

PU R.L. VALLA : "If you will see God and make supplication to the Almighty.
If you are pure and upright, surely, then he will rouse himself for you and regard you with a rightful habitation".

Now, we shall take up the question, starred question No- 81, Pu Lasawta.

PU LALSAWTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I ask my starred question No-81, Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Industry Department be pleased to state -

- (a) Whether Mizoram has a steel-quota ?
- (b) If so, what is the allotment of the steel quota during the financial years of 1987-88 to 1996 - 1997 ?
- (c) During the said financial years, to whom was the allotment made and what is the amount.
- (d) Whether the said allotment was made to the 'Mizo steel Tuber Pvt. Limited', proprietor Pu F. Zuala, Tuikhuahtlang, Aizawl during the financial year of 1998-1999 ?
- (e) If so, the time of allotment and the quantity allotted ?

PU C.L. RUALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Mizoram has
MINISTER no such steel-quota.

PU LALSAWTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, supplementary question, the name of a Mizo appeared in the back of the 'Indian Industrial world' So, I would like to know whether there was such quota without the knowledge of the Government ? Was there any enquiries taken on such matter ?

PU LALKHAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, such matter could not be discovered by the Supply Department here. The same can be learnt from the sales and stock record at Guwahati. Was investigation made through the said record ?

PU E. MALSAWMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, regarding purchase of Steel, why do the Mizoram Govt. make the purchase only from the said Commercial Enterprise ?

PU C.L. RUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the question of our Hon'ble Member from Aizawl 'N' II the requirements of all small scale Industries are obtained only from the steel Authority of India. The question of the Hon'ble Member, Pu Lalkhama will be duly verified.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalsawta.

PU LALSAWTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, starred question No - 82.

Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Rural Development Department be pleased to state,

- (a) Who are assigned the task of selecting recipients of GCI sheets ?
- (b) What is the cost of bundle of GCI sheets distributed by the Govt. during 1996-1997 who is the supplier ? What is the thickness of the said sheets ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon the Hon'ble Minister i/c Pu Saikapthianga.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr, Deputy Speaker Sir, the answer
MINISTER are as follows :

- (a) The Govt. assigned the BDO for the said task.
- (b) The cost of one bundle of GCI sheets is Rs. 1800/- the supplier is M/S Thanzauva and Sons, Zarkawt, Aizawl. The thickness of the said sheet is 0.40 m.m.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, regarding selection of recipients by the BDO, did the Govt. lay out any guidelines or prescribe any qualifications? If so, can information be furnished by the Hon'ble Minister ?

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, can GCI sheets be allotted to more than one member of a family ? If so, will the said allotment be cancelled ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, direct selection cannot be undertaken by the BDO without arrangement with our Agency. Was such arrangement made by the Government ?

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, coming
MINISTER to the question of the Hon'ble Member, Pu Lalhmingthanga, the Govt. laid out proper guidelines, but this cannot be up-to-date as new homes are set in the villages. As such, we instructed the BDO to recommend only the genuine cases.

Next, coming to the question of the Hon'ble Member Pu F. Malsawma, the Government do not have a clear cut policy on such matter, but clearly defined that each family without proper ROOF would be allotted 4 bundles of GCI sheets.

Regarding the point raised by the Hon'ble Member Pu Lalrinchhana, it is not appropriate to appoint V/C or VDC as an agent. So, we rely on the selection of the BDO.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, apart from the BDO can a Board be set up for this purpose ?

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, can the Government prepare a systematic guideline in accordance with the list of recipients who had yet received the GCI sheets ?

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, steps will be taken up in accordance with the suggestion of the Hon'ble Member Pu Lalrichhana.

The Point raised by the Hon'ble Member Pu Lalhmingthanga is quite correct. At the same time, making the selection is a difficult task and sitting up of a Board or Agency might lead to more confusion. Anyway, the Govt. will render sustain efforts for the success of this policy, which is implemented for the upliftment of the economically weaker section of society. The MLA too will be consulted as found necessary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Starred question No -83.

PU LALSAWTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, as authorised by the Hon'ble Member Pu F. Lalremsiama, I ask starred question No. 83.

Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Industries Department be pleased to state.

(a) As building likely to be used for Industrial Estate was constructed at Zuangtui, for what purpose will the said building be utilised ?

(b) What is the expenditure incurred for construction of the said building ? Who is the contractor ? Was the said task undertaken by the Department or an individual ?

(c) Whether it is the duty of the Industry Department to set up and maintain a tea-garden at Biate ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, can the Hon'ble Minister furnish the name of each article unit ?

