

8TH SITTING ON 25TH MARCH, 1976 (THURSDAY) AT 10:30 A.M.

Pu Vaivenga, Speaker in the Chair, Chief Minister and four
Ministers and twenty seven Members.

B U S I N E S S

1. Questions
2. Presentation of Report
3. Moving, Consideration and voting of
Demands for Grants for 1976-77.

SPEAKER : Except the Lord built the house, they labour
in vain that built it; Except the Lord keep
the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

We will take up Question No.47. Let the
Questioner, Pu Sangchhum, MLA ask.

HOME DEPARTMENT

*47. Return of guns to their owners :

PU K.SANGCHHUM : Mr. Speaker Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister
i/c Home Department be pleased to state -

What steps have been taken by the Government
to give back guns to the owners who voluntarily placed their
guns with the Government after disturbance broke out in 1966 ?

PU CH.CHHUNGA : Mr. Speaker, the matter has been taken up
CHIEF MINISTER : with the Government of India in Ministry of
Defence and the Government of Assam.

PU CHAWNGKUNGA : Mr. Speaker, guns which were voluntarily sub-
mitted to the Security Forces, especially to
the 6th A.R. Battalion were found missing. It is also learnt
that the receiving officers of the Forces kept
guns deposited by its owners for their own use. This

came to light after enquiry was made by the owners which led that their guns were not in the Thana, nor in the our Station. However, receipts of the guns handed over Security Forces were still with the owners. What will the Government do with this matter ?

CHHUNGA MINISTER: Mr Speaker, so far as my source of information is concerned, different types of guns totalling 2530 were handed over to the Security Forces. The total number of locally made guns handed to the Security Forces is 552 which were placed before the Police Superintendent. Most of them were already reported to Sibsagar Thana.

A large number of them were said to be kept in the Japalpur Thana and the matter is being investigated.

The Government has no knowledge of the matter pointed out by our Hon'ble member.

AWNGKUNGA : Mr Speaker, the Honble Minister i/c Home Department had stated in the first Budget speech after the inception of Mizoram U.T. that the Government would detail one of our officers, Mr Malsawmdawngliana to look after all guns submitted to the Security Forces. What was the present position as it stands now ?

LIANA : Mr Speaker, for his immediate reply, I would like to know what action has been taken by the Government of Mizoram with the Central Government and other States to ensure the timely and correct delivery of guns kept under custody in various places ?

Secondly, I would like to know the total number of guns kept by the Police and Security Forces stationed in Mizoram.

If I am not mistaken, I was also told that there were guns the registration of which could not be traced in the Police Thana and in the office of the Deputy Commissioner. What the Government will do to settle all these things. Will the Government dispose of all these guns which were not registered with the Government ?

CHHUNGA MINISTER : Mr Speaker Sir, as was already asked several times by our members in our previous Sessions, our Officers were also detailed to enquire into the matter. But, there has been no progress.

Regarding unregistered guns, the Government has not yet made decision as to whether these guns should be collected or not.

As regards collection of these guns, there has been multiplying problems. Since some of the guns are in Assam and other states, the matter is being pursued by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

I cannot, however, give you the number of guns kept by the Aizawl Police Thana at this moment.

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA : Mr Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has disclosed that he did not know what should be done with the unregistered guns. In fact, some of them were disposed of by way of auction. What is the reason ?

PU K.SANGCHHUM : Mr Speaker Sir, regarding guns submitted to the Security Forces, the Forces has claimed that there were two categories : one class is of those seized by the Security Forces and the other of those submitted by the owners under mutual agreement with the forces.

Secondly, do the Government try to issue to the rightful owners or holders after they were collected from various places, or do the Government intend to retain under their custody ?

PU CH.CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER : Mr Speaker Sir, the Government will take decision as to whether those guns are to be disposed of after collection is done.

During the period of insurgency, guns were seized by the Security Forces and some were submitted by the holders of their own accord. This cannot be clearly foretold now.

PU K.SANGCHHUM : Mr Speaker Sir, have they included those guns captured by the Security Forces in the list which is under consideration of the Government of Assam and Mizoram ?

PU CH.CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER : Mr Speaker Sir, the guns were seized and confiscated by the Security Forces and some were surrendered by the owners themselves to the Security Forces. The case is not yet settled as yet

Some of these guns were said to be sold out by public auction during the period of Assam Government. This has been stopped after issue of order by the Government of Mizoram.

SPEAKER : New Question No.48. Let the member ask his Question first.

Expenditure for making Identity Cards by Identity Cards Cell :

*48

PU LALKUNGA : Mr Speaker Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Home Department be pleased to state -
What is the amount of money spent for making Identity Cards ?

PU CH.CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER : Mr Sp aker Sir, A sum of Rs 2,47,026.98 has been spent so far on making of Identity Cards.

PU LALKUNGA : Mr Speaker, one supplementary Question. what is the amount of money spent for each identity Card ? And what is the expenditure incurred towards petrol consumption ?

PU CH.CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER : Mr Sp aker Sir, the cost of a card is worked out as Rs 6/- The expenditure for petrol consumption is not known to me.

SPEAKER : Question No.49. The Questioner is Pu Hrangvela who is absent. Has he authorised anybody on his behalf ? If he has not authorised any one, we will take up Question No. 50.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

*50 Selling of M.S.Rod to the public by PWD:

PU R.DOTINAILA : Mr Speaker Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister i/c PWD be pleased to state -

(a) Is it a fact that a large quantity of M.S. Rods meant for construction of Government buildings have been sold to individuals at a very low price ?

(b) If so, how many quintals of M.S. rods were sold, by whose authority and at what rate ?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, (a) No (b) does not arise.
MINISTER

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA : Mr Speaker Sir, Since it is a waste of money for the Government regardless of the smallness of the Quantity, will he be pleased to state to whom that quantity was sold ?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, about 20 qtls of M.S.rods were sold to the Executive Engineer.
MINISTER

..5/-

SPEAKER : Now, Question No.51 by Pu R.Dotinsia.

*51 Allotment to private individuals of Cement bags out of P.W.D. stock

PU R.DOTINSIA : Mr Speaker Sir, Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c P.W.D. be pleased to state -

(a) Is it a fact that the Principal Engineer, PWD recently allotted a good number of cement bags to private individuals out of PWD Stock ?

(b) If so, to whom and under what terms and conditions the cement was sold ?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, (a) Yes
MINISTER (b) A list showing the names of individuals to whom cement was sold from 1.4.75 to date is laid on the Table.

The price of cement is as per book value plus 10% supervision charges as per rules i.e., rate as Rs 24.54 per bag.

PU K.SANGCHHUM : Mr Speaker, Do the Government and the Department have power to do so ?

Secondly, if we look at the list laid on the Table, the number of bags delivered on 23.6.75 is 100 bags. Again, under the same name on the same date, the no. of bags delivered is 50 bags at Sl.No.19. Why not indicate as 150 bags under one Serial No. ? What is the difficulty involved in it ?

PU S.FLIANA : Mr Speaker, Whether the Public Works Department is not in a position to use up all the stock meant for it ? Or there is no building construction ? How did this sale of cement to individuals out of the P.W.D. Stock happen ?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, regarding sale of cement, I am
MINISTER not in a position to reply to the question for there may be a limited amount per person. The time of purchase may possibly be different though it appears as the same date.

There are special cases for which cement is allotted to individual persons. This allotment may be done at any time without causing any hindrance to P.W.D. works provided that there is enough Stock with the P.W.D. godown.

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA : Mr Speaker, Suppose this being the way of selling, will the Department be able to

give them whenever anyone is willing to purchase from them ?

PU SAITLAWMA : Mr Speaker, if there is any stock that can be sold out, I would like to know it. The rate per bag being much lower than the rate offered by the civil supplier, it is found more profitable to get from the Department. Let the Department sell as much quantity as possible to the private individuals.

PU LALSANGZUALA : Mr Speaker, let me clarify this point. I have once brought to the notice of the Members in our previous Budget Session. The present allotment of cement for every three months is 60,000 bags out of which separate allotment for F.W.D. and Civil is again made by the Government as and when received here. Since transportation for the F.W.D. through railway link is found easier, the allotment for F.W.D. has been increased by reducing the quota for civil and again reallocation is made when the goods are delivered here.

With regard to the point raised by Pu Saitlawma the FWD rate is not always lower than the civil rate but governs the consignment of goods. The rate is fixed on the recommendation of the Supply and Transport Consultative Committee which recommends a uniform rate of cement for Aizawl, Lunglei and Lawngtlai. The higher rate may thus be seen in the Civil quota as transportation charges beyond Aizawl are added to this rate. It may also happen that the Civil dealers charge commission on every bag, as it has to be purchased through the dealers.

PU SAITLAWMA : Mr Speaker, the rate of cement per bag which was worked out on the F.W.D. Schedule of rate in 1971-72 is still in force. It may sometimes be lower than the consignment received thereon. Is it possible to sell at the rate per consignment? The existing rate at Lunglei is Rs 42/- per bag whereas the rate offered by the F.W.D. is round about Rs 24/- or Rs 25/- per bag. Thus appears a possibility of loophole and irregularity in the rate that can be followed. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to clarify this point ?

PU H. THANSANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, the existing rate was based on the price level in 1971-72 during which price of every commodity was at its highest. Thereby, the rate worked out in that year is now outmoded and it is likely that the rate received along with the consignment is to be followed in the whole of Mizoram.

Speaker : Now we'll take up Question No.52. Let the Member concerned ask.

*52

Constitution of Enquiry Commission to find out bad results of HSLC

PU K.SANGCHHUM : Mr Speaker, will the Honbble Minister i/c Education Department be pleased to state-

(a) Is it a fact that an Enquiry Commission has been constituted by the Government to find out causes of bad results in the last H.S.L.C. Examination ?

(b) If yes, whether the Commission has completed its work and submitted its findings ?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, (a) Yes, but it was an Enquiry Committee and not an Enquiry Commission.
MINISTER

(b) The Enquiry Committee's report is to be submitted through the Chairman, Estimates Committee, Mizoram Legislative Assembly. Only the Interim Report of the Enquiry Committee had since been received in the Department from the Mizoram Legislative Assembly. The final report has not yet been received from them. Necessary actions can be taken only after receipt of the same.

PU K.SANGCHHUM : Mr Speaker, one supplementary question - How many High Schools did they visit during their enquiry ?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, I cannot say the number of Schools
MINISTER : they have visited during their enquiry,

PU NGURDAWLA : Mr Speaker, what is the actual terms of references of this Enquiry Committee ?

Will the Minister incharge be pleased to state whether all the findings of the Enquiry Committee are to be accepted or 50% only ?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, It is difficult to precisely
MINISTER inform you the weight of the findings of the Committee because those findings of the Committee contained in the terms of references and remedial measures recommended by the Committee will be re-examined by the Government as and when submitted by the Committee.

PU NGURDAWLA : Mr Speaker, the Committee so constituted is more like an Advisory Body to advise the Government. In some States, before appointing a Committee or a Commission, the Government has always defined the extent of its powers. In the absence of this the result will be worthless for the Government.

SPEAKER : The Minister concerned has already brought out the proposed procedure to be followed. And he further stated that only an interim report is received by the Government and final report is yet to come.

PU NGURDAWLA : Mr Speaker, what I pointed out was that if we do not have well-laid extent of power before appointing a Commission or a Committee, its findings might not necessarily be accepted. In that case, there is something misconceived in it for which reason the end may be disastrous as was experienced by the State of West Bengal.

PU J.THANGHUAMA : Mr Speaker, time and again, the Government had constituted different types of Commissions or Committees on different subjects. The present Committee which was constituted last year could not submit final report till today. What difficulty prevents them from submitting the report even after such a long period. Do not the Government fix the date or period within which report of the Committee should be presented to the Government? It appears that the method of constitution of the Committee is somewhat unjustifiable.

There was an occasion when examination questions were leaked out to the students. The cause was not, however, found out and the responsible person whoever may be, was not punished. It is truly noted by Pu Ngurdawla that the Committee acts as an Advisory body, not as an Enquiry Committee. We would like to know the workings of the Committee.

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, I can only say though the procedure in other states is not known to me, that it is not rather wise to commit ourselves that the Government will accept 75% or 50% of the report of the Committee.

PU NGURDAWLA : There was such a case in the State of West Bengal. Unless power is delegated to any Committee, it tends to act as only an advisory body. If power is not delegated to the Committee, its reports may not be accepted by the Department. In that case, which of them, the Committee or the Department will have the prevailing authority?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, the terms of references may bring out the real position :

1) To enquire into the causes of unsatisfactory result of the candidates from High Schools of Mizoram in the Board High School Leaving Certificate Examination in 1975.

2) To offer comments and make recommendations for improving the performances of the Recognised High Schools in Mizoram at Board's future examinations.

- 9 -

The Committee comes into existence with immediate effect and its reports shall be submitted through Chairman, Estimates Committee, Mizoram Legislative Assembly within a period of two months from date of issue i.e. 9th September, 1975. On the lines of this, the Enquiry Committee had submitted its report to the Estimates Committee who, in turn, has to examine and consider the report. The report which is to be submitted to the Government is yet to come.

SPEAKER : According to prevailing convention, the Committee or Commission which may be appointed by the Government to examine or to enquire into the cases relating to a particular department which is also under the examination of the Estimates Committee, shall submit its report through the Estimates Committee. This is being followed now.

PU NGURDAWLA : Mr Speaker, I don't think there is such convention in fact. If the Committee is to submit its report through the Estimates Committee it appears that there is no difference from the action taken by the Estimates Committee.

PU H. THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, with your permission, I would like to clarify this point. According to Parliamentary practices, which is also followed here in our Assembly, it would not be wise to put the Estimates Committee ignorant of the matter which is under its examination. We should respect the dignity of the Committee. The Estimates Committee is going to consider about the matter as well, and to prevent clash between the Enquiry Committee and Estimates Committee arrangement is made like that. Because it takes a long time and the Estimates Committee has to consider it very carefully, it takes time. Anyhow, it has been finished by now.

PU K. SANGCHHUM : Mr Speaker, what is the harm in entrusting the entire works, to the Estimates Committee whose findings and recommendations are to be given a higher importance? Thus it will reduce the expenditure of the Government.

PU NGURDAWLA : Mr Speaker, it appears that the report of the Enquiry Committee which is studied by the Estimates Committee was a final Report. This procedure leads to extra expenditure. Would it not be sufficient to ask the Estimates Committee to examine the matter very carefully and thoroughly so that such extra expenditure may be avoided?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, considering the status and importance of the Estimates Committee, any of the Government Department is not in a position to order the Estimates Committee to do such and such things. The Estimates Committee will go into a detailed study of different departments. In the case of Education Department the Estimates Committee is to study the entire Education Department and not only the 1975 examination. It will not therefore be wise to make them take up this particular matter. The Enquiry Committee have visited 46 High Schools.

SPEAKER : We will take up Question No 53. Let the Member concerned ask his question.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Appointment of Teachers for Hindi Training Centre

*53

PU LALHLIRA : Mr Speaker, will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Education Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether the Government of Mizoram has appointed teachers for Hindi Training Centre at Aizawl ?

(b) If so, since when ?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker (a) Yes.
MINISTER (b) On 15th October, 1975 with instructions to join duties immediately.

P U LALHLIRA : Mr Speaker, supplementary question, was it on promotion from other posts or not ? What is the minimum qualification and experience required for this post ? How many persons were appointed ?

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, ^{persons} Two from the Government High School were appointed on transfer basis who have enjoyed the same scale of pay as that of Hindi Teachers in the Training Centre. One appointed was Smt. Chawngthanmawii, who possessed the required qualification of 'Pragya' and experience in the line. The other person appointed was Shri Shiva Kumar who has got a degree in the line and had undergone the Intensive Method-cum-condensed Course for Graduate Hindi Teachers. The appointment was conducted by Dr. Lal, Institute of Hindi, Agra who took great care in pronunciation etc. which are the basic requirements for the teachers in Hindi Training Centres.

PU LALHLIRA : Mr Speaker, one supplementary Question. Did the Board conduct an interview for the appointment ? What are the qualifications, experience, etc

required as per advertisement ? Whether the appointees have gone through an interview Board or pick and choose method was observed ? If any qualification was prescribed, certificate certifying that the persons concerned were qualified be placed before the members ?

