

9th. SITTING OF THE 10TH. SESSION, 24.9.1996.

PRESENT

Pu Vaivenga, Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, 17 Ministers and 21 Members were present.

QUESTIONS

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

LAYING OF PAPER

2. **PU LALKHAMA** to lay on the Table a copy of Statement of Action taken on Action Taken Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

3. **PULAL BIAKZUALA** to present to the House the 2nd, 3rd. and 4th. Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings.
4. **PU LALKHAMA** to present to the House the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th. Report of the Committee on Public Accounts.

DISCUSSION & VOTING ON DEMANDS

5. **PU C. CHAWNGKUNGA** to submit to the Vote of the House two Demands under his charge.
6. **PU P.C. BAWITLUANGA** to submit to the vote of the House two Demands under his charge.
7. **PU HRANGTHANGA COLNEY** to submit to the Vote of the House two Demands under his charge.

Speaker: *"You shall love your neighbour as yourself". You do well. But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.*" James 2:8.

We shall take questions starred question No. 143 by Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga.

Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga: Pu Speaker, I ask starred question No. 143. Will the Home Minister, incharge Home Department be pleased to state -

How fare investigation has been going on regarding the killing of Mr. Lalmalsawma of Vairengte by the Assam Forest Guard on the 9th. of September, 1995?

Pu Lal Thanhawla (Chief Minister): Pu Speaker, the person responsible for the death of Lalmalsawma has not yet been arrested.

Pu Lalsawta : Pu Speaker, I ask whether the site of the shooting of Lalmalsawma was within the area of Mizoram or Assam. I would further like to ask whether Mizoram Forest Guards were posted at the area?

Pu H. Thangkima : Pu Speaker, I would like to ask the House Leader to feed us detail information on the death of Vanlalpeka, MAP at Vairengte. Will ex-gratia grant be given to his family?

I would further like to request the Minister to give us detail on the death of Pastor Vansawma, who was shot death by the CNA and Lalchungnunga of Bilkhawthlir who was reported dead due to a fight with the IRP.

Pu F. Lalremsiama : Pu Speaker, Pu Lalmalsawma of Vairengte was shot dead by the Assam Forest Guard within Mizoram area. Thus, murder case should be registered at Vairengte Police Station. I ask whether a case was registered likewise?

Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga : Pu Speaker, how far investigation has been taken on the death of Pu Lalmalsawma. It has been a year since then? Still the culprit is on the loose.

Dr. J.V. Hluna : Pu Speaker, I would like to ask if the persons responsible for the killing of Driver Lalsangzuala on the 26th. September, 1994 were arrested?

Pu Lal Thanhawla (Chief Minister): Pu Speaker, though the questions raised by the Member of Vanva were not relevant, I will try to give replies. All the incidents mentioned by the members were still investigated by the Police. I will inform the members when the investigation is completed.

The question on the death of Lalsangzuala is also irrelevant with the starred question, therefore, I will not answer it.

The death of Lalmalsawma was registered at Vairengte under Section 30, IPC. The place where he was killed was indeed a disputed area and at the time of

the incident, the Assam Forest Guards had occupied the said area and thus investigation cannot be done rapidly. On a recent visit to Vairengte, I had discussed the matter with the case OC. However, we have not heard any progress so far.

Pu F. Malsawma : Pu Speaker, while the Assam government takes initiative in the investigation of the case, it was very difficulty from our side. Does this mean that the Mizoram government has not regarded the area as ours?

Pu Lal Thanhawla (Chief Minister): Pu Speaker, as we have regarded the area as ours, a case was well registered at Vairengte.

Pu F. Malsawma : Pu Speaker, in the last Assembly Session, I have raised a question on border issue. From the replies, it seems that the Assam Chief Minister and the Mizoram Chief Minister was going to discuss the matter. In this case, I ask whether the two Chief Ministers really had a talk. How does the government take steps to settle this dispute?

Pu Lal Thanhawla (Chief Minister): Pu Speaker, the meeting between the two Chief Minister was proposed to be held at Silchar. But, the Assam Chief Minister had postponed twice. The time for the next meeting is not yet fixed.

Dr. J.V. Hluna : Pu Speaker, I ask starred question No. 144. —

Will the honourable Minister, i/c. Taxation Department be pleased to state —

- (a). whether 20% tax has been collected from the cable TV operators.
- (b). If yes, since when?
- (c). the total income from this source during 1995 - 96.
- (d). if the tax is not yet collected, why?

Pu Zoramsangliana (Minister): Pu Speaker, this subject is being processed in a law court and therefore could not be carried on. However, I will explain the situation. The tax in question is supposed to be collected from 1.4.1996. Therefore, there is not a single amount received from this source during 1995- '96. At present, there are 40 cable operators in Mizoram.

Pu T. Hranghluta: Pu Speaker, I ask starred question No. 145. Will the honourable Minister, i/c. PWD be pleased to state —

- (a). whether it is possible to handover the furnishing and renovation of MLA

Hostel to the Assembly Secretariat.

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister) : Pu Speaker, the furnishing of MLA Hostel has been the responsibility of PWD and therefore, cannot be taken up by Assembly Secretariat. If there is requirements in the furnishing, the Assembly Secretariat will inform PWD and the latter will act accordingly.

Pu F. Lalremsiama : Pu Speaker, a supplementary question please. Room rent for MLA Hostel is Rs. 5/- per day while our daily sitting allowances is Rs. 150.00. I think it is time to review the rent of MLA Hostel.

Pu F. Malsawma : Pu Speaker, even in 1993 and 1994, it was brought forward to the PWD that MLA Hostels require furnishing. In spite of repeated notices, PWD has not furnished the Hostel till date. I would like to know the reason for this.

I would further like to add that whenever the House is in sitting, the employees of Assembly Secretariat have to work overtime. In this case, I ask if they would be given honorarium or overtime allowances.

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker, I understood that the room rent of MLA Hostel is fixed by the Secretariat. Therefore, I shall hand it over to the honourable Speaker.

Regarding the furnishing of MLA Hostel, I will look into the matter.

As for the overtime allowances of the employees of Assembly Secretariat, there is no fixed rules.

Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga : Pu Speaker, I ask starred question No. 146. When will the appointment of Marshall be settled?

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker, as the question is within the purview of the Assembly Secretariat, I cannot give answer.

Dr. R. Lalthangliana : Pu Speaker, I ask starred question No. 146. Will the honourable Minister, i/c. Parliamentary Affairs be pleased to state -

The total amount of loan to be repayed by the Government of Mizoram.

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker, the answer is Rs. 2,96,68,40,000.00.

Pu Lalthmingthanga: Pu Speaker, what type of loans are taken by the government and for what projects were these loans taken?

Dr. R. Lalhangliana : Pu Speaker, I would like to ask whether the government made repayment as due? How much is the interest from the loans already taken?

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker, various loans taken by the government of Mizoram are —

Govt. of India loans State Plan Block Loan:	Rs.	79,56,51,224.00
Consolidated loan:	Rs.	9,46,008,000.00
NEC Loan:	Rs.	6,33,54,142.00
Small Saving Loan:	Rs.	34,63,80,000.00
Officers House Building Allowance:	Rs.	5,59,000.00
Modernisation of Police:	Rs.	1,89,800,650.00
IR Battalion:	Rs.	2,70,44,600.00
CSS:	Rs.	5,11,027,121.00
Rural Electrification loan:	Rs.	54,74,035,004.00
GIC:	Rs.	26,06,669.00
Finance Corporation:	Rs.	14 Crores.
LIC:	Rs.	76,64,000.00
HUDCO:	Rs.	4,75,43,000.00

A large amount of loan taken under UT government was written off by the central government. The repayment has so far been satisfactory.

The interest of the total loans taken is Rs. 44,38,00,000.00

Pu F. Lalremsiama : Pu Speaker, what are the lowest and highest percent of interest amongst the various loans taken by the government of Mizoram?

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker, I cannot give the answer instantly. However, item-wise list will be distributed to the members afterwards.

Pu Lalkhama : Pu Speaker, how many kilowatt of power is generated from the projects financed by Rural Electric Corporation and Power Corporation?

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker, the loans taken were utilized for the right purpose and as for Power, it is mainly used for rural and urban electrification.

Pu Lalhmingthanga : Pu Speaker, I ask whether the loans taken for power generation were profit making?

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker, regarding power, it is mainly used for house maintenance.

Speaker : Starred questions No. 147 by Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga.

Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga: Pu Speaker, Starred question No. 147.

Will the honourable Minister, i/c. Soil Conservation Department be pleased to state:

What is the reason for the fund recorded in the Cash Book of Soil Conservation Department as 'spent', but which cheque has not been issued for the same?

