

PU J. LALSANGZUALA to lay on the table a copy each of the :—

- (i) The Mizoram State Legal Services Authority (Amendment) Rules 1997.
- (ii) The Mizoram State Legal Services Authority Regulations 1998.

### PRESENTATION OF REPORT

THE SPEAKER to report to the House the Time-Table in regards to Business as settled by the Business Advisory Committee.

### DISCUSSION ON GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

DISCUSSION or Motion of Thanks on Governor's Address.

SPEAKER : 'The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones'.

Proverbs 15 : 30

I now request the Leader of the House to make obituary reference on the demise of Pi Saptawni.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : I raise to make obituary referen-  
 CHIEF MINISTER ces in honour of Pi Saptawni,  
 who have passed away on  
 23. 12. 1997 at 6 : 30 Am. She was a member of this August  
 House when Mizoram was a Union Territory.

Late Pi Saptawni was born in 1929 at Saitual and was the daughter of Rev. Liangkhaia and Pi Ngurliani Sailo; She had her early education at Saitual Primary School, and in 1962 she passed matric and graduated in 1965 and later passed B.T. in Guwahati.

She served as a teacher at P.C. Girls School and was appointed as Headmistress in 1968. She also became the first Mizo Headmistress. In 1978 she was awarded Certificate of Honour and merit by the Government of Mizoram and in the same year National Award for Teacher was awarded to her. In 1997 the American Biographical Institute had awarded her International Award of Recognition for Studies in Teaching, Profession and women's ministry.

Pi Saptawni has spent most of her time for various church activities. She was also one of the founders of K.T.P. In 1978 she was elected as Elder from Mission Veng Presbyterian church but was not ordained. She served as a preacher in Sunday school since she was only 14 till her premature death on 23. 12. 1997.

She was a gifted person and contributed her talents for this state. She has also participated in various committees. After having throat Cancer from September, 1995 she passed away on 23. 12. 1997 at 6 : 30 AM.

She had been one of the leaders of the Women's Ministry in the Presbyterian Church. Besides this, her contribution to the society is innumerable. In her death, Mizoram lost one of the ablest women. On behalf of the House and on my behalf I pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to both the departed soul and extend my heart felt condolences to the bereaved families.

**PU LALHMINGTHANGA :** Pu Speaker, I rise to say a few words in honour of late Pi Saptawni. Personally, Pi Saptawni was a very close friend of mine. In her death, we have lost a promising personality. She was a remarkable person as well as a sincere and devoted one.

Being the first woman member in the MLA nominated seat, she has always strongly advocated for total prohibition of liquor in Mizoram.

Today, as I rise in honour of the Late Saptawni I would like to quote an extract from the speech made by her in the 1972 proceedings.

“..... Having realised the effect of liquor I am personally against it and would therefore like to adopt total prohibition”.

There are many things to be learnt from the life of Pi Saptawni. She had sacrifice her times for the wellbeing of the society and her students. She dedicated all her life for women's ministry in the Presbyterian Church. All her works for the Church and the Mizo Society worths mentioning. Her qualities were rare and in her death Mizoram lost a great person. In conclusion, I convey heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

Thank you.

**PU LALSAWTA :**

Pu Speaker, I feel it necessary to rise today in honour of Pi

Saptawni I will not say much but there is one important point which I would like to mention today. The so called P.C. Girl's High School has been prospered due to the dedication and hard work of Pi Saptawni. She has proved to the people of Mizoram that a Mizo Medium School can be equal to the English Medium School. The results of her good work in P.C. Girl's School can still be witnessed even after her death.

Thank you.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA :**

Pu Speaker, I would like to say a few words of obituary reference in honour of Late Pi Saptawni.

Pi Saptawni was a unique person and Mizoram has rarely produced such a personsonality. It is even difficult to guess whether Mizoram can have such a great contribution like she

made. Mention may be made to the contribution she made for the Presbyterian Church. She had possessed an important stature in the society as well as in politics. As stated by Pu Lalhmingthanga her qualities were rare and we have many things to learn from her.

Thank you.

**PU HRANGTHANGA COLNEY :** Pu Speaker, the members who stood before me have mentioned the good works contributed to the Church by Pi Saptawni. However, there is one thing I would like to highlight that she was the first and only women elected for elder in the Presbyterian Church.

She was also trying to popularise Mizo products and therefore the uniforms materials for P.C. Girls School is handloom material.

There can also be a challenge for the Mizo women in the life of Pi Saptawni. Mizoram needs a personality like the one she possessed. In her death, not only Mizoram but the whole of India loses a great person.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER :**

The House will now observe 2-minutes silence to pay our homage to Pi Saptawni. Shall

we all stand (2-minutes silence was observed).

Let us come to our next business starred question no. 1.

**PU H. ZATHUAMA :**

Pu Speaker, I ask starred question no. 1.

Will the Minister in-charge

Food and Civil Supplies pleased to state —

(i) The reason for shortage of rice supply in Mizoram.

(ii) How does the Government take steps ?

(iii) Whether rice can be stocked in various parts of Mizoram before the rainy season.

**PU P.C. BAWITLUANGA :** Pu Speaker, the rice supply is sufficient enough,  
**Minister**

The central Government has made allotment for 20,000 metric tonnes of rice for Mizoram. To speed up the transportation, rice has been transported from Guwahati.

The Government is taking steps to stock rice in various parts of Mizoram before the rainy season.

**PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA :** Pu Speaker, how does Food and Civil Supplies Department classify Common Rice and Fine Rice?

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA :** Pu Speaker, during United Front Ministry the Central Government made proposal to produce rice in a cheaper rate for those people below poverty line. In pursuance of this, the BDOs and AOs of various villages had collected names of beneficiaries. However, the selected beneficiaries do not receive such rice till date.

The people of Chhimtuipui District also face problems during the rainy season as they could not receive adequate supply of rice. How does the Government take measures to remove the problem face by the people of Maraland?

**PU F. MALSAWMA :** Pu Speaker, during the later part of February, there was a case of challan signed for the receipt

of 5 trips of rice for Khawlian Village while no such rice supply reach the village. Is the Government aware of this?.

In 1996 the total quantity of rice sanctioned was 96,000 metric tonnes. This year, the quantity of rice supply is reduced to 50,000 metric tonnes. Can the Minister furnish the reason for this reduction and It would be appreciated if he can assure us that he would consider this as priority.

**PU H. THANGKIMA :** Pu Speaker, how does the Government categories the beneficiaries to receive rice specially allotted for the people below poverty line?.