FU SALLIANA : Mr Speaker, another supplementary - the Hon'ble Minister had said that the teachers appointed were supposed to join their duties on 15th of October, 1975. If so, since when this training centre was opened ? Is this Training Centre opened to public or is only for the teachers ? What is the actual purpose ? I would also like to know how many teachers are required for this training ? What is the composition of the class of students ? And is there any Board to interview the candidates for the said posts ? It is also very much amazing to note that the Minister in-charge could not differentiate the equivalent degree merely because of the difference in the line. It is also desired that the Minister in-charge in future take note of this .

FU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, I would be glad to take note of what the member has just pointed out. But, it is somewhat difficult to note them all because it is somewhat complicated.

Regarding the required qualification as prescribed in the advertisement, it is not actually known to me. However, the training Centre is basically meant for teachers to help themselves get a better knowledge about Hindi. Regarding interview Board, the Government do not think it necessary to constitute an interview Board since the task was entrusted to the Principal who came from Agra, the Centre-place where four men were sent for training courses. I would make an additional point on this, that to have a very good learning in Hindi it is felt essential to employ non-Mizo speaking persons so that teaching can be carried on without much difficulty that can always arise in the case of Mizo-speaking teachers as they are tempted to communicate in Mizo language in their teachings.

Anyway, there may be some persons among the Mizos who possessed a qualified degree, even post-graduate degree- I would also assure them that there will be an occasion for requiring their services when the Institution is made bigger and wider. At present there are two Instructors in this Training Centre excluding the Principal.

FU LALHIRA : Mr Speaker, how is it possible to say that this man is qualified or not without conducting written test and interview for the candidates ?

SPEAKER : The Minister had said that selection of teachers was carried out by the men from Agra Institute from where our men have obtained training. Speaking in Hindi will also certainly be taken into account. He also mentioned that no specific classification of qualification is required for this post.

PU LALHLIRA : Mr Speaker, how could the Hindi speaking person know that this and that candidate is qualified for the post without proper means of written Examination and interview ?

PU C.LALRUATA : Mr Speaker, I have one more supplementary question on this unstarred question No.9 May I ask please ?

SPEAKER : It will be taken up later on.
(C.Lalruata - Thank you, Sir)

PU K.SANGCHHUM: Mr Speaker, may I request you the same thing to allow me to ask for more time relating to uncalled starred question regarding Agriculture Department ?

SPEAKER : It is not possible to return to the uncalled starred question. Answers to these will be circulated to you later on. For, those uncalled starred questions were regarded as replied by the Minister.

PU NGURDAWLA : Mr Speaker, may I ask one more question on this Hindi teachers as there is time for Question ?

SPEAKER : Let it be enough for today.

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker, may I ask my Question No.49 which was not taken up yesterday due to my absence ?

SPEAKER : Not allowed. Detail Department wise report can be seen in the Library, Assembly Secretariat as provided by Rule 252, Sub Section 2 of the Rules of Procedure.

PU C.LALRUATA : Mr Speaker, Do you mean that you permitted me to ask one more supplementary question ?

SPEAKER : Yes, only one supplementary is permitted.

PU C.LALRUATA : Mr Speaker, my question relates to taxation, the statement of which was seen by me. It appears that a sum of rupees hundred and eight lakhs was recorded as an annual income. In this connection, I have five questions to ask :

Firstly, under the caption "Other Taxes on income and expenditure" it appears that there is no income in the financial years, 1972-73 and 1973-74. Why ?

Secondly, it is also seen that there are some collections in the year, 1972-73 under 'the Rural Development' but there is no collection in the year, 1973-74, and 1974-75. What is the reason ? In spite of the fact that motor vehicles are increasing year by year, the tax collected under 'Tax on Vehicles' decreased since 1972-73. Why decrease in this tax ? There is another point relating to Housing. The total collection under this in the year 1974-75 comes to Rs 4,00,000/-. What is the reason for no collection under this in the financial year 1972-73 as well as in 1973-74 ?

Fifthly, there is also a collection of Rs 8,00,000/- under 'Supplies and Disposals' in the year 1974-75. Why there is no collection at all under this head in the year 1972-73 and 1973-74 ?

PU R.THANGLIANA : Mr Speaker, since the subject relates to revenue it is not so easy to give a clear and satisfactory clarification. May I request you kindly to allow me to reply to those questions in the afternoon when the same subject is to be taken up ?

PU C.LALRUATA : Mr Speaker, as the Minister is not yet well prepared to clarify the points and I am to be given such information, I agree to defer the time.

SPEAKER : Question hour is over. The next item will be 'Presentation of Report'. The report may please be presented to the House by the Chairman, Committee on Petitions-

PU C.LALRUATA : Mr Speaker Sir, with your kind permission, I, Chairman, Committee on Petitions having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on its behalf present this first Report to the House.

SPEAKER : Now, we will take up demand Nos. 20, 24, 26, 46 & 47. Let the Minister concerned move the demands.

PU H.THANSANGA : Mr Speaker, on the recommendation of the MINISTER

Administrator of Mizoram and your permission Sir, I move the Demand Nos. 20, 24, 26, 46 & 47 for Rs. 19,76,10,000/- only to meet the expenses during 1976-77 in respect of the following departments - Demand No 20 - Public Works, 47 - Roads & Bridges, Demand No 46 - Power Projects, Demand No 24 - Education, Arts and Culture, Demand No 26 - Public Health and Water Supply, Demand No 25 - Irrigation, Navigation and Flood Control.

SPEAKER : Discussion will be held on the demands the Minister had moved. Let's try to economise the time allotted for this otherwise time will soon run out.

PU J. THANGHUAMA : Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to speak on Demand No 20 - Public Works' Demand. I have been told by one Executive Engineer that the lowest rate of tender will not necessarily be accepted. Formal order in this regard was also said to be issued. Contrary to this I was also told by other Executive Engineer that no such orders had so far received by him yet. Is there any order that the lowest rate of tender will not necessarily be accepted in future? If yes, what is the extent of that order?

To this effect, I am touched with the probable objections that can be raised by the audit party if the 'workable rate' worked out by each Executive Engineer is to be accepted instead of the so called 'lowest rate'. As it is the practice at present, every office is bound to get himself free from outstanding audit observations and the like. With regard to workable rate, power delegated to officers should be uniform as far as practicable.

Regarding allotment of works to contractors, this has been pointed out by me in the IWD consultative meeting and in the C.L.P. meeting. The practice is very much unsatisfactory and it is a pitiable story to relate. Some contractors are over-burdened with works whereas some contractors are with no work to carry out. For this reason, some people have to work in the name of others and the work once awarded to a particular contractor was also sold to some others without the knowledge of the Government. This malpractice resulting from dissatisfactory award of works has been prevailing since a long time. I feel that it would ^{be very good to} make out a chart showing the list of names of contractors to whom works are allotted, and those not allotted. And now we are having three or more 1st class contractors in Mizoram. I am of opinion that if there are as many as 30 1st class contractors in Mizoram, there will be clean and fair competition among them and this will reduce, to a great extent, the widespread corruption. Moreover, in contrast with the policy of our Prime Minister, it ~~will~~ make rich richer, and the poor poorer. The adverse effect is an ever-expanding gap between the rich and the poor.

The smaller contractors are now compelled to live at the mercy of the other contractors. Sometimes, a contractor is always getting different types of works under P.W.D., PHE and Supply Department whereas some contractors are always deprived of the chance. When someone tries to register himself as 1st class or 2nd class contractor he has been told of the same words 'that the work you have so far taken up before is too little to be registered as 1st class or 2nd class.' If he is not given any work, how can he work? It has been said that the first class contractor must possess a stone crusher and so on, and so forth. But, there is no person who fulfilled all the required /essential qualifications- Still registration as 1st class Contractor had been given to some of the contractors. There are at present more than hundred contractors some of whom are not allotted any works since their registration. I would once again request the Minister to uniformly distribute works of different nature to all the Contractors. I would also suggest that uniform workable rate be followed. Otherwise, there will be a better chance for corruption. It would be wise to have a clear cut classification of percentage that can be accepted as workable rate for retaining wall, building and road construction purposes. Let's take an example. One Executive Engineer may fix 15% as workable rate for completing the work of building construction. The other may accept 17% or 5% as workable rate for the same work. Thus, there'll be dissimilarity between the executing officers. It would be much appreciated if a uniform rate for work is laid down.

Regarding the much debated subjected of Power and electricity, it is very much disappointing to learn that there is a permanent power failure in A-izawl town. When I visited Thakthing Veng, I was told by one person that his metre box fixed in his residence was taken by the Electric Department for rechecking from their end for it was found that energy bill amounting to Rs 500/- was wrongly charged. Thus, it appears that metre boxes are not working properly. I also wondered sometimes when the metre-reading is done, the reader just glances at the box and the amount to be paid comes up to Rs 300/- per month. It may be pointed out that the normal charge for one month in the time of Assam Electricity Board was Rs 20/- or Rs 15. Now, the usual rate charged always comes to Rs 200/- or Rs 300/- for one month. This is due mainly to the frequent failure of metre box.

I would once again point out the case relating to the Public Health Engineering Department. The same was pointed out by me in our last session. The case is desired by all members to be investigated by a High level Enquiry Commission. The present case is investigated by one man and he is thus placed in a very embarrassing position. The consideration will go either the wrong or right side of the report whatever may be the findings. What the members

hope and expect is that the Commission be constituted from the MLAs and the case be investigated. But, to our amazement, one man Commission was appointed by the Government to look into the case. And notification was issued in the Gazette of Mizoram that complaints against the works of IHE may be submitted to the P.E. within 15th December. The way it was processed was also not correctly justifiable. At present, we have an Enquiry Commission on Education Department which toured almost throughout the Mizoram and visited most of the High Schools to correctly assess them. In the case of P.H.E. Department, there is no study tour conducted by the Commission even just to find out the fact. As I could see that general public do not mind if huge amount of money is spent for water supply. It is still inconceivable to note that the Department could not supply sufficient water even to the V.I.Ps. It should have been better not to spend even a single paise on this scheme. Even if the huge amount of expenditure was incurred for this purpose, we, the members want to commission the scheme fully. Money has been spent in thousands of rupees for the execution of the scheme but the supply is not sufficient for public and not even the public leaders and higher officials. Are there any wrong doings or miscalculations in the scheme? If yes, why not appoint a Commission from and amongst the MLAs to enquire into the wrong doings. It is necessary to modify the position of the Enquiry Commission. The Principal Engineer is put in a very awkward position as he is to examine the Department and the staff who are under him. Being the only member of the Commission, it may perhaps be that he himself is also involved in the case. He is not so likely to find faults against him and his department. He will rather want to save them from wrong doings. It is thus necessary to have a Commission from members of neutral class. It would be unwise and more impracticable for the Government to appoint a Commission headed by the army officers to look into the cases relating to the death of a civilian in the hands of the Security Forces. In this way, it would be very much embarrassing for the Principal Engineer to look into the cases. Hence, if it is not possible to reconstitute the Commission, I think it would be better and to reconsider the terms and references which were laid down for the Commission. It is also felt necessary to have Consultation with the Public leaders to exactly pin-point who are guilty. The works of IHE Department cover the whole of Mizoram. As such to endorse the works of enquiry into the unsatisfactory performances of this Department is not so appropriate. He has to supervise and direct the Department which is known to be the most busy and over-burdened with works. It will not at all be possible for him to give even two or three days time to do this work. It has been learnt that persons who are not so over-burdened were always appointed as members of the Commission. Suppose the P.E.

is to have spot verification at Champhai, it will take him at least three or four days to come back. Therefore, his service cannot be utilised for this purpose and I wish the matter and procedure be reconstructed by this Government.

I would also like to add some more points on Education Department. The Government has now posted one L.P. teacher each to the Thlawhbawk for every L.P. School. This is not sufficient and one more teacher in addition to the posting made earlier should be posted. I would recommend that if sufficient number of teachers are posted at every village, the pace in Educational development will be speedier. This being the hope and sincere desire of the villagers, I would like to bring this to the notice of the Government.

The Public Works Department and other departments have worked up to their level best during the past year. However, there has been unsatisfactory method of allotment of works to contractors and dissimilarity in preferring workable rate. Even if it is not possible for the Departmental heads to consider the matter anew, will it not be possible for the Minister? Consequent upon the declaration of emergency, I think it is time for the Minister to direct his subordinate officers that works whatever type they may be, should be executed promptly. Some of the officers are a little more influential, and could to a great extent convince the authority who in turn keep them around him. This also needs some changes. That's all.

Thank you.

PU C.L.LRUATA : Mr Speaker, it is difficult to express what is in mind because many demands are taken up at a time not to speak of the limit of the time.

It is not possible to look thoroughly into the Budget, I would start rightaway from demand no.20 in respect of Public Works Department. There has been a great controversy in connection with the Schedule of rate which is rather out-moded and inapplicable in these days. Why is it not amended or modified to suit the present condition? This needs to be amended and immediate attention be given to this. Regarding spending of fund at the tag end of the year, it has already been spoken about the inability to utilise the money allotted for the Department. The difficulty was pointed out in this present session while discussing the speech delivered by the Lt.Governor. This was also said to have been directed by the Principal Engineer, the only figure head in the field, who made known to his officers that fund under N.E.C. Scheme amounted to about rupees one crore but only half of this was spent. As a matter of fact, every type of works under Public Works Department has to be executed at the spot. We do not know which of the codes, Central or Assam, is

lakhs were spent for improvement of one kilometre length of road. The expenditure was uncontrollably pushed up by the contractors themselves with a view to derive as much profit as possible. The condition of town road as it stands now has greatly been improved. The road connecting Bawngkawn and Chandmary was recently taken over and maintained by the Public Works Department. The condition of the road is very bad during all season. During rainy days the road is filled with mud and in winter season the road is too dusty, thus resulting in inaccessibility through this road by foot, for which season pedestrians are deprived of this facility. I would suggest that this road be taken up during the first part of the coming financial year and priority be given for its improvement. Regarding construction of retaining wall at various vengs, it is said that a proposal for construction of retaining wall which was put up to the Principal Engineer. Those retaining walls are to be constructed below and above some individuals' houses. Anyway I have no objection to it since the aim of the road construction is to keep pace with the over-all improvement of town. But what I would like to point out is that after giving his approval and after the works of earth cuttings were in progress, the Principal Engineer again withdrew his order by giving instruction to discontinued the work. Some persons whose house sites were already excavated were put in a wretched condition with their houses on a very narrow edge of landslip. Hence it will mean, as was pointed out by Pu Ngurdawla yesterday, that the properties and houses owned by private individuals are paralysed by the Government. This kind of action is quite improper. As such, the Government should take note of it in future.