Pu Liansuama (Minister) : Pu Speaker, Soil Conservation Department is entitled for cheque facilities. At the end of the financial year, cheque could be issued in favour of a supplier or contractor even if the works allotted to them has not yet been fulfilled.

Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga : Pu Speaker, the Minister does not answer my questions. Though the fund was entered in the Cash Book as 'spent' but for which cheque was not issued.

Pu F. Malsawma : Pu Speaker, supplementary questions please. I would like to ask if there are some persons who used to misuse the department's fund for their personal requirements.

Is it a fact that iron rods purchased by the Soil Conservation Department has been used for the construction of private building?

Does the Directorate used to reject the proposals made by Officers in the Divisional level?

Pu Lalsawta : Pu Speaker, in the budget provision Rs.8 lakhs has been allotted for village grazing ground. I ask if the fund is really utilized for the right cause.

Secondly, Rs. 50 lakhs has been allotted for Mat Valley Project. But, the Minister has stated that the fund has been diverted to other heads. What is the reason for thier diversion?

Pu Liansuama (Minister): Pu Speaker, as I am not the Minister incharge, I cannot provide detail answer.

As the question raised by Pu Lalsawta, the fund allotted for village grazing ground has been utilized for the rightful purpose.

As for the second question, Rs. 500 lakhs allotted under the budget head of Mat Valley Project was diverted for irrigation system.

Regarding the subject mentioned by Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga, the said expenditure was entered in the Cash Book and cheque was also issued for the same.

As for the purchase of iron rod, the government unaware of such matter.

The government is also unaware of the allegation that the Directorate of Soil Conservation used to reject the project and schemes made by Divisional officers.

Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga : Pu Speaker, I am not satisfied with the replies of the Minister. I hope the Minister could give specific answer to my question that to whom the fund under questioning was issued.

In my previous question, I ask if there is missing fund in the department of Rural Development. The replies to my question was that Rs. 30 lakhs has been found missing under RD Department and it was still under enquiry. I find this very serious.

Speaker : The missing of Rs. 30 lakhs was already mentioned earlier and the Minister, incharge has assured that he would look into the matter. Whenever the Minister settled the matter, he will inform the members of the demanded answer.

In the case of Soil Conservation Department, the Minister has informed the House that the fund under questioning was already settled and he has got the written statement. If the Minister could provide the written statement to the members, they would be satisfied.

Pu Liansuama (Minister): Pu Speaker, I can show the written statement of the members demand it.

Dr. R. Lalthangliana : Pu Speaker, the members of this House have the right to know the source of income and expenditure of various departments.

Dr. J.V. Hluna : Pu Speaker, supplementary question please. Soil Conservation Department had acquired the land of Pu Thanhira at Sairang. The same department has constructed Rest House at the same site. However, there are rumours that the Chief Minister has acquired the building. Can the Minister tell me whether this is a fact.

Pu F. Lalremsiama : Pu Speaker, it seems that the government has been laying much emphasis on village grazing ground. Even barbed wire is purchased for fencing of Village Grazing Ground. In this case, I would like to ask the Minister to give his assurance to provide list of various grazing grounds. So that Consultative Committee could make an inspection on the spot.

Secondly, the members Aizawl N-II had collected from the treasury the list of Bills drawn between Jan - Apr. worth more than Rs. 5 lakhs. Two PHE cheques No. MTLA/3089713 - worth Rs. 6,13,200.00 and No. MTLA 3089714 - worth Rs. 6,13,201.00 did not appeared in the list. These two cheques were signed on the 2nd of April and encashed on 11 April. What is the reason?

Speaker : We are discussing the subjects under Soil Conservation and therefore, your questions should be relevant to our subject.

Pu Liansuama (Minister): Pu Speaker, I would like to say that the statement made by Pu Malsawma, that the Chief Minister acquired the Soil Conservation Rest House is completely wrong. I think we should have confirmed first what we are going to say in this House.

Regarding the request of the Member from Aizawl E-II, I cannot give my assurance as I am not the concerned Minister. However, I shall inform the concern Minister as soon as possible.

Speaker : Starred question No. 145 by Dr. J.V. Hluna.

Dr. J.V. Hluna : Pu Speaker, I ask starred question No. 148.

Will the honourable Minister, i/c. Planning and Programme Implementation be pleased to state -

- (a). whether proper statistical Cell have been set up in various departments.
- (b). if not, when will the government fulfil this programme?
- (c). Reasons for not including gazetted Post (Statistical Officer) during which we are under the Assam government in the Economic and Statistic Service Rules.

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker,

- (a). Statistical Cell has been set up in 15 departments.
- (b). The matter has been processed by the government.
- (c). According to the existing Rules, Statistical Officers and Asst. Research Officers are not included in the Mizoram Planning Economic and Statistic Service

Rules. As their pay of scale did not entitle the Rules. Steps have been taken to upgrade their post gradually.

Dr. J.V. Hluna : Pu Speaker, the Central government has instructed the state government to open Statistical Cell in all the departments way back in 1984. In pursuance of this instruction, Mizoram government had also made proposal on the 17.8.1994. However, only 15 departments have Statistical Cell in Mizoram. Does this signify that the government has lost interest in this matter? Can the Minister take it as a priority?

Pu Lalsawta : Pu Speaker, what are the Departments that have no Statistical Cell?

Pu F. Malsawma : Pu Speaker, what is the system of calculating per capita income? Has the Statistical data being computerised?

The statistical staff have problems relating to their pay and promotion, which has often put up to the authorities. How does the government react to this matter?

For the last question, I would like to ask whether the staff of Programme Implementation really function as the name implies.

Speaker : Question hour is over. We shall call upon the Minister.

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker, I am not denying that fact that the Government of India has given instruction to set up Statistical Cell in every departments. However, only 15 departments are able to follow this instruction, mainly due to the proble in post creation. I will read out the departments that have already set up Statistical Cell – Tourism, AH&Vety, PWD, RD, Social Welfare, Health and Family Welfare, Education, Transport, Environment and Forest, Labour and Employment, PHE, LAD, Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation and SCERT.

Per capita income has been calculated according to the statistical date collected in the village level.

Computer was purchased for statistical date, but it has not been operational due to the problem arising in regard to operator.

In regard to the problem relating to the pay and promotion of the Statistical staff, the government is aware of it. However, the department is a small one, thus, promotion has become very slow. As for the pay, the government is

awaiting the outcome of the recommendation of the 5th. Pay Commission.

Programme Implementation Cell has occasionally check whether the plan/schemes were really implemented by various departments.

Pu Lalsawta : Pu Speaker, can the Minister re-instruct the departments which do not yet set up Statistical Cell to take initiative for the implementation of this programme?

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Speaker, I will look into the matter.

Speaker : Question hours is over. We shall carry on our next business. That is laying of papers by Pu Lalkhama.

Pu Lalkhama : Pu Speaker Sir, with your permission and authorised by the Committee, I hereby lay a copy of statement of action taken and action taken Report and the 2nd. Report of the PAC presented to the House on 27.9.'95 relating to Local Administration Department, thank you.

Speaker : The copy may be distributed. Now, presentation of Report by Pu Lalbiakzuala.

Pu Lalbiakzuala : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and as authorised by the Committee, I hereby present the 2nd., 3rd. and 4th. Report of the Committee in Public Undertaking, thank you.

Speaker : The copy may be distributed.

Pu Lalkhama : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission and as authorised by the Committee, I hereby present the 11th., 12th. and 14th. Report of Public Accounts Committee, thank you.

Speaker : The copy may be distributed.

Pu P.C. Zoramsangliana (Minister): Pu Speaker, it would be appreciated if the composition of Members could be shown in the Report in future.

Speaker : That may be noted.

Dr. J.V. Hiuna : Pu Speaker, I would like to request the members to read out and study the Reports so that they could be well informed of the proceedings of various Committees.

Speaker : The next business is discussion and voting on Demands. We have 3 Demands to take for today. Let Pu C. Chawngkunga submit his Demands.

Pu C. Chawngkunga (Minister): Mr Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, I move the Demand 25, 36 for Rs. 12 crores, 67 lakhs, 80 thousand only for meeting the expenses during 1996 - 1997 in respect of the following departments.

(1). Art and Culture, revenue	Rs.	15,51,000.00
(2). Agriculture, revenue:	Rs.	110170.00
capital	Rs.	11 lakhs.

Speaker : Pu C. Chawngkunga has submitted his Demand for favour of discussion by the House. Do you agree? (Member: agree). Pu P.C. Bawithuanga may submit his Demands.

Pu P.C. Bawithuanga (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor and with your permission. I move the Demands No. 16 and 31 in respect of Civil Supplies Department and District Council Affairs, thank you.

Speaker : Pu P.C. Bawithuanga has moved his Demands. Do you agree? (Members: agree). Pu Hrangthanga Colney may submit his demands.

