Programme of Social Welfare Department set a good example as the programme is shown in detail as one could easily see Performance Budget from that statement. Yet, it may be better if Integrated Child Programme Protection Scheme is shown separately as it involves MoU in which matching share of the state government and the central is 10% and 90% respectively. I have no idea whether MoU already existed. If not, it may be pleasing if it is done immediately as it concerned for child protection.

In this connection, I opine it is time for the government to determine introduction of The Mizoram Beggary Prevention and Prohibition Act as beggars from outside begin to pollute our street. Regarding budget allocation to LAD, I feel the need to improve the system of sanitation as seeing garbage being carried around in daylight on some busy streets is causing an eyesore and unhealthy for the surroundings. Hence, it is wise to fix working hour from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM as it is practiced in advanced cities.

It is known to us all that since privatization of transport system, Maxi cabs, Night Buses owned by privates are now in service and to some extent, the system is quite improving yet, introduction of new system of service routine for taxis may be re-examined as it may encroach Fundamental Right or Labour Right. It may as well be considered that traffic problem is mainly caused by private vehicles as registered number of vehicle registration is 60,000 out of which 45,000 are private vehicles and only 4,500 are public service vehicles. Out of the total population of more than ₹.2.2 lakhs in Aizawl city, ₹.1.5 lakhs shares those public service vehicles for conveyance. Hence, the concerned authority should give some respects to the public and their rights should not be ignored. In my opinion, Pu Dy. Speaker, it may be more appropriate to set the taxi service routine by area-wise such as Southern, Northern, Eastern and Western so that no taxi is allowed to trespass the other areas. In the same manner, it may be appropriate to set a particular route for each public bus so that service of more buses may be made available to the public.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the use of our traditional Gong (Darkhuang) to start each sitting of the House is very good as it signifies our culture. But a picture of our traditional 'Puan' being displayed there at the top may be replaced with a genuine one and may Art & Culture Department provide this.

Coming now to Printing & Stationery Department, I must say that the department is, in a way like PWD as its function is to supply the deposited materials demanded by the departments. Every department allocated certain amount of fund in the budget under the head of O.E., the total of which could amount to ₹.30/40 crores. Even though Printing & Stationery is supposed to supply the demand furnished by the departments, most of the departments usually procured their demand from open market and such practices prevent progress of Stationery Department. It is, therefore, much desirable that the department makes demand to the said department from their respective OE heads.

Besides, in spite of being the department to collect printing items from the departments for further distribution to any registered farm/press, most

of the departments put the said items directly to the press of their own choice. Hence, it is important for the concerned authority to maintain meaningful system in dealing with this matter to further improve Printing & Stationery department.

Pu Speaker, Tourism Deptt., as known to us all, is one of the most important sources of revenue for the government. Yet, we have not seen Work Programme of the department. What is the reason?

Coming now to Industry Deptt., it is much pleasing to learn that bifurcation of Geology & Mining is now being processed. It is learnt from A.G. report that most of the public sector companies are collapsing due to failure to make profit from such companies despite financial provision of ₹.800 crores. If so, it is much necessary for the government to concentrate on improvement of public sector companies.

In regard to Water Supply & Sanitation, there is financial provision of ₹.3089.97 under capital section with work programme amounting to ₹.1006 lakhs. In order to obtain effective result of the work, I opine it is necessary to make sufficient financial provision.

I hope that the concerned authority would give more effort for preparation of the next budget so that the quality of Work Programme and Performance Budget is improved. Any departments under the state government will then be able to compete each other so as to bring about development in our state. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We will have a recess now and the concerned minister may wind up the discussion as soon as the sitting is resumed.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, it may not be appropriate for the concerned minister to take advantage of his wind up speech for campaigning but he should give the detail of the programme and clarify each point raised by the members.

S P E A K E R : The meeting may be conducted as per desire of the majority. We will now have a recess for 15 minutes and the meeting will be resumed at 4:20 PM with a speech from Pu R. Selthuama and Dr. R. Lalthangliana to follow.

Recess at 4:05 PM

Meeting is resumed at 4:20 PM.

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

Pu R. SELTHUAMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. As this budget session is conducted only after 7 months since the new ministry came into existence, I want to make an appeal to all the departments to move their respective financial sanction within this month or by November so that work can be started from December. Out of 8 departments, we have already discussed budget concerning 3 departments whereas the budget amount except Industry department are all increased.

So, Pu Speaker, I want to begin my speech with Water Supply and Sanitation Department as it is our essential need in our day to day life. Certain members from constituencies of rural areas pointed out the need for regular supply of water in rural areas and I fully support their opinions. Yet, it may be pleasing if the concerned minister keeps in mind the same need for Aizawl city where high dignitaries are living. Hence, it may be important for the government to determine possibility of using Contingency Fund for completion of Phase-II of Aizawl Greater Water Supply Scheme.

As pointed out earlier regarding pipe which has already been laid in the area of Sihphir without connecting the line for Aizawl city, it is, in a way shameful for the concerned department not to complete the said as planned. In relation to this, I want to make a request to the concerned authority to resume laying of pipe line to Bungkawn Vengthar which may be completed by extension of pipe line with few meters only.

Pu Speaker, since budget estimate for this department is increased compared to the previous year, it is to be noted that the people are expecting better work performance from the department.

As of budget estimate for Industry Department, Pu Speaker, the amount is slightly decreased in comparison to the previous one and it is much regretted as the department is becoming the most resourceful revenue generator for the government. If priority is given by the government for up-gradation of Geology & Mining Wing, we will then be able to give concentration on exploration of our natural resources which is determined as the most profitable source for revenue earning for the government.

