

9th Sitting on 26th March, 1976 at 10:30 A.M.

Pu Vaivenga, Speaker in the Chair, Chief Minister and 6 (six) Minister and 24 members are present.

BUSINESS

1. Questions.
2. Presentation of Report by Pu R.Zoliana, Chairman, Committee on Government Assurances.
3. Voting on Demands for Grants for 1976-77.
 - (a) Pu Ch.Saprawnga, Minister to move Demands for Grants in respect of the Departments under his charge.
 - (b) Consideration and voting of the Demands.
 - (c) Pu Zalawma, Dy.Minister to move Demands for Grants in respect of the Department under his charge.
 - (d) Consideration and voting of the Demands.

SPEAKER: For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.
Question No.54.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Education Department be pleased to state -

- during 1975-76?
- (a) What is the strength of L.P.Teachers
 - (b) (i) Aizawl District
(ii) Lunglei District
(iii) Chhimituipui District.
 - (c) How many of them have been confirmed?

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, the strength of L.P. Teachers during 1975-76 is 1878. Of those, 134 teachers have been confirmed.
MINISTER

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, please may I know the District-wise.

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir,
MINISTER
Aizawl District - 1301
Lunglei District - 278
Chhimituipui District - 199.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, the services of L.P. teachers who had served even before the formation of U.T. Government are said to be counted from the time of U.T. Government. If so, what is the latest action taken in this regards?

SPEAKER: That had been answered yesterday. As stated yesterday, the matter is taken to the Cabinet for consideration.

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, if I am not mistaken, I noted the number of teachers as 1687 (Minister - Mr Speaker Sir, it is 1878 not 1687) Thank you. Are there any more teachers besides 1878?

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, I don't think there is anymore teacher besides 1878 I have mentioned.
MINISTER

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, Are pre-primary teachers included here?

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, pre-primary teachers are different. What had been mentioned are L.P. Teachers only.
MINISTER

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, does this mean some of the teachers working in the same school with other teachers are not regarded as teachers, for, it seems that Pre-Primary School is now attached to L.P. School?

SPEAKER: Our question concerned only L.P. Teachers, Pre-Primary teachers are not L.P. teachers.
Now, question No.55.

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Education Department be pleased to state -

- (a) How many pupils were there in L.P. Schools during 1975-76 in
- (i) Aizawl District
 - (ii) Lunglei District
 - (iii) Chhimituipui District.

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir,

(a) Statistics of Educational Institutions are collected by the end of March every year. The Statistics are based on the actual position as they stand on 31st March.

of the year. It is not, therefore, possible to furnish the number of pupils in L.P. Schools as it stands during 1975-76.

The number of pupils in L.P Schools during last year (i.e. 1974-75) as it stood on 31.3.1975 was as follows:

- (i) Aizawl District - 42,975
- (ii) Lunglei District - 9,529
- (iii) Chhimituipui District - 6,999

PU C. LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, has not the Minister misunderstood? As we know the year 1975-76 has almost come to an end. Hence, is not the statistics of the passing year to be submitted on 31st March?

PU H. THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, as I have said, the statistics of pupils are taken as they are on 31st March of each year. The member asks for the number of pupils in the year 1975-76. March is not yet over now. So, I cannot say the number of pupils for the year 1975-76 because the year is not yet over and the statistics as on 31st March cannot be prepared now.

PU C. CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, 1975-76 is covered by the previous budget. Is it not that the Minister refers to the coming year 1976-77?

PU H. THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, as our members said, this can easily be misunderstood. It is like this. The calendar year is counted from the month of January to December. However, maintenance of statistics report of Institutions is different. Annual report of the year 1975-76 will be heard only on 31st March, 1976. The report will be collected in April.

PU C. LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - the academic year for 1975-76 is already over and the schools were already closed in December, 1975. We are now entering the academic year of 1976-77 and enrolment to schools for the year 1976 also have been done. I am of the opinion that the Minister misunderstands the point.

PU H. THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, last year's (1975-76) enrolment is not yet collected now. Last year's statistics will be collected only by the end of March. That is how it is done at national level. If not so, we can take the enrolment as on 31st December. But, as the member asks for the enrolment for 1975-76, we have to take into account the enrolment as on 31st March, 1976.

PU S. HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, the schooling period for the academic year of 1975-76 is already over and ended on 31.12.1975. Why can the Minister not tell the enrolment for the academic year of 1975-76?

SPEAKER: The Minister had given a reply to that. As the year is not yet over, it is not possible to collect the statistics of pupils for the academic year of 1975-76.

PU C. LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, is it that the record of enrolment for 1975 is to be made after the end of March, 1976?

PU H. THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, yes, it is to be made after the end of March, 1976.
MINISTER

PU LALKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, if the record of enrolment is prepared as it stands at the end of the year, is it also that fee remission is given on the basis of enrolment at the end of the previous year.

PU C. CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, I am of the opinion that the statistics must be collected at the end of the schooling period, say as on 31st December, instead of taking it as it stood at the end of academic year. Education being a state subject, I think we need not follow the national policy.

PU H. THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, free remission have no close connection with the record of enrolment. Each school makes demand on the basis of enrolment at the beginning of the year whereas the statistics of enrolment is collected at the end of academic year for record as is done at the national level. Free remission is given to M.E. Schools and above. All the students are not necessarily granted fee remission. As such, the actual enrolment cannot be known on the basis of demand for remission of fees. So, the actual number of pupils is taken as it stood on 31st March.
MINISTER

Pu Chawngkunga suggests that enrolment statistics may be taken as on 31st December rather than on 31st March. This cannot be altered as all India statistics are taken as on 31st March and our statistics have to be consonant with that of the all India level.

In Mizoram, the school session follows the Calendar year. But, in many other states the school session ends in March.

SPEAKER: Now, question No.56.

LAW AND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

PU LALKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Law and Judicial Department be pleased to state -

(a) How many cases have been tried and disposed of by each of the District Council Court in Mizoram between 1.4.1975 - 10.3.1976?

(b) How many Judicial Officers/Magistrates are there in each District Council Court?

PU LALSANGZUALA: Mr Speaker Sir,
MINISTER (a) The number of cases tried by the District Court as follows:

<u>No. of cases tried</u>	<u>No. of cases disposed of</u>
54	37

(i) District Council Court, Aizawl.

(b) District Council Courts, Aizawl:- One Judicial Officer who is at present working as President.

PU SAITLAWMA: Mr Speaker Sir, can District Council Court try Revenue cases?

PU LALSANGZUALA: Mr Speaker Sir, in rule of administration of justice, District Council Court do not try Revenue cases.
MINISTER

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr Speaker Sir, is District Council Court competent to try the verdicts of Departmental Head?

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, it appears that the District Council Court try Revenue cases relating to land disputes and their verdicts are sometimes contradictory to the decisions of the authorities of the Revenue Department. If the District Council Court is not empowered to try revenue cases, will such cases already settled by them not be invalid?

PU LAISANGZUALA: Mr Speaker Sir, it is like this that as
MINISTER we have not had Revenue Court, the
District Council Court take up revenue
cases for the time being, and rules of the erstwhile District
Council are being adopted in these regards.

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr Speaker Sir, what I asked was whether
the District Council Court have power to try
cases besides revenue on which other Department Heads have
already made decisions?

PU LAISANGZUALA: Mr Speaker Sir, that will depend on the
MINISTER nature of the cases not on the Departments
decisions. Their jurisdictions are clearly
stated in rule of administration of justice.

PU CH.CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, I think there was commotion
in Aizawl Jail for a while. Coming to the
Office this morning I saw prisoners standing on the edge of
the wall shouting a slogan. There must be great commotion. I
therefore want our Ministers to know it.

SPEAKER: That is not relevant with our subject.

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr Speaker Sir, I still have not fully
understand the answer given by the Minister.
For instance - there are cases against police service. Here
decisions made by the Department Heads are again brought up
in High Court. If so, is not it that District Council Court
have no competency to try decisions of Department Heads?

PU LAISANGZUALA: Mr Speaker Sir, the laws in force in
MINISTER Mizoram are not exhaustive and do not
cover all the need of the administration.
Some of them are the Acts passed by the then Mizo District
Council which were adapted by the Government; some of them
are the ones passed by the new Government of the U.T. of
Mizoram. Besides consequent upon the Mizoram becoming a
Union Territory many Central acts become applicable to the
territory. So different laws - Central Acts, Acts passed by
the new Government and Acts passed by the erstwhile Mizo
District Council are in force in Mizoram and any case may come
under the jurisdiction of the District Council Council
according to the very nature of the case.

PU K.SANGCHHUM: Mr Speaker Sir, I feel that the number of
Judicial Officers and Magistrates we now
have is inadequate. The number of cases tried by the District
Council Court during a year is 54. This means that on the
average a Magistrate tries 18 cases only during a year whereas
hundreds of cases are kept pending. Do the Government propose
to create more posts of Judicial Officer/Magistrate so that
cases may be disposed of more expeditiously. At the same time
I feel that the Court is too expensive in view of the cases
disposed of in a year. Disposal of only 18 cases by a Magis-
trate during the course of the whole year is not satisfactory.

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to create more posts of Judicial Officer/Magistrate so that
cases may be disposed of more expeditiously. At the same time
I feel that the Court is too expensive in view of the cases
disposed of in a year. Disposal of only 18 cases by a Magis-
trate during the course of the whole year is not satisfactory.

SPEAKER: ADM in the District Council Court would not be relevant.

PU LAISANGZUALA: Mr Speaker Sir, being bench Court, the District Council Court have three Judicial Officers. Of them, only two Magistrates can administer justice/judgement.

Besides District Council Court, there are Subordinate Courts both in Aizawl and Lunglei. We also have two additional Subordinate District Council Courts. Except bench Court, i.e. District Council Court, all other Courts function in their own separate way.

As regards recruitment - to fill the vacant posts I have mentioned, recruitment is under process. However, in order to strengthen the administration of Courts, persons graduated in law are to be given preference. Though an advertisement had been put up, there has only been one applicant upto this day.

PU SAITLAWMA: Mr Speaker Sir, it is clear that there is no specific law empowering the District Council Courts to try revenue cases. For example, at the time of grouping of villages, the Grouping Centres were too congested and many houses were constructed within gardens and kitchen gardens without permission of the owners. When normalcy returns the owners claim ownership of their lands and there arose cases about ownership of the lands. Many such cases were taken up and settled by the Subordinate District Council Court. If the Courts had not been empowered to try such cases, will the Government accept the judgement passed by them in such revenue cases?

PU LAISANGZUALA: Mr Speaker Sir, as I have said that will depend on the nature of each and every case. The erstwhile District Council had many Acts and rules - Revenue Assessment Regulation, Jhuming Regulation, Market Regulation etc. The District Council Courts have been trying cases arising under the laws passed by the District Council. At present, the drafting of land and Revenue Law is under process and a separate Revenue Court is not yet set up. As we have no separate Revenue Courts, the District Council Courts continue to try cases arising under the laws passed by the then District Council.

PU SAITLAWMA: Mr Speaker Sir, if the District Council Courts are not empowered by the Administration of Justice Rules, to try Revenue cases, our present procedure seems to be based on vague practice. I feel that it is more correct for the Head of the Department to dispose of disputes over land and other revenue cases.

SPEAKER: The Minister clarifies that at present the Land and Revenue laws are only being initiated and in the absence of proper revenue laws, the practice of the District Council is followed. Are the members clear?

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr Speaker Sir, if the District Council Court have no competency to try revenue cases, it means that the verdicts of the said court previously made are meaningless. It also means that they are muddling unnecessarily in cases on which they have no power. As it is public interest, I just want to know the detail explanation.

PU LAISANGZUALA: Mr Speaker Sir, I have said before. Rules and Regulations of the erstwhile District Council are being adopted and enforced as provided in North Eastern Re-Organisation Act.

PU LAIHMINGTHANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, Will it be right to inherit rules that cannot be practised? Instead of inheriting unpracticable rules, will it not be better to keep cases (revenue) pending till a new rule is framed?

PU SAITLAWMA: Mr Speaker Sir, It is no doubt true that many of the then District Council's rules were adopted. But, none of these rules provide District Council Court with competency to try revenue cases. As such, will not Government immediately consider cases taken up by them?

SPEAKER: The answer had been given. As stated, drafting of Revenue law is under process. The District Council's rules have to be in force until the framing of new rules is being completed.

PU LAISANGZUALA: Mr Speaker Sir, the District Council Courts are competent to try all the cases and disputes covered by the District Council laws. That practice is inherited by the Government of Mizoram from the District Council because we adopted the District Council laws. Some of the District Councils laws have been amended.

SPEAKER: Question No.57, Pu Sangchhum's question.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the percentage of the recovery of Housing Loans is low?

(b) If so, the latest date showing the total amount of Housing loan given, amount recovered so far, and percentage of recovery to demand, district wise?

(c) What are the reasons for the low rate of recovery?

PU R.THANGLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir,
MINISTER (a) Except the Chhintuipui District recovery of Housing Loan is quite satisfactory.

(b) In Aizawl District Rs.38,16,000/= was sanctioned during 1972-73 and 1973-74.

Rs.3,14,459/= has become due for recovery out of which Rs.2,92,560.85 has been recovered.

In Lunglei District Rs.5,13,000/= was sanctioned during 1972-73 and 1973-74.

Rs.42,705/= has become due for recovery out of which Rs.31,730/= has been recovered.

In Chhimituipui District Rs.2,00,000/= was sanctioned during 1973-74, Rs.11,765/= has become due for recovery out of which Rs.2,077.63 has been recovered.

(c) In Chhimituipui District the rate of recovery is slightly low owing to the following factors:

(i) Due to communication difficulties there was some delay in the disbursement of the loans to the loanees.

(ii) There was some confusion about the calculation of the instalment for recovery of the loans.

PU K.SANGCHHUM: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Are there any houses being dismantled due to failure of loanees to repay the loan? If so, how many houses had been dismantled under such case?