Pu Hrangthanga Colney (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor and with your permission, I move the Demands No. 48 and 50 for Rs. 11 crores, 40 lakhs and 50 thousand only for meeting the expenditure in 1996 - 1997 in respect of the following departments:

Demand No. 48: Sericulture

Demand No. 50: Road and Water Transport.

Speaker : We have Demands No. 16, 31, 25, 36, 48, 50 to discuss. Each member will be allotted 10 minutes each. Dr. J.V. Hluna.

Dr. J.V. Hluna : Pu Speaker, let me start with Demand No. 25, Art and Culture. In the Budget Book we have seen that only Rs. 3,10,000.00 has been provided for Publication Board. I think this is too little. An amount of Rs. 1,80,000.00 has also been allotted for House Rent of Archives. As Archives has its own building, I dont understand why budget has been made for House Rent.

For the improvement of Vanapa Hall a sum of Rs. 7,32,000.00 has also been provisioned. In the previous session, I suggested that the layer of the foundation and the date of inauguration of the Vanapa Hall should be shown. And the Finance Minister had replied that it would be done. But, it has not been done till date. As Vanapa Hall is the historical building, interest should be given.

It seems that the government has not given priority to State Library as only an amount of Rs. 14 lakhs. is allotted.

Coming to Demand No. 36, that is Agriculture. It appears that the labourers of the National Watershed Development Countour trent at Reiek village were given a salary of only Rs. 200/- each, while the usual rate was Rs. 2,500.00. Another at Sakawrkai, 40 labourers who worked at Zelphe? Project have complained that Rs. 100 each was cut from their usual salary. In this regard, I ask whether the Minister is aware of it.

Emphasizing on Civil Supplies department, I had once suggested for the installation of another Petrol Pump for Aizawl town. Considering the present condition of Aizawl, we need more petrol pumps. I think the government should take steps in this regard.

It is offer been said that verification are being done for the setting up of gas plant near Kawmpui village. The central government has also make programmes to set up gas plant for each States. It will be appreciated if the government could take rapid step towards this programme.

Rice requirement earmarked by Supply department is quite high. At the same time, the quantity of rice produced by Mizoram as reported by Agriculture Department seems to be sufficient for the people of Mizoram. As this is the case, I think it is important for the Agriculture Department and Supply department to have co-ordination.

Coming to District Council Affairs, the salary of the Executive Secretary of Chakma District Council is lower than that of its counterparts member. It also seems that Chakma District Council is over-staffed with LDC, UDC and even IV Grade.

On Sericulture, I would like to remind the House that if we have cocoon the market is not a problem in the neighbouring States.

It is pleasing matter that we have our own Railway Out Agency here in Aizawl. But, Mizoram House at Delhi and Calcutta have no railway quota for Mizoram

and as such people used to be stuck up at Delhi and Calcutta. In this case, I would like to urge the Minister to take priority.

Pu B. Lalhlengliana : Pu Speaker, let me start with the department of Agriculture. In spite of the efforts made by the department on irrigation, the farmers still face water problems. Therefore, I urge the department to take more rapid steps towards irrigation.

I have the impression that the nature of works allotted to Agriculture Engineer have missed their fields of specialities. It will be very beneficial if the Agriculture Engineers could be confined to irrigation lines. Our agriculture will also be more progressive if loans and grants are given only to those who deserve it.

Emphasizing on Civil Supplies, I would like to inform the Minister of the defect in the distribution system of rice and others. In the case, of K.Oil, many people especially in the remote villages failed to receive their usual quota, which added to their problems. Similarly, rice supply is also insufficient to meet the requirement of the people. This is partly due to the illegal handling of supplies by the retailers. When reported to the authority, action is rarely taken. As for sugar, the supply is very irregular. It will be appreciated if supply of sugar could be more regular.

Further, adulteration of petrol supply brings problem. If adulterated petrol is used, it can be very harmful for the vehicle. As this is serious offence, the government should take immediate action to stop this.

Coming to Transport Department, I think there must be an alternative in the system of the service of passenger bus. The Minister had said that the government does not gain profits from MST bus. This really surprise me as private bus owners have gained huge profit. I opine that the department lacks proper initiative.

Let me extend a few words on Art and Culture. As this department is one of the few which has special importance to the opposition MLA's and various voluntary organisations. It would be appreciated if the budget allotment for this department could be increased.

Coming back to the department of Transport, I would like to emphasize that the absence of permanent Director in the department has contributed to the improper administration. The department also suffered very badly as administration cannot be run smoothly. Therefore, the Minister is reminded to take note of this point.

Pu John Rotluangliana : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I shall start with the department of Art and culture. It is a pleasing matter that this department made tremendous progress within a short period of time. At the same time, we should also learnt to keep up the cultures of the minorities like the Bru and the Chakma's.

On Demand No. 36, that is Agriculture, I would like to urge the government to take initiative on Zawlnuam Centre State Farm as this has been handed over to Agriculture department of Mizoram government. Proper irrigation system is also a requirement for the people of my constituency. I request the Minister to take note of this.

Next, I would like to lay emphasis on Civil Supply Department. As the economy of the Mizo people has been depending on this department, priority should be given. I am very pleased that even the people living in the remote villages could have sufficient supply of rice. I think the department has taken sustained effort to sustain the needs of the people. However, in the case of petrol, as mentioned by the member before me, adulteration of petrol has become very common. The department should check this matter.

The people of my constituency have faced difficulties in K.Oil. As there is no distribution point, the dealer has to get K. Oil supply from Aizawl. Being designated point, it would be appreciated if the department could set up public distribution point at Zawlnuam.

Coming to Demand No. 46, I appreciate the works sustained by the department of Sericulture especially cocoon rearing. I suggest that the method of cocoon rearing be introduced to the people of my constituency.

Tremendous progress is achieved in Road Transport, which enables easy transportation of essential commodities. Besides, regular bus services are provided to more villages and although such buses are running at a loss, the advantages availed by the villages are considered as a huge profit. However, the system of the selling of ticket should be changed as first come, first serve basis. Recently, the route of Zawlnuam bus has been changed via Mamit due to road damage and the route is shortened by about 45 kms. It is, however, still temporary. In this regard, I would like to request the authority to make regular bus service through this route.

Dr. R. Lalthlengliana had mentioned the problem of railway reservation from Aizawl. As a member of ZRVCC, I have often brought to the notice of the railway authority the need to allot railway reservation quota for Mizoram. We have not seen any progress so far.

Pu Laisawta : Pu Speaker, I would like to start with the department of Food and Civil Supply. The budget allotment for rice has come to Rs. 14,75,00,000 including the carrying charge. The carrying charge is, however, to be reimbursed from the FCI. Though the budget allocation for rice has always been very high each year, we never seem to get sufficient supply of rice. The reason seems to be that the department has, on certain occasion received only the challan, but the rice has never been delivered. As for the period from January to June, the despatch statement failed to reach Mizoram. The reason for this has been a mystery.

In the same department, there is a write-off of Rs. 60 lakhs during 1995 - 1996. However, no explanation has been shown on the Budget book. I request the Minister to clarify this.

As already mentioned by the members who stood before me, adulteration of petrol has become very common. What I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister today is that if we look in the Rules, there is no law for the punishment of this evil. If the government has no rules for punishment, this problem can never be solved.

Coming back to the supply of rice, the weekly ration of rice per person is 2 kgs. and with a population of about 7 lakhs, the annual requirement of rice is 7,71,250 quintals. But, the government had imported 10,13,208 quintals of rice last year, not to mention rice produced by Mizoram. In reply to my starred question, the Agriculture Minister had said that the total quantity of rice produced in Mizoram has come to 10,15,030 quintals. If this is so, why does the government spends so much amount of our budget for the purchase of rice, if we have almost reached the mark of self-sufficiency according to the report? Next, I would like to emphasize on the subject of road transport. Though we have found the budget head of road and water transport, I am surprised that there is no provision for water transport scheme. The government should have started experiment on water transport.

I would like to inform the House that Transport department has achieved nothing. The entire budget has seems to be spent on the service of passenger bus, besides the salaries and establishment charge. Only a small portion of the budget allocation was spent by Railway Out Agency. The only achievement is the operation of 100 passenger bus services. The budget allotment for transport department for the year 1995 - 1996 was Rs. 941 lakhs. Out of which, Rs. 13,10,000 was spent by Railway Out Agency. It seems that entire budget has gone to the maintenance charge of

transport bus, besides the establishment charges. Thus, we may conclude that this department has function at a loss.

Finally, I would like to emphasize on District Council Affairs, I appreciate the system of decentralisation practised by the Councils. I think it is necessary to adopt this type of administration in the District level.