PU C.L. RUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the building is for small scale industries like Radio repairing etc. which require wider space.
MINISTER

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the location and the purchase of the building is not very suitable for many people cannot avail the services as it is located at the outskirts of the town. Can a more appropriate arrangement be made by the Government ?

PU C.L. RUALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, a suitable location is hard to find within the town.
MINISTER : There is no problem with the present arrangement as the materials for repair are received here whole repair work is done at Zuangtui.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Starred question No. 84, Pu Lal Biakzuala and Pu F. Malsawma.

PU E. MALSAWMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, starred question No. 84, will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Rural Development Department be pleased to state -

- a) In areas covered by the NLUP, will measures be taken up by the Govt. concerning the welfare of families mistakenly omitted ?
- b) Number of Rural Development Blocks covered by NLUP within our State ?
- c) Number of the said Blocks not yet covered ?
- d) When will all the Blocks be covered by this Policy ?
- e) Number of beneficiaries under NLUP ?
- f) Approximate percentage of Jhum control lesson by NLUP ?
- g) Percentage of successful beneficiaries of NLUP ?
- h) Whether arrangement is made by the Govt. to market the products under NLUP ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon the Hon'ble Minister i/c Pu Saikapthianga.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the answers are
MINISTER as follows ;

- a) After all the Blocks are covered by the NLUP, the Welfare of the omitted families will be considered by the Govt. They will be given top priority in such schemes like MWS and IAU.
- b) The number of Blocks covered by NLUP are, 10 R.D. Blocks, Additional Block-I, and 17 villages within Lunglei Block. Besides, they also have 2 more R.D. Block from the JCP (Jhum Control Programme)
- c) 7 R.D. Blocks, 1 Additional Block and number of Blocks at the outskirts of Lunglei.
- d) All the Blocks are expected to be covered by the 9th five year plan.
- e) 50,407 beneficiaries.
- f) Jhum control had been greatly reduced but the exact percentage cannot be furnished at the moment.
- g) The said programme was implemented only in 1990-91. So, most of the plans are not yet matured. Anyway, a survey was conducted in various villages, and the percentage of success is about 36, which is quite satisfactory as compared to the passed percentage of Matric examination, which is around 30% only. As in other parts of the world, even in Mizoram, our main aim and concern is self-sufficiency. In this connection, I would like to remind the Hon'ble Members that this is a difficult but vital programme for a young state like ours.
- h) This matter is being considered by the Government.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any irrelevant points or question should not be raised.

PU B. LALTHLEGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble house Leader had mentioned that funds under special Development scheme would be sanctioned after Christmas. Why sanction is not yet made till date ?

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, as far as NLUP is concerned, the percentage of success cannot be 36 as stated by the Hon'ble Minister, because when a survey was conducted in my constituency during 1989-91, the percentage is below 3 in some villages. Hence I would like to know whether the percentage of success is merely utilised for advertising this scheme.

Secondly, can the percentage of success in Block wise be furnished in the House ?

Thirdly, what criteria is adopted by the Govt. for calculation of the percentage ?

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Deputy, Speaker Sir, as we all know, jhumming should be stopped in areas where NLUP is implemented, but the same prevails till date, what step is taken up by the Govt. to prevent such practice, Is there a single village that totally abandoned jhumming ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are too many supplementary questions.

PU LAL BIAKZUALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, as heard earlier, the whole of Mizoram is expected to be covered by NLUP within the 9th five year plan. As such, the omitted families will have to wait for a long period of time, So, can they be granted financial assistance in the meantime .

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, at the outset, I would like to emphasize the question of our Hon'ble Member Pu Lalkhama. As decided by the R.D. Department, the beneficiaries of NLUP should be permanent citizens, who is present in the Electoral Roll. Regarding maintenance of Register/census, the R.D. Department will immediately conduct a census, for which the BDO had been given instructions.

Regarding the point raised by the Hon'ble Member, Pu Lalhmingthanga, the importance of marketing is fully realised by the Govt., without which self sufficiency could never be achieved. This matter is under the consideration. However, today our main problem is lack of proper communication as our state is located in a remote area.

Further, as far as the local products are concerned, improvement of quality is extremely necessary in order to attract prospective buyers. Besides, with the establishment of Airport and gradual improvement of Railways, we will be able to solve the problem of communication, and in matter of trade, we have high expectation for a better relationship with Bangladesh. I would also like to remind the House that we are working hard to market the local products more profitably. In spite of that, the profit cannot be large owing to limitation of marketing facilities outside our state.

PU LAUHMINGTHANGA : Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, what measure is taken by the Government to improve marketing of local products ?