PU B.THANGLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, though such case has not yet occurred, there is but one case similar to it. Due to failure of the owner in repaying loan in time, one house was put up for auction. But, as the loan was repaid in course of auction, auction order was cancelled.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - is it possible for any person living within and outside Mizoram to bid auction?

PU R.THANGLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, I think there will be difficulty in transference of land for bidder living outside Mizoram. However, anyone living within Mizoram can bid the auction without difficulty.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, in Transfer of Land Act of the then District Council, there is no restriction for non-citizens of Mizoram to bid auction of houses/lands.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Is capability of payment considered important for granting Housing Loan?

PU SAPLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - We have been told that the reason for low recovery loans in Chhimituipui District was due to delay in the disbursement of the loans in which case Government is responsible as much as the loanees. While failure of loanees in repaying the loans in time is another reason, are not the authorities concerned also not vigilant enough in realization of loans?

PU VANLAIHRUAIA: Mr Speaker Sir, can not the loanees be caused since the term for recovery is 25 years?

PU R.THANGLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, As regards bidding of land/
MINISTER house put up for auction due to failure of loanee in repaying the loan, I do not know that there is a rule which imposes restriction on non-citizens of Mizoram to bid the auction.

However, according to our land laws, lands are not allotted to the persons living outside Mizoram.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, here, it is not a question of allotment of land. It is the question of bidding in auction. If specific regulation is not made barring outsiders to bid in the auction of land, outsiders can purchase lands in Mizoram since our law for allotment of lands does not debar outsiders to purchase lands by bidding auction.

PU R.THANGLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, even if it is the question of bidding in auction, I don't think our District Council Land Law can be mis-interpreted to mean that outsiders are allowed to purchase lands in Mizoram, freely. Even in such cases, Government have power to restrict transfer of land to outsiders.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, I have consulted the District and the Additional Magistrates and all the District Council Rules relating to transfer of land through auction. My finding is that the Government have no law to stand on in regulating transfer of lands to outsiders. I submitted a suggestion to this effect during 1974-75. Has the Government proposals for regulation of transfer of lands to outsiders through auction and for safeguarding the lands for the Mizos?

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, our Minister stated the Government as having rule which debar outsiders to bid the auction of land/house. If so, I request him to give the members copy of this rule.

PU R.THANGLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, as regards bidding of
MINISTER auction - I believe there would be none
debar to bid the auction. However, Govern-
ment have power in regulating transfer of land and in gran-
ting ownership. If it is the question of bidding in auction,
it is not easy to answer as it is legal concern.

In reply to Pu Sapliana's question, it is
not that the loanees in Chhintuipui District failed to repay
the loan. Due to bad communication, there was delay in dis-
bursement of loan and in receiving sanction order. Besides
this, there were certain difficulties in calculation of instal-
ment at the time of repayment. Hence, it is not wholly the
fault of the loanees that recovery of loan is low in
Chhintuipui District

Pu Vanlalhruaia asked whether or not Govern-
ment can excuse loanees who fail to repay the loan within a
year if the term for recovery is 25 years. It is a fact that
the term for recovery is 25 years. But, there is specific
rule by which loanee has to repay the loan within a year. If
he fails, the interest will come to Rs.8.50 per hundred. If he
still fails to repay after this, his property/house is to be
taken.

In reply to Pu Lalhmingthanga's question
regarding the disbursement of loans to persons who have no
house or property to be mortgaged - though Government consider
the case of persons who have no house/property to be mortgaged,
the loanees, whether or not they have property to be mortgaged
must repay the loan. As loans are to be repaid, persons who
could repay it should apply.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, I am of the opinion that
this is a very important issue. I would
like to know the progress of suggestion I have submitted to
Chief Minister in September-October, 1974 regarding the regulation
of transfer of land through auction to non-Mizos. According
to our present practice, it is open for non-residents of
Mizoram to have holdings as much as they like in Mizoram through
auction of lands of those who could not repay the loans taken
by them.

Even if my suggestions are not yet consi-
dered, explanation given by the Minister was not very clear
either. When Magistrates are consulted they can give no specific
reply to stand by. Hence, can Government make specific
rule to stand by in this regard?

PU R.THANGLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, we will see to what you have
MINISTER mentioned. As stated, I think there is no
specific rule which debars outsiders to bid
auction. Nevertheless Government have power as far as regula-
tion of transfer of land is concerned even when land/house
goes to the possession of an outsider through auction.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, if land/house of loanee
who fails to repay the loan had been taken
by the Government, transfer of land would not be conducted
between the individuals. Particularly in District Council
Transfer of Land Act, there is no regulation of transfer of
land between Government and an individual. Hence, this has to
be clarified that from and to where land is to be transferred?

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, if the land/house is in the possession of the Government loanee has no more ownership over the land/house, I think the loanee lost ownership there and then.

PU R.THANGLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, land/house is being transferred as soon as Government take possession of it from the loanee who fail to repay the loan. However, here transfer of land means between the individuals. Even if an outsider possessed land/house thro' auction, Government could have an objection. Anyway, as it is legal concern, I will see to the matter again.

SPEAKER: Question No. 58.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c G.A.D. be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government servants under different Departments posted in interior places have to inform the Village Council concerned when they are going to leave their headquarters?

(b) If not, is there any proposal to issue instructions to the effect?

PU CH.CHHUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir,
CHIEF MINISTER

(a) No.

(b) There is no proposal to issue such instructions.

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - when co-operation of Village Council is needed Departments contact them directly. For instance- In Education Department there is direction to appoint Village Council President for Chairman of Government Aided School. Being under the administration of Local Administration Department is it not better that Departments get in contact with Village Councils thro' the Director of L.A.D ?

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, our Chief Minister stated efforts made by Development Board to maintain integrity among the Government employees particularly those posted in remote areas. As there is no proper co-operation among the staff many office works are left undone for a long time which caused difficulties to the public. Will Development Board intend to make their effort a success ?

SPEAKER: Question No.59.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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

Are the Government aware of the fact that those who maintain muster Roll indulge in corrupt practices by employing less labourers than the strength shown in the Muster Rolls?

PU H.THANSANBA:
MINISTER Mr Speaker Sir, there is no such practice prevalent in this Department but whenever any such cases are brought to the notice of the Government action is taken immediately.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Have any complaints been submitted in the years 1974 and 1975 regarding prevalence of corrupt practice among persons who maintained Muster-Rolls?

PU H.THANSANGA:
MINISTER Mr Speaker Sir, I have no knowledge that there was such complaint in those years.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - I know that at the beginning of the year 1975, there was a report of prevalence of corrupt practice among the staff of Champhai P.W.D. Sub.Division particularly those who maintained Muster Rolls. Perhaps our P.W.D Minister, being fresh in the post, does not know about it. But, the former P.W.D. Minister was informed of this verbally while he visited Champhai. So, what action had been taken in this regard and have the Government received the report officially in writing?

PU CH.CHHUNGA:
CHIEF MINISTER Mr Speaker Sir, what had been said by Pu Ruata was true. It is a fact that such complaint was received. The matter is now under consideration.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, can the Minister be pleased to state the fact about this in the House?

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, if the report was in connection with Champhai P.W.D.Sub-division, I might have mistaken it for other reports of corrupt practices which I received. As regards the reports I received, one action had been taken while others are under investigation.

PU K.SANGCHHUM: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - what we are now talking about are all things of the past. Even in the years 1972-73, 1973-74, there are cases where Government servants indulged in such corrupt practices in various parts of Mizoram. For instance - In Saiha, Government servants who maintained muster-rolls indulged in corrupt practices by employing less labourers than the strength shown in the Muster-rolls. In order to prevent further corruptions will Government intend to have thorough investigation of reports in connection with such practices? And will they take action against wrong-doers if found out?

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, if there is no co-operation between the people and the Government it is not possible to know or find out such corruptions particularly if they are practised in remote areas. If the people have any knowledge of such corruptions they must come forward to report it to the authorities. The authorities concerned should also make thorough investigation/inquiry before taking action. To do away such evil practices, we must co-operate with one another.

PU F.HRANGVELA: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - whose authority it is to appoint and discharge labourers? Is there any intention to consolidate the condition of muster-roll labourers?

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, Division is incharge of Muster-Roll labourers. The authority who appoint is the one who can discharge these labourers. Here, Executive Engineer is an authority concerned.

As regards consolidation of their condition - there is no regular sanction for maintenance of these labourers due to which it is not possible to make their posts permanent. However, the Department used to consider the case of efficient and experienced labourers for regular appointment, that is if they also have necessary qualifications for the appointment.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, supplementary question - I would like to know what steps had been taken for the implementation of the recommendation of Estimates Committee to abolish Muster Roll system which in their opinion is a big corruption loop-hole.

As regards Champhai Sub-Division - Not to mention other corrupt practices, even in the construction of only one road, the names of 44 persons not employed as daily labourers were shown in the Muster Roll register for long 5 months. Already 4/5 months passed since such report came yet nothing has been done so far. I would like to know the person or staff detailed to investigate the matter. Will Government be able to clear up the mess within a month?

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, Of the Muster roll labourers, there are skilled and unskilled labourers. What qualification one has to have to become skilled labourer?

PU H.THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir, I don't think it is possible to abolish Muster-roll system. If all the posts of labourers are regularized, the establishment charge will be too high. As a matter of fact, the work schedules of P.W.D might be hindered if Muster roll system is totally abolished. (Pu C.Lalruata - Mr Speaker Sir, if they are not regularized, I think other system should be adopted so that these labourers are not discharged whenever one likes. In the past years, Melveng up a system was practiced. Can we also practise this system since necessity for employment of Muster roll labourers is becoming less and less?)

Mr Speaker Sir, as I have said, the tempo of work in P.W.D would be hindered if Muster roll system is abolished. However, if there is better system I think we will have to consider about it.

Regarding complaint of corrupt practices in Champhai Sub-Division - The E.E. concerned is detailed to make investigation. Government is now taking evidence from the report he had submitted. Though I can't say how long they will take, they might finish it even before one month.

As regards skilled and unskilled labourers - skilled labourers are those who possessed ability or skill to make things which ordinary labourers can not make. Everyone who has hands, legs and who can work is qualified for unskilled labourers.

SPEAKER: Question No.60.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

PU LALKUNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Public Health Engineering Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that no water will be distributed by trucks to Aizawl in 1976?

(b) If yes, has water been given to all households in Aizawl?

PU H. THANSANGA: Mr Speaker Sir,
MINISTER (a) As far as possible, supply of water through trucks will be avoided.

(b) As all house-holds in Aizawl do not have piped water supply connections, question of giving water to all house holds does not arise. However, water is supplied to public through public hydrants.

SPEAKER: We have now finished questions. We will proceed to our next item i.e. Presentation of report. Chairman of Committee on Government Assurances may present the report now.

PU R. ZOLIANA: Mr Speaker Sir, with your kind permission, I Chairman of Committee on Government Assurances having been authorized by the Committee to present the report on its behalf present this 5th report to the House.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: As recommended by the B.A.C., Ministers are not given time during general discussion. What had been asked or pointed out by Members during discussion might be noted down by the Ministers so as to be able to give explanations when demand for grant is taken up.

I think our Members have studied the Budget. If you have anything to ask in the Budget you may do so. If you also have suggestion in particular Department you can do so. However, you should know how to differentiate general discussion and Budget Demand. The B.A.C. also expects us to finish our discussion within the fixed time.

If the House agrees to, we will take one and half hour for discussion as we have more demand in the morning sitting. So, from afternoon sitting which will commence from 2 o'clock, we will call the Ministers. This way we would be able to finish all the demands today. I think 10/15 minutes will be sufficient for each member. Do you all agree to follow this routine?

PU VANLALHRUAIA: Mr Speaker Sir, if you are taking the opinion of the Members, I want to say certain things though I don't particularly dislike the calendar laid down by the B.A.C. If we are allotted only 10/15 minutes, it will be very difficult to say all that we want to say within that short time. Our Budget demand is also more than a crore. Hence, I think it is better to extend the time for discussion.

SPEAKER: This is the second time we have discussion. According to our rule, Members are expected to finish all that they want to say within 10/15 minutes. Do you agree to this?

(Members - said agreed)

Now, we start the discussion. The Minister-in-charge may move the demand now.

PU CH.SAPRAWNGA: Mr Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Administrator of Mizoram and with your permission sir, I move the Demand No.36,37, 38,40,41 and 43 for Rupees 3 crores 72 Lakhs and 3 thousand only to meet the expenses during the year 1976-77 in respect of the following Departments.

SPEAKER: Now, we will have discussion on the Demand moved by the Minister. First of all, we will call upon the Members.

PU K.SANGCHHUM: Mr Speaker Sir, I too would like to say some things.

In southern parts of Mizoram particularly in the bordering areas of Burma spreads mange due to which most of the goats are unclean for human consumption. Besides having no meat for ourselves, there would be no unblemish goat to kill when high officials come to this part of the world if nothing is done to eradicate this epidemic of mange. I therefore request the Government to please see to what they can do in this regard.

Next, delegation of financial power. In view of the functioning of Agriculture Department staff in outpost areas, it seems that they have difficulty over the question of financial power. For example - In Lunglei and Chhimtuipui Districts, tender was called for supply of potato seeds. When the supply arrived, seedling season was already over. Hence, the supply became useless, which means another failure for the Government. As the dealing staff has no power to collect the required supplies locally he has to contact Director or Directorate which usually takes time. If Department staff functioning in outpost areas are not given certain power to function in their own way, Government would always fail.

Of the Block Headquarters, I think only 2 or 3 of them have not had building. One of such block is Sangau. Since the creation of Block Headquarter there, Sangau have not had building till today. As they do not have Government office of their own, they have been moving from building to building which are all private houses. It is really troublesome for the staff. I hope Government would immediately build office for C.D.Blocks who have not had office building.