Again, Pu Speaker, it is regretted that budget provision is not there for grant-in-aid for up-gradation of public undertakings under Industry Department. As far as my knowledge is concerned, employees under public

undertakings could not draw their pay for three months due to the fact that those establishments are functioning with a loss. Pu Speaker, I opine the government should determine to resolve their financial requirement immediately unless the said establishments are terminated.

Coming now to Tourism Department, it is pleasing to see that the department is making remarkable achievement with setting up of number of tourists' accommodation and attraction in various parts of Mizoram. Yet, I would like to say that tourist lodge built in the centre of grassy peak of Hmuifang Tlang is causing an eyesore to the visitors as it destroys the most attractive portion of the peak. If extension of that establishment is planned, it will be suggestive to do so at the corner where no natural grass is harmed.

Pu Speaker, speaking of Tourism Department reminds me of the need to improve our roads. For example, the most popular place for outing, now a days is Hmuifang, the approach road of which is very poor. It is, therefore, important for the government to give priority to improvement of roads approaching such kind of important sites.

Regarding Demand no. 42, I want to point out that Transport Department, in the previous years was functioning with a loss. But now, we are beginning to make profit, thanks to the effort of our leaders and the concerned officers. Here in the budget estimate of the department, large amount of fund is allotted which is supposed to be utilized for purchase of new buses. It is desirable if the concerned minister and staff of the department are giving their best effort so as to earn more revenue out of sufficient amount of fund being allotted.

Coming now to Demand No. 42, Local Administration Department, the budget estimate is slightly increased in comparison to last year. As known to us all, the department is very important for the people living in the city as well as in the village. It may be true to some extent that LAD is no longer important for Zarkawt locality yet, it is to be noted that there are number of localities located in the remote corner of Aizawl city. Hence, they still need the department's concern like they need in rural areas. Besides, Pu Speaker, it is regretted that certain localities within my constituency are excluded from the area covered by the development schemes such as AAY, NREGA. I have even asked the reason in our meeting in which the official claimed that the area lies within town's area and as such, it could not be included. If so, I opine it is necessary for LAD to give special attention to such areas. Thank you.

Dr.R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, in spite of our discussion on demand being barely 4 months, we could pass it today by vote on account.

As we see today, Pu Speaker, first time Assembly members take majority of the House and I am glad that they are making favourable contributions in our discussion too.

Before getting to the point, Pu Speaker, please allow me to emphasize the importance of appropriate utilization of financial provisions allotted to us as any performance of work indicates the system of our financial dealing. It is much desirable if the point expressed by the hon'ble Chief Minister as shameful is not recurred in our budget in future.

At the out set, let me start with Demand No. 18, Printing & Stationery Department. It is pleasing to learn that the department acquired an important printing material which may be generated for production of more requirements.

Secondly, Demand No. 42, Transport Department, I want to point out that with the effort given by the previous government for improvement of road communication, the distance between the north and south of Mizoram has now shortened. It takes only 4 hours or more for traveling between Aizawl and Lunglei even before completion of Hmuifang road and Haulawng to Lunglei road whereas at least 8 hours is needed for traveling the same distance at the previous road via Hnahthial or Serchhip. What I would like to emphasize in that connection is the need for safe driving. It may be important for the concerned authority to give awareness to all concerned drivers particularly Maxi cab drivers as they are in the habit of speeding on the road despite curved and uneven road which is dangerous not only for the driver and his passengers but also for other travelers on that road. Pu Speaker, despite achievement of the government for improvement of roads during the previous term, certain members today seem to hesitate to give appreciation as it is done during the ministry ran by other party.

Pu Speaker, it is highly appreciated as the government is making intensive effort for construction of road under the scheme of PMGSY. I am confident that even remote villages not less than 250 households will soon be linked with metal road in the near future. In that connection, it will be necessary for the government to give awareness to the concerned public the importance of careful driving as vehicle accident usually occurs at good conditioned roads.

Next, I would like to mention about District office of Mamit and Lawngtlai to which financial power has not been given till today. Pu Speaker, as my party came into power to rule the first five years term, we were burdened with number of newly upgraded districts and their offices to be furnished eventually. We did all we can in pursuance of the aforesaid task. In fact, all the departments are now able to function as a result of effort given by the previous ministry.

Pu Speaker, I visited DTO office recently and appreciated that all the office works has been computerized. This surely is an outstanding achievement for the department. Yet, I would like to request the hon'ble minister to furnish the department with new computers as they are now using outdated machines. In that

connection, let me point out that DTO is not having office building of its own till today. It is, therefore, important for the government to provide one building at New Capital for the office.

Coming now to Social Welfare Department, it is regretting to learn that budget provision for nutrition during this year is less than that of the previous one. Pu Speaker, not to mention of not receiving P.A set, it is highly important for the government to improve Old Age Home by supplying more financial provisions and provide the department with more clothing and medical facilities. It may also be important for the concerned authority to determine a permanent post of CDPO.

Regarding LAD, I opine it is necessary to place syntex tanky at a convenient point of each locality for storage of garbage as many families often missed the coming of garbage van due to household chores or other problems.

Pu Speaker, it is learnt that the amount of Housing loan which is ₹.10,000/- and ₹.20,000/- has now been raised to ₹.50,000/- and ₹.80,000/-. Yet, I opine it is necessary to revise the amount as it is less sufficient considering inflation caused by implementation of 6th Pay Commission.

Again, Pu Speaker, it is learnt that financial provisions for Urban Development under the scheme of JNURM in respect of Lunglei and Serchhip which has already been sanctioned is being delayed allegedly due to intention of the department of Urban Development to execute its financial sanctions due to unavailability of technical person in the department where as the project is of PHE. Pu Speaker, we consider this as a serious matter as timely implementation, timely execution and supervision is necessary in any case of CSS implementation. It is deeply regretted that the sanction is now being held unnecessarily. Hence, the concerned authority may resolve the problem immediately so that PHE could start the work soon.

