

11th March 1994

THIRD SITTING ON FRIDAY THE 11TH MARCH, 1994

P R E S E N T

PU VAIVENGA, SPEAKER at the Chair, 13 Ministers and 22 Members were present.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

1. Resolution.

S P E A K E R : God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountain tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her right early.

Psalm 46:1-5.

PU ZCRANTHANGA : Pu Speaker, I would like to know why we do not have question hour till the third day of our sitting ? And secondly we already have 2 Sessions in this term of Assembly without having Deputy Speaker. Can we elect Deputy Speaker now ?

S P E A K E R : Regarding questions I would like to request all Departments to be more co-operative. As we had listened we have not received any answers for the questions we sent to the Departments.

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA : Pu Speaker, the Business Advisory Committee settled our programme for this Session in which even the Hon'ble Opposi-
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tion Leader is a member and they did not propose to elect Deputy Speaker.

PU F.LALREMSIAMA : Pu Speaker, it seems both the Ministry and Departments do not pay heed to the questions. The Business Advisory Committee settled our sitting calendar to have question hour everyday. Therefore, this matter should be reconsidered.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, as you had already said its not that the Government does not ignore the questions, each Department is given priority. Our problem at present is that there are too many holidays after a session is summoned. It is difficult even for Departments to collect informations. However, let us hope to have question hour from tomorrow.

Dr R.LALTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, it is not proper to have no answer till today. Of course there may be some critical questions but most of our questions are simple. What I would like to suggest is to inform all Departments to be ready for our next sitting.

S P E A K E R : Now we shall proceed according to our Business. We have 11 private resolutions to be considered and we have 3 days for this. How many minute shall we give for each member ?

PU ZCRAMTHANGA : Pu Speaker, will it be enough to give 6 - 10 minutes for each member ?

S P E A K E R : Do we all agree to give 10 minutes. Well, let's try not to exceed 10 minutes. However, the mover may take 15 minutes and the concern Minister 30 minutes. Now let me call Pu H.Lalruata to move his resolution.

PU H.LALRUATA

: Pu Speaker, thank you for giving me time to move my resolution. So with your permission I move my reso-

lution as follows -

' Mizo tawng be prescribed for one and the main subject in Written Test Examinations of all cadre for recruitment in Mizoram Government Services conducted departmentally or by the Mizoram Public Service Commission'. Shall I continue with my discussion? (Speaker : Yes) Today I would like to request this August House to consider carefully the resolution I had moved. Some years back similar resolutions had been passed in this August House to include Mizo tawng in 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution. A notification to use Mizo language as official language from 15th August 1987 was also issued. However, it was mentioned in the notification that it will not be compulsory for the District Councils. Most of the Departments include in their recruitment rules, working knowledge of Mizo tawng as one of the qualifications. Therefore, the resolution I am moving is not a new one, it is meant to urge the Government to take more efforts.

It was also written in the notification that Mizo tawng should be used even in day today official function. If we go to various Departments, there are some officers who do not know Mizo language and this creates problems for our people and even for us. There are some who can not write their application in English. While Mizo tawng is considered as compulsory subject from elementary to higher education Mizo tawng should be given due importance for recruitment as well.

Last year a Mizo Language Board was formed under the Chairmanship of the concern Minister but if I am not mistaken, this Board does not function as it should be and they do not have even a sitting till today. I think it is their duty to make syllabus for various cadres. Besides this, a Bill had been passed to have Publication Board. So the present resolution, if passed will strengthen the implementation of this Act. In Mizo language there are some glossaries which we commonly used as Mizo tawng itself like curfew, office, etc. It will be appreciated if either Publication Board or Language Board can give new words of such glossaries in our language.

I also feel that various exams conducted by Mizoram Public Service Commission only in English creates discrimination among the public. Mizo tawng should be included as main subject in the examinations conducted both by Mizoram Public Service Commission and other Departments. Since Mizo tawng is declared as official language, I think it is better to write even in files in Mizo tawng. All these do

not mean we are degrading English they are rather meant to open a new passage for those who have difficulty in using English. I do hope this resolution will benefit our people in general as well as a good protection from assimilation.

PU C. CHAWNGKUNGA
MINISTER

Pu Speaker, I appreciate the resolution moved by Pu Ruata because it is a must for us to exalt our language.