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, matter concerning the market is in the hands of Trade and Commerce. In spite of strenuous efforts by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Finance and the concerned Ministers, prospective buyers are not found.

Coming to the question of the Hon'ble Member Pu B. Lalthlengliana, under SDS, beneficiaries numbering 19613 had been selected, funds will be distributed as soon as we receive the sanction.

The Hon'ble Member Dr. R. Lalthangliana appeared to be suspicious of the percentage of success. The 36% mentioned earlier was an example of the survey taken in certain areas. The Block wise percentage cannot be furnished at the moment because most of the seedlings particularly in the Horticulture sector are still immature.

The criteria adopted by the Govt. to measure the success vary from sector to sector. For instance, in the Horticulture sector, the fertility of seedling and plant is examined, in the Industrial sector, the functioning of various machines are checked regularly and in the vety sector, the condition and health of the animals is the main concern.

As stated by the Hon'ble Member Pu Lalrinchhana jhuming still continues even in areas where NLUP is implemented. In fact, this is our main problem of today, and jhuming cannot be abandoned completely for a while because the objective of the said policy is not yet accomplished. Emphasizing on the statement of the Hon'ble Member Pu Lal Biakzuala, the welfare of the omitted families is quite a difficult matter as fund is sanctioned only for beneficiaries included in the final list. Hence we have no choice but wait for a fresh sanction. Thank you.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in the present situation, the need of the hour is to consider ways of marketing the products more profitably. If I am not mistaken, none of the opposition member are involved in the Committees of MAMCO or Trade and Commerce. So, can we work together harmoniously in order to achieve a fruitful result

Secondly, regarding evaluation of NLUP, can the survey report be provided to the Members ?

Finally, the Hon'ble Minister stated that a fresh sanction is awaited for deserving families mistakenly excluded in the selection. Can their welfare be reconsidered by the Government ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question hour is over.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, in addition to my previous questions. I would like to raise another one. As each beneficiary of NLUP is allotted a plot of land, can the Government take up a more active action to help the beneficiaries ?

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the criteria for measuring the success of NLUP adopted by the Government is not appropriate, because the main target of NLUP is to provide a stable means of earning a living. So, the standard of judgement should be on whether this target is achieved or not.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall call upon the Hon'ble Minister, Pu Saikapthianga.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Deputy Speake Sir, there can
MINISTER be no other criteria either than the
ones mentioned earlier.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in that case,
36% or 30% is extremely low. This
should be verified as huge expendi-
ture is incurred for this scheme.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr, Deputy Speaker Sir, although
MINISTER the R.D. Department utilised huge
amount of funds for the various trad-
ers under NLUP, there is no quarantee that all the traders should be
succesful. As such, criteria for measurement of success is necessary as
mentioned earlier. However, in the present condition, this cannot be
measured particularly in Horticulture as the products are not yer
marketed.

Regarding the question of the Hon'ble Member
Pu Latrinchhana, jhuming is gradually abandoned in areas covered by
NLUP. The points raised by the Hon'ble Member Pu F. Malsawma
will be considred by the Government. Finally, I regret to learn that a
deserving family at Kolasib was excluded in the list of beneficiaries. I
will personally have a word with the said family.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr, Deputy Speaker Sir, plantation
CHIEF MINSITER of Ginger is not encouraged by the
Government. However, if the plants
face any problems the Government will render its best effort to help
them.

In the previous year, quotation was floated but the bidders later withdrew and the Government ultimately made the purchase at the cost of Rs. 5 per Kg. where huge expenditure was incurred. In the present year, there is no proper market inspite of producing huge quantity of Ginger. Besides, we need to improve the quality and for this purpose, a demonstration was conducted. Due to limitation of market, MAMCO is working strenuously to help the growers of Ginger by taking over the Ginger de-hydration plant at Sairang. So, the Government will procure as huge quantity as possible although the rate is not yet estimated/ fixed.

Lastly, the Government encourages Tung Plantation. For its success, the first necessity is setting up of machine for which the Department Officers and the Tung Crower Association are taking up active actions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, let us invite the Hon'ble Member Dr. R. Lalthangliana to present Report of the Assurance Committee.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr, Deputy Speaker Sir, I, Chiarman of the Committee on Government Asurances, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Reports here present this 7th Reports to the House. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may distribute the copies. We shall proceed with our Legislative Business. Let us call upon the Hon'ble Minister Pu P.C. Zoram Sangliana to beg leave of the House that the Mizoram Sales Tax Amendment Bill, 1997 be considered.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir,
MINISTER prior, to that kindly grant
me permission to distrib-
ute copies of statement of objections and Reasons.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are granted the permission.