In previous session, I was assured that vehicle will be allotted to Sangau B.D.O. as soon as the road becomes plyable for vehicles. Yet it seems that the Department concerned have no knowledge that Supply Department vehicles are plying to and fro conveying supply commodities. If there is fund allotment for each B.D.O. to keep Government vehicle, Sangau B.D.O. too should immediately be allotted for the interest of the public and the Block itself.

As I have often said before, there seems to be no other way except to change the system of our cultiva-

tion. According to the statements given by the Minister, it seems that Agriculture experts we have been expecting since 1972 have not yet been sent from Central Government. I am truly sorry that no satisfactory answer can be had in this regard. Why don't we search a remedy for famine which breaks almost every year?

I know the necessity of changing the cultivation system in Mizoram. The system I suggest is Hill-terrace cultivation system. Unless new venture is taken we would never change the present cultivation system which as we know has been a failure. For the successful implementation of the new system, I want Government to detail 20/30 households in each village to start the method in successive year. If it is successful, other cultivators can follow it without hesitation. Having experimented the present system of cultivation since 1950 till 1971, I think we have now realized its failure. The only remedy for every year famine is to change the present system of cultivation. Personally, I think the method I suggested will be successful. However, to ascertain the possibility of adopting this system, Government should think a way for experts to come to Mizoram to give us concrete idea or concrete proposal in this regards.

Thank you

PU VANLALHRUATA: Mr Speaker Sir, I would first of all like to say some things in connection with Agriculture since it is the Department where priority should be given. I don't remember in which year that Agriculture Department was stated as having failed. Yet, when there is more amount of money sanctioned for the Department we seem to be having a new hope. For the improvement of Agriculture, the Department purchased various kinds of machines which are distributed to cultivators in different parts of Mizoram, However, from what I gathered most of the machines are not in good condition and unserviceable. Instead of wasting money for purchase of unserviceable machines, it might be wiser to use it for other purposes. I would also want to suggest that we no more purchase such machines. (Pu Ch Saprawnga - Can you tell me which particular machines are useless and in which places are they located?) Maybe I am wrong but I think the name of the machine is Power tiller. In Champhai, Khawzawl and in Kolasib, there are persons who owned such machines. They said that their machines could function only for a short time after which they no more have utility due to non-availability of such machine parts in Mizoram. I think what they said was true. I even told one person who hailed from my constituency not to purchase such machine. I think you notice that on the way to Silchar we come across a wide stretch of rice field on both sides of the road. If the said machine is recommendable, I am sure cultivators in these rice fields would use it. Hence, the said machine might not be too recommendable.

As I have often said, Agriculture has been a failure in Mizoram. However, after the formation of U.T. Government, our financial position improved which encourages the people and the Government to take vigorous step once again in Agriculture. As we know, grant-in-aid is given to cultivators. However, for further improvement, I feel that grant-in-aid should be given more widely particularly in distant areas where there is potentiality for wet-rice cultivation the system of which we advocate * substitute for the present system of cultivation

* as

I strongly believe that with help from Government those who have already started wet-rice cultivation would have greater improvement. I also want to urge Government to take vigorous step in remote areas like, for instance- Weikhang, Mimbung and Hnallan in my Constituency where wet-rice cultivation system is adopted and practised.

At the same time while the new system of cultivation is encouraged, there is difficulty over the question of demarcation of boundary. If we remember that recently our Chief Secretary and some officials have gone to investigate the situation in the bordering areas of Cachar where the people complained about the intrusion of their paddy fields by outsiders. I would like to know what steps had been taken in this regard.

Since the last few years, Ginger plantation has become popular in Mizoram. The planters, though not well off economically do good in the planting, and they are quite successful. Government too give them a helping hand by giving them loan. However, I feel that loan should be given still more liberally so as to increase the production. If one person alone can grow about 10/20 quintals of Ginger Rs. 9 lakhs sanctioned for loan would not be adequate.

Red-pepper is one of the crops which flourishes in Mizoram. If there is good marketing, red-pepper business will be a good source of income as much as Ginger plantation is. It seems that in Manipur red-pepper can be sold at the rate of Rs 10/- - Rs 15/- per Kg. while in Mizoram it comes to Rs 3/- to Rs 5/- per Kg. As it is an easy business to manage, Government would do well in giving more thought to it. In Demand No. 41 we came across the heading 'Fisheries'. Years have passed since Fisheries has been started in Mizoram yet there seems to be no improvement that we can count on. In fact most of the fishes we get in market are brought from Silchar. While large amount of money is invested on Fisheries, only about Rs. 200/300 or Rs. 500/- is given for the maintenance of one Fish Pond. While Rs. 20,000/- is needed for the construction of one Fish Pond, Rs. 300/500 is too scanty. If we are not resolute in what we have started, Fisheries in Mizoram will never improve.

I am really glad that there is great improvement in Animal Husbandry since the creation of U.T. We could now have fresh milk and meat abundantly. However, the Department must have Director of their own as soon as possible, for there can likely be certain difficulties when Agriculture Director takes the charge of three Departments - Soil, Vety. and Animal Husbandry.

Fowl breeding has also been started in our State Farm. Fowls brought from other States are distributed to the breeders; 3/4 chickens to one breeder. If one wants to launch intensive fowl breeding, 3/4 chickens is too small a number to start with. I think it is better to reduce the number of recipients so as to enable supply of more chickens to breeders who wish to launch fowl breeding.

Thank you.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir, in view of the budget provisions, Government seems to have strong determination to improve agriculture in Mizoram. In spite of hard work, Agriculture is not progressive development like other developments. Even to change the present system of cultivation as suggested earlier, it will take at least 2-5 years. However, I am glad that there is great improvement in our agriculture since the formation of U.T. Government. Even before the creation of 'Merger Congress' our political parties gave priority to this Department, and the same policy is accepted in one accord after the formation of Merger Congress Party. Various steps were taken, and machines were purchased. But, as our members have stated, there are machines which cannot function. 5 powerless pumps purchased from Assam Agro Industry in 1971 were still in unserviceable condition till the end of the year 1974. Though the purchase was done by Soil Conservation Department one of them is still lying in the Agriculture campus. 3.5 Horse Power pumping sets (eleven in number) were also purchased in 1972-73 to be distributed again to needy farmers at subsidy rate. Yet, these machines were seen lying un-used till the month of October/November, 1975. Some of them are in Work Shop till the present day. If they were purchased for departmental work they should be used immediately for the purposes for which they were purchased.

It appears that there is Information Wing in Agriculture Department. Provision was made for publication in the current budget. Perhaps I do not know the reason but this information wing has not done much in the past years. As a rule, Information Wing is responsible for publication of knowledge and information on Agriculture subjects. Hence it has great importance for the improvement of Agriculture. As such, they should be put to WORK.

Agriculture Department Workshop is located at Lawipu. Perhaps there is no suitable place, but I do not understand why the Department locate it in this remote and unsuitable place. I can well understand if the Workshop is meant for manufacturing small tools and materials for the Department. Otherwise, it is not at all a suitable place for location of Motor Workshop. The approach road from town is so rugged that it might be the worst road on which vehicles ply. In fact, it is not recommendable even for new vehicles, for new vehicles will also not last long in such a bad road. If such is the condition of road, I do not know how would vehicles that need repairing will be brought down. It is far better to select new side.

Tools, implements and variety of seeds are distributed by Agriculture Department in various parts of Mizoram. But, many of these tools and implements and seeds are lost in transit. The seeds being perishable got rotten in storage and in transit. The officials signing the receipts are usually careless as to what are the quantity and condition of the commodities actually received by them.

They are in the habit of signing "received in full and in good condition". For meaningful distribution of tools and implements and seeds, it is necessary that the persons receiving the goods must be careful to sign the receipts in future.

The Public Accounts Committee has been examining the accounts of different Departments including Agriculture Department. The P.A.C. is going to present its report soon. I want the Ministers to go through the report and note the important recommendations concerning their respective Departments. I am very sorry to learn that no action has been taken on the reports furnished by the Estimates Committee. Government should function according to the reports and recommendations of these different Committees who represent the Assembly and the people in a wider sense.

In the 1975-76 budget, a provision of Rs. 1 lakh was made for Minor Irrigation. And in the current budget, the provision is increased to Rupees 20 lakhs which shows that Government is trying to improve Agriculture. In Prime Minister's 20 Point Economic Programme, intensive irrigation was one of the internal policies of the Government for the improvement of Agriculture. However, in view of the geographical condition of Mizoram, Minor Irrigation is the only means on which we can rely. If intensive Minor Irrigation is started, low lying plains we found in between the hills and the valleys can be tilled for wet-rice cultivation, the system of which is advocated in substitute for the present shifting cultivation system. For the successful implementation of Irrigation Programme, Government should take initiative. I have a strong conviction that if Rs 20 lakhs is totally utilized for the purpose, there will be better and greater development within Mizoram.

Thank you.

PU SAITLAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, as stated earlier, Agriculture plays an important role in the economic life of the people all over India. This year, there is a successful harvest in cash crops which I hope would improve our economy. In spite of many difficulties, the activities of our Agriculture Deptt have been successful. If the Agriculture programmes and proposals are successfully implemented, Mizoram will soon march towards sufficiency as it is the quantity of foodstuff we import from outside has been decreasing which really gladdens me.

Nevertheless, I would like to point out the difficulty faced by the people, particularly of distant areas due to non-existence of power/authority to make decision in certain matters. As there is no proper delegation of power, there has always been delay in the office works. For instance the D.A.O. of Lunglei called tender quotation for supply of seeds. But selection of supplier has to be done at Directorate level which usually takes time. When the Director selects the supplier and when the supplier delivers the seeds, the process

supplier and when the supplier delivers the goods, the season for seedling has already passed. Had the seed been supplied at the right season, the cultivators might be able to grow more crops. If the Officers in outpost areas are not given some powers to take necessary action in times of emergency, there will always be delay/ hindrance in the activity of the Deptt. which discourages the people to take enthusiastic step. As such, there should be proper delegation of power among the Govt. employees/ Officers.

There is budget provision for the establishment of Information Branch in Agriculture Dept. If I am not mistaken, Information Officer had also been appointed. However, it appears that this Information Wing has not done much. Having wider knowledge, town dwellers know at least what kind of crops are profitable and what crops could flourish in their respective jhum/ field. But, villagers know nothing of this sort. Hence, Information Wing has responsibility here. If there is separate establishment for Information Wing, they should be put to work. I hope they would soon function since publication of news, pamphlet and information is not a tough job.

The Dept. rate for land reclamation/land terracing used to be Rs 500-Rs700 per acre. But, with the approval of Planning Commission, the rate has been increased to Rs 800- 1200 per acre. Though press release had been issued the people are but ignorant of this change in reclamation rate. They almost suspect the staff who deal with the fund as practising corruption. If the people are not informed of the new rate, there can easily be misappropriation of money. Therefore, Govt. should see that the Deptt. follow the new rate.

I do not know whose fault it is, Govt. or D.A.O, Lunglei that when Development Minister visited Lunglei last year, Agriculture Deptt. purchased 30 quintals of turmeric seed from a farmer of Pangzawl Village. One year has elapsed, yet the bill for this has not been paid till today which charges the farmer. He, being poor and young vowed that if he cannot get the bill paid, he will fight with the D.A.O. I am truly sorry that there is difficulty even to get few amount of bill paid.

Likewise, there are defaults in the activities of the Deptts. Though I don't want to reveal the whole truth in the House, I can but tell the Minister Concerned if he wants to know. The Demonstrator of Soil Conservation Division, Lunglei, handed over some amount of money to the Field Management Committee of Cherhlun Village in Chhimtuipui District. But, this money had been appropriated fraudulently and has never been utilised. Even when it is reported to the D.F.O, Lunglei and to the authorities, no action is taken till today though it is last year's event. When wrong-doers go unpunished, our enthusiasm for hard work is killed.

Let me point out some of the irregularities committed in the Department. Just before the end of the financial year of 1974-75, the D.A.A. Lunglei wanted to buy ginger seed for the Department, So, a supplier was appointed. Before he delivered the required supply, Rs. 5000/- was drawn in his name. As it was the end of the financial year, the supplier lost both the money and the seeds he collected.

On 13th March of this year, Agriculture Department vehicle (T.M.B.) newly purchased, came to Lunglei. As this session was just a few days ahead, I asked the driver to give me a lift. But, he said that he would be late in proceeding towards Aizawl as he had to take a load of sand for D.A.A. from Darzo Kai Ferry. If what he said was true, it is highly another irregularity on the part of the Department. I therefore request the Govt. to look into the matters relating to these irregularities I have just mentioned.

In spite of great improvement we have achieved in Veterinary Department there are but things which have to be done yet. In Lunglei, state farm is situated 5 miles away from town. And from there milk is brought to town by labourers to be distributed. It must be very exhausting for 4/5 labourers to carry milk every day to and fro at a distance of 5 miles. Considering the cost of power, Milk Van is really needed for this farm. If Milk Van is given to them, everything would be easier for them. I think it is also less expensive to use engine power.

When the financial year was about to end last year, Agriculture Department made proposal for the establishment of Gramsevak Training Centre at Hnahthial. Though all the necessary arrangements have been made, nothing is done till today. Everything is left as it was last year. Is there any intention to shift the place or does the Government intend to continue it at another time of the end of the financial year? I would like to know what they intended to do.

Thank you.

PU SANGKHUMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I too would like to say few words. Much had been said of Agriculture and the activities of the Deptt. Being the main occupation on which majority of the people depend, Agriculture has gained top priority in all developments. However, viewing all that had been done, I feel that Government is not resolute enough in what they intended to do. Within the past few years, many acres of land are brought under reclamation and terracing. But, had there been defined programme before we swung into action, I believe there will be greater improvement. Under the present system of land reclamation/land terracing only those who can have big talk in the Office or in the Ministry are benefited. If there is no target ahead of us, it is not possible to make fruitful efforts. While large amount of money is voted in the house, only some portions are actually utilized for the purposes due to the fact that

there are Govt. staff who used to indulge themselves with Govt. money. There are also cases where hard working farmers get small amount of money while some persons or farmers who did the work just for kicks get large amount. All these irregularities did really discourage the people. If funds are properly utilized with a well defined programme, there will surely be greater improvement in Agriculture.

