

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2ND SITTING OF THE THIRD MIZORAM  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON 9TH NOVEMBER, 1994

MEMBERS PRESENT

SPEAKER, at the Chair, Chief Minister, 13 Ministers and 24 Members were present.

Q U E S T I O N S

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

2. L A Y I N G O F P A P E R S

FU J.LALSANGZUALA to lay on the table a copy each of the Report of the Comptroller General of India for the year 1991-92, Appropriation Report, 1991-92; and Finance Accounts 1991-92 relating to the Government of Mizoram.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bill to be considered and passed.

3. FU J.LALSANGZUALA to move that -

(i) The Mizoram Salaries, Allowances and Pension of Member in the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 1994 be taken into consideration.

(ii) the Bill be passed.

S P E A K E R : "So whatever you wish that man would do to you, do so to them, for this is the law and the prophets"

Matthew 7:12.

We shall start taking up the Questions. Question No. 13, Pu J.V.Hluna and Pu B.Lalthlengliana.

...31/-

Dr J.V.HLUNA : Mr Speaker, sir, Will the hon'ble Minister in-charge Home Department be pleased to state -  
Whether or not the Government of Mizoram agreed to pay compensation to the victims of the riot on 27-9-1994.

FU J.LALSANGZUALA : FU Speaker, the Government of  
MINISTER Mizoram will consider the matter after a Report of the Cre-  
Man Commission is submitted. It  
will be on the guidance of the Central Government.

Dr J.V.HLUNA : FU Speaker, I believe that the  
last date for the submission of  
damaged properties is over. Can  
the Minister tell us the estima-  
ted amount ?

FU J.LALSANGZUALA : FU Speaker, the assessment is  
MINISTER being proceeded according to  
the guideline of the Central  
Government.

FU LALKHAMA : FU Speaker, what are the guide-  
lines of the Central Government ?

FU LALHMINGTHANGA : FU Speaker, the Government of  
Mizoram is not indebted to pay  
all the compensations. Essen-  
tial commodities such as Petro-  
leum products, cooking gas, sugar, oil etc would have to be  
borne by the Government of Assam.

Has the Government of Mizoram  
intimated these terms to the Government of Assam for neces-  
sary compensations ?

FU LALSANTA : FU Speaker, the original ques-  
tion was whether or not the  
Govt. of Mizoram promised to  
pay compensations to the vic-  
tims of the riot on 27.9.1994 ?

FU F.LALREMSIANA : Fu Speaker, a supplementary question -

(a) Were the compensations given to the victims of the fire at Marpara done according to the Central Guidelines ? or further.

(b) Have we promised to go further than the Guidelines this time ?

FU J.LALSANGZUALA  
MINISTER

Fu Speaker, first of all we have to know whether the violence was a communal one. This will be verified by the One-

Man Commission. Regarding the compensations to be paid or not, it will have to be answered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. On the responsibility of the Assam Government, the Deputy Commissioner of Aizawl and Silchar entrusted the matter to the Chief Secretaries of both States.

However, as they did not come to a conclusion, it was decided to set up a One-Man Commission.

There is also no specific promise to pay compensations. The Marpara incident is not relevant to the present question.

FU LALHMINGTHANGA

: Fu Speaker, it is not the correct procedure to set up a One-Man Commission where the two Chief Secretaries have failed to nego-

tiate. It is a meaningless administration. What kind of justice do we expect from the Commission which is being lower in rank and file. Therefore, the statement of the Finance Minister is meaningless.

FU F.MLSAWMA

: Fu Speaker, was there some sort of promise made regarding the payment of compensations ?

FU J.LALSANGZUALA  
MINISTER

: Fu Speaker, what I said was that the Marpara incident is not relevant to the present one.

FU LALKHAMA

: Fu Speaker, my question about the Central Guidelines was

not answered. We have to be clear about this Communal disturbances occur in other States as well. There are very clear cut and specific guidelines followed. In Bihar, the guideline is Rs. 500/- for one house if it is all burnt down. It appears that in Mizoram the Chief Minister announces payment of compensations even before enquiries are made. What are the Central norms ?