The need for having Inspection Bungalows at various centres in Mizoram has time and again been pointed out by one of our senior member Pu Hrangaiia in this prestigious debate. In that connection, I would also like to make mention about my constituency. Two of the major villages within my constituency are Chhingchhip and Chhiahtlang and these are located on the road side- One of them had a Bungalow and the other got a circuit or Rest House, which is since its completion of construction occupied by the Security Forces. One day when I paid a visit to this village, I intended to get myself lodged in the Rest House put my beddings and all and went out after having been given a cup of tea, to have public contact in the village. During this short period of my absence, my bed and clothes were brought back to the village with an order that logging for public in the Rest House was not allowed. The order was received from the headquarters, 23 CRPF. Again, however, with the company of the Dy. Speaker, we were given a room with bed occupied by a Junior Officer. Here I would like to request the Minister in-charge to enquire into the matter and to take immediate action so that this bungalow

which is the property of the public may be used for the purpose for which it is constructed. Let the occupying Security Forces shift themselves backward and make way for approach road to this bungalow. In the present position access is not given to the Section Assistant who is in-charge of maintenance of this bungalow and with the result that necessary repair could not be done. This also shows that we have become outsiders in our own land. It is time that we construct as many Inspection Bungalows as possible in every village where road exist all weather.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would also like to speak a few words on purchase of bull dozers. It is known to me that an indent for purchase of bull dozer had been sent to the Bharat Earth - movers Ltd. In doing this there are, in the first place, improper practices. No quotation was called for from other firms. Your argument may be that this manufacturer is a public under-taking. It was taken over by the Government of India very recently. You may also argue that the Government of India has issued an instruction to buy their products. But still, there are so many other firms which are undertaken by the Government of India. Anyway, even if there is any argument for buying two bull dozers from the Bharat Earth movers Ltd., there must be a time limit during which the material should be delivered to the buyer. However, this condition and terms are not prescribed at all between the buyer and the seller. It is simply mentioned that the material will be delivered 'as soon as possible'. How long it takes we don't know but the words 'as soon as possible' will still mean that the goods can be delivered after two or three years. Moreover, the machine 'Bulldozer' is too heavy to move hither and thither for which, at least Rs 700/- will be required as transportation charge from Kulikawn to Chandmery. Further more, there are no parts available within our reach in case the machine gets damaged. As a consequence guarantee certificate against its probable defects could not be obtained from the manufacturer. I came to know that there is one company by the name of Jessop & Co. It is a public undertaking. The Bulldozer they manufacture has a horse power of 95 with a weight of 9 tonnes. On the other hand, the bull dozer manufactured by the Bharat Earth movers Ltd. has 90 h.p. and its weight is 11 tons. The price offered by the Jessop Co. for one bull dozer is Rs 57,000/- and expected date of delivery at Aizawl is one month from the date of confirmation of quotation. If the Government of Mizoram bought bulldozer from the Bharat Earth movers Ltd. the loss will be around Rs 20,000/-. If this is approved by the Purchase Board I have nothing to say but if it was purely on the advice of the Principal Engineer, I'd like to know whether the amount involved is within his financial power. If the bulldozer

..21/-

is purchased at Bangalore, the cost price for each will be Rs 40,000/-. If delivered at here at Aizawl, the amount will be more than one lakh of rupees for the two machines. Since the amount involved is so high, the Government should reconsider and take up the scheme afresh. If you permit me to speak on the Aizawl - Thenzawl Road for another few minutes Sir, I would be pleased to add some more points. As was pointed earlier by some of our members, it is learnt that a Remeasurement Commission has been constituted by the Government, to take up the case relating to Section IV of the said road; being non-official member of the Commission I had accompanied the Commission once and visited and remeasured the road in the month of March, last year. Out of the total length of 39 kilometres, 10 kilometres were remeasured by the Commission. But whatever be the findings of the Commission, the Government is not going to accept and is not bound by the terms and references laid down on the paper. As far as I know and as there was no good understanding between the Government and the Contractors right from the start, one of the contractors who just got into the field of contract by borrowing the money required for his work from a well-known friend of his, has to refund about Rs 10,000/ to the Government. We are not, however, concerned about the loss and gain of any particular contractor but we must concern ourselves about the mode of measurement already taken by the Department. If we consider the measurement already taken, the Contractors are likely to lose half of the work performed by them. Due to dispute arising out of wrong measurement, the present Commission has come into being. The findings of the Commission and the previous measurement, the difference of the two is so great that it will not be on exaggeration to say that the findings of the Commission have fallen down to 20 % which is very much reasonable.

Regarding Roads and Bridges Division, though there is enough fund for construction of bridges even a single bridge is not constructed till date by this Division which is headed by the Executive Engineer. I hope the fund allocated for this purpose will be utilised during the coming year and some important projects will be completed. For carrying out such plans, it will require the services of Principal Engineer, and other persons who may be involved administratively or technically.

Regarding purchase of power generating sets, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the person who failed to supply the machine is again selected to supply the generators. I am sure that he will again fail to supply the generating sets and I am not going to raise my hand in favour of passing the demand for I know that there is undeniably good understanding between the officer and the selected supplier.

W With regard to Public Health Engineering Department, I think it will be necessary to give a chance to train in Health Engineering the workers of this Department. Sometimes, I also think that the Public Health Engineering Department and Health Department be amalgamated into one major Department. This was recommended and incorporated in the first Report of the Estimates Committee which is not implemented as yet by the Department concerned. Since the Committee on Estimates in its report had recommended and as its importance was stressed by the Dy. Minister i/c Health Department in his speech yesterday, I would request the Government to take steps towards its implementation.

Lastly, I would also like to speak on the demand in respect of Education Department. In that connection, I am sure that indoor games, like chess, carrom, & draught playing which have been played by the teaching staff of all levels during working hours will deteriorate the standard of education practically and morally. I know this through my experience as a School teacher for four or five years and it is rather easy to be irregular in taking class while playing such games. In fact, an instruction was issued by the Inspector of Schools with no good result. I think this should be complied with by the Department as a whole. With regard to the question arising out of the Hindi training centre, I would like to add some points, it is personally known to me that one person who got a degree in general education and in Hindi was told to submit his application for the post. Being the only applicant and qualified person, he firmly believed that he will be appointed for the post, but to his amazement, some other person was appointed leaving his name out. A number of times I have approached and contacted the authority in the Education Department to review the case. Let the Government discharge the officer concerned for practising and showing nepotism. Since we live in a democratic world, every citizen has the right to speak what he had in mind. It thus makes me think that what is the use of representing the people even if we do not have the voice to advise the Government for the good of the people. I would also like to point out one thing in this regard that one circular was issued by the Chief Secretary that no person or employee should seek help of any politicians and that canvassing directly or indirectly will disqualify a candidate for the post which he applied for. It makes me think that the place in which we live and the atmosphere that surrounds us have become too cramped. Sometimes, some officers are not willing to accept recommendations made by us. Some of our officers used to come to us whenever they have problems and requested us to help them solve their problems. If it is thus, why officers are not kind hearted and considerate towards their subordinate staff? In the world of politics, everything except spiritual life

is governed by the waves of politics. How dare the officers paid from the public fund behave like this? If we could not have voice in the day-to-day affairs of administration, Mr Speaker Sir, I feel that the condition may need review. One more point regarding grants and terms of employment as a teacher in nursery schools. I would like to suggest that services of teachers of these schools be regularised and they be promoted as teachers in L.P. Schools.

Thank you.

HIPHEI, DY. SPEAKER : There is no time limit as to the duration of a member's speech. Still we have two demands to be taken up today. Shall we fix a shorter time for discussion?

PU VANLALHRUAIA : Mr Dy. Speaker Sir, the demands we are taking up are very important. It includes one of the most important departments. The Minister in charge who took charge of the Department recently will surely find some problems and he will also face public discontentment as well as praise.

First of all, I would like to speak on demand No. 20 in respect of Public Works Department. We find that the work of Aizawl Town Road improvement is being started. We don't know which portions are meant for extension. I wonder if there is no proposal to extend town road besides the Assam Rifles Compound. In addition I would like to point out that the road starting from the gate of Raj Nivas and ending at D.F.O's quarters is too narrow and it is too dangerous for a big truck to pass through. If it is not included, I would also request the government to include it. Besides, regarding rate offered by our local contractors, as has been pointed out by other members, I think that it may be hard to tackle this matter. Time and again I myself have suggested that allotment of works to contractors be given on lump-sum basis. What is the difficulty in doing that on lump-sum basis? It is wonderful that contractors in bidding the works tendered by the Government could still quote 40% or even 50% below Schedule of rate. So far the contractors can work within that limit and we may say that the Schedule of rate is not so bad as compared to workable rate. However there was a great competition between the contractors themselves by lowering their rates which result in an unreasonable delay of works. As it is now considered necessary to follow a new pattern, SDOs and E.E.s are free to appoint contractors at the reasonable rate the officers are having. I would, therefore, like to have the so called 'workable rate' adopted. With regard to Kawkulh - Ngopa - Churachandpur Road, survey of the road was started in 1974-75 and 1975-76.

It is time now to start constructing the road within 1976-77, but as shown in the work Schedule of the P.W.D., the road is still under survey. The other day I was visiting some officers to know the actual position. I was told that the Division concerned had completed the work of survey and yet the work of construction is not started. What is the reason? Why the construction of the road is not started and what is the difficulty in this?

Regarding Aizawl- Thenzawl- Lunglei road, the pros and cons of the problems were discussed during the erstwhile District Council and it was decided that the road construction be handed over to the B.R.T.F. Still the road is under the P.W.D. For several reasons, I have recommended that the road be taken over by the B.R.T.F. but my suggestion was turned down till date. The P.W.D. rather liked to maintain it for two or more years. The condition of the road is very much hopeless as compared to other roads constructed by the P.W.D. and it is not possible to open the road to traffic even up to the point of Sialsuk. However, as the Minister -in- charge is willing, the road will be opened to traffic soon. But the condition is hopeless at any rate. I have once talked to the Minister and told him of its present condition as witnessed by me at the spot. It appears that the Department has failed to fully carry out its plans on this road. With this view in mind, I resolved to submit my resolution for taking over this road by the B.R.T.F. Fortunately or unfortunately my resolution was rejected again. Even now, jeep could not fly through the road. Hence, we may say that the Government is not aware enough of the problems faced by the people of Aizawl South. Even if the road is to be opened, it should not be inaugurated by the Minister concerned before it is truckable road.

Regarding spending of money by the P.W.D., I came to know that huge amount of unutilised money is going to be surrendered to the Central Government. I also found necessary to reconsider the rate of daily wage fixed by the P.W.D. The existing rate of Rs 6/- per day per labourer should be conveniently raised for the poorer section to Rs 8/- per day as it is the main theme of our Prime Minister that poverty should be removed.

With regard to compensation granted to private individuals whose houses, land properties, etc. are damaged owing to the construction of roads within such premises, I believed it would be better to take necessary precaution beforehand and thorough investigation prior to the commencement of earth cuttings should be done so as to avoid unnecessary complications in future. In addition to my previous point, I would like to submit the heartfelt desires of the people living on the roadside of Thenzawl Road that the

road be handed over to the B.R.T.F. and steps be taken to do so with the central Government by the Government of Mizoram.

Regarding power & electricity problems faced by the habitants of Aizawl town, the importance of it could not be underestimated. In fact, several questions were raised and asked by us during this present session. The present condition compared to its previous condition while under A.S.E.B. has changed from bad to worse. Why is this? Is this because of transfers and changing of staff to Assam or is it because of the new and inexperienced handling of the machines that regular supply of power is not at all found these days? The flow of power current is steady during the day but it is shut out at night time. But, bill for supply of energy when received came up too high. I, myself had pointed out this thing on several occasions in this House. If the present charge rate is to be our permanent rate of payment towards energy bill, very few persons will be able to consume the electricity. In few cases which came to my knowledge the bill charge for one or two months came up to as high as Rs. 400/- (approx). Even our high officers will not always meet such expenditure. The other day the Minister in reply to my Question has stated that the main reason for increase in the energy bill was due to the consumers who were next door-neighbours. I don't know many of the cases but so far as I know the consumers whom I know very well had their power connection from the time of ASEB and gave no connection to others. This shows that there is miscalculation in metre reading and wrong making of the bill by the staff. The Department should look into the case and the defaulting person, if found, should be placed under suspension from Service. On several occasions we have lodged complaints about wrong and miscalculated bills. The staff in consequence of our complains stated that there might be some defects in the metre box. We, however, do not know the mechanical defects. They came and took the metre box for checking but no good results have so far been found yet. Therefore, it is necessary to take precaution so that miscalculation and wrong making of the bill be avoided.

Regarding education Department, I would like to speak on the organisation and maintenance of the Department. Some of our members have also pointed out the defects and disadvantages that have been found with the Department of Education. In this connection, I asked one question in the last session regarding disqualification of teachers of Deficit High Schools to contest in the Village Council election. The reply was in affirmative to my question. As such I was also told that necessary action will be taken against the contestant for misconduct. However, after a lapse of one year, there is no such implementation in reality.

Does it mean that the teachers working in the Deficit High Schools are qualified for contesting and involving in politics ? I have no objection provided that they are qualified in a real sense, but if they are barred from such political activities there should be strict compliance of the standing rule and the defaulting persons should be punished accordingly. There is also shortage of staff under Deputy Inspector of Schools and Inspector of Schools compared to the work load. We have altogether 1,600 L.P. Teachers in Mizoram whose pay and other related matters are dealt with by these two officers. It is, therefore, felt necessary to take steps to increase the working staff especially the clerical staff. When I paid a visit to the Deputy Inspector's office, I was told that at least one and half years will be required to clear clear pending matters resulting from the arrear pay and allowances as a consequence of the revised pay scales of the teaching staff whose total number came upto almost 780 under one Deputy Inspector. The Government should therefore make necessary arrangement to provide more staff to the D.I.S. The importance of promotion examination which proves the students' success or failure has been stressed by some other members in the earlier discussion. As we do not have a competent Board to conduct all these examinations, it appears that the Department entrusted the works of Supervision and conduct of the examinations in the hands of different officers whose assignments were different. If this is continued and followed for another year, the condition of examination will become from bad to worse. It may also be mentioned that the basic reason for leakage of examination questions in the past years was due mainly to the improper management of the examination. To avoid such recurrence it is felt that the Government should attach those works particularly to a branch headed by a D.I.S. or Sub-Inspector of Schools whichever is found suitable and future examinations of different classes be conducted by this Branch. Even if complete stoppage of such mismanagement is not possible, irregularities will be traced out easily.

More about games and sports - it has been learnt that after the findings of the Enquiry Commission the bad result of H.S.L.C. is partly connected with too much introduction of sports & Games in the Schools. Part of the Schooling is for games which resulted in unsatisfactory performance of students in their examinations as well. It is now necessary to review the method with which games & sports are carried out in our schools so that maximum time may be given for their studies.

There are Thlawhbawks in many parts of Mizoram. Whether authorised or not, the number of houses in a Thlawhbawk has increased from 80 houses to 200 houses even. Some of them are even bigger than the parent grouping centres. With the increase in population the demand for L.P. schools

and M.E.Schools has arisen. However, there should be a provision that the Thlawhbawk should be provided with bare necessities. There are cases where one teacher has to teach some 100 to even 200 children. The teacher is too over-burdened. If there is no solution to this problem, we will surely fall behind others in learning and studies. If Thlawhbawks are once allowed to be established and if we are not intending to withdraw them to their parent grouping centres, we are compelled to pay more attention to this, as well as other developmental programmes like road, water supply, etc. I would also request the Government to take necessary steps for the upliftment and welfare of the Thlawhbawks as much as they do to the group centres.

Thank you.

PU SAPLIANA § Mr Speaker Sir, I am really thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on different demands. We have heard of the speeches given by other members and there are, in fact, points note-worthy and informative to the Government. Our expectation from the Government is very high and the expectation of the general public is still higher. They considered their representative members as almost equal to God but this should not be the way we expect from men. If we had such a high expectation from our leaders who control the governmental machinery and if our expectation is not fulfilled, we will become frustrated. God said 'let there be light and there was light'. But, man cannot do that. We must therefore have a limited expectation from our Government. Still I have something in mind and would like to speak of them in general.

Regarding demand No 20 in respect of P. & D., there are certain things to be pointed out. It appears that the department concerned as has always been pointed out is full of problems and obstacles. It also appears that whenever things are to be fully implemented technical difficulties have always cropped up in the way. There is also technical difficulty in construction of buildings, bridges, roads etc and even in the preparation of bills. It thus results in delay of works proper. Let's take an example. The construction of T.B.Hospital was completed in the month of March but the bill when it was prepared could not be paid due to some technical difficulties. At last the payment was made very recently. The contractor tried hard and completed as he was instructed. Further, I was told that the Bill was kept pending by the dealing clerk who demanded a bribe from the contractor. On this demand, the contractors resolved to contribute some money from pwn pocket. However, I could convince them not to do and not indulge in such practices. These are the

technical difficulties that prevent the Department from keeping works going smoothly. Above all these things, whenever the department is at work, countless problems have confronted the department. As stated by Pu Lalruata, there are incorrect measurements on the Thanzawl - Aizawl road. I think there will be some solutions or remedies for these things. There are also assembly questions on the subject relating to purchase of tractors, generating sets. If the Government do not take necessary precautionary measures on such occasions the public grievances will become higher and more intolerable.

Coming to the point already raised by Pu C. Lalruata regarding Inspection Bungalow, the exact condition of Chhingchhip Inspection Bungalow and the related question was asked by me in the last session, but there was no proper reply to that. This matter can be settled by the Minister, I hope. The Bungalow should be made available for use by the officials and public leaders and the occupying security Forces should be instructed to vacate the place. We also have new roads constructed by the P.W.D. One road was opened and inaugurated by the Chief Minister. At the same time, it is necessary to accelerate the method of implementation of the project. In the District of Lakhur, there is no road maintained or purely constructed by the P.W.D. except roads constructed by the B.R.T.F. I would like to request the Government to construct roads within this District. Regarding construction of bridges, I would also point out that though the Division is headed by the Executive Engineer there is nothing done by this Division. If there is no work to be done, what is the use of posting an Executive Engineer? One bridge over Chhintuipui river was temporarily constructed by the Executive Engineer. It lasted a few days before it was swept away by flood. The matter was brought to the notice of the House by me in the following session. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had assured us that money will be separately allotted for the construction of a temporary bridge. Practically no money is received for the purpose till today.