Pu Lalhuthanga : Pu Speaker, thank you for allotting me time to speak on the discussion of Demands. I will start with road and Water transport. In spite of the tremendous budget allotted, the department has no authority to spend it for the purchase of vehicle parts like tyres and others. The department has to get LOC from the Finance Deptt. for the purchase of vehicle parts and thus, met difficulties. Therefore, the newly concerned Minister is requested to note this point.

Mention has been made that Challan had been lost on its way to Mizoram and as such, 20000 quintals of rice as returned to Silchar. It is so regrettable that this thing has happened. At the same time, the people of Mizoram have the opportunity to receive sufficient supply of rice. We have heard from the Minister that rice godowns in different areas were filled with rice supply which is very glad some. Therefore, I want to say that in spite of all the criticisms the department of Food and Civil Supplies has done a great work.

Coming to the department of Art and Culture, it is a matter of satisfaction that under the guidance of the Minister in charge, the department has made great progress. I am proud to see that the Mizo culture has much progressed.

Emphasizing on Demand No. 36, I would like to say that agriculture has been the foremost factor to become self sufficient in economy. In spite of the countless achievements made by this department, it still has a lot to do. If we take up the step taken by the department in Constituence-wise, my Constituency has nothing specific. I think that it will be the same with many other Constituencies. We have known that several foodgrains and vegetables have been imported from other States. To be self-sufficient, the government should start taking up the cultivation of economic commodities which are cultivable in our soil. Whenever there is economic blockade at Silchar, the price of economic goods has gone up in Mizoram. Therefore, to ease all these economic problem and to be self sufficient, the department is urged to take new steps and make plan in this direction, thank you.

Speaker: We shall have a recess till 2:00 PM.

Afternoon Sitting 2:00 PM.

Speaker : We will continue our discussion.

Pu Lalrinchhana : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you for allotting me time. Though there are several things to mention, I will point out only the most important ones.

As far as supply is concerned, the rice supply has become more regular owing to good conditions of road. However, the supply of sugar and K. Oil is too little to meet the demands of the people living in the remote areas. Owing to irregularity in electricity, they are depending on K. Oil. So, I feel it is important to increase the supply of K. Oil and sugar to the remote villages.

Next, I would like to mention a few points on Transport. It is a question whether Bus service ran by the Transport department is commercial service or for the interest of the public. If it is commercial, the department has no profit and should be stopped at once. And if it is public interest, the department has to make arrangement with private bus service regarding the route. In the case of ticket selling, bus ticket sellers are supposed to be on duty all during office hours and the nature of their work is to sell tickets. However, only 15 minutes is open for the disposal of bus ticket within office hours and thus creates problem for the public. Therefore, to solve this problem, the hour for ticket selling should be extended.

Coming to agriculture, top priority has to be given to agriculture. It is gladsome that the department has taken effective steps and we are having a good harvest. But, at the same time, more effective steps should be taken by the department by acquiring more number of bulldozers and other facilities.

Under NLUP system, agriculture department has taken up 6 projects within Ratu constituency. Under this project 840 families are selected to dig lands at the rate of Rs. 2500/- per hectare. The department has reported that each family was given Rs. 2500/- per day. I wonder if those families have really received the full amount of the money. Those families who have completed 2 hectares of land digging are reported as digging only one hectare and thus given only Rs. 1000 - Rs. 2500, whereas they expect to get Rs. 5000. Therefore, this matter has to be immediately enquired. An Inquiry Commission has to be set up at a political or Directorate level. I would also like to suggest that this project should be handed over to the charge of the agriculture Junior Officer or AEO rather than the Gram Sevak.

Pu K.T. Rokhaw : Thank you Pu Dy. Speaker. First, I would like to say that

we are fortunate in having Pu C. Chawngkunga as Art and Culture Minister for his historical background.

Among the several cultural dances of the Mizos, the Mara dance of Solakia is one of the most popular dances. However, the name of the dance, 'Solakia' has been changed as 'Sarlamkai' and the original name Solakia has almost been forgotten by the people. The people of Mara are deeply hurt by this. So, I would like to request the Minister to note this and inform this House that this dance should be named as 'Solakia' since it is the original name.

Coming to Civil Supply, I appreciate the steps taken by the Minister in regard to food supply. The people of my Constituency has received sufficient supply of rice. As for Tuipang village and its surrounding areas, there is shortage of K. Oil supply. It would be appreciated if the Minister could note this and take necessary action so that the people may receive sufficient supply of K. Oil.

As for the department of Transport, there is only one night bus service plying between Aizawl to Saiha, which cause problems for the people who are travelling by bus. Therefore, I request the Minister to increase the number of bus services from Aizawl to Saiha.

Coming to Demand No. 36, I would like to urge the government to give special attention to the three District Councils in regard to agriculture, thank you.

Pu H. Thangkima : Pu Dy. Speaker, let me start with Civil Supply department. At Lunglei, we have only one LPG agent which is a proble for the people. So, I request the Minister to arrange more LPG Agency for the people of Lunglei.

As for petrol, while Aizawl and other parts of India have no problem, it becomes a chronic problem for Lunglei. Petrol has rarely been free sale but only on permit system. Even if the quantity of supply has been increased, the container capacity is very small for diesel and petrol that there is nothing much to be done. There is no oil container big enough to stock petrol at Lunglei. I have mention this problem so that the Minister could take steps to solve this petrol problem.

As there is no vehicle Insurance agency in Lunglei, all the vehicle owners have to travel all the way to Aizawl just to insure their vehicles. And if there vehicles are not insured upto date or accordingly, they face problems with the graffic duties. So, it would be appreciated if the Minister can make necessary arrangement in this regard.

Emphasizing on the department of Art and Culture, I want to suggest that monumental stones of historical chiefs of the Mizos should be erected.

Coming to the department of District Council Affairs, I would like to say that the District Councils which we have before we attain Statehood could be regained. I think one mistake we have made is to remove the District Council in Lunglei and Aizawl districts as soon as we are upgraded to a Statehood. So, I suggest that the government should take up the matter at the central government level in order to regain the lost District Councils.

Lastly, I would like to add that shortage of K. Oil in the rural areas have become a problem. While the rate of K. Oil per litre is Rs. 3/- in towns and cities, the people living in the rural areas have to buy it at the rate of Rs. 8/- per litre. This difference in the price has also to be considered. As electricity is very irregular in the villages, the people are depending on lamps and thus the requirements of K. Oil is very high. I have brought up this matter so that the supply of K. Oil could be increased in the remote areas.

Dr. R. Lalthangliana : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to start with Demand No. 25. Very often mention has been made of the necessity to have a more well equipped State Library. The existing State Library is not enough. Therefore, the government should make arrangement to have full fledged State Library. It is also important to take the Recruitments Rules of the Library Staff into priority as the same has not been settled for such a long time.

As for Demand No. 36. Agriculture, I would like to emphasize that we have not fully utilize our lands. In order to utilize our lands, the government should identify proper crop belt, so that several crops could be cultivated in a particular area. If we do not change the present system of agriculture, we will not be successful.

I would like to say a few points on Civil Supplies, let me bring to the notice of this House that the quality of rice supplied by this department is not fit for human consumption. Better qualities have been reserved for MLA's and VIP's but the quality supplied to the public is not suitable. Therefore, I remind the Minister to supply better quality of rice to the public.

Mention may also be made of the need for reconstruction or extension of supply godown at Lunglei. The existing godown is in bad shape and rather small. Therefore, on behalf of the people of Lunglei, I request the Minister to take prompt action in this regard. I would also like to mention that the people of

Muallianpui needs rice godown. Though it is not within my constituency, the people of Muallianpui have often mentioned their need for godown. I request the Minister to note this.

We have seen Transport department on Demand No. 50. The department has no permanent Director and if the officiating Director is found to be qualified for the post, he should be upgraded in to the Director post so that a lot of problems could be solved for the department. I would also like to emphasize that the shortage of mechanic at Claitlang Transport Workshop has partly been the reason for most the Transport difficulties faced by the public. It seems that the government has neglected this matter. Mention may also be made of the condition of DTO's office. As the building of the DTO's Office is so small, it becomes difficult for the employees to do their work. I have often visited the place and witnessed the condition. Therefore, this point may also be noted by the Minister.

It has come to my knowledge that the fares of twon bus and taxis are proposed to be increased and is being processed to the SAD. This will bring problem for the public and therefore, the government has to consider this and fix the fares at a reasonable rate.

To conclude my speech, I want to say that, I appreciate the works of Sericulture department. The simple work of cocoon rearing can be made publicly and the uneducated persons of the remote areas of Mizoram could be educated in rearing so that they can find their occupation through it. So, I urge the government to take more steps towards this, thank you.

