

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TENTH & BUDGET SESSION OF THE
MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY
HALL FROM 15TH MARCH, 1976 TO 30TH MARCH, 1976.

2nd Sitting on 17th March, 1976 at 10:30 A.M.

P R E S E N T

Pu Vaivenga, Speaker in the Chair. Chief Minister,
six Ministers and twenty two Members.

B U S I N E S S

1. Questions
2. Announcement of Panel of Chairmen.
3. Report of the Business Advisory Committee.
4. Laying of Papers:-
 - (a) Pu Ch.Chhunga, Chief Minister to lay -
Notification No. S.O.740(E) dated 26.12.1976
issued by the Election Commission of India;
 - (b) Pu Lalsangzuala, Minister i/c Supply & r
Transport to lay -
The Mizoram foodstuffs (Display of prices by
Catering Establishment) Order, 1975.
5. Discussion on the Lt.Governor's Address.

SPEAKER: In exercise of the powers given to
me under Union Territories Act
section 34 of sub-section (2), if
any Member cannot adequately express himself or herself
in National Language, I hereby permit him/her to address
the House in his/her Mother Tongue. As it is provided
in rule 15 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business,
the following Members are chosen for Panel of Chairmen-

1. Pu Khawtin khuma
2. Pu Hrangvela
3. Pi Saptawni
4. Pu Chawngkunga.

Now, we will take up questions. The
Ministers may kindly inform their respective Departments
to immediately submit their replies. As it is we have
few questions to be taken up today. Now, question No.1,
Pu K.Sangchhum's question.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

*1.PU K.SANGCHHUM: Mr.Speaker Sir, Will the Hon'ble
Minister i/c ~~Finance~~ Department be
pleased to state -

hvlc/-
17/1/77

....2/-

(a) Whether the Government of Mizoram have taken steps for opening of more banks (any kind) in Mizoram ?

(b) How many banks are there at present ?

PU R. THANGLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, (a) Yes, arrangements are being made for opening of branches of State Bank of India at Kolasib, Saiha, Champhai and Tlabung and a branch of United Commercial Bank at Aizawl.

(b) There are two branches of State Bank of India, one at Aizawl and the other at Lunglei.

PU K. SANGCHHUM: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Is there any intention to open more branches of State Bank of India besides those which we have already had at Lunglei and at Aizawl ?

PU R. THANGLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Government is intending to open branches at Kolasib, Champhai, Saiha and at Tlabung. In fact, building had also been found for opening Bank (branch) at Kolasib.

PU SAPLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - I think what I am going to ask is relevant to our question since it is written 'any kind of Banks'. As far as State Bank of India is concerned we have been told that Govt. is intending to open more branches. But, is there any intention to open another kind of Banks ?

PU R. THANGLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, there is a proposal for opening a Branch of United Commercial Bank at Aizawl for which one building at Bara Bazar is being reserved on rent basis. As soon as the proposal is finalized, we would open it.

SPEAKER: As I have told you, there is no more question to be taken up today and there is no supplementary either.

PU C. CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, why did not Departments submit their replies till today for there had been enough time for them to prepare replies ? If there is delay in receiving replies, I know many questions would be dropped out again at the end of the session. We might have to drop again questions which we regarded as important. Therefore, Departments must be pressed to make early submission of their replies.

SPEAKER: Yes, as I have requested our Ministers, Departments must be pressed to immediately submit their replies.

Now, we will proceed to item No.3 which is report of the Business Advisory Committee. As the report is written in English, I will read it out first so that we can call upon the Minister, incharge of Parliamentary Affairs to move the report later on.

I, Chairman of Business Advisory Committee called a meeting of the Committee on the 5th March, 1976 to chalk out the Provisional Calendar for the meetings of the Current Session. The Committee recommended that the House may sit upto 31st March, 1976. Though sub-rule No.1 of rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure provides that every Friday in every session shall be allotted for Private Member's Business, the Committee, on an information received from the Government, allotted Friday 19th March, 1976 for presentation of the Supplementary Demands for grants for 1975-76, and the budget of the Government of Mizoram for 1976-77. As such, Thursday, the 18th March, 1976 as well as Wednesday, the 31st March, 1976 are allotted for Private Member's Business.

The Committee allotted two days, i.e. Monday the 22nd March, 1976 and Tuesday, the 23rd March, 1976 respectively for General Discussion on Supplementary grants for 1975-76 and Budget Demands for 1976-77. Four days i.e. Wednesday, the 24th March, 1976, Thursday, the 25th March, 1976, Friday, the 26th March, 1976 and Monday, the 29th March, 1976 are allotted for discussion and votings on various demands for grants.

There would be question hour on all the days of the sitting except on the day on which the Administrator addressed the House.

A copy of the Calendar for the meetings of the current session as agreed to by the Committee has already been sent to all Hon'ble Members. I hope all members received the same.

As I have said, we will now call upon the Minister-in-charge to move motion for adoption of the Report.

PU LALSANGZUALA: Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg to move the Calendar prepared by Business Advisory Committee for the current session. I hope our members accept it.

SPEAKER: Do all of you accept this Calendar?

(none of the Members objected).

If we all accept, we will then proceed to our next item which is Laying of Papers. Now, our Chief Minister may kindly lay notification of Election Commission of India on the Table of the House.

PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER.

No. S.O. 740(E) dated
House.

Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I do hereby lay Election Commission of India Notification 26.12.1975 on the Table of the

SPEAKER:

Now, Pu Lalsangzuala, Minister of Supply and Transport Department.

PU LALSANGZUALA:
MINISTER.

Catering Establishment) Order, 1975 on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay Mizoram Food-stuffs (Display of prices by

SPEAKER:

Our main business today would be discussion on our Lt. Governor's Address. The other day, permission was asked for moving 'Motion of thanks' in the House which the House consented. So, the mover may move motion of thanks on the Address of the Lt. Governor.

PU K.L. ROCHAMA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for allowing me time to move motion of thanks on the Address of the Lt. Governor. Let me read out the motion in English- 'We the members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly assembling in this session beg to offer our humble thanks to the Lieutenant Governor for the excellent speech which he has been pleased to deliver to the House on the 15th March, 1976.'

Mr. Speaker, I feel it is our first duty to thank our Lt. Governor for delivering speech on various subjects particularly regarding achievements, progress and developments while there are persons who try to implant in the minds of the people, wrong impression on Governmental activities and who at the same time try to lead the people in the wrong direction. Not only that, our Lt. Governor extended his speech on the achievements and works of our hon'ble Ministers and Prime Minister of Central Government which makes us realize the benefits which Mizoram too enjoy due to their hard work. I feel that there are many things to thank for in our Lt. Governor's Address. As we know, Indian Government is the biggest democratic Government in the World. India did not attain Independence from British Government just ordinarily. As a matter of fact, it is only due to the hard work of our great leaders like Gandhiji and Nehru and other citizens who faithfully followed their leaders to attain their common aim that India got Independence. Since others have done so much for the attainment of Independence, it is our duty to preserve and cherish the freedom for which others gave their lives. It is sad to say that since recent times, there are troublemakers who try to cause confusion and who try to dig out the root of Democracy within and outside the country. These war-mongers would stop

at nothing to attain their cause. In fact they stirred the people, the Police and the Army to turn against the Government, the result of which was heard last year in the month of June when there was procession at Delhi. Prime Minister and our eminent leaders after carefully studying the situation decided to do something against the enemies of the country and of the Government so as to prevent the innocent people from being led astray. Hence, State of Emergency was proclaimed all over the world which greatly changes the life and the activities of the people and of the Country. On the top of that, 20 Point Economic Programme was proclaimed which greatly improves economical condition of the country of which we too share the profits. I am glad too for the information given to us by our Lt. Governor in his speech, regarding grant-in-aid allotted to students from lowest to highest institutions for purchasing Text Books as well as for Hostel fees. Soon after Emergency is proclaimed, Government swang into action against evil-practisers and in-disciplined employees. A door had now been closed for officers who used to extort money from the people.

As regards the implementation of 20 Point Economic Programme, our Lt. Governor informed us various steps that had been taken in the number of Government employees discharged and suspended. Not only Government employees, but some contractors too are black listed and suspended. It is not that we are glad to see these persons fall, but it is justice done by the Government for which we are thankful. Government have taken steps to improve the life of the people by implementing various developments on various grounds.

It has now been 3 years and 8 months since our Ministry functioned. As it is only the beginning, various improvements we have achieved might not be upto our expectation. It is not easy either for the Ministry to function smoothly due to lack of technical staff like Doctor, Engineer for instance. In addition to that, Government have to go through various difficulties due to disturbances which prevail every now and then. However, it is truly great that Government have done so much amidst many difficulties.

In first para of our Lt. Governor's Address, we come across a statement that 'the atmosphere of Mizoram is gradually getting better, in-fact it is almost back to normal' which really gladden me for this means that a new dawn is breaking for the people of Mizoram who had greatly been afflicted by disturbances for the last ten years. While our leaders put forth much efforts to bring about peace and tranquility in the country, there are persons who try to lead the people off track. However, we are glad for what Government did to attain peace and tranquility. The achievements of our Armed Police Forces stated by our Lt. Governor was also a thing worth remembering. In 1974, underground Army captured were only 170 where as the number is 324 in the year 1975-76. And, Underground surrendered in 1974-75.

were only 28 while they are 311 in 1975-76. Last year, the number of persons kidnapped was 21 while there are only 6 in the current year. Arms and weapons captured last year were 126 and this year it is 287. Because of all these achievements and also because of the statement given by our Lt. Governor in regard to the atmosphere of Mizoram we are grateful.