Pu Speaker, I am not intending to speak the demands of my constituency this time, but the necessity compels me to do so as we are heading for acute water supply problem unless leakage of reservoir at Ramzotlang and CS Tlang Lunglei are immediately repaired. Besides, there are other reservoirs within Lunglei which also need attention. It will be much pleasing if the hon'ble minister note down the points I have mentioned for immediate action.

In the same manner, it will be pleasing if this powerful government determine to continue plans initiated during the previous ministry and the estimate amount which has already been sanctioned such as ₹.1861 lakhs for Renewal of Aizawl Phase-I, ₹.983 lakhs for Greater Water Lunglei Supply Scheme, ₹.12 crores for Kolasib Water Supply, ₹.38 crores for Lawngtlai and ₹.9 crores for West Phaileng. Not only these, Pu Speaker, pumping system for Water Supply Scheme of Tlabung, Sakawrdai, Bilkhawthlir, Biате, N. Vanlaiphai, Reiek and Ailawng for which estimates have already been submitted in 2007 may please be continued by this Ministry.

Regarding supply of water to rural areas as stated by the minister for PHE of the previous ministry that it had already been given to 355 villages and was planned to do the same to 100 villages by the following year. I, therefore, want to ask the concerned minister as to how many villages had been given water supply since this ministry came into power?

Pu Speaker, it is learnt that PHE is having mounting liabilities not less than ₹.30 crores. Even so, their service to the public is truly appreciative as I have witnessed a couple of times with their staff busy repairing pipe lines even in the night time. So, Pu Speaker, I opine this department deserves sufficient amount of maintenance fund.

Pu Speaker, I want to make a request to the concerned minister to determine regularization of temporary employees under Tourism department who have already been working for many years. Relating to this, I opine it is important for the department to set up more wayside restaurant between Silchar and Aizawl and Aizawl to Lunglei via Thenzawl. It may, as well, be wise for the department to encourage privates to set up the same so as to serve the needs of travellers.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to the concerned minister and I wish him the best in serving the department. So, I want to remind him the need for appropriate financial dealing in order to make favourable achievement.

Thank you.

Pu K.S. THANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Let me start my speech with Demand no. 25, Water Supply & Sanitation Department. Even though my constituency, Aizawl South-III is continuously having a representative in the ruling member, the problem of water supply has not yet been resolved till today inspite of having Greater Aizawl Water Supply Scheme in which more than 100 crore rupees is spent. Pu Speaker, pipe line has already been laid in some areas along the road but not connected with the main source at Tuikhuahtlang and the supply, therefore, cannot be received. I opine this should be given priority by the department.

Secondly, Demand No. 42, it seems that the government is making effort towards World Bank Saving Investigation, the work which cannot be completed by the previous ministry during their 2 successive terms. In the meantime, it may be wise for Tourism Department to set up Wayside Restaurants in convenient places.

Pu Speaker, it is to be noted that the previous ministry issued number of work orders just before the last general election but works could not be started due to restriction of the Election Commission and estimate and fund for such work has to be made. The new ministry came into power, and the government shows

sympathetic gesture towards such desperate persons not to cancel work orders given earlier and passed 100 lakh rupees for the works.

Pu Speaker, it is pleasing to learn that DTO Aizawl has now achieved computerization for processing driving license. But, it is necessary to replace low quality of webcam which is used for taking photos with a new higher quality. Besides, I want to make suggestion to the concerned minister to resize driving license card which may be made at the size of ATM card so that it can be placed in a wallet.

Coming now to LAD, it is learnt that sufficient provision for construction of foot path, step and retaining wall is now being allotted. In this connection, I want to inform the concerned minister that villages within my constituency too, are badly in need of such improvement funds as we hardly had such provision due to coverage of the areas within Aizawl city.

Pu Speaker, it is again pleasing to learn that handsome amount of fund is allotted in respect of cultural heritage. In that connection, I want to point out that certain areas within my constituency too, are declared as the site of heritage because of their historical background. I, therefore, earnestly request the concerned minister to utilize some portions of fund for improvement of the said sites within my constituency. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Alright, I now call upon Pu S. Hiato, the concerned minister to wind up his demand and also to beg leave of the House to pass the Demands.

Pu S. HIATO MINISTER : Pu Speaker, points raised by the members concerning their respective constituencies are noted down. Fortunately, officials of my departments too, are able to attend this discussion to note down each point and answers will be furnished as soon as possible.

Pu Speaker, even though it is inappropriate to involve matter relating to performance of the previous ministry, necessity compels me to do so to clarify some points on which I beg consideration of the House. Certain members repeatedly pointed out about improvement of roads during the previous ministry despite some ignored areas which has not been raised. In this regard, it is to be noted that the main concern of this new government is work for all.

First of all, I want the House to know that it is not the purpose of any visiting tourists to see formidable buildings or enjoy scenic views of Mizoram

but to see the identity of the Mizos, as our culture and traditions. Nevertheless, it is fortunate for us to be able to share any facilities under Tourism Department as our state have only few guest houses to accommodate any visiting tourists. It is true that no accommodation is available except guest houses or other establishments under Tourism Department in various parts of Mizoram. Keeping in mind of such role the department plays, we make enormous effort for further improvement. It is to be noted that no area is favored to others but works will be done so that majority are benefitted.

Pu Speaker, it is pleasing to learn that most of the members expressed their concern for muster roll employees under Tourism Department. In this relation, I want to emphasize on the need to determine their problem as it is difficult for the concerned employees to manage themselves at their respective places of posting merely with their muster roll pay even though they, somehow, continue to strive keeping in mind their service to the people.