FU LAL THANHAWLA  
CHIEF MINISTER

Fu Speaker, we are going to go along the guidelines of the Central Government and the Report of the One-Man Commission.

What we want most is the free travel of traffic on National Highway 54. Apart from that we do not have any other demand. The two Chief Secretaries will pursue the issues. That is our agreement. The Assam Government wanted to proclaim it as a Communal violence under SRCC Act. However, our Chief Secretary and his contingent were aware that no such Act could be in force so they agreed and managed to prove that the so called Act was null and void. This was a clever achievement.

Regarding Compensation, we have the Central Guideline of July 1987. If the need arises the Gupte Commission will have to consider the matter along that guideline.

FU ZORAMTHANGA

Fu Speaker, that was a very lame excuse. Did the Chief Minister proclaim the violence as Communal even before he

proved the matter ? Can he withdraw his statement ?

FU LAL THANHAWLA  
CHIEF MINISTER

Fu Speaker, I have never proclaimed Mizoram to be in a state of 'Communal Disturbance'. Therefore the need to withdraw does not arise.

FU LALKHAMA

Fu Speaker, the two Chief Secretaries stated that Mizoram will be declared as a 'Communal Disturbance'. If so, does it

mean that the Government of Mizoram is now denying it ?

FU LAL THANHAWLA  
CHIEF MINISTER

Fu Speaker, as I have said, it was not meant to declare under the SRCC Act which fortunately is not in force in Mizoram.

Dr J.V.HLUNA

Fu Speaker, I would like to know whether the meeting of the two Chief Ministers took place on the 16th Sunday or 17th. On the morning of 17th at 8:15 A.M. All India Radio and Doordarshan announced the meeting of Fu Lal Thanhawla, Mr Saikia and the Union Home Minister Mr Sayeed at Kumbigram Airport, Silchar. Fu Lal Thanhawla addressed the public and press appealing to traders and other business men with valid documents to return to Mizoram and start their business again. He also assured them security. He also said that compensations would be given for the damaged caused to properties during the violence.

FU F.LALREMSIAMA

treated as such ?

Fu Speaker, can the Hon'ble Chief Minister give assurance that this violence is not communal and that it will remain

FU LAL THANHAWLA  
CHIEF MINISTER

shed it as 17th. How you interpret it is entirely up to you.

Fu Speaker, the day we went to Kumbigram Airport was on Sunday the 16th. However the papers have mistakenly published it as 17th.

S P E A K E R

Let that be enough, Fu Zoramthanga may ask his question.

FU ZORAMTHANGA

Is there any intention on the part of the Government of Mizoram to renew the trade licences of non-Mizo traders ?

Fu Speaker, will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Trade and Commerce be pleased to state -

- FU SAIKATHIANGA  
MINISTER : Fu Speaker, there is no intention for such renewal before the Rules of the Mizoram Trading Regulation Act, 1991 is enforced.
- FU LALHMINGTANGA : Fu Speaker, the Minister stated that unless the Rules are enforced no such intention is made. The non-Mizo traders who left Suaithe incident on 27.9.94 was purely of their own accord. Why then has the Chief Minister invited them back ?
- DR R. LAITHANGLIANA : Fu Speaker, (a) How many non-Mizo traders are holding Trade Licence. What are their names ? (b) It appears that they are now opening their businesses again. What steps does the Government intend to take ?
- FU F. MALSAWMA : Fu Speaker, are there any new applicants for Trade Licence as a result of the negotiations between the two Chief Secretaries ?
- FU SAIKATHIANGA  
MINISTER : Fu Speaker, there are no new applicants for Trade Licence. The present licence holders are 87 in number. Their names may be given to you as I do not have it here at present. As for inviting them back, let us put it this way.
- Our missionary teachers in Silchar and Karimganj have also returned for the same reasons. They have also been called back to their jobs as the examinations are very near. In the same way, we need to have essential commodities back so that the public will not suffer. The question of permits will be dealt according to the Rules.
- FU L. LHMINGTANGA : Fu Speaker, the question of Mizos returning from Silchar is of an entirely different nature.
- S P E A K E R : Please try to be specific with your supplementary questions.