We are also grateful for the information given by our Lt. Governor regarding the many steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate our M.N.F. returnees who come out of their hiding places with full realization that the path they have taken was wrong. I feel we should also be thankful for 20 Point Economic Programme proclaimed by Prime Minister for it is only due to this that our per-capita income expenditure increased which is the highest, besides Nagaland in India while there is inflation in every commodities. Actually it is our Economic Programme and Emergency which control inflation.

Though there would not be enough time to say about all the Departments, I would like to say few things in regard to Agriculture Department. As it had been decided earlier, it is Agriculture Department to which priority is given. Our Lt. Governor informed us the amount of money incurred by Central Government for the improvement of Agriculture in Mizoram. Last year, the amount of money incurred was Rs. 85 lakhs whereas it is Rs. 126 lakhs in the current year. While in last year, 2500 hectares of land were brought under Land Reclamation, it is 5000 hectares which are being reclaimed in the current year. I believe our improvement will be greater year by year.

There may be some criticism of the Hospital and its achievements. However, I feel we should be proud of it instead. As a matter of fact, I am afraid less other states are jealous of our achievements. Take the case of Kohima (Nagaland) Civil Hospital for instance. The total population of Kohima is about 5 lakhs which is almost twice as big as our population of Aizawl. Imagine what they have done for their Hospital after 10 years of statehood. The Hospital could accommodate only 175 beds whereas our Hospital could accommodate 190 beds, that also, only after 4 years of U.T. Besides this, there is 50 bedded Hospital at Champhai and T.B. Hospital is almost completed at Zombak. Not only that, 50 bedded Hospital is under construction at Saiha while Lunglei Civil Hospital is being extended. In addition to these hospitals, there are many out-door-patient Buildings, and Primary Health Centres in various places of Mizoram. Considering all these achievements we should be thankful.

As we all know, P.W.D. has been one of the most criticized Departments in Mizoram. Whatever it be, the Department has always been regarded as worst. But, when I consider their activities I think I realize the impossibility of praising them unless the works undertaken by them are completed. Khawzawl-B. Lungdar Road which had been started during the erstwhile

Assam Government and which cannot be completed is now completed by Mizoram P.W.D. within 3 years. In fact, the road is constructed in such a way that it has now turned into truckable Road. This is not the only road constructed by our P.W.D. Construction of road is being carried on in many parts of Mizoram. If one wants to see the works completed by P.W.D., there are many to see. Considering a handful of equipments, tools and technical staff they possess, their deed is truly great.

Supply & Transport Department has also been much criticized. However, in view of what had been done by the Govt. and by the Department itself, I think we should be thankful. We all know the difficulty of conveying supply commodities due to bad communication. However, even the people of remotest areas could now have enough foodstuff while the people in other parts of India are stricken by severe famine. At the same time, rice is given at cheap and reasonable rate. Not only that, Cement and G.C.I. sheets could be purchased at subsidized rate.

It is a fact that the number of Buses we have at present does not meet the actual requirements of the people. But, in view of the condition of our roads, hardly there is small state in India having as many Buses as Mizoram. Besides 8 Mini and 24 Medium Buses, 5 more Buses are expected to arrive soon. I believe this would greatly relieve the transport difficulty of passengers.

Latly, it is the concluding line of our Lt.Governor's Address I want to read out. It is this - 'Mizoram will march forward to better atmosphere of hope and peace like the rest of other Indian states! After being through many years of hardships and disturbances, it is peace for which all of us yearned, and which we at last found. As the speech given by our Lt.Governor was so excellent and encouraging, I request our members to accept this motion of mine.

Thank you.

SPEAKER:

As you know, our motion had been moved now. So, we will continue our discussion. But, I request

you all not to make repetition of what had been already said/mentioned by other members. I want to remind you too that our discussion should be based on motion of thanks.

Now, we will call upon Pu Lalruata for he is the seconder of this motion.

PU C. LALRUATA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to have a speech on our Lt.Governor's

Address. Though there are many things to thank for, I better not say much since the speech given by Pu Rochama was quite a detailed one. Moreover, I would like to make few suggestions while I make motion of thanks. One thing I want to mention is Emergency and its effects on Mizoram.

It seems that Emergency and 20 Point Economic Programme proclaimed at the time of Emergency, have far reaching effects on the lives of the people of India as a whole. One of the most important profits gained through Emergency is discipline. As our leaders of the Country have often said, we can see great changes brought about by Emergency all over the Country. When Emergency was proclaimed last year, in the month of June, discipline was strictly observed even among the Government employees of Mizoram. Now, we have come to the month of March which means not even a year had passed since the proclamation of Emergency. I noticed the relaxation of discipline particularly among the Government employees. Due to this, I feel that we would have to put forth more efforts to bring better discipline among the Government employees, for without discipline nothing big/great can be achieved. And it is not possible either to go far without discipline. When Govt. employees do not observe office timings, there used to be many difficulties for the people. Till today, there are some officers/Govt. employees who cannot be seen at 10 A.M. which is arrival time fixed for all the Government employees in Mizoram. If there is better discipline among our Heads of Departments and Officers, I am sure there will be better progress in the office works. Moreover, in order to make still further progress, we would do well in observing the order of Emergency more strictly.

Our Lt. Governor had also mentioned the formation of Peace Advisory Board by Congress Party in order to attain peace and tranquility in Mizoram. It seems now that a new dawn of peace is breaking over which we all rejoiced. In the last part of his address, our Lt. Governor mentioned works enthusiastically executed by our Police Officers. True that our Police Forces contributed a great deal for the achievement of peace and tranquility. But, I feel their contribution would be greater still if they get co-operation from the public. In democratic country, interest of the people must be first considered. Particularly our Police/Security Forces who are assigned to maintain law and order would have to have wider outlook on life so as to win over the hearts and co-operation of the people. Frankly speaking, when I see for instance, our Inspector General of Police being escorted back and forth by Armed Forces 2/3 times a day, a thought struck me as to why I.G.P., of all the people looked upon him as one who has to play a leading part for the attainment of peace. Instead of using escort party the I.G.P. or anyone of the like should have better display to the public that there has been peace.

As I have often said in the sessions, power is thing I regarded as one of the most important things. While per capita consumption of power in India is 100 Kw, the consumption in Mizoram comes to only 6.5 Kw. There might have been some improvement in the line

if we only think of Mizoram. However, I feel that we should have target of generating more power. It is believable that we would have some difficulties as we do not have any source of income to depend upon. But, with Central Government's aid I hope we would be able to make at least better improvement than our present condition. If I am not mistaken, the reason for not generating power in the proposed seven (7) villages was due the failure of Contractor in supplying necessary equipments. Anyway, I am glad to hear that power in Aizawl town has been increased. From what I have mentioned, I think we now understand power condition in Mizoram and in India as a whole. I feel that it is power which we need most at present for without that no improvements could be achieved particularly in the fields of Industry and Manufacturing. Actually, it is due to lack of adequate power that Mizoram cannot achieve speedy progress.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as I have said before, there are many things to thank for in our Lt. Governor's address. But, as it is not possible to thank for each and everything I might as well as shorten my motion of thanks by supporting the motion submitted by Pu Rochama.

PU C. CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to discuss about our Lt. Governor's speech.

As some of the members have stated, I must admit the excellency of the speech. However, we should remember that Mizoram needs excellent works as well. In his speech, our Lt. Governor mentioned the coming of peace and tranquility in Mizoram which really gladdens me, especially when I look back to the time when Budget Session, (like the one we are having now) was held last year just before which Mizoram was in great tumult due to the assassination of the three top ranking Police Officers. Not only that, since some of our friends proclaimed Independence on 1st March, 1966, every 1st March of the proceeding years is regarded as the day of trouble, for even if there is no actual trouble, certain rumour are spread thus exciting people. It is not that I am thankful for the excellent speech, but it is the contents of the speech for which I am thankful. As we can see, there is no more curfew and the shopkeepers now need not close their shops against their will. Be it Delhi Government or U.T. Government I feel that we should appreciate their great deed in connection with peace and tranquility in Mizoram which eventually led to the observation of 1st March of the current year as peace day.

I would also like to extend my thanks for the things (Lt. Governor) he said regarding 20 Point Economic Programme. Nevertheless, in respect of our Prime Minister's 20 Point Economic Programme, I request Mizoram Government to withdraw an order issued by them for the cancellation of houses and lands occupied by homeless persons who came from villages/Group Centres and who made their dwelling place within the gardens of some land owners.

Regarding Budget it appears that the amount of money sanctioned in 1976-77 Budget is twice than 1975-76 Budget for which I am thankful. However, I request our Agriculture Minister particularly to note this that last year and in the previous years, there had been too much misappropriation of money particularly in Soil and Agriculture Department so he would do well in taking great care regarding the utilization of fund so that the money sanctioned are utilized for the development of Mizoram and I request him to particularly see that money is spent for its true purposes. Had there been no misappropriation of money, I wonder how far we would have developed Mizoram. It is also my desire that grant is given to only persons who are given to certificate so that only the deserving ones are given instead of giving also to persons who do not deserve but who can kill pigs or chickens to please the authorities. If we don't know how to handle our money the condition of Mizoram would be worse.

Next comes power. Electric light is one of the privileges enjoyed by Aizawl even though it is given at one night's interval. But, in view of the light power given in Villages, it appears that it is just in name. When I visited Serchhip the other day, I noticed the dimness and uselessness of their light. As a matter of fact, the light gives just a tint of red. Electric light being our urgent need, Mizoram Government would do well in improving the power system.