**PU LALRINCHHANA :** Pu Speaker, while there is allotment of ration (midday meal) for minor, the retailer in the remote areas never issued their share. Please classify this point.

It is a fact that the retailer rarely use the right measurement in the case of ration. Even the V.I.P ration has been measured incorrectly. It would be appreciated if the minister could take note of this and take action for this.

**PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA :** Pu Speaker, it was reported that the ration of midday meal for the months of January and February for minor alone had been delivered from the F.C.I. But, it was not distributed till today what is the reason for this?..

**PU LALSAWTA :** Pu Speaker, my first question is whether rice supply from F.C.I. has been classified as Common Rice, Fine Rice as Super Fine Rice and what is the rate?

Secondly, what is the periodicity of rice supply delivered by the retailer?

Please furnish the rate of rice supplied to the MLAs per quintal.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA :** Pu Speaker, regarding the transportation of rice from the central, the route to Mizoram is a difficult one and so, I suggest that rice be transported through waterway. Can the Government conduct a survey for this?

**PU P.C. BAWITLUANGA :** Pu Speaker, I will try to give detail answer to the question asked by the members.  
**Minister**

Rice coming from the F.C.I has already been classified as C. Rice, Super fine rice and Fine rice. We have only accepted the quality of rice as shown in the challan as there are no experts in this field. Recently, the classification was made as A and B rice and C. Rice, Super fine rice and fine rice was not used in the classification.

The Planning Commission has fixed the number of persons who can receive rice at a cheaper rate at 40,000. As the state Government found that this is too little considering the poverty of Mizoram and therefore put up a complain to increase the figure.

I am aware of the problem faced by the people of Chhimtui-pui District mentioned by Dr. R. Lalthangliana and the Government is adopting every possible steps to improve their condition.

Regarding the point stated by Pu F. Malsawma, the Government has been making investigation on rice supply and whether

the case of 'Challan Fly' is really existed. Some persons are also being suspended for this cause.

Pu Rinchhana and Dr. R. Lalthangliana have mentioned the failure of the supply of midday meal for minor. In this case, order has already been made for the distribution of midday meal to children.

Regarding wrong measurement of rice the Government has been making an effort to check this.

The rate of rice quota for V.I.P and the common people is the same. And If I am not mistaken A rice is Rs. 8/- per Kg. and B rice is Rs. 7.50/- per Kg.

**DR. J.V. HLUNA :**

Pu Speaker, there are some points which I find unsatisfactory on the replies of the Minister.

The Minister has stated that due to the absence of experts we have accepted the classification of rice by the F.C.I. Sometimes, F.C.I has sent rice which is not fit for human consumption. In this case, has the Government accepted whatever the F.C.I has sent to us?

I would like to report that the people of Khawlian has met shortage of rice supply. I request the Minister to take priority on this and stock rice to Khawlian Godown before the rainy season.

**PU LALSAWTA :**

Pu Speaker, I expect the Minister to provide correct information to the House. Supply Department has sold fine rice and super fine rice for Rs. 7.50 to the public. But, the V.I.P. are charged with Rs. 8/- per Kg. can the Minister classify this point.



**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA :** Pu Speaker, I think it is wrong to accept whatever quality the F.C.I. has sent. We have to verify the quality before accepting it. So, I urge the Government to press the F.C.I. to sent better quality of rice for Mizoram.

On social items like Kerosene oil and sugar, the supply for the public is very little. It is a shame for the Government to receive such a short supply of social items.

**PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA :** Pu Speaker, can the Government make a demand to the authority to allot better quality of rice for Mizoram?

**PU P.C. BAWITLUANGA** : Pu Speaker, the Government is  
**Minister** also aware of the poor qualities of rice sent from the F.C.I. The qualities of the rice are shown in the challan and we cannot make a classification here. Even the Chief Minister and myself have, for so many times made a complain to the authorities.

Regarding the rate, rice has been classified as A and B. The quality supplied to the V.I.P. is A and the rate is therefore Rs. 8/- per Kg. The retailers also purchase A class at the same rate.

**PU F. LALREMSIAMA :** Pu Speaker, A rice and B rice are mixed and sold to the public at the rate of Rs. 7.50/- per Kg. can the Minister clarify on this?

**PU P.C. BAWITLUANGA :** Pu Speaker, as it is found that the  
**Minister** retailers used to create problems for the public in regard to the

rate of rice, the Government classified C. Rice, fine rice and super fine rice as group A and B.

**PU F. LALREMSIAMA :** Pu Speaker, F.C.I. has the authority to classify the quality of rice. Rice has been purchased on the basis of challan. According to the Essential Commodities Act, purchase should be made on the basis of challan.

**PU P.C. BAWITLUANGA :** Pu Speaker, F.C.I. has fixed the rate on the challan and we have bought it on that basis.  
**Minister**

**SPEAKER :** Questionhour is over.  
I shall announce the Panel of Chairmen: They are Pu C. Vulluaia, Dr. R. Lalthangliana, Pu F. Lal remsiama, Pu John Rotluangliana.

Regarding the circulation of Papers to the Ministers mentioned by Pu C. Vulluaia, I would like to inform you that circulation is an agent to collect the opinion of the Cabinet Ministers. Sometimes, decision cannot be made only through circulation.

**PU C. VULLUAIA :** Pu Speaker, I would like to inform you that one Minister did not give his signature on the decision of Champhai as one of the district headquarters.

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA :** Pu Speaker, how does the Government take the suggestion of the member regarding the subject under discussion.

**SPEAKER :** Pu C.L. Ruala to lay on the Table a copy each of the audit

report and annual account of the Mizoram K.V.I. Board of the year 1993 — 1994, 1994 — 1995, 1995 — 1996.

**PU C.L. RUALA :**  
**Minister**

Mr. Speaker sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the table a copy each of the audit reports and annual account of the Mizoram K.V.I. Board for the year 1993 — 1994, 1994 — 1995, 1995 — 1996.

**SPEAKER :**

A copy may be distributed to the members. Pu Liansuama to lay on the Table a copy each of the Sixth Annual Report of the Mizoram Public Service Commissions of 1996 — 1997. (2) The Government of Mizoram Education and Human Resources Department adhoc recurring grant-in-aid for general maintenance rule 1997.

**PU LIANSUAMA :**  
**Minister**

Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table of the House, a copy each of

(1) 6th Annual Report of the Mizoram Public Service Commission for 1996 — 1997.

(2) The Government of Mizoram Education and Human Resources Development Department adhoc grant-in-aid for general maintenance rules 1997.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER :**

Pu J. Lalsangzuala to lay on the Table a copy each of the Mizoram State Legal Service Authority Regulations, 1998.

