

PROCEEDINGS FOR FOURTH SITTING ON FRIDAY,
THE 20TH MARCH, 1998.

(Time 10:30 A.M to 1:00 P.M & 2:00 P.M to 4:00 P.M)

PRESENT

PU R.L. VALLA, Deputy Speaker at Chair, Chief Minister, 17 Ministers and 16 Members were present.

QUESTIONS

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

2. Resolutions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : 'Without counsel plans go wrong,
but with many advisers they
succeed,

To make an apt answer is a joy to a man,
and a word in season, how good it is!

Proverbs 15 : 22—23

Now, we shall take up questions, starred question No. 21,
Pu Lalsawta.

PU LALSAWTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I ask
my starred question No. 21.

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

- (a) Number of persons died due to Drug-abuse in Mizoram during 1997 ?

(b) Are the Drug-Addicts marked by the Department ?

(c) If so, how many Addicts are there in Mizoram ?

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Minister answers of starred question No. 21 are :—

(a) The number of persons died due to drug-abuse during 1997 are 56 Males and 1 Female.

(b) and (c) Till date, there is no systematic survey of the Drug-Addicts. In the opinion of the Department, the number of Drug-Addict is approximately 3000. About 90% is addicted to Proxyvon.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, supplementary question, from which source did the Hon'ble Minister learn the number of death? Is it wiser not to mention the name of such addictive drug like Proxyvon? What are the steps taken up by the Government for the control and prevention of Drug-Addiction?

PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is learnt that Proxyvon is taken from the Rahul factory near Silchar, who is manufacturing the said drug by mixing flour, soda and talcum powder, which is very dangerous for health. So, can the Ministry find a way of stopping the manufacture with the help of the Assam Government? Why is our Ministry unable to stop Drug-Trafficking till date? When will De-Addiction Centres at Thingdawl and Kawnpui/Bualpui function?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, without a systematic survey, the number of addicts given by the

Hon'ble Minister cannot be accurate. In the present situation, the Government is not sincere enough in this task. If it is difficult to approach the addicts openly, will it be possible for the Government to conduct a secret survey as the various churches and voluntary organisations are willing to offer their assistance. As the victims of drug-abuse are increasing rapidly, it is a high time for the entire state to actively involve in the eradication of drugs.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, when will the building constructed near Sethawn be occupied ? What sort of preventive measures are taken up by the Government ?

DR. J.V. HLUNA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is learnt that at Lunglei, the Anti-Proxyvon squad and Women's Anti Drug Association were set up. With their sincere efforts and dedication, the addictive drug had been wiped out. Can a similar step be taken up at Aizawl ? In addition, I would like to know under which Act Proxyvon is banned in Mizoram ? Who is the owner of the Pharmacy, located at Upper Khatla that was closed down for selling condomed medicines ? Is it a fact that the Police and Excise Department have no authority over Drug-formulation ?

The required qualification for Drug-Controller is B. Pharm. or M. Pharm. for the vacant of 3 posts, 5 persons had been given temporary appointments. Presently, as there are 6 vacancies in the said post, does the Government intend to award permanent appointment to the said persons ?

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, construction of De-addiction centre at Sethawn is completed by the

P.W.D. Is it a fact that the Social Welfare Department is not yet prepared to take over the said centre ?

PUNE, MALSAWMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, firstly, I would like to point out the fact that for the enforcement of Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940, MB & CF Substant Act 1985 and Assam Drugs Central Act 1960, there should be a co-ordination between the Law, Health, Police and Social Welfare Departments. As such, how many times did the said Departments hold a meeting in the previous year ?

Secondly, what is the progress of the Private Bill I submitted in 1996 which was referred to the Government of India. Is there a Drug-analyst in Mizoram ? What are the steps taken up by the government for prevention of Drug-addiction ?

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I regret to learn from the Hon'ble Minister that no systematic survey had been conducted for detection of drug-addicts. The inability to produce specific reports is humiliating for the Ministry. So, will it be possible for the Government to undertake a systematic survey on a Research-base ? Presently, lack of co-ordination between the concerned departments is the main problem, and I would like to know what arrangement will be made by the Ministry in this field.

Moreover, the drug-abuse has brought untold miseries to our society, and we are heading nowhere without a systematic policy and co-ordination between the concerned Departments. Besides, shortage of Drug-Inspector is another hindrance. So, can the Hon'ble Minister take up initiative action in this matter ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon the Hon'ble Minister of Health.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the
Minister question of the Hon'ble Member
 Pu R. Tlanghmingthanga, information was collected from the various departments. Besides, in all the Awareness campaigns, we issued instructions to avoid mentioning the names of addictive drugs as far as possible. At present, Awareness Campaign is being launched in various parts of Mizoram with the assistance of YMA and various churches.