In the constituency of Champhai where most of the departments are said to be there, we have received financial sanction for construction of building in addition to the existing one and the work will soon be tendered. Besides, construction of Tourists' circuit at Bung picnic spot, Lunglei is now in full swing. As soon as it is inaugurated, training course concerning tourism will be given here and number of experts from outside Mizoram are expected to conduct the said training course. This establishment also planned to include certificate course from class X up to B.Sc.

Furthermore, Pu Speaker, let me point out that construction of building at Sairang, Chhiahtlang, and Hnahthial has been completed and construction of another building is being determined due to diversion of Aizawl to Lunglei road. Again, the same is under-construction at Tlawng Hnar, Zobawk, renovation of buildings at Rei-ek and Beraw Tlang is under consideration where as the latter is planned for extension with more room.

In addition to the existing tourism establishments in the northern region at Changsil, Thingdawl, Kolasib, Vairengte, Buhchang, Bairabi, Mamit and Lengpui, there is a plan to construct more buildings. Chaltlang Tourists' Lodge, being the most rented lodge is planned for extension with new building. As for construction at Chalfilh tlang, it is almost completed. In the southern region, we have number of establishments as that of Hrangchalkawn, Tawipui, Lawngtlai, Paithar, Tuipang, New Maubawk, Saiha, Bualpui 'Ng', Vawmbuk, Sangau, South Vanlaiphai and Darzo. In the eastern region, we have buildings which are under construction at East Lungdar, Khawbung, Farkawn, Zokhawthar, Hnahlan, Saitual and Tamdil.

Under Southern Tourist Circuit Phase-II, construction at the outskirts of Haulawng as well as extension of lodge at Thenzawl are almost completed. Regarding lodge at Hmuifang, the work is now in full swing for its improvement and we further plan to include massage parlour and dance hall. In this relation, I am proud to mention that booking for family holiday during Christmas and New Year is beginning to rush in.

Furthermore, Pu Speaker, there is a plan for construction of green gallery at Aibawk and Durtlang with immediate effect whereas the same had already been completed at Sakawrdai, Khanpui, Thingsulthliah and Darlawn. In the same manner, construction of lodge is almost completed at Zawlnuam, Tuidam and West Phaileng. Additional sanction has also been received for construction of lodge at Niawhtlang and Chakhang and the work will be started as soon as possible.

Pu Speaker, we have number of domestic and foreign visitors during this year and most of the visitors recognized the Mizos as a tribe with inborn politeness with delightful nature.

Coming now to the department of Industries, Pu Speaker, I must say that no recognizable achievement is seen in the department as it has been functioning without appropriate attention from the government which is deeply regretted. Yet, the department is being noticed due to production of handloom and handicraft which the department is planning to improve. Besides, the department determined to participate at the International Trade Fare to be held by the month of November and also to display our handloom products through some fashion models. I request all the members to spare their time to witness our performance on the occasion.

Point raised by some members relating to furnishing of newly inaugurated DC offices in some districts. It is admissible that the said has not been furnished as demanded due to financial condition of the government to fill up all the necessary posts instantly. Yet, the government considered to issue financial approval for filling up some posts for which file is now being processed by the Department of Finance. As of the question of Pu Nirupam Chakma, SDIO of Chawngte is now closed for the time being as the concerned authority considered that it is inappropriate to run whereas the same could not be given to Lawngtlai District. Yet, it will be reopened soon.

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Point of clarification, Pu Speaker. What I would like to know is the where about of office which has once placed at Chawngte. How come the office is said to be of fake during 10 years term of MNF ministry only? I dare to say that it was not so as financial provisions had also been allotted to that effect and the office even had its own building.

Pu S. HIATO MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I believe that insufficiency of staff is the main reason for closing of the said office as staff posted there too, were transferred to other places.

Regarding state corporations as stated by various members, the government is concerned with the functioning of ZIDCO, KVI, ZOHANDCO as most of them hardly make profit even for the salary of their own employees. (SPEAKER : Whether this include ZENICS too?) Pu Speaker, it was included before and its performance was no better than the aforesaid establishments. ZENICS is now taken up by IT. As of MIFCO, insufficiency of fund prevailed due to payment made for purchase of passion fruits yet, we somehow manage to give salary to our staff. In this regard, I think it is inappropriate to lay the blame for this irregularity on any party in particular as it is inherited since long before. Yet, the government is deeply concerned for the future of the said corporations.

Pu Speaker, the most prospective source of revenue among my departments is Geology & Mining. Thus, most of the members had given their support to the idea of enhancement of Geology & Mining Wing to a full-fledged department. This will be achieved sooner or later and we have to wait for the time to come.

As already pointed out, global tender was issued for exploration of natural wealth of Mizoram. Survey work of 58.9% of the area of Mizoram has already been completed in which Geology & Mining Wing is just an assisting department to such companies engaged to pursue the work as from Russia, Reliance and other ONGC from India. Such companies strongly believe the content of gas and there is also prospect of availability of oil in our soil. Hence, the department of Geology & Mining could turn out to be the most resourceful department in Mizoram. As of the question of availability of uranium and lime in our soil as asked by Pu Lalduhoma, it has already been tested and the chance is found to be very slim.

Pu Speaker, our main problem for the works is, again, poor condition of roads and because of that exploration cannot be done as desired in certain places.

Concerning the welfare of youths, Pu Speaker, PAEGP (formerly known as PMRY) loan has been distributed to number of persons and some other new schemes being applied. Besides, effort was made for improvement of Tea Industry in Mizoram and our proposal for opening of Field Training Centre at Aizawl is passed by the 45th meeting of Centre Geological Programme Board meeting held at New Delhi. Besides, estimate is made for construction of industry site office building, supply of electrification and water at Zuangtui and Luangmual so that the establishment could be maintained on the spot. Keeping in mind of the need to concentrate on Bamboo Development Project, efforts made by the previous ministry for improvement of manufacturing industry of Agarbati sticks is being continued.

