

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

**FOURTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 25TH MARCH, 2011
(Time 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM)**

QUESTIONS

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

2. *Resolutions.

S P E A K E R : And let us not be weary in well doing:
for in due season we shall reap, if we
faint not.
(Galatia 6:9).

We will proceed immediately to the Questions and Answers.
Let us invite Pu K.Liantlinga to ask Question No. 41.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon'ble
minister for Agriculture deptt. be pleased
to state –

- a) Is the fund for NLUP received from the Prime Minister's package?
- b) How much fund has been sanctioned by the central government year-wise?

**Pu H. LIANSILOVA
MINISTER** : The answers to the hon'ble member's
questions, Pu Speaker, are –

- a) The fund is not from the Prime Minister's package.
- b) We have received ₹.100 crores and ₹.234.82 crores under the ACA during 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 respectively.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, our plan budget for 2010-2011 is ₹1700 crores and the amount has increased by ₹250 crores from last year. Therefore, I would like to know if the said allocated fund for the NLUP is diverted from the plan budget.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, the central is keenly interested in the programme since it is the first of its kind in the country. Therefore, it is imperative that we implement it successfully. In the meantime, we are falling behind on our calendar of works which leads me to the question – Has the 1st installment for last year been received? Has the 2nd installment for this year been received? If it is not received, I would like to know why and what effect it will have on the progress of the project.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Thank you Pu Speaker. I would like to ask the minister if he could clarify his statement earlier about the system of funding from the ACA and CSS. Also, the beneficiaries at Keitum who has chosen tailoring as their trade are being given broom cultivation which is quite unreasonable.

Pu H. LIANSILOVA : As you can see on the Plan Fund, the MINISTER fund is received from the ACA.

It is true that we are lagging behind on our calendar of works which is mainly due to late reception of the fund from the central and the late passage of the ACA last year. If our progress is too slow we know clearly that the next funding will be reduced. Therefore, to prove to the central that the project is being implemented as planned, we must do with what we already have and this will certainly cause problems in some areas but unfortunately, it cannot be avoided at this time.

The line department has decided to combine the 1st and 2nd installments and sanction the fund to the beneficiaries in accordance with the trade they have chosen. Since we have to buy agarbati machines from Taiwan, the beneficiaries of this trade will receive the funds a little bit late. In the meantime, we feel that there are some trades which should be sanctioned fully instead of installments. Bank accounts are being opened for the beneficiaries and I would like to assure you that the departments are working extremely hard to catch up with our calendar of works.

Apart from the ACA, we have ₹.70 crores for the project which came from CSS approved by Planning Commission. I do not know if mistakes

were made on the chosen trades of the beneficiaries at Keitum. If this is the case, I am sure arrangements will be made to ensure that they receive their chosen trade.

S P E A K E R : Would you please clarify the rumours that since there were beneficiaries who failed at their chosen trade, the Board has decided to choose trades they think they would succeed at.

Pu H. LIANSILOVA
MINISTER : In accordance with the potentials of the area, the beneficiaries are offered two options and the funds will be given to them in installments, the amount and number will differ with respect to their chosen trade. This is done so to make sure that they are successful at their trade.

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon Pu Lalthansanga to ask Starred Question No. 42.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Will the hon'ble minister for Power and Electricity department be pleased to state –

Has an Energy Potential Survey been conducted in Mizoram?
When did they make the present data?

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

Pu LAL THANHAWLA
CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the Mizoram Power and Electricity department has made a Hydro-power potential survey and it was calculated that the state has a hydro-power potential of 4500 megawatt. The data we have was made in 2009, Pu Speaker.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Pu Speaker, since we have failed projects in the past, I would like to know if the data is a scientific data and if it is reliable. If it is not a scientific data, is the government making any effort to have one?

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, are there any other power sources? Has the government made any attempts to harness other natural power resources? Do we have a reliable data on the power resources?

Pu LAL THANHAWLA CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I regret to say that I do not know if our current data is accurate or not and even if it is scientific or not. In any case, it is very difficult to ascertain an exact data due to several problems like terrain, weather, etc. The hydro power potential alone is as I said, calculated to be 4500 megawatt. We have tried to harness other energies in the past but we were unsuccessful mainly because of poor technology. With an upgrade in technology nowadays, we are starting to make new ventures and we will conduct wind mapping very shortly. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Sources of Energy has also declared the state capital as a solar city and they have almost finished the DPR and concept paper.