**PU J. LALSANGZUALA :** Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission. I beg to lay on the table a copy each of the Mizoram State Legal Services Authority Rules (Amendment) 1997 and the Mizoram State Legal Services Authority Regulation 1998.

**Minister**

Thank you.

**PU C. VULLUAIA :** Pu Speaker, the copies of the papers just laid by the Minister was given to us. However, when the year of the Copy of the Rules is 1998, the year of the Amendment is 1997. The minister may please clarify this.

**PU J. LALSANGZUALA :** Pu Speaker, the copies distributed to you are the Rules and the Regulation and therefore different.

**Minister**

Sir,

I rise to present this august House the Budget of Mizoram for the year 1998—99.

Hon'ble members are well aware that our budget is heavily dependent on the flow of resources from the Centre. Almost the entire provision of our budget is sustained by the Central support. Because of the General Elections held in February/March, 1998 in the country, the Central Government has not finalised the size of State plans 1998—99. Therefore, there is no clear picture about the magnitude of funds flowing from the Centre. The Planning Commission is yet to decide the Central support including Central Assistance for State Plans for 1998—99. Under the circumstances, it is not possible to project expenditure level for the next year in a realistic manner. Therefore, I am constrain to seek "Vote on Account" for four months.

The year 1997—98 has been a year of significant achievement for the State. The Planning Commission sanctioned the Annual Plan 1997—98 at Rs. 290 crore. After fixing the plan size, an Additional Central Assistance to the tune of Rs. 28.21 crore has been sanctioned by the Planning Commission. This has been possible through the efforts made by Government of Mizoram. The Additional Central Assistance provided during the year consists of Rs. 20.92 crore for Lengpui Airport, Rs. 5 crore for Road Construction (Champhai-Tiau) under Indo-Myanmar Border Trade, Rs. 2.21 crore under State Capital Project and Rs. 8 lakh for Project Formulation for Mat Valley. I may apprise this august House that for the first time, Government of Mizoram got Rs. 4 crore for development of Indo-Myanmar Border Area. The investment of this magnitude will certainly add to the development in this area.

I am also happy to inform the august House that the efforts of the State Government have resulted in securing Rs. 5 crore additional Life Insurance Corporation (LIP) Loan for construction of houses for Government employees. We also hope to get additional Rs. 6.38 crore loan from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during 1997—98.

Though much headway has not been made regarding implementation of various schemes and projects relating to Mizoram covered under Prime Minister's 'New Initiatives' for North Eastern Region, I would like to highlight the latest position of each project.

For Tuirial Hydro Electric Project, loan agreement was signed with Overseas Economic Corporation Fund (OECF). The project is being taken up by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO). Global tenders were floated and terms of reference have been sent to all the short listed consultants for submission for bids. With regard to State Referral Hospital, an

expert team from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare which has held discussions at Aizawl with the State Government Officials. The Project is estimated to cost Rs. 40 crore. So far an amount of Rs. 8.50 crore has been provided in the Ninth Plan.

Integrated Project of Aizawl comprising of various schemes such as Aizawl Water Supply Scheme Phase-II, Aizawl Sewage Scheme Phase-I, Aizawl Storm Drainage Scheme Phase-I, Aizawl Solid Waste Management Scheme (feasibility survey) and Water Quality Monitoring and Public Health Education etc. estimated to cost Rs. 176.55 crore was prepared by the Public Health Engineering Department, Government of India, Ministry of Urban Development Department has accepted the Project and issued technical clearance in August, 1997. Cost of this Project will be shared between the Central Government and the State Government at the ratio of 75:25. The Project is expected to be completed within the Ninth Plan. With the exception of some areas within Guwahati, Aizawl is the first town in the entire North Eastern Region which will have sewerage facility.

For Border Area Development Programme, a tentative provision of Rs. 6.73 crore was made and the entire provision is expected to be released during 1997—98. Industrial Growth Centre has already been approved, first instalment of Central Assistance of Rs. 50 lakh has been released. With regard to widening of NH 54, reconnaissance survey from 2.90 km to 151.90 km has been completed. Sanction for 44.30 km to 70 km has been accorded for Rs. 344.66 lakh. Widening works from 0.24 km to 31.11 km under Director General of Border Roads (DGBR) is in progress.

In pursuance of the Prime Minister's announcement, a High Level Commission was appointed by the Planning Commission on 20th November, 1996 under the Chairmanship of Shri S.P. Shukla, Member, Planning Commission to critically examine backlog in respect of Basic Minimum Services (BMS) and identify the gaps

in infrastructure sectors for the development of the States in the North Eastern Region. The Commission submitted its Report on 7th April, 1997. Later on it was decided by the Planning Commission that a Team under the Chairmanship of Shri K.B. Saxena, the then Principal Adviser, Planning Commission will visit all the North Eastern States in order to recommend operationalisation of the recommendations of the Commission. The Team visited Mizoram last year and submitted the recommendations to the Government.

One very important aspect of the Prime Minister's Package relates to earmarking funds by all the Central Ministries for spending in the North Eastern Region. As part of the New Initiatives, most of the Central Ministries/Departments have initiated action for earmarking at least 10% of their Budget for specific programme in the North Eastern States.

Seven BMS were identified in the Conference of State Chief Ministers held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in July, 1996. The Planning Commission provided additional Central assistance for implementing the schemes under seven BMS for which our share was Rs. 36.85 crore. The august House may be interested to know the BMS being under implementation in the State. These are as follows :—

- i) 100% provision of safe drinking water in all rural and urban areas ;
- ii) 100% coverage of primary health service facilities in all rural and urban areas ;
- iii) Universalisation of primary education ;
- iv) Extension of the mid-day meal programme in Primary Schools to all rural blocks, urban slums and other disadvantaged sections ;
- v) Provision of public housing assistance to all shelterless families ;

- vi) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations; and
- vii) Streamlining of the public distribution system with focus on the poor.

### REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 1997—98

The Hon'ble Members might be eager to know about the Revised Budget Estimates for 1997—98. On the basis of revised estimates of 1997—98, it is expected to close the year with a deficit of Rs. 85.77 crore. Our efforts for additional resource mobilization have not been to the desired extent, as the Government could not introduce Sales Tax. Moreover, water rates and power tariff could not be revised till today as these steps would have brought down the deficit further. I may tell you that the Planning Commission has allowed the Government to utilise upto 20% of Central Assistance for the Annual Plan 1997—98 (Rs. 58.87 crore in case of Mizoram) to meet Non-Plan Revenue Gap. However, in the interest of development activities, the States Government proposed to utilise only Rs. 13.49 crore for the purpose. Had we been in a position to utilise the entire amount of Rs. 58.87 crore for meeting the Non-Plan Revenue Gap, the budget deficit could have been further brought down. Incidentally, on this occasion, I may apprise the august house that our main source of income from Lottery is likely to decline in the near future due to uncertainty of lottery market in the whole of the country and banning of sale of lotteries by some State Governments.

A booklet highlighting Plan achievements during 1997—98 under various Departments has been prepared and circulated along with the budget documents, I may highlight now some important achievements during 1997—98. Vocational training in carpentry, handloom, shoe making. Knitting and tailoring has been taken up at Central Jail, Aizawl for training of convict prisoners. Besides this gardening and piggery farm was also made



at Central Jail, Aizawl for earning revenue. The Department of Employment has trained 270 youth at Industrial Training Institute Aizawl in 14 different trades. A women Industrial Training Institute has also been set up at Aizawl in December, 1997. All efforts have been made to operationalise Lengpui Airport in early 1998. To expediate construction, even the instalment payable in 1999—2000 has been received with the sincere efforts of the State Government. The Government has been able to get additional Central Assistance of Rs. 20.92 crore from Planning Commission. The literacy rate has gone up to 89.9% during 1997—98. Greater Serchhip Water Supply Scheme costing Rs. 1129 lakh was commissioned on 19th December, 1997.

Cobalt Therapy Unit at Zemabawk has been set up and started functioning from 4th February, 1998. Construction of De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centre at Sethawn with a capacity of 300 beds has been completed and is expected to function in the near future. The monthly remuneration of Village Council members has been revised with an increase of more than 300 per cent from 1st October, 1997.

#### **BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1998 — 99**

As already mentioned by me, the year 1998—99 is expected to open with a deficit of Rs. 85.77 crore and estimated to close at a deficit of Rs. 59.98 crore. The Central Assistance during 1998—99 has been assessed at the current year's level since the Plan size has not yet been finalised by the Planning Commission. As the august House is aware that normally there is increase in the Central Assistance every year.

The job of resolving the financial crisis being faced by the State Government is quite a difficult task. There has been no problem so far as plan funds are concerned. The Planning Commission has been quite understanding and helpful in providing

plan fund to the State. There is good appreciation on the part of the Planning Commission, North Eastern Council (NEC) and other Central authorities regarding the utilisation of plan funds by the Government of Mizoram. Our main problem is on the Non-Plan side. The quantum of Non-plan Fund for the State is fixed on certain criteria adopted by the Central Government as well as recommendation of the Finance Commission. The requirement of Non-Plan expenditure as assessed by the Finance Commission has been much less than our actual requirement. The revenue gap grant as per the Tenth Finance Commission recommendation is decreasing year by year. As for example, during 1996-97, the revenue gap grant as was Rs. 117.60 crore which has come down to Rs. 48.79 crore during 1997-98. This will further be reduced to Rs. 17.55 crore during 1998-99. On the other hand our requirement for Non-Plan expenditure is increasing year by year. As you are aware, Mizoram is following of the Dearness Allowance. During current year also, our employees have been granted additional D.A. effective from 1.1.1997. In this, I am happy to inform you that our Government received full cooperation from our employees who have agreed to impound their D.A. instalment to their G.P.F. Accounts.

Further, I may apprise this august House that Central Government has already implemented recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission for their employees. Our employees are also due for revised pay scales and the same is under consideration. Any grant of additional D.A. and implementation of revised pay scales will naturally further widen the deficit gap of the State Government.

During 1998-99, under Rural Housing (BMS), 5500 families will be assisted. Under IRDP, 1223 families with an outlay of Rs. 98.17 lakh will be covered. During 1998-99, Kolasib and Saiha Water Supply Schemes are targetted to be Commissioned. Integrated Project of Aizawl, with an estimated cost of Rs. 176.15 crore will be implemented from the Central Plan and State Plan contributions in the ratio 75:25.

I would earnestly exhort this august House to appreciate the urgent need to mobilise more and more additional resources for development in the State. Development is a continuous process and depends upon resources and economy in expenditure. As required, the Annual Financial Statement 1998—99 has been laid before this august House. However, as already stated in the beginning, I am at this stage, seeking "Vote on Account" for the four months — April to July of the fiscal year 1998—99.

Sir, I would like to thank all the Members of the House for giving me a patient hearing. I also express my sincere appreciation to the Officers and Staff of the departments especially the Finance Department for helping me in the preparation of this budget. My thanks are also due to the Government Press and Mizoram Unit of National Informatics Centre for their valuable cooperation.

With these words, I commend the "Vote on Account" of the Budget for 1998—99 for consideration and approval of the House.

Thank you Sir.

**PU LALSAWTA :**

Pu Speaker, I would like to ask whether the concerned minister intends to furnish the annual reports of other public undertakings like ZENICS, MIFCO, and MAMCO.

**PU C.L. RUALA :**  
**Minister**

Pu Speaker, I cannot furnish the annual reports of other public undertaking agency other than K.V.I. However, I will look into the matter.

**DR. J.V. HLUNA :**

Pu Speaker, The Government of Mizoram Education and Human Resources Department

Adhoc Recurring Grant-in-aid for General Maintenance of School Rules 1997 has covered only School level. Can college level be included as well?

**PU LIANSUAMA :**  
**Minister**

Pu Speaker, the Rules under discussion is not applicable for college level as it was prepared only for Middle and High School. However, the matter would be reviewed next year if necessary.

**SPEAKER :**

We shall carry on to our next business.

The Time Table in regard to Business as scheduled by the B.A.C. was given to you on Bulletin II can you approve the schedules?

**DR. J.V. HLUNA :**

Pu Speaker, I suggest that at least two days should be reserved for budget discussion.

**SPEAKER :**

We have only the Vote on Account on our discussion.

Now Pu Lalhuthanga to move to the House, Motion of Thanks on Governor's Address.

**PU LALHUTHANGA :**

Pu Speaker, I am deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has delivered to the Assembly on 17.3.1998. I am also pleased to hear that he had used Mizo language in some of his speech.

We have just completed a very peaceful election when many parts of the country were stained by poll irregularities and violence. This speaks clearly of our rich democratic tradition and further added to the grace and dignity of this Legislation.

The recent visit of our Prime Minister and his assurances of assistance and the Governor's announcement of setting up of a Central University in the state also contributed to the cooperation in this House.