- BU F.LALREMSIAMA : Fu Speaker, is the Government aware of the fact that most of the non-Mizo traders are holders of temporary trade licence. Among those who have returned there are also non-holders of trade licence.
- DR J.V.HLUNA : Fu Speaker, do the non-Mizo trade licence holders pay come tax ?
- BU B.LALTHLENGLIANA : Fu Speaker, the hon'ble Minister stated that the number of Trade Licence holders were 87, whereas according to the order of 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1993 the number is 101. What is the meaning of this ?
- BU H.THANGKIMA : Fu Speaker, it is very evident that the Government of Mizoram is intending to allow the non-Mizos to open shops again. We are not in favour of this policy. Why are you trying to pull the wool over our eyes ?
- BU R.TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Fu Speaker, I would like to ask the time or year of issuing Trade Licences to non-Mizos.
- BU SAIKATHIANGA : Fu Speaker, the question of hon'ble member from Aizawl regarding locking up and opening of shops, we will pursue the matter. We will also furnish you with the list of Licence holders along with the year of issuing. May the member from Sateek constituency please repeat his question.
- BU B.LALTHLENGLIANA : Fu Speaker, the number of Trade Licence holders was stated as 87, whereas according to the order of June, 13th, 1993 the number is 101.

FU SAIKETHIANGA : Fu Speaker, that will be clear  
MINISTER when I submit the list. Traders  
without licence are usually  
sponsored by locals. This is  
a matter of great importance from the Government point of view.

FU H.THANGKIMA : Fu Speaker, I am not satisfied  
with the reply on my question.

FU LAL THINHAWLA : Fu Speaker, the Deputy Commis-  
CHIEF MINISTER sioner of Lunglei has done his  
duty. The shops should be closed  
in the absence of the owners  
if there are goods and commodities inside. It can be re-  
opened at the request of the owners when they come. Regarding  
the Mizos in Silchar at various places like Mission Compound,  
Mizoram House, Karimganj and Hailakandi, they are under the  
protection of the D.C. Silchar. They take up the responsibility  
of their safety in their hands. Those who have wished to come  
home to Mizoram have all been escorted home safely.

The Government of Mizoram is  
always checking trade licence of non-Mizos.

FU H.THANGKIMA : Fu Speaker, the Hon'ble Chief  
Minister is mis-informed about  
the Lunglei issue. The Deputy  
Commissioner, Lunglei has not  
allowed the vacant shops to be occupied by the local traders.

FU LALSAWTA : Fu Speaker, the D.C. Lunglei  
has done what he should not  
have done. What the Hon'ble  
Chief Minister stated was only  
half of it. The other half is that no one is allowed to open  
shop without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner of Lung-  
lei. I, myself even told him to act in accordance with the  
Mizoram Areas Rent Control Act, 1974. He replied that in an  
extra-ordinary situation such as this he was acting in an Ex-  
tra-ordinary way.

FU F.LALREMSIAMA : Fu Speaker, the Chief Minister  
did well in safeguarding the  
position of the Deputy Commis-  
sioner, Lunglei. Can he also



tell him that he is not stationed in Lunglei, to down-trod the Mizo people ?

FU LAL THANAWLA  
CHIEF MINISTER

: Fu Speaker, the D.C., Lunglei did his duty and he has to take preventive measures just in case some miscreants try to create

mischiefs.

FU F. M. LSAWMA

: Fu Speaker, this is taking quite long.

S F D A K E R

: Let it suffice at that, Fu Lal-rinchhana may ask his question No. 15.

FU LALRINCHHANA

: Fu Speaker, will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Home Department be pleased to state -

- 1) The number of H.F.C. Returnees since the signing of the accord.
- 2) What type of arms and ammunitions have they surrendered ?
- 3) Any other military weapons surrendered.