We have requested the assistance of ADB and Planning Commission but due to monetary issues they are unable to aid us and they have advised us to implement the PPP mode. As you are all aware, we are going to start a hydel project capable of 460 megawatt at Chhintuipui, near Kawlchaw and the contract has been given to NTPC. However, the DPR was old and required revision which slowed us down to some extent. The Tuirial Project is being restarted by NEEPCO at this moment. Tuivawl and Tuirini projects have been tendered in PPP mode. We have also signed an MoU with a Kolkata company for the Bairabi project. We have pipelines for Mat, Tut, Chhintuipui, Lungreng, Tlawng, Ngengpui and we have already signed an agreement with NEEPCO for these three rivers.

The ONGC has invited us to take a look at Bairabi because it is where they believe they could start looking for oil and natural gas and when they do find these resources I am sure our energy supply will be increased immensely. These are the steps we have taken so far, Pu Speaker.

S P E A K E R : We will move on to Starred Question No. 43. Let us invite the hon'ble member Pu Lalthansanga to ask the question.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon'ble minister for PHE department be pleased to state –

- a) Is the Aizawl Greater Water Supply Scheme Phase II pipeline laid as far as Rangvamual and Phunchawng?
- b) If this is so, when will it be completed?
- c) Have you constructed a zonal tanky at Sakawrtuichhun?

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

Pu S. HIATO MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the answer to the questions are –

- a) We have already laid the pipelines as far as Rangvamual but unfortunately most of the pipes were stolen. Since Phunchawng is not included under the scheme, no actions have been taken.
- b) There are no proper schematics as yet, hence it is not possible to say when it will be completed at this time.
- c) The Aizawl Water Distribution Division is constructing a reservoir capable of holding 1,50,000 litres at Sakawrtuichhun and it is expected to be finished by 2010-2011.

S P E A K E R : Let us invite Pu Lalthansanga and Pu Lalduhoma to ask supplementary questions.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Pu Speaker, I would like to know if Phunchawng was excluded from the scheme from the beginning or if it was excluded as a result of lack of funds. Is there no intention to construct a zonal tanky at Sakawrtuichhun or is it merely delayed until funds are available?

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, it would be a very simple task to extend the pipeline as far as Phunchawng and the scarcity of water is a major problem in the area as you are aware. Therefore, I request the hon'ble minister to include the area under the scheme. The construction of reservoir at Sakawrtuichhun is taking too long. I would like to know if the works could be increased at a faster rate to ensure that it is completed at the estimated time. Same is the case with the construction of a zonal tank at Seventh Day Tlang.

I would also like to ask the minister if the department could fix the pipeline which feeds the tanky at Tanhril from Setlak river.

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

Pu S. HIATO MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we all know the problems we have due to scarcity of water and the department is doing its best to fix the problem against all odds.

The major problem for Rangvamual is that 2002 meter pipe which has already been laid were all stolen and hence the department has to acquire that much pipes again at a huge cost. Phunchawng is under Aizawl town area and it is imperative that we provide them with sufficient water supply although it was not included in the original scheme.

I believe the damaged pump at Setlak River has been fixed although another problem is that it is a very small river with very little water. Hence, when we pump the water, the river almost dries up which means it can only be used as a back up supply.

We can to pump 24 mld of water from Tlawng now, but due to poor distribution systems, the tanks at Laipuitlang and Tuikhuahtlang overflows very quickly. However, we are trying to develop a better distribution system under ADB through SIPMIU and when this is completed, we will have better water supply and I believe this will also solve the water scarcity problem faced by the University...

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, they have already installed a transformer but P&E Department has refused to use it so far. If the transformer is used, there would be no need for diesel

which was one of our main problems. If the minister could put in a word to the P&E minister, I do not see why the transformer could not be turned on.

Pu S. HIATO
MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we are doing our best on our part and since the P&E minister is also present at this time, I am sure he will make a note of the issue. As I have said, we are constructing a pump at Bawngkawn to realize our plan of supplying water to Sihphir and Durtlang . I would also like to inform the House that we have finished laying the pipeline upto Falkawn and we are ready to supply water at any given time. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Let us open the floor to Pu K. Liantlinga to ask Starred Question No. 44.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon'ble minister for School Education deptt. be pleased to state –

- a) What are still required to accomplish the recommendations of the Education Report Commission Report?
- b) How many teachers have availed the Voluntary Retirement Scheme?