Pu F. Lalzuala : Pu Dy. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to say a few points on Art and Culture. The works conferred by the Director and the Minister is praiseworthy. Mention may be made of the task of discovering the Mizo original A, Aw, B done by the Minister. I am proud to have a Minister like him. However, in the case of Lunglei District, we have Art and Culture Hall and District Library but we need one own administration for the District. Therefore, I suggest that the existing branch be extended so that this department could be more progressive.

Coming to agriculture, it is important to find and utilize our resources. Mizoram is covered with fertile lands, but, we not utilize our natural resources and the government may also be blamed for this lack of enthusiasm. To be more successful and development, the government should encourage and educate the people.

I want to support the points mentioned by Dr. R. Lalthangliana that the supply godown of Lunglei needs extension. I would also like to request the Minister to make proposal for the construction of supply godown at Mizalianpui village as suggested by Dr. R. Lalthangliana.

The government has made proposed for the construction of supply godown at Tawipui 'S'. But due to financial problems, it has not been constructed till date. In this regard, I request the government to make allotment in the coming financial year.

As already pointed out by the member of Vanva Constituency, the people of Lunglei District have advocated for the regain of District Council for Aizawl and Lunglei. It is further said that it can easily be done with the approval of the Governor. It would be appreciated if the Minister could make note of this.

As mentioned by the Member of Aizawl S-II, not a single amount is allotted for Water Transport. If the government pays more attention towards Water Transport, we would be able to carry-out trade through it.

The vehicle allotted to the DTO of Lunglei is very bad and seems to be off-roaded. As the DTO has to travel a lot on duty. It would be appreciated if better vehicle is allotted for him.

On conclusion, there is shortage of petrol and diesel at Lunglei. Here, I want to suggest that the existing petrol pump owned by Transport department be made to hold more capacity, so that major shortage of petrol could be avoided.

Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga : Pu Dy. Speaker, though we have found the Demand head of Road and Water Transport, there is no financial allotment put for Water Transport and no steps have never taken for the same. It is very regretable that the government does not make steps towards Water Transport system.

On transport, Mizoram is mainly depending on road transport. It has been said at the same time that transport bus service has been ran at a loss, this is because State Transport Authority has made the department unable to consider its interest. Transport buses have been plying on the routes where private buses refuse to run. Therefore, there can be no profit from MST bus service. At the same time, private operators have been acting as though they are under no control. The association fixed their own fares at whatever rate they pleased. This has made matters complicated for the department.

As we all know, the Central Workshop has not functioned as a departmental, but all the departments are making use of it. Therefore, priority should be given to this Workshop.

In regard to Civil Supplies, I would like to add that the authorities have awareness for the blackmarketing of petrol and LPG which is openly practised by some persons. These blackmarketeers are freely practising their illegal marketing, but the government fails to take actions. At the same time, there is tremendous shortage of LPG among the public. It is a shame that we have a government that fails to maintain law and order. It seems that there is no sufficient supply from this department. The government should have pressurized the Central instead of being satisfied with whatever we are given.

Coming to Sericulture, the government should have given more concern on this department. If we look into the Budget, only Rs. 20 lakhs has been allotted for the promotion of Sericulture. For the upliftment of rural areas, Sericulture can play an important part and therefore larger amount of budget should be allotted for this department.

Pu Lalbiakzuala : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. At the sunset, I would like to request the Ministers to inform us whether the subjects and suggestions made by the members could be undertaken or not. In this connection, I would like to extend my gratitude to Pu Zakhu Hlychho, for letting me know that the points I have raised in the July Session regarding his department could not be undertaken. This has indicated that the subjects pointed out by the Members were taken into priority which gladdens me.

The Members who stood before me have mentioned several points regarding the department of Art and Culture, I too, would like to put forward a few suggestions for the development of this department. Bigger schemes and proper plans should be made by this department. It may also be a good idea if the Mizo traditional dances could be added as one of the subjects in Schools. It is also important to keep up our cultural dances and make it more spectacular. Our traditional music system like Darkhuang and Darbu should also be designed so as to attract the attention even when played in the open air.

Most of the people of Mizoram have depended on agricultural and this has automatically urge the government to take more steps in agriculture. Despite the introduction of NLUP by Rural Development department, Agriculture department

cannot be completely ignored as the experts and qualified persons mainly flocked in this department. For the successful implementation of NLUP, we need the expertise of these people.

What I would like to say a few points on Civil Supply is the fact that the public has received sufficient food supply. Even the remotest areas are being reached by rice supply. But, the problem we are facing is the poor quality of rice. Some of the commodities supplied are not even fit for human consumption. So, I expect the authorities to look into this matter. Question may also be raised if sugar and K. Oil supplies could be made more regular. And in regard to adulteration of petrol, the authorities should take action against those persons who are responsible.

Coming to Demand No. 48, the department of Sericulture can provide occupations to many people who are living in the village and rearing of silkworms is suitable for the lifestyle of the Mizo's. However, as stated by the Member from Tawipui Constituency, this department has made rapid progress in the last two or three years, but, the government seems to lost interest in the department. For the progress of the department as well as for the welfare of the people, I want to suggest that an Information Officer be appointed in the department to impart proper guidance to the people in regard to rearing of silkworms.

On Road and Water Transport, I want to emphasize that the system of issuing of Driving Licence required review. Whether private or professional, driving licence could be easily obtained from this department which brings various problems in traffic. So, I suggest that driving test should be conducted to all drivers and the knowledge of traffic rules should also be tested on drivers who are applying for driving licence.

As for the renewal of driving licence, their fitness should also be checked as the lives of many people are depending on drivers.

Pu Lalhmingthanga : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. The Demand we are discussing today are very important but due to shortage of time, I will highlight each demand only in brief.

I shall start with the department of Art and Culture. The cultural dances that are usually shown on national level can be made more impressive if the quality of the traditional dresses worn by the cultural troupes is of better quality. In a developing world, the quality of costume should also be more of better qualities so that the troupe would be more presentable.

Under this department, we have State Library and Musuem, which needs improvement. As these two are our treasures weh should keep up the good work that has already been started.

On Demand No. 36, we find Agriculture. Under the New Land Use Policy, most of the beneficiaries have opted trades which are under agriculture and Horticulture. Under the village level, the workers need technical guidance. As this department has several scientists and technical experts, technical guidance should be given to workers in the village level so that the WRC potential we have could be made productive.

Coming to Demand No. 16, that is Civil Supply, I would like to emphasize that the quality and quantity of rice supplied should be controlled by the government. Further, the distribution system itself is defective. We may have sufficient supply of food but if the quality is not controlled by the government, the problem faced by the public will still remains.

As already mentioned by some members, not only petrol but also Kerosine oil has been black marketted in large quantity. As this is the case, the share of the public has been deducted from the retail outlet. This matter needs immediate checking. The distribution system of sugar also earns criticism as the supply often fails to reach its destination. The government should have controlled sugar supply so that even the people from the remotest area could have received their share.

In 1994, the government had passed for the enhancement of power to the District Council. When power is to be transferred to the District Councils, fund has also to be transferred along with it. Without the transfer of fund, their power cannot be fully exercised. For this reason, the autonomous District Council have certain difficulties in the exercise of their powers. In this regard, I opine that in the fields where power is enhanced, the fund allocated for the same may better be tranferred as well in order to implement the programmes set by the Councils.

I support the ideas put forward by the Members before me in regard to the re-installment of District Councils. Even our neighbouring States are still having District Council realising that it can be an important means for the preservation of their own community. It seems that we have made a mistake by dissolving the District Councils when Mizoram is upgraded to State-hood. Therefore, in order to reserve the Mizo community, let us revise this issue and take step for the re-installation of the lost District Councils.

I accept the ideas of the Members that Sericulture, especially rearing of silkworms are compatible to the lifestyles of the Mizo's. However, training course for processing and the method itself should be conducted so as to impart to the villagers the method of productive occupation.

I would like to conclude my speech with the department of Road and Water Transport department. Whenever there is a question in regard to transport bus service, the question always be that the department does not have any profit but ran buses at a loss. As this is the case, I want to put forward a suggestion that the service of transport bus be handed over to Transport Corporation. The government may have employment problem in the beginning but considering the long term basis, the sooner the Corporation takes over, it is the better for the department, thank you.

Pu Lalkhama : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Most of the Members have mainly focussed on sugar and rice supplies, therefore, I would not say much about these two commodities. What I would like to express is whether the government take any steps to assist the functioning of the District Forum. Under the Consumer Protection Act, we have State Commission and District Forum. These two Forums have an important duty towards the public. They are supposed to protect the rights of the consumers. Does the government take any step to make the task of these two Forums more effective? Whenever there are complaints of any sub-standard brought up to the District Forum, the latter is expected to protect the right of the consumers. In this regard, I urge the department of Civil Supplies to take effective steps.