Language plays an important role in this world. In these days and even in the past, wars are being declared because of language. When Rome conquered England in 400-500 AD they imposed their language but when Roman Empire fell, 8 new languages were born without passing any resolutions. But no one wanted to learn other language and at last English was used as lingua franca. That too was not passed either in Assembly or Parliament, it was automatically born. Even in India, when the constitution was passed to use Hindi and English as official language, there was a conflict in South India to protest this. In 1962 Assamese Language Promulgation Bill was moved in Assam Assembly and as a result, we fought to separate from Assam along with other. These clearly show that we can hurt other's sentiment if we impose particularly language upon them. Therefore, it is better to take steps to promote and exalt our language through Publication Board and Advisory Board instead of passing Resolutions. Thank you.

PU LALSAWTA

Pu Speaker, I would like to say few things. As language is deeply connected with culture we expect the Hon'ble

Minister in-charge Art & Culture Department to support the present resolution but from his speech it seemed he did not support it.

Mention had been made about imposition of language quoting the Assamese Language Promulgation Bill 1962. But if we compare the situation of Assamese at that time with our present situation/condition it is far better than the Assamese. If we do not pass this resolution I am afraid we will be late like Assamese. It is clear we, the Mizo tribes as a whole are quite consistent in using Mizo tawng. I also would like to point out that if we pass this resolution, we will be more integrated and there will be more chances for sons of the soil in every aspect of employment opportunities. I therefore, support this resolution for the integration of the Mizos. Thank you.

PU P.C.BAWITLUANGA
MINISTER

Pu Speaker, thank you. Mizo language is very important because it is international language.

Some suggestions had been made to enrich our language. But to quote the following saying 'All that glitters is not gold' I feel this resolution will be meaningless in our present situation. Even in Mara District Council and Lai District Council they intend to use their own language as a medium of instruction upto VI standard.

If Mizo tawng is used for test paper of IV Grade and also in the examination conducted by Public Service Commission, it will create a great problem for ourselves because for Brus, Faightes and Hmars etc., who reside in Mizoram and who want to be in Government service, there will be no chance for them. This will result riot and they may want to disintegrate themselves from Mizo tribes.

Therefore, in my opinion, this resolution is not necessary because almost all Departments include in their Recruitment Rules knowing working knowledge of Mizo language upto VIII standard as one of the essential qualifications. So it is not necessary to conduct a test on our own language, since it had already been accepted and used as official language. I, therefore, would like to request the Hon'ble member to withdraw his resolution. Thank you.

PU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA

Pu Speaker, I would like to point out that for IV Grade and Muster Roll there is no written test and their post is not cadre post. The main objective of our present Resolution is to use Mizo language which we all know as medium of conducting various tests. As we do not have this facility, even those who do not know English have to write in English in various tests. Though Mizo tawng is to be used as official language, it is not practically used. I would like to request the Government to issue order in Mizo tawng, invite application and receive back in Mizo tawng and use Mizo tawng as much as possible in the file. This resolution does not mean to test our knowledge of Mizo tawng because we all know Mizo tawng it rather means as I had said to use as a medium of conducting various tests. By this, I am sure no one's sentiment will be hurt. I therefore, strongly support this resolution. Thank you.

PU S.T.RUALYAPA
MINISTER

Pu Speaker, thank you. In my opinion this resolution should be submitted in Mizo tawng if the mover really

wants to exalt Mizo tawng. I think the mover did not consult his fellow members especially from the South in this matter. It is written in our Rules of Procedure and conduct of business that the Business of the Assembly shall be transacted in the official language or languages of the State of Mizoram. According to this we can use Mizo tawng in every proceedings within Mizoram.

The resolution is 'Mizo tawng be prescribed for one of the main subjects in written test' and if we conduct written test in Mizo it will create problem for some Districts like Lai District, Mara District and Chakma District and this may result in disintegration. At the same time, there are some who are from English Medium School who can not read Mizo properly, for them also it will be a great problem.

If we pass this resolution, I am afraid we will be disintegrated soon. Therefore, this matter should be considered carefully because we are teaching to be clear in our identity. Even under Mizo there are many tribes. So, considering all these difficulties, I would like to request the Hon'ble member to withdraw his resolution. Thank you.