Pu LALSAWTA
MINISTER : The following are the answers to the hon'ble member's questions, Pu Speaker.

a) The Cabinet Meeting has approved the Education Reform Commission Report in principle and an expert group has been set up to study the report. The group of experts has submitted their analysis and the department have also commenced the necessary actions.

- b) 193 teachers had been approved for voluntary pension.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, it seems that several +2 teachers have not received their salaries. I would like to know how long they have gone without being paid and when will they receive their salaries.

Secondly, what progress has been made so far to set up a polytechnic institution?

Finally, is there any intention to change the courses of the colleges to semester system? If so, what steps have been taken so far?

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, I would like to know what the minister meant when he said, 'approved in principle'

Secondly, in an answer to my question yesterday, he said there were over 190 applicants and that, around 160 applications had been approved. Today, he is saying that 193 applications had been approved. Does this mean that he have approved all the applications between yesterday and today?

Pu LALSAWTA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, we are doing our best to pay the +2 teachers and hopefully they will receive their pay before April.

In regard to the polytechnic institutes, we have issued a tender and work should commence shortly.

Concerning the semester system, we plan to use it in colleges as soon as possible although we are not yet fully prepared.

By the term 'in principle,' the cabinet approved the whole act even as we knew it would be impossible to implement all of its objectives.

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Pu Speaker, does that mean that you will implement the programme as you go? Such makeshift implementations could be detrimental to the efficiency of the implementation.

Pu LALSAWTA MINISTER : Opinions may differ Pu Speaker, but we feel that in this regard we must treat with high precaution since it affects the future of educational system in the state.

That is exactly why we decided to approve it 'in principle'

About the other question, it is true that the numbers have changed but this is because I have just received an update report today.

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : The questions are submitted 15 days before the session and the departments are expected to supply the answers during those period. I am quite disappointed at their irresponsibility.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Pu Speaker, the Supreme Court has condoned the VRS last year and the teachers are very upset by this. We have already promised them a golden handshake pension scheme and I would like to know if we can release them under the scheme.

S P E A K E R : They should have spoken to the Speaker or the minister about their problems so that it can be resolved.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : In the light of our discussion, they will definitely speak to the minister and those concerned. I sincerely hope you will find a way to resolve their difficulties.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, I would like to request the minister to assure a golden handshake release scheme not only to teachers but other departments that will use the VRS.

Pu LALSAWTA
MINISTER : I would like to let the House know that we are fully aware of the problems faced by them and we already have the required funds for the VRS. However, their service books and other records are in a mess which delays their release.

In regard to Pu Duhoma's request, that is exactly what we are trying to do. We are currently working on the first phase and we hope to make this scheme available to the later pensioners.

S P E A K E R : Let us invite the hon'ble member Pu R.L. Pianmawia to ask Starred Question No. 45.

Pu R.L. PIANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon'ble minister for Health and Family Welfare department be pleased to state :-

- a) Is there any intention to open a new PHC?
- b) If so, where?
- c) Does the government give its approval when new private hospitals are opened?
- d) Who decide on the appointment for filling up a vacant staff nurse post, the MPSC or the department?

S P E A K E R : Let us welcome the concerned minister, Pu Lalrinliana Sailo to answer.

Pu LALRINLIANA SAILO : The answer to the hon'ble member's questions are -

- a) Yes, four new PHCs will be opened.
- b) The locations are Thingsai, Zobawk, Ratu and Tuipuibari.
- c) The government does not give its consent unless they ask to be recognized. If they do ask, the government will make necessary inspections and if it is qualified, the hospital will be recognized.
- d) The MPSC.

S P E A K E R : Question Hour has ended and I would like to notify the House that 4 members were unable to attend the session today due to various reasons. The absent members are Brig. T.Sailo, Pu Zoram Sangliana, Pu K.S. Thanga and Pu Hmingdailova Khiangte and Dr.Lalthangliana has also received my permission to leave the session for an urgent matter.

I have an announcement to make from the Legislative Assembly Office. We have created a website on the internet where the List of Business, List of Questions and other important informations for the next session are posted. You are welcome to visit the website if you are interested. It is updated regularly and past Assembly Sessions and informations can be downloaded from the site as well.