In the administration of Mizoram, I believe there would be some difficulties even for the members and the party who formed the Government due to the wide gap that exists between State and Village levels. As far as administration is concerned, Mizoram is somewhat like a Village which has only Primary School and College thus omitting M.E. and High Schools. To relieve heavy pressure of work shouldered by Ministry and to have better administration, I suggest that we constitute Block Council or Constituency-wise Council, above Village Council, having members selected by Village Council Presidents. The members can select Block President among themselves. In this council, B.D.C. may be designated as Secretary. Above this Council, we have District Council and then comes Ministry. I strongly believe that it will be easier for the Government/Ministry to run administration if each of the Councils discharges its own functions.

I would also like to urge Government to take immediate action in connection with the intrusion of our rice fields by some persons who used Elephants as their weapons, in the bordering areas of Mizoram and Cachar. Are we to remain silent when our rice-fields, crops and houses are recklessly destroyed? Are we a tribe to be oppressed and ill-treated like that? There is no point being a tribe that does not fight for their right. Though I have often submitted the report on the activities of those outsiders who came and chopped down our reserved Forest, no action is taken till today.

Particularly in Pu Zalawma's and in my constituencies, reserved Forests are cleared and trees are chopped down. At the same time our cultivators are ill-treated. I say, it is not easy to tolerate such action. How can we sit quiet till today? Those who formed Government must do something about this. I want you to play your role which is to defend the people and their rights. I hope you would immediately do something in regard to this.

Thank you.

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am truly glad for the excellent speech delivered by our Lt. Governor.

As Pu Rochama had stated earlier, it is true that there are faults and insufficiencies in the works undertaken by the Govt. But, we should understand that there will always be faults and insufficiencies as long as we live in this world. Unless there is peace and tranquility in the land, there will always be hindrance in developments and progress. When money spent for security can be diverted for developmental works, only, then notable improvements will be achieved. I think we all know the many steps taken by our Govt. to bring peace in the land. Because of their hard pressure, peace-talk between Central Govt. and M.N.F. was held which at last became fruitful with the result that we now have new and different atmosphere. Understanding the important role played by our Government in causing better atmosphere in Mizoram, we must not pretend not to see this notable achievement. In fact, we should talk more about their great deeds instead of undermining them.

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As we know, communication has been one of the greatest problems in Mizoram. We can, to some extent, say that bad communication indirectly caused disturbances in Mizoram, as it was not possible for Central Government to easily contact Mizoram in the previous years. However, owing to services rendered by our Government, there are now lots of improvements particularly in communication. It is no more possible to overlook the works done by P.W.D. in the consultation of roads that can be noticed in various parts of Mizoram. The credit for all these achievements goes to the Government.

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Fortunately, a state of Emergency had been proclaimed which eventually led to the proclamation of 20 Point Economic Programme that has completely changed the life and the activities of the people and of the country. We have now witnessed stern actions taken against wrongdoers who used to extort money from people, bogus ration cards are dropped, smugglers and traders who used to practise illegal ~~and~~ business are arrested and punished. Since Government swung into action against anti-social elements, many of our problems had been lifted up. It is true that we cannot remove all the difficulties at once and yet, there is one thing which needs immediate action, for this has pricked my ear for so long. Though we have been boasting about the activity and progress of our Sanitation Department which is said to be better than that of Meghalaya, I won't rest in peace unless the selling of rotten meat and stale vegetables in the Bazar is abolished.

As some of the members have stated earlier, there are some persons or perhaps political parties who try to inspire the public to have low-esteem of this newly created Mizoram Govt.

comparing it with that of other state Governments which had functioned since the last 14 years, as for instance, Nagaland. I am truly sorry that there are such elements who pretended not to see great improvements achieved within only 3/4 years.

We should rather be glad for what Govt. have done even though it is only 4 years since it started functioning. I, at the same time want to urge Govt. to keep on strict discipline against Govt. employees as they did at the time when Emergency was proclaimed.

Regarding Primary Education—according to the statement given by our Chief Minister, I presume that Govt. is intending to give free and compulsory Primary Education even in Temporary Villages. But, studying the report submitted for reasons of their failure, Govt. would do well in considering the matter more seriously. As stated earlier we should try to march forward in all walks of life.

In case of Electricity—if we could have 66 K.V. line as it is expected, I believe some of our problems relating to electric light would be solved. Nevertheless, there soon will be a time when 66 K.V. line does not suffice the need of the people. Not only that, we cannot deny the possible misunderstanding that could crop up between our state and other States from whom we get electricity light. Considering all these, it must be necessary to immediately have investigation of our rivers so as to construct Hydrel Power since our Lt. Governor had also included in his speech.

One more thing I appreciate in our Lt. Governor's speech is his statement in connection with various steps taken by the Government for the construction of Railway line from Laila Bazar to Sairang. Though poor in minerals, Mizoram have rich forests, where natural products are found in abundance. Had there been good communication, these forest products would have turned into a source of our income and would have played an important role in improving our economy. Anyway, if Railway line is laid, I am sure our economic condition too would be improved.

Mizoram, as we know, has to face many difficulties due to bad communication. But, with the efforts made by the Govt. of Mizoram, these various difficulties are partly solved. At present, two highways - from Mizoram to Tripura and to Manipur are now under construction. Government would do well in taking more vigorous steps for the improvement of communication which in the long run affects our economy.

While Government make much efforts for the development of the country, there are some persons or leaders of some political parties who spread political rumours in order to win over the allegiance of the people and who always find fault with the activities of the Government instead of trying to understand the root of U.T. Government. It is a good thing if public are made to realize the necessity of having steadfast faith in the Govt. so as to attain our goal.

I also request Government to inform the public through Information Department the rules adopted by the Government as well as the Police Forces for the prevention of non-Mizos and outsiders from entering Mizoram without inner-line permit.

Some of our Members blamed Mizoram Government for not settling the matter in connection with the dispute over the bordering area of Cachar and Mizoram. In my opinion, we should not blame them, for it is not they who can immediately settle such matters. In fact, I suggest that we constitute Border Commission to inquire into the matter and also to take investigation. It is not only between Cachar and Mizoram that there exists dispute over the boundary line. Assam, Nagaland and Maghalaya too have border disputes, Haryana and Punjab are no exception. Actually, border dispute does not arise due to the weakness of our Government as such it is impossible to settle it according to one's own wish. It will be also wrong to urge Government to use violence to settle the matter. We should instead adopt the policy of non-violence which is the policy entertained by Mrs. Gandhi.

It has been noticed that some people, particularly the people of Temporary Villages are deluded with rain hopes. They were told to believe the possibility of their getting compensation for political cases filed against them which some political party leaders promised to take up in High Court. When they did take up the cases in High Court, no good result was heard. It has also been gossiped that Govt. is hiring lawyers to bring case against the persons or party leaders who promised the people payment of compensation when their case is tried in High Court. Mr. Speaker, I am truly sorry to see mass of people being deluded with such rumour. In view of the prevailing circumstances, Government would do well in pressing Central Government to immediately sanction money/grant as it had been asked, for the rehabilitation of M.N.F. returnees and the victims of disturbances. The people must be informed of the Rehabilitation Scheme proposed by Local Administration Department so that they are not disturbed by rumours.

It is a privilege to have a Government who pay heed to the need and welfare of their children who had gone astray. Every possible step is being taken for the rehabilitation of the returnees. Employments are being reserved, ex-gratia grants are being sanctioned for them (Returnees) to start a new life. Such cordial welcome home shown by the Government greatly encourages our underground friends to surrender. When they realize the altitude of the Government towards them, they come forward and surrender for they know that it is the right thing to do. With the efforts made by the Government there is now better maintenance of law and order which to some extent changed the atmosphere of Mizoram.

Regarding the implementation of 20 Point Economic Programme- some of the members have mentioned steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of the poor. As stated, land within the compound of some land-owners is being occupied by landless persons. Government too acknowledged the ownership of these landowners. But, in pursuance of the object-land for the landless, Government would better see that landowners do not totally become the loser. If land within the compound is occupied by landless, they must be given compensation or landless families should be given house-site elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, there is much to say regarding our Lt. Governor's speech and yet I better say no more since Pu Rochama had said many of the things which I wanted to say. However, I would, once again like to thank for all the developmental activities and achievements undertaken by the Government.

Thank you.

PU R.DOTINAIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, as we have seen, Lt. Governor's Address which has been taken up for discussion today contained Government's policies which are to be executed within the 1976-77 Budget year. But, as most of these policies do not fully concern the urgent need and necessity of the people as a whole, I cannot say that I am completely thankful. The entry of motion of thanks could not be regarded as fair and proper, for while Pu Ruata is regarded as the seconder of Pu Rochama, he does not seem to back up Pu Rochama. However, as it is permitted, we will continue our discussion I presume.

Today, when I look around and analyse the appearance of the members, it appears as if none of us is enthusiastic in discussing Mizoram Government's policies, for almost all the seats of the members of the party who formed Govt. are empty. Our Ministers including the Chief Minister himself are nowhere to be seen. The official lobby too is completely vacant. Could it be that none of us—members, ministers and officers are interested in our today's discussion or that we are not grateful for this motion of thanks? I am truly sorry to see many seats lying vacant. If they (Ruling party) pay no heed to the discussion on the important topics of the country, how would they lead the people? I think I won't be wrong to say that they cannot even control officers who work under them.