I am also happy to note that we have benefitted from the Shukla's Commission's recommendations on infrastructure development.

As regards Lengpui Airport we come across in the Address that It will be operational sometime in April or May. As stated by the Governor the event will undoubtedly be a landmark in the history of Mizoram and will usher in a new era of progress and development. As regards to the approach road to the Airport, I am grateful to the House Leader that it will be constructed according to the satisfaction of the public.

In the 7th para of our Governor's Address priority has been given to the maintenance of peace and harmony among the people and the security of the state. It also gladdened me to hear that the Mizoram Police took prompt action and registered 9 cases and arrested 36 persons following the brutal murder of Pu Lalzawmliana, wildlife game watcher of Forest Department by BNLF militants, on 21.10.1997. To make Mizoram into the safest state in India we have to preserve the security of the non Mizos who are accepted as Mizo nationals.

Various improvements achieved by the Government in the field of Government buildings is beyond our expectation. The on-going construction of Saikuti Hall at Lunglei and the re-construction of Old MLA Hostel are truly great. We should be thankful to the PWD for these achievements.

We are also grateful for the information given by our Governor regarding the many steps taken by the Government regarding the efforts for the improvement of power supply in the state.

In the Governor's Address we also come across creation of another I.R. Battalion and Armed Police Battalion and also the improvement of Police Training Centre at Lungverh. We have to be thankful for all these information.

I am also happy to note the orientation of the Government towards the rural poor and the unemployed. The Rural Development Department continues to implement several schemes for Rural Development and poverty alleviation like the Rural Housing Scheme and NLUP.

Lastly, as the speech delivered by our Governor was so excellent and encouraging, I feel it is our duty to be grateful.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER :**

The motion has been moved, we shall have a discussion. Each member will be allotted 15 minutes each.

**PU F. MALSAWMA**

: Pu Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to discuss our Governor's Address. The

Address which has been taken up today for discussion consists of minor details and lacks major policies to be taken up by the Government and so, unsatisfactory.

In the speech we come across that the Government gives high priority to the maintenance of law and order. Construction of roads communication and Power generation are also mentioned in the speech. However, I am a little surprised to see that nothing about the upliftment of rural poverty is mentioned. It is also seen that there is no budget provision for the rural poor. Most of programmes we have seen are centrally sponsored scheme. The State Government has not made any provision for rural development.

Though law and order has been given priority, It appears that the Government fails in this regard considering the increasing crimes committed in the state.

Coming to construction, many of the on-going construction works taken up by PWD were being stopped with no proper reason. Therefore, the Government has nothing to be proud of in this regard.

Regarding Power, the Government has not taken up any big projects. Even those that are taken up were left uncompleted. The Government has not made great achievement in power.

In the first page of the Governor's Address, mention has been made of the impartiality and efficiency of the State's administration. I am truly against this idea. In various fields of the administration we have witness the partiality of the Congress Government.

I must admit to the construction of Lengpui Airport is a great achievement made by the Government. However, I am wondering whether 5 percent of the people could afford to utilize it.

On page 7 of the Address we come across water supply. In regard to water supply we have nothing to be thankful about as we are ever having shortage of water. The people of Aizawl Town are eagerly awaiting the execution of Phase II of the Greater Aizawl Water Supply Scheme (GAWSS).

On page 7 & 8 of our Governor's Speech we have seen how the Government take steps on agriculture sector, Fisheries and NLUP. Although the Government continues to lay emphasis on production of foodgrains and on fisheries. We lack proper marketing system. Without good market, our production will come to nothing.

Though the Government stated as making improvements in Co-operation, to me it cause misery to the people of Mizoram as the Government charged audit fee from the percent of their business turnover. Is the Government satisfied with this decision?

In regard to LPG. It is high time for the Government to find a remedy to problems and grievances of the people.

On page 18 of the Address we have seen the annual plan of the Department of Higher and Technical Education which envisages fulfilment of Collegiate Education in accordance with the UGC Norms. We can say we are grateful for this only when it is fulfilled.

Regarding Social Welfare Department, the Government has neglects the welfare of women and the handicapped. Reservation for the handicapped has not yet been practically implemented. Therefore, there is nothing to be grateful for in this matter.

On page 21 of the Governor's Adress we come across Sports and Youth Services. This Department can be regarded as a dying Department. It is a matter of pride that C. Lalremsanga has once again represented the country in the World Archery Championships in Canada held in August last year. But, the Government does not give full attention for the promotion of Sports in the State. The Department does not even establish Sub-division, the Government should have paid special attention to the Department of Sports so that the life of our Youth could be saved from social evil to some extend.

Another point, I would like to mention is market fee collected by the Revenue Department. The existing fee of Rs. 3/- per day has been increased to Rs. 10/- which cause grievances to the people.



In the Department of Health and Family Welfare, it is difficult to say we are grateful considering the administration of the Department, we find several stagnated post in the Department. Those who have completed 20 years services in the Department are still stagnated in the same post. Only one post in the Civil Hospital has been upgraded to the rank of Additional Director. Therefore, the speech delivered by the Governor today is unsatisfactory.

Thank you

**SPEAKER** : We shall have a recess till 2:00 P.M.

**SPEAKER** : Pu C. Chawngkunga.

**PU C. CHAWNGKUNGA** : Pu Speaker, first of all, I would like to expand the statement made by the Governor that we have completed a very peaceful election when many other parts of the country were stained by poll irregularities and violence. I agree with this statement. Even without the presence of the security personnel our election would be very peaceful. Various organizations like the YMA and VDP could tackle the security in their own hands. These organisations can conduct the elections peacefully.

Next what I would like to mention is that the Hon'ble Member from Champhai has suggested that the Ministry should step down as it lost the M.P. election. Here, we have to acknowledge that the MLA and this election have no connection and therefore what the member have said is irrelevant.

Lastly, I must thank the Governor for the excellency of his speech. Though there are faults and insufficiencies in the administration of various departments there are also achievements to

be witnessed. This Government has progressed in various fields during five years. As regards to law and order, the Government maintains peace and tranquility in the state and thus became one of the few states in India with the rarest problem of law and order.

**PU LALHMINGTHANGA** : Pu Speaker, I think the address delivered by the Governor lacks reality but only visionary which is very unsatisfying.

On page 11 we come across the peacefulness of the last election. But, we are not supposed to be content on the peacefulness alone. We should also be concerned with the inappropriateness of the electoral rolls. Several names were deleted from the rolls just because they were not the members of the Ruling party. The Government should take note of this and take steps so as to conduct a more proper election in future.