PU. P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Dy. Speaker, with your
MINISTER permission, I beg leave of the
House that 'The Mizoram
sales Tax (Amendment) Bill 1997' be taken up for Consideration.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House agreed to consider the said
Bill. At first, we shall call upon the Hon'
ble Minister to clarify certain points.

PU ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Dy. Speaker Sir, the objective
of this Bill is quite clear from the
statement of objection and reason. The Bill has no intention of
amending the principal Act, the Mizoram Sales Tax Act 1989, No. A
of 1989, but simply aims at correcting the inappropriate wording. The
Mizoram Sales Tax was enforced since 1st April, 1990. However, as
there was a desire to connect the Sales Tax and The Mizoram
Trading Regulation, the said tax was suspended since 1st April,
1993. This does not mean that the Tax has expired nor will the same
be immediately introduced after amendment. Its impelmentation and
operation may be suspended by the Executive power, the Legislature
is still empowered to make the necessary amendments.

Further, as the Provision Section 3(!) proves to be too
expensives for the Hawkers, amendment was made on this section.

Likewise, in section 10(2), 21(2) (10), 31(J), 33(4), 40 and 44(13), certain printing mistakes and inappropriate wordings, number of figure are amended while certain words are added or replaced by another. Besides in schedule No. 3, the year 1995 should be changed into 1989. Finally, I remind this august House that with the passing of this Bill, there will be no new source of revenue nor will it be increased.

PU LALKHAMA : Mr. Dy. Speaker Sir, after issuing notification to enforce the Tax by the Govt., can the tax be suspended by an executive order ? Who has the authority to implement the Act ? Was the Legislature consulted on this matter ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Each member is allotted 5 minutes.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Dy. Speaker Sir, why do Amend - ment has to be made simply on ground of typing mistake ? As far as this Tax is concerned, the provisons should be made known to the public, because, holders of this licence in the Chhimtuipui District Council are exploiting the supply works here. As stated earlier, the imposition of Sales Tax is supported by all, but for the safety of Mizoram, granting of Licence should be done with utmost care. As such, the provisions of Mizoram Trading Regulation and issuing of Licence in Chhimtuipui area should be duely verified. Moreover, the working and typing should be done carefully under the guidance of the experienced officers. As the Sales Tax is to be introudced after a short while, we should consult one another and work together sincerely as this Tax concerns the welfare of our State.

DR. J.V. HLUNA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has offered informative clarification. In spite of that, the amendment on section 22 is not clear enough. Another suggestion I would like to put forward is that on page 4, No. 4 the word "and" is more applicable. Moreover, with the enforcement of Trading Regulation, the number of non-tribal traders without Licence increase rapidly in our state. Realising this, the Chamber of Commerce suspended the said Regulation as it contradicts the provision of the Indian Constitution Article 46, which protects the schedule caste, schedule Tribe and weaker sections from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. Therefore, to protect the weaker sections like the Tribal communities from exploitation, the Trading Regulation should be carefully reviewed and introduced before the enforcement of the Sales Tax.

PU LALSAWTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, matter concerning Sales Tax had been widely discussed. There is a systematic procedure in the administration of the Government. Today, the duty of the Legislature is to amend this Bill, but its enforcement before 1st April is in the hands of the State Govt. What ever it is, what is the use of amending the said Tax while there is no intention of enforcing the same ? The Hon'ble Minister had pointed out that on section 12, certain wording such as, "other sufficient reasons," would be replaced by such wording "shall be substituted", However, instead of the word "substituted", the word "added" is more appropriate.

Today, I would like to mention few things regarding Sales Tax, which could be our main instrument if we really want to take up Resources Mobilisation. But in the present situation, it is premature to enforce the said tax, because if the non-tribal traders pay the tax, we have to issue Registration, and the Trading Regulations cannot regulate the trading by non-tribals. The House should deeply consider whether it is the right time to impose Sales Tax in Mizoram. As we

all know, with the rapid escalation of price in our State, the imposition of the said tax will greatly affect the people. Under such circumstances, the Department of Metrology, whose main task is safeguarding the interest of the public is totally neglected and is prevented from discharging their functions.