Speaker, whenever the topic of PHE is raised, the issue of Greater Water Supply seems to come in to the minds of most of the members which indicates their concern for water problem. In the same manner, news papers and magazines showed the public concern of the same problem. Hence, we are often compelled to point out performance for the previous ministry so as make clarification to that effect.

Pu Speaker, I must say that the government committed a wrong start with the scheme but it may not be necessary to give the exact detail due to limit of time. Yet, it is necessary to inform the House that the statement of Dr. Lalthangliana in regard to Water Supply Scheme was not true as increase rate to that effect happened to be only 50% but not 400% as pointed out by him. As for Lunglei Greater Water Supply Scheme, an enquiry prevailed by a group of the then MLAs found out the truth and made a recommendation with a remark that the situation might have been better if Chief Minister was involved deeper in that case. It is, therefore, necessary to make this clarification as MNF party blames my party as causing problems for the achievement of Greater Lunglei Water Supply Phase-II.

Suggestion made by various members regarding uniform supply of water, I want to inform the House that capacity of the main pipe line of Phase-I is for 80000 persons only whereas total requirement happened to be for 300000 persons and there is no way to maintain regular supply as demanded. In fact, it is not possible for the department to change our supply routine with an interval of 7 days. Yet, there is a determination to alleviate the problem with the help of loan from Asian Development Bank.

Regarding supply of water for Mualpui battalion, it is regretting to mention that due to insufficiency of pipes, the department is now doing repairing works and the problem will soon be resolved. Pu Speaker, I have no idea whether the quality of G.I. pipe procured during PC ministry, as pointed out by Pu Sangtea is preferable or not, yet, experts have given guarantee of 7 – 10 years to that effect and the material which had already been laid during 1985 is supposed to be rusted already for which the department determined its replacement. Besides, Pu Speaker, it is to be noted that the department greatly suffered damage of pipes caused by construction of PMGSY road. I, therefore, request the concerned minister of PWD to consider compensation to that effect as our demand for the same to the concerned contractors was to no avail.

Regarding Sanitation, some people believe that the department is being attached to Health department and it is to be noted that it has been functioning under PHE effectively. Regarding installation of metre for water consumption, we received strong pressure from consumers not to install it but necessity compelled us to do so as without metre, it is not possible for the concerned department to determine the amount distributed. As for collecting consumption charges, it depends upon decision of the government.

Dr. Lalthangliana pointed out about damaged tanky of Lunglei water supply, tender has already been floated by ADB to do repairing work. Yet, the work is being delayed due to issue of query by Finance department to Planning Department and in between PHE and UP & DA. The work will be started as soon as the matter is resolved.

Dr R. LALTHANGLIANA : Point of clarification, Pu Speaker. Immediate action to the said is necessary as CSS implementation may object to central authority to delay issue of on-coming 16 crore rupees for Phase-I project.

Pu P.P. THAWLA : In that connection, Pu Speaker, I would like to request the concerned minister to include repair of damaged tanky of Tawngkawlawng.

Pu S. HIATO MINISTER : Pu Speaker, let me inform Pu P.P. Thawla that pumping of water from the source near Assam Rifle camp of Tawngkawlawng has also been included in the work schedule.

Pu Speaker, project under PHE comprises of various types of work and it may not be necessary to give in detail now as work schedule will be distributed to the members before conclusion of this session.

To conclude my speech, Pu Speaker, I would like to convey my thanks to the members who have deep concern for improvement of my department and their suggestions to that effect are highly appreciated. (PU C. RAMHLUNA : What about Lawngtlai Water Scheme, Pu Speaker?) Pu Speaker, even though Water Supply Scheme for Lawngtlai is expected to be coming soon, DoNER finds out that Lawngtlai had not been included as city according to 2001 census. Thus, it was processed as rural area and financial sanction will be issued as soon as some clarifications needed are concluded.

So, Pu Speaker, I beg leave of the House to pass the Demands of my departments such as, Demand No. 25 – Water Supply & Sanitation ₹.108,81,32,000/- crore, Demand No. 40 – Industries Department ₹.27,72,45,000/- crore and Demand No. 43 – Tourism ₹.5,31,10,000/- crore. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Alright. After winding up the discussion, Pu S.Hiato, the concerned minister begs leave of the House to pass the Demands of his departments such as Demand No.25 – Water Supply & Sanitation ₹.108,81,32,000/- crore, Demand No. 40 – Industries Department ₹.27,72,45,000/- crore and Demand No. 43 – Tourism

₹.5,31,10,000/-, the total amounting to ₹.141,84,87,000/-. The members who agree to pass may say 'yes', and those who don't may say 'no'. (Members : Yes).

The Demands of Pu S. Hiato, minister, amounting to ₹.141,84,87,000/- is unanimously passed by the House.

Pu S. HIATO : Thank you, Pu Speaker.
MINISTER

S P E A K E R : Next, I call upon Pu P.C. Zoram Sangliana, minister House to wind up discussion of his demands and permission to pass it.

Pu P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, I thank God for giving me another chance to sit here in this august House. I also want to convey my thanks to the people of Kolasib constituency and to the hon'ble Chief Minister, who put me up on this important place. Again, I truly appreciate suggestions made by the members for improvement of my departments.

Coming now to the Demands of my departments, let me start with Printing & Stationary. Pu Speaker, it is pleasing to learn that 10 members out of 20 present here today spoke in regard to this department. Printing & Stationery is known to some members as the department whose duty is processing printing items with the help of Press. But, Pu Speaker, I am proud to mention that the system is being upgraded and in order to improve the system, the department purchased 3 nos. of Auto-print machines for Gov't Press at Aizawl and 3 nos. for Lunglei, 2 nos. of Gestetner Copier Printers as the old press has now become an obsolete machinery. Hence, it is now being kept in the state's museum.