Let me turn over to Electricity Department.

Many questions were asked on the issue regarding purchase of power generating sets and discussions were also held about this. The Minister's reply to my question made clear enough about the realisation of electric charges. But I dare say that no metre reading is made at all by the department. We have been informed through newspapers that load shedding at alternate days will be done in a week. This irregularity of light is well known to us. However, the bill does not change ^{and} is still going up to Rs 100/- or Rs 200/- per month. At the spot metre reading is not held by the department. It will be better to look into the matter. It has also been stated that rural electrification is being pursued by the government. At the same time, there are

numerous problems. We must all know that things of great importance could not be attained without much problems. Anyway, it is very much displeasing to have such irregular supply of power. In his reply to our question, the Minister in-charge has stated that 3 out of 6 generating sets planted at Lunglei and one out of two sets at Kolesib were put to service leaving the other sets useless. Will it not be possible to get them repaired instead of condemning them? At no time we'll be having a proper and regular supply of power if this is the way we spend money. Though there were proposals for constructing an artificial dam at Chhimituipui river to generate hydel power, the proposals were totally turned down. The public grievances will increase if the expenditure towards electricity is increased without good results.

Regarding Public Health Engineering Department, although we have no reason to compare Aizawl and Lunglei, it has been the request of the people to the authority to look into the cases of long term projects for Saiha and Lawngtlai. The Department has done nothing there and the name of the Department is not even known to them. In fact, the project was initiated by the then Assam Government; but till today the work of survey is not completed. I am saying this on the assumption that there may probably be some solution for the immediate completion of such pending cases.

There are also quite a few rivers which could be made navigable provided the department took full interest in it. To take an example, River Chawngto, if made navigable and maintained, may profitably be used for transportation of agricultural products of the nearby area. I would request the government to make utmost effort so as to make this river opened to ships and boats.

With regard to Education Department I would like to point out the organisation as a whole. The office of the Directorate is large and the offices of Inspector, Sub-Inspectors are too small. Earlier, the whole department was headed by the Asst. Superintendent and the link between the Secretariat was very little. For this reason, I believed that the department of Education is not improving. It would, therefore, be more practicable to enlarge the Secretariat office than the Directorate. It has also been a long felt desire and wish that the Inspection should be carried on more regularly and more often. Although we are well informed that so far as Schools are concerned Inspectors play a vital role in the field of education, we cannot still post even one Inspector at Lunglei the jurisdiction of which covers two districts. There should also be at least one Asstt. Inspector to look after the Chhimituipui District. Regarding appointment of School teachers of L.P.Schools

upto High School teachers, the method of appointment based on panels of candidates is more or less inapplicable to these days for there is scope for newly passed out students to be appointed as teachers. From now on, there should be an open advertisement for the posts so as to render chances for all qualified persons. As was stated by Pu Hrangaia, I am of the opinion that the mode of filling up of vacant posts should be reformed. Fixed pay receivers like teachers in Nurse-y Schools may be given due consideration and their cases should be reviewed. Having been informed of the problems faced by the trainees in the Industrial Training Institute, I would like to request the authority to give them light connection to the building so as to enable them to pursue their learnings without interruption. Regarding sports, special importance is given to it and regular annual sports are organised by the Department. Some years back, students from different schools came to Aizawl to participate in the State level Sports. But, to their amazement, they were told that they should bring some quantity of mustard oil, fire-wood, ripe-pumpkin and one plate with them. On hearing this instruction, they rushed to my residence. Most of these students were from Serchhip High School. I was also embarrassed and annoyed with such orders. However, the number of participating students in the following annual meets became less and less as a result of the poor entertainment given to the students. Sports should, however, be given special attention and encouragement should be given to the students. The Government should therefore, look into the problems and necessary steps should be taken to improve the system of games and sports. Regarding Students' Excursion conducted by the Government, we have been informed that huge amount of money is spent every year for this purpose. Since it is a part of education, teachers of even high Schools should be given this chance to see and get acquainted with other states. They may be able to collect necessary information of practical value and they may cultivate in our own soil. I am requesting the Government to follow this suggestion.

Further, I would also like to point out the ever increasing problem of our methods of examination. We, the people of South Mizoram, have been facing this problem. The matter was reported to the Government. The Government is also trying to do away with this problem. However, if inter-vigilation of examination by the teachers of the whole territory is done, the resultant effect, whatever relation of teachers and students they have, will be much better. There was an uproar among the students in connection with disorderly arrangement of examination. This was, however, calmed down and the students were persuaded to take their

Examinations. Considering the views and hopes of the people and the students, we are very sorry to learn that no results of examination are yet published. Question - papers were leaked out and examination was carried out with the help of the District Magistrate in the town. There has been constituted an Enquiry body to enquire into the causes of leakage of questions among the students. They have not submitted their findings to the Government and no action is taken up to redress their grievances.

Let me point out regarding appointment of L.P. teachers, and M.E. School teachers. As already stated by Pu Ruata, although recommendations for such appointments were made by the MLAs and Ministers, the Department authority always rejected such recommendations. There should also be discipline among the officers. The Ministers have to look into these things and they should also keep their department at work. As it was not found with the Government, the Government lost its popularity as a result of which we are also hit back. Therefore, the Government should take steps to avoid such recurrences.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Well, we'll have a recess till 2 p.m.

AFTERNOON 2 P.M.

SPEAKER : We have two hours left. We also have to take up one more demand. Anyway, I will now call upon the Minister in-charge of the demand already discussed.

PU NGURDAWLA : Mr Speaker Sir, if you could give me time to speak generally on those demands which were already spoken of by other members, I'd be very glad.

SPEAKER : Extension of time for discussion be given by the House. But as a convention, a member is allotted 15 minutes for discussion, 30 Minutes to Minister, and 20 minutes each for the Chief Whip and leader of opposition. If we are agreeable to extend the time for discussion, we can do so. Even if we want to extend it we must not leave our seats, until we finish our discussion. All members were in their seats waiting and speaking yesterday. It was very much appreciated. Now, we can give extension of

time if we are ready to endure the formalities. We must also observe our convention and more than 15 minutes time should not be occupied by one member.

PU NGURDAWLA : Mr Speaker Sir, I am really happy that you could give me a chance to speak on various demands. One of my colleagues had spoken of these items. But, I would like to touch a few more points. At the same time, I felt that sufficient time should be allotted for the present demands which are of great importance.

As had already been pointed out by Pu J. Thanghuma, I do believe in having a uniform workable rate. I'd rather oppose acceptance of the lowest tender at any cost for it will lead to unsuitable adjustment. To this effect, 5 or 4 lowest tenderers were appointed as contractors at road construction work near Mamit. After sometime, they failed to complete the construction works at the rate quoted by them. We may thus see the disadvantages in appointing contractors at lowest tendered rate. Whatever works are with the Department, those should be apportioned amongst the deserving contractors. Moreover, I would like to suggest that the recommendations incorporated in the report of the Swaminathan Commission which says that any kinds of contract, supply of articles that may be given to contractors should be first approved by the Board, and followed in Mizoram U.T. Had the practice been followed in our territory one of the debated issues on purchase of Bulldozers would have been avoided. Four or five persons are better judges than one man who directs every order according to his will. We will be able to make it right provided we take necessary steps. Before the introduction of the present practice in the P.W.D., it was observed that the lowest rate of tender was usually accepted. It would, therefore, be more profitable to follow the existing procedure in that regard.

There are also endless problems regarding application of P.W.D. Code, Central Code and Assam Code are simultaneously in force in the Mizoram U.T. It is also seen that wherever and whenever opportunity permits, most of the Executive Engineers applied the two Codes at the same time. Therefore, it is now high time to have our own Mizoram P.W.D. Code framed and applied.

Some days back, we, as P.A.C. members, had a discussion with the Chief Secretary regarding unutilised amount of about Rupees fifty lakhs to be used for the implementation of Schemes under N.E.C. According to him there is a long way to go through in getting the allotted amount spent for the purpose because, he further stated, further correspondences with the main office of N.E.C. and the

Central Housing Ministry should have to be processed. The Government is, however, doing its level best to actually spend those amounts and to make the probable amount of surrender less than what we actually anticipated at the first sight. In this connection, I would, like to know what are the difficulties in getting the approval for spending the amount and also its present position. Regarding purchase of Bulldozers, I think there will be some other possibility to review the matter in view of the difficulties involved in it as stated by Pu Lalruata.

With regard to supply of generating sets, I came to learn that the same firm (under a different name) which once failed to supply the material was again appointed by the government of Mizoram as supplier. The appointment of the supplier should at any cost be cancelled. It would be very much appreciated if the Minister-in-charge could submit the follow-up-action thereon.

Again, on Education Department, I would like to give stress on this. In the past, the department had gone through a perplexing state of condition but now, the situation is more or less normal and steady. We may thus stick the good name to the Department. This is due mainly to the efforts made by the Department that things have been kept under control. However, according to reports received from different schools and their Headmasters, there are difficulties in getting grants in-aid in time. This is due to the fact that rules framed by the Department are not published in the Mizoram Gazette for which reason they are not in force. Publication of Gazette was not possible because there was no availability of enough fund with the Government Press. Still, it can be seen that the present budget does not provide better prospect for the same. Government Press delays printing which affects the proper working of education Department. I would, therefore, request the Government to push up the Press Section so that Rules may be published in time. Regarding pay of Hindi teachers, I would also like to point out that their present pay including all allowances amounting to Rs 260/- only is much lower than the pay received by the employees in equivalent posts. If the idea behind this is to propagate Hindi in our State, we cannot successfully carry out that idea with such meagre allowances. In this connection, as I have once pointed out, the main idea of the Government of India is to cultivate in the minds of the Indian population ideas of integration. Since the idea behind this is to give a feeling of national integration among the people of India, it is necessary to establish a separate wing under the Directorate and a separate provision for Hindi.

With regard to P.H.E. Department, as we all know, an Enquiry Commission was constituted to enquire

into the working of the Department. But, there is very little progress that can be seen with the Department. The one-man Commission so constituted is supposed to conduct spot verification at Champhai and Durtlang. There are also doubtful points and improper condition of work execution at Aizawng and at various other places. At the same time, it appears that the one-man Commission is not intending to enquire into all such cases. Unless proper investigation is held, there will be no water available for the public. The Government should, therefore, make attempt to solve this problem so that the grievances of members will be removed.

Mr Speaker Sir, again I would like to speak on the demand in respect of P.W.D. There are contractors collectively known as Shramik Bahini who benefited greatly and did works very well. at Tanhril and Luangmual villages. It is, therefore, necessary to pay more attention on this so that the wealth of the country may be equitably distributed among the poorer section of the people. In doing this, we should also be very careful to get the best result. To successfully adopt and follow the guideline put forward by our great and dynamic Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi we must take steps towards the improvement of P.W.D. and P.E.S. Department.

T-hank you.

PU SANGKHUMA : Mr Speaker, though there are many things to speak of, due to want of sufficient time I may not be able to speak on all the demands. Anyway, as we all know, the Departments viz : PWD, Education and others which we are talking about are of great importance. The short-comings of these Departments have been pointed out by some members. Regarding power and Electricity Department, it is very much discreditable to make more mention of it. We also found improper functioning of the Department of Public Works. I wish the Department could correct itself in the coming financial year. There should be no calling of tenders at the gag end of financial year. As experienced in the past years, contractors are always kept busy and overworked at the last part of the year and no works are given during the earlier part of the year. This practice is not commendable and we should abandon it at once. Unless we give up the procedure and practices, we will again find ourselves in a position that makes us unable to spend the fund already allotted to us. Then, there will be no reality in preparing annual budget.

I would also like to talk on the Island Water Transport. The branch is headed by S.D.O. but little work is done by them. Sometimes, they go to river but clearance of the rocky shores is not progressing at all.

Though there are many things to say on Education Department, I may not be able to include all the points. Regarding grants for buildings, it appears that grants are given to those who can exert pressure on the authority to issue such grants. The Department has no thorough plan as to how buildings for L.F. Schools are to be constructed and money to be spent for the purpose. Bigger amount of grant is given to those who planned to construct big buildings and could convince the authority. I came to know of the incomplete buildings constructed at various villages and of the buildings so constructed during the first year for which they were given grants but could not complete them due to want of more grants. At last, the building materials got rotten and collapsed eventually. Thus people of various villages started constructing big buildings without any supervision and well-prepared instructions. There should be a directive issued from the authority as to how construction of school buildings should be taken up on year wise basis. Then, we will be able to have better school-buildings. Till date, there are grants which are not utilised for the purpose. However, there is no proper scrutiny of such grants distributed during the financial year 1972-73. Such cases may be found even in Aizawl Town. If such is the case of towns, what will happen to villages? Villagers, as usual, are quite careful in spending money. The Department had a good knowledge of their inefficiency as well as their weak points. They can also successfully carry out the plans which the Department is proposing to fulfil. There was leakage of Question papers last year. In all newspapers, the news was brought to the notice of the public and the students attempted to go on strike against such unfair means. The Minister -in-charge had warned them not to go on strike but to continue their examination. The main reason why candidates were not willing to sit for their examination was the speech made by the Education Minister on the A.I.R. If anything was felt unfair, why not stop all the examinations? Who will dare to complain against it? Why did the Government try to force the students to continue their exams? I do not find it quite proper. In the reply to the question regarding question papers that leaked out last year, the Minister had said that it was due mainly to the negligence of the Inspector. But no action appears to be taken against the responsible person.

With regard to sports, students of various levels are always called upon by the Inspector to pursue sports. But, the entertainment given to students is very poor. The students were much displeased. Again, this year, students from various parts of the territory were called at Aizawl in connection with sports. Girls were accommodated in a doorless house at Khatla Line. If it was so, what was the idea in calling students here at Aizawl? You simply offended

the people. Who is responsible for this ? It would be correct not to conduct any more sports. Even if it is considered practicable, the Government should provide all things necessary for them like accommodation, food, etc. With a view to improve our sports standard, the Government divided Mizoram U.T. into several zones. Each zone provided with some amount of fund which is quite insufficient for the improvement of that particular zone. It is, therefore, felt necessary to give more fund to these zones so as to improve sports etc. After all, plans have been made but those plans could not be carried out successfully. What is the use of making plans while the Government is not in a position to fulfil them all ? Regarding inspection of schools, I would like to know from the Minister as to why there could be no proper inspection of schools ? I have of once visited some schools of this town and what impression I could gather is that there is no proper inspection of schools though this branch is well staffed with 14 sub-inspectors and one Inspector of Schools. Why did not they visit these Schools ? They are, of course, expected to perform their duties. Suppose they do the standard of our school education will surely improve to a great extent. In our Education Department, there is a commendable branch, called Research Branch headed by one Senior Research Officer. This branch, as a matter of fact, had made a great contribution towards improvement of our social, cultural life of Mizo people by tracing back to our past history. The branch has contributed beyond our expectation for which it deserves full support of the Government. Time and again, we have stated the importance of the role played by the teachers of L.P. teachers who formed a larger number of teaching staff of Education Department. But they are offended greatly because of the poor attention given to them. There are 1014 teachers whose services are amalgamated and accepted by the Government of Mizoram U.T. with effect from 29.4.1972 whereas some other employees of the erstwhile Mizoram District Council are allocated to Government service right from the date of their appointments. If the services of other employees are allocated into Government service without any break, why couldn't we do with the services of L.P. teachers just because they are teachers of L.P. Schools ? I hope there would not be any harm in stating the fact that in the time when the present Speaker was the Minister -in-charge of Education things were almost in order, but not so now. I am of the opinion that equal treatment should be given to the employees of the then District Council. This is the responsibility and the duty of the authority. Minor and major problems concerning the schools in the villages were brought to the notice of the authority for help and guidance. As a matter of fact, the only answer to their problems they could bring home was that things could not be solved as easily as it should be solved due to ineffectiveness of Rules, 10 in all were not published which

in the Mizoram Gazette as yet. What is the difficulty involved in this? Someone is waiting for the release of those Rules which will make clear what would be his position. Therefore, these Rules should be made effective with immediate effect. I would like to know from the Minister i/c the reason why these Rules are not applicable to this day? How many of them are under process for notification and use?