In accordance with our Rule 27(1), we will deal with Private Members' Businesses today and we have received 9 Private Resolutions for discussion and approval in the House. The priorities of the Resolutions are assessed through a ballot on 22-3-2011, 2:00 PM and as a result, we will discuss Pu K. Liantlinga's resolution, 'Let the Government of Mizoram take measures to include the banks of some of our major rivers which are ideal for sustenance of livelihood under Highland Area instead of Riverine Reserve Forest Area as declared by Assam in 1965.' Let the hon'ble member move his Resolution.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This resolution could be beneficial for us in several ways and hence, I request the hon'ble members to participate earnestly.

As we are all aware, we are facing an ecological crisis on a global scale and its impact has been felt even in remote areas like Mizoram. The Government of Assam enforced the Act when it issued a gazette on 19th May, 1965 in an attempt to preserve the forest areas of the river banks as suggested during the Mizo District Council. As a result, the farmers are prohibited from farming the river banks as far as half a mile on each bank from the river.

If you will please allow me, I would like to read the rivers which fall under the act. They are Tlawng, Tut, Teirei, Langkaih, Chem Lui, Serlui, Tuivai, Tuivawl, Tuirini, Tuirial, Tuiruang, Khawthlang Tuipui, Tuichawng, Kaube and Phairuang. Since these 16 potential areas are under the act, our farmers are unable to farm the land and they are facing a huge problem.

In the meantime, we also have to know that we were an Autonomous District Council under Assam and we had no DFO. Therefore, the passes were issued from Silchar and Karimganj and royalties were applied at those places resulting in them acquiring permits and our bamboo and wood were transported out of the state in enormous numbers.

The same problem was faced by Arunachal Pradesh and the Supreme Court issued an order prohibiting the inter-state transit of these raw materials. Since we do not have such laws, the District Council Authorities faced a grave problem and to tackle the problem, they suggested the use of the act which the Assam government approved and issued in its gazette and is implemented till today.

It was a good act for a District Council but now that we have achieved statehood, the implementation of the act is quite pointless since we are capable of looking after our own interests now. If you take a look at India, you will undoubtedly notice that they farm the rich soil of the river banks and utilize it as much as possible. The simple reason for reserving the river bank in Mizoram was because businessmen from other states were exploiting us.

Today we have the capacity to protect and utilize it as we see fit. Hence, the Riverine Reserve Forest Act is no longer necessary. We should let the government and the Revenue Department take over so that it is used to its fullest potential. While the banks could be used for Agriculture, Horticulture and Sericulture lands, the areas in the higher regions could be reserved as Highland Reserve Forest area instead. If the higher areas are reserved, it would prevent soil erosion and engender water sources anew. The system we use today of burning the forest for farming is highly destructive to the environment which has a chain reaction leading to rise in temperature and a horrifying decrease in rainfall.

Although we claim our forest region to be 91.27 per cent when viewed through the satellites, in reality we only have 0.64% dense forest, 29.65% moderate dense forest and 60.98% open forest which is practically shrubs and grass. Therefore, if we are to start afforestation, we need to begin with the higher areas which we have destroyed and move our agriculture to the lower region where there are plains and rivers to feed the crops.

I know some of the members might say that the resolution is impossible to pass since the former act has become a central act but we are the ones who live here and we are the ones who know our land best. Therefore, if we feel that it is necessary to abolish the former act and enact a new one suited to our needs, I am sure we can do it.

If, hopefully, the resolution is passed, we should set up a joint team of experts with the central to ascertain the areas covered by the Riverine Forest and the Highland Area and set a specific line for farming and reservation.

Finally, this is a step which will benefit the whole state in the future and I would like to request the hon'ble members to put aside their party nomenclature and pass the resolution. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The hon'ble member has moved his resolution and we shall be given 10 minutes each to express our opinions. Let us call on Pu H. Rohluna first.

Pu H. ROHLUNA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I do not have
MINISTER much to say about the hon'ble member
Pu K. Liantlinga's resolution - 'Let the
Government of Mizoram take measures

to include the banks of some of our major rivers which are ideal for sustenance of livelihood, under Highland Area instead of Riverine Reserve Forest Area as declared by Assam in 1965.' but I would like to point out that it was already included in our manifesto since we were extremely concerned with the level of destruction we have done to our forest. As it was our policy, we wanted to commence work as soon as possible but we were shocked by the extent of damage and the challenge was far more difficult than we had initially anticipated. We knew that if we continue with the same system, the highlands would become a wasteland. Therefore, it is a must to shift our farming lands to the river banks where there are plains and reserve the highlands.