Next, coming to the question of the Hon'ble Member Pu B. Lalthlengliana, there is no official information of such matter, but steps are being taken up by the Department. The said centre constructed at Sethawn is not yet handed over to the Social Welfare Department as there is a pending bill. In the previous session, there was a discussion on whether the said centres be managed by the Government or the Non-Government's organisation (NGO). In this matter, consultation between the Government and NGO is going on at the moment.

The questions and suggestions of the Hon'ble Member Pu Lalhmingthanga are highly appreciated. In fact, way back in 1996, a survey was conducted by the CDPO, YMA, MHIP and community's leaders. Recently, we decided to take up another survey along with the Excise and Police Departments, NGO and leaders of community.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to know the legal action taken in this matter.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, as mentioned earlier, steps are mostly taken up in accordance with the NDPS Act, Assam Drugs Central Act etc. As we failed to achieve satisfactory results, the government decided to set up a

Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Law Department and Director, Health Services, DIG of Police, and Excise Commissioner as Members.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, punishment include payment of fine not less than Rs 1 lakh and 10 years imprisonment.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Minister Committee is taking up preempt actions.

Further, I have learnt about the successful efforts of the Anti-Proxyvon squad at Lunglei, and presently, we are planning to set up a similar task force at Aizawl for which the Department is instructed to give its full support. Today, I am unable to inform whether Proxyvon is banned in our state, nor can I give the name of the Pharmacy's owner. This is deeply regretted.

The forces in our state, whether they are from the Excise or Police Departments are authorised to enforce the aforesaid Acts. Matter concerning Drug-Controlling is in the hands of the Health Department.

DR. J.V. HLUNA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to know whether narcotic is seized at Bairabi and Vairengte.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in spite of shortage of staff, most of the seizure is made at Vairengte. However, a post is not yet created at Bairabi. But fortunately, the sincere efforts and the dedication of the churches and volun-

tary organisations is a blessing for the Ministry and the entire community. As stated earlier, there is a well co-ordination between the concerned Departments.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, who is in charge of the Private Bill I submitted in 1996 ?

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I will take up this matter as my Department is in-charge.
Minister

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, top priority should be given towards the preventive measures. If so, why is the centre already completed remain vacant merely on ground of pending Bills ? Can the Hon'ble House Leader give an assurance that this issue will be settled immediately ?

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, recently the Passing-out Parade of Excise force, numbering more than 100 was witnessed by the Hon'ble Minister. If so, can the out-post be created at Kanhmun ?

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the 300 bedded De-Addiction centre is the largest of its kind if compared with others outside our state, and its management requires full dedication, understanding and sympathy. In no way did the Ministry neglect this centre. As a matter of fact, it is the desire of the government to run the centre successfully, and in doing that, the Ministry request each member to lend a helping hand and give full co-operation.
Minister

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, which Department is pending the Bill ?

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, our Hon'ble Minister is deeply concerned with matter concerning Drug-addiction. Do you find it difficult to resolve this issue ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, to which Department will the centre be handed over ?

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we do not have Drug-Analyst in Mizoram. So, I request the Hon'ble Minister to pressurise the concerned Department to create such post. I would like to remind the House that equal attention is given towards the preventive measures as well as rehabilitation of the addicts. Recently, awareness campaign was launched by the Synod Social Front. At the same time, instead of depending on the Excise and Police forces, each member should encourage the YMA and Voluntary Organisation of his constituency to be actively involved in this task. Besides, steps will be taken up to enable the concerned Department to undertake a systematic survey.

PU HRANGTHANGA COLNEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to know whether group of experts landed at Mizoram to tend the addicts.

Moreover, as Prohibition of liquor resulted in utter failure, this matter should be reconsidered by the government, because in the absence of liquor, many turned towards drugs. These days, trafficking of drugs and adulterated liquor is most prevalent, which is extremely harmful.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, groups of experts had certainly come to Mizoram, and they had a spot verification of the said centres.
Minister

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Starred question No. 24, Dr. R. Lalthangliana.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, matter concerning drug has become the main problem of our society, and for its prevention, the government has taken up steps by organising an awareness campaign and inviting experts from outside our state.
Chief Minister

Today, counselling is necessary not only for the addicts but for their families as well, and several measures are to be taken up in this direction. Regarding the said De-addiction centre, the problem lies not with the pending Bill. The actual reason is that it is difficult for the government alone to run the centre successfully. Presently, negotiation is going on with certain experts in this field and Voluntary Organisations. Fortunately, number of senior government officials are willing to sacrifice their careers for this crucial task, but nothing is yet finalised.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I ask my starred question No. 22. What are the problems faced by the government for evicting the Assam Rifles from the heart of Aizawl?