Next, on Transport Department, let me say a few points. As we know, several persons have died on MST bus accident. But, the Claim Tribunal is very slow in distributing ex-gratia to the families of the deceased. Under the Motor Vehicle Act, we have seen that a certain amount of fund has to be allotted to each vehicle under the Transport. If we look into the budget, allocation of such fund has not appeared. From which budget head the department made the payment when there are such claims? Mention has already been made about the tremendous loss by this department. The only solution is to hand over bus transport to private operators and run only on the routes where private operators refuse to run. Even the fare should also be reduced so that there will be a competition between the department and private operators.

I would like to emphasize the need for the preservation of the Mizo

culture. When we say preservation, many people have focussed on our cultural dances alone. But, besides our cultural dances, there are still many traits of the Mizo culture that has to be preserved.

Pu Lalmingthanga has mentioned about the re-installation of District Council. When District Council was dissolved we have certain disadvantages of which the most important one seems to be the loss of trading by non-tribal regulation. On the contrary, District Council can hamper developmental works. Therefore, if we are gingin to take it seriously, it may be better to consider the pros and cons of having a District Council.

Pu H.K.Chakma : Pu Dy. Speaker, the department of Civil Supply and Agriculture have close connection. If this State becomes successful in agriculture, the Department of Civil Supplies could have saved large budget provision. In my Constituency, there are vast planes which are suitable for the cultivation of not only rice but vegetables as well. If the government give interest towards this, Mizoram can be self sufficient in rice and vegetable.

Coming to Demand No. 35, the department of Art and Culture is important for safeguarding the culture of minorities. Our cultural dances can play important roles for national integration.

I appreciate the achievements made by Civil Supply department in regard to food supply. On behalf of the people of my constituency, I would like to extend my gratitude to the government for the ample supply of rice to the people of my constituency.

Starting from Tlabung, the department of Transport can achieve development in Water Transport. From Tlabung, there is easy access to Bangladesh by speed boat. If the government take interest in this regard, it could be very fruitful, thank you.

Pu T. Hranghluta : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you for allotting me time. At the outset, I would like to point out that Art and Culture department has made rapid progress under the Congress Ministry. As we have known the three autonomous Districts Councils are allotted Rs. 2 lakhs each for the development of art and culture in their respective areas which was spent purposefully. In this connection, I have one suggestion to put forward that for further progress, a cultural festival be organised at Lunglei or in Aizawl.

Next, I would like to say a few points on agriculture. Being insufficient in food supply, Mizoram is depending on rice imported from other states. To minimise our rice import and to save our fund from flowing out to outside the State, the department should take up new steps.

On Demand No. 16, I would like to say that it is a matter of satisfaction that due to the utmost efforts made by the government, even the remotest parts of Mizoram could get food supplies. Not only this, new roads were constructed to make the food supplies more regular. As a result of this, even the remote village of Vathuampui has been approachable by jeep.

Regarding the VIP quota of rice, the quality is very poor and sometimes it is not fit for consumption. We paid the price of super fine rice and thus we should be given that quality.

Coming to Demand No. 31, though the Finance Minister has mentioned in his speech that the fund allotment for the District Councils has been increased by 23 percent, the RE has seem to be less than the revised estimate of last year. I would like to remind the Minister to note this when the Revised Estimate is made.

On Water transport, it may be beneficial for the people of Saiha and Lawngtlai if Darzokai river to Kawlkaw be made as speed boat route. I have suggested this so that the government could give interest.

I am proud of the progress made by the government on State Transport. However, the condition of the bus plying on the route of Lawngtlai to Bungtlang and Saiha to Zawngjing is very poor. Sometimes the bus needs to be put into the workshop for 2 or 3 days. Therefore, I request the Minister to detail better conditioned buses for the said routes, thank you.

Dy. Speaker : It is 4:00 PM. We shall have a recess till 4:30 PM.

Dy. Speaker : Pu Zoramthanga.

Pu Zoramthanga : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Let me start with agriculture. As agriculture is very important in the economic life of the people, priority has to be given. The department of agriculture has declared that Mizoram has 63,000 hectares of land suitable for WRC. If this is so, Mizoram could be selfsufficient in rice. However, without mechanism, only man-power is not enough and we cannot be success-

ful in rice cultivation. So, I suggest that the system of our agriculture should be mechanised. Another point I want to raise is that Mizoram needs wheat, so interest should also be given to its cultivation. We have vast hectares of land suitable for the cultivation of wheat and as stated before, with mechanism, we are capable of harvesting wheat that can suffice our requirements.

Coming to Supply department, one of the main problems faced by the village people is the problem of fuel. The supply of LPG cannot reach them and in the case of K. Oil, they get no or less supply and is very irregular. When they get wood for fuel, the department of Forest has prohibited cutting of forest wood and even if they are allowed to get wood from the forest, they have to give royalty to the department. Not only this, power supply is also very irregular to depend on electric stove. Therefore, life is very difficult for them. So, I urge the Minister concerned to note this and take this as priority as this is genuine human problem. As for rice, the members have pointed out about the poor quality. We pay the price of super fine rice but what was supplied to us was of low quality. It may also be pointed out that it sometimes happen that rice and sugar supply failed to reach its destination. This may be checked by the authority.

The distribution system of gas also needs careful consideration. The people of Champhai have faced problem in this regard. LPG godown is located outside the town. They have to hire taxi to get their LPG and becomes very expensive. The government should consider the problems of the consumers.

As stated before, Transport department has lost a large amount on MST bus service alone. In this case, the system should be revolutionised and it may as well be suggested that MST bus service be handed over to Corporation.

Pu L.P. Thangzika : Pu Dy. Speaker, let me start with Demand No. 16. It is a pleasing matter that we have sufficient supply of rice. This is solely due to the vigorous steps taken by the government. However, there is one problem faced by the people in regard to the distribution of essential commodities like rice, sugar and kerosine. When a person pays the price of 30 kgs. of rice, the actual quantity received from the retailer will be only 25 kgs. due to the defect in the measurement. As a consequence, the public failed to get their share. So, I request the government to find ways and means to provide their actual share to the people.

The problem of LPG has earned mentioning. As already mentioned by Pu H. Thangkima, there is only one gas agency in Lunglei and this alone cannot

meet the requirements of the people anymore. Therefore, I remind the concerned Minister to take this matter into consideration and install atleast another gas agency at Lunglei.

Further, another problem faced by the people of Lunglei is shortage of petrol and diesel. Petrol and diesel are hardly free sale at Lunglei. The people are put into a position to purchase adulterated petrol. As this is a serious problem, the Minister is requested to take action.

Emphasizing on Demand No. 50, the Transport Department at Lunglei needs extension. I have often brought to the notice of the authorities that the Deputy Director post should be filled up as soon as possible at Lunglei. In spite of that, the department is still under the charge of Station Superintendent. Being the second capital of Mizoram, the government should give more attention to the MST of Lunglei. Further, the only bus station at Lunglei is rather congested to accomodate the MST bus. In this regard, I would like to urge the government to arrange proper bus station for Lunglei.

Though one of the Members had pointed out earlier, I would like to repeat that the District Transport Office has been provided with only one vehicle. Sometimes, the MVI had to hire taxi due to shortage of vehicle in the department. Therefore, I think the problem in this regard can be solved to some extent if a new vehicle is provided to the DTO. Regarding the purchase of motor parts, in some cases the suppliers used to supply duplicate parts that cause mechanical defect in the vehicles. For this matter, the department should instruct the suppliers to provide only genuine parts.

As for the issue of driving license, the government should take precaution. Driving license should be given only to those who are eligible.

It is a pleasing matter that government achieved great progress in agriculture. What I would like to suggest is that financial assistance should be given only to those who deserved it. It is also important to encourage the people living in rural areas to give more interest to WRC. More and more fertilizers should also be provided to the cultivators, so as to harvest more quantity of rice.

Pu F. Lalremsiama : Pu Dy. Speaker, at the outset, crop husbandry may be emphasized. In the budget head of National Watershed Development under centrally sponsored scheme, a large amount of fund has been sanctioned in 1994 - 1995 and 1995 - 1996. As we find in the Budget Book, Rs. 446 lakhs has been sanctioned

for Watershed Development Programme for shifting cultivation. If we glance at last year's performance, there was nothing worth mentioning. As this is the case, proper programme should be laid out and the fund should be utilized for the rightful purpose.

On Minor Irrigation Rs. 100 lakhs has been allocated. I support the system of Minor Irrigation and river diversion. And for this programme, the department has distributed financial assistance to several persons. But, the irrigation works are very poor and will not last long. The department would better check and verified the irrigation works. Agriculture department has ever been priority sector. In spite of this, large amount of the budget has already been squandered away. The government should adopt fresh policy on agriculture.