Regarding supply of stationery, the department in the previous year, collected huge amount of stationery items without predetermination of stock condition and relatively the system and size of supply order given by the departments. After reporting the matter to the Consultative Committee, it was decided not to make any indent until and unless the problem is resolved. The Chief Secretary further issued notification to all state's departments to obtain stationery items from the department. In this regard, I want to inform the House that stock quality of Printing & Stationery Department is no less inferior to others.

One of the most important prospects of the department of Printing & Stationery is strengthening of Government Press and establishment of printing institute in the North-east at Aizawl. The out-going minister for DoNER Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer had even emphasized our opportunity to have the first printing institute in the North-east here at Aizawl. We have further obtained approval of DoNER ministry with financial sanction of ₹.8.75 crore. Presently, DPR is under processed and if the project is achieved, a certificate training course will be conducted first for employees under private press within and outside Mizoram and for those working in various departments which may be followed by a diploma certificate course and degree course certificate respectively. Pu Speaker, some of the members might have seen advertisement issued today by Printing & Stationery Department regarding the need for technician but it is sad to learn that no son of the soil is qualified to apply for it. Hence, the same has been issued repeatedly. In this connection, it is to be noted that the department is now having number of computerized machineries which has never been used in Mizoram such as control power off-set machine, a developed printer attaching high web color off-set specially meant for printing text books, number of computers and plates with digital test. If the said are operated accordingly, large amount of fund used outside every year will then be revolved within Mizoram.

As the government determines to introduce the policy of development through e-governance, the department of Printing & Stationery too is setting up itself to improve its functions as stock keeping and maintenance, billing and invoicing is planned to be taken up by printing press whereas works dealing with pay roll and establishment may be computerized. This plan has already been laid for discussion at Consultative Committee level and approach had been made to Planning department for immediate action. Besides, the department determines to upload all issues of Mizoram Gazette in the website maintained by itself so that one may be able to download any document as require.

Besides, Pu Speaker, to make the best use of developed machineries acquired by the department, the department makes effort to achieve the project of inner connectivity by networking of Government Press, Aizawl with Kolasib and Lunglei. Effort has also been made to improve departmental works with the help of MGI machine, a kind of digital press which is used for printing on plastic materials too. Besides, it is used for printing identity card, driving license, stickers, embolden printing system such as Ashoka Pillar and letter head writing pad.

Regarding centralization of supply of stationery articles, I want to inform the House that the department is planning to introduce software for recording of purchase & supply so that any department will then be able to send requirements to Printing & Stationery department through networking. Yet, I cannot say when the system will be launched.

Coming now to Art & Culture Department, 18 members have participated in the discussion and I am happy to learn that the idea of preservation of our culture and tradition still persist. Accordingly, the department too, has taken various steps to restore our cultural heritage. Pu Speaker, what has been displayed

above your seat is a picture of 'Lenbuang thum' and it will be pleasing if the House permit to replace that picture with a genuine one.

Regarding infrastructure, Pu Speaker, I want to inform the House that a full-fledged state museum building at New Capital Complex is under construction and I am proud to mention that we already have vast collection of items to be displayed there as soon as it is completed. Yet, it is desirable if it is located in the heart of the city as that is the case with Libraries of other states.

Again, I am pleased to mention that 2 crore rupees had also been received from Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation in return for our contribution towards matching share submitted by our government and utilization of the provision has already been chalked out. In this connection, I would like to inform the House that the department has more than 430 libraries in rural areas and provided number of books and book-shelves.

Regarding budget size of Art & Culture department, most of the members seem to be aware of our deficiency where as there are other activities outside the state's budget. Yet, we are happy to be able to generate centrally sponsored funds for exposing our cultural heritage. In the same manner, we are delighted to be able to send our cultural youths in different states with the help of the said provision.

Regarding preservation of our cultural dances and music, training is given by Institute of Music & Fine Art regularly. Instruction is given to the trainees so that any dance is performed with uniform style.

Not only this, Pu Speaker, it is to be noted that officers and staff of Tribal Research Institute make relentless effort in prevailing number of researches in finding out fact in connection with the Mizos culture and tradition. In this regard, I am proud to mention that we even have newly published books such as 'The Pang of Mizoram' and 'Mizo Inneih' to be sold out and reprinting at a reasonable price. Besides, we also sent students with 4 teachers on a heritage tour to visit Indian Museum of Kolkotta at the expense of central government. A second batch comprising of 35 students and two teachers will again leave Mizoram by the coming week. Pu Speaker, we learned from the concerned students that only few items of Mizo culture and tradition were there in that museum hence if such items could be provided with immediate effect it will be an achievement.

Again, the department, in determining the need to put the Mizos legendary in Hindi language is deciding to invite some experts to pursue the work. In order to do so, it is necessary to obtain forwarding letter of the minister in-charge and put Victoria Memorial label on the cover of that book. In this way, I am confident that our feelings as nationalist may be known to the world outside.

Regarding other steps taken by Art & Culture Department, Pu Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation of the steps taken by the Department of Planning for extending their support to the plan for reconstruction of Vanapa Hall

by approaching central authority at New Delhi. We will not be able to process DPR amounting to 55 crore rupees without their help.

Besides, Pu Speaker, I want to say that the department is making continuous effort for improvement of Memorial Park Field, development of Cultural Heritage Centre and construction of Pu Bengkhuaia bathlar for which 6 crore rupees has already been sanctioned. We are extremely grateful as we are able to make project for construction of Modern Art State Museum with the help of the hon'ble Chief Minister.

Regarding suggestion to organize excursion for MUP, I must say that the department is truly concern with the welfare of MUP yet our budget allocation could not afford to do so.