PU F.LALZUALA : Pu Speaker, I would like to say few things. As Mizo tawng is accepted as official language it is being used even in this August House. Other tribes like PNC, HPC etc do not have difficulty or problem in using Mizo tawng. Their main problem lies in thinking that they are not given their share of development in various walks of life. It is the same case with Lunglei District, comparing with Aizawl District, we are neglected in various developmental works and the people of Lunglei District are annoyed by this but not by the use of Mizo tawng. The resolution simply means to include Mizo tawng which is a State language as one of the main subjects in written examinations and it does not mean any disintegrity it is on the other hand a good factor for integrity. I, therefore, support this resolution. Thank you.

PU H.ZATHUA A : Thank you Pu Speaker. In my opinion the present resolution is opposing the policy of unity in diversity and it is an oppression for minorities. For example, for Paite whose mother tongue is Paite and attended English Medium School from his childhood, there will be no chance for him to pass such examinations if Mizo tawng is used for recruitment. Truly speaking, in Sialkal range there are many families who do not speak Mizo tawng and if

this resolution is passed, there is no chance for them to enter in Government services.

Beside this, I feel this resolution is to favour and to exalt a particular language. And I am afraid this will bring disunity among us. It is quite sufficient to accept it as official language. Therefore, Pu Speaker, I would like to request the Hon'ble member to re-consider this matter and urge him to withdraw his resolution. Thank you.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker, It is regretful to provoke identification and integrity to instigate and disintegrate our people. If we are reluctant to implement the Resolution passed in 1991 to urge Central Government to include Mizo tawng in 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India, it means we are making politics as an advancement of political parties. We have to cooperate to safeguard our State and identity whether we are in a Rulling Party or opposition party as in the case of Inner Line Permit. So let us join hands together to do the right thing.

Mention had been made about Assam. When Assam State Language Act was passed, the main Opposers were Bengalis and after sometimes Bengali was declared as Additional State Language. In Mizoram, Mizo tawng had been declared as State language and a Bill had been passed by this House. Let us not instigate others in this particular case. It is not that we are partial but language really matters in maintenance of the integrity of our nation. So, in order to preserve our integrity we must preserve and promote our language. Now, Mizo tawng is rich in literature and we have published many books in Mizo, and it is also being taught upto Degree level and yet some are reluctant to pass this resolution. In case of Autonomous District Councils Administrative Arrangement can also be made. I, therefore, would like to request this House to pass this resolution unanimously. Thank you.

PU C. VULLUAIA : Pu Speaker, some of Mizo words
MINISTER are, in my opinion, unparliamentary. Regarding our present resolution I would like to ask whether the idea of the mover is the same with that of the supporters ? because from our discussion it is difficult to understand whether they support it or not.

The resolution says 'Mizo tawng be prescribed for one of the main subjects'. Generally the prescribed subjects for various Test Examination

are General Knowledge, English and Mathematics and if we are to go according to this resolution, in my opinion, Mizo tawng shall be included among these subjects. Then if Mizo tawng is to be included, there should be a prescribe text book.

So, as all of us are not clear in the resolution itself, Pu Speaker, I would like to request the Hon'ble member to withdraw his resolution for the time being. Thank you.

PU T.HRANGHLUTA : Pu Speaker, regarding this resolution, some members afraid will cause disintegrity but in my opinion there is nothing to be afraid of as Mizo language is being taught throughout Mizoram upto Middle School stage as Major Indian Language (MIL). It simply says 'Mizo tawng be prescribed for one of the main subjects in written test examinations' and there is nothing to be afraid of. Thank you.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Speaker, if Mizo tawng MINISTER is included for various test examinations and if we are charged by a candidate who has taken alternative subject then our resolution will be meaningless. In that case, will it be possible to have optional subject ? The resolution proposes to include Mizo tawng as one of the main subjects for various examinations of all cadres for recruitment and in my opinion no one will suffer for this. So there is nothing to be afraid of. We clearly know that whenever an Act is passed by State Legislature, it can not be implemented unless a Governor gives notification. Therefore, I find no harm in passing this resolution. Thank you.