It has been only a few years since Ginger plantation becomes popular in Mizoram. Yet there is fast improvement in the production. Though Co-operative Societies are launching large-scale purchasing at reasonable rate, it is doubtful that they would be able to arrange marketing for all the planters owing to increase in the production in various sectors of Mizoram. At present, the planters in remote and unfrequent areas are not yet relieved of their economic distress as there is no scope for them to dispose of their crops at reasonable rate. Due to paucity of staff, the D partment is having difficulty to launch large-scale marketing in distant areas. As such it will be a prudent policy to assign Ginger marketing to Agriculture Department besides Co-Operative Society.

For significant improvement of the conditions of the mass of people, the prime emphasis in the development plans must be laid on Agriculture. But, in Mizoram, it is realized that we can no more depend solely on rice cultivation. However, Govt. is still hesitating as to what crops would be encouraged as substitute for rice cultivation. Considering the very many suggestions made by our Agriculture Minister, I think Ginger plantation which he least emphasized would be the most recommendable crop as substitute for rice cultivation. Instead of making all sorts of suggestions which have never been practically enforced, the Minister would better concentrate his energy in enforcing other suggestions into practice. At the same time while the people are encouraged to increase their products, Government should as well consider the marketing. If Government could not arrange an easy market for the products, it will only be a demolition of the condition and economy of the people. It is obvious that a single crop agricultural economy-rice cultivation, cannot provide a satisfactory solution for our food and economy problem. Perhaps, Agriculture experts who came to Mizoram in the hope of finding a solution to our Agriculture problem also do not know what crops would be recommendable as substitute for rice cultivation, for, till today, we have not heard a single word of advice from them. I think our cultivators/farmers know better the kinds of crops which are recommendable in place of rice cultivation.

These days, N.E.C. has become much popular. Under this council, many big projects are being launched and large amount of money is invested on these projects.

In Mizoram, the decision for launching their schemes is said to be based on a view from Helicopter which if true is not very satisfactory. I feel that it is not necessary to ask experts from outside to do soil testing or to give us advice on Agriculture. Our cultivators know which crop is most productive. It is only a waste of money and time to wait for others to come and solve our problems. We ourselves must find a solution to our problems. If we know what crops are to be cultivated and if Govt. arrange good marketing for our products, that will be the way to make fast improvement. It might also be wiser to have Agriculture Marketing Officer instead of Agriculture Information Officer.

I would also like to say few things regarding Soil Conservation. As we know, the Department have achieved notable works in various sectors of Mizoram. The people also have great expectation in the Department. Nevertheless, persons posted in Villages are too fond of money. It is their love for money which hinders much of their works. I strongly believe that if Govt. look into the matter relating to the irregularities committed by the staff, much of the hindrance in the activity of the Department would be removed.

Thank you.

PU HRANGAIA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, for the information and necessary action of the Govt. I too would like to say something regarding Agriculture.

From what I gathered, it appears that most of the members are not pleased with what Govt. had done within the last financial year. Had not the balance fund been utilized before the end of the year, there would have been more discontentment. As for myself, I am glad that Govt. thought out plan for the utilization of balance fund just before the end of the financial year. Had there been no utilization of these funds, they would have to be surrendered to Central Government.

With a view to improve the conditions of the people through Agriculture, Govt. have taken various steps. Planning Board had been constituted and Bull-Dozers were purchased. If I am not mistaken, I learnt that 5 Bull-Dozers purchased for Mizoram are all-stationed along Aizawl-Silchar road which if it's true could mean that our love for Mizoram confines to small areas. If these bull dozers are not stationed in different areas, cultivators/farmers living outside the hill range of Aizawl-Silchar Road will be too disappointed.

Of the Departments in Mizoram, Agriculture has one of the largest strength of staff which of course does not mean that there is speedy improvement. As our members have said, in order to make speedy progress in Agriculture, it is necessary sometimes to listen to the advice given by the local people. Perhaps we are too inclined to accepting the decisions made by the Gram Sevaks.

or some persons that there are many cases where undeserving farmers received large amount of fund. The Village Councils or the local people themselves know better who are the deserving persons in their respective locality. As Pu Sangkhuma had said, it appears that Govt. staff posted in Villages are too fond of money. To check these irregularities and for further improvement as well, the Minister concerned though interested in Agriculture will have to take the initiative that is he himself must sometimes have on the spot verification. Being a typical Mizo, I think he would be ready to even go on foot if it is necessary.

As stated earlier, if money spent for land reclamation/land terracing are utilized for the actual purposes, I think there would be still better improvement in Agriculture. I therefore would like to urge our Agriculture Minister to note down what I have suggested.

Thank you.

PU LALKUNGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, as we know that the N.E.C. Scheme was formed with a view to launch large-scale developments in North-Eastern Regions. In Mizoram also, various developmental activities are being sponsored under the Scheme. But, in view of their achievements for the last two decades, it is doubtful that the Scheme would serve its purpose in Mizoram.

It is learnt that money spent for Jhum Control was diverted for the construction of big Godowns in Selesih, Durtlang and in Simphir. So, I would like to know whether what I've learnt is true.

I would also like to know whether it is a fact that Pine Apple seeds supplied for Kawnpui MEC Farm were of low quality and that the workers of the Farm do not want to plant them.

And what had been done with those Orange seedlings which cannot be sold to the people after they were being supplied ?

Where do Government intend to locate Potato Seed Foundation Farm, and what is the progress of Potato development for which an enormous sum of Rupees had been invested ? Had rotten seeds supplied last year also been developed ?

We are now making fairly good progress in Regional Pig Breeding and our income has also been increasing thro' the Farm. But, I want to know the number of pigs being reared at present and how far the people are benefited by our Regional Pig Breeding Farm.

I also want to know the location of Regional Fruit Nursery, and has Project Officer been appointed to work in this Nursery ? Have the vacant posts been filled up ?

Last year, there was a proposal to have Oak Tasser survey in Champhai areas. So what had been done in this regard ?

In Agriculture Department, some amount of money is set aside every year for Plant Protection. Yet, I can't help wondering what plants they have protected as they cannot protect even Banana or Orange from dying. What plants they can protect and what they cannot ?

Irrigation, being an essential factor in Agricultural lands, there is budget provision for the same every year. Of irrigation, lift and flow irrigations are advocated in Mizoram. But, as I do not know where and how the money are utilized, I request the Minister concerned to tell us the areas where irrigation is being practised in Mizoram.

What measures had been taken for the prevention of plague among the domestic animals, like fowls, pigs etc.? Is there difficulty in obtaining medicine that there has often been large-scale extinction of fowls, pigs and cathers particularly in Villages. Have the Department taken steps to relieve the people of their difficulty in rearing domestic animals ?

There was a proposal for the institution of ~~Veterinary~~ Hospitals and Dispensaries in Aizawl, Lunglei and in Saiha. In Aizawl, Animal Husbandry is located at Chhinga Veng. But, I still want to know the reason why we could not have Hospital till today.

It will be interesting to know what improvement had Mizoram in Fishery. I don't know whether it is true, but they said that fishes brought from outside hardly survive after reaching Vairengte, the first check gate while entering into Mizoram from Silchar. If what I heard were true, it is doubtful whether Fishery in Mizoram will be a success. And, I want to know also whether there are fishes in market which are obtained from our own fish ponds.

Though there are some differences, works undertaken by Agriculture and Soil Departments are but quite similar. As such, I request the Minister-in-charge to inform the House, the distribution of works between the two Departments. However, their (Agriculture and Soil) works should not confine to only small areas. For better improvement, the Departments staff should be ready to go even to outlying areas to have inspection. Otherwise, it is not possible to make good progress merely from office Tables.

I think we know the inadequacy of staff Soil Department. To strengthen the Department more divisions should be created and they should also be provided with necessary equipments. This way, the Department will be able to execute more works.

While the people have high expectation, money sanctioned for Community Development is too inadequate. Because of inadequacy of fund, real developmental work is not possible. As such, Govt. would do well in sanctioning more fund for Community Development.

I would once again like to say few things regarding Jhum Control. I am afraid we are trying to control the farmers while Jhum Control is our target. Having realised the evil of jhumming system, a scheme to provide all the cultivators/farmers with works under the N.E.C. Scheme was proposed. It was also arranged that the cultivators under the scheme would reside on the spot where their work lies. However, in view of the implementation of the scheme, it seems that the proposal is not fully enforced practically. If Government do not take strong measures for the successful implementation of the scheme right from the beginning, it might not be possible to make significant improvements even after 5 years. After 5 years plan is passed, our achievements under the N.E.C. Scheme will be compared with the achievements of other States under the same scheme. Henceforth, efforts must be made to achieve notable improvements under the scheme.

Thank you.

PU K.L.ROCHAMA:Mr. Speaker,Sir, our members have stated various difficulties faced by the Departments due to paucity of fund and inadequacy of staff. This might not be the responsibility of Mizoram Government yet I just want to point out the defect of the new pay scale. According to the new fixation of pay, Sub-Divisional Officers and District Officers are grouped in one category which kills their incentive to work hard. Under this condition, promotion has no meaning. Therefore, it will be a wise policy to review the Pay Committee Report in general administration particularly of Agriculture and Veterinary Departments.

I want to explain the statement given by our opposition member that 'staff posted in villages are too fond of money'. I think there are many staff who have no common sense to value money. What I am afraid is that we employ a pack of pessimists who have no hope in this world. However, I must say that we are fortunate in employing educated and witty persons.

To speak candidly, some of the statements of our opposition members were contradictory statements. He said that Villagers know better the kind of crops/plants which suited their respective jhums/fields. On the contrary, he pointed out the necessity of having soil testing and his disappointment in the failure of the Government to conduct proper soil testing in Mizoram. As his statements clashed with each other, we can regard him as having said none. Anyway, it is well and good that there are persons who want to sit in the opposition bench to criticize the activities of the Govt. even when there is nothing to criticize.

SPEAKER: It is already one P.M. we will break our sitting now to be continued at 2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Sitting 2 P.M.

SPEAKER: Now, we will call upon the Minister incharge.

PU CH. SAPRAWNGA:

MINISTER. Mr. Speaker Sir, at first I thought that our members were not much interested in Agriculture Department as there are only few questions in this regard. But, from what I gathered, it appears that they also are interested in the activities of the Department for which I am thankful. Though I would not be able to answer all the points, I would but try to answer at least some of them. In their speeches, our members have mentioned some of the irregularities committed by the Department and in certain sectors there has been misappropriation of fund. Anyway, I will try to see to what you have said and your suggestions will also be considered.

In view of the many difficulties which confronted Mizoram, it won't be wrong to say that Mizoram has not yet recovered from the blow of 1960 famine. Since, the famine, poverty pervades the land and with supply of rice from Government the people survive. On the top of that, disturbance broke out within the land. Confronted by all these difficulties, the people have now realized the importance of Agriculture. It seems that poverty brought about by disturbance gives the people a new outlook.

It is now the desire and intention of the people to have development in all walks of life. If the people have such outlook, it is our responsibility to give them proper guidance. Some of our members seemed to be interested in the findings of soil experts who were sent to Mizoram by Central Government. Actually, the necessity of soil testing in Mizoram was felt since the time of Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru's visit to Mizoram in the year 1954. As the Prime Minister was concerned about our Agriculture problem. Soil Conservation Department was set up in Mizoram, their aim being jhum control. Knowing the disadvantage of the present system of cultivation, there was an intention for the adoption of new system. Wet-rice cultivation and Hill-terracing cultivation were advocated as substitute for shifting cultivation system. But, these systems are long term cultivations, due to which it is not possible to change the present system at once. Hence, it is the intention of Central experts to encourage the cultivation of other cash crops like Black Pepper, Alaichi, Spice, Rubber, Cocoa, Coconut, Coffee etc. However, of these crops, I think Cocoa plantation is the most recommendable crop. Beside this, Coffee and Rubber plantations are possible in Mizoram.

However, such plantations might not be very successful as it is not consistent with the minds of the Mizo people. Coconut plantation had also been experimented but it was not successful. Having experimented various kinds of plantations it is now easier to make a concrete policy as to what cultivation would be advocated. With this in mind, cash crop plantations like settled cultivation, dry terracing and wet-rice cultivations are advocated. Of cash crops, Arakenut, Coconut and Orange plantations would be advisable. I think Rubber Plantation will also be successful. Besides, these, we have been studying the prospects of other plantations.

Nowadays there is a good market for Ginger, due to the efforts of leaders who paved the way for this before Mizoram attained U.T. status. Besides them, NAFED and Co-Operative Department made joint effort for large-scale purchasing of Ginger which greatly encourage the people. It appears that it is now possible for the people to make money thro' Ginger. As Ginger is one of the most advisable crops for Mizoram, the people have to be encouraged in every possible way. For further encouragement of the people, the Department ~~spent~~ Rs. 9,50,000/- for Ginger loan. Due to shortage of fund from Central Govt. we can't have the exact amount we require. As a matter of fact, in Soil Department many works had been done on credit. And the expense for Hill side terracing has also exceeded the voted amount. As our members have stated, money ~~spent~~ for Ginger loan is inadequate. But, I think we can hope for larger amount by the next year. Anyway, whether or not we have large amount, full efforts should be made with what we have.

One thing I am pleased to state is the new outlook of the people on developmental activities. Previously, the people took their works as lightly as a hircling does. In fact, they seemed to regard themselves as a day labourers so was with Govt. employees. But, such attitude ~~was~~ no more dominates the activity of the people. They now wanted to make improvement in all walks of life which encourages them to work harder. When the people work hard with enthusiasm, it is no more possible for our staff to turn a deaf ear to what the people are doing. As such, our field staff too are now interested in their works. So instead of shouting a slogan to drive away corruption, it is the enthusiasm of our staff which is the best weapon for driving away corruption. I am truly glad that much efforts had been made by Agriculture, Veterinary, Community Development Department and Animal Husbandry for the development of the country.