In the meantime, it is also in synchronization with our Land Use Policy which aims at afforestation and to convert 60% of the forest reserve into rain forest, 10% into supply reserve, 10% into preservation of rivers, etc. I do not know if the hon'ble member is aware of this or not but supporting his resolution could be instrumental in the efficiency of the departmental actions. We have also mentioned this at the Forest Ministers' Conference along with the Union Minister.

We cannot just change the Mizoram Forest Act, 1955 as we please since the Supreme Court is involved now. Therefore, we have to follow along the lines of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and 2003 and amend them as necessary.
Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Pu Lalduhoma.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, we have just heard the minister extending his support of the resolution which raises my hope that we are going to have a pleasant discussion today.

I would like to clarify that the District Council authorities were the ones who came up with the Act to prevent the plain people from taking our woods and bamboos and they issued a notification in 16th April, 1956 and they also decided to issue the notification in the Assam Gazette so that people from the plains would know that it is no longer legal to take raw materials. The Act made it clear that it would not hamper the livelihood of the resident villagers at these places.

It is my opinion that we pass the resolution unanimously although the actual relocation would not be possible unless it is divided into different stages. One thing I would like to point out is that Forest department has been a

hindrance to the people for quite a long time. They enforced the Mizoram Private Forest (Regulation of Felling) Rules, 1994 which literally disallowed the owners themselves to cut any of their timber.

In regard to the Supreme Court ruling, paragraph 10 states that existing stock of timber could be disposed under relevant state laws. It does not prohibit the owners from selling the existing stock. In paragraph 25 it states that private plantations would be excluded by the order while it also made exception for private plantations in paragraph 28. The point is that, the court ruling does not create any problem for private owners. It is our state which makes its own problems. I extend my support for the resolution, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu John Siamkunga.

Pu JOHN SIAMKUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to reiterate that this resolution was already mentioned in the policy of the Congress. If you will allow me, I will read our election manifesto quickly. "When we assume power, we will amend the Mizoram Forest Act, 1955 to enable the people to harvest the potentials of riverine reserve." Plantations are already given to the people in several places with the recommendations of the VCs as already pointed by the hon'ble members.

We have made it clear in our election manifesto that even the implementation of NLUP will go hand in hand with what this resolution is basically saying. I support the resolution wholeheartedly, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu H. Liansailova, minister.

Pu H. LIANSILOVA, MINISTER : Pu Dy. Speaker, I am deeply grateful that this resolution has been moved by the hon'ble member.

I would like to stress on the subject of NLUP although it was originally a party policy, now that we have assumed power it is no longer a single party policy but the policy of the government and hence, I request you all to extend your assistance in any way possible.

We also need to teach the people about its aims and objectives because they could have the false notion that we are giving them free money for their

enjoyment when in fact, it is supposed to motivate them to work harder at their chosen trades. In the meantime, monitoring committees has already been set up at village, district and state levels and we are ready to start the implementation. Also, a third party monitoring committee will be set up as soon as possible. Even as we claim to reserve 60 per cent of the land for forest, we have to reserve several areas under agriculture land as most of the villages depend on agriculture.

The minister mentioned the difficulties faced by the department in relocation of forest which makes it quite clear that this is not an easy task. Since the project is extremely ambitious, it is apparent that we will not be able to make quick progress in many areas but I would like to invite the hon'ble members to participate and help out as much as they can irrespective of their party nomenclature. I support the resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

Pu R.L. PIANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Since the resolution has already been included in our election manifesto, I am sincerely pleased that the mover has the intelligence to pick this particular agenda for passage as a resolution in the House.

I believe this resolution will be extremely instrumental to the successful implementation of the NLUP and helps in carving a foothold for the poverty stricken masses. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalthansanga.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. First, I would like to express my gratitude that this resolution has been moved in the House.

In the meantime, from the light of what the previous members have said, I think we ought to be very cautious in the allotment of plantations when the relocation is actually implemented. The hon'ble House Leader expressed his concern that the people might be caught up in the compensations which alone could hold back the efficiency of the department immensely. Also, I think we have to ponder on two related subjects here. The other subject being land ceiling which the hon'ble minister said would be implemented very shortly.

When our party was established, our party leader Pu Brig. T. Sailo used to say that we would develop the riverine reserves and make it the main granary of Mizoram while the highlands would be developed as a forest reserve. Therefore, if we are going to allot the river banks for plantations, I would like to see private lands surrendered to the government without expecting compensations. Thank you.