PU F.MALSAMMA : Pu Speaker, judging from our discussion, it seems we all support this resolution but we are anxious about its implementation. It seems some of us are against the declaration of Mizo tawng as official language. But in article 347 of Indian Constitution there is a way to solve the problems for the minorities if they have any problem in this particular case. Even if this resolution is passed, those who want to appear in Mizo in various test examination will appear in Mizo and those who want in English will also appear in English. This is the opinion of the mover too. So there will be no problem for the minorities. Regarding Recruitment Rules, according to Article

309 of the Indian Constitution, it is the responsibility of State Government. Considering all these I would like to request this House to pass this Resolution.

Thank you.

FU F.LAWMKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. It seems we are only going to have an idea after a long discussion. In our present situation I find there is no reason to be in a hurry to pass this resolution. If this resolution is passed now, it will bar minorities in Government services and this will hurt their sentiments. Before passing it, I feel it is necessary to define Mizo tribe itself and revise various tribes which are included in the list of Mizo tribe. Therefore, in my opinion it is too early to pass this resolution considering our situation. I, therefore, would like to request the Hon'ble mover to withdraw his resolution. Thank you.

PU L.P.THANGZIKA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. First I would like to say in few words how Mizo tawng and Mizoram originated. Before India got independent it was Lusei tawng and Lushai Hills. When India got independent, the politicians in Mizoram opined that Lusei tawng and Lushai Hills did not include other tribes like Paihte, Ralte, Chakma, Lakher, Pawih etc., living in Mizoram, so in order to include all these tribes under Lusai Hills, they decided to name it Mizoram and the language to be used as Mizo tawng. Even the Government of India accepted this. As time passed on, in the year 1974 Mizo tawng was accepted as official language in Mizoram. According to this, even files & note sheets were written in Mizo tawng but after sometime, English had been used to write in files and note sheets till today. So the present resolution according to which Mizo tawng will be used to write note sheets and also to conduct various test examinations, in my opinion will not bother any one. It will, on the other hand create problem if only English is used for transaction of Official business. Therefore, it will be pleasing if this House could pass this resolution. Thank you.

FU LALKHAMA : Pu Speaker, I would like to say few things. In my opinion the main objective of this resolution is to prevent non-Mizos from entering into Government Services in Mizoram and at the same time it does not mean to

create problems for the people of our District Councils.

The main objective of this resolution is to prevent non-Mizos from entering into Mizoram particularly in Government Services, though its wording may not mention its objectives, it is meant to strengthen our integrity and unity which is the most important thing in whatever we do. In the meantime as language is very sensitive let us be careful not to hurt others sentiments. Thank you.

PU H. THANGKIMA
MINISTER

: Thank you Pu Speaker for giving me time. It seems many of us do not know the meaning of this resolution.

The resolution states 'Mizo tawng be prescribed for one of the main subjects in written test examination of all cadres for recruitment in Mizoram Public Service Commission' some of us opined that as written test examination is being conducted in English it should also be conducted in Mizo tawng. In my opinion the resolution means to include Mizo tawng as one of the subjects like General Knowledge, Mathematics, English etc., in the written test examinations.

Truly speaking, members of this Assembly should not mention prevention of non-Mizos because we had taken an oath to be loyal to the Constitution of India. The importance to promote our language is known to all of us but the present resolution can be regarded as doing the right thing in the wrong way because language is the most sensitive subject in the world. I, therefore, would like to request the Hon'ble mover to reconsider this matter and withdraw it considering the unity of Mizo nation as a whole.

Thank you.

PU K. ROKHAW

: Pu Speaker, in my opinion our main problem regarding language is that we called Lusei tawng as Mizo tawng

because there are many Mizos who do not speak in Lusei tawng. If we consider these non speaking Lusei tawng as non-Mizos we will hurt their sentiments. Regarding our three District Councils ...

(Speaker : Its already been 1 hour, shall we let him finish his speech ? Well let him finish)

Thank you Pu Speaker, if this resolution is passed, there will be no chance for the people of these three Districts in various written test examination as we do not use Lusei tawng from our childhood. Therefore, it is quite enough to accept Mizo tawng as Official language and I feel it is not necessary to pass this resolution. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We shall continue our discussion. Let me call upon Pu C.L.Ruala.

PU C.L. RUALA
MINISTER : Mr Speaker, I feel our resolution is too private, and our opinion regarding. This is of quite different, from our discussion it can be said that we all are in agreement in one point, that is to maintain our unity and not to hurt other's sentiments.