One thing I appreciate in our Lt. Governor's speech is his statement in regard to Law and Order. During the past 10 years, Mizoram has gone through all sorts of difficulties, the miseries and suffering of which we can vividly picture, until recently, unnatural deaths, torture, arrest and kidnapping encircled the life of the people. In fact, none of the people dare go into deep slumber. However, as our Lt. Governor had stated, due to the efforts made by the Government for the attainment of peace and tranquility, law and order has now been properly maintained which I hope would pave a way for the attainment of peace and prosperity in Mizoram. I, at the same time would like to request our Congress friends to go forward in the direction of peace. And what they do or what they undertake must be for the welfare of the people and of the Country instead of thinking only the welfare or the popularity of their own party.

What I want to say next is in regard to the last Village Council Election. All through the election, the people in Thlawhbawk Village (Temporary Village) were promised Village Council President and permanent settlement if they cast their vote in favour of Congress Party. It is not that I want to bar Thlawhbawk Villages from having Village Council, for I know they need it. However, when they could no more remain at ease due to the uncertainty of their life and condition, nothing about the consolidation of their settlement is mentioned for which I am sorry. If 80% of the population in Mizoram have no permanent settlement, large amount of money which we get every year in the budget for the development of the country and of the people, would have no real value as it should. Hence, first and foremost thing to do should be to consolidate the settlement of the people. We would also have to remember that we work for the country as a whole not only for particular area of the people.

Secondly, we should devise a way of attaining self-sufficiency in foodstuff. As I have often said before, the Mizo people know the art of cultivating all sorts of crops. They know too, the range, the hill and the plain where crops could flourish. The only trouble is how to turn these crops into capital. As I have suggested last year, Government would do well in opening market in various Grouping Centres and purchase these crops from the Cultivators at reasonable rate. This is the easiest way of disposing of our cash-crops. What had been said by Mr. Jagjivan Ram was true that unless Mizoram is developed, India won't be called a developed Country. It is not only Mr. Jagjivan Ram, but Mrs. Gandhi too said the same thing when U.T. was inaugurated, that 'money is not a problem'. If money is not a problem, it is then the duty of our ruling party (who formed the Government) to uplift and improve the life and condition of the people. According to the statement given by Mr. Reddi, the then Home Minister who recently came to Mizoram, it is also the wish of Central Government to improve the economical condition of the people. They also desired Mizoram Government to purchase crops from the people at reasonable rate.

In our Lt. Governor's speech, we also come across 20 Point Economic Programme announced by the Prime Minister. To improve economy, Government have started Cooperative Society in Mizoram. The people were greatly encouraged when Government purchased Ginger from them, through Co-operative Society at the rate of Rs. 125/- per quintal. If the people are still more encouraged, I am sure they can and would make better improvement in economy and agriculture. In fact, we might not have to import foodstuff from Silchar, and the surplus foodstuff we have can be exported to other parts of India which would immensely enrich the people. When the people do have better income, their condition too would be improved. However, if Government do not arrange trading facilities, there is no point in urging the people to grow more food or more crops. If there is to be wastage again, it won't be right to urge our cultivators to work harder to have surplus harvest. For instance- it so happened that in 1973, one cultivator in Serchhip Village had many quintals of Ginger which Agriculture Department promised to buy. But, as time went on, the Department could make no purchase. Hence, many quintals of Ginger were left wasted and became rotten. It is true that there is no way to compete with America and yet I think we can adopt certain steps taken by them for the improvement of their farmers/cultivators. In America, if a farmer has surplus wheat or rice, Government used to buy the surplus quantity from him at reasonable rate, which Government export to other parts of the world. As the example I have stated here, Government must see that surplus crops harvested by the people are not left wasted.

I am a little surprised to see that nothing about the establishment of standard/up-to-date Hotel is mentioned till today. It is not possible either to open Hotel Industry due to the absence of separate Department to deal with such thing. It is a shame not to have good Hotel to accommodate visitors/Tourists who come from outside Mizoram. I believe none of us deny the necessity of opening good/standard Hotel in Mizoram.

In his motion of thanks, Pu Rochama had mentioned many changes brought about by the proclamation of National Emergency. He had also stated the present state of affairs including maintenance of better discipline among Govt. employees which, he

said, makes things easier. I believe the aim and objective of Emergency is to pave a way for the successful implementation of Prime Minister's 20 Point Economic Programme. But, according to my observation, Emergency and 20 Point Economic Programme are a complete failure in Mizoram. The other day, I accompanied one villager from Vaphai Village, who wanted to get something done in the office. So, just at W.A.M. in the morning we came to the Office, but there was no Officer or dealing clerk to be seen. We waited for half an hour, still no one arrived. The next day, we again went to the same Office, but the same thing happened. So, we just had to go away diggustedly. In view of the prevailing circumstances, it appears that Mizoram has still a long way to go to Champion for the cause of Emergency. In his speech, our Lt. Governor stated that " In Mizoram, my Government have fully responded to the Particularly, the weaker sections of the Society". In Mizoram, who are the weaker section of the Society ? What have Government done for this weaker section of the Society ? I would be glad if we are informed of the things done by the Government for weaker section of the Society in Mizoram, for I have not seen or heard any particular thing done for them here.

I would also like to back up what had been said by Pu Chawngkunga regarding the form of administration in Mizoram. As he had stated, I too feel that there is something amiss in the ladder of Government. In addition to this, there is one thing which the people are afraid of. Before U.T. status was attained, Mizoram used to be Tribal area under Assam Government.. But, as soon as U.T. status is attained, Mizoram lost all the special facilities which it used to during the erstwhile Assam Government. In view of the condition in Mizoram, it is a great loss for the people, for there has not yet been much advancement to lose such facilities. Under the prevailing circumstances, I feel that it is inevitably necessary to have District Council unless we are going to abolished Village Council. A gap between Village Council and Ministry is too wide. District Council Court which we ~~have~~ now have should be fostered, for I believe there'll always be mis-understanding even among ourselves (Mizos) as long as the world remains. Hence, to settle disputes/tussles that crop up between Mizo and Mizo, Government should foster such local Court, otherwise I would regard Government as neglecting the affairs of the people. Whether I regard it or not, it appears that Government do not pay enough attention to the affairs of the public for there is only one Magistrate in Mizo District Council Court while there should be three Magistrates.

As they have said, M.N.F. returnees must be rehabilitated. It is also important that Government remain lenient. However, there is one and an important thing to remember. As it is also the people, everyone of us, who suffered due to disturbances, Government should remeber to rehabilitate the people while they rehabilitate M.N.F. returnees. One thing I dislike in connection with the rehabilitation of M.N.F. returnees and the victims of disturbances is the allotment of Family Maintenance Allowances. If I am not mistaken, I believe, only those who get detention order can receive this allowance which I don't like. Whether they get detention order or not, their families suffered all the same. Therefore, those who get detention order and those who do not get must equally be treated. They must get equal treatment from the Government.

I have here few things to say regarding P.W.D. The construction of Tuichang Bridge had often been mentioned in the House. Since the year before last, the construction of Tuichang Bridge had been one of the talks in the House. After the people had given up hope in the Government our Lt. Governor gave this statement in regard to this bridge - "The contract for construction of a bridge over river Tuichang has been finalized and the work will start in full-swing during 1976-77." Though it is late to convince the people, we should be glad that we are going to have bridge over Tuichang river. If it is not wrong information, I heard that Government is facing certain difficulties in implementating the said scheme. To construct a bridge over river Tuichang, the approach road will have to be constructed truckable road which is not an easy thing as there are many valleys and deep ravine over which culverts have to be constructed. As we know, work order for the construction of a bridge and the approach road was given to one contractor. But, as there is an intention to give work order for the construction of culverts to another contractor, there may be delay in the work. Even if Government do not know about this, I request them to watch out for this possibility, so that they can immediately implement the scheme without delay.

Since the last few years, there has been lots of improvements in Education. It is a great relief for students that the price of text books had now been reduced. But, whose fault it is that school text-books are not available. For instance - English work-book is prescribed for Class III text-book which is not available here. Hence, great difficulty is faced by the school children. Is it the fault of Government or Book-sellers or Book-suppliers ? If the prescribed books are not available, our students suffer. In regard to the appointment of teachers - Government should make appointment without partiality. They would do well in appointing a person who has had experience and who has sympathetic heart and one who loves and understands children, for I know that there had often been partial appointment. For instance - in one Village, appointment for Primary Teacher was made. Though there were many applicants, some ~~persons~~ of them being experienced teacher, one person who had not had any experience in teaching line and who was also a student, was given an appointment. If Government make appointment like that without considering the quality of teacher, our students would suffer in their education. Therefore, great care must be taken while appointing teachers who have to play an important role in moulding the life of students. Good policies alone would not give people happiness unless they are properly executed.

What had been stated by Pu Chawngkunga regarding border-dispute-that Pu Ngurdawla said that Government would have to constitute Border Commission to settle Mizoram-Cashar Border dispute. But, if I am not mistaken, I think Mizoram had constituted such commission just after U.T. Government was done too certain works. But nothing is heard about this commission. It is not known as to how they would go on and nothing is heard from them eventho' Newspapaer. I do not know the reason for their silence while the people in the bordering areas are faced with all sorts of difficulties. Have the Commission found nothing ? Or that they have findings but Govt. would not take action ? Government must immediately see to the matter. If we remain silent while our bordering areas are intruded, someday we might as well have to give up the ownership of Kolasib and its surrounding areas. As they have stated, border-dispute crops up not only

between Mizoram and Cachar (Assam), Meghalaya and Assam too have border-dispute which they now have settled by having peaceful talk between their Governments. During the erstwhile Mizo Union Ministry, there used to be a meeting between the two Governments to discuss the matter in connection with boundary. Why do we remain silent now? This is the question I put forth before the House. Mr. Speaker, I have many things more to say and yet I won't say anymore since there are members who have not stood up. Before I end my speech, I once again would request the Government to take vigorous steps for the improvement of the majority of the people.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: As one of our Members had stated, it is true that we should be afraid of being a hireling tribe. However, it is wrong to refer to a particular tribe for example.