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, before answering the starred question, I would like to point out that when questions are not forwarded to the concerned Department
Minister

it is difficult for the Minister i/c to furnish answers of supplementary questions.

The Assam Rifles are not under the authority of the Mizoram Government, and thus our Ministry has no say over their eviction, which is our main problem.

DR. J.V. HLUNA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, for the Assam Rifles, 1000 Acres of land was purchased at Zokhawsang for Rs. 9,259,156/- and 1.5 crore had been utilised for Earth-works. Is it a fact that the Assam Rifles are unable to shift there as there are no accomodations and other facilities, which were the terms of the Agreement?

Secondly, at Mc. Donald Hill, there are certain areas belonging to the Assam Rifles. However on 16th December 1994, LSC was issued with the approval of the Hon'ble C.M to the following persons; Liansuama, LSC N. 18/95, Lalthanzauva LSC No. 18/95, Lalthanzara VCP LSC No. 20/95 and Rolianthanga LSC No. 21095. were the Assam Rifles evicted after issueing such LSC?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, is the government aware of the fact that the said area at Zokhawsang is strictly reserved by the Assam Rifles, thus creating immense problems for the neighbouring areas? Can this be settled by the government?

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Assam Rifles, occupying the heart of our capital is creating numerous troubles and problems to our people. In fact, the MLAs too are not spared as some of them had been harassed by

them. To a certain extent, it is true that the Mizoram Government has no authority over them, but it is quite likely that the Ministry is not effective enough in this field. What I would like to know is the real problem faced by the Ministry in course of their action.

Moreover, for their eviction, a proper agreement was made with the Assam Rifles' Headquarter and ultimatum had been forwarded long way back. In spite of that, no fruitful outcome is achieved by the Ministry till date. This is extremely wrong.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, at Luangmual, a private land was acquired by the Government but the previous owner cleared up the said land after obtaining compensation from the government. The same thing happens at Zokhawsang. Can this be clarified by the Government?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, even after a lapse of 10 years, the Assam Rifle has not yet shifted to the lands acquired by the Government for more than 90 lakhs. What is the specific problem in the eviction of the Assam Rifles? What action is taken up by the Hon'ble C.M.?

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, can the matter be taken to the court?

PU F. LALZUALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, supplementary question, during the term of the first Ministry in our state, a trouble broke out between the Assam Rifles and the civilians, to which the then C.M declared the Assam Rifles as Rebels. Does our state government continue to accept them as Rebels?

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

PU LIANSUAMA
Minister : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the question raised by the Hon'ble Member Dr. J.V. Hluna was already discussed before. So, I have nothing to add on this point. Matter concerning acquisition of land for the Assam Rifles is quite complicated, a definite statement can not be furnished today.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Assam Rifles are interfering even outside their reserved areas, which block the works of the neighbouring communities. Can their problem be solved by the Ministry?

PU LIANSUAMA
Minister : Mr. Speaker Sir, immediate action will be taken up to settle such problems.

As mentioned by certain Members, the Assam Rifles occupying the heart of Aizawl serves no purposes. Their eviction is strongly desired by this Ministry for which sustained efforts had been rendered. Nevertheless, we should realise the fact that eviction of any forces from a certain area is a difficult task, and a similar problem is faced by other states too.

Next, regarding questions on acquisition of private lands and granting of compensation, the Revenue Department is in a better position to furnish the answers, and the action taken up by the Hon'ble C.M. will be reported by him.

PU LAL THANHAWLA
Chief Minister : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, though eviction of the Assam Rifles is the common desire of our com-

munity, this has not materialised till date because the issue is beyond the authority of the Mizoram Government.

Today, it is wrong to blame one another because we are all aware of the various actions taken up by each Ministry. Besides the area at Zokhawsang was selected by the Assam Rifles themselves, but now, they refuse to shift there on the pretext of inadequate facilities in spite of our repeated pressure. As assured by the Hon'ble Ministry the problems forced by the people will soon be settled.

On a spot verification, the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Home Minister both realised how they block the beautification of Aizawl, and were convinced that they should leave the place. Moreover, rewidening and other forms of development are further delayed around the Assam Rifle's area for fear of enhancing their permanent settlement. We have also consulted the Chief Justice of the High Court. As a matter of fact, it is our greatest desire to be the first successful state in the eviction of Assam Rifles, for which active actions are being taken up by the Ministry.

Finally, Mr. Speaker Sir, I am unaware of such matter concerning issue of LSC to certain persons. However, if any of my relatives are benefitted by it, I strongly oppose and condemn the matter.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, did the Mizoram Government approach the Home Ministry after sanction was made for development of the area reserved for the Assam Rifles? Can the Master-plan be furnished to the House?