Regarding P.W. Department, I would like to point out a few more points. Though there are many questions about the schedule of rate which is said to have been inapplicable these days, I felt it is too good and more appropriate for the present circumstances. All the tenderers regardless of their class can still make contracts at 10% below the schedule of rate. In view of the rate tendered by the contractors I am sure that there is no necessity of lowering or altering the present schedule of rate. All contractors will surely offer their rates at 10% above or more provided that the existing schedule of rate is unsuitable for the present condition. Truly speaking, the only defect is observed in the application of the schedule by the Department which has become full of misappropriations thus resulting in misuse of the same. So long as the contractors are willing to offer their rates below the schedule of rate, the Department will be viewed as exceptionally bad.

Thank you.

PU F. HRANGVELA : Mr Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to discuss and speak, in this august assembly, on different departments which carry huge amount of money. I wish discussion on each of these demands. Once, I was told of the possibility of having more time for this purpose. If I had not been away to my constituency during the meeting of the B.A.C., I would rather oppose the calendar chalked out by the Committee. However, time is time and we could, I hope, adjust to it ourselves. Yesterday, all members were sincerely present and sat up till 5 p.m. I, therefore, do not see why should we economise in time. If need be, we will be ready to sit longer.

Let's first turn to demand no 22 - in respect of Public Works Department. We have been discussing the defectiveness of the P.W.D. right from the time of first Budget Session. There is not much change in it till date for which reason there are innumerable bad results to be seen within the department. In supporting the statement made by Pu Ngurdawla regarding reorganisation of the P.W.D., I would also like to remind the Government to make the P.W.D. Code to suit the condition prevailing in Mizoram. I would also like to speak on six different points concerning

the Public Works Department. One is the manner of awarding contracts to contractors,. There are different classes of contractors ranging from 1st class to 3rd class. Some of them are awarded too many works at different places. Some of them are allotted no work at all during all seasons. Though there were proposals for making all classes allowing them to tender for any amount and for all kinds of works without any restriction, the proposals were not taken up till today. During the recess-period I went to the office of Executive Engineer where I met some contractors. Some of them have as many as ten different items of work whereas some of them could hardly find enough work to support their families. In this connection, we have given the Government an advice to spell out better way of awarding works to contractors. With regard to drawal of bill by contractors, the present practice is that those contractors who have more personal influence on the dealing clerks are always given top priority than the others. Their bills are immediately passed and payments made to them. To some others this process takes at least couple of days to pass their bills. This procedure may be changed to suit the condition that prevails in Mizoram. It would be far better if we can make changes in the process. The procedure of 'first come first served' should be introduced so that bills which reached the office of Division will be, if there is no technical difficulty, entertained first and passed by the Department. With regard to P.W.D Schedule of rate which was in force since 1972-73, though some of us stated that it was outmoded for the present situation, I learnt that the rates quoted by some contractors varied from 30% below schedule of rate to 40% below thus showing the applicability of the schedule of rate. If we carefully study the manner in which our contractors of Mizoram U.T. tendered their rates for execution of certain works, we will not find any other example to point out in the whole of India. There is also increase in accumulated pending bills more than what was experienced during the time of Assam Government. Though there are sufficient funds available with the P.W.D., works could not be executed satisfactorily. We must, therefore, try to reconstruct the poor performance of the Department.

Regarding compensation, Roads were constructed by the Department through contractors. As the construction work caused damages to private properties, the Government is responsible for giving ~~th~~ Compensation. Sometimes, contractors are given money for their work done whereas the owner of that destroyed property is deprived of compensation. This is all what I've to say on Public Works Department.

With regard to demand No 46 - in respect of Power and Electricity Department, there are questions as to the actual position of the Department. I would also like to

know the same thing. The power position of Mizoram can easily be seen from what we had experienced in this House. Many a time, we had budget discussion in this House and the money allotted for power and electricity has now been increased manifold. What is the reason why regular supply of power could not be had till today? We have to look into this so that the needed power may be supplied to the people. In this connection, I would like to recall the reply given by the Minister-in-charge to the questions raised by some of our colleagues. The Minister had said that some two or three machines were given to each of the Power stations in Mizoram. But, when I paid a visit to Lawngtlai station I came to notice that one of the two generators laid on the station was out of order owing to mechanical defects with the engine. I have a privilege to know that any machines costing more than one lakh of rupees is generally guaranteed by the supplying firms to replace the defective parts provided that the machine is found to be defective within such a stipulated period that may be fixed by the manufacturer. The period is generally three years duration. It is now necessary to examine the cause of such noticeable short period of service of machines procured by the Government of Mizoram. Some of our colleagues had asked as to whether those machines have any certificate indicating that the brands are new. To this, there was no specific reply from the Minister concerned. It is, therefore, surprising enough to note that we have no knowledge of the condition of machines as to whether they are brand new or not. Not to speak of the Rice-Hullers distributed to people of various villages, we made purchase of power generating sets, each of which costs more than a lakh of rupees. Some of these machines are now lying unserviceable and are beyond repairs. This is indeed very much disappointing. As this is the need of the hour in Mizoram, we are supposed to know whether these machines are new or not. If I am not mistaken, the Minister concerned had stated that this will be taken up under the minimum need programme. However, there will be no satisfactory result to be observed if we are again to appoint the same supplier as contractor. Do you have any involvement in such malpractices? I don't think so. You are the good leaders of this country. So, you are not supposed to indulge in it. As already pointed out by my friend, Mr Vanlalhraia in this Session, several times, and after checking the past bills, I came to learn that monthly bill has now increased from Rs 29/- to Rs 125/- or more. It is so in spite of irregular supply of energy, Why the energy bill has increased so much? If we do not try to improve the condition we will soon be in the dark side of life. With this condition, do you think that the minimum Need Programme will be fulfilled?

..40/-

I am afraid that the scheme will go unfulfilled with the passing of the 5th Five Year Plan. It is a must that we should establish a condition of stability in our overall development while we are in the stage of U.T. during which help from the Central Government is available abundantly. Despite the necessity of establishing a firm economic situation, we are not able to utilise the service of few machines procured by us to its fullest capacity. They are rather put to disuse. This is one of the most scandalous way of life.

Mr Speaker, I would like to add few more points on Water Supply Scheme. I am happy to note that the money earmarked for the current year had increased twofold. I would still be happier to see that the Government has fully implemented the Scheme already envisaged during the erstwhile Mizo District Council.

Thank you.

PU SAITLAWMA : Mr Speaker Sir, I felt that it is very difficult to speak in detail on each of the demands due to shortage of time. The present budget earmarks a special provision for the provincialization of Lunglei College which makes me feel happy. I am also sure that the people of the district will fully appreciate the budget. This is the special feature in this budget which I would like to talk today.

I would like to make some suggestions on Education Department. As we have been told, the Education at primary stage is compulsory; as such, it should be given free of charge. With the outbreak of insurgency in Mizoram, smaller villages were grouped together with bigger villages. This resulted in a great hardship for the poor peasants to earn their livelihood. The Government has now permitted those poor villagers to resettle at their old villages and to establish Thlawhbawks at various places. Some Thlawhbawks consist of 100 or 150 houses and to the least, every Thlawhbawks has not less than 40 schoolgoing children. To some of the Thlawhbawks, the Government is providing teachers. Still there are some Thlawhbawks which have no teacher to teach children in their schools. Some of them employed teachers at their own expenses and gave remuneration sometimes at the rate of Rs 150/- and sometimes rice was given to the teachers as their pay. Instruments necessary for their schools were purchased by them from market. It now appears that in Mizoram, the Directive Principle of State Policy has no meaning. The Government should therefore, look into their problems, and should find way to solve them instead of deferring the problems. There are teachers

Who are at present employed by the Government receiving fixed allowance of Rs 250/- per month? I have opined that the same thing can be practised in the case of 'Thlawhbawks' to solve this burning problem. If not possible, there may be question as to how these teachers at fixed salary can be employed in towns and grouping centres. It is truly necessary to provide these Thlawhbawks who are deprived of this facility, with teachers. In some Thlawhbawks, M.E. Schools are established by the inhabitants purely at their expenses and they managed to impart education to the growing children. With regard to amount of Scholarship given to students of Primary and M.E. schools, there is no increase of the amount since the time when I was a boy. Why there can be no increase in the amount? What makes the Government unable to raise the amount? Is it unlawful to do so? The value of Rs 5/- which was the amount of scholarship given to a student per month in case of Primary school student and Rs 12/- to M.E. School student, this being started since 1950, has now decreased very much as a result of devaluation of money value. This must be changed with an immediate effect. Though there were proposals for changing the amount in the past, nothing good could be achieved as yet. Besides this would also like to point out the budget provision for Mizoram Institute of Education appearing under the Primary Education. The Institution being a post graduate level like U.G.T.T.I., makes the budget provision under the said head too much as compared to other Minor Heads. /ly By mere looking at the budget, we are convinced that the provision allocated for Primary Education is basically meant for children of primary stage. But, if we study in more detail, we find that there is an inclusion of fund for post-graduate students. This should be given special consideration in the budget to be presented next year, if not changed in this present budget. It appears to me that this Institution is likely to be included under Univer-sity Education.

With regard to Public Works Department, I have a feeling that we are always inclined to make bad impression on the Department. But, to my surprise I found that the road Hnathial to S. Vanlaiphei has been maintained. I hope that the said road is likely to be made truckable within April as had already been assured by the Minister-in-charge. This impression was gathered by me when I paid a visit to my constituency during the last few months. This shows that after having a close examination or contact with the Department, every department is worthy of being proved. Over and above this, what I would like to point out is that there is no stone-crusher to be used in the Division. For which reason no speedy improvement of town road is made as yet. The matter was reported to the Executive Engineer who, to free himself of the responsibility, directed

that the matter is within the purview of the SDO, Mechanical Sub Division. This matter has now been brought to the notice of all my colleagues assembled here. Therefore, providing Stone - crushers to Lunglei Division.

Moreover, I would like to ascertain whether the Government of Mizoram has adopted the Assam Shramik Bahini Act which was framed sometime in the early 1960's. As I know, there is no enforcement of the Act till today. If this Act is to be adopted and enforced in Mizoram we must make changes in it to suit the local conditions, With regard to rate of daily wages labourer, as it falls within the 20 Point Economic Programme, wages earned by the daily labourers have to be raised.

Regarding P.S.E. Department let me point out one thing: Water Supply Scheme for Zebawk Grouping Centre which is always seen in each year's budget. Original proposal was submitted after doing all necessary investigations and was pursued by me for actual implementation but, no work is yet done by the Department. According to Office memorandum issued by the Political Department in connection with the relation between Members of Parliament and Legislatures with state and Government Servants; MLAs are supposed to be informed of any information, if it is not extraordinarily confidential, as and when called for. It is also provided that every letter sent in by the MLAs to the Departments should be acknowledged. So far, attention is not paid towards this.

One more point, Mr Speaker; the emergency water Supply Scheme for Lunglei Town is not very successful because water, supposed to be drawn from Vangzawl stream and Tlawng river, has not yet been supplied to meet the demand. It is requested that the proposal for carrying water from Vangzawl stream be reviewed and new proposal for drawing water from Mat river may be chalked out so as to meet the demand.

One more point, Mr Speaker; one water reservoir to supply water to Lunglei Town, was constructed near Civil Surgeon's Residence and pipe connecting from the source was already laid from Theiriak village. Till today, the reservoir could not hold water and remains empty all the time. I would, therefore, like to request the Government to consider the improvement of this Water Supply Scheme immediately.

Thank you.

PU K. SANGCHHUM: Mr Speaker Sir, we gather together here from different parts of Mizoram to consider and to solve the burning problems of Mizoram. I would speak on that in spite of the limited time we have for discussion.

In 1971, when I paid a visit to Delhi I had a

chance to discuss about the condition in India with a Russian who was also at Delhi for quite sometime. When I asked about his impression, he commented that road condition and communication facility are good/much beyond his expectation. When I think of Mizoram, especially Tuipui area, it may possibly be different from his observations on other places. At Tuipui river, 7 or 8 persons get drowned every year. This happened due mainly to the absence of bridge over Tuipui river. The matter was reported by me in a letter to the Central Government and to the Lt. Governor. Years have passed now, since I was told by the Central Government that the subject of constructing a bridge over there is under the consideration of the State Government. At present, road has been constructed but not the bridge for which there can be no practical usefulness for the people of that area. Suppose there are proposals for establishing any kinds of industry in the southern corner of Mizoram, it would be difficult to approve them for there is no means of communication in the area. The first and foremost duty is to build a good road linking upto Tongkolong which lies at the intersection point of Burma and Bangladesh. We are Indians and whatever facilities we can get from the Government should without discrimination, be given to us. The Government should, therefore, take necessary steps to uplift those backward areas.

Some days back, we had learnt that some portions of Burma were occupied by China and have been increasingly dominated by them. With the increasing influence of China, we cannot say that there will be no war. Therefore, it would be a wise measure for the Government to construct a bridge over Chhintuipui river at Darzo Ferry. I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to take necessary steps for the real execution of work. It would be wise for the Minister to have on the spot-visit so that he may be able to give guidelines to the Department.

Secondly, I would like to make a suggestion for total change of metre box with new ones. Supplier should supply from the company and should refix at every consumer's house. Due to defect in metre box, it is learnt, units consumed have increased manifold. This may please be given special importance by the Department.

PU HRANGAIA : Mr Speaker, I would like to say a few words on these demands. Unlike our usual practice in the preceding years, we are now following new ways of discussing on demands for much longer time.

First, I will speak on the P.W.D. which is the backbone of the source of financial assistance to Mizoram. This being the case, the Department is always

blamed for one or the other reasons. These adverse comments raised by other members might contain some truths. Let me recall the statement by our Hon'ble Speaker during his Ministership, in connection with the Public Works Department. It was he who stated that proposal for construction of building for Medical Department presented for approval of the Central Government; the need of the Department, Technical Branch was called upon to explain the staff position under Mizoram Public Works Department. When informed of the position, they were asked how could this proposal be executed by the Department with such a few working staff. Under this situation, I would like to suggest to the Government that whenever there is a need for construction of roads, the Department should get the most needed road completed and then take up another in order of importance and urgency so that road improvement can be achieved in a much quicker and better way with a limited fund. In other states, the Department is headed by a Chief Engineer under him there are S.E.s, E.Es and other technical staff. But here in Mizoram, the P.E. is the head of the Department, and had a limited staff in comparison to works to be done. It is, therefore, necessary to create more Divisions which will have smaller areas within their jurisdiction. In view of the importance of roads in Mizoram, the Government has to rethink of the organisation of the Public Works Department.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : It's now 3:30 P.m. So, shall I call upon the Minister concerned? Well, then, let them take 5 minutes each. Pu Lalkunga may please speak first.

PU LALKUNGA : Mr Speaker, since none of the members from the opposition is interested in speaking I will speak a few words on these demands.

In our present budget, two things appeared to be more important. They are Power and P.E. Departments. These two caused discontentment. As regards Power and mode of purchase of Bull dozers, we cannot say what will be the consequence at the end. I have a firm belief that a very undesirable effect may result if the government is still trying to follow the principle which is disavowed by all members. To be particular, it is difficult to please members of this Assembly for the same supplier who failed to supply power generating set was reappointed to supply the same machine. You will never please members and general public for such errors you have committed.

in purchasing bulldozers for the Department. You are requested to judge the opinion of the public and to consider what will be the effect on public as a whole. We also know that there are more than one thousand teachers who are employed in the then District Council. The services of those teachers are believed to have been regularised by the new Government of this U.T. Only after the revision of pay-scales of Government servants, it came to our knowledge that their services were not regularised till date. Most of the members are well wishers of these pitiable teachers.

Again, I would like to say that the Government do not give enough consideration for the improvement of Inland Water Transport in Mizoram. I have always stressed the need of surveying Tut river within my constituency in each year's budget, but to no effect. Some days back I have submitted a proposal to the Hon'ble Chief Minister who told us to have a thorough investigation before 15th of April. Today, they stated that such plan could not be included for the unexpected cuttings in the budget. This may rightly be ascribed to the negligence of the Government towards this Department. I would, therefore, like to know what difficulty lies in the way of implementing the scheme.

Last of all, although there are many things to raise on the D.E. Department, I will rather give a few comments. We do not come across any point that may prove the practical role played by the Department in Aizawl as well as in villages. The only instance we could notice is that water supplied by Trucks has been stopped. It is said that an Enquiry Commission consisting of one member is constituted to enquire into workings of the P.H.E. Department. But the Commission, as it is to conduct enquiry, has not done anything as yet. These are the achievements that can be seen with the P.H.E. Department during this year.

Thank you.