FU J. LALSANGZUALA  
MINISTER

: Fu Speaker, the number of Returnees are altogether 317. They have surrendered 303 single Barrel Breech Loading

Guns.

- 4 Rifles (hand made)
- 13 Ninetgone pistols
- 14 Machine guns (hand made)
- 2 Shikari (hand made)
- 30 bullets (303)
- 100 Pistol bullets
- 50 Bullets (single barrel breech loading) Altogether 190 in number.

FU LALRINCHHANA

: Fu Speaker, a supplementary question.

Is the accord between H.F.C., and the Government of Mizoram to be discussed in the House ?

LU LALKHAMA : Lu Speaker, is there intention to create Sinlung Development Council as a statutory body ?

Did the Taihte National Council (INC) have a meeting with the Chief Minister on Sunday ?

Dr J.V.HLUNA : Lu Speaker, the H.F.C. Returnees were given Rs. 30,000/- each, the same was also given to families of the H.F.C. Volunteers. It was also given to the families of Mizoram Armed Police (MAP) who died in the hands of H.F.C.

Was the same amount given to the bereaved families of the M.N.F. ?

S P E A K E R : Question hour is over.

LU F.MALSARMA : Lu Speaker, we have very little Government Business today, why don't we finish all the questions.

Has the area for Sinlung Development Council been demarcated ?

LU F.LALRENSIAMA : Lu Speaker, only one supplementary question please. We cannot but compare the accord between M.N.F. and Government of India to any other accords. In the M.N.F. accord every single person returned overground. Is this the same case in the H.F.C. accord ? Rumour has it that five (5) persons have not returned from H.F.C. underground. Who are they ? What are they going ?

S P E A K E R : The Home Minister may please reply.

FU J.LALSANGZUALA  
MINISTER

Fu Speaker, the accord with the H.F.C. is between the Government of Mizoram and H.F.C., therefore it need not

be passed in the Assembly.

The word 'Sinlung' originates from China. It is the name of a village in the Province of Yunnan. I do not know the origins of the so called 'Sinlung Development Council'. Negotiations will tell us to whether or not it is to be a statutory body.

Ex-Gratia has been paid to the bereaved families of the MNF during the insurgency. As for the missing HFC volunteers, they are four in number, and are at present in hospital and jail.

S P E A K E R

Question hour is over, let us go to our next business. We have an Adjournment Motion here. Fu Lalrinchhana may ask permis-

sion to submit the Adjournment Motion and also read out the Motion.

FU LALRINCHHANA

Fu Speaker, thank you. In accordance to the Mizoram Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, Rule No.61, I hereby submit an Adjournment Motion. We request the Hon'ble Chief Minister to clarify the Assurance he gave pertaining to his meeting with the Assam Chief Minister at Kumbigram Airport. I beg permission of the House to please consider this Adjournment Motion.

S P E A K E R

The mover member has asked permission to consider the Motion. We will decide by raising our hand. If six members raise their hands, it will be considered.

will be two hours.

The duration of the discussion

Now, Fu J.Lalsangzuala, Minister may lay Papers/Reports on the Table of the House.

FU J.LALSANGZUALA  
MINISTER

Mr Speaker, sir, with your permission I beg leave of the House to lay on the Table of the House a copy of

(i) Report of the Comptroller General of India for the year 1991-92  
(ii) Appropriation Report 1991-92, and  
(iii) Finance Accounts, 1991-92 relating to the Government of Mizoram.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The copies may be circulated. We next have a Legislative Bill to be moved by Pu J. Lalsangzuala, it was already introduced and today it will be considered and passed.

PU J. LALSANGZUALA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission I had introduced the day before yesterday, 'The Mizoram Salaries, Allowances and Pensions of Members in the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 1994'.

However, in order to make the necessary amendment, I beg permission of the House to allow me to withdraw the Bill (vide The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, Rule 98, sub-para (e)).