Regarding the difference between the activity of Soil and Agriculture Departments-from last year Soil Department undertakes works in connection with Hill-side terracing while Agriculture Department takes up the work of wet-rice cultivation. In view of the progress made by the two Departments classification of work is successful as there is a good competition between them which becomes a key to success. If there is no obstacle ahead and if the people have new outlook for hard work, Mizoram would some day attain self-sufficiency in foodstuffs for I know there is potentiality.

From the experiment of one planter from Durtlang locality, it is known that Ginger planting is prosperous in Terraces. But, as intensive planting causes land erosion, terraces will have to be looked after with care. This year 130 Quintals of higher quality of Ginger were purchased from other States. These are distributed to cultivators who have terraces where to plant. Hence, we can expect to harvest more ~~quintals~~ quintals of this kind by the next year. Though we cannot predict the future market for ginger, it is but hopeful that we would make a living if market value of ginger does not decrease. It is also our intention to encourage terrace plantation, the success of which would largely depend on the co-operation of our members as well as the F.M.C.

There is also much to do in other plantations. Our product of Oranges should be increased. The Deptt. too have taken steps for this.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much to say, but I would only say the outlines. It is a fact that money spent for Community Development Deptt. is inadequate. But, may be it is not beneficial for the Govt. that there is an intention to minimize the establishment of Community Development in India. However, being economically poor, Mizoram has to depend largely on Community Development Deptt. so far as community development is concerned. There are still many villages where equipments like hockey stick, Petromax, Turpolin etc. are much in demand which Community Development Deptt. provides.

(Pu F. Hrangvela: Mr. Speaker Sir, on what basis Community Development funds are distributed? On population basis or each Block is given on equal basis?).

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is quite impossible to distribute the aforesaid fund on equal basis as the requirement varied from block/block. However, variation of amount given to different blocks is not much.

(Pu F. Hrangvela: Mr. Speaker Sir, is it not possible to distribute it on population basis, for, the population of different blocks differs widely?).

Mr. Speaker, what had been suggested by Pu Hrangvela should be considered. But, as there are cases where block which has smallest population required largest amount for development it is not possible to distribute the fund on population basis. The reason for scarcity of population in some blocks can also be done due to hard existence within the block.

As stated earlier, there is rapid improvement in Animal Husbandry. Our Selesih Pig Farm, sponsored under the N.E.C. Scheme also has been doing well. At present there are 30 sows and 159 young mature sows. As the Farm belongs to the N.E.C., 135 sows are to be disposed of to another states covered by the N.E.C. Scheme. The remaining sows of about 20 will be purchased by Mizoram Government.

Shortage of technical staff is the main difficulty faced by the Department. In various places spreads plague among domestic animals. But, as there is no adequate staff to go and visit each and every spot where such disease prevails medical aid cannot be given. As a consequence, many fowls, pigs and other livestock expired. However, I think we should be glad for what the Department had done amidst such difficulties.

Many schemes had been sponsored for the improvement of Mizoram in Fishery. Till the recent time, I too regarded fishes as a failure. But, when, I visited our Fish pools in various sectors, I realized that the people who maintain such pools have great enthusiasm in what they are doing. I learnt too that many of them have received grant-in-aid from the Department. But, they have not had enough fish to be sold in the market.

Government is aware of what Pu Sangchhum had said regarding the block headquarters of Sangau and Tuipang in Chhimtuipui District. It is a fact that these two block headquarters do not have office building of their own. The main reason is the absence of Motor Roads to convey the materials/equipments. But, now, we must do something for them since there are now motor roads in those roads. (Pu Sangchhum: Mr. Speaker Sir, supply commodities are being transported in those areas). Yes, that is a fact. (Pu Sangchhum: Mr. Speaker, if nothing is done to relieve the people of their grievances, what good would come out of our Minister's statement -"I wish to visit those areas"). As I have said before, I really wanted to pay a visit to those parts of Mizoram, for, from what I gathered, it seems that particularly Bualpui which/situated /29 in Pu Sangchhum's Constituency is somewhat like Sihphir village from here comes vegetables on which most of the inhabitants of Aizawl Town depend.

Pu Sangchhum's question regarding Agriculture experts- if it is not Soil Chemist or Soil Survey, Agriculture experts are not particularly needed now. Soil survey is being conducted in various sectors. It is also a fact that Soil Testing Van is laying un-used. The reason is non-availability of Soil chemist. Anyway, we would continue our search.

Pu Vanlalhruaia mentioned the condition of Agriculture machines distributed in various parts of Mizoram. It might be true that some machines are not serviceable. However, it is not the machines which are damaged. If Mechanics handle the machines, they can be ran smoothly. When machines are distributed, the owners are given training, but, as it is not possible for them to acquire skill within a short period of training, machines when taken to villages are left to the care of these not very expert owners. As a result, machines got damaged.

If the experts handle them, there would not be any problem. It is also the intention of the Govt. to purchase more machines which become one of the necessary factors if we want to cultivate more than one crop within a year.

(Pu Vanlalhruaia: Mr. Speaker Sir, the people will be more benefited if machines are purchased for them by the Govt.). Mr. Speaker, in some cases Govt. purchased cows or livestock for the people. This year, poor but interested farmers are given 100 couples of cows. Machines can not always be the only aid that can be given to the people. You might be wondering why the cultivators in Cachar plains

do not use such machines. But, there is some reason for not using the said machines there. The main reason is that the cultivators who work in the fields are not the owners. They are only labourers hired by the owners of the paddy fields on certain conditions. Cultivators who have been using such machine recommend for their utilization. And the said machine is not merely a tool of terraces. It can be used for pumping water or for crushing sugar-cane.

Pu Hruaia had expressed also his concern for the people of eastern sectors. Previously, due to non-availability of good roads and bad communications, Govt. activities hardly reach this part. But, since the past few years, it is no more an unfrequented area. In fact, Govt. is intending to launch various developmental activities in this part.

As Pu Ruata had stated, it is a fact that many years had passed since damaged machines were laid in the Agriculture compound. These machines are purchased during the time of Assam Govt. As we do not know the way to handle them, the company who manufacture and supply the same was inquired, but no reply is received till today. Actually, the Govt. also do not know what to do with these machines.

(Pu C. Lalruata: Mr. Speaker Sir, what will Govt. do with these machines?).

As we do not know what to do with them, they are still lying in the same place.

Pu Saitlawma said that the farmer who supplied 30 quintals of spice to Lunglei Agriculture Deptt. has not been paid the bill. I think the delay was due to some formalities that have not been done. After all the formalities are being done, the bill would be payable.

Regarding the rate of Land reclamation- perhaps we have been a bit advance in disclosing our expectation. When Central Govt. cut down the rates of subsidy and land reclamation in pursuance of All India Pattern, I, along with our Chief Minister went to Delhi to press the Govt. not to place Mizoram in the same category with other States. Understanding our problems, they agreed to our proposal. Hence, there is nothing to confuse, the rate of land reclamation will remain the same before the financial year ends.

As regards the institution of Gramsevak Training Centre- at first, Hnahthial is the place proposed for the institution of Gramsevak Training Centre. But, when the Advisors of Planning Commission came, they advised us to shift it to a place near Kolosib where Research Centre is going to be installed. However, as we do not accept their

proposal, there is a controversy still going on over this. Anyway, we are still trying to establish the said Centre in the proposed place, Hnahthial.

(Pu Saitlawma: Mr. Speaker Sir, is it because the selection was done without prior consultation of Planning Commission that they do not approve the place selected ?)

Mr. Speaker Sir, before the proposal for the installation of Research Centre at Kolasib came up, we gave no thought to the Planning Commission and I think they too would select Hnahthial had they come before that. To some extent, it might be more convenient to set up Gramsevak Training Centre near Research Centre. However, having started the work at Hnahthial, it seems that we do not want to shift it.

Regarding Pu Lalkunga's questions- the proposal for the construction of Godown at Selesih under the N.E.C. Scheme has been implemented. But, the Godown is constructed at Durtlang.

(Pu Lalkunga: Mr. Speaker Sir, was there any provision for the construction of the said Godown ?).

Yes, there was provision, otherwise we won't have constructed it.

As Pu Lalkunga and some of our members have said, seed-crop of various kinds are being wasted before they are given to cultivators. There are various difficulties regarding this. The main difficulty is due to the failure of suppliers in delivering the supplies in time. Even when some of the contractors/suppliers can deliver the seeds in time, some of them are incapable of doing so. However, we will try to make improvement.

Pu Lalkunga asked also the works of Plant Protection Officer and the kinds of plants which had been protected. Plants like potato, cabbage and other various kinds are all in need of protection. There are many insects which can destroy plants. Hence, all these plants are protected from these insects with the help of insecticides.

As regards irrigation- in Mizoram Bilkhawthlir, Vairengte and Mat Valley are the areas where intensive irrigation is being practised. Flow irrigation is also being practised in areas where there are hill-side terraces.

(Pu C. Lalruata: Mr. Speaker Sir, let me say just this. What had been done to the 3.5 Horse Power Pumping set (eleven in number) which are lying at Lawipu ?). Mr. Speaker, I do not know what had been done with these sets. I will have to look into what was actually done.

(Pu C. Lalruata: Mr. Speaker Sir, can the Minister inform us the places where seeds and young plants are distributed during the years 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75 ?) Mr. Speaker Sir, that I cannot say right now. If you do not give me prior information, I can not give the information you wanted to know.

(Pu Ngurdawla:- Mr. Speaker Sir, as Pu Sangkhuma had stated, it appears that our Minister is greatly interested in Agriculture. Being interested, he made suggestion for the cultivation of various items like Coffee, Euphorbia, Pine Apple etc. Is he still interested in these items ?) Mr. Speaker Sir, let me finish what I wanted to say, then I'll answer that.

It appears that some of our members have doubt in the successful implementation of Jhum Control Scheme sponsored under the N.E.C Scheme. As stated, there may be cases where non-cultivators are included in the scheme. But, I think we should not be apprehensive when non-farmers take advantage of the scheme if they have enthusiasm in what they are undertaking. Whoever the person is, if he/she has interest and zeal in, for instance, long term plantation, let him/her enjoy the benefit of the N.E.C Scheme. Actually, a person who has patience to wait and see till the completion of work once started is what we need to set an example.

Some of our members are wondering as to why different items of plantations I suggested were not implemented. It is a fact that not even half of the items I suggested were carried out. Many factors attributed to the reason here. At present, non-implementation of my suggestions is undeniable.

From long before, I strongly advocated terrace system of cultivation in Mizoram. Now, our members are afraid that I change my attitude in this regard. But, I must admit that I really do not mind changing my attitude or my way of thinking if necessity arises or if there is something better. I do not intend to stick to the thing which we know is not good.

Mr. Speaker Sir, my answers might not be satisfactory to our members. However, I will try my best to see to what they have suggested on various subjects.

(Pu C. Lalruata: Mr. Speaker Sir, since the last 3 years, there is budget provision every year for the implementation of Nutrition Programme under the Deptt. of Community

Development. But, it seems that if they cannot make arrangement for transportation of the food items to their respective places, Villages where vehicle could not reach are

not given Nutrition. Actually these villages which include Lungpho within my constituency are the ones who need good

food most. Being economically poor, they could not afford nutritious food by their own expense. I hope they do not mind my saying this that perhaps due to lack of nourishing food or bad source of water that in Lungpho, there are

many who have goitre while there is provision for the implementation of Nutrition programme in various villages. I want the Minister concerned not to exclude my constituency.),

(Pu F.Hrangvela: Mr.Speaker Sir, is it a fact that limitation of Fund for Community Development Blocks is due to adaptation of N.E.F.A. Pattern in money matter while All India Pattern is adopted in the administration? What I wanted to ask next is with respect to local mineral resources. In general discussion also I have asked about this. If we study demand No. 31, we know, that large amount of money is spent in land reform and land reclamation in Lunglei, Mizawl and in Chhingtui-pui Districts. But, there is no fund sanctioned for local mineral resources. I request the Minister-in-charge to inform the House the position of Mizoram regarding mineral resources).

(Pu Vanlalhruaia: Mr.Speaker Sir, every year Agriculture Department distributes Sugarcane Crusher. But, it seems that most of the recipients of these machines are town dwellers who frequented the office. As such, there is hardly a chance for Villagers, particularly those who live in distant areas. I too have often tried to get them for the people of my constituency, but I never succeeded. I, therefore, request the Minister concerned to give priority to poor villagers who live in distant areas when such machines are distributed.) Mr.Speaker Sir, I think that was because you have not tried hard in asking.

As regards Nutrition Scheme- We are aware of the necessity of implementing Nutrition Scheme at Lungpho. But, due to shortage of staff and transport difficulty, it is quite difficult to operate the scheme. I think Pu Ruata would have to accept the fact that he is unfortunate in having a constituency where there is great transport difficulty. So, I think the best thing is that Pu Ruata goes to Lungpho and convinces the people to migrate to Chhiahtlang Village. It will be a good thing if he can really convince them.

SPEAKER: Our Minister had taken more than an hour to clarify your questions. I hope the answers are clear to you. Now, we will * voting on * have Demand. Members who agree to pass the demand say 'agree' and those who disagree say 'disagree'.

Here is the Demand- 'that the Demand No. 36, 37,38,40,41 and 43 for Rupces 3 crores 72 lakhs 3 thousand only, to meet the expenses during the year 1976-77 in respect of the Departments and for the amount as showing Column 2,3 and 4 para 13 of bulletin part 2 dated 23rd March, 1976 be passed. Anyone who agree to pass this demand? (Members-agree). And those who disagree? (Members - Nil).

Well, those demands have been passed now. We will proceed to our next items which are demand No. 30, 42 and 44. The Minister-in-charge may move the demands now.