In matter of Road Transport, suggestions have been raised from the Members for promotion of private undertakings while minimising government's sectors. I would like to add that the number of buses and taxis should also be reduced as well.

I want to suggest that strict measure should be taken on issue of taxi and bus permits.

For the promotion of Sericulture only Rs. 20 lakhs is allotted. As this has been the only source of finance for the people who take up sericulture. It may be better to increased from the present allocation of Rs. 20 lakhs. The total allotment for marketing of Sericulture products has been Rs. 11 only which is found to be too little. If the government is really trying to improve sericulture, the budget allotment should also be more than this.

Next, I would like to emphasize on matters pertaining to Food and Civil Supply. All the members are aware of our difficulties regarding cooking gas. Besides the problems of distribution, the public faced hardships right from its booking. The LPG distributors have neither respect for their consumers nor follow the rules of the government. The booking charge is also higher than that of the Company rate. The consumers are charged with extra fee. Therefore, I would like to conclude that the Members from the Treasury bench should face reality and take steps for the welfare of the people.

Dy. Speaker : Pu F. Malsawma.

Pu F. Malsawma : Pu Dy. Speaker, it is very disappointing to note that the Ministers are, on some occasion, unable to answer the questions raised by the Members while they are expected to give replies to all the questions concerning their

respective departments. I would first of all, like to request the Ministers to take note of what I am going to say.

Pu H.K. Chakma and Pu L.P. Thangzika had mentioned the problem of petrol and diesel at Lunglei District. I have supported their views and the government should find a way to remove this problem.

Coming to the department of Art and Culture, I feel that it is necessary to develop this department in order to upgrade our culture. Moreover, it is surprising to see that the budget provision for this department is lower than that of the previous year. At the same time, what I would like to request the Minister to note is to send expert teams to study the true origin of the Mizo's. As we have no specific knowledge of our origin, this matter earns so much controversy. Fund may also be sanctioned for this cause alone.

It is surprising to see that the budget provision for the department of Agriculture for this year is lower than that of the previous year. And for watershed development, only Rs. 1 lakh had been added to last year's allotment of Rs. 446 lakhs. Does this mean that the government have no intention of making more programmes on this department?

Mention may also be made of the case of Subordinate Agricultural Service -I. Since 1989, several posts have been created under this service, but they are not being regularised till date. They even have to appear before MPSC for an interview. It is difficult to understand why Agricultural Science graduate are treated in this manner. This department has many experts and qualified persons and if the works are decentralised, better team work can be attained.

Coming to the department of Civil Supply, the Central government has given out instructions that bottling plant should be installed in each State. From the present situation, it appears that the authorities from the Oil Corporation has been ignoring us. Therefore, the Central government should be pressurised to take steps on this matter.

The poor quality of rice supplied to Mizoram should also be put to the notice of the Central government. I would also like to urge the government to take necessary action against the retailers who are tampering the rice that is the share of the public.

As stated before, the post of Director at Transport Department has not been filled up. MCS officers are being appointed on deputation basis in this post.

But, there are some senior officer in the department who are reaching their pensions. Those senior officers should be provided with the chance of promotion as they would go on retirement shortly.

Strict direction should also be given to the system of issue of driving license. There are many under-age who acquired driving license.

Regarding town bus service, besides the regular town bus routes. It is suggested that town bus may be provided between the route of Bawngkawn to Vaivakawn. Even if regular service is difficult for the present situation, it is necessary to arrange the service of town bus atleast twice a day for the said route.

Finally, on Sericulture, one suggestion I would like to put forward is that if we really want to develop this department, the government must find a way to increase the production of cocoon and others as well as the price. There would be no problem of production from the public side if the government could arrange subsidy. Further, there would be no problem of production if the price is increased. So, I suggested this point for the progress of this department.

Dy. Speaker : I shall now call upon the Minister Pu C. Chawngkunga to wind up and beg leave of the House to pass his Demands.

Pu C. Chawngkunga (Minister): Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. 20 Members have participated in the discussion of various demands under my department. Let me begin with Agriculture department.

Regarding the question of projects under NLUP mentioned by Pu Lalrinchhana, I would like to say that the previous Agriculture Minister had conducted on the spot verification in Ratu and an inquiry has also been set up at the Secretariat level. Anyway, decision will be made after studying the reports submitted by the enquiry.

To take up agriculture, there are three important factors. These are – fertile soil, suitable climate and water. Mizoram has already enjoyed the two factors – soil and climate. So we need to concentrate on irregation. If we have sufficient water for our cultivation through irrigation we would be able to produce ample quantity of foodgrains. We cannot ignore the fact that fertilizer and technical skills have contributed for succesful cultivation. But even without these two factors, we have enough facilities to meet our demands in rice.

Most of the Members have highly emphasized on the importance of Library. I, too, agree with this view. The policy adopted by the Advisory Committee and Language Committee in the Department of Art and Culture have adopted the policy of propagating the Mizo language to Chin Hills by distributing Mizo literature free of cost. Likewise, we should try to conquer other nations by means of literature. We have to improve and upgrade our culture by the use of literature. The department of Art and Culture has been taking steps for the improvement of the Mizo literature. In this regard, I would like to extend my gratitude to the House Leader and the Finance Department for their support in granting financial assistance for the promotion of our literature.

Therefore, Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, may I request this House to pass my Demand No. 25, 36 for Rs. 12 crores 67 lakhs and 80 thousand only for meeting the expenses during 1996-97 in respect of the following department - Art and Culture and Agriculture, thank you.

Dy. Speaker : We shall take vote on the Demands. Those who agree to pass may say 'agree' and those who do not agree to pass may say 'not agree'.

As agreed by the members, Demand No. 25 and 36 are passed unanimously by this House.

Pu P.C. Bawitluanga may be called to wind up and beg leave of the House to pass his demands.

Pu P.C. Bawitluanga : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you for giving me time. I shall start with the Department of Civil Supply. Though I am pleased that we have large amount of money for the purchase of rice. It is, on the contrary, very sad to see that Mizoram has not produced enough rice to meet the demands.

Today, 20 members have mentioned about rice supply. I have noted down all the points mentioned by the members. 6 members have expressed their gratitude for the sufficient supply of rice. As we have heard from them, the government has taken utmost effort in order to provide sufficient rice to all the people of Mizoram. As a consequence, this Ministry has brought fruitful result. However, as some Members have pointed out, there are certain quantities of rice which are being lost on its way to Mizoram. The government has taken immediate action to trace this incident. As a consequence, some government employees who are found to be responsible were even suspended. Investigation has been going on and the government will take necessary action as soon as the culprit is detected. One thing I want to

inform this House is that inspite of this incident, the government can still manage to provide sufficient supply of rice even to the remotest area which is a very good reason to be satisfied for.

The government is aware of the problem of K. Oil faced by the villages. However, the IOC does not fix specific quota of oil for Mizoram. The government of Mizoram has little or no authority in this matter. The IOC has even arranged the distribution centres themselves. As the Members who have mentioned the proble of K. Oil are from every corner of Mizoram. It is clear that this problem has covered every part of Mizoram. Thus, we may conclude that this matter is a serious one and cannot be ignored. I will look into the matter.

Regarding the problem of LPG, High Power Committee has taken up this matter, and the Committee's Report will be submitted to the government on 27th. of this month. The government will make a decision after examining the Report. However, the problem again is that the IOC has not consulted the government but their agents only. The Company does not bother with the government but has negotiated with their agents which makes this matter more difficult. Anyway, the government will take this matter as priority.

The central government has made proposal that Bottling Plant should be installed in allthe North Eastern States. The government of Mizoram has also been looking for the site for the Plant at Bualpui. The Central Site Selection Committee has corresponded with the Director of Supply informing that the same will visit Mizoram shortly to select the site for the Plant. It is expected that the government will discuss the urgency of the installation of Bottling Plant within Mizoram.

I am aware of the poor quality of rice supplied by the FCI and it has also been discussed with the DCSO. The government has been trying to improve the quality of rice supplied fromt he FCI. I have noted down as top priority and let us hop that we will have improvement shortly.

Pu Lalsawta : There was an amount of Rs. 60 lakhs to be written off from the 1995-96 budget. Again, another Rs. 10 lakhs is to be written off this year. What is the reason for this?

Pu P.C. Bawitluanga (Minister): Pu Speaker, it is necessary to set aside certain amount of fund to cover damage loss and storage lost.

Pu F. Lalremsiama : Pu Dy. Speaker, I request the Minister to inform us

from which godowns the government has damage loss and storage loss?

Pu P.C. Bawithuanga (Minister): Pu Dy. Speaker, the government can go through damage loss not only from the godowns. For example, one government vehicle had met an accident recently and more than 40 quintals of rice was damaged. Therefore, the government has to reserve some funds to cover these kind of unforeseen loss.