S P E A K E R : According to the Rule 98 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Mizoram Legislative Assembly, the Bill may be withdrawn for scrutiny and necessary alterations with the consent of the House. Do we all agree? (All members voice their consent) The House has consented to the withdrawal. The member may please withdraw the Bill.

We shall have a recess now and continue to discuss the Adjournment Motion after recess.

2:00 P.M.

S P E A K E R : We shall take up the Motion now. Pu Lalrinchhana, mover of the Motion may take his time.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Pu Speaker, thank you for accepting the Motion. As a

...42/-

result of the meeting of the two Chief Ministers of Assam and Mizoram with the Central Minister at Kumbigram Airport, the Chief Secretary of Assam and Mizoram came to a decision.

However, it appears that some clarification is due and the Hon'ble Chief Minister may please clarify the Assurance and decision made thereof. After which we will discuss the matter.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : The time for discussion of the Motion according to the Rules is two hours. We shall try to follow that.

FU ZORAMTHANGA : Fu Speaker, each member may take about 7 minutes.

S P E A K E R : Yes, that is up to you Members.

FU LIANSUAMA MINISTER : Fu Speaker, the Chief Minister may take a little more time and other members may have about 10 minutes each.

FU LALKHAMA : Fu Speaker, we do not expect a speech from the Chief Minister, just a clarification of the Assurance and decision made at Silchar Airport.

FU S. IKAPTHIANGA MINISTER : Fu Speaker, I do not think that the members of the Opposition should take the liberty of telling the Chief Minister what he should or should not say.

Dr R. LALTHANGLIANA : Fu Speaker, we should go exactly as the mover of the Motion has moved. It will not take much time.

- FU LALKHANA : Fu Speaker, there is no reason to avoid a discussion.
- FU F. LALRMSIANA : Fu Speaker, it would suffice if the Chief Minister speaks on the Decision and the Assurance.
- FU LALSAWA : Fu Speaker, please allow us to say whatever is needed to be said.
- FU ZORAMTHANGA : Fu Speaker, two hours would be sufficient.
- FU LALSAWA : Fu Speaker, let us go according to the Motion. It will not take too long.
- FU LAL BIAKZULLA : Fu Speaker, what we want is a clear assurance. Clarity is the key and if it is clear it will be sufficient.
- S P E A K E R : What about the duration for each member ? Alright then, let it be seven minutes.
- The Chief Minister will have to speak first and then discussion will follow.
- FU LAL THANHAWLA : Fu Speaker, it would take a long time to give a thorough clarification as expected by the members of the Opposition.
- CHIEF MINISTER : Mr Speaker, you have already shown great favour to the Opposition members by admitting the Adjournment Motions itself. Adjournment Motions have been submitted time and again during the past Ministries but none have been admitted by any Ministry.
- We are all aware of the unfortunate death of Lalsangzuala. Every Mizo feels angry and
- ...44/-

wants to get even with his death. However, no matter how angry we may feel it should be remembered that the Government is doing its best to patch up the wrong done in an amicable way.

It is also understandable that the angry mob had done what they did, ransacking shops and burning them. At the same time, Mizos who are outside Mizoram were also facing trouble. The Government of Mizoram did all that could be done and brought them safely home. The incident brought about the closing of the National Highway which again caused great hardships for Mizoram. We never negotiated with the Assam Government in terms other than for the over-all safety of the Mizo people. We have never in any way betrayed the cause of the Mizo people. We want to show them that we can exist without them. We tried to get our essential commodities from outside via Tripura and Manipur. The FCI authorities cooperated with us and we managed to pull through the crisis. Many accusations were hurled against us at the Central Government alleging that it was a communal riot. The Prime Minister ordered the Chief Minister of Assam and the Minister of State for Steel, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev to go to Silchar to meet with the Home Minister. It was then that Mr Santosh Mohan Dev telephoned me for negotiations. The Minister i/c Home, Pu Lalsangzuala went to Silchar to meet them.