PU-ZALAWMA,
DY. MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Administrator of Mizoram and with your kind permission Sir, I move the demand No. 32, 42 and 44 for Rupees one crore 48 lakhs 43 thousand only to meet the expenses during the year 1976-77 in respect of the following Deptts.-Demand No. 30 Labour and Employment, Revenue 7 lakhs 12 thousand Demand No. 42, Forest Revenue 53 lakhs 29 thousand, Demand No. 44 (a) Industries Revenue-3 lakhs. (b) Village and Small Industry revenue 73 lakhs 2 thousand. (c) Law and Small Village Industry-12 lakhs.

Thank you.

SPEAKER:

Now, we will have discussion on these demands moved by the Minister-in-charge.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, what I wanted to say is in regard to demand No. 44.

As we know, Mizoram is fairly rich in Forest products and natural resources. Yet, there has not been any factory till today. In Arunachal Pradesh, there is plywood Factory which greatly increases their income. If Mizoram Govt. is intending to allocate Paper Pulp Factory of Plywood Factory as we see in the budget estimates, we better take expeditious measures. Our neighbouring State, Meghalaya also has already started Plywood Factory.

We have plenty of bamboos in Mizoram but the revenue collected is too little. As far as I know an agreement was signed by the then District Council and the Indian Paper Pulp Factory and the bamboo mahal was allotted to the factory for a lump sum amount of about Rs. 20,000/- only. Now, we are entering a new fiscal year, I like to request the Govt. to review this bamboo project. The public expect the Govt. to find ways and means to derive more revenue from our bamboo even before we can set up our own bamboo factory.

In Mizoram, Industrial Loan is distributed on liberal basis. But considering the progress of our Industries, Government should take better care in the distribution of this loan. At present loans are generally utilised for such industries as Gunny Bag Industry, Trunk making Industry, Aluminium Industry and Soap Factory. These kinds of Industries are useful and necessary. But the raw materials used cannot be indigenously produced. I feel that Industrial Loan should not be sanctioned for such subsidiary Industries. They should be used for promotion of such Industries as would use indigenously produced materials. Or the loans should be sanctioned for producing raw materials which are needed for running Industries. To make our economy stable we should make endeavour for promotion of Industries which will use the raw materials produced by our own people.

Emphasis should be made on Sugar Mills, and other Factories for processing of Sesame, Ginger etc. which are produced by us. Sugar processing have bye-products and variety of other things can be made from the bye-products. Gingers are exported to other States. Why don't we establish plants for processing them in Mizoram. I request that priority should be accorded to those Industries which can promote our produce.

Thank you.

PU C. LALRUATA: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to speak on Industry. I was appointed a member of the First Industrial Loan Board for two(2) years. There are two Boards- one for big loans and the other for small loans. I admit that we had given the loans whimsically without setting guide lines for giving priority nor did the Govt. set priority. It would be better if the Govt. indicate priority to be given than the way in which each member of the Board makes recommendations in his own way.

In 1972-73, Govt. distributed loan for the establishment of Nail (Perek) Industry. Yet, till this day, there has not been any production perhaps because there is no potentiality for setting up such Industry. And in view of the amount of loan allotted to the individuals, I must say that it is hardly sufficient for setting up Industry. In fact, Rs. 2/3 lakhs for example, allotted to an individual for setting up Industry is too inadequate that it is bothersome for the loanee. If Govt. want to make use of the money sanctioned under Industrial Loan, I think the number of recipients should be reduced instead of making wide and liberal distribution. If few and interested persons are provided with enough money to set up Industries, our improvement will be greater.

As regards Labour and Employment - since registration in the Employment Exchange becomes compulsory every job seeker as well as those who already have employment enlisted their names. If we go thro' the registration list, we might draw a conclusion that Mizoram have many educated but un-employed citizens. Yet, it is the enrolment of persons who have already had employments which increases the number of jobless. As a rule, I think enrolment in the Employment Exchange is meant only for jobless. If the enrolment goes on as it is, Govt. would soon have bad reputation.

Though the office of Employment Exchange is set up in our District Headquarters, the same should be set up in other important towns/places of Mizoram. However, in view of the relationship between the staff or officers and the public, I feel that our staff should remember that it is their duty to assist and respond to the people who came to their Office. I am saying this from my own experience. Particularly the dealing clerks and officers of the Employment Exchange should know that it is not an

I would be glad if the Development Minister could explain the reason why there is no provision for Oak-tasser Industry in the current budget. As Pu Lalkunga had stated, in our previous budget, there was a provision for this, eventho' we have not seen any steps being taken till the present day.

I wanted also like to know the basis on which 10 villages where Handloom Centre is to be allocated were selected in pursuance of the 20 Point Economic Programme of the Prime Minister. We know that many people will be benefited by the allocation of such centres. However, Govt. should see that developmental activities are not confined in small area or in the same places.

It has been stated that the feasibility of Paper Industry in Mizoram was reported by the consultancy. But, it seems that no persons have been sent to undergo training in the management and undertaking of Paper Industry. It is a known fact that if Paper Industry is instituted, hundreds of workers will be required. However, if no one is sent to undergo training, there would not be any technicians or trained workers among the Mizos which means our work will confined only to wood cutting and collecting. As such, I urge the Govt. to take necessary steps in this regard.

In Forest reservation- it is learnt that the boundary of Dampa Wild Life Sanctuary had properly been demarcated. But, I would also like to know whether it is a fact that there is a proposal for the demarcation of boundary for Havitlang Wild Life Sanctuary. If there is such proposal, I think the nearby Village Councils should be informed. I would also be pleased to know the time of demarcation just in case the demarcation causes difficulty to the people of my Constituency which adjoins the proposed area for Wild Life Sanctuary.

If I am not mistaken, I heard that the Government do not levy tax on the cultivators/ settlers of the river course of Tlawng and that they on the other hand pay forest tax to the Village Council of Sairang. It is not that we do not want Village Council of Sairang to collect money but it is not very fair that the people pay tax to them while Forest Department has the monopoly of collecting forest tax from all other areas of Mizoram. In my opinion, Government should do the collection directly so as to increase Government's economy.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: According to our Calendar the Minister is to be called at 3:30 p.m. so as to close today's debate exactly at 4. But, it appears that we still want to continue our discussion. Shall we extend the time for discussion? If we want to extend it, we must be ready to remain in our seats without leaving the Hall till the end of the discussion.

PU SAPLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, if it is possible let us extend it. I think we will be willing to remain till the end as we did yesterday.

SPEAKER: If it is so, we will call the Minister at 4 that means the time for discussion is extended by one and half hours.

PU K. SANGCHHUM: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to say certain things in support of what had been stated by Pu Ruata, regarding registration in the Employment Exchange.

As we all know, un-employment problem is faced all over India. To some extent, it is a fact that one of the solutions to this problem is to give employment to jobless. But, there is one thing that can not be left out in this regard. In other States certain rules are laid down by the State Government in relation to the registration in the Department of Employment Exchange in their own respective States. Let me quote such rules laid down by the Assam Government and I request the Minister to note it down- In Rule No. E/P-344/18900-25 of 1972, persons living outside Assam are not permitted to register their names under Assam Government. However, Mizoram though having its own Government do not have any rule to prevent outsiders from enlisting their names under Mizoram Government. That is an implication from Assam Rule. In view of the present circumstances that pervades Mizoram, it is not very fair that outsiders could have chance of getting employment under Mizoram Government. While our own educated men and women face un-employment problem it won't be right to give chance to outsiders. Government should immediately find a way of safeguarding the well-being of its citizens. If they can not find adequate employees from the citizens, only then they would have to employ outsiders. However, the chance of outsiders should be only a secondary. I request the Govt. to review the rule I have quoted.

Thank you.

BU NGURDAWLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I think I am one of the members who have to say most in connection with Forest Department. This I have said before that the areas surrounding Sakawrtuichhun and Sairang of my Constituency are all reserved by the Department. I think the mile stone of Forest Boundary is planted at the main street of Sakawrtuichhun Village. Being surrounded by reserved areas, only few spaces left for the people to do jhuming cultivations. Unless there is other method of cultivation, I have often approached the Department in this regard and I was even assured that they would be liberal if the people want reserved areas for jhums. However, if and when teak or rubber for example are planted, it would not be possible to grow paddy. If the people of these parts have other occupations besides rice cultivation, reservation of their surrounding areas may not cause a serious problem to them. But, as they do not have other occupations, rice cultivation is the only occupation on which majority of the people depend. It is not that I don't want Forest Department to have reserved forest in these areas, but, I feel that problem which could arise for the people should be considered in time of demarcation of forest boundary.

What had been said ^{by} Pu Lalhmingthanga relating to Industry was true. As stated, Industries that require raw materials which Mizoram do not have should not be encouraged. From what I gathered Central Govt. is conducting training course for processing of Ginger. It is said by the persons sent by the Co-operation Department that the processing of ginger is not so complicated. Since ginger is raw materials we have, Ginger Industry should be encouraged. And the Government would do well in awarding stipend for such training.

Mizoram as we know is fairly rich in vegetation. Variety of crops are grown which are all good raw-materials for various Industries. Being rich in Sesamum from which oil is extracted, I made suggestion for the allocation of Oil Mill. What I wanted to know is whether Govt. intend to set up such Industry or they intend to give the management and processing to private enterprise. Actually, plenty of oil we consume each day adulterated. If we have Oil Mill or Oil Industry, we will certainly have purer oil to consume.

Sometime back, applications were invited for Small Industrial Loan and as far as I know, many persons have applied for it. Though there has not been any further talk on this subject, it is gathered that the money sanctioned for Small Industrial Loan was diverted for Big or Large Scale Industrial Loan, which if it is true would be disappointing to the people who have taken many troubles in this regard. In fact, it appears that many persons prefer Small Industrial Loan to Large-Scale Industrial Loan.

It is also learnt that some of the recipients of Industrial Loan did not use the money for the right purposes which indeed slackened the progress of Industry in Mizoram. I would like to know what action had been taken by the Govt. against loanees who misappropriated loan money. If Govt. do not take precautionary measures in the distribution and utilization of loan. Mizoram would hardly achieve improvement in Industry. I want to remind the Govt. to have strict control over the utilization of loan so as to enable Mizoram to make better progress in Industry.

Thank you.

PU SAPLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all, let me start with demand No. 30 which is the establishment of Employment Exchange. As we know, the Office of Employment Exchange has sprung up only since the formation of U.F. I think we are glad that an opportunity has now opened both for the educated and for non-educated to find job through our Employment Exchange.

Coming to that, it may be said that the administration of our I.T.I. is hardly satisfactory. In other States, I.T.I. is under the administration of Labour and Employment Department not under Education Department as it is in Mizoram. I am of opinion that we should also place this Institute under Labour and Employment Department.

It may be observed that despite our efforts Mizoram have not had reservation of good and productive forests owing to the system of cultivation that prevails. However, I feel that there must be a way to reserve forests even if the present system of cultivation is not changed. As far as the performance of Forest Department is concerned, there is no defect. In fact, their work of plantation is quite successful. According to my observation, the main defect lies in the Forest Act. Under the present condition, the Act is not so recommendable. I therefore, want Government to frame Forest Rule to be presented in the next Session.

Perhaps I am wrong but it appears that there is no good relationship between Revenue, L.A.D. and Forest Departments. For instance, there are cases where Revenue or Local Administration Department allot land for cultivation within the reserved areas of Forest Department. When there are such cases, the work of Forest Department gets hindered. Some means should be searched to create better relationship between the above three Departments.

Though there has not been much notable achievements, we cannot but deny the development of Mizoram in Industry. Government distribute various Industrial machineries at subsidised rate, and grant-in-aid

are given out. But, unfortunately, many of these machineries are said to be damaged. As Mizoram is not yet in a position to afford adequate technicians to see to the condition of all the machines distributed, great care should be taken in time of buying. If we simply order the company to send the required machineries without sending a representative, there will always be purchase of damaged machines. I feel that there should be a kind of agreement between the Government and the Company from which machineries were purchased, so that un-functionable machineries can be sent back to the Company. Only serviceable machines should be purchased.

Of sewing machines distributed free of cost and at subsidised rate, there are many which cannot function. As in the case of other machineries care should be taken in time of purchasing.

It seems that there has always been confusion when budget provision is made District-wise. Last year, there was sanction of grant-in-aid for Chhimituipui District. After preparation of the list was completed, the money is still not distributed till this day. When we inquired District Office the reason for this, they said, is that they are told not to make separate budget as the Department is making for all the Districts. On the other hand, the Department stated as having no knowledge of the grant as the District did not submit their budget. Like that, there has often been confusion when budget provision is made district-wise. To prevent such confusion I feel that each district should make budget for its respective District. If the demand comes up too high, let the Department have scrutiny of the demand. This way, equal distribution will be possible.

In his speech, our Finance Minister mentioned steps taken by the Govt. for the improvement of handloom in Mizoram. If handloom is to be encouraged, the cultivation of cotton in which Mizoram have self-sufficiency in the long past, should also be encouraged. Instead of buying from outside, at high rate, the people should be encouraged to grow more. If Govt. take steps like distributing variety of cotton seeds, I think we would soon have self-sufficiency in Cotton. From past immemorial, we, the Mizos are highly interested in handloom. Cloths woven by our women are truly beautiful. Handloom machines recently distributed in various parts are really a great help to our women. If more of these machines can be distributed, there will be greater improvement. However, Govt. will have to establish sale emporium perhaps in every Sub and Headquarters for the disposal of our products.

Under the present circumstances, handloom Industry might be the only Industry that can be set up in Mizoram. Due to financial difficulty and other difficulties to it, we seem to be not yet in a position to establish big or large-scale Industry.

Though we have often discussed the prospects of big project or big Industry, it appears that we still have a long way to go in order to bring our suggestions and prospective talks into reality. As such, I think we should turn our attention first to the establishment of Handloom Industry. I would be glad if Government take immediate action in this regard.

Thank you.