Coming now to Transport Department, some members expressed their concern for maintenance of transport buses and safety of passengers, I want to say that it is the desire of the department too and therefore, take various measures to improve transport services. A department which was known as a small department now becomes earning department as the hon'ble Chief Minister too pointed out in his speech. The department too, is making efforts to achieve expectation of our leaders as the concerned authority on the other hand, is aware of the need to provide incentive measure to the staff. The department, therefore, considered providing uniform to its drivers and conductors to keep up discipline and that one could differentiate them in public.

Pu Speaker, what I feel as the most important step to be taken for improvement of Transport Department yet, could not be done instantly is restructuring the system. If this is done as desired, I strongly hope that expectation of public as well as the government will be achieved. For example, DTO and Station Superintendent of a district which once functioned in two separate offices have now been amalgamated. I opine it will be more appropriate to follow this example in restructuring Transport Department.

Regarding Transport office building, Pu Speaker, estimate is made for reconstruction and the hon'ble Chief Minister of this new ministry had given his approval of ₹.350 lakh rupees for five years plan whereas ₹.44.16 lakh rupees had already been deposited to PWD and ₹.10 lakh rupees for the current year. Drawing and planning to that effect is being processed and hopefully, it will be started soon.

Regarding procurement of 25 new buses of public transport from JMNR, I want to point out what I learnt during Transport Highway Minister's Conference held at New Delhi is that permission was given for Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata and so I submitted the same accordingly and obtained permission, too. In this connection, I want to inform the House that the new buses are designed for National Highway only and should not be expected to serve as public transport beyond demarcated Aizawl city.

Besides, Pu Speaker, it is the concern of the new ministry to set up driving school/institution and as a result, it is learnt that such institution can be established within the area of 30 sq. ft. It may, therefore, be important for GAD to let Tuirial Airport used for practising highway driving.

Pu Speaker, another important matter which concerns Transport Department is consumers petrol pump. In this regard, I want to make a request to any person concerned through this august House, not to involve or make problem for the department in connection with the site for such construction.

Pu Speaker, it is also our concern to set up information technology for the department and as a result, registration of motor vehicle and receipt of fees have now been computerized.

So, Pu Speaker, with your permission and on the recommendation of our Governor, I beg leave of the House to pass Demands of the following departments, such as –

Demand No.18 Printing & Stationery-	₹.9,16,00,000/-
Demand No.23 Art & Culture Deptt. -	₹.7,08,55,000/-
Demand No.42 Transport Deptt. -	₹.25,21,85,000/-

With the total amounting to ₹.41,46,40,000/-. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Alright, Pu P.C. Zoram Sangliana has moved his Demands – Demand No.18, 23 and 42 totally amounting to ₹.41,46,40,000/- Members who agree to pass may say ‘yes’ and those who do not may say ‘no’. (Members : Yes).

Demands of the Departments under the maintenance of Pu P.C.Zoram Sangliana, minister such as:-

Demand No.18 Printing & Stationery-	₹.9,16,00,000/-
Demand NO.23 Art & Culture Deptt.-	₹.7,08,55,000/-
Demand No.42 Transport Deptt. -	₹.25,21,85,000/-

With the total amounting to ₹.41,46,40,000/- is passed by the House unanimously.

Pu P.C.ZORAM SANGLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker.
MINISTER

S P E A K E R : I now call upon Pu P.C. Lalthanliana, minister to wind up his Demands and then beg leave of the House to pass it.

Pu P.C.LALTHANLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. As a debut
MINISTER member to this House, I am fortunate
for having the opportunity to lay
Demands of the two departments on the
table of this august House for the first time. In doing so, I may not be able to make my
points as expected on which I request the members to understand my shortcoming.

I am happy to learn that various members expressed their concern for my departments. I want to extend my appreciation to each of the member through this House and any suggestion concerning my departments is always entertained. I am also extending my thanks to the officers and staff of Social Welfare and LAD Department for their valuable support for preparation of budget to be laid in this House.

Pu Speaker, let me start with the Demand of Social Welfare Department. Some members have opined budget allotted to this department as inadequate on which let me clarify that our plan budget is, more or less increasing compared to last year's allotment due to allocation of ₹.186 lakh rupees for launching of new project of ICDS, allocation of ₹.100 lakh rupees to GIA and NGO and allotment of ₹.27.80 lakh rupees in respect of Bhal Bhawan, a project for establishment of learning centre for children who never had education in the previous years. Thus, plan budget for this year is increased by ₹.276.25 lakh rupees.

Criticism of Dr.R.Lalthangliana on decrease of budget allotment in respect of nutrition may be taken for granted. Yet, there is a reason. It is to be noted that nutrition is 50-50 matching share of central-state but it has now become 90-10 which caused to reflect plan budget lesser.

Pu Speaker, maintenance of Social Welfare, in certain ways, is impoverishing as it concerns for the welfare of orphanage, destitute and disable persons. Hence, it may be necessary for the members to understand our shortcoming.

Coming now to achievement of Social Welfare Department, some members expressed their concern by making suggestions for improvement of the department. To that respect, I want to point out that the government of Mizoram too, has been making continuous efforts. As a result, we, now have the post of Assistant Commissioner of Social Welfare for which number of posts is created for the staff. But permission for filling up such posts has not yet been received till today and it obstructs the progress of the department.

Besides, Pu Speaker, I want to inform the House that the government received a memorandum from the Chief Justice of India suggesting each minister of Mizoram to utilize their respective MLA fund towards the welfare of disable persons. As a minister for Social Welfare, I have circulated this memorandum to all the ministers and further requested to produce their expenditure to that effect, if there is any.