Coming to District Council, Pu J.V. Hluna has pointed out the difference in salary of the Executive Secretaries of the District Councils. It appears to be a typing mistake. There is also another typing mistake on page 248 of Demand 31. The figure 477 should be corrected as 977.

Pu Lalsawta has put up a suggestion for a Panchayati Raj system further our state. Pu Thangkima has also suggested for the re-installation of District Councils for Aizawl and Lunglei Districts. Let us assume that this matter will be considered by the authority.

As stated by Pu Lalhmangthanga, District Council has been conferred with enhance power but without financial power. As this concerned power and administration, the matter cannot be rushed through. Financial constrain is also another reason.

Lastly, Pu Dy. Speaker, the government is aware of the problems in regard to rice and other matters. Some of the problems pointed out by the Members are also being under consideration.

Therefore, I request this House to pass my demands in respect of the following departments:

Demand No. 16 : Civil Supply	- Rs. 13,90,10,000.00 (Capital)
	- Rs. 73,72,00,000.00 (Revenue)
Demand No. 31: District Council	- Rs. 23,76,00,000.00

Dy. Speaker : We shall take Vote on the Demands. Those who agree to pass may say, 'agree'. Those who disagree may say 'not agree'. Well, Demands No. 16 and 31 are passed unanimously by the House.

Let us now call upon Pu Hrangthanga Colney to wind up and request the House to pass his Demands.

Pu Hrangthanga Colney (Minister): Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you for allotting me time to wind up. Let me begin with Transport Department. 20 Members have men-

tioned various points connected to this Department. Though the Budget head of Road and Water Transport is beyond our authority and power, it appears on the Budget Book, Water transport is not under the purview of my department. PWD has taken up Water transport. On page 533 of our Budget book, water transport has been shown and Rs. 25 lakhs is allotted for the same.

Coming to matter concerning Railway Out Agency, the link road to Bairabi has been under construction. When this road is completed, transportation of rice would be easier through Bairabi railway. As for railway reservation for Mizoram, we are allotted quotas in various railway expresses. We are now making progress to get railway reservation for Mizoram from Delhi to various railway routes.

In matters of road transport, I cannot deny the fact that this department has tremendously lost from MST bus service. During the year 1995-96, the amount of loss from the operation of bus service is the highest due to the existence of liability from the previous years. The condition of most of the trucks and buses have gone through their lifespan and are to be auctioned as soon as we get approval from the authority. It is expected that this can make a recovery to some losses.

As for the permanent post of Director for Transport Department, the case has been processed by the department.

Most of the members have mentioned the problem of bus ticket. It has often been said that the VIP quota of reservation in bus services are misused by the department. Anyway, we are still trying to find the best remedy for the defects in issue of bus tickets to the public.

There are certain problems and difficulties within the department itself regarding Cashiers and DDO. A separate DTO has already been appointed at Chaltang Workshop. The problem could be solved to some extent. As for the case of conductors and drivers, it is very difficult to check their activities. The department has only 6 inspectors, as such it is very difficult to check all the line throughout Mizoram. As emphasized by some Members, it is a matter of regret that people living in rural areas have no awareness for the need to collect tickets from the conductors. They simply pay the fares to the conductors but do not demand for a ticket. This has led to corruption as the conductors could pocketed the fare to themselves as tickets are not issued.

Regarding driving licence, the department has made proposal to set up driving school and licence could be issued only to those who have gone through the driving school.

Dr. J.V. Hluna : Pu Dy. Speaker, if a person applies for driving licence and pass the test, he should be given licence whether he was trained in a recognised driving school or not.

Pu Hrangthanga Colney (Minister): Pu Dy. Speaker, before conducting driving test, a person has to obtain Learner's Licence and the department will check the institution where the Learner's Licence was obtained.

Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga: Pu Dy. Speaker, if a person has passed a driving test, he should be given driving license.

As for registration of vehicle number, all the new vehicles should be registered as MZ. But there are still some new vehicles which are allowed to be registered as ZRM. What is the reason for this?

Pu Hrangthanga Colney (Minister): Pu Dy. Speaker, there are some persons who demanded the number of their old vehicles during registration. The MVI has done the registration as demanded.

Coming to matters concerning taxi fares and bus fares, it is very high. As for transport bus, the fare is extremely low and as such, the department has lost from this operation. However, due to the increase in the price of POL, owner's of town Bus have made a demand to the government to increase town bus fares. As this matter is a public concern, the Cabinet will discuss it. I have also noted down the problems of road communication and unreliability of bus services mentioned by the Members. The government is trying to find ways and means to solve these problems.

Regarding bus services, the government is aware of the unreliability of bus services, owing to poor condition of road and shortage of buses. To solve this problem, there is provision for the repair of roads and Rs. 80 lakhs has been sanctioned for the purchase of new bus. The case of poor condition of vehicles of Transport Officer at Lunglei mentioned by Pu L.P. Thangzika will be taken into priority.

Pu F. Lalremsiama : Pu Dy. Speaker, how many taxi permits have already been issued within Aizawl town?

Dr. J.V. Hluna : Pu Dy. Speaker, is the government aware that there are some officers who repair their private vehicles at the expense of the government?

Pu Hrangthanga Colney (Minister): Pu Dy. Speaker, regarding the issue of taxi permit, the State Transport Authority has specially conducted a meeting to consider this matter and even suggested to stop the issue of taxi permit for a while. But the decision of the meeting has not yet been intimated to me. We will work out the best method with the authority in this regard.

As for the repair of private trucks, mentioned by Dr. J.V. Hluna, I request the head of the department concerned to make a record for future investigation and if necessary action will be taken against those officers.

Pu Tlanghmingthanga : Pu Dy. Speaker, the Minister had just made a commitment to take action against the officers who repairs their private vehicles at the expense of the department, will he fulfil his commitment?

Pu Hrangthanga Colney (Minister): Pu Dy. Speaker, if there are such officers under my department, actions will be taken against them.

Pu F. Lalzuala : Pu Dy. Speaker, can petrol and diesel tank at Lunglei stock adequate petrol and diesel to meet the requirement of the public?

Pu Hrangthanga Colney (Minister): Pu Dy. Speaker, regarding the question raised by Pu F. Lalzuala, the petrol and diesel house at Lunglei cannot stock the same for the public but only for the department concerned.

Dr. J.V. Hluna: Pu Dy. Speaker, does the MVI receive Road Tax fee from vehicles that are registered outside Mizoram?

Pu Hrangthanga Colney (Minister): Pu Dy. Speaker, I cannot give specific answer to the question of Road Tax fee.

Emphasizing on Demand No. 48 - Sericulture, it is a matter of satisfaction that 10 Members have positively mentioned about this department. The members have expressed their ideas and opinions on this department and even agreed to put more amount of fund for the same. However, as our budget is very limited, we cannot increase the allotment. At the rural level, our officers have delayed awareness campaign for Sericulture due to limited fund. As soon as we have additional fund, the campaign is proposed to be started. If we could get additional fund in the R.E., it will be utilized for the purchase of cocoon. As stated by the member, Sericulture could provide easy means of occupation to the village women. The Central government

has also encouraged sericulture and the government of Mizoram is also making progress in this department. Finally, the valuable contributions and suggestions furnished by the members are highly appreciated.

Therefore, Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request this august House to pass my demands in respect of the following departments.

Demand No. 48 - Sericulture	
	Revenue - Rs. 25,15,00,000.00
Demand No. 50 - Road Transport	
	Revenue - Rs. 8,32,65,000.00
Total -	Rs. 11,40,50,000.00
Thank you.	

Dy. Speaker : Our honourable Minister has requested the House to pass his Demands. those who agree to pass the same may say 'agree' (The members agreed). Demand No. 48 and 50 are passed unanimously by the House.

Pu Zoramthanga : Pu Dy. Speaker, it would be appreciated if the concerned Ministers and officers could be present while discussing their respective departments.

Dy. Speaker : I am very pleased to see that the members from the Treasury Bench and the Opposition have contributed various suggestions and ideas which are helpful for the people of Mizoram. Regarding the absence of departments Secretaries, they are expected to be present at the House while discussing subjects under their departments.

Pu R. Tlangmingthanga : Pu Dy. Speaker, the officers are supposed to feed the Minister with answers when difficult questions arised. Therefore, they should be present at the House during the discussion of subjects under their department.

Pu J. Lalsangzuala (Minister): Pu Dy. Speaker, the honourable Minister Pu Zosiama has gone to Delhi to attend important meeting. Pu Lalruata has been to Lunglei on account of the demise of his mother and the honourable Chief Minister has left the House as he has an important matter to attend to.

Dy. Speaker : It is now 7:20 PM. The House will be adjourned till 10:30 AM tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 PM.