PU VANLALHURUAIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, though our demands are few, they are but highly important. First of all, I would like to make addition to what had been said by our members regarding Labour and Employment.

It may not be wrong to say that of the persons registered in Employment Exchange there are but only few who have had employments. I always wonder why it is like this. I sometimes wonder whether Govt. have not fully realized the aims and purpose of Employment Exchange. Once, application was invited for the post of constable, but appointment was made without calling interview or written test. If formality is not observed all thro' the end, what is the necessity of having Employment Department? I think our appointments should be done lawfully. I therefore request the Govt. to note what I have said.

In Demand No. 42, we come across Forest Department, Mizoram also has begun to realize the importance and utility of forest. If a land is rich in forest products, it means that it has sound economy. In view of the activities of our Forest Department. I am pleased to see their notable achievements in the last few years. If we go to Silchar or Lunglei, we will find their achievements along the main roads where teak and various plantations are carried out successfully. Nevertheless, greater efforts should be made for further improvement.

Despite our notable improvement, there is one great mistake we committed, which is in regard to trading in Agar (the name of one type of tree). I have said this even during the erstwhile District Council that Agar. We have were all chopped down without further thought for future. Like that, Agar trade was carried on. At present, Agar we have are few and far between. Being rare and an expensive trees Thingrai can be sold at the rate of Rs. 2,000/3,000 per Kg. I don't know whether it is still given in Mahal but, if it is still given, we must stop at once. And Forest Department must take an immediate step to protect and reserve the said tree. Otherwise, this type of tree will be extinct in Mizoram.

It is learnt that some of our Forest Guards used to seize wood and planks already piled under the house of an individual which, if it is true, will be unjust I urge the Govt. to investigate such injustice and take action if necessary.

It may be noted that Industry offers a wide scope for poorer section of the people to consolidate their conditions. Many persons have been benefited by various Industrial Loans distributed by the Govt. But, in view of the distribution of these loans, I feel that poorer section of the people particularly of Villagers who live in distant areas did not fully get what they deserved. In demand No. 44(c) we come across loan for Small Village Industries. Yet, when distributed, the people living in town and nearby town were the recipients. I think this is due to various difficulties which confronted distant villagers to come to Aizawl in time of Department verification. If they do not turn up in time of verification, they miss the chance of getting the loan. We can believe that if verification of the loanees has to be done by the Industry Department. Villagers living in distant parts will always miss their chance. As such, I want to suggest that verification be done thro' D.C. who in turn can easily detail A.O. of each village to do verification of the loanees of their respective villages. This way, Villagers will have greater opportunity for receiving loans.

I believe we are all interested in Rice Huller that it is mentioned in every session. It is learnt that, of hundred Rice HULLERS distributed, 41 are said to be defective. If this is true, I think it will be wise to replace them with new machines. If the Govt. cannot do this, they must take them back and exonerate the loanees from their liabilities to repay the loans because they already incurred high expenditure for repairs and purchase of spare parts without getting any return. Many of the Rice-Hullers have not functioned since they were installed. To Demand repayment of the loans together with interest from which the loanees derive no income will be unfair and unjust. Government would do well in considering their cases sympathetically.

Thank you.

PU SAITLAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, In the Demand for Labour and Employment Department there is one thing which can easily be done and yet which can easily be forgotten. On 8th April, 1975 Govt. made notification in accordance with Employment Exchange Compulsory Notification of Vacancy Act, 1959 section 4 sub-section 2. Accordingly, order was given to the Departments not to make appointment

without through proper channel i.e. through the office of Employment Exchange except on the condition that Employment Exchange have no suitable candidates to fill the posts in the Departments. In such cases, the Department are permitted to make direct recruitment. However, a handbook arranged and published by the Statistic Department clearly reveals that registration in Employment Exchange has no significance in Mizoram. For instance- when a Department have 2/3 vacant posts, the office of Employment Exchange send 3/4 names from the registration list. But, if the Department do not favour these candidates or if they have candidates of their own, they postpone the date of appointment on and on till they find candidates of their satisfaction. Without slight respect for the candidates from the office of Employment Exchange, they made direct recruitment and appointed some one or two they favoured who did not even enlisted their names in the Employment Exchange. Such cases are found even in the District Offices. I strongly urge the Govt. to strictly follow and observe rules and order they have notified.

In addition to the above statement, I want the Govt. to review Minimum Wages Act, which was found also in the Prime Ministers 20 Point Economic Programme. While ordinary labourer also does not accept below Rs. 10/- per day, the wage rate of labourer by the Govt. is fixed Rs. 6/-. I therefore request the Govt. to immediately see to this matter.

For those who suffer, the administration of Industry in our three Districts is very disappointing. In Aizawl District, there is at least Asst. Director of Cottage Industry who keeps Govt. Vehicle and with well-established office. But, in Lunglei and Chhimituipui Districts, the establishment of Industry is just in name and Superintendent or Industry Officer is the head. Is it not possible to have a uniform set up of the office of Industry for our three Districts? As our honourable member had stated, due to inadequacy of facilities for travelling, our Field Officers cannot execute their works expeditiously. In fact, many persons lost their chance of receiving loan and grant-in-aid due to the failure of our Field Officers in having verification of loanes in time. I also want to remind the Govt. that the Industry Officers of Lunglei and Saiha also do not keep vehicle. If the Industry Officers of the three Districts are not placed in uniformity there might arise difficulty and misunderstanding between the people of the three Districts.

As we find in the Prime Minister's 20 Point Economic Programme, it is evident that Govt. is intending to improve handloom and weaving system all over the Country. Quite an enormous sum of money had also been spent for this. One thing I want to point out for information is that at Zobawk Village, one house is rented by Weaving Department. From what I gathered, it seems that they are regular in paying the rent.

But, if you enter into the house, you will find only cowdung and useless things, yet, the house is Govt.'s rented house. While Govt. is spending lots of money for the improvement of weaving, some places have had any progress, like Zabawk Village. Government would do well in taking more vigorous steps for the improvement of the aforesaid Industry.

Regarding collection of forest royalty it is learnt that Government is not collecting any royalty from individuals who are doing large-scale transportation of sand from the river Chhimitipui (Koladine). If this is true, it means that forest wealth that can flow into Govt.'s treasury is flowing away. I feel that Government should do something about it.

It may be noted that there is only slight difference in the amount of money incurred for Forest and Soil Conservation Department in every budget. I feel that it will be wiser to place these two Deptts. under separate Directorate for better administration. I think it will also be easier for the Govt. to administer and there will also be speedier improvement.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Now, we will call upon the Minister.

PU-ZALAWMA:
DY. MINISTER.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad that our members have given good advice and suggestions in regard to our

Demand No.s 30, 42, 44 etc.

As we all know, Forest, Industry and Labour and Employment are small Departments, yet useful. Pu Lalhringthanga, our honourable member made suggestion for the establishment of Paper and Plywood Factories like they did in Arunachal and Meghalaya. I do not know about Paper Factory but it is true that Ply Wood Factory is allocated in Arunachal and Meghalaya. It appears that they are quite successful, particularly Arunachal * which has thick forest. Mizoram Govt. also have given thought to the allocation of Ply Wood Factory and provision is made for conducting survey.

Similarly, there had been an intention to set up Paper Mill Factory. Mizoram Govt. on the advice of Planning Commission approached Calcutta Development Consultant to give his report on the feasibility of such Factory in Mizoram. The report had been submitted both to Central and Mizoram Govts. According to the recommendation of Planning Commission soil testing will be conducted. In fact, the Govt. is intending to finish the testing within this year and as you know provision is also made in the budget.

However, we should remember that there will be great difficulty in conducting Soil Testing and in launching machines due to had communication. Anyway, even Forest Department is having large-scale bamboo survey for successful implementation of this Project. According to their survey, the daily production of the proposed Factory will come up to 200 tons of high quality of paper even from the resources of only western areas. In fact, we expect that the daily output will come up to 400 tons according to our survey.

Government is aware of the necessity of sending persons to undergo training in Paper technology. But, in view of the period needed for the establishment of Factory, we are of opinion that after all the necessary arrangements are done for setting up the proposed Factory and after Central Government approve of our proposal, there will still be enough time to send persons to undergo training in Paper Technology which usually takes three years. If Central Government approve of our proposal, Rs. 72/73 crores will have to be invested on the project.

As regards the allocation of Sugar Plant mentioned by Pu Lalhmingthanga- it is a fact that there is a proposal for the allocation of Sugar Plant in Mizoram and survey had also been done. Having had large-scale survey all over Mizoram, our Deputy Director and some of the Department Officers have three suggestions for the site of allocation. However, no selection has yet been done. Expert Government undertaking had also been consulted in this regard, and we are now waiting for their reply.

Our hon'ble Member, Pu Ruata suggested that there should be proper guide line for the allotment of small and big loans. Actually, it is not very pleasant to be a member of Loan Board, for I too have had experience when I was M.L.A. Viewing the recommendations of our officers of the Department, it seems that the principle of equal share or equal distribution is favoured. However, the number of persons recommended has to be cut down which is not a pleasant thing to do for the Board Members. However, big loan has been given to 1/2 persons for the allocation of Saw Mill, Oil Mill etc.

(Pu C.Lalruata: Mr.Speaker Sir, I don't know whether it was last year or before that Rs. 70,000/- was allotted to a Doctor for purchase of X-Ray Generator. It seems that this year also, the Board recommends another Doctor to receive Rs. 20,000/- on loan for the purchase of X-Ray Generator. I don't know whether Govt. have approved of this but I think it is not right to allot un-equal amount for purchase of the same thing. Can not there be proper guide line in their distribution ?)

(Pu K.L.Rochama: Mr. Speaker Sir, in view of various facilities enjoyed by other States, Mizoram is still far behind. As our members have stated, loans and other credit facilities we have are insufficient. While other States could have credit money even after all the administrations and establishments are run normally, Mizoram could have none. Mr. Speaker Sir, is it not possible to increase the amount of money incurred for various loans ?).

What had been mentioned by Pu Ruata regarding the allotment of loan- it is a fact that one Doctor was given loan for purchase of X-Ray generator. He (the Doctor) had completed the construction of his building and had also installed the generator.

Another Doctor was also recommended to receive loan for purchase of X-Ray generator for his clinic. But, owing to the instruction from Central Planning Commission not to give loan for setting up private X-Ray Clinic, Hotel and Press, no further step can be taken in regard to our recommendation. Besides this, we are instructed not to give more than Rs 20,000/- to an individual even under Big Loan. However, they have liberal view as far as higher purchases and big projects are concerned, for they requested us to make full efforts to help those who intend to set up big projects.

I think you also know that Central Govt. sanctioned no capital under Plan Scheme. But, under non-plan, they sanctioned Rs 8,00,000/-. Next year, they may again give instruction not to give more than Rs. 10,000/- to one loanee. However, if we forestall them with high purchases, easier way might open for the installation of more Industry.

(Pu Ngurdawla: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is learnt that money sanctioned for Small Industrial Loan was divided for Big Industrial Loan. It seems that many persons from villages applied for this small loan. But, is it a fact that no allotment was made under Small Industrial Loan because of the diversion ? If yes, why ?).

Mr. Speaker Sir, we have earmarked an amount of Rs. 1.45 lakhs for Small Industrial Loans. But, this was diverted to big loans on the recommendation of the Loan Board. The Loan Board stated that the provision of Rs. 7 lakhs under non-plan for big loan is far from adequate and requested that the provision for small loans be diverted to big loans. We agreed to this proposal and we asked for funds from the Central Government for financing small loans. But our request could not be acceded to. We, therefore decided that only an amount of Rs. 1.60 lakhs placed with the RIP for loans be utilized for small loans. This appears to be reasonable because last year two-thirds of the funds for loans was utilized for small loans and only one-third of the fund could be given for big loans.

(Pu Ngurdawla:- Mr. Speaker Sir, the altitudes of the Govt. and our Loan Board are highly venerable. But, it is truly wrong to make immature decision after many people submitted applications. It is wrong to disappoint the public. I think we should not let such thing happen in future.)

(Pu Vanlalhrauaia: Mr. Speaker Sir, we know that no one was given loan under Small Loan because of the diversion. But, will their applications be valid for Big Loan ?)

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is true that many persons applied for loan under Small Loan. What had vbeen said by Pu Ngurdawla was also true. That was the reason why two-thirds of small loan was given to Villagers in the past two years. And loan distributed by RIP Department is also for Rural Industries which means that small loan is sanctioned from Directorate fund. That is the reason why provision under Non-Plan cannot be distributed on equal basis.

(Pu Vanlalhrauaia: Mr. Speaker Sir, we know that money sanctioned for small loan had been diverted to big loan. But, what about the applications submitted for small loan ? will their vailidity expire ?).

Mr. Speaker Sir, according to our proposal, it is decided that the application which cannot be considered now due to paucity of funds may be brought forward to the next Financial Year for consideration in April or May next when funds will be made available.

(Pu Lalhlira: Mr. Speaker Sir, is it possible for the people of Urban Areas like Aizawl, Lunglei and Charnphai for Rural Industrial Loan or that the Rural Industrial Loan is meant only for villagers ?)

Mr. Speaker Sir, in our budget, there is separate provision for Rural Industry Project. Under the loan head of this Department, loan is distributed. Anyone from all over Mizoram can apply for this loan.

Pu Ruata pointed out the registration of some of the Govt. employees in the Employment Exchange Office. But, I don't think I'll have to explain that, since their registration was done before they got employment under the Government.

(Pu C. Lalruat, : Mr. Speaker Sir, before Government issued notification for compulsory enrolment, many Govt. employees who wish to hold employment other than their present posts registered their names in the office of Employment Exchange. What is to be done with such cases?)

Mr. Speaker Sir, I can't say for sure what is to be done with such cases. But, there are guide lines in Labour and Employment Programme.