There is now 10 minutes more to one o'clock. As we do not have much time, I think you better make your speech short. We should also try to spare afternoon sitting for the Ministers only so that they can answer your questions. If there is no one to stand up, we will have a recess. Our sitting will be resumed at 2:00 P.M.

Recess at 1:00 P.M.

AFTERNOON SITTING : 2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER: Let us start from our Members. As I have often said, everyone of you must try not to make repetition. From 3 o'clock on-wards time will be allotted to the Ministers from Treasury Bench, so I request our Members to finish their speech within one hour.

PU SANGKHUMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad for having an opportunity to discuss our Lt. Governor's speech today. As the mover had stated, I must admit the excellency of the speech itself. It is no excellent that I am afraid it turns into phantasy. The need for excellent work is greater than the need for excellent speech. As I have often said before, there used to be too many policies which had never been fulfilled. I know there are many schemes mentioned in Lt. Governor's speech which had not yet been fulfilled till today. Regarding electricity, our Lt. Governor have this statement that 'construction of 66 K.V. line from Silchar to Aizawl and other scheme for power generation have made further progress'. I remember the same statement was given last year for which many of us expressed our gratitude. Like this, the same statement goes in rotation due to which I found nothing much to thank for in his speech. Pu Ngurdawla had expressed his gratitude profusely saying that what had been said by Lt. Governor was all without lie. But, I think you can see whether there is lie or not from what I have said regarding electric power. Mizoram is stated as having made great improvements in electric power. But, I think majority of us in Aizawl are without electric light. If so, what is the use of thanking for thing which we do not practically get.

Regarding the implementation of Prime Ministers 20 Point Economic Programme - some of our members stated Mizoram as successfully implementing this programme. If we think of other Indian States, it is a fact that the 20 Point Economic Programme had greatly changed the life and condition of the people and of the country. It is also true that there are lots of changes and improvements brought about by this programme. But, what had Mizoram Government done except fixing prices of articles and commodities in Bazaar? If we say that discipline is better observed since Emergency, what about those benches? No Officers, no one is in the Official gallery. Can we still say that there is better discipline? Even our Ministers could not control themselves to remain in their seats.

Regarding Rural Electrification - Government has a scheme for electrification of two and half lakhs villages during the 5th Five Year Plan. While Government have such a big scheme, Mizoram seems to be in worse condition as far as electricity is concerned. The only improvement is in electric Bill which has been increasing day by day while there is so much irregularity in electric light. If we go through other States magazines we can see works undertaken by them and works they have completed to fulfill 20 Point Economic Programme. To fulfill Prime Minister's Economic Programme, hard work is needed. We would never fulfill it only by talking big. Hence, Mizoram Government too must work hard to attain our common goal of self-sufficiency. It is well and good that prices of articles and commodities are fixed. But, what else did Government do to successfully implement other points of this programme? As they have stated, our Lt. Governor's speech is undoubtedly an excellent one but not practical.

While in other States, vigorous step is taken to abolish Bonded labour system, nothing is done in Mizoram. In fact Government seems to have indifferent view though there exists bonded-labour system in western parts of Mizoram. If we consider steps taken by other States to abolish this system, or what had been passed by Parliament on 25th October last when a conference was held, we can see that our Government have never given any serious thought to the successful implementation of 20 Point Economic Programme. If there is no bonded labour system in Mizoram, we must at least report about it to Central Govt. as other States who have no bonded-labours did. I am truly sorry that our Government remain indifferent to the call of our Prime Minister to implement her Economic Programme.

For the successful implementation of 20 Point Economic Programme, Central Govt. have liberally lent out money under different heads, one of which was Housing Loan. Taking advantage of Government's liberalism in lending out money, other States have done much to improve housing system. In Punjab, Rs 8414 lakhs had been spent for housing loan since July last year. It is true that States we have mentioned for example are advanced states. I do not deny their advancement in comparison with our newly created state. But, if other advanced States could get that much amount of money, why could we not the same amount of larger amount, for being less developed State? If our Govt. do not know how to fight for the good of their own State, Central Govt's liberalism in lending out money would have no meaning for us.

Regarding employment - it is unavoidable to mention other States affairs for example. So, please do understand the reason for my quoting the names of other states every now and then. In promoting 20 Point Economic Programme, many states have extensively opened employment opportunity which greatly relieved the people. It is not only that, acres and acres of lands are brought under irrigation which greatly improves agriculture. Besides these, there are still many improvements to be seen since the announcement of 20 Point Economic Programme. We have unceasingly talked about the improvements of other States. But, if Mizoram do not take active part or if it does not fulfill good policies laid down by Prime Minister, what do the people gain? Who is responsible for the infulfilment of 20 Point Economic Programme? Truly, I feel that immediate steps must be taken to fulfil the 20 Point Economic Programme so that the people can enjoy the benefits of it. I am very surprised that none of you till today could submit any bill in connection with the fulfilment of at least some points of 20 Point Economic Programme. In other States, banks are opened, land ceiling laws are passed and the object- land for landless was followed up. When I consider the present condition of Mizoram, I have nothing to thank for in our Lt.Governor's speech.

As our Lt.Governor and some of the members have stated, it is a fact that Mizoram is almost back to normal as far as peace and tranquility is concerned. Yes, it is due to the enthusiasm of the people and of the Government that domestic tranquility prevails after many years of tumult. However, I do not agree to what Pu Rochama said. I think it is wrong to speak ill of particular party, section of the people or some persons as spreading rumours against the Government while we at the same time urge people to unite/to have common thought to attain peace and tranquility.

Though Government stated as making improvement in Industry, to me it is in Industry where there is least improvement. In other States like Punjab, Government made strenuous efforts to improve Hand-loom Industry which we too often talked about. 'Free Loan' is liberally distributed to weavers. In fact, each of them is given Rs. 5,000/- under the head 'Free Loan'. Like that, other states have worked hard to attain self-sufficiency not only in Foodstuff but also in Hand-loom or in Industry. In Mizoram, handloom Centres are opened in 4/5 Grouping Centres and nothing is done after that. Somedays back, tender was called for the construction of Handloom Building. But, when the contractor was asked to donate all the money for Party Fund, there arose misunderstanding between the Director and the Minister which resulted in delay in the construction work. Not only that, the proposal was under pending for a long time thus blocking development activity which the people longed for. Considering the enthusiasm of the people, I am really afraid that we rather create blocades to developmental activities instead of creating enthusiasm for development of the Country. It might not be the best thing either to muddle in each and every developmental affair.

Regarding Mizoram and Cachar boundary dispute- we have been told not to urge Government to make hasty decision or use weapons to settle border dispute. But, how could we urge Govt. to go to that extent when Lt.Governor too said nothing in his speech to champion for the cause of the people? I am very

sorry to see that our Lt. Governor do not pay heed to the cry of suffering of the people in bordering areas ? On 15th last month, one Village Council named Maurawp in my Constituency was intruded by Cachar Police. Using Elephants as their weapon, the village and crops were completely destroyed. In fact, the people had to seek shelter in the bushes. It is not only for their houses and crops that they are afraid of. Their life was in danger when the intrusion reached its climax. I have also reported this incident to the Government. Even before and after I submitted this report, Govt. remain indifferent. If Govt. do not champion for the cause of the people, what is the use of having Government ? Or to whom the people would turn to in times of troubles ? Taking advantage of Emergency, we are forbidden to publish all these incidents in the paper while Cachar Police are permitted to intrude in our border areas. Are we to remain silent even when our people are suffering ? Government should take steps to protect the life and the property of the people.

What had been said by Pu Ngurdawla regarding outsiders entering Mizoram without inner-line permit- instead of accusing other persons or party, Government should do their duty. If it is necessary, they should check whether outsiders did enter Mizoram without permission. Actually, it is our Ruling Party who creates troubles in the minds of the people. They made many promises to the people, which they have hardly fulfilled. What about the promise made to the people of Thlawh-bawk Villages ? Permanent settlement was promised to them on condition that they (the people) vote for Congress Party in Village Council Election. Though they promised the people to give permanent settlement within 6 months, nothing had been done to fulfil their promise upto this day altho' 6 months had already gohe. Actually, such false promises could have had effect on the people. I am not surprised if our Ministers make promises to win over the people on their side. But, I am a bit surprised to see our Chief Minister making great effort to turn Women Front into Congress Party. Under the prevailing circumstances, it is not outsiders who enter into Mizoram to create difficulty. It is you the Ruling Party who caused disorders in the administration of the country. If you really want the country to move forward, you must try to reach maturity in all walks of life.

As they have stated earlier, I too admit the excellency of our Lt. Governor's speech. However, I have a little doubt that all these excellent speeches would turn into smoke. Last year, our Lt. Governor gave a statement, quite a long one, covering 37 pages, regarding the construction of better playground. But, it appears that there is no execution of this policy till today. As such, it must be better to grade the speech as normal speech instead of an excellent speech. However, I do not mind passing this motion of thanks moved by Pu Rochama.

PU VANLALHRUAIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, if we take our Lt. Governor's speech as a whole, I do not particularly dislike it. In fact, I am glad to find novel things which had never been found in his previous speeches. One thing for which I want to thank is his statement regarding the coming of peace and tranquility in Mizoram.