DR. J.V. HLUNA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in spite of Total Prohibition of liquor in Mizoram, large quantity of

liquor is smuggled into our state. So, great care should be taken by our Government.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, regarding the points raised by the Hon'ble Member from Aizawl
Minister : Hon'ble Member from Aizawl 'N' II, certain steps had been taken up by the Government, and the Hon'ble Member from Aizawl 'W' II pays due interest towards his constituency, this is highly appreciated.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the amount of the original Master
Chief Minister : Plan is 30 crores and 55 lakhs.

I had several talks with the Home Minister after he visited our state. The special secretary, i/c Home, was assigned to undertake spot verification, but he was unable to make it due to trouble in the Government.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, is the Ministry able to produce any references on the actions taken ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Today we have 10 Resolutions. Firstly, let us summon the Hon'ble Member Pu T. Hranghluta to move his Resolution.

PU T. HRANGHLUTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to move my Resolution which is as follows; "Owing to poor harvest at Chhimtuipui District in the year 1997, the entire community is faced with acute shortage of food-stuff, thus having them in a state of immense hardship. So, the entire Chhimtuipui District should be declared as feminine-area".

DEPUTY SPEAKER : In accordance with our Rules, the Hon'ble Member Pu Lal Biakzuala has sought the permission of the House to amend the aforesaid Resolution.

PU LAL BIAKZUALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, only Chhimtuipui District is mentioned in the Resolution, while a similar fate is faced by other Districts as well. So, as permitted by our Rules, I honestly request that the resolution should be amended in the following way; "Owing to poor harvest in the Districts of Chhimtuipui, Aizawl and Lunglei, there is acute shortage of food-stuff, thus leaving the people in a state of immense hardship and distress. As such, the government should render sustained efforts to help and rehabilitate the needy people".

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Resolution could be amended only after 24 hours of its movement. But hardly 22 hours had passed, and if you grant the permission to amend the same, it goes against our Rule No. 130. It also means that the Ruling Party is unfairly favoured by you. So, the amended form cannot be accepted.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Member has moved a Resolution, and it is extremely wrong that his Resolution should be discarded and replaced by another. This is humiliating as it degrades the Member's privilege.

PU F. LALZUALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, if we closely observe our Rules, there is a way of moving the resolution in its amended form.

- PU F. MALSAWMA** : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in any case, it is wrong to amend the Resolution before the mover has the opportunity to speak on this matter.
- PU F. LALZUALA** : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the amended form is widely supported as we would like to bring out the problems faced by our people.
- PU F. LALREMSIAMA** : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the original Resolution included only the Chhimtuipui District, addition of 2 more Districts will go against our Rules. Hence, the amendment motion is incorrect and cannot be discussed legally.
- PU LIANSUAMA**
Minister : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in accordance with the Parliamentary Practice & Procedure, you have the authority to seek the opinion of the House whether amendment is approved or not. If so, amendment can be done.
- PU LALHMINGTHANGA** : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the aim of the original resolution is to declare Chhimtuipui District as female area, but such objective is not found in the amended form, which is quite meaningless.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we are all aware of your discretionary power, which should be exercised in such a way that the target is not missed. As far as this Resolution is concerned, the amended form contradict the spirit and concept of the original one. In any case, you should lead the House in accordance with our existing Rules.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the House had never experienced such sort of amendment. It is quite likely that undesirable precedence is being introduced in the House, which will be a great humiliation for the House. So, the resolution should be discussed in its original form and if anything is to be added, it should be done in accordance with our Rules.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, no Business should be transacted against the Rules.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA
Minister : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, so far, there is no violation of Rules. If agreed, oral amendment could be made.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Resolution was admitted and a Bulletin had been issued to each member. So far, the movement and amendment were done in accordance with our Rules and Parliamentary practices.

PU LAUHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the objective of the original Resolution is omitted in the amended form. Even if the Speaker exercises his discretionary power, it will go against our Rules. So, can this matter be reconsidered in order to avoid any undesirable precedences.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA
Minister : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we cannot raise any objections as long as there is an agreement between the mover and the Hon'ble Member Pu Lal Biakzuala. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the finalisation rest in your hands.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Rule No. 293 clearly defines that 'Amendment shall be relevant

to and within the scope of a Motion, to which it is proposed'. So, we cannot accept the entirely different Motion.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, no Resolution is mentioned in Rule
Minister No. 293.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : According to the Parliamentary practice, consideration of this Resolution could be decided by ballot.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the amended version fails to bring out the main aim of the Resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we shall move on to the next Resolution. Let us call upon the Hon'ble Member Pu Lalsawta to read out his Resolution. (Interruption) The original and amended forms of Pu Hranghluta's Resolution could be discussed together. Our discussion will reveal the one approved by the House.