During Janata Government, there was a proposal to prescribe Hindi for one of the main subject in the written test examination of UPSC which was strenly opposed by our youths. If Hindi was prescribed as one of the main subjects as proposed there will be no chance for us to pass either IAS or I P S or any other Central Services. Like wise, if we pass our resolution it is clear that we are going to hurt others sentiments. If it is prescribed for as Alternative subject it can be considered. Even in this House itself we can know that we have hurt some of our Hon'ble Members' sentiment. Therefore, we must find a way not to hurt others' sentiments.

Every Department has Recruitment Rules in which working knowledge of Mizotawng is one of the essential requirements for various posts. I feel this is quite satisfactory. As mentioned earlier if things go as to be imposed, the results will be unfavourable. Even in the case of India, we do not mind to accept Hindi as official language but what we do not want is to be prescribed as one of the main subjects for UPSC Examinations.

Regarding the present resolution, it is quite different with the declaration of Mizotawng as official language in Mizoram and to include in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution. If it is passed, we ourselves who are using Mizo tawng will face problem because some of us put our children in boarding outside Mizoram and these can not write properly in Mizo tawng, Therefore, since there is Recruitment Rules for each Department I think it is better to follow our usual procedures. Thank you.

PU NINUPAM CHAKMA
MINISTER : Thank you Mr Speaker, I do respect the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Member and at the same time I feel there will many implications if it is passed. In Mizo tawng

is prescribed for one of the main subjects it will be great misfortune for minorities, like Maras, Chakmas, Pawis etc. because Mizo tawng is not their Mother tongue just recently, even in Chakma District the medium of instruction in the Schools had been changed from Bengali to English. It's not that they do not want to learn Mizo tawng but they do not have Teachers to teach Mizo tawng. Because of this they can not learn Mizo tawng at Primary level. However those who go to School either at Lunglei at Aizawl take Mizo Subject and this greatly improve their working knowledge of Mizo tawng. Though their knowledge of Mizo tawng has improved, they will not have a chance to enter in Government Services if this resolution is passed.

Even among the Mizos there are some who go to school outside Mizoram and who do not learn Mizo literature at all. For them also it will be a great problem if Mizo tawng is prescribed for one of the main subjects.

I feel even our opposition members are not in agreement in this issue. Some said it is meant to prevent Non-Mizo to enter Mizoram and some said it is meant to preserve and promote Mizotawng. This shows we all are not clear in the resolution itself. So I would like to request the Hon'ble Member to withdraw his resolution. Thank you .

PU P.LALBIAKA
MINISTER

: Mr Speaker, from our discussion of this resolution it seems we have already hurt the feelings of some of our Members not to mention the public. Therefore, it is clear if this resolution is pass as it is, there will be some conflicts even beyond Lunglei District.

In Mizoram there are various tribes under Mizo who have their own language, culture and tradition. We all accept that Mizotawng is very important for us. As that is the case, we must try to improve our language as pointed out by the Hon'ble Member from Chawngte Constituency, the medium of instruction had been changed at their District and I would like to wage the Government to provide Teachers to teach Mizo subject particularly at Chakma District Council.

It is true we have to preserve and promote our culture and tradition which can include our language. In order to do this even the Government should take steps through Departments. At the same time great care should be taken not to hurt others sentiments. Even in the case of our present resolution, I would like to request the Hon'ble Member to reconsider and withdraw it for the time being as the matter is too sensitive.

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA : Mr Speaker, our resolution seems to be good from its appearance but if we study it carefully I am afraid it can spoil our integrity. Now Mizo language is accepted as official language and it does not create any problem for us all. I think this matter needs careful consideration. Therefore, even if we want to pass this kind of Resolution its wording should be amended which can include all the residents of Mizoram to improve our integrity. So, I would like to request the Hon'ble Member to withdraw his Resolution. Thank you.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Thank you Mr Speaker, for giving me time. In my opinion our nationality and language is quite safe in the present policy of the Government. If the resolution is passed as it is, it is not practicable.

We must also remember that we are in India and being legislators we must be very careful in our speeches. Particularly in the case of matters relating to national integrity.

Regarding our present Resolution, the Hon'ble Member from Lawngtlai Constituency pointed out that our three District Councils have special Administrative Arrangement under 6th Schedule of Indian Constitution. But, if this resolution is passed, it will bar them from entering Government Services beyond their District. Therefore, we must think carefully whether this resolution will cover the whole population of Mizoram or not.