On page no. 2 of his speech, our Lt. Governor mentioned the implementation of Prime Minister's 20 Point Economic Programme. We might think that Mizoram need not implement this programme. However, as some of the members have stated I feel it is wrong to neglect some points while at the same time prices are fixed according to the provision of the Programme. While we take stern measures against the poorer section of the people, the business of well-to-do persons are left at their own disposal.

According to the statement given by our Lt. Governor can't deny the activities of P.W.D., for there are many works undertaken and completed by them. However, I am sorry that nothing about the construction of Thenzawl-Lunglei Road is not a new road; in fact, it is the oldest road in Mizoram. Just after the formation of U.T. Government in 1972, Government was pressed to hand over the construction of the aforesaid road to B.R.T.F. But, P.W.D. to test their ability took up the construction work and 2 years were allotted for the completion. Two years gone and another 2 years gone, still the road is unjeep-able even in the year 1976. As such was the progress road, I suggest that B.R.T.F. take up the construction work till its completion. Truly speaking, the people in southern part of Aizawl Town have no more faith in the Government because of their failure in keeping their work in connection with the construction of the said road. Considering the feelings and the attitudes of the people towards Government, it is important that Government take vigorous steps to improve their relationship with the people.

Right from the beginning till the present day, water supply has been a major problem in Mizoram. In fact, the condition of water supply in Aizawl has not changed a bit. Perhaps V.I.Ps and other high ranking officers have adequate supply of water. Yet, it is the people who face great difficulty due to inadequacy of water supply. Government should think of a way to solve water problem.

Regarding Electricity - I am sorry that instead of making headway in electric power, we can only talk of future prospects. It is a surprise that no improvement had been achieved in this regard. As Pu Chawngkunga had stated, the lights we get are too dim. They are just a tint of red. I think it has now been two weeks since the residents of southern area of Aizawl town did not get light. As such was the condition of our electric power, Government would do well in taking an immediate step to improve electricity in Mizoram.

Is there something wrong at the root of our education that every time examination is held, trouble crops up. Though I have no idea as to what steps Government intended to take, I feel that we should constitute a Board to see to the matter in connection with educational examinations so that there is no more trouble in future. I think we can understand the humiliation of the Government when trouble crops up everytime examination is held. Our School examinations would never be properly conducted as long as the task of setting questions and examining the papers is left to the staff or Inspectors who could spare part of their time. This thing must not be taken as part-time job. If we want to avoid another trouble in future, Examination Board must be constituted to control/conduct examinations till the result is out.

If I am not mistaken, it is learnt that many of the examination papers and important documents are left in the office building of Inspector which I believe are to be taken out when there is another examination to be held. Under such condition, we can believe that there would not be proper records. I do not particularly blame Education Department's staff for this. As a matter of fact, it appears that it is the Ministry who is responsible for all these troubles. I feel Government should take better step to improve our Education by the next year, that is, if they can not do so in the current year.

As we have often said in our previous sessions, peace has now come to Mizoram. In his speech, our Lt. Governor also gave statement in regard to the coming of peace in Mizoram. While everyone of us makes effort to bring peace in the land, Security Forces in Villages are still harsh to the people, the reason of which is always due to 'Identity Card'. I think we remember that at the beginning of this year, an order for issue of Identity Card to all the citizens of Mizoram was given. When photographs were taken for this, many of them were spoiled. Perhaps our Security Forces do not know about this that they still demand Identity Card which really bothers the people particularly in Villages. Though, they (Security Forces) demand Identity Card, there is a time when they arrest even card-holders. I know one person from my Constituency who was arrested though he has Identity Card. Not only that, he is also Government employee. If Government do not inform Security Forces about the coming of peace or the agreement, I am afraid there will be another trouble. If peace prevails in the country, it is not necessary to issue Identity Card. I would be glad if Government give consideration to what I have said.

I do not know whether Government have given a second thought to what had been said regarding the division of Aizawl district, as nothing about it is mentioned in the speech. If we take our Lt. Governor's speech as a whole, it seems that most of its contents are things that had been done instead of things that are to be done.

Though I do not know how far Government have done for the allocation of Paper Mill in Mizoram, nothing is mentioned in the speech. Hence, I am quite perplexed as to what I would say in this regard. Moreover, I think we all can stand as a witness to the deteriorating economy and the existence of un-employment problem in Mizoram. If an immediate step is not taken to solve these various problems, Mizoram would soon be in worse condition. Anyway, it is unity and co-operation which we need to attain long lasting peace and also to solve our various problems. As Pu Rochama had stated, I am very sorry that there are some persons who encourage the people to revolt against the Government and to under-estimate the activities of the Government. If there are war-mongers, stern action must be taken against them. That's all for now.

Thank you.

PU K.SANGCHHUM: Mr.Speaker Sir, I too have few things to say regarding our Lt.Governor's speech. As I listened to various speeches certain thoughts struck me. One of which was the Form Of Government in India. As we have listened this morning, India has the highest form of democratic Government in the world.

Foreign countries are also amazed at the swift advancement of India. We are one of the states of that fast developing India. The tempo of the development of different parts of India-states or Union Territories are comparable to those of other countries. But we all say that the pace of development of Mizoram is rather slow compared to the development of other regions of the country. This is mainly due to the special difficulty of the territory. At any rate, the position of the Mizoram is far better than that what it was eight years back. Everyone should admit what Lt.Governor mentioned in the first part of his speech, that is, the efforts made by the Government to bring peace and tranquility to the Union Territory. The people also support the existing Government. Without the support of the people, the Government cannot stand by itself. At present, the relationship between the people and the country became good and cooperative. Many difficulties faced by the people especially in regard to the activities of Security Forces are very much minimized from the beginning of this year. This is through the efforts of the Government. We expect more measures which depend on the efforts of the Government as well as the people. If the people give full support to the Government, the chances of success are great. I want to say a few words on the general administration of the Government also. As we all know, Mizoram stood as a separate entity only from the year 1972. We see that our position today is far better than when started to run our own Govt. in 1972. But, at the same time, there are many things in the activities of our Govt. which fall short of our expectations. But, the efficiency of the administration cannot be judged from few individuals. It must be judged as a whole.

The tempo of development in Mizoram can be seen in various fields. Unless and until the works are completed, it will be wrong to make a conclusion that Government have not done anything. Let us take the work of P.W.D. for instance. The construction of Lungdai Road was started after the formation of U.T. Government. The construction work was undertaken by P.W.D. and was completed. The road is now pliable. Besides this, many new roads are being constructed in various parts of Mizoram. We can't also deny steps taken by the Government to improve electricity power. Chhimituipui District which had never had electric light has light now. Considering all these, I think the people too would have now realized great efforts made by the Government to improve the country. I don't think other party too would make better progress than this within a short period. However, I would like to urge Government to take vigorous step in one matter that is in regard to the filling of vacant posts. I do not know whose fault it is that vacant posts are not immediately filled up which caused great hindrance to the office works. I believe office works will be executed speedier if Govt. could immediately fill up posts which remain vacant. This would as well as make things easier for the people.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : We better have hearing from Treasury Bench for I believe our members have said enough. Now we will call our Ministers, and the Leader of the House will be called last of all.

PU CH.SAPRAWNGA: Mr.Speaker Sir, it is a privilege to have an opportunity to discuss our Lt.Governor's speech. As it is not possible to talk about every topic in detail, I too do not intend to say much. First thing I want to say is about Agriculture.

Pu Chawngkunga said that large amount of money spent out of Agriculture fund caused corruption which is true to some extent. As the distribution of Fund largely depends on the dealing field officers, we cannot say that there is large corruption especially when there is large money involvement. However, in view of our cultivation system in Mizoram, small amount of money would not help us much. As we know, Mizoram has a different topography from that of other regions which greatly affects agriculture system. Our present system-Jhuming is so expensive that people now wanted to adopt different cultivation system. Hence Settled cultivation is suggested for which large amount of money is needed to start with. Considering all these, it won't be right to withhold the money just to prevent corruption.

We would have to think of the hardship of our cultivators who work hard to earn their daily bread at the same time while they tend to their fields. Whether or not we have enough money, we will all have to cooperate in order to develop the country in all walks of life. We would be glad too if our members inform us cases which are said to exist in some places, regarding the allotment of fund to persons who kill pigs or chickens for the dealing staff in order to get money. If these persons do not use the money for its true purposes, the aim and objective of the fund would be a failure. However, after disturbances, there is a strong desire in the minds of the people for having permanent and settled occupation not only in Agriculture but also in other lines of occupation. The people are eager to exert for developments, receive demonstration and instruction. They offer themselves to be guided. If we are enthusiastic, we can guide them and show them the way. If the people and we, the members have enthusiasm for hard work and development, we must co-operate with each other. Our Members too would do well in rendering their ability and services in their respective constituency instead of criticizing increase our food products. As we have often said, there is no money problem for us as long as we utilize them for their true purposes. It is obvious that Central Government is also ready to sanction whatever amount of money we require if we do not mis-handle them.

It is a fact that Mizoram have still a long way to go as far as development is concerned. But, of all the developments, foodstuff has first and foremost vitality for, without food, one cannot look too far ahead. As such, each member should do well in urging the people to increase their food products which is the first important step for further developments.