PU T. HRANGHLUTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to move and clarify my Resolution, which had been admitted by the Hon'ble Speaker. However, after a close observation, the C.L.P decided to make certain amendments to which I agreed.

As we all know, 1997 was a year of immense hardship and distress particularly for the Chhimtuipui District. Besides the poor harvest, the Districts of Lunglei and Chhimtuipui were hit by cyclone, which greatly disrupted the normal lives of the people. As a result, there is extreme scarcity of food in many areas. So, I moved this Resolution in order to enable our ministry to take up immediate relief measures. However, to declare the whole of Mizoram as a famine area is a great burden and realising this, we agreed to make amendmedts in the Resolution with the hope of enabling the various department to take up necessary actions on famine-relief. For instance, all the sanctions made under P.W.D, P.H.E, Border Area Development Programme, Employment Assurance Scheme etc. should be utilised to save the people from starvation. Today, the sole purpose of this Resolution is to pave the way for saving our people from such pathetic condition. So, let us join hands and use all our strength, energy and intelligence for the welfare of our people. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Members to pass this Resolution unanimously.

Thank you

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon the Hon'ble Member, Pu Lalsawta.

PU LALSAWTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I give my full support to this Resolution. The original or the amended form have equal importance, so it should be passed unanimously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Members sitting on your right should clearly clarify the significant of this Resolution, the extreme hardships faced by our people and the acute shortage of food-stuff. I request the Hon'ble Minister of food & civil supplies to take the lead in this topic.

Thank you

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon the Hon'ble Minister, Pu Zakhu Hlychho.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I give my full support to this crucial Resolution. The Mover's efforts and deep concern for the people is highly appreciated.

Speaking of Chhimituipui District, in recent years the region was affected by natural calamities such as, heavy landslides, untimely arrival of monsoon, out break of cyclone etc., thus disrupting the lives and occupation of the people, which resulted in starvation and near famine. Today, the entire community of Aizawl might not be aware of such tragedy and misfortune, and I would like to remind you of the seriousness of this situation. Therefore, I honestly request our D.C, S.D.O and the B.D.O to visit the area and witness the suffering of the people with their own eyes. I do hope that the government will come up with certain Relief Measures through this Resolution, and immediately provide means of earning a living to the village communities.

Further, another problem faced by the remote villages is extreme shortage of rice-supply. So, I request the Supply Department to give more priorities in this field.

Another point I would like to highlight is that extreme scarcity of food is always followed by epidemic. So, it is necessary to warn the Health Department before hand. Once again, I request the government to take up immediate relief measures, and remind the House that this Resolution is strongly supported.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now have a recess. Our meeting will be resumed at 2:00.

SPEAKER : Each Member is allotted 10 minutes. Now, let us call upon the Hon'ble Member Pu Lalrinchhana.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to make statements. As far as this Resolution is concerned, it is not only the Chhimtuipui District which is affected by cyclone and other natural calamities. A similar fate was faced by my constituency, and I have informed the D.C and R.D Minister of this matter. Moreover, according to the Reports of Agriculture and Supply Departments, the Chhimtuipui District reaped a good harvest than the previous year. Therefore, this Resolution cannot be accepted as it reflects only Chhimtuipui District while the same problem is faced by other parts of Mizoram. Further, the main target of the Resolution is omitted in the amended form. Hence, I suggest that amendment be made in such a way that the Districts of Aizawl, Lunglei and Chhimtuipui be declared as famine-area, so that the Resolution will be more meaningful and have far reaching effects on the centre.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu F. Lalzuala.

PU F. LALZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to make statements. Today, I am happy to see such Resolution concerning the welfare of our cultivators.

As a matter of fact right from the previous times, there was a cordial atmosphere in the Mizo society, and as far as food-stuff was concerned, Mizoram had attained self-sufficiency. In

course of time, Mizoram became a Union Territory and Democracy started its root here. Since then, we had a tendency to rely on outside's help, which is not recommendable at all cost. In view of all the hardships, presently faced by our people, our duty is to give relief measures and console the distressed people, blaming and alleging one another will serve no purposes. So, let us join hands to remove poverty and make our state self-sufficient in food supply.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Thangkima.

PU H. THANGKIMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, today, we are discussing a vital issue. However, all the Resolutions passed by the House had failed to produce any fruitful results, and I am afraid that the present Resolution too will not have any far reaching effects.

In my opinion, the target of the original resolution will give us huge benefits while the amended form provides nothing. Above all, this Ministry had been in power for almost 15 years, their inefficient admtnistration has brought Mizoram on the verge of famine. To solve this problem, a change in the Ministry is necessary and in the absence of Congress Ministry, our state will be able to regain self-sufficiency in foodstuff. Today, this Resolution should not be merely utilised for gaining more votes in the forthcoming election. Instead, we should be courageous enough to reveal the actual condition of our state and declare the said districts as famine-areas.