When I went to Silchar, the victims and Truck Owners Associations and Drivers Association surrounded me for compensations. However, I told them that I came to talk to the Chief Minister of Assam and not to them. On my talks with the Assam Chief Minister my message was that National Highway No.54 is not the property of one particular State and that it is a National property that cannot and should not be closed down. There should be free traffic and travel from both sides and that the Government of Assam should ensure to that. The Chief Minister of Assam gave his assurance on the same. That is the Assurance we talked about.

Business men who were victims of the riot surrounded us wanting to demand for the compensation of their lost properties. I told them that we agreed in principle, but that the Central Government had guidelines on the matter and that the matter would be pursued according to those guidelines and the recommendation of the Enquiry Commission.

They also made known their wish for the Mizos to return to their jobs in Assam, to which I also replied that protection would be given to those non-Mizos with valid documents. That is the understanding we had on the negotiation.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Let us try to stay on the topic as we discuss the Motion. Pu Lalsawta may start.

...45/-

FU LALSAWA : Fu Speaker, I am glad to be able to discuss a Motion of utmost importance to the Mizo people. It is a regret that such a Motion as this has been moved. I do not think that the clarification made by the Chief Minister should make any difference in responsibility as everything had been done the way they wanted to. Whatever harm that could be done has already been done. The real cause of the incident which was the death of Lalsangzuala does not figure at all. The free flow of traffic on Highway 54 is also not yet implemented. The compensations which was agreed in 'principle' also appears to be a debt on our part. The 'issues to be identified by the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Aizawl' are also poor consolation. None of the said issues are beneficial for the Mizo people, on the contrary they are destructive for us. That is all.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : Fu J.V.Hluna has raised his hand.

Dr J.V.HLUNA : Fu Speaker, there are clarifications still to be made on what the Chief Minister said regarding his meeting with the Assam Chief Minister at Kumbigram. He said that they talked for only two or three minutes standing at the airport, whereas, the local daily papers namely Romei and Mizo Aw reported that the talks were held behind closed doors for about two hours. I would like a clarification on this.

S P E A K E R : Fu C.L.Ruala may speak next.

FU C.L.RUALA : Fu Speaker, I feel that I could say a few things as I also went to Silchar. The atmosphere at the airport was not suitable for having talks. The VIF lounge is very small with a lot of noise around. At that particular time it was filled with different kinds of Associations and journalists. Our Chief Minister told the Assam Chief Minister that no one would be sent away from Mizoram by force. Only those who want to leave willingly would go. However, those who did not have inner line permit would have to be sent away. The Chief Minister of Assam agreed to this point. On the question of compensations demanded by the Chamber of Commerce and Drivers Union, the Chief Minister replied that we would go according to the Central guide lines, and the report of the one-man commission who was a Non-Mizo. He also pointed out that more of the Mizo victims who died in

...46/-



Cachar had ever been given compensations before. To this remark, they all kept quiet. It was also agreed that Highway 54 would be a free flow for traffic. However, it was decided that initially the goodwill mission to come to Mizoram would come with an escort as they will be VIPs. The Chief Minister of Mizoram assured that those with trade licence permits would be safe guarded when they returned to Mizoram. He also said that we would wait for the report of the Commission and nothing would be done before that. He said that many Mizos have been killed before and none have been given compensations. To this, they all kept quiet. That is the Assurance we are talking about today.

Thank you.

Dr R. LALTHANGLIANA :

Fu Speaker, the Chief Minister said that we are all responsible. We as members of the Opposition do not agree to this. We were not consulted on the matter, not one of our opinions was taken. We cannot therefore agree that we are responsible for what was agreed between Assam and Mizoram.

It is also very disgraceful to know that the two Chief Ministers had a talk for only three minutes on such an important and crucial matter.