Pu Dotinaia seemed to be accusing the Govt. of negligence in finding markets for our products. However, this might not be true as we do not have much products that can be turned into Capital except Ginger. As for Ginger, through the effort made by the Government. Co-operative Department, N.A.F.E.D. purchased many quintals of Ginger from the people last year which greatly encouraged them to grow more of it in the current year. But, due to transport difficulty and fall of price in Ginger in other markets, the price of Ginger in Mizoram too has gone down. We are aware that the people will not be enthusiastic in selling their crops at cheaper rate than last year, yet we can do nothing if the price is not increased in other markets, At any rate, there is one thing which gladdens me and which I want to tell our members. It is the type of Ginger grown in Mizoram is Mizo variety which cannot be found in other places. Though it is not the best variety, it has its own value in the Markets. Buyers usually choose it as they think it is cleaner than other varieties. Even in the current year tons of our Ginger were sold which greatly improve our economy. Government is also intending to import 100 quintals of the best variety of Ginger from Meghalaya so that Mizoram too could grow the best variety. I think we all are glad to know that Ginger from Mizoram has popularity in Calcutta markets. Our Members too would do well in encouraging the growers to keep up good reputation we have had in Ginger markets. (C.CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr.Speaker Sir, did not the price of Mizoram Ginger declined because it is not clean ?) No, it was not like that. As our Ginger is cleaner than other varieties, buyers usually choose it in Calcutta markets. That is according to report I have received. However, if we receive report of the uncleanliness of Ginger, we will have to take great care when we purchase Ginger from the people. Co-operative Department would not be able to check each and every Ginger one by one. That is why the growers will have to play an honest part in dealing with Ginger. Our members too would do well in urging the growers in their own constituency to be honest.

Pu Dotinaia had also stated about Mizoram as having other cash crops to be sold besides Ginger. But, it appears that there is no other cash crops to be turned into capital except Ginger. (Pu Vanlalhraia: Mr.Speaker Sir, though our Minister stated Mizoram as not having any other cash crops besides Ginger, I think Ginger growers can as well as grow red-pepper which we get abundantly. Will it be too difficult for them to grow ?). Mr.Speaker Sir, as far as red-pepper is concerned, Government do not have to bother uptill now, for, the growers could easily dispose them of without distracting the Government. It will be a good thing if the growers could produce more of it so that Government can as well as take part in pepper business. (Pu Vanlalhraia: Mr.Speaker Sir, it is a fact that red-pepper is easily disposed of. But, mind you it is at lower rate. For instance- while the growers in Manipur sell it for Rs. 10/- to Rs. 15/- per Kg., the growers in my constituency could hardly sell it at the rate of Rs.5/- per Kg. As such, I suggest that Government back up the growers of red-pepper as they did for Ginger growers.) Mr.Speaker Sir, we will be interested in backing up red-pepper growers. But, as we have not had any problem in this regard, we are quite at a loss as to how Government would take step. However, if any problem crops up in pepper business, Co-operative Department and N.A.F.E.D. would take an immediate step, for it would not be a trouble for them if they can also handle many quintals of Ginger.

I think I have taken too long, so I better stop now.

PU H. THANSANGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would only say the outline. MINISTER. First of all, it is in regard to Electric Power. As we know, power has been one of the major problems in Mizoram. Diesel Generators which we have been using now are too delicate and we always have trouble with them. Another trouble in power is lack of technical staff. There is also trouble in the machines. Of the six generators we have, only three are under running condition. Had all the six generators been running, we could have had KW 1233. At present, it is only 604 KW due to which light cannot be given regularly, though our staff work hard from early morning at 8:00 A.M. till 10 O'clock at night. Though every possible step is taken to improve our Electricity, the present capacity could not meet the requirement of the people. I hope our Members too understand our difficulties.

(PU VANLALHRUAIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, let me ask one question. What is the reason that Electric Bill varied from month to month? For instance- sometimes they charge Rs. 157/- and sometimes it comes up to Rs. 500.00)

What had been said by our hon'ble member can be true due to which care must be taken while reading the metre. If you have doubt in the Bill, you can make complaint.

(PU SANGKHUMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, even when we make complaint, nothing is done. Metre Readers would come and test the Metre Box. That's all they did. We have never been informed again their findings in our Metre Box. Our Minister would do well in giving instruction.)

Perhaps it is due to the increasing rate of Diesel Oil that Electric Bill has gone up. However, if the Bill is too high or if one has doubt in the rate charged authorities concerned must be informed.

Though we have not had good Electricity power that could suffice the need of the people. Government aim at allocating Hydro-Electric Power which would take at least 5-10 years for its completion. Our Lt. Governor also had stated in his speech the difficulties which exist in constructing and allocating dam. In view of the topography of Mizoram I think the allocation of Hydro-Electric Power too would take quite a long time as we also have communication problem. As our Lt. Governor had stated, investigators will be coming from Central Government to investigate/ study our power problem. So, at present we will have to depend only on Diesel generator. However, I want to remind you all that Mizoram Government is trying its best to improve the condition of Electric Power, I hope we would be better by the next year.

Next, P.W.D. As we have often said, the main difficulty in P.W.D. is shortage of technical staff. Since the formation of U.T. Government till today, we could not find/ have adequate technicians which greatly upset our work-schedule. But, Government has now started re-organising P.W.D. which to some extent would improve the establishment. As regards the construction of Tuichang Bridge- the same contractor who takes up the construction work of Tuichang Bridge was given the construction work of the approach road. Wanting an immediate completion, he (contractor) employed about 500 Labourers which I too have seen when I was on my way home from tour. While the approach road is being constructed, Vanlaiphai road will have to be closed

down. Hence, supply commodities will have to be conveyed through Khawzawl road. It has also been intended to rectify all the main posts of the bridge before rainy season comes. As regards the appointment of Contractor to construct Culvert- we have not made any decision. Nevertheless, it won't be wrong to give work order to the same contractor as we want an immediate completion of the work. As regards Aizawl-Thenzawl road- though 16th March was targeted for the opening day, it was impossible to go as our routine. The earth in those areas is too rocky that the Department could not complete it within the fixed period. However, we hope that the work will be completed by the next month. It appears that the Department too have taken vigorous steps for its immediate completion.

What had been stated by our members in Education Department regarding non-availability of prescribed text books- it is a fact that the price of text books has gone down as it is that paper is controlled by the Government. But, publishers/ printers could not always get paper in time which compelled them to use their own which causes certain difficulties. Another difficulty lies in Book Suppliers. Very often suppliers cannot send them in time i.e. before or at the time of school opening, though we receive them after sometime. Regarding Examination Board - to keep/maintain our education standard Primary Scholarship Examination has been started again after some years interval. But, it is now conducted by Inspector office not D.I. Office as before. As our members have said, it is a fact that we have Examination Board with board Secretary. But, we cannot as yet afford separate staff for Board Secretary/Member. Had we additional Deputy Inspector, it will be easier to distribute work. As we know, our D.Is are drawing officers as well as disbursing officers who have to travel every now and then and of which they are incapable of doing. However, Government had given an instruction to allot them vehicle within this dry season so that they can do extensive travelling as required of them. Considering heavy works assigned to them besides conducting and handling examination affairs, they must have some faults or insufficiencies. But, Government is intending to improve the establishment by the next year. I hope we would gradually set right the wrongs if there is any. If the Bill- Secondary Education Board of School Education Bill could operate by the coming year, I believe there would at least be some improvements.

Thank you.

PU ZALAWMA :

DY. MINISTER Mr. Speaker Sir, from our discussion as well as from our Lt. Governor's speech, we learnt the developmental activities of the Government on various fields. Though I have not much to say, I would like to say few things in regard to what had been said/asked by our members.

Pu Chawngkunga had stated about the intrusion of our reserved forests by the people of our neighbouring States. He also asked as to whether Government take step to safeguard these forests. During the erstwhile District Council, Tuikuk and Takam (Tuikuk-Tipperah-tribesmen, Takam -Chakma tribe) were employed by some of our western cultivators to work in their jhums and rice-fields in return for paddy or plot of land.

Hence, some portions of rice-fields/lands were handed to these labourers which they keep till date. If it is not these labourers, no outsiders intrude our reserved forests. No outsider focibly clear our forest for cultivation with the permission of other States' authority. These labourers no more lived in these parts nowadays. However, it has now come to the knowledge of the Government that many outsiders from Bangladesh or Tripura are flowing into the Mizoram. As soon as we receive such information, Ranger and Forest Staff were sent to take investigation and to have a better look at the situation. Of these outsiders, there are some who are very persistent. To deal with the stubborn ones, our Chief Minister intended to detail D.C./A.D.C. to visit the spot. Altogether 261 intruders were already evicted. Like that, Government is trying her best to safeguard the forests and forest products.

Regarding the allocation of Industry—we have consulted development consultants of Calcutta who have submitted their report of feasibility to Central Government and to our state Government. Site had been selected in Bairabi for the allocation of the aforesaid Industry. As big and heavy machines are to be planted, soil testing is under process. We have also sent 5 tons of bamboos to Fehra Dun Research Institute and we ~~will~~ are now waiting for the result. I think we will all be glad to know that according to the survey Mizoram might do better than many other Paper Industries when we have such. According to our proposal, a daily production will come up to 200 tons. And Rs. 72 crores is proposed for the total expenditure of the said Industry.

Another big scheme which we have is Fly Wood Factory. One correspondent was sent to Research Institute, Bangalore. In their reply, the Institute agreed to send technical officers to do survey and to have investigation on condition that Mizoram Government borne the expenditure. Hence Rs. 75 lakhs was demanded. We have deposited Rs. 50,000 for the current year. Like-wise, Government make many efforts for the development of Mizoram. I request our members too to know the various steps taken by the Government for further development.