Thank you.

PU S.T. RUALYAPA
Minister : Mr. Speaker Sir, today, the Hon'ble Member from Lawngtlai has moved a Resolution as Chhimtuipui District is faced

with acute shortage of food-supply. However, I regret to see that some of our Members cannot support the Resolution.

As mentioned earlier, in the year 1995, a heavy land slides occurred at Chhimtuipui District, which greatly disturbed normal lives and occupation of the people. In the midst of such difficulties, the timely interference and help of the Ministry gave immense relief to the poor victims. Although there is sufficient supply of rice, there is extreme shortage of finance because the centre has not yet sanctioned the funds estimated for our state. So, to pressurize the centre, this Resolution should be passed by the House.

Another suggestion I would like to put forward is that certain portion of the Developmental or Department's funds should be diverted to help the needy people, who are on the brink of famine. Today, it is necessary to duely consider the current financial crisis and to bring up certain improvements. Moreover, it is wrong to declare the said Districts as famine-area without consulting the leaders of the District Council. As a matter of fact, there had never been shortage of rice supply under the Congress Ministry, and the birth of other Ministries had given rise to numerous problems. Today, instead of blaming one another, we should work together with a spirit of co-operation and harmony.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu F. Lalremsiama.

PU F. LAUREMSIAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, my Resolution concerning the removal of Chakma District Council was not admitted as matter concerning Chhimtuipui District was not included in it. Today, it is most unfortunate to have to declare the said District as famine-area.

In fact, it is a rightful gesture for the Hon'ble Member from Lawngtlai to move such Resolution if his constituency is actually facing such crisis. However, his statements appear doubtful after hearing from the Hon'ble Member from Ratu. Besides Rs. 63 crore was reported to be sanctioned when natural calamities hit the said District in 1995. Apart from that, a specific Time Table is usually laid out for transportation of rice and other materials in the beginning of the year. Now we have reached the month of March and why do the interior villages face problems in food-supply? Regarding shortage of finance, after a thorough investigation, we learnt that the Finance Department sanctioned all the funds for Medical Re-embursement, for purchase of petrol, rice-supply, etc. before the Budget Session. So, the big question today is why the Chhimtuipui District is on the verge of famine? Perhaps, the concerned Ministers are corrupted enough to consider only their personal benefits. Although the government gives top priority to Agriculture, the amount of local products is extremely meagre and our state had never been able to attain self-sufficiency. In fact, the Resolution of this Hon'ble Member Pu T. Hranghluta is disgraceful for the entire state of Mizoram. Today, instead of declaring the said Districts as famine-area, we should pave the way to revolutionize agriculture.

Thank you

SPEAKER : Pu B. Lalthlengliana.

PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to make statements. Today, it is most unfortunate to see such Resolution coming from the Ruling Party.

Recently, the Hon'ble Supply Minister and the concerned Member of Sangau had informed us about the sufficient supply

of rice in their constituencies, while their neighbouring constituency is starving. Under such circumstances, it is the duty of the concerned MLA to inform the Supply Minister and the Government. We are not against the Resolution, but by moving the same, the Hon'ble Member has failed in his duty.

SPEAKER : Un-Parliamentarian languages should not be used by the Members.

PU B. LALTHLENGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, according to the statements of the Hon'ble Supply Minister, there is sufficient supply of rice, but this failed to reach Chhintuipui District, which clearly reveals the inefficiency and negligence of the concerned M.L.A, who appears to be interested only with personal benefits. In fact, it is a great humiliation for the Ruling Party, who has been in power for 10 years to have to declare certain Districts as famine-areas.

In the year 1996, 10,292 MT of rice was harvested, which was increased to 1,2208 MT in 1997—1998. If so, why do the Ruling Party has to move this Resolution? It is certain that the Ruling Party is lacking confidence, and realising this, the Hon'ble Member Pu Lal Biakzuala proposed the amendment. In any case, such type of Resolution should come from the Opposition and not the Ruling Party, because the Resolution exposed the failure of this Ministry, and even in the recent M.P Election, the Ruling Party had been rejected by the entire people.

Thank you.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to make statements. Today, it is a matter
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of satisfaction to see such a vital Resolution coming from the Ruling Party, as the Ministry is righteous enough to reveal and consider the actual condition of our state.

The statement of the Hon'ble Supply Minister is misquoted by some members. In his statement, the Hon'ble Minister stated that the condition of rice supply is more or less satisfactory. This is because allotment of rice is delayed by the centre. Consequently the supply failed to reach the remote areas in time, but the Supply Department is making steady progresses. Besides, I would like to remind the House that the record of local harvest, maintained by the Agriculture Department is always accurate.