In the second page of the address we have seen that the policy plank of the Government is transparency and efficiency in administration. This point has been what the Government lacks most. The way in which the budget is spent clearly indicates lack of transparency in the Government.

Coming to law and order, the Governor has emphasized that the over-all law and order situation remains peaceful. I cannot say that I am thankful considering the current situation in the state.

In his speech the Governor mentions a sum of Rs. 160 has been provided to remove the problem of shortage of accommodation for the police personnel which gladdens me. However, which is more important is their allowance, rations and other facilities which are necessary for their enforcement of law and order. It seems that what the Government has done for the Police personnel is imperfect and unsatisfying.

Coming to Lengpui Airport. Since this project has been taken up on our own hands let us hope that we possess the ownership and management as well. So that we can have a resourceful revenue for this airport.

Regarding power, our present condition is unsatisfactory considering the years this ministry has reigned. The Government lacks hydel potential and neglects basic infra-structure and therefore we are in this critical situation. Lack of power infrastructure makes self-employment in Industry.

On the 8th page of the Address we come across agriculture. Under various policy, the Government made the farmers to cultivate various vegetables and fruits of their own choice. However, the main problem and deadlock in agriculture is the absence of good marketing hence agriculture cannot be benefitted.

On the Department of Forest and Environment, the system in which the Government make plantation needs a review. The Department has raised forest plantation mainly on the productive areas, the areas which could be required by the farmers in future. Most of the roadside and approachable and excessible lands are covered by forest reserve and so, the laymen have no productive areas for themselves. All these have shown the unaccountability and irresponsibility of the Government.

Coming to Education and Human Resources Development, it seems that the existing system is coming to worse. There is no improvement in quality. The newly introduced 10+2 system of education was started without having proper scheme and provision in the budget. This new system also lacks improvement in quality, only the year has been altered.

I would also like to add a few points on Liquor Prohibition Act, we have to review the enforcement and implementation of

the Act. The way in which this Act is enforced made the poor oppressed, on the other hand, the Act does not seem to effect the influential people. Therefore, Pu Speaker, the speech delivered by the Governor, though graceful and dignifying lacks reality.

**PU F. LALZUALA** : Pu Speaker, thank you for allotting me time to discuss the address of our Governor.

Though the speech made by the Governor is satisfactory I am somewhat disappointed to note that there is one important point missing in the address. The administration of Chhimtuipui District has not been mentioned in the speech. Various achievements undertaken by the Government at the said district is not mentioned in the speech. I am afraid that this could make the people of the District disappointed.

Thank you.

**PU F. LALREMSIAMA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker, As we have seen, the Governor's Address which has been taken up for discussion today contained Government's achievements and policies which are to be executed during the current financial year. I agree with Pu Chawngkunga that Mizoram being one of the few states that can conduct peaceful election.

The year-long celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Indian Independence has started on the 15th August 1997 and we are still going through the celebration. However, I am so disappointed to see that the Government does not make any remarkable and noteworthy thing in this 50th Jubilee.

The member who stood before me had mentioned the lack of transparency and efficiency in administration. We can prove this intransparency and unaccountability with the selection of district capital. Therefore, I cannot say that I am thankful for his speech.

Regarding the purchase of Government Vehicles, I would like to say one point. Our M.P. Dr. C. Silvera was allotted Rs. 1 crore for M.P. Local Development Fund. This fund has been used for the purchase of five hard top Gypsies by Planning Department. M.Ps Local Development Fund is not supposed to be utilized for the purchase of Government Vehicles. And where are the five vehicles now? This also shows that the Government lacks transparency in its administration, we have often said that the Government's actual deficit came out to be as much as Rs. 117.14 crores. At the same time fund has been spent lavishly for the purchase of unnecessary vehicles.

Regarding law and order, we have seen on page 4 of the Address that large number of Bru families have fled to Tripura and Assam due to intimidation and threats from the BNLF and the Governments of Mizoram has made necessary arrangements for the safe return of these Bru families by making adequate security arrangements, provisions of free rations and compensation. However, a large number of Bru families refused to return. In this case, I opine that the Government should not provide compensation to these Bru families as it was not indebted to them. The BNLF should have given them instead. After all they refuse to return why should the Government give them compensation.

Regarding the facilities provided to the Police personnel, the Government does not make new provision for them, but the Governor has made repetition of the previous years and thus, there is nothing to be grateful about in this regard.

Coming to PWD, does the House Leader who is in-charge of the department aware that the same has purchase vehicles and even done all the maintenance without the approval and notice of the Finance Department.

I would like to say a few things on agriculture. As we have seen in the Governor's Address, the department has purchased 19 small tractors and 34 power tillers for sale to farmers at subsidised rate. I would like to know from where these tractors were purchased.

On the department of Horticulture, though the Governor has stated in his Address that 248 persons were trained in mushroom cultivation. However, these trained persons do not have money to start the mushroom cultivation and therefore the expenditure incurred for this project seems to be a waste of the budget as we have no benefit from it.

On Fishery, though there was no budget provision for pisciculture in last year budget, an amount of Rs. 17 lakhs was spent for its purchase. For a state that has acute financial difficulties, this kind of squandering should be stopped.

To conclude my speech, I would like to say a few points on Rural Development. The Government should take priority on special development scheme and Border area development in stead of Community Hall and Playground.

**PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA :** Pu Speaker, I am thankful to Minister the Governor for expressing a few lines in Mizos language. However, I am disappointed that the microphone was out of order in the first five minutes when the Governor gave his address. I hope that there would be no repetition of this kind in future.

I am gladful to note that the Governor has mentioned the peaceful election we had. Various Non-Governmental organizations have played a vital role in the election and we have seen the outcome of these in the election. On the contrary, there are some persons who used to bribe the ignorant people especially from Bru

villages to get votes in the election. While we say that we have fair and peaceful election these kind of people tried to mislead the public morale. In spite of all these menace we can have peaceful election due to the efficient administration of the Government. Mention may also be made of the peacefulness of law and order situation in the state.

It is also a matter of satisfaction to see that the Government stands committed to total prohibition. However, the effective implementation of this policy depends not only on the Government but also on the willing co-operation of the public. I am pleased to see that various organizations like the YMA, MHIP and the church have lent their support to the Government for this policy. One more point I would like to add is that there should not be any discrimination between the rich and the poor for the implementation of this policy. If one is found violation of this Act he should not be spared. We should stand by the law. To end my speech, we should be grateful to the Governor for the excellency of his Address.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lahinchhana.