Mention had been made that in Chakma District Council medium of instruction is being changed from Bengali to English and we must take this opportunity to change their Education Policy so that they can learn Mizo as one of the main subjects so that after some years we may be able to implement what today's resolution recommended. Otherwise if this resolution is passed today as it is it sure will hurt the sentiments of minorities.

It is true that the residents of Mizoram should know Mizo language, likewise we must also know Hindi as we are Indians. But, when there was a proposal to make Hindi as compulsory for UPSC Examinations we are strongly against it and the present resolution similar with that case. As we are under Indian Union. There is a limit where we can not achieve our full freedom whether we are in a state or U.T. However, Mr Speaker, I would like to urge both the Government and Departments to take more steps to preserve and promote our language within our jurisdiction. In order to strengthen our integrity as a Mizo it is better to reform our Education Policy.

From our discussion it can be assumed that we mixed up the resolution with that of the matters relating to inclusion of Mizo language in the Constitution of India but it is quite different. As Mizo language had been accepted as State Language, it includes all tribes of Mizos and it is quite safe for all of us. As mentioned earlier, if this resolution is passed it will surely bar minorities in Mizoram to enter into Government Services. So Mr Speaker, in my opinion it is better not to pass this resolution.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : As I had mentioned this morning we have some resolutions and if we take up only one resolution today, we will not be able to take up other resolution. So we must try to keep our own time and as our present resolution is important it will be good if all members could participate in the discussion; even the mover may want to say some thing. However, Vote will be taken after we have satisfactory discussion . Now Dr J.V.Hluna.

Dr J.V.HLUNA ; Thank you Mr Speaker, As our topic is too sensitive I think it will be good if all of us can express our viwes and ideas in this matter. It is a matter of great importance for the integrity of the Mi-zos. Therefore we must thank carefully whether it will bring integrity or disintegrity among us.

Right from the beginning of our discussion, we all tired to interpret the meaning of this resolution. But, our interpretations/definitions are quite different because it is difficult to understand the exact meaning of the resolution. However, I appreciate the resolution submitted by the Hon'ble Member Pu Ruana but what disturbs us is the resolution itself is written in English while its aim is to promote Mizo Language.

As pointed out by the Hon'ble Member Pu Ruala, when the President of India Pu Sanjeeva Riddy visited Mizoram in 1978, a strange demonstration was organised by MZP to protest the inposition of Hindi as a compulsory subject for UPSC Examinations and when the President returned to Delhi he pointed out the

strange incident he had experienced in Mizoram saying that we should have a broad mind. Likewise, as language is too sensitive we too should have a broad mind while considering this resolution. It can be opined that the mover wanted to develop Mizo language. For this purpose the contribution of Churches in Mizoram is very good. Even the Government is intending to form Publication Board to improve our literature. If we really want to develop our language, it is better to form and improve this kind of Publication. All India Radio also plays an important role for the development of our language and for the integrity of Mizos who live in various places. Therefore, it will be good if All India Radio is strengthened to cover the entire India. By these two means that is through literature and All India Radio I think, we can develop our language faster than passing this resolution. Thank you.

PU HRANGTHANGA COLNEY : Mr Speaker, I would like to say few things regarding this resolution. Our State had gone through various situations. When peace accord was to be signed we suggested to include Mizo language in the Eight Scheduled of the Indian Constitution in order to protect ourselves. Which was not agreed by Central Government with other four points. But Pu Laldenga insisted that without these they would not signed peace accord. However, this particular point was not included in the peace accord till today even after peace accord was signed. Therefore, we, Members of this August House must join hand to pursue this matter.

In my opinion, the main objective of our resolution is to prevent Non-Mizos from entering Mizoram for Government Services. If it is not so, on the other hand, it is not necessary to have it as a resolution. According to this resolution if Mizo language is prescribed for one of the main subjects in writer test examinations, there will be some problems in choosing the subject and even in setting the questions. Therefore, our present Recruitment Rule which requires working knowledge of Mizo language is quite enough for us. We are quite safe under this rule and I even hope the percentage of Mizos in Government Services will be increasing. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : I think we must adjust our time because we have to stop 4:00 P.M. as the mover of the Resolution, Opposition Leader and House Leader are yet to be called.