In the field of Agriculture, the main obstacle in Mizoram is that in our desire to gain huge profits through politics, we mislead the people with our empty impressive statements, and we failed to instil in them the sense of earning a livelihood. It has been widely alleged that NLUP is the pioneer of starvation and famine. This is utterly wrong. Today, Chhimtuipui District is starving because the area is not yet covered by NLUP. In fact, all the problems affecting the different parts of our state is due to delay sanctioning of funds by the centre. So, the central government is largely to blame for all the shortcoming of our state. The Shukla Commission and others had made the sanction in name only, but till date, the central government is incapable of making any decisions or releasing any funds, which adversely affect the welfare of our community.

Thank you

SPEAKER

: Pu Zoramthanga

PU ZORAMTHANGA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, today, our Resolution had been widely debated, and I would like to emphasize the original form of the

Resolution, where we learnt that Chhimtuipui District is starving owing to poor harvest. The Resolution greatly contradicts the record of the Agriculture Department and the statements of the Hon'ble Supply Minister. Whatever it is, there is no doubt that the said District is facing acute shortage of foodstuffs. According to the usual practice of other governments, No Confidence Motion should be moved against the Minister i/c and the mover of this Resolution. Today, three contradictory statements had been presented to the House, which seems to be our main subject.

As far as problem of rice supply is concerned, the only alternative arrangement is to bring all the waste land under cultivation, and with the help of fertilizers, the harvest will certainly be improved. In matter of rice-transport and other commodities, the task could be taken up by the shipping company of Chittagong at a cheaper rate, the unloading and transportation will require only 2 days. So, steps should be taken up by the government. If success is achieved in the Border Trade, many of our present problems could be solved. Moreover, delay sanction of funds by the centre might have given us financial difficulties, but there is nothing we can do or say considering the huge deficit in our economy. Today, passing of any forms of resolution will not solve our problems. The truth is that all the Districts are close to starvation. Therefore, besides the Chhimtuipui District, Lunglei and Aizawl too should be declared as famine area as this will enable the Government to take up immediate actions.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu P.C. Zoram Sangliana.

PU P.C. ZORAMSANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allotting me time to make statements. At the outset, I would like to mention that pre-
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sentation and amendment of the Resolution were carried out in accordance with our Rules. In fact, Rules No 283 on page 125 clearly indicates the possibility of making an amendments.

Realising the tragedy faced by his constituency, the Hon'ble Member from Lawngtlai has moved this Resolution, it is quite likely that this issue should be initially discussed by the District Council, and then put forward the same to the House for consideration.

Although the Hon'ble Minister of Supply assured that there is sufficient supply of rice, there is lack of finance to make the proposal. Accordingly the Hon'ble Member Pu Lal Biakzuala proposed amendment of the resolution in order to improve the financial condition of the people. This is highly appreciated because the Ruling Party, leaving aside the Party's interests, places the welfare of the people above anything else. Today, we should not blame one another as the natural calamities, that occurred in the Chhimtuipui District and others is beyond our control. As such, the immediate necessity is to provide means of earning a living to our people, and this could be done only through the amended form of the Resolution. More declaration of the said Districts as famine-areas will not serve any purposes. In my opinion, instead of passing the original or the amended forms of the Resolution, the active involvement of the Government will have far reaching effects in the removal of extreme poverty in our state. So, Mr. Speaker Sir, is it necessary to pass the Resolution ?

SPEAKER : Dr. J.V. Hluna.

DR. J.V. HLUNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Member Pu T. Hranghluta failed to show up when ballot was taken for Private Member's Resolution. Anyway, his resolution

had been presented to the House. In the previous Budget Session, the Hon'ble Finance Minister courageously disclosed the actual financial condition of our state, much to the annoyance of the Ministry, who seemed to have the intention of sending him away as an M.P. But fortunately, he lost the election and could resumed his status as a Finance Minister.

Today, it is disheartening to see the Hon'ble Mover being betrayed by his fellow Members. I firmly believe and support his Resolution. From what we have heard and seen, there is no doubt that his constituency is on the verge of famine. But surprisingly, there is no such information from the Hon'ble Ministers of Supply and Agriculture. Therefore, I demand the Despatch statement of rice supply in month-wise from the Hon'ble Minister. (Speaker :— In the previous times, when local harvest failed to meet the demand, famine was declared. So, this issue needs careful consideration).

Whatever the case may be, even if the Agricultural Budget is increased by the Government, self-sufficiency cannot be achieved owing to lack of clear cut policy. For instance, WRC was initiated by the P.C. Ministry, but this was abandoned by the next Ministry. Self-sufficiency could never be achieved unless steps are taken up by the Government. Moreover, large quantities of decomposed Ginger, left neglected in the Godown could be utilised as fertilizers by the Agriculture or Horticulture Departments. So, steps should be taken to achieve self-sufficiency. To conclude, I give my full support to the Resolution of the Hon'ble Member Pu T. Hranghluta.