**PU LALRINCHHANA** : Pu Speaker, thank you for allotting me time to discuss the speech delivered by the Governor.

The speech made by the Government merely shows how the budget we had passed last year was spent. However, there is one point which I do not understand. Last year, the plan allocation of various departments was passed by this House. But the Finance Minister had stated that due to financial constrain 20 percent of each allocation would be deducted. I would have understand it if this deduction is diverted for some other important purposes. But, the Government did not utilize the 20% deduction amounting to Rs. 47,69,000 and produced utilization certificate instead. In

this case, the Government had misused the budget by showing false utilization certificate. Isn't this corruption? It will be very unsatisfying if the Finance Minister can not clearly clarify this point. The entire population of Mizoram has been under poverty stricken because of the corrupt Government. Due to the decreasing plan allocation, we have seen fewer achievements in various departments. The development of the state is mainly depends on the amount of sanction. And if this budget is not utilized for the rightful purpose the country will suffer.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalsawta.

**PU LALSAWTA** : Pu Speaker, thank you for allotting me time. I do not blame the mover of the motion of thanks for stating that he was grateful to the Governor as the latter has stated the vague achievements made by the Government consisting of 21 pages.

Regarding policy, each party has adopted good policy and programmes. The most important is the system for the execution of the policy. No political party could be successful if there is no improvement in the system of executing its policy. We fail to adopt proper legislative business and as a result, our economy has suffered alot. If we do not improve our system, no proper steps could be taken.

I am rather disappointed that the Governor has not mentioned the economic measures taken up by the Government following the financial constrain the house is facing.

On page 20 of the address, the Governor has mentioned the menace of drugs. Establishment of De-addiction and Rehabilitation centres are not enough. The Government should take precautionary measure so as to prevent this social evil. Even the fund allotted for this cause should be increased.



Emphasizing on LPG agents and its customers, it is time for the Government to take this matter into priority. The Government has to realise the obstacles and grievances met by the people and should also take necessary steps to solve their problem.

Coming to state lottery the Governor has mentioned that an amount of Rs. 1394 lakhs has so far been received from it. However, the single digit system of lottery freely gambled in the street has becoming a social problem. Government employes are also involved which badly affect the office works.

Though the Governor has not mentioned about transport system, I have to add a few point on it. It is somewhat unsafe to travel by bus for the Mizos. The members of this House may never travel by bus, but the majority people have travelled by bus. As it has become so unsafe the Government should have discussed this matter with the Government heads of our neighbouring state.

I feel that it is necessary to make correction regarding the classification and price of the rice received from Supply Department. The department has classified rice as C. Rice, Fine Rice and S.F. Rice. The price of Super Fine Rice is Rs. 8/- while Fine Rice is sold at the rate of Rs. 7/-. However, due to the difficulty in classification, Fine Rice and C. Rice are mixed and sold at the rate of Rs. 7.50 to the public as grade 'A'. The same grade is supplied to the VIP at a higher rate. C. Rice has been classified as group 'B' and we hardly get supply of this kind.

Regarding the two gypsies purchase from the M.P. Development Fund mentioned by Pu F. Lalremsiama, the vehicles numbers are ambulance MZ-01-A 3080 and MZ-01-A-3081.

To conclude my speech, if the budget is spent with the feeling of political intention we would never have development.

**DR. J.V. HLUNA :**

Pu Speaker, thank you for allotting me time in this discussion.

On the third page of the address, mention has been made of the maintenance of peace and harmony among the people. I can hardly agree with this view as the Police failed in the investigation of certain murder cases. Regarding the entering of refugees at Mimbung and Teikhang, we have to note that not only in these two villages but in other villages many refugees are making their illegal entry. This case should not be ignored and should be registered.

One thing I would like to praise in the address is the wordings used by the Governor. We have found on the address that, "A number of huts belonging to Bru communities were burnt by angry mobs". Here, the words 'angry mobs' are use instead of 'Mizo youths'. I think the words 'angry mobs' are more appropriate.

Coming to Power Department, the Governor has stated that 8 MW gas-based power plant for Mizoram has been commissioned at Rokhia in Tripura. Why does this power plant is commissioned at Tripura while it is meant for Mizoram ?

Coming to PHE department, the Congress Ministry, during its tenure of 14 years has not increased the capacity of the supply of drinking water to the people of Aizawl. And, so, shortage of water has continues to be the problem of the people.

On the department of Education, only B.A. students have received small amount of scholarship but the other students have not yet received their scholarships till date. Since, the end of the financial year is closed how does the Government take up this matter ? The amount of merit scholarship is also fewer than that of the amount given in the states of Arunachal and Sikkim. I would like to urge the Government to level the amount of merit scholarship with that of Sikkim and Arunachal.

Mention has also been made of the State Library. One thing I feel it as priority is to acquire building for state library.

Emphasizing on sports, It seems that the Government promised to pay a reward of Rs. 20000/- to the third place winner of Wushu held at Rome on November 1997. But, this reward money has not yet been given to the Mizo boy who won third place. While there are coaches for Football and other major games, Table Tennis players have no proper coaches in Mizoram. This should also be considered.

On page 22 we have come across that the department of Health has vigorously pursuing the proposal for establishment of a State Referral Hospital. The people of Muallungthu Village has donated the site for this Hospital and I opine that this should be accepted by the Government.

On the department of Information, I would like to make a request that the copy of the Press Release issued by this department be given to the MLAs. I would also like to suggest that Mizo feature film or documentary film may be contributed to Doordharsan, so that telecast would be done in the programme of North East File.

In the first page of the Address, the Governor has stated the peacefulness of our election and an impartial and efficient administration in the state. It is true that we had peaceful election, but the preparation of the electoral roll was a disaster and I am quite disagree with the view of Mizoram Government as being impartial and efficient. The people of Mizoram have witnessed the partiality and inefficiency of this Government. The Governor should have used the wordings that 'This speaks eloquently of the value system of our society and rich culture and adherence to principled politics by the people of Mizoram in spite of a partial and inefficient administration in the state'.

**DR. R. LAUTHANGLANA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker, I have no intention of criticizing the speech given by the Governor. In fact, the address is more satisfying than the previous ones as he has highlighted only the achievements made by the Government.

The most important thing we, the members have to know is that the people of Mizoram have no more hope in this Ministry and they become desperate in terms of development. The Government has let down the people from all corners, be it Government employees or the people from the remotest villages. They have seen the failure of Government in the fields of power supply, supply of drinking water, ration supply and others. The Government may realise the grievances of the people but It fails to produce remedy for it.