PU C. CHAWNGKUNGA : Mr Speaker Sir, we have already discussed, but there is something to be done by Public Works Department and I hope that they may be followed

Previously, there was some proposal for the construction of the approach road to West Mamit from Lengpui to Bairabi, Hartaki and Saitlaw which was 60 km long. But the previous PWD Minister planned only 16 km which could be 60 km long. We are very glad for this. Besides, the construction of the road between Aizawl to Tuipuibari was completed by B.R.T.F. After this, between Karimganj and Demagri was also completed upto Kawrtethawng by the P.W.D.

Between this, only 7 miles are to be done. I hope that such arrears of work will soon be completed by the P.W.D. Therefore, it will be easy to go to Mizawl than Silchar from the western parts such as Kawrthah, Lekicherra, Kanhaun and so on. There can be constructed road between Tuipubari and Kawrtethawng which will be the shortest way of bringing rice and the construction also will not be difficult. This will at the same time be beneficial to the people of the western side.

After that, there is some proposal for the construction of the road between Kampui and Sairang. As we might have known, the road is good and will be safe for traffic. I request the P.W.D. Minister to make an extension of this road immediately. Besides this, the road from Mamit Marghat to Sairang was looked after by Sairang Sub-Division which is very far. If a Sub-Division is opened at Mamit or Dampui, all the works can be supervised at a close range so that it may be speeded up. I do request the P.W.D. Minister to note down and to take immediate action on this.

Besides, I would like to say something in connection with Education which has relevance to what I am going to say. I believe it will be good if we give Primary Schools to the villages who have returned from grouping centres if the children were fifty/sixty in number. One important thing I would like to say is that when the people returned to their old villages from the grouping centres, in Mizel language we call it 'Thlawhbawk' which is likely to be sub-village in English, but the Mizoram Government call it as "Jhum hut" which appears to be a grave mistake because no compensation can be given to them if they are said as only staying in jhum hut while compensation can be given to sub-villages. I, therefore, request the Government to give up such practice which reveals weakness in English.

In the Inland Water Transport there is a department as well as sub Division. But, they never do works because of no provision. The only communication for the western and northern part is river communication. So I request the Government to make provision in the Inland Water Transport Department for having good communication for different places such as Pu Zala ma's constituency, Pu Lalkungas's Constituency, Pu Sanakhuma's Constituency and my Constituency. If we should spend a small amount of money for it, the people who settled down in the interior places will be benefitted. I request the Government to do this immediately.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now I shall call upon the Minister incharge.

PU H. THANSANGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, we have already discussed
MINISTER about this Demand. But I am very sorry that all the members have no time to speak about it. As we have discussed, I'd like to say about Electric Light first. It is in Demand No 46. As we all know we have no regular supply of power even when the House is in Session. Anyhow, I will do my best this matter.

Secondly, I'd like to say about metre reading because there are many complaints about the bills now-a-days. On enquiry it is learnt that in the past metre reading had never been done regularly. But now, we see that bills are sent regularly, since strong instruction has been given by the Head of Department.

The other day I said that the people who like to complain about their metre readings may do so by depositing Rs 5/- to the Department. After checking the metre reading, if the complaint is found to be wrong, the deposit will be forfeited, and if not, it will be refunded. If the owner of the house is absent when the metre reading is taken, then there may arise misunderstanding between the staff and the owner of the house. We should have good understanding between the people and the staff. In this way complaints may be less.

Thirdly, I think the members would like to know about the purchase of generator. Now, I am going to explain about it which can be said inside the House, and I like to request the members who want to hear more may have discussion with me even in the office or residence or at any other place. This generator was made by Kirloskar and was supplied by the Escort India Ltd. They are Government approved firms. We have already purchased three generators from this firm; one was placed at Lunglei and the other two at Aizawl. The one at Lunglei was to be commissioned on April 25 and the other was being fitted here in Aizawl. I thought that we may face many difficulties without purchasing these machines. Because of this difficulty, we should have good understanding between us. (Pu C. Lalruata : Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to point out that the machines which have been purchased are not new machines) Mr Speaker Sir, I like to explain on that point. As we might have known, we have purchased after having spot verification and testing was done by Mr Rama, E.E.

(Pu Saitlawma - Mr Speaker Sir, the date of manufacture must be seen in it, but there is no date of manufacture in the machine placed at Lunllei while it is marked as Kirloskar product. That is why it was unbelievable for the members and public) Mr Speaker Sir, the Government should not purchase such an old one. If we are actually doubtful about the condition of the machine it will be necessary to send some one to verify it. Anyway, I thought that without purchasing this machine, we may face many difficulties about light. Regarding the supply of the machine quotation was received from the Southern India Power System on a lower rate. But this was not accepted because the machine they would supply was not what we want and for many other reasons about the transportation etc. Meanwhile, the representative from Escort India came to Aizawl and discussion with our Government, and then we have purchased from them before financial year. (Pu Lalkunga - Mr Speaker Sir, there is a provision for this in the budget. Why they waited till the very last ~~last~~ moment ?) Mr Speaker, perhaps there was technical difficulty. Anyway, if we did not do anything even at the last moment, I am sure that we will be at the point of zero. (Pu C. Lalruata - Mr Speaker Sir, according to quotation, F.O.R. should be Aizawl. So, I want to know what is the F.O.R. condition in this case. Due to urgency, the firm had been requested to deliver the machines at Aizawl by road and it will be done accordingly. (Pu Lalkunga - Mr Speaker Sir, did the Government give additional money to the approved supplier ?) Due to the limited time, transportation by passenger train could not be done and the Government must give more money to the firm for transportation charges since the machine was to be delivered by road. (Pu C. Lalruata - Mr Speaker Sir, that is contradictory to the tender) (Pu Lalkunga - Mr Speaker Sir, whether other tenderers offered lower rates than the rates quoted by this firm ?) Mr Speaker Sir, the Government is not bound to accept the lowest rate or any tender. Moreover, purchase should not be made without considering first the quality of the machine. Due to urgent requirement, it had to be considered whether the machine would reach in time. If we do not have consideration first about that, we will face many difficulties. (Pu C. Lalruata - Mr Speaker Sir, according to the quotation, they were required to supply three sets but they were again ordered to supply five sets without calling separate quotation, Why is it ?) Mr Speaker Sir, there is nothing wrong if we buy more machines of the same design and material (Pu Vanlalhrüiaia - Mr Speaker Sir, as he had said that there is no binding to accept the lowest rate, I like to know why they always accepted the lowest rates in Public Works Department ?) I will give a reply to that later. (Pu Lalkunga - Mr Speaker Sir, according to tender notice, a Court Fee

Stamp of Rs 15/- should be fixed but some tenderers affixed stamps worth Rs 7.50 only. Whether it is a fact that the Government allowed some tenderers to affix another stamp worth Rs 7.50 as the Government favoured those tenderers? Can the Comparative Statements be laid before the House? Mr Speaker Sir, I do not believe it is necessary to do to that extent. However, if the Court Fee Stamp is less it can be added and it had been done accordingly.

(Pu Lalkunga - Mr Speaker Sir, Rair Brothers tender had been rejected on some grounds last year. Is it not injustice on the part of the Government to accept a tender this year which is just the same as rejected last year?) Mr Speaker Sir, I believe it is better to explain that point further as the members feel it serious. Though the Rair Brother's tender had been received it had been rejected since our officers felt that the firm was untrustworthy. I want the members to know the position of urgent requirements of machines for Mizoram. As such, the Government had taken risk in the matter. I like the members to understand my point. As I have already said, the condition cannot be predicted but the time will prove it later. Anyhow, purchase of machines had been decided by thoroughly considering the matter and with the hope of good in the long run. (Pu Lalkunga - Mr Speaker Sir, is there any provision in the code that the Court Fee Stamps could be added after the expiry date of submission of tender?)

Mr Speaker Sir, as a matter of fact, interested persons used to talk personally with the Department officers. Without knowing the fact, the information received by the Members may be wrong to a certain extent. I understand the complaints delivered by the members. I request all the members to understand the difficulties faced by the Department.

(Pu C. Lalruat-a - Mr Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Minister also could not give guarantee that supply will surely be affected by these people. We dislike rush of expenditure towards the end of fiscal year. What did this Department do during the whole year?) (Speaker - He said that it was done for the good of the people and hence, we must try to know the meaning of what he said) Mr Speaker Sir, I like to discuss the matter with members in my office chamber or elsewhere, and I'll tell them the facts. According to the practice it is not reasonable to disclose all the activities of the Administration in the House. (Pu C. Lalruataa - Is it a matter for which clarifications cannot be given in this House?) Mr Speaker Sir, our main problem is that the wiring of 66 .V. line has not been completed yet. I know that I had already said about the supplier and the defective machines.

I'll now speak on P.W.D. Though there are many points to answer, I feel that I cannot give answers to all. Firstly, I'll speak about contract Rate. (Pu Vanlalhruaia - Mr Speaker Sir, I want to ask one point. Most of present tenders in P.W.D. are tendered per cubic metre. It is learnt that the estimate per cubic metre is Rs 5/- to Rs 5.50. But the rate of acceptance of tender is generally Rs 1.50 - Rs 2/- per cubic metre. There is a difference of Rs 4/- between estimates and acceptance of tender. If so, how much surplus money is there in P.W.D. ?) (Pu Lalruata - One point only. It is best to complete the works of wiring of 66 K.V. line. Has an assurance been received by the Government from the power supplier that the power could be supplied ?) Mr Speaker Sir, it has been said in this House that no assurance was received, but correspondence has been made. The Central Government also gives priority to availability of power.

Regarding contract rate in P.W.D., it is necessary to re-consider it. In the Central P.W.D. Code also it is not provided that the lowest tender must be accepted but if the lowest rate is not accepted higher authority's approval should be obtained. And such codal formality caused many difficulties on the side of accepting authority and also it took a very long time. As such, acceptance of the lowest tender was easiest method. Is it not good enough as was provided in para 287 of the Assam Code that the accepting authority should keep clear records for not accepting the lowest tender ? Somebody thought that there may be loop-hole in such activities, but I think there may also be a loop-hole in any case. It may be thought that if the Central P.W.D. Code allowed so far to accept the higher tender, it will be the safest thing to obtain the approval of higher authority. But this caused many difficulties on the part of the Government and the contract works also had been delayed. Hence, it had been decided that the case be re-considered by the Consultative Committee, after that Engineers' Conference also be held and the Contractors' Conference also be held next month. Our main problem is not the highest rate but rather the lowest rate. There are different rates such as - 40%, 50%, 60%, 83%. 83% means the works will be carried by the contractor at 17%. If the contract is offered at such rate, he will not carry out as soon as possible, and the time will pass. I, therefore, request all the Hon'ble Members to look into the matter and to contribute their best ideas as to how our present problems be solved. Hon'ble Member, Shri Ngurdawla had said the other day that workable rate be fixed. If workable rate is fixed, there will be no competitive tenders. That means all the tenderers will have to quote their rates at the same rate as workable rate, and it will be very

difficult to know as to whom contract is to be offered. Besides, workable rate puts aside the nature of competition. Hence it is very difficult to know what will be the best method.

Regarding lump sum, there had been an idea to practice lump sum method. Now, for testing lump sum method, a road of 3km long between Zomabaw and Selesih is being under construction and a report of achievement had also been received. If this method proves to be good it will be followed in other places also. If this method is considered feasible on earthworks, it will surely be applicable on construction of buildings also. For equal work load the Government had issued order that every contractor must receive work order so as to avoid unequal work load.

Regarding revision of schedule of rates some body may think that revision of schedule of rates is untimely while the contract works are expected to be carried out at the lower rate. But here, we have to keep one thing in mind that the rates of essential commodities grew higher than before which caused many problems on the part of the contractors. For example - rates of paints etc. and rates of G.C.I. sheets, rates of R.C.C. etc and such rates of essential commodities are to be included in a revised schedule of rate as the present rates are very much different from the previous rates. Government orders have also been issued in this matter.

Regarding construction of Aizawl Town Road, this is connected with the contract rate. As the Aizawl Town Roads construction is the most important one, the rule "to obtain higher authority's approval for selecting higher rate" was suspended upto the 31st March, and this suspension concerned only Aizawl Town Roads due to urgency of widening the Town Road. (Pu Vanlalhrugia - Mr Speaker Sir, I think Roads connected with other places are also very important as Aizawl Town Road. Is it correct to consider Aizawl Town Road as the most important? Cannot such practice be applied to other roads too?) Mr Speaker Sir, I think it will not be good to practice such methods in every place. However, the case for application of such method in other roads is under consideration.

Then, the Road (eastern part) between Chand-mary and Bawngkawn was the responsibility of B.R.T.F. before but now it is taken over by the P.W.D. recently. But before it is taken under P.W.D., B.R.T.F. must have complete premix carpeting as the fund was sanctioned under their Budget Head. As such, they promised us to do the works within April. Even before the road is taken by P.W.D., plank repair must be done by P.W.D. as the road is very rough. The road between Sikulpuikawn and Sabinga Lung is named as 'Post Office to

Kuilikawn'. This road had been made good.

Then, under the Public Works Department relating to the roads in Chhaintuipui District, some members pointed out that the road should be made good and I myself supported their suggestions. The Government also gave priority and the roads are constructed to a certain extent. The roads from Saiha to Sangau and Hahthial to Sangau are being constructed. The road from Lawngtlai to Diltlung to Chawngte is also under construction. Then, within the Lun Lbi District the road between Chawngte and Lungson is also under construction. If you look at the Schedule of works, you will see that the road from Saiha to Chhualung, Chhualung to Chkhong, Chkhong to Chapui, Chapui to Tuipang is under survey. The Government gives priority to the construction of roads in Chhaintuipui District.

Public Works Department is being re-organised. The post of Addl. P.E. was converted into S.E., P.E.'s post is being converted into C.E. When the post of Chief Engineer is filled up, there will be a post of S.E. under his supervision. Creation of 2 or 3 posts is under consideration in consultation with Finance Department. When posts of S.E. are created and filled up, the heavy work-load with P.E. will be re-distributed at the S.E./Circle level and smooth running of office works may be expected. When such re-organisations are ready, S.E.s of Lunglei and Mizawl will look after their respective jurisdiction and smooth running of office works may also be expected. (Mr C. Lalranta - Mr Speaker Sir, I want to point out that some senior officers in this Department had been suspended on some grounds since a long time back. While it was named as Addl. P.E., the post of S.E. could not be filled up due to the same reason. In the Central P.W.D. Code, there was provision regarding the promotion benefits for junior officers. It has been learnt that the same problems had not been solved as yet. Will the Government give promotion benefits to the junior officers?) Mr Speaker Sir, some members had said that most of the E.S.s are discontented but while such re-organisations are being made some problems have arisen which make the Government sorrowful. However, the Government will look into this matter thoroughly and the promotion benefits will be given to deserving officers as far as possible. The Government will also have to seek another way of benefits for the junior officers. When the proposed reorganisation scheme is implemented the officers may be expected to visit field offices more often. As the present position is while any Minister is visiting interior places, the Minister could not be accompanied by concerned officer due to heavy work load at Headquarters office. If the officers accompany the Minister, the office works will suffer and there will be humiliation to the Government.

Such problems had been caused by insufficiency of staff. I think the members also witnessed such problems. (Pu C. Lalruata - Mr Speaker Sir, it is true that there is discontentment among the E.Es. This discontentment had been caused by the condition of promotion. For example, one Engineer who had experiences as Sub-Divisional Officer and Asst. Engineer for 3 or 4 years had been superseded by an Asst. Engineer who is newly appointed, to the post of Executive Engineer. How could the Government allow such supersession?) Mr Speaker, I think this case was about deputation. Some persons were employed on deputation basis due to insufficiency of staff. It is not possible to say about their employment in detail. I may tell the members in detail at office if it is necessary. (Pu Ngurdawla - Mr Speaker Sir, I have one supplementary question. The Minister had said that the Consultative Committee will have to be consulted on P.W.D., but no meeting of Consultative Committee had been called. All the Consultative Committee Members are present in this Assembly Session. Is it possible to call a meeting during this Session to consider the case of Schedule of rates. There are Central P.W.D. Code and Assam Code. Is it right to follow Central Code sometime and the Assam Code at another occasion? Is there any intention to have our own Code? Regarding the reorganisation of P.W.D. I think it is necessary to consult the Consultative Committee in this matter also. There is a Consultative Committee only in name but it is never consulted. Hence, I suggest that a meeting be called during this Session.) Mr Speaker Sir, the case I have said had already been considered by the Committee concerned and it is a matter of compliance. It can also be seen in file. (Pu Ngurdawla - Mr Speaker Sir, I myself am a member of Consultative Committee but I do not know that the case had already been considered by the Committee). Mr Speaker Sir, I mean reorganisation, but allocation of officers is a different thing. Then, I think it will be better to call a meeting after Session is prorogued. A Committee had also been constituted to make our own P.W.D. Code after consulting the Central and Assam P.W.D. Codes. A Code had already been framed but Manual and Account Code will be framed shortly after.