PU LIANSUAMA
MINISTER : Mr Speaker, I think it is better to call the mover to explain this resolution so that even other members can understand its meaning. According to our Rules, the Resolution should be clearly and precisely expressed and shall raise one definite issue. At present it seems we do not know it's real issue.

S P E A K E R : The mover had clearly stated about the resolution but you said you are not clear. However, I will call him later. Now I shall call upon Pu Hari and from now on 10 minutes will be given to each member.

PU H.K.CHAKMA : Mr Speaker, it is regretful that while saying we want to use and promote Mizo language the mover submitted his resolution in English. The Resolution says Mizo language be prescribed for one of the main subjects in written test examinations of all cadre for recruitments in Mizoram Government Services conducted Departmentally or by the Mizoram Public Service Commission. If this resolution is passed it will be a pity for minorities in Mizoram like Mara, Pawih, Chakma, Bru, Hmar, etc. and even for those who go to School outside Mizoram. If they do not know Mizo language, they can not appear in various examinations which means there is no chance for them to enter in Government Services. Therefore, in my opinion it is better not to pass this resolution and I request the Hon'ble mover to withdraw his Resolution. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now I shall call upon
Pu Zakhu.

PU ZAKHU HLYCHHO : Thank you Mr Speaker, I feel
it is not proper to instigate
by saying that we are going to
impose Mizotawng/language to minorities. If we are to
take things like this, it can be said that when Mizo-
tawng was accepted as Official language in 1974, it was
an imposition for Maras. Truly speaking, acceptance of
Mizo language as Official language in 1974 had already
hurt the feelings of Maras.

Regarding our Rules of Pro-
cedure and Conduct of Business which had been pointed
out by the Hon'ble Minister, there is a seperate provi-
sion for the members of this House who do not speak in
Mizo language that they should submit their speech in
English.

Even in MCS and MPS there are
some Maras, Chakma, Lais who entered in these Services
under reserved seat. Considering all these cases, even
if we pass this resolution. There will be some way or
another for minorities. Therefore, it is not good to
think that we will hurt others feelings if Mizotawng is
prescribed for one of the main subjects and also that
by passing this resolution the integrity of Mizoram will
be spoiled. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now I shall call upon Pu Lian-
suama and after him I will call
the mover of resolution and
Opposition Leader and House
Leader.

PU LIANSUAMA
MINISTER : Thank you Mr Speaker, first of all
I would like to request all the
Members of this House to be care-
ful in our speeches particularly
in matters relating to national integrity like Inner Line
Permit, Trading by Non-Tribal regulation, etc. Regarding
our present resolution, Mr Speaker I would like to point
out steps taken by the Government. Every Party include
protection of sons of the soil in their election manifesto
and great efforts had been taken to fulfil this whoever
formed the Ministry within the framework of the Constitution.

of India. In our present situation there are 130 Recruitment Rules for Group 'A', 135 for Group 'B', 120 for Group 'C' and 37 for Group 'D'. All of them regarded working knowledge of Mizo language as one of the essentials qualifications according to the post. This is quite enough for our present situation. In organised services, Department Examination period is over in which Mizo language is one of the compulsory subjects. However, there is special consideration for Pawis, Lais, Maras, Chaknas, etc. in such examinations. Even in other States, those who are in Government Services are expected to know their State language. Like wise it is quite enough to include working knowledge of Mizo language as desirable or essential in the Recruitment Rules.

One point I would like to say is about our posting policy. It is regretful that some Government Servants take as punishment if they are posted at Chhinguipui District or elsewhere and neglect their duties. If we do not change this idea, we can not attain integrity even among ourselves. Therefore, in order to strengthen our integrity and to promote our language we have to do our duties efficiently wherever we are posted.

In my opinion Education plays an important role to promote our language. As pointed out by the Hon'ble Member from Aizawl West II Constituency, now we have Publication Board and through this Board it will be good if we can provide text books and other necessary literature both to our teachers and students. It will be more effective to start from Education than from Recruitment Rules if we really want to promote and preserve our language.

So, Mr Speaker, though I appreciate the zealousness of the mover of this resolution, I think we can use it as an eye opener for the future as it is not applicable in our present situation. I, therefore, would like to request him to withdraw this resolution. Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Now I shall call upon the mover
Pu H.Lalruata.