It also appears that the Chief Minister of Mizoram and the Home Minister, Mizoram do not fully agree with each other. This can be understood when the two Chief Secretaries intimated the Govt. of Mizoram to declare the incidence as a Communal riot under SRCC Act. As for Highway No. 54, it is disgraceful to say that it is still not a free and safe Highway. This Highway is not just a link to Assam, but to the rest of India. Therefore both the State Government and the Central Government have failed miserably. Please do not try to pull the wool over our eyes, we will not accept humiliation such as this. That is all I will say now.

Thank you.

FU LALKHAMA :

Fu Speaker, the whole state of affairs at present is very humiliating and distasteful for us. It is mainly a maneuver to cover up the real issues. It is not the place of Mizoram to talk about issues like compensations with other States. It is not a matter to be discussed between Assam and Mizoram Government. Let us not try to cover up for the damage that has been caused. The whole issue is disgusting for any Mizo who is capable of thinking straight. There is also tendency to blame the MNF Party for many of the havoc caused which are totally mad accusations. Why so we have to bow down to the Government of Assam? It is very regretful indeed.

...47/-

FU ZORAMTHLINGA

Fu Speaker, Mizoram faced a crisis where some lost their lives, some were wounded and the people had no food supplies.

All these could have been easily solved by the Government of Mizoram who has a Congress Chief Minister and one with strong ties with the Central Government. He only acted when the Centre sent the Minister of Home Affairs to Silchar to discuss the matter with the Chief Minister of Assam. What is very surprising is that they discussed such an important issue very casually within about 3 minutes at the Airport. This is proof of the impact that the crisis has on the mind of the Chief Minister.

The question of compensation is also to be discussed between the victims and the companies. Why then did they agree to solve it between Assam and Mizoram? We call the negotiation a treaty of humiliation for Mizoram.

FU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU  
MINISTER

Fu Speaker, thank you. As we are so eager to discuss the matter let us be open about it.

From what they have said, the members of the Opposition have an inferior complex. Had the incident of September 26 taken place during the MNF Ministry, there would be nothing to salvage. When we are so secure we tend to despise the very circumstances that bring about the situation. That is the same case with the MNF Members.

The situation would be worse if the Chief Minister had not taken the steps that he took. Why do we have the feeling that the Assam Chief Minister has outwitted us? This is just a matter of inferiority complex we suffer.

The National Highway is not closed. It is only because we fear to be trapped on this Highway. Why do we blame the Chief Minister for our own folly?

FU F. LALREMSIAMA

Fu Speaker, the talk held at Kumbigram has given us a big headache. We have lost too many lives in the plains of

Cachar. Have we ever received compensations for any of them? Yet we have held our dignity over the years.

The Chief Minister did well in saying that there are Central guidelines on compensations. We should not go beyond these guidelines, even when the Report of the Commission is submitted.

FU F. MALSAWMA

Fu Speaker, it is hard to believe that the two Chief Minis-

ters spoke for only three minutes, while the Romei daily paper said that the meeting took two hours. It makes us think that there may be some things hushed up.

The assurances were made mostly by the Assam Chief Minister. However, the Assam Government has not pushed any of the assurances. We need to be extra careful in dealing with neighbouring States. We should have the documents laid down in writing, and not just verbally.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : We have to be brief in our speeches as we still have to call the Mover and the House Leader to wind up.

PU P.C.BAWITLUANGA MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I think the members are confused about the whole matter. They are acting as if the compensations are being given out today, while in reality the issue is only being discussed. In spite of their condemnation of the assurances, they are obsessed with the same, they are denouncing it and accepting it at the same time.

It is true that the issue is just about the National Highway as the Leader of the Opposition had already said. The rest will be considered by the Gupta Commission. That is all.

Thank you.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Speaker, yes the report of the Kumbigram talks was said to be for about 2 hours in the Romei daily. Whereas, the Chief Minister said it was only for 3 minutes. Let us hope that matter of such importance will not be discussed in such a casual manner in the future.

Regarding compensations, yes there are Central guidelines relating to natural calamities and mob-rioting. Had the Chief Minister not committed himself in the talks, we could have avoided this issue.

The people of Cachar are fully aware that we have no other means of communication other than Highway 54 and they are blackmailing us.