PU VANLALRUATA : Mr Speaker Sir, deliberation on P.W.D. is being closed and before closing of deliberation, I want to remind the Minister concerned about the point I had raised regarding Savings as I think it is very important. I want to know whether there is savings. I think there should be savings because they had always offered contract to the lowest tenderers. If there was no saving acceptance of the lowest tenderers is meaningless. If such is the case, I think it is best to offer contract to the higher tenderers and there will be no loopholes or corruptions.

..并/-

PU H. THANSANGA : Mr Speaker Sir, it becomes lower than
MINISTER estimated amount. So there must be saving
unless the road is rocky. (Pu Vanlalhrualia-

Mr Speaker Sir, the notification does not say whether it
is rocky or not, but tender is to be submitted at his own
will per cubic metre. Why can't there be saving? Mr Speaker,
there must be saving whenever the rate is lower than that of
the estimated rate. It appears that the contractors should
work as per their tender and let them lose if their rate is
too low, so that they will do better when they submit their
tender. Usually they do not think much about the rate and
time for completion. This retards the work of the Government
very much and is a problem for the Department.

Regarding the purchase of Bharat Earth
Mover bulldozer, as the Government of India has instructed
the State Government allowing purchase from Bharat Earth
Movers without calling quotations, I think we can buy two
bulldozers as we are coming to the end of the Financial year.
So we will buy more next year. (Pu Saitlawma - Is it so
important to be considered after this Financial Year or other
suitable time? If so, we would like to know about the ins-
truction to states by Government of India if any such ins-
tructions were there) Mr Speaker Sir, if the Members would
like to know that, we can give the copies to them.

Mr Speaker, I want to say about the Education
Department. (Pu C. Lalrueta - Mr Speaker, when will the bull-
dozers of Bharat Earth Movers reach there as they say? Is
there any agreement?) (Pu Sangkhuma - Mr Speaker Sir, just
one thing in Public Works Department - I think we should
be serious about the list of Unparliamentary Expressions in
the Book - Mizoram Legislative Assembly Handbook for Members.
Thus I think the words absolute lie or absolutely and basi-
cally false should not be used. The Members have agreed that
it is totally false, that it is done from the Consultative
Committee minute. In my opinion, it should be withdrawn)
Mr Speaker, I do not say that the Consultative Committee
suggests that P.W.D. be reorganised but only suggests the
necessity of reorganisation. If we think it as false I
will not hesitate to withdraw (Pu Ngurdawla - Mr Speaker
Sir, we, the members of Consultative Committee have been
only responsible but have never been consulted in important
matters. Also the Committee is not properly summoned. This
should be kept in mind by the Minister when reorganising
Consultative Committee; otherwise we have no importance in
the present condition and the Committee must be summoned as
soon as possible) Mr Speaker, as I am quite new here, I
have nothing to say about the summoning of the Consultative
Committee. But the necessity to reorganise was felt by
public and is being processed. P.W.D.

Now I want to turn to the Education Department (Pu Saitlawma - Mr Speaker Sir, one of the Questions of Hon-ble Member had not been answered - when the Bharat Earth Mover Bulldozer will reach Aizawl. It seems there are terms and conditions) Mr Speaker, I cannot say the exact date on which the bulldozer will be reaching; however, the purchase will be finalised before the end of financial year (Pu Lalruata - Mr Speaker Sir, is it a fact that the price of the bulldozer was paid without settling terms and conditions?) Mr Speaker, some per cent of the cost has been paid in advance. The remaining percentage of the cost of bulldozers will be paid when the documents reach here. It is being processed. (Pu Saitlawma - Mr Speaker Sir, do you mean the advance payment was made?) Mr Speaker, Unless we make advance payment, we cannot have the bulldozer before the financial year. We cannot pay the total price before we get the thing.

Mr Speaker, I am turning to the Education Department. The Enquiry Commission was set up on the disturbance of Examination of Middle English, the year before last. Accordingly, the Inspector of Schools was suspended. (Pu C. Lalruata - Mr Speaker Sir, I think the responsible Inspectors should be punished equally). Mr Speaker, action was taken according to the reports of Enquiry Committee. The person who is responsible for the leakage of Question in the Selection Test had been discharged from his services. The teachers of Republic High School and St. Paul's High School appeared to be responsible for the leakage. The authority concerned were directed to take necessary action.

Regarding the interference of the teachers of Government Aided Schools in active politics, the rules are ready to be enforced which say in its para 6 (8): The teachers of Government Aided Schools should not interfere in politics. This will be enforced. The Government of India has approved that the Scholarships will be increased.

Besides, Games and Sports should be regarded as important subject because it is cocurricular subject. State Sports Council was also constituted (Pu Vanlalhrunia - Mr Speaker, is it a fact that when students passed HSLC from Gauhati University, they could not get admission in NEHU due to late publication of results? If so, how will the Government solve the problem?) Mr Speaker, that is not the problem of regular candidates but of the Supplementary candidates. Now we have Mizoram Board of School Education and this Board will take the matter of examination upto HSLC. Rules will also be framed for this.

Mr Speaker, I have taken almost an hour. I shall be grateful if the Hon'ble Members could pass Demand No. 20, 24, 26, 45, 46, 47 for Rs 1,97,61,000/-

SPEAKER : Now we have one more Demand and the time is extended. We have to sit patiently.

The Members have said on this Demand and we have heard the Minister's reply. Now we will have voting. Those who agree say 'agree' and those who disagree say 'disagree'.

The Question is that the Demand Nos. 20, 24, 26, 45, 46, 47 for Rs 1,97,61,000/- only to meet the expenses during the year 1976-77 in respect of the Demand and for the amount as shown in column 2, 3, and 4 of Para 13 of Bulletin Part II dated 23rd March, 1976 be passed. Those who agree say agree (Members - agree) These Demands have now been passed.

PU HRINGALIA : Mr Speaker Sir, I want to suggest that the remaining Demands may be discussed tomorrow.

PU C. LALRUATA : Mr Speaker Sir, in my opinion, it is better to go on now. There seems nothing much to say on the Demands.

PU NGURDANLA : Mr Speaker Sir, I agree with Mr C. Lalruata. In my opinion, we should finish almost all the discussions before 1st April.

SPEAKER : Let the Hon'ble Minister incharge please move Demand Nos 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 23, 52.

PU R. THANGLIANA : Mr Speaker Sir, With the recommendation of the Administrator and your kind permission, I hereby move Demand Nos, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 23 and 52 for Rs 44,83,000/- for the expenditure of the following Departments for the year 1976-77. The Departments are :

Demand No. 6 - Collection of Taxes on Income and Expenditure	: Rs 25,000/- only
Demand No. 7 - Land Revenue	: Rs 25,86,000/- only
Demand No. 8 - Stamps and Registration	: Rs 20,000/- only
Demand No. 9 - State Excise	: Rs 62,000/- only

- Demand No 10 - Sales Tax : Rs 30,000/- only
Demand No.15 - Treasury and
Accounts Administration : Rs 6,40,000/- only
Demand No.23 - Pension and other
Retirement Benefits : Rs 1,20,000/- only
Demand No.52 - Contingency Fund : Rs 10,00,000/- only

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, we will discuss those Demands which the Minister incharge has moved. Any member who wants to speak may be given time not exceeding more than 15 minutes.

PU SANGKHUMA: Mr Speaker Sir, I want to say one thing though there may be much to say about them. Demand No 9 - State Excise Bill was discussed from last year. It was passed because we said only about its usefulness and we didn't say the other side. But even before the law-- rules have been framed and ready to be enforced, the Government issued many permits which could not explain on what grounds. In fact, liquor is making the world worse and worse. That is why Central Government do not like it and announced its 12 points programme for introducing prohibition. But here, permits are given in almost every crowded street. This will spoil our society. Had the Government been as strict as the Churches, drunken boys and even girls would not be so much like this. If the Government couldn't help giving permits, these shops should be located in corner streets not in crowded streets.

Thank you.

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, The Excise Bill was not passed for what the Hon'ble opposition Member just said. It was passed only because the Government felt the necessity of regulating the liquor sellers in our country.

What I want to say is how cases of which are sanctioned by Government gets delayed in Finance Department. It seems that this Department takes too long to process matters. For example, the Deputy Commissioner of Aizawl District gives money for A.G.S. It is to be used to give relief and wages of labourers and for development

..58/-

of rural areas. It was expected that the people would get money before 13th December. The V/C Members and important persons of the village waited with the expectation that they might get sanction order before Christmas to give relief to the poor people. But they could get only in the first part of February. I cannot understand why the Finance Department would pretend not to know the difficulties of rural areas and public requirements and neglect their petitions. It is also said that almost all the Departmental sanctions are delayed in Finance Department. Some kinds of Grant-in-aid and other important bills under Social Welfare are also always delayed. It seems these things could be done in a short time because it is not necessary to consult their important officers outside Mizawl town. Any budget proposal containing the increase of staff should not be neglected.

Regarding Excise bill, most of the boys who used to drink are not money-earners but are dependent on their parents. They get money by some bad means and spend on drinks. They could not control themselves when they saw bottles of liquor. They also know that the Government officers used to drink in their functions and dinners. So I think it would be better if the Government controls it very strictly since there is an Act to control it.

Thank you.

PU C. LABRUTA: Mr Speaker Sir, I want to say a few words. When the Bill was passed, Hon'ble Opposition member Shri Sangkhuma had raised his hand supporting the members who are willing to pass the bill. But now, he speaks against the bill which has been passed. I want him not to speak further against the Bill which has been passed because he had already agreed to support the Bill. (Pu Sangkhuma - Mr Speaker Sir, the speech I had delivered did not mean that I was against the passing of the Bill, but rather I said that the Bill to be passed should be for the good of the people as far as possible.) Mr Speaker Sir, in Demand No 6, there are collection charges, taxes on profession, Trades and Callings. In the time of the District Council, an Act had been passed for such matters. If I am not mistaken, the same Act had not been amended till date. I would like to mention about Professional Tax particularly. According to Prime Minister's economy programmes (throughout the states of India) persons whose incomes are very low had been excluded to pay tax. I think it is better to amend this Act so that the minimum taxable income be classified at Rs 6,000/- per annum and not Rs 3,500/- per annum.

In Demand No. 7, Land Revenue has been shown and allocation of Fund is also sufficient. But activities and achievements are less due to insufficiency

of the staff. If you visit Revenue Department you will see that the staff are insufficient. This is true particularly in the Directorate level. But seeing the Budget, creation of more posts has not been seen. Besides, under the supervision of the Director, subordinate officers are seen less. In the District Administration, there is provision for some Survey Settlement Officers. They once faced difficulties regarding taking over charge of Director while he was going on leave. For example, it is difficult for the Asst. Settlement Officer-II to carry out the works of the Director. I think it is essential to have Dy. Director or Asst. Director. In the past, this Department was blamed because some applications for house site pass etc were lost. It may be that these were misplaced. This seems to be due to insufficiency of staff. In most of the villages, there are many house sites, cultivated lands, site for gardens etc. to be verified. For the very few staff such work load is very heavy. Is it very difficult to convince the Central Government for creation of more posts? If not, creation of more posts is very essential.

At page 21, it is seen that there is provision of Rs 1,00,000/- and since it is under the head of machineries, I presume this is for maintenance of vehicles. I would like to point out again that I understand the use of vehicles for official duties and slightly for private affairs. But I cannot understand the use of vehicles by their children, relatives and favourites in the town for enjoyment and I want the Government officials to give up such activities in future.

In Excise Department, it is seen that the staff is few, like one Superintendent, one Inspector and three constables. I think you also understand that there are many works to be carried out. As such I do not understand how very few posts were created. The Department cannot function effectively with such few staff. I therefore, suggest that more posts be created in this Department also as early as possible.

In Demand No. 23, I would like to point out one thing. On Pension & Retirement Benefits, I presume the Government favoured only some persons and neglected others. For example - in 1972-73 there had been some incidents in which one A.O. and some other officers had been killed. Some of the Family Pension cases had been cleared but some other Family Pension Cases had not been kept pending, till date. I, therefore, suggest that the Government should look into these cases and clear them one by one.

Demand No. 15 relates to Treasury and Accounts. There are Treasuries in Mizawl and Lunglei and a sub-Treasury at Saiha. It will be good to have sub-Treasury in Sub-Div- Headquarters in order to enforce office works smoothly. Regarding posting and transfer of Sub-Treasury officer at

Saiha, the person concerned stayed at Mizawl before going there while there were many urgent office works on accounts lying untouched. Sub-Treasuries are badly needed at Chumphai and Kelasib. I would like to mention Kelasib town particularly. At Kelasib, Executive Engineer (IWD) and his staff are located and being P.W.D. transaction of money is big enough. If there was a sub-treasury there transaction of money may be cleared there easily, and that was in public interest. I hope the Government will carry out my suggestions.

Then, relating to Finance Department, regarding finance concurrence, I would like to point out that during preparation of Budget there was heavy work load and the staff get very tired. At the officers level, organisation is good enough, (like Secretary, Addl. Secretary/Dy. Secretary and Under Secretary). But I would point out particularly that the Secretary does not work effectively. I know him well since we have met occasionally at the meeting of the I.A.C. What the members complain is that Finance Concurrence is asked by Departments almost at the end of Financial year. It makes the use of money baseless. According to the Instruction/circular of Finance Department, 'No Finance Concurrence will be given after March 15 or 13'. I think this will prove to be good. It will still be better if the last date fixed be the last day of February. The Departments neglect and do not care about it until almost the end of the Financial year. Departments should be serious of the fixed date when their budget should reach Finance Department. Finance Department should be very strict to give concurrence so that the Departments will work harder and this will be good for better development of the country.

PU SAELIANA : Mr Speaker Sir, I have one thing to say on the Demand which has been moved. Demand No.6, is for Taxes on Income and Expenditure. I don't know if there is a way how to examine this for the Government. The collection of taxes is connected with the Revenue Department. We can see that the workers/staff cannot cover the requirements of the department. We have a Director and next to him we have Asst. Settlement Officers only. We all know the pressure of work in this Department. Regarding the application of house sites, the field staff should see on the spot and in the office. So it seems we want to have officers who will help the Director in this regard. For example - Suppose if anyone applies for a garden or paddy fields in the villages he should not be given without verification. So it is necessary to have enough field staff. Sometimes there may be complicated cases which the officers should settle. I'd agree with the member who has said before me that the level of this Directorate is too small and cannot meet the requirements of the public. Even if there

is no way to enlarge the Directorate in the present budget, the sooner the government look into the matter, the better for the development and advancement of the country. If I didn't mistake, I saw only two posts of Tax-collectors in the budget. If we have only two tax-collectors in Mizoram, I think it will be very troublesome. And we have two Inspectors. If both of them stayed in Mizawl only, how the taxes are collected in Lunglei District is a problem to be considered. In the collection of taxes we cannot copy other states as they have Income Tax officers and it is very important as it is the source of income for the government. As such, I want to make a suggestion that our Government also take steps to make proper arrangements for the larger income of the government. As I have said we want a Dy. Director or Jt. Director in Land Revenue Department. The field workers who measure land and make verifications are also not sufficient. They have to go to villages, take measurement and some works in the office. We often said this in every Session. But their strength could not be enlarged till date. It is a pity because the country suffers very much from this. Most of the people are cultivators and they want to settle themselves. In order to make them well established it is necessary to distribute land to them. So the strength of Revenue Department should be enlarged.

Here is Stamp and Registration. There are judicial and non-judicial stamps. I do not know how it is practised now-a-days. If anyone has the use of judicial and non-judicial stamps, he used to take them from somebody. Finance Department gave some vendors. Other states do not do like this. It is taken from the D.C.'s Office. I think it would be better if the D.C. looks after the work re: Revenue Stamp, non-judicial stamp and Court Fee Stamp etc. I want to say that there may be some difficulties for the public.