The Governor has mentioned about the parliamentary election that is just over. From the result of the parliamentary election, It is evident that the people have no confidence in this ministry. They have no trust in the ministry that controls the state's budget. The ministry has admit this fact.

Coming to the election, as stated by the Governor, the process itself may be peaceful, but the system in which electoral roll was prepared was very unsatisfactory. There were many foul plays in the system.

The law and order situation in the state is also not peaceful. There are many murders, rapes and robberies. The police have no time to take investigation on all the crime committed.

One thing I feel disappointed about is the absence of the constitution of state election commission in the address. The Government might have done something on this matter, as the constitu-

tion of state election commission was passed last year. But the Governor has not mentioned this in his address. Therefore, I do not find reason to be thankful for his address.

Another point I would like to mention is that in 1996, an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs was sanctioned for the installation of fruit processing plant at Chhimtuipui District. When I made a visit to the district, there was no steps taken in this regard, but the fund allotted was used for purchase of gypsy for the Chairman of MIFCO. In this way, the budget is squandared by the Government.

To conclude my speech, the people are not satisfied with only good words but they like to witness the real works of the Government.

**SPEAKER** : There is only 5 minutes to 4 o'clock. If you want to adjourn the house at 4, we can do so and if you prefer to go on you may say so.

**PU SAIKAPTHIANGA** : Mr. Speaker, the House has a practice that the discussion of the Governor's Address takes up to 4 : 00 P.m. So, the discussions should be over at 4 : 00 P.m.  
**Minister**

**SPEAKER** : 11 members have stood up we shall call upon the House Leader.

**PU LAL THANHAWLA** : Pu Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to discuss the speech delivered by the Governor. I however, regret that all the members can not avail this opportunity. I would like to thank the members for being responsible and for their constructive speech.  
**CHIEF MINISTER**

I shall start with the subject of election we just had. It was apparent that the way the officers conduct the election was quite satisfactory. The works of the Police personnel in maintaining law and order also found praiseworthy. Due to our confidence in the police and officials the government refused the offer to provide para military forces from the Election Commission. As expected, we could have peaceful election in the state. In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude to the officials who are involved in the election process.

As the government desire to have fair Electoral Rolls many steps were taken to accomplish this desire. Several deletion were made in the Roll. We also found out that It is necessary to be careful not to make typing mistakes in the Electoral Roll.

Some of the members have alleged the ministry of not gaining any confidence from the people. I am surprise that the members who have mentioned this belong to the party that the people have no confidence in. Merely because of the difference in 40- votes does not indicate that the people have no confidence in the Congress Ministry.

Next, I would like to emphasize about Lengpui Airport. As the government has to concentrate on M.P. Election, on-going works at the Airport had to stop for a while. Otherwise, It could be operational by now. The Chairman of the National Airport Authority of India has given us his favour. Due to the decrease in fund received from the central, we have to take up the matter at the political level. It is expected to be operational sometime in April. In the early stage Indian Airlines will operate for us. Regarding the approach road to the Airport, many people were misguided due to certain misunderstanding. The surface Transport Ministry has already approved the scheme of the approach road. As the central has given priority to this project a sum of Rs. 7 crores is sanctioned for Sairang-Manu-Agartala Road.

It is also planned for Inter State Highway. The construction of the approach road can not be taken up according to our plan. The surface Transport Ministry will have to consult Indian Road Congress for their specification.

Coming to law and order, some of the members have pointed out various incidents of murder, robbery and other crimes and alleged the government for failure to maintain law and order. However, we should not consider in this way. The way the police take up the crimes and how the matter was pursued were more important. The police deserve praise for their works to fight crimes.

I am deeply sorry for the murder of a prominent teacher by one Chakma at Chawilung. The police took prompt action but found that the culprit fled to Bangladesh and no action could be taken in this case.

In the case of bifurcation of districts, the authority has regarded that priority should be given to the eastern and western sides of Aizawl. After careful consideration It was decided that new districts should be set up in the east and western areas. In pursuance of this, a cabinet memorandum was issued on 10.10.1996. for circulation. However, only 7 Minister has given their consent and some of the senior Minister have objected that this matter should be discussed in a sitting. Accordingly, the matter was discussed in the cabinet meeting and decision was then made. I would even like to inform you that the cabinet memorandum and its decision has to remain confidential before the Cabinet Secretary or the Chief Secretary has announced it. If It is leaked out from the Minister, he has violated the Rules.

Pu F. Lalremsiama has mentioned about the purchase of two Gypsies from the M.P. Local Area Development Fund. This purchase was made with the suggestion of the Fund controller. The

top controlling officer of M.P. Development Fund has suggested that one Gypsy and one Gypsy Ambulance may be purchased for local use and so it was purchased accordingly.

As I have said earlier, I cannot accept the allegation made by the opposition members against the Ministry of losing confidence of the people. Instead of accusing each other we should try to correct ourselves. Amongst the political parties, there are some who tried to co-operate with the Brus to gain votes. Some of the M.P. candidates even promised Autonomous District Council to the Brus. All these false promises and foul play create law and order problem in the state. The Mizo people can not survive by vote alone, but we have to preserve our nationality and seek for the stability of the Mizos. The problems existed within our community has to be solved for our survival. Without the support of the people political party alone can not exist. Therefore, we should try to cooperate among ourselves.

I am also confident that without the support of the people, and various non-governmental organization, the Prohibition Act could never be a success. I am also very glad to witness the supports conferred by various organizations. It is also clear that due to the enforcement of this Act our party will loss many votes. But, we have done this for the sake of Mizoram and its people.

Regarding Fifth Pay commission recommendation, I understand that each and every state desire to implement it. Even the richest states have not yet implemented this recommendation. In this regard, the financial involvement is so high that to blame the government will not be a remedy.

As we have known only an interim budget for 4 months ending July, 1997 has been presented to the House. This is not for the reason that the Finance Department is inefficient but the main reason is that the Planning Commission had not finalised the



sectoral allocations of the plan outlay. Therefore, this session is not like the usual Budget Session but it is in fact a Vote on Account.

Lastly, the Address delivered by the Governor is extremely satisfying. As it was so excellent and encouraging I, too, support the motion moved by Pu Lalhathanga and request the members to pass his motion.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : The discussion on the Governor Address is over. Those who agree to pass the motion may say 'Agree' and those who disagree may say 'Not Agree'. Well, the motion of thanks on the Governor's address is unanimously passed by the House.

The House is adjourned.

4 : 30 Pm.