Another point I would like to highlight is that the Sales Tax could be beneficial or advantageous to certain areas of work, while the main victim will be the public. Nevertheless, as the House fails to give top priority to the people, why not pass the Bill immediately for the benefit of certain Department's staff, inspectors etc. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu F. Malsawma.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to speak. As far as Sales Tax is concerned, the efforts of the Hon'ble Minister of Taxation is highly appreciated, and at the same time, I do support the opinions and statements of the Hon'ble Members. In view of the present situation, the imposition of this Tax should be delayed further, so that there will be more opportunity to review the Trading Regulation for Non-Tribal. Recently, the 'Meghalaya Transfer of Hand Bill' was passed by the Central Govt. after many years. Likewise, we also hope for the fulfilment of this Trading Regulation. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the Hon'ble Minister i/c is considerate enough towards the people in the implementation of this tax. The points raised by the Hon'ble Members from Aizawl West II and Aizawl South I is strongly supported by me. Although the provision of this Bill are quite acceptable in general, the section 22 on page 15 is not up to the mark, because it paves the way for corruption, and the consequences will have adverse effect on the Government and the people.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, regarding the Mizoram Sales Tax Amendment Bill 1997, there is nothing to clarify on the technical side. The House should not be troubled by the Typing/printing mistake.

Coming to matter concerning the Sales Tax its imposition is only a burden to the people while it opens the door for non-tribal traders, who will ultimately gain all the benefits. Instead of this Tax, is there a way of setting up Regulations that could impose restrictions on non-tribal traders to safeguard the interest of our people? So, the need of the hour is mobilisation of our own resources. Therefore, amendment of Regulation for the benefit of economically weaker sections is extremely necessary. In such cases, it is premature to pass this Bill. Thank you.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in the statement of object and reason, it was the enforcement of the Act that was suspended. We should be certain that the Sales Tax is an indirect tax.

In the tribal and under developed areas, direct tax is initially implemented for efficient administration. The reason is that in the indirect tax, the consumers are always the losers. So, the indirect tax is not afforded by the backward area like Mizoram, who is still at its developmental stages.

Recently, there is a deficit in our Budget and we learnt from the statement of our Hon'ble minister of Finance that the allocation of five years plan is done on a re-search-base.

As a matter of fact, there is an existing formula which prevents states under special category from such Reaserch-base. As heard earlier, the consumers and the backward section will be the victims of the Sales Tax. So, as the government had already suspended this tax for the benefit of the poorer communities, reviving of the same is not recommended in view of the present situation.

Instead, I suggest that the Trading Regulation Ordinance and the Sales Tax should be studied and reviewed thoroughly by the Government. Besides, amendment too is not necessary as the Tax is not to be enforced immediately, and the bill should not be passed today. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now call upon the Hon'ble Minister.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, MINISTER to begin with, I would like to thank all the Hon'ble Members for their information contributions and I assure the Members that immediate steps will be taken up. Undoubtedly, it is meaningless to obtain huge amount of revenue unless the people are fully content.

Further, the Government as well as the Consultative Committee have weighed the pros and cons of this matter, and in principle we agreed to impose the Sales Tax. In particular, I would like to emphasize the points raised by the Hon'ble Member from Aizawl South II. I have confidence over the Taxation Department's staff and Officers, inspite of shortage of staff and facilities, the sincere and strenuous efforts of the said Department is worth mentioning. All the Officers and Staff including the Minsiter i/c had never been involved in corruption nor will they be in future.

PU LALKHAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in my opinion, the Executive has no authority to suspend the enforcement of Act without suspending the Act. This should be clarified. As this is an important issue, the Hon'ble Minsiter should consult the Law Ministry.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA :
MINISTER

Mr. Deputy Speaker
Sir, today, we should

realise the fact that our peoples are facing immense problems in the absence of Sales Tax. If we are genuinely concerned with the welfare of our community, they should not be discouraged by discussing the provisions of the Tax in a negative way. Today, in the light of our discussion I gained new ideas and valuable informations, which will be of great help for the subject and consultative Committees. Besides amendment cannot be avoided because there are many inappropriate wordings and certain numbers are misplaced. Although its immediate enforcement is opposed by certain Members, the tax will not fub off our community, we ought to be financially independent or self-sufficient by now. At the same time, our actual condition should be made known to the public. So, today I present this Bill so that we can work together to make the necessary amend, and I request the House to pass the same unanimously. Thank you.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Spekaer Sir, if we take votes, we will certainly be the losers. So, we will leave the House as we do not agree to pass the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will take the votes. Members who agree to pass the Mizoram Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997 will say 'agree'. Members who disagree will say 'disagree'

As majority of Membeers agreed to pass the said Bill, The Mizoram Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997 is passed unanimously by the House. Our Session is over for today, and our meeting will resume tommorrow at 10 : 30 AM

Meeting Adjourned at 1 : 15 P.M.