Pu B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The hon'ble member Pu Duhoma pointed out that the modification of the word 'either side' used in the Assam Gazette to 'both sides' was wrong. 'Either side' would mean one side but it was interpreted as both sides of the river banks which is the main source of our problems.

Since we have most of our plantations in the highlands, it is obvious that the owners will expect compensations and that is also another problem. If we could modify the resolution wording to avoid problems, I am sure it will be easier to commence work when the central agrees to it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We only have 5 minutes or so, but let us invite the House Leader to share his opinion.

Pu LAL THANHAWLA CHIEF MINISTER : I do not have much to say as the hon'ble forest minister himself supported the resolution. We are in dire need to stop our water table from falling hence the conservation of forest is utterly necessary. I am happy that the former District Council had the sense to enact the law to prevent the people from harvesting our timber

What I would like to stress is that we have to be very careful about our riverine reserves and we must be cautious not to let the wealthy people get the best plantations. If we are to pass the resolution, I suggest we pass it with the development of bamboo reserves under the NLUP in mind.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will take a break and we will resume discussion at 2:00 PM.

Pu LAL THANHAWLA
CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Dy. Speaker, the 2nd and third resolutions are almost the same. Shall we take them up both at once?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the 2nd and 3rd resolutions are similar, we will discuss only the 2nd resolution. We will now have a recess and meeting will be resumed at 2:00 PM.

2 : 00 PM

S P E A K E R : We will continue the discussion. Now, Pu Chawngtinthanga.

Pu CHAWNGTINTHANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This is really a good resolution and it will be a big help to the successful implementation of our party policy as well.

I am afraid we will face a big problem in compensation if we are going to relocate our forest reserve. In any case, bamboos are most abundant in low lying areas and we have already set up a bamboo industry there. This means that we will face another difficult problem. Therefore, I request the members to think of this as we pass the resolution. Thank you.

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

Pu NIRUPAM CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, I would like to point out the negative and positive aspect of the resolution. First of all, it would be impossible to relocate all forest reserves simply because we do not have sufficient land. On the other hand, if we let the people have plantations in the riverine reserves, the government will generate a huge amount of funds. Another matter we should consider is that if we relocate our riverine reserve, it will have a big impact on the river banks itself since there will definitely be soil erosions. Therefore, I suggest that we experiment with it, otherwise I support the resolution.

Pu JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, the idea to relocate the reserve is festered with huge problems. There are hardly any unoccupied lands in the higher regions. Hence, if we allow private owners to have plantations in the riverine reserve, government will lose its revenue in terms of bamboo mahal and sand mahal while the reserve itself will be destroyed by the plantations. Therefore, I suggest we think more deeply about this before we pass the resolution, thank you.

Pu C. RAMHLUNA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I agree with the members who stood before me. We should think carefully about it before it is passed.

Although the resolution is quite good, the reality is that most of our reserve forests are encroached by private lands and it is almost impossible to get them back. If we are trying to de-reserve the Riverine reserve, the problem is that people already have lands there. As a result, it will only mean that we are de-reserving private lands.

In any case, we have reserved most of our highlands already and if we are going to relocate the Riverine reserve, where would we relocate it? Another issue we would be facing is that if we try to exchange the reservation areas in a district, we cannot be sure that the VCs of the area would not object. Finally, I do not see the need for a resolution since the ruling party already included it in their manifesto. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Pu H.Zothangliana.

Pu H.ZOTHANGLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to remind the members that the resolution stresses on the banks which are suitable to sustain livelihood. This is an ongoing government project and if the mover could withdraw the resolution and be satisfied with the efforts of the department, I do not think this requires further discussions.

S P E A K E R : Pu P.C. Lalthanliana.

Pu P.C. LALTHANLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. We have passed the Scheduled Tribe and Other Forest Dwellers Act and this Act aims at solving the problems faced by those who depend directly on nature for their livelihood. To realize this aim and to implement our party policy, we are setting up committees at sub-divisional, village and district levels. The central has provided us with a sum of ₹.38 lakhs and another ₹.10 lakhs this year while the state government will sanction a sum of ₹.20 lakhs for this purpose. I realize how hard it would be to implement this resolution and I would like to advise caution in its passage. Thank you.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, 70% of the people in the state depends on agriculture and therefore, I share the goodwill of the hon'ble member in his resolution. However, Environment and Forest department is one of the most problematic departments even in the central and hence I, too would like to advise caution.