Pu Speaker, not only in Mizoram, there is an opinion in the country that the existing Disability Act is not complete as it is not fully applicable for implementation. As a minister of Social Welfare, I have attended Minister's Conference at New Delhi and there, some ministers of central government shared their opinions that PWD Act, 1995 needs to be amended. So, every state governments were even informed to submit their respective suggestions as to which portion needs to be amended and to be processed for amendment at the earliest Parliament Session. Accordingly, Director and other concerned officers of Social Welfare Department of Mizoram and leaders of NGOs had a review meeting discussion on whether the existing PWD Act is good enough, thereby making some suggestions to add the word, 'she' as only 'he' is used for explanatory of disabled persons. Besides important suggestions made for amendment is about employment reservation for disabled persons which is 3% and recommended retention of such post for 3 years even if there is no person with disability available for the post in the year of recruitment.

As known to us all, Social Welfare also is concerned with earning of old-aged persons in which pension of ₹.250/- per mensem (₹.200/- from the central, plus ₹.50/- from the Government of Mizoram) is given to 10,525 persons and ₹.200/- per mensem to 13,222 persons as the department is not in a condition to provide its share of ₹.50/- to that respect, now. Yet, the department felt this to be essential and may provide soon if fund is available.

In this connection, I am happy to mention that National Social Assistance Programme will soon be implemented by the government of Mizoram under which financial assistance (like old-aged pension) will be provided to 3510 bereaved widows and 1000 disabled persons.

Pu Speaker, we have number of Homes in Mizoram out of which only 10 were government approved. In this regard, central government directly allotted a special quota of rice to such Homes through Food & Civil Supplies Department at the rate of 15 kgs/per head. As regard to financial assistance in respect of such Homes, the department has no knowledge of the amount and other details as it is not provided through our directorate. It is the opinion of the department to give information to the concerned directorate and the matter is being forwarded to the central authority, too.

Regarding one such Home, formerly known as Sethawn De-addiction Centre, established under the then minister, Pu Zoram Sangliana in 1998, the government determined refurbishment of the building to set up After-care Home for moulding de-addicted persons to have some sort of professions. A board of committee has even been set up for this under the chairmanship of the hon'ble Chief Minister.

Pu Speaker, some members are in the opinion to consider permanent appointment of Co-terminus CDPO and Circle Officer under the project of ICDS. In this connection, I want to state that the department is due to open 4 new ICDS project in the near future with 250 new Anganwadi Centres under it. It is deeply regretted that some of our CDPOs and Circle Officers are co-terminus as according to

central guideline; appointment should be made directly if no person is available from state government cadre. Yet, I opine it is necessary for the government to resolve the case.

Regarding Integrated Child Protection Scheme as pointed out by our fellow member, Pu K.Liantlinga, effort has been made to achieve it as drafting of MoU is almost completed. Most of the projects are completed and so will 10% matching share to be completed within 11th Five Years Plan. Since ICPS is a favourable project, the government too, gives full interest for its implementation.

Coming now to Demand No.19 – LAD – some members made question for the delay in issue of Housing Loan and I have to state that it is now ready for disbursement and the delay is due to Finance Department in holding back the amount at K.Deposit. The second reason is due to reprocessing of value of mortgage deeds as loan amount is considered to be less sufficient for housing and hence it may be considered for extension of the House.

Speaking of the said loan amount as already pointed out in the previous discussion too, suggestion for increase had already been made by the state level board. Hence, the department decided to increase the amount as soon as provision for Housing Loan i.e. ₹.505 lakh is in use. For MIG - ₹.1,25,000/- and for LIG - ₹.82,500/- is fixed.

Regarding suggestion to make provision for construction of VC House, it is not possible to do so for 791 Village Councils from the existing Plan Fund of the department. Yet, we may inform the requirement to 13th Finance Commission as project for construction of V/C Rest House at Aizawl is also being submitted.

Pu Speaker, I want to inform the House that LAD received ₹.400 lakh/annum from 12th Finance Commission which has also been distributed to District Councils. Besides, microphone had also been given to each V/C as it is considered to be important for the purpose of command & control.

Some members pointed out provision for construction of pavement and step. In this regard it is to be noted that the said provision had not been made during the last decade. So, the government considers resuming the policy now for which the department instructed each V/C to submit work proposals. It is the desire of the department to make the said provision available to each and every V/C in Mizoram.

Besides, Pu Speaker, the department in determining the need to amend Rules concerning Village Council election is now preparing a draft and will soon be ready for laying in the House.

Pu Speaker, there are 98 un-authorized Village Councils in Mizoram at present and so, the government set up a state level Co-ordination Committee to resolve their settlements.

Even though there are numbers of points to explain, I may not proceed further due to limit of time.

Hence, I now beg leave of the House to pass the following Demands such as Demand No.19 - LAD Department - ₹.24,84,65,000/-; Demand No.29 Social Welfare Department - ₹.60,23,47,000/- totally ₹.85,8,12,000/-. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Alright, Pu P.C. Lalthanliana, minister has now begged leave of the House to pass his Demands such as, Demand No. 19 - LAD Department ₹.24,84,65,000/-; Demand No.29 - Social Welfare Department - ₹.60,23,47,000/- totally ₹.85,8,12,000/-. The members who agree to pass may say, 'yes' and those who do not may say, 'No'. (Members : Yes).

The Demands of Pu P.C.Lalthanliana, Demand No.19 LAD Department - ₹.24,84,65,000/-; Demand No.29 Social Welfare Department - ₹.60,23,47,000/- totally to ₹.85,8,12,000/- is unanimously passed by the House.

Pu P.C.LALTHANLIANA MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker.

S P E A K E R : The time now is 7:00 PM, business for today is finished. Discussion will be resumed tomorrow the 22nd October, 2009 at 10:30 AM.

The House is adjourned. 7:00 P.M.