Considering the atrocious killings we have met in their hands, we would do well to condemn the talks at Kumbigram Airport as it is a disgrace for the people of Mizoram. Let us condemn this assurance which is.

nothing but a degradation to our prestige. That is all.

Thank you.

PU LALRINCHHANA

: Pu Speaker, I am glad that we had a good discussion on the Motion.

I am grateful to the Chief Minister for giving us a good explanation of the meeting at Kumbigram. What we need is to find a solution for the root-cause of the incidence. It is indeed regretful that such a tragedy took place. The misunderstanding exist between Cachar and Mizoram had been a long one. Blood had been shed and supplies cut off. We expect the Chief Ministers to find ways and means to end this animosity for good. However, I do not think that the short meeting between the two Chief Ministers was enough to find a permanent solution to our problem. It is therefore, not satisfactory and regretful that our hopes have been unfulfilled today. Our future is in their hands and if we are to sacrifice ourselves in vain, we have no hope for the future. Let our sufferings and loss be a stepping stone to a brighter future for our children in the relation of Mizoram and Assam.

Thank you.

S P E A K E R

: Now we shall call the Chief Minister.

PU LAL THANHAULA  
CHIEF MINISTER

: Pu Speaker, I am glad that all the hon'ble members have keenly participated in the discussion of the Motion. The discussion had also

widened my knowledge for which I am very grateful. Many of the members have been referring to the term 'living God' which I have often used in my speech.

I have always said that we are worshippers of the 'Living God' simply because our God is the only living God. He is the Superior Being. All other Gods in this world are not living gods, therefore, if I have made a mistake my God forgive me. It is because of this that I do not believe in being assimilated by the non-believers around us in the neighbouring States.

The Gupta Commission is endowed with terms and conditions to find a permanent solution to this animosity between Cachar and Mizoram. We have given total priority to this permanent solution and we are hoping that we will achieve this eventually.

The Assam Government has tried to gain compensations in every possible way. They have urged

....50/-

the Home Ministry, Govt. of India for interim compensations. The special Secretary Mr Ahuja even contacted the Chief Secretary of Mizoram for the same. However, we informed them that we could not accept any pre-conditional terms.

My talks to Mr Saikia was for the opening and free traffic of National Highway 54. The VIP room at Kumbigram Airport has no room to be closed or shut. It was filled with reporters and TV Crew members. We managed to snatch a few minutes standing to talk among the crowded commotion.

I went very reluctantly and we should not forget to remember that we are Indian citizens, and being so, we should try to talk like one. After all we have not yet attained independence so far.

Mr Saikia assured the free flow of National Highway 54, and he also expressed his wish to come to Mizoram on goodwill. To this I assured that he was welcome. The Highway is open and no one has closed it till now. It is only that we are still somewhat apprehensive and do not feel safe on the highway.

Therefore what we agreed with Assam is the opening and free flow of National Highway 54 which has been implemented straight away. Our assurance was to safe-guard these with genuine documents and valid papers. That is all,

Thank you.

S P E A K E R : According to the Rules of Procedure; "The Speaker may if he is satisfied that there has been adequate debate and put the question at such hour as he decides, but such debate will not continue for more than two hours".

Here 'Put' implies vote

IU ZOLMTHANGA : IU Speaker, the mover did not ask to put the motion to the vote of the House.

IU C.L.RUALA  
MINISTER : IU Speaker, we have studied the Rules of Procedure.

IU F.LALREMSIAMA : IU Speaker, well, if we insist on voting .....

S P E A K E R : Please do not create a commotion. Sit-down and listen. The Motion Demands a clear cut clarification and discussion of the same. That was your request. All your requests have been fulfilled. Now we have to go according to the Rules.

The Chief Minister reported to the House the Meeting he had with the Chief Minister of Assam at Kumbigram Airport. Voice vote for acceptance will be taken. Some members say 'Yes' and some say 'No'.

Our business for today is now over. Our meeting is adjourned

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