S P E A K E R : There is an announcement to make: There was an accident just now at New Latawh, Mara District where a bus was struck by a power cable which resulted in the death of 9 people. Also, several people have died at Thanzama Sora for as yet unknown reason and the MLAs of these two constituencies are planning to head over there as soon as possible.

We will now end the discussion and let us invite the hon'ble minister to share his opinion in his capacity as the minister.

Pu H. ROHLUNA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The situation is
MINISTER apparent from the discussion and we are all aware of how difficult it is to de-reserve a reserved forest since it is in the concurrent list. The members who approved it did so with the betterment of the state in mind and it is the same for those who saw the negative side, that is all Pu Speaker.

S P E A K E R : Let us call upon the mover of the resolution to wind it up and request the House for its passage.

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Pu Speaker, I am deeply grateful that the members has taken such a keen interest in my resolution. We have heard the pros and cons of the resolution and personally I was not aware that the ruling party has included it in their election manifesto.

We need to realize that the resolution has to be implemented to really develop the economy of our state. In the meantime, this is not something that can be implemented immediately and it will certainly take at least 10-20 years and during that time we will make adjustments as necessary.

I request the House to adopt my resolution: 'Let the Government of Mizoram take measures to include the banks of some of our major rivers which are ideal for sustenance of livelihood, under Highland Area instead of Riverine Reserve Forest Area as declared by Assam in 1965.' Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The mover has wound up his resolution and asks for its adoption. Those who support its adoption say, 'yes'. Those who oppose it please say, 'no'. Very well, the House has unanimously adopted the resolution: 'Let the Government of Mizoram take measures to include the banks of some of our major rivers which are ideal for sustenance of livelihood, under Highland Area instead of Riverine Reserve Forest Area as declared by Assam in 1965.'

Pu K. LIANTLINGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker.

S P E A K E R : We will now move on to the next resolution from Pu Joseph Lalhimpuia, that 'We are grateful to the government in its effort to develop power, which is the source of development, to meet the needs of our state.' Let us call upon Pu Joseph Lalhimpuia to move the resolution.

Pu JOSEPH LALHIMPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am grateful that we are going to discuss resolution, that 'We are grateful to the government in its effort to develop power, which is the source of development, to meet the needs of our state.'

I would like to start from the very beginning when we were just a District Council. We had our first power house equipped with 75 DG set under the Assam State Electricity Board in 1962. We took over the maintenance under the PWD in 1975. From then on, the former authorities have made serious efforts to develop the power condition of the state and this ambition has also been taken up by this government under the hon'ble Chief Minister.

As we have already heard, we have the potential of 4500 megawatt in our state, we are currently using 18 mini-hydel projects and they are capable of generating 17.35 megawatts during the rainy season. Among these 18 mini-hydel projects, 14 of them were started and completed by the Congress Party while 2 were started by PC party and another 2 by the MNF.

During our short Ministry of two years, the Congress Party has restarted Tuirial Hydel Project which it initiated during its previous Ministry and which the MNF Ministry neglected due to outrageous compensations. We have also signed an agreement for the Kolodyne which will generate 460 megawatt when we assumed power in 2008 and work will begin shortly. There is Hrawva Hydel project which will generate 5 megawatts and the total amount of power the state will receive from these 3 projects is 67.04mw.

We have signed an MoU with NEEPCO for Lungreng with a capacity of 815 megawatts and Mat River with a capacity of 76 megawatts and Chhimituipui with a capacity of 640 megawatts. The total amount the state will receive for free from these projects when they are finished is 199.3 megawatts and they are expected to be over 300 megawatts with the ones we have not signed an MoU for as yet.

Pu Speaker, the Central Electric Authority estimated that Mizoram will need around 180 megawatts will be sufficient for Mizoram but putting into consideration the growing technology and industry, etc. we will probably need more as time passes.

Pu Speaker, the hon'ble Chief Minister has also taken steps through the ministry of Renewable Energy and the central has chosen Aizawl city to be a solar city along with just handful cities in the country. The master plan has already been submitted and experts believe that we can generate 10% of what we consume today.

The hon'ble Chief Minister has already mentioned the steps taken by the government to harness wind power and I am deeply impressed by the extent of work that is being done, thank you.