In regard to Labour and Employment — as our Lt. Governor had mentioned in his speech there is a proposal for the establishment of separate Directorate for Labour and Employment Department Office had been instituted at Saiha at District level. The number of registration in the Employment Exchange also has been increasing. As it is the Department through which poorer section of the people could get employment, the people too have now realized its importance and this Department also deals with the apprenticeship training.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say thing which I regarded as the most importance which is in regard to peace and tranquility. Having always accompanied our Chief Minister, I noticed that he (Chief Minister) really cares for the coming of peace in the land. Much effort was make even when we visited Bangladesh in 1972. I am really glad to have Chief Minister who took much pains to bring peace, It is jow our duty to continue the task of bringing peace which had been started by Merger Congress Party. Without peace and tranquility, there will always be hindrance in other developmental activities. Therefore, I request all our members to contribute you ability to the attainment of lasting peace in Mizoram.

Thank you.

PU LAISANGZUALA:
MINISTER.

Mr. Speaker Sir, our honourable members Pu Lailuata, Pu Dotinaia and Pu Sangkhuma have stated about office discipline in Mizoram. In looking back the past year, I think office discipline at present days is much better though it is not upto our expectation. In Secretariat, Under Secretaries check Office discipline twice a week. Secretaries too used to do the same at every two weeks interval, and Chief Secretary does once a month. From the report of Supply checking, we can also see that discipline is better maintained than the previous years.

What had been stated by Pu Dotinaia regarding the selling of Ginger-- I think our hon'ble Minister Pu Saprawnga had given a clear clarification. The joints Govts. of India and German Democratic Republic have proposed a plan for the allocation of Processing Plant in Eastern Region of Idnia. Recently, 5 experts from Germany came to investigate the nature of raw materials in these regions. But due to certain difficulties they could not come to Mizoram. Nevertheless, we expect to know the result of their investigation within the current year.

If the joint Governments could successfully carry out their scheme, their annual requirement of raw materials will be about 13,00,000 quintals. Here, raw material includes Ginger, Pine apple, Orange and tomato.

Co-operative Society who had helped the people of Kolasib and Lungled ranges in selling their crops last year is also intending to arrange vehicles for vegetables growers in town areas so that they can easily dispose of their crops.

Pu Dotinaia mentioned the establishment of Trade and Commerce Department. It is true that Mizoram Govt. agreed to establish such Department. But, Central Government's approval is needed as we have no power to create new Department. Till the present day, we have not received an approval from Central Government. Meanwhile, Co-operative Department and Supply Department take the responsibility of trade and commerce.

Pu Dotinaia blamed us as neglecting the District Council Court. I think we know that there are 3(three) Officers in the Court. Unfortunately one of them expired recently while the other one is on leave as he is soon to be pensioned off. The filling of this vacant post is under process. As all these happened within this month, we cannot immediately consider the matters.

Our hon'ble Members, Pu Sangkhuma and Pu Vanlalhruaia have stated about Price Control. When we say 'Rice Control' we cannot include all the items as it is done according to the provision of Defence of India Rules and Essential Commodities Act.

Pu Sangkhuma stated the weakness of our Government in implementing Prime Minister's 20 Point Economic Programme. Though Government have taken various steps to successfully implement this programme, it is not possible to implement all the points in Mizoram. I think our members too have seen many progress and improvements achieved by the Government we publish in our local papers.

Thank you.

SPEAKER :

Now, we will call upon our hon'ble Chief Minister.

PU CH. CHHUNGA:
CHIEF MINISTER.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad that we could have discussion on our Lt. Governor's speech today. In his speech, our Lt. Governor stated various steps taken for the development of the country and he also mentioned the tempo of development of Mizoram which is comparable to those of other States. It is obvious that we are not lacking behind and the fund we receive from Central Government has too been increasing year by year. If one Department has money to surrender while other Departments felt inadequacy of fund, we usually make revise estimate. Except on certain occasions, we do not usually have money to surrender to Central Government. As I have said before, there may be certain cases where money is surrendered. Anyway, I think we cannot deny lots of changes we have seen within a few years. Of the many schemes we have, there are some that can be implemented within few years, while some require 5 or 10 years. It is quite understandable when our members point out the weakness of the Government in implementing schemes for it shows that they have great enthusiasm for developments. I am glad also that our member moved vote of thanks.

Of what we have listened, I feel I should have to explain certain things. It was said that there exists bonded labour system in western part of Mizoram yet I think the labour system here is different from bonded labour system stated in the 20 Point Economic Programme. It is a fact that there are Chakmas and Tuikuks residing in those areas who work for some well-to-do/rich persons. When they cannot re-pay their debts, they work for the persons whose money they owe. A period is fixed for them to repay their debt in kind. But, if the labourer runs away without re-paying his debt, nothing much can be done even for the lender. And the lenders too hardly follow them to catch up with them. Right from the time of District Council, Government take steps to develop these wandering tribes. Schools were opened for them to learn the art of civilization. But, due to their backwardness, it is quite difficult to change them. Though they work for some persons they cannot be named bonded labourers as we see them exist in some parts of India.

Government is also aware of the existence of homeless persons in Mizoram. Some years back, Homeless Association was formed. With their aim in view, they approached me. So, I told them frankly my opinion which has not changed even now. In my opinion, there can be no homeless in Mizoram. It is impossible. If one moves to Saitual for instance, he/she would surely find a place to live in, for in Mizoram land belongs to Community, due to which one can claim land for agriculture or for house-site. Even a widow could have the best plot of land if luck favours her in time of divination. Hence, there can never be homeless in Mizoram. It is a mere disgrace to talk of land for the landless as far as Mizoram is concerned. But, if all the Mizos try to settle down only at Aizawl, for sure there will be many homeless persons or if one greedily tries to possess as many land as possible, soon there will be many homeless. In our present condition, it is impossible to have homeless persons in Mizoram.

Water supply has ever been a problem in Mizoram particularly in Aizawl. Government want to supply adequate water to everyone residing in Aizawl yet there are many difficulties involved here as our Minister had stated. The hiring charge of vehicle is too costly that it is not possible to hire many vehicles to carry/supply water. I think we all longed for a time when water from nearby rivers can be pumped out by electric power. Now, pipe lines have been planted in various parts of Aizawl town so that water can be supplied as soon as the running of electric generators can be started. Recently electric generators were purchased which are to be planted at every water point. But, due to non-availability of electricity power, our generators can not as yet be generated. From the above statement, I think we would understand an urgent need for electricity power.

Regarding electric power - now wiring has been started which they (Planning Commission) expect to complete by the next year. But, it is our presumption that they would not finish wiring by the next year. When we inform this to the Minister of State, Shri Guljarilal i/c Planning Commission, he inquired as to whether we have received an assurance either from Meghalaya or Assam to supply electricity power which we have not yet received so far. Shri Guljarilal then advised Meghalaya and Assam to make clear their intention in that respect so as to enable him to know where Mizoram stands in regard to power. After which various steps can be taken to improve our electric power.

As regards the creation of new District- the matter is under consideration. Boundary lines have been roughly sketched. I, therefore hope that the proposal would be carried out successfully some day.

I am sorry that certain rumours had been spread which almost creates tension between different political parties. There was also a talk of accusation of one to another as spreading of rumours. It is unfortunate that some persons expect to hear the news of the declaration of semi independence or Kashmir type of State for Mizoram by Government of India. Such rumours might not be originated from the political party leaders. Whoever starts the rumours, it is not the best thing to use rumours as shields. I do not mean any one in particular but, all of us here must not be disturbed by such rumours. It is true that we are all looking forward for the coming of peace in Mizoram and we also view with keen interest result of peace-talk had between Govt. of India and our Underground friends. However, one must not be disturbed by the saying that 'Mizoram Government know nothing about the talk between Central Government and Underground activists'. It is quite understandable that our underground friends do not want to have talk with our Government, for we, particularly the Mizo Union Party were once a party who strongly opposed them when they first hinted their policy- Independence that was in 1961. If I were in their position, I would have had the same feelings such as they have. Under such circumstances, what matter most is peace whether or not Mizoram Government have knowledge of it. As our members have said, we often met the Prime Minister conveying our anxiousness for peace. But, we never request her to allow us to have

peace-talk with our underground friends, as this being the subject of Central Government. However, we never stop urging our Prime Minister to arrange a talk with them. As a consequence peace-talk was held at Lelhi. I hope we would soon attain peace by the help of God and of our Prime Minister.

As I have often said before, co-operation is necessary to develop our land. Due to great efforts made by our leaders, many of our friends who had gone astray have come back home. We must remember that each of us have an important role to play to the attainment of peace. I therefore request you all come forward to give you efforts for the welfare of the country.

Thank you.

SPEAKER :

After long discussion on the motion of thanks moved by our hon'ble Member Pu Rochama, our hon'ble Ministers have given explanation to some of the points mentioned by our members. Our hon'ble Chief Minister too had given the summary. As we have no amendment here, our motion will be taken up now for consideration of the House. Our motion that 'an address presented by the Lt. Governor, Administrator in the following term, we the members of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly assembling in this session beg to offer our humble thanks to the Lt. Governor for the excellent speech which he had been delivered to the House on the 15th March, 1976', if anyone disagree to its passing we say 'not agree' and if agree say 'agree'. Anyone who disagree ? (Members-Kept silent). If none of you disagree to the passing of the motion of thanks, it is now passed.

Our sitting will be resumed tomorrow at 10:30 A.M. As I have announced, our business tomorrow is Private member resolution.

Recess till tomorrow.

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