PU H.LALRUATA : Mr Speaker, some Members said my resolution is not clear enough but in my opinion it is clear enough and I do not think it is necessary to explain. It seems some of us do not want to understand it. Even while I moved it, I pointed out clearly it is not meant to hurt any one's sentiment or to politicise it.

From our Discussion it seems the Ruling Members do not intend to pass it as it is not from their side but I am sure we will soon realise the importance of my Resolution. I strongly believe that our integrity will be spoiled if we are not in tandem in the issue of language. Therefore, Mr Speaker, though some members requested me to withdraw my resolution I do not intend to withdraw it. Thank you.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr Speaker, in my opinion our resolution is clear enough as it is. It simply says Mizo tawng be prescribed for one of the main subjects in written test examinations of all cadre. The main objective of this resolution is to promote Mizo language. On the other hand its target is to prevent Non-Mizo from entering into Mizoram for various services. I am sure those who conduct such examinations like MPSC and others will know how to consider the candidates whose mother tongue is not Mizo.

For various posts, it will not be necessary to have same standard. As pointed out by some Members, candidates must have working knowledge of Mizo language, it depends on the post. If the candidate for a particular post is to work within Mizoram and if the examination for that post is conducted by the Government of Mizoram, even if Mizo tawng is prescribed for one of the main subjects, it can give special consideration to those candidates whose mother tongue is not Mizo. Therefore, this resolution is not meant to bar the minorities. Even if it is not passed today. I am sure we will need this shortly because we practise this even in our recruitment rules. I therefore would like to request this House to pass this resolution, Thank you.

S P E A K E R : House Leader Pu Lal Thanhawla is presently on tour and he authorized Pu Lalhingthanga, Finance Minister to take all his charges, so shall I call upon him to wind up our discussion.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA
MINISTER

: Thank you Mr Speaker, judging from our discussion it seems even the Hon'ble Opposition Members are not in agreement regarding this resolution. However, I would like to make some clarifications from our discussion. Some Members opined that our identity as a Mizo can be protected through language. In this connection, I would like to point out that to use Mizo language as Official language in the State was approved by the President of India. In that way efforts had been taken by our Leaders to promote and preserve our language, I feel it is not necessary to pass this resolution.

Secondly, the Hon'ble mover said in his resolution that Mizo tawng be prescribed for one of the main subjects in written test examinations of all cadres for recruitment in Mizoram Government Services conducted departmentally or by MPSC. If this resolution is passed as it is, Mizo language or Mizo vernacular will be a compulsory subject and if we think carefully about it, it will be a burden or a problem not only for Non-Mizo but even for our younger generation. Therefore, I am afraid less we by passing this resolution. Our present system is best for all of us and we are quite safe in it, and I would like to point out that our language will not vanish even if the resolution is not passed.

From our discussion it seems we are not interested about this resolution, even the opposition members are not clear about the aims and objectives of the resolution. At the same time the Hon'ble Minister in charge D.P. & A.R. had pointed out that every Department has recruitment rules in which working knowledge of Mizo language is one of the essential requirements. Therefore, this resolution is not that much important in our present situation. At present there is a proposal to give increment for non-mizos in Government Services if they do well in the examination of their working knowledge of language. As that is the case, if this resolution is passed, I am sure we will surely hurt the sentiments of our fellow members of this House not to mention other section of the people. I, therefore, would like to request the Hon'ble Member from Lunglei South to withdraw his resolution. Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: I would like to know the decision of the mover of this resolution. Can you withdraw your resolution as requested by our House Leader and other members ?

PU H. LALRUATA : Mr Speaker, I can not withdraw my resolution so kindly allow me to beg leave of the House to pass it.

S P E A K E R : If he can not withdraw, it will be decided by this House and voice vote will be taken. First let me

read out the Resolution.

" Mizo tawng be prescribed for one of the main subjects in written test examinations of all cadre for recruitment in Mizoram Government Services conducted Departmentally or by the Mizoram Public Service Commission ".

Well, those who agree to pass this Resolution may say so (some Members agreed) and those who do not agree to pass may say again (some Members did not agree) Those who do not agree are more.

According to our programme approved by Business Advisory Committee our Budget will be presented on 15th March and as we want to do presentation of budget zealously we will not take up any questions on that day. So, our meeting is adjourned till 15th March.

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 PM.
till 15th March, 1994 at
10:30 A.M.