Regarding Excise Bill (Demand No.9) I think we all know when we discussed about it. We thought it to be best for our country. We need not to praise or blame on the ground of ruling party or opposition. Mizoram is a Christian country. But the Mizos used to drink and this can be traced back from tradition. It was passed with the expectation that there might be a source of income from it and besides, for better control of it. I do not think it right to say about the Excise Bill so as to make public misunderstand and give impression in the House or outside. But if the coming budget is to cover the whole of Mizoram, it will not be able to cover it. We have three constables to look after the Excise. I think we cannot have control with this limited staff. So if Excise is to be enforced we have to increase the staff.

And we have Sales Tax also. There is one thing which I could not understand regarding Sale Tax. The Finance Department is competent to give Sales Tax Exemption Certificate but they cannot explain to us. About Central Sale Tax Exemption Certificate, if the Government do not possess a clear cut policy for it, let it be made soon. Recently I contacted the Officer concerned who said that the Exemption Certificate could not be so easily given, and that a particular procedure should be followed. The Exemption Certificate can be issued to a person in Mizoram who buys goods and articles outside and sells them here as an Agent; on such condition the Exemption Certificate can be issued. Such certificate could not be given to anyone person who does occasional selling and buying business. Some Certificates that had been issued were not strictly according to regulation. That is, of course a mistake. Such condition creates confusion.

Regarding Treasury and Accounts, as the Hon'ble Members have said, I think we must have Sub-Treasury in Sub-Headquarters eventhough we think it unnecessary in the present situation. In Chhimitupui District also, it is necessary to have Sub-Treasuries in Lawngtlai, Tlabung and Chawngte to solve their problems.

The Hon'ble Member has said that the Finance Department is very busy with budget. As Lt. Governor said, we have Addl. Secretary, Finance. I would like to know what powers he has. Is he in a position to use his power? I think it would be better if the budget is prepared in a separate establishment which is bigger than the present branch which is to be looked after by an efficient officer.

Thank you.

PU K. SAENGCHH UM : Mr Speaker Sir, I want to say something in this connection. As Hon'ble Members have said, we are sure that the main source of Government's income is land and building in Mizoram. We can see from the records that the ~~well~~ Government of Mizoram have done well regarding distribution of land and building. Due to the introduction of 20 pt. Economic Programmes, thousands of people are given house sites in other states. Most of the people are sensitive about the distribution of house sites. So the Government should be very careful in giving house sites. The Government should make wide publicity so as to let the public know about the activities and good deeds of the Government. This is my first suggestion.

2nd Suggestion - due to shortage of staff and heavy pressure of work, the officers cannot work quickly. The

heads of Departments should see how the officers work and the weak officers should be given a proper guide line to enable them to work quicker, lest the public may be frustrated and the Department or even the Government may be blamed for loss of applications, etc. So the responsible officers should be watched carefully.

3rd Suggestion - Due to the increase in population, distribution of house sites is a very complicated work. But in comparison with the population of other states, our population is small. So the Minister concerned must see how the house sites are given and to whom these are given because we all want house sites and the people are ready to fight even for a piece of land.

PU NGURDAWLA : Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to say something on this Demand. Firstly, regarding Revenue Department, it appears that the Government is following the practices of other states in the system of land settlement. It is the choice of public that the Government should make efforts to make settlements of lands even in villages. In order to enable the Government to function as per rules, the department is too small and the staff are not sufficient enough. The public and the staff also face difficulties due to shortage of staff.

Regarding New Market I have said in this very House that the building system of our New Market bears public praise but the Sanitary arrangement is poor. Government should make improvements to keep it clean lest we may suffer from different diseases from unhealthy surroundings.

As I have said some days back, we have our house sites and gardens as permanent property and the people are trying to settle themselves and establish firmly. The Hon'ble Minister Lalsangzuala (when he was a member) had moved that the Government should introduce land ceiling in order to limit land owned by the landowners. In some states, there is ceiling even on property. Unless the Government takes immediate steps to stop the present system, it will face a difficult situation in the near future. So the Government should look into the matter and carefully fix the ceiling as it has been done in other states, and is also the policy of Government of India. The Hon'ble member Pu C. Chawngkunga said that many of the villagers when grouped had to build houses in the compounds of the local people in Group Centres. After two or three years, the owner of the land wanted to make his garden but the neighbour who temporarily built house there claims this site. In this way there are many conflicts. It is the responsibility of the Government to

give land to the landless and it would be better if the Government can give compensations to the landowners. For example - when the Excise Bill was introduced we thought that it will be impossible to prohibit liquor in Mizoram, and it was discussed in the House for a long time. It was passed with the expectation that liquor sale might be restricted. After some time licences were issued and some people were again selling liquor. Gradually from our experiences we come to know the evils of drinking.

I have something to say about the Revenue Department. Many villagers want to take loans but they do not own lands which can be mortgaged. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the progress of the Government regarding land settlement in villages? The villagers are eagerly waiting for the informations when they can get their lands settled.

It appears that the distinction between Revenue and Local Administration Department is not clearly defined and the margin which the Revenue department have to do and the Local Administration department should be fixed as soon as possible especially in the construction of new Market because it creates confusion to the public.

PU SAITLAWMA : Mr Speaker Sir, I want to say something here regarding Stamp and Registration. There are different kinds of societies formed in Mizoram but they can not be registered and the Government had been losing money on this because we have Registration Acts to register these societies. I suggest that the Government may look into the matter.

I believe it is a mistake that the Demand No.7 seemed to be a District establishment. As we all see in the budget there are 8 posts of Overseer II and two posts of Sub-Engineer in Aizawl District. There is only one in Lunglei and there is no post of Mohorir, surveyor, and even peons though they have separate office. The Chairman has to act as peon and when the people want to get their lands settled there is no one to take measurement and this caused hardships to the public. Besides, the Asst. Settlement Officer and the staff of Land Settlement Office in Lunglei are excluded in the Budget. This should be kept in mind so that the office itself may be run more efficient.

We see that there is a post of S.C. II, Land Records at page 26 of Volume I, having no staff at all. In the office of Land Settlement at Lunglei there are Settlement Officer, Asst. Settlement Officer I & II, but were excluded in the budget. Will the Hon'ble Minister be

pleased to clarify the matter.

It was a long time since we passed the Urban Areas Rent Control Act. I would like to know whether it has been enforced. If so, the rules would have been made and accordingly, what villages have been declared as Urban Areas by the Government? What Government notification has been issued on this? If it has not been enforced, what is the difficulty? As far as my knowledge is concerned (but I'm not sure whether it is true or not) the rules could not be used because the Administrator suspended it and I think we have to clarify before taking votes.

Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Excise Act can not be enforced here according to the rules. Most of the states have this Act and we need it also because it is a means for controlling liquor sale and regulation of selling system.

SPEAKER : Now I shall call upon the Minister incharge to explain them.

PU R. THANGLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, before I explain the questions of Hon'ble Members I am going to clarify the question of Hon'ble Member Pu Lalruata. There is no collection under other Taxes on Income and Expenditure, Professional etc in 1972-73 and 1973-74. It does not appear here. Actually there is little collection but when the A.G. showed receipts, they put it as Land Revenue by mistake. That is why it appears as not collected.

Besides, Taxes on vehicles which appears to be smaller and smaller every year was clarified from the Department and have been found higher and higher gradually. Each Department should verify whether its record of receipts tallies with the record of A.G. because they might make mistakes.

There is Supplies and Disposals in which nothing was collected during 1972-73 and 1973-74. Rs, 8,00,000/- was collected in 1974-75. In housing also we get Rs 4,00,000/- in 1974-75 only. The reason is that some changes have been made in the budget Head. In Rural Development, we get some income during 1972-73 only. The reason is that formerly Community Development and Rural Development were put under different Heads. As I have said it has been recently put under Community Development only (Pu C. Lalruata - Mr Speaker Sir, I want to ask whether the professional tax collection was less in 1972-73 and 1973-74 than in 1974-75. Was it because the collection

was not strictly enforced ?) Actually the enforcement of collection was not strictly kept up. But the Government is making efforts and the income is also considerably increased. (Pu Lalruat a- Mr Speaker, if there were any steps to continue those taxes, have they been realised by the Government ?) Of course, Let me go on to the Demands discussed by the Hon'ble Members.

Finance Department had always been blamed. As the Government was newly formed the Department might not know departmental proposals in detail. The Government is four years old and Finance Department also gradually became more and more strict. It is said that the proposals had been detained in Finance Department. But whenever I checked them myself I found out that there was no delay in Finance Department. Though Finance Department controls Finances, there are always objections from A.G. So Finance Department should convince A.G.'s office on technical matters. The Department should be very careful to sanction money because it can be spent in a useless way though it might be included in the budget.

Regarding Excise Act, the Government can give permit or licence because it is State Government's authority and is permitted under the Constitution. But the framing of the rules is not yet completed and this causes difficulties to the officers when issuing permits without consulting the Government. Besides, the rules which have been approved may have to be amended and the Department concerned is looking into it. It would be better if we give licence because whether they have permit or not, those who used to sell and drink continue by themselves. (Pu Sangkhuma - Mr Speaker, it seems that the Government can give permissions because Excise Act was passed by the Legislature. I want to know on what ground did the Government give permissions since we were excluded among those who have the power to give permissions in the past. I believe it was passed to enable us to control those who secretly make liquor. Had the rules been finalised by the Government they should have been laid on the Table of the House. It is very bad that you give permissions to those who lived near the main road because many people who seldom drink liquor may go near the shop and buy it without any intention to get drunk. Even the young boys often used to buy liquor when they are near the bar and thus become bad boys. The more the permit is given, the worse the character of the boys. This is very bad as they were hated by people who lived in the centre of the town as well as in the street corners) Permits were given before Excise Act was passed. As I have said this Act will delegate powers to some officers to give permit. Prior to that only the Government can issue the

permit as this is State subject under the Constitution. (Pu Sangkhuma - Mr Speaker, how many permits have been issued and is there any intention to giving of more permits ?) It will be given according to necessity. About 18,000 bottles were sold during 1976. A little more were sold in 1975. Pu Sangkhuma pointed out that the drunkards are rampant in the street causing nuisance to the public. On the other hand, I consider it to be more so in the street corners. When we talk about Excise Act, we always think about liquor only but ~~it~~ it included Ganja, LSD, Marijuana, etc. The Act is mostly used for controlling them especially before permit is issued.

Let me answer Pu Ruata's question -

(Pu C. Chawngkunga - it appears that liquor had been sold without restriction. Is there any rule under which liquor sellers who have no permit can be arrested ?) No, (Pu Sangkhuma - In such condition permit holders have no freedom while those without permit have it) (Speaker - The Minister has said that the rules are meant to control them. Let the Minister go on) Mr Speaker, it is necessary to frame rules as we were excluded by Assam Rules. But the Government has the power to give permits even before rules are issued. Besides, there is no failure to comply with the 12 point programme here in Mizoram. Actually the import of liquor in Mizoram is very small in comparison with other states. But the drunkards may be punished with fines, or sent to jail as per Police Act. Such is the power vested to the authority.

Regarding Professional Tax, I think we can suggest that the minimum taxable limit may be increased so that the poorer section may not be taxed.

It is true that the staffing pattern of Land Settlement and Records does not meet public requirement. During the time of District Council, the E.Ms had an authority to allot house sites. And all the allotments were carried on by the Government. This is inconvenient and the Government may amend Revenue Law. There was possibility to invest power to some officers as done during the time of District Council. But as the Government has no sole authority, it is difficult to determine the delegation of powers to officers. The most important thing to be considered here was to keep in mind the opinion of Mizos and what the Central Government would understand in different kinds of Land Revenues. So this is under Government's consideration. It is no use putting many staff before Government can carry out its proposals.

Central Sales Tax was said by some members. We are paying Central tax now. We were exempted from Assam

Government. This means any goods in Assam (Pu Saitlawma - which one is asked for exemption, Central or Assam ?) may be purchased ~~from~~ by producing 'C' form and will be exempted. But in Calcutta it is not like that. So the main thing is that unless the Government of Assam exempted us we should have to pay 15%. But it did exempt us and we expect exemption for a longer time. Pu Saitlawma's question about the exclusion of Mohorirs at Lunglei - the most important thing in budget is the money. It may be excluded by Finance Department only if the Department furnishes incomplete particulars. If you look at the page carefully, you will see there are five Asst. Settlement Officers in all now (Pu Saitlawma - If so, does it mean that the budget provision as given in these budget papers have not so much importance ?) Yes, in the case of the money. What I want to say is that we should confine ourselves within the budget. Our Settlement Officer Grade I is a Class I Officer. It is proposed to make it a post of Directorate Superintendent of Settlement Department. The Department suggests that one officer may be posted as Under Secretary and Settlement Officer and the post was already created. This will be pursued according to the convenience of the officer. (Pu C. Lalruata - I want to say that orders were issued that all buildings should not be used for living. But they continue to live and make the streets unclean causing public nuisance. Is it so difficult to enforce this law ? And is there any way to establish Revenue Court to settle any other disputes ?) (Pu Saitlawma - Mr Speaker, I wish that Urban Areas Rent Control Act may be clarified) Mr Speaker, let the Hon'ble member Pu Saitlawma excuse me. That Urban Areas Rent Control Act is enforced in Mizoram and Aizawl, Lunglei and Chaphai were declared as Urban Areas on August 4, 1975. It was not suspended by Lt. Governor though it is often said to have been suspended. Mr Speaker, Stall is very troublesome because there is no law governing the stalls. The occupants of the stalls are often ordered to vacate by Executive order but when they do not comply there is no way to take action under the law. Though stalls are given temporarily, there is no rule prohibiting settlement of the stalls. But it is under consideration and the Department will take necessary actions. (Pu Saitlawma - It is said that the rents of some houses are suspended and concurrence cannot be given, while the rents of some important persons are given concurrence. There is no justice here. I think this should be judged fairly. If not, it is the Government to be blamed). Mr Speaker, two persons, namely Shri Hmingliana Toehhawng and Shri Lalremliana were given concurrence by the Finance Department before they were not clear about the position but the concurrence have been withdrawn. Besides it was done on the condition that if

there is any over-drawal they should refund it. (Pu Sapliana) Mr Speaker, there may be two ways of paying rents in Urban Areas Rent Control Act. There may be mutual agreement between the owner and the Government or according to the Act. Does the Government release the house rent or it remains unpaid because of the difficulties to operate according to the Act? Mr Speaker Sir, the Government accepts only when it is lower than the Government rates. The Government is very strict in accepting any rates higher than government rates (Pu Lalruata - Mr Speaker Sir, if I am not mistaken, I think there was something about saving being mentioned in that Act as well as the terms and conditions of house rent before and after the enactment of this Act. Why can there be difficulty if the owner and the tenant have agreement over the question of assessment or non-assessment? Can there be another interpretation for this?) Mr Speaker Sir, I may not be able to make it clear just now. That saving gave much trouble. We dared to do only by using the principle of Assam Rent Control Act, 1966. A provision is included in the Act that the rent already assessed will be deemed to have been done under this Act. It was also provided that it would be reviewed only after five years unless the construction rates and land value be raised by 15% after the enforcement of this Act. The owners want to re-assess at higher rates. But under the saving clause it can be deemed as done under the Act. There may be great difference in the interpretation since those who want to get new rates now want assessment at PWD rates. Those which were constructed before 1950 will be assessed as at that time. Even after that it seems likely that we should use its depreciation rates. As such it was referred to the Law Department. It was to be discussed again in the Cabinet.

PU SAITLAWMA : Mr Speaker Sir, we would like to see a copy of letter from Central Government on the purchase Board which is said by the Minister to have been sent to every state. The Minister also says that it will not be difficult to see for us before we leave.

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, it will be prepared and
MINISTER can be seen tomorrow.

SPEAKER : It is expected to be ready to be seen tomorrow. We have learnt Minister's answers on this Demand. We will put it to the vote of the house. We have one correction regarding Land Revenue in the Bulletin. Read 29 lakhs 86 thousand instead of 29 lakhs 68 thousand.

Now, we shall take up votes on the said Demand. The question is that the Demand No. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 23 & 52 for Rs 44,83,000/- only to meet the expenses during the year 1976-77 in respect of the Departments and for the amount as shown in column No. 2, 3 and 4 of Para 13 of Bulletin Part II dated 23rd March, 1976 be passed. Those who agree to pass say 'agree' (Members said 'agree'). The Demand has now been passed.

Tomorrow we shall take up Demand No. 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43. Besides, Demand No. 30, 42, 44 will also be taken up. They are Pu Ch. Sapranga Minister and Pu Zalaema Dy. Minister's Demands. The sitting will start at 10:30 a.m. Now, we will adjourn the meeting till tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

D.C. PANDE
SECRETARY
MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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