Thank you.

PU C. VULLUAIA

: Mr. Speaker Sir, unlike some Members, I found nothing great in this Resolution. In fact, it is

the unfortunate tragedy that gives birth to this resolution. However, the District Council, who enjoys certain independent power, has so far remained silent in this matter. Besides, as far as amendment is concerned, the same is possible only if the targets of the original and amended Motions are similar, but the objectives widely differ in this resolution. As such, the Hon'ble Speaker should not approve such inconsistent amendment. No attention is paid towards statement of Laws, and not knowing what to do, the Hon'ble Dy. Speaker merely opened the discussion of both the original and the amended forms.

SPEAKER : The scope of the amended form is much wider and it appears to be more effective. Hence, the Resolution will be considered in its amended form.

PU C. VULLAIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, for improvement of jhum cultivation, the P.C. Ministry introduced 'Shifting Cultivation'. This was approved by the next MNF Ministry but changed the name to 'jhum control'. In course of time, when the Congress Ministry came to power, they hesitated to follow the footsteps of the previous Ministry and launched a new programme called New Land Used Policy (NLUP). At the moment, steps are being taken up under NLUP to make Mizoram self-sufficient in foodstuff. In spite of incurring huge expenditures under NLUP, the rate of success is extremely low. So, if possible, let the entire Mizoram be declared as famine-area. Finally, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Ministry should wake up with a fresh mind and start utilising the Budget in its rightful purposes.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C.L. Ruala

PU C.L. RUALA
Minister

: Mr. Speaker Sir, if we closely observe this Resolution, the original and the amended forms have the same objective. In any case, we should not forget that the different areas of Mizoram do not necessarily reap the same harvest.

As far as NLUP is concerned, its success or failure largely depend upon the beneficiaries. Hence, NLUP does not result in starvation. As we have seen, besides the natural calamities, cyclone hit various parts of Mizoram, thus disturbing normal lives and occupation of the people. Therefore, this Resolution is crucial enough for solving such problems. So, Mr. Speaker Sir, I suggest that the amended form of the resolution should be passed unanimously by the House.

Thank you.

SPEAKER

: Let us call upon the Hon'ble House Leader.

PU J. LALSANGZUALA
Minister

: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Members had furnished informative statements on this Resolution.

During the passed 3 months, with the exception of Khawbung, I visited all the constituencies and witnessed the tragedy brought by cyclone and natural calamities. As stated by the Hon'ble Ministers, we decided that any forms of Developmental Schemes will be employment oriented in order to provide means of earning a living to the needy families.

Moreover, the central fund mentioned in my Budget-speech does not necessarily come from the Shukla Commission or the United Front's Government. For instance, for the aforesaid Airport, Rs. 20 crores was allotted by the Planning Commission,

while the 10th Finance Commission sanctioned Rs. 57 crores, and Rs. 20.92 crores granted by the Indian Government is for Revised Estimate. Regarding Border Area Development Programme, we made a decision to include the Myanmar border area besides Bangladesh and Pakistan.

In the meeting of the Inter State Council on 28th, 1997, Rs. 68 crores was sanctioned for Mizoram by the Shukla Commission. Unfortunately, the sanction failed to materialise due to resignation of the Ministry. Besides the need does not arise to officially present this Resolution as steps are being taken up by the Government. Any Resolution passed by the House is given due importance by the Government.

Another point I would like to stress is that way back in 1965, the amount of rice taken from outside was only 30,000 qtl. while improvement was being made, insurgency started in 1966 and since then we are unable to achieve self-sufficiency till date.

In matter of Border Trade, certain steps were taken up under the Border Trade Agreement with Bangladesh, but things come to a standstill due to poor communication. In spite of our sustained efforts, success is not yet achieved in this field.

Further, owing to delay sanctioning of funds by the centre, we are facing acute shortage of finance. When the Hon'ble P.M. Shri I.K. Gujral visited our state on 22nd May, he assured us that financial assistance is on its way, but this has not yet reached our hands till date.

Finally, I request this august House to pass the amended form of this Resolution.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, I shall read out the amended form of the Resolution, which is as follows ; “Cwing to poor harvest in the Districts of Chhimtuipui, Lunglei and Aizawl, there is acute shortage of foodstuff in the said Districts. So, the Government should take up active steps in order to help and provide relief measures to the people of the said Districts”. Those who agree to pass the Resolution will say ‘Agree’, (Members—‘Agree’). As all the Members agreed, the resolution is passed unanimously by the House.

Our Session will resume on Monday at 10:30 A.M.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 P.M.