S P E A K E R : We will disperse at 4:00 PM without taking a vote. Who will begin the discussion? Pu T.T. Zothansanga.

Pu T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. An article was published in the newspaper yesterday insinuating the CM for outrageous compensations and the corruption of the NEEPCO Officials to be the reason for its discontinuation.

I would like to clarify this a bit so as to avoid confusions. A notification was issued in 3.3.1997 which prohibited acquisition of land passes at the site of the project. There were 48 families who already had land passes before the project was proposed. The original sanction was ₹368.72 crores.

However, with the change of Ministry, the project was neglected which does not mean that they were sitting idly. In fact, they were busy making land passes for themselves at the proposed site and when fresh estimate for compensation was made the amount rose from ₹431 lakhs to ₹4747.43 lakhs which resulted in NEEPCO withdrawing and the project being shelved.

In regard to Saipum project, there were 152 families who expected compensations and out of these, 57 families had no clue where their land is. In any case, the distribution of the compensation was extremely un-uniform.

I am pleased that we have an opportunity to express our gratitude to the government on its work for development of power and I support the resolution wholeheartedly. Thank you.

Pu P.P. THAWLA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I have voiced my opinion about power for 7 years now and it has very little effect so far. The hon'ble Speaker has announced the accident that occurred at New Latawh and since it is my constituency, I have made verifications. Even as we speak about developments in power generation, I would like to bring your attention to the unfortunate souls who got electrocuted by a low strung power cable. I express my deepest condolences for their families and I would like to let them know that they are in our prayers. I also request the government to compensate them.

In my mind, Brig. T. Sailo was the one who introduced us to the necessity of a power infrastructure and looking back, all the major parties has assumed power at some point in time. Therefore, I have really no idea who we are thanking. I do not think this government has made outstanding efforts for power. Hence, we should leave the resolution without adopting it. Thank you.

Pu ZODINTLUANGA MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I think the wording should have been 'We are grateful to the Congress Government in its effort to develop power...' No other parties have made so much progress in the development of power than Congress party.

It is evident that the PC Party did not really care about the hydel project except as a political edge. When Congress came to power, it did not consider the DPR made by the PC party to be feasible. Therefore, they prepared a new DPR though the Brahmaputra Board which did the investigation. When the MNF assumed power, they completely neglected the project and it was only when Congress regained power that the project was resumed. As a result, I want to remind the hon'ble Member who stood before me that we should thank the Congress Party since it is the only party which had made solid effort. I happily extend my support of the resolution. Thank you.

Pu LALTHANSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The DPR that the hon'ble minister mentioned was just a portion of the whole DPR and is quite irrelevant to debunk the PC Party's efforts and contributions. I want to thank the ruling party for changing their minds and accepting the fact that power is the source of real development. Congress party should be commended for their works but I am a bit concerned in that while we are thanking the party, there should be solid evidence to support the paperworks. Apart from that, I support the resolution, Pu Speaker.

Pu LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, I am very impressed by the mover's speech therefore I would like to thank him. Although we have massive potential, the works we have done so far is very unsatisfactory which I believe, we all accept. But these kinds of projects take a long time and change of Ministry plays quite a big factor in its completion. Even after the DPR and investigations are finished, waiting for the clearance alone takes a long time. There are cases of pending for 20 years even after they obtained a clearance.

In any case, we should never belittle the efforts of Pu Thenphunga because he was the one who first realized the need for self sufficiency in power.

We have heard the progress made by Congress in two years which is quite impressive and we should not hesitate to express our gratitude. Therefore, I extend my support of the resolution, thank you.

S P E A K E R : Let us invite the mover to wind up the discussion.

Pu JOSEPH LALHIMPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. although we do not have much time, the members have participated earnestly in the discussion and for that I am very grateful. I also extend my deepest condolences to the bereaved family of the accident victims.

It pleases me greatly that other parties have also expressed their thankfulness to the Congress party. Finally, I request the House to pass my resolution, 'We are grateful to the government in its effort to develop power, which is the source of development, to meet the needs of our state.'

S P E A K E R : All those who support the resolution please say, 'yes'. Those who do not, say, 'no'. The House has unanimously adopted the resolution, 'We are grateful to the government in its effort to develop power, which is the source of development, to meet the needs of our state.'. Session will be resumed on 28th March, 2011 at 10:30 PM.

Sitting Adjourned at 4:11 PM.