- Thus - (1) To help the un-employed look for job
(2) To supply employer with man power.
(3) To give guide-line, guidance and counselling to the needy.
(4) To study the employment, un-employment position.
- Normally, the Department functions according to these 4 guide lines. However, the second guide line implies large-scale industries which Mizoram have not yet had.

As Pu Saitlawma had stated, it is a fact that Employment Exchange Compulsory Notification Act of 1959 is in force in Mizoram. As such, it is inevitably necessary for job-seekers to register their names in the Office of Employment Exchange.

(Pu C. Lalruata: Mr. Speaker Sir, how was the act being enforced in Mizoram ?).

When Mizoram attained U.T. status, the new Govt. adopted rules and regulations of the Assam Government almost in all the various administrations. That is why, the Employment Exchange Act of 1959 also has to be enforced.

Pu Sangchhum asked whether there is possibility for the residents of Assam to register their names in the Employment Exchange Office of Mizoram. According to the present practice, persons belonging to Assam are also permitted to register in our Employment Exchange that is, if they have settled in Mizoram for 5 years. However, I think there is nothing to be afraid of in their enrolment.

(Pu Vanlalhrudia: Mr. Speaker Sir, despite Government's Notification, it seems that many persons have got employments without prior enrolment in the office of Employment Exchange. Since the Minister also had stated this Employment Exchange Act as having been enforced, will action be taken against such defaulters ?).

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a fact that the Employment Exchange Act is being enforced as far as Employment Registration is concerned. Even for the appointment of Primary Teachers, registration in the Employment Exchange is compulsory. It is the intention of the Govt. to follow the rules and regulations of the Act as long as possible.

(Pu C. Lalruata: Mr. Speaker Sir, What kind of action will Government take supposing the cases of direct appointments made by Department heads and some of the appointing authorities are detected ?).

Mr. Speaker Sir, as I have said, registration in the office of Employment Exchange is compulsory. If a Department conducted direct recruitment, the Deptt. of Employment Exchange make inquiry as to why such appointment was made. After that, Govt. will consider what action should be taken against the defaulters.

As regards the improvement of Mizoram in handloom- in pursuance of the Prime Minister's 20 Point Economic Programme, Mizoram Govt. also have taken steps in various fields. It may be noted that notable achievement is being made even in handloom. So far, ten Centres have been selected for the installation of handloom machines and the buildings are under construction. Meanwhile, Govt. is also intending to construct 20 buildings more for the installation of handloom machines. Besides this, there is a proposal for setting up Dyeing Project within the current year. When the proposal is implemented, it is expected that dyed yarn purchased at the rate of Rs. 200/- per bundle for instance, will come down to 50 p.c. less.

Some of our members mentioned the reservation of Wild Life Sanctuaries in Dampa and Tawitlang Areas. As we all know, due to disturbances, it is hardly possible to conduct large-scale developmental activities in spite of our wealth in forest resources. It is a sad case indeed to have good forest and beautiful wild animals of various kinds ~~of~~ which we cannot preserve and protect. I think that all of us should make joint efforts to reserve our forests and protect our wild animals which can turn out to be our source of income when utilized.

It seems that the thing which prompted our member to bring up the subject of forest reservation is likelihood of Jhumming difficulty in certain areas due to demarcation of Forest boundary. In this regard, Preliminary Notification was issued along with invitation to submit objection if there is any. After all the objections were taken up and considered, final notification is being prepared which will be issued shortly.

Pu Ruata brought forward the subject on the reserved areas of the river Tlawng. I feel that I too am partly responsible for what is happening there. For, while I was Chief Executive Member under Congress Party during the erstwhile District Council, Sairang and its surrounding areas were Pu Nghina's constituency. Because of their difficulty in development, the people in these areas were given a privilege to clear the reserved areas in the valley of river Tlawng for jhumming. Though I personally disliked such obligation made by Pu Nghina, it was but not very pleasant to be against one's own friend and colleague. Hence, the matter stood as it was. After the creation of U.T. Govt., Pu Chawngkunga (I am sorry he is not present today) who had great influence on the Govt. requested the Govt. to give the same privilege enjoyed by the cultivators of the valley of Tlawng to the cultivators of Lengpui Village.

(Pu Ngurdawla: Mr. Speaker Sir, it was I who came to the office and made a request for the people of Lengpui Village.)

Yes, it is true that last year Pu Ngurdawla made a request for Lengpui Village as he has great concern for the people of Lengpui as much as he has for the people of Sairang. Anyway, the revenue collected thro' the auction of land for jhumming in these reserved areas had so far been Rs. 10,500/-.

(Pu C.Lalruata: Mr.Speaker Sir, was the Village Council concerned granted monopoly to auction the cultivable areas or did they submit some percentage of the sale proceeds to the Government? I want to know on what condition the monopoly is granted to the Councils concerned.)

Mr.Speaker Sir, on their requests the Village Councils were granted the monopoly of cultivation. They auctioned the cultivation of the land for one year and the money collected are utilized for doing minor development works within their villages.

From the other point of view, this practice is not good to continue. The Village Councils received grants from Govt. Deptts. for doing minor developmental works. Thus there are duplication of collecting money for the same developmental works. It seems that the Village Councils used to misappropriate the revenue collected from the monopoly of cultivation.

I wonder whether my statements will sum up all that had been said by our members.

(Pu C.Lalruata- Mr. Speaker Sir, what about Oak tusser? You have not mentioned about it.)

I am sorry I have completely forgotten about it. Last year, extensive survey was launched in the surrounding areas of Champhai and Seling. It is a fact that this year, there is no provision in our budget for Oak TUSSEER. The reason is that there is approved provision for this under the NEC Programme.

Mr.Speaker Sir, approved provision we have for Oak tusser under N.E.C.Scheme was Rs 60,000/-. The Scheme being the continued scheme, we don't think it will be necessary to make additional provision.

(Pu Vanlalhruaia: Mr.Speaker Sir, in view of what had taken place in labour and employment, I feel that Govt. issued notification unnecessarily. Even when we know many cases where Departments entertained direct recruitment, no action is taken. What is the use of issuing notification which we cannot follow? Will it not be better if they withdraw this notification?)

Mr.Speaker, Departments who did not observe this notification are called to give explanation by the Employment Exchange Department.

This might be true that in certain areas there is jhumming difficulty because of demarcation of forest boundary. But, as it is Govt.'s policy to change the present jhumming system of cultivation. Govt. have a liberal attitude towards cultivators who wish to start new system of cultivation within the reserved areas. If public have grievances over the question of land for cultivation, the Forest Department used to make temporary allotment of land or give them permission to cultivate within reserved areas.

(Pu Ngurdawla: Mr. Speaker Sir, from Govt's point of view, this may not be wrong but, from public's point of view it is unfair to set reserved forest boundary at the heart of a town/village.)

Mr. Speaker, from public's point of view, may be it is wrong to reserve forest of nearby town/village. However, Govt. is trying its best to relieve the people of their various grievances.

Regarding the installation of Ginger Dehydration Plant suggested by Pu Ngurdawla- as I have said before, Ginger is a plant which easily eats up manure contained in the soil, due to which Ginger plantation in the same place/soil is hardly successful for more than three successive years. However, despite the disadvantage, it might still be a wise thing to install the aforesaid Plant since there is good production of Ginger at present. About Rs. 80,000/- will have to be invested for the establishment of the Plant, I think Govt. is more enthusiastic in handing over the undertaking of Industries to private enterprises or to the Company than themselves being the undertaker. However, Govt. will co-operate in planning and in financial matter. Personally, I think Marketing Society can take the initiative. Government will also re-consider the matter in connection with the installation of the project.

As regards the allotment of loan for Oil extraction and Oil Mills-one person named J. Kapthianga was given. Machines for the Mills had also arrived. I hope they will be installed shortly.

Pu Sapliana suggested that as in other States, Mizoram Govt. should place I.T.I. under the administration of Employment Department. Govt. have considered this. When we have separate Directorate for Employment Deptt., most probably by the new financial year, we will consider Pu Sapliana's suggestion. At present, there is some difficulty in handing over the Institute to Employment Department due to shortage of technical staff in this Department. Having more technical staff, the Institute has to depend largely on Education Department. However, Employment Department is the Department who advance finance to the Institute. Anyway, the matter will be considered.

Pu Sapliana also said that there should be closer relationship between L.A.D. and Forest Deptts. There is no friction between the two Departments. In fact, they are making joint efforts for the improvement of

cultivation in Mizoram. They even consulted with each other in regard to jhumming control and reservation of forest.

Rice Huller had been mentioned. As I have said, in 1972-73 and 1973-74, 100 Rice Hullers were issued; of these, 48 are reported as un-serviceable. But one Huller, which has manufacturing defect is already replaced by the Manufacturer. At the end of the year 1975, posts were created for Mechanics and appointment had also been done. They are now making preparation to examine these defective machines.

Pu Hruaia said something about Aghar tree. It is a fact that Aghar is an expensive tree. However, it appears that it is no longer given in Mahal. As Pu Hruaia had stated, this kind of tree should be preserved and our Forest Department is also making efforts for the preservation of few of the Aghar trees we have in Mizoram.

There may be cases where our Forest Guards impose fine on persons who had already given royalty for their fire woods or planks due to their ignorance of Forest rules and regulations. But, having sent many of them to undergo training in Forest Training Institute, I hope such imposition does not happen again.

Pu Saitlawma urged the Govt. to form Minimum Wages Act which on our part is a difficult thing to do because of the difference of Mizoram from other States particularly in Labour and Employment Department. According to the fixation of the Government, the daily wage rate for unskilled labourer is Rs. 6/-, Rs 8/- for semi-skilled and Rs. 12/- for skilled labourer. Yet in Mizoram we can still employ labourer at higher rate than the rates fixed by the Govt. partly due to inadequacy of labourers in Mizoram. In fact, we still have to employ labourers from outside. However, this matter should be considered again.

It is also a fact that there is little improvement in Industry in Lunglei and Saiha. On the top of that, the two Industry Officers are suspended. (Pu Saitlawma: Mr. Speaker Sir, is it prohibited to say the names of these two Gazetted Officers who were suspended?) At present Extension Officers are officiating for the two officers. But, I don't remember their names. (Pu Saitlawma: Mr. Speaker Sir, of these two officers, one who was at Lunglei was promoted and is now at Aizawl R.I.P. Otherwise, there had never been two Gazetted Industry Officers at Lunglei and Chhimitpuipui respectively.

Yes, that is right, only one officer was suspended, not two officers. What I mean to say is that these two officers are not gazetted, they are Extension Officers. Govt. is aware of the difficulty faced by them regarding drawing and disbursing. Great effort is being made at Secretary and Directorate levels to solve their problems.

(Pu Saitlawma: Mr. Speaker Sir, have the Minister concerned informed Secretary and Directorate that they should make active effort? Did not the Minister take action by himself? Actually, Lunglei and Chhimituipui Districts are too far behind in Industry. It is the wish of the leaders of Chhimituipui and Lunglei Districts that Govt. have uniform administration at district level as far as Industry is concerned?) What had been said by our member was true. I think it won't be long before action is taken for the improvement of Industry in the two Districts?

(Pu Sapliana:- Mr. Speaker Sir, when will they strengthen the Industry Departments of the two Districts? Will they post officers?) The two vacant posts of Officers are gazetted posts. In addition to other difficulties, one officer was suspended. But, I hope that his case will be cleared soon. Efforts had been made and are being made for successful implementation of many Industry programmes we have on hand. Finance concurrence had also been taken for the allotment of vehicle and grant for building for Lunglei Industry Department.

(Pu Sapliana: Mr. Speaker Sir, where is the vehicle allotted for Saiha Industry Department?) Mr. Speaker Sir, in Lunglei, handloom building is going to be constructed at Zobawk. Government is also making efforts to strengthen the Industry Departments of both Lunglei and Saiha.

I think I have now answered all the questions raised by our members. But, I regret to say that I can't answer Pu Saitlawma's question regarding weaving as I have not prepared myself for it.

(Pu Saitlawma: Mr. Speaker, the present condition of Lunglei Handloom Building is hardly satisfactory as I have said. I simply want to remind Govt. that house rent which Govt. advance regularly will be just a waste of money if nothing is done to maintain the building.)

(Pu C. Lalruata: Mr. Speaker Sir, point of order. Pu Saitlawma breaks our rule 265(7) which states that a member shall keep to his usual seat. It is breach of rule on his part as he delivered speech from other's seat.)

(Speaker:- He is now going to his usual seat.)

(Pu Saitlawma: Mr. Speaker Sir, as I want to go out shortly I just sat on the seat near the main entrance.) Mr. Speaker Sir, though it might be better to place Forest and Soil Departments under separate Directorates, it won't be possible to do so at present. Anyway, I hope that our members are satisfied with my answers.

(Pu Ngurdawla: Mr. Speaker Sir, as our Minister had stated, I admit that Forest Department have notable achievements. I even congratulate the Minister. But, I cannot accept the diversion of small loan to big loan after many people have applied for it. Whoever the board members are, I called such deed anti-democratic. I urge the Govt. to at least accept their applications as valid for big Industrial Loan.)

(Speaker: He had said about that). Mr. Speaker Sir, I will truly consider what Pu Ngurdawla had said.

(Pu Ngurdawla: Mr. Speaker Sir, what I said was not a thing to be neglected. Everyone seeks greater improvement in his/her own standard. But the thing I have mentioned could have great effect.)

(Speaker: The Minister already said that their applications will be valid for big Industrial loan.)

* by Mr. Speaker Sir, as a principle, what had been said/Pu Ngurdawla was true. But, as I have said before, Government is really mindful of the difficulties of the people and much efforts are being made to improve their conditions on various walks of life.

I think there is nothing more to be said from my side. However, I want to request our members to accept Demand Nos. 30, 42 and 44 which I submitted today.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Now, we will ^{have} voting on the demands submitted by the Minister. Whoever agrees to its passing say 'agree', and those who do not accept to its passing say 'not agree'. Let me read out the demand- that the Demand Nos. 30, 42 and 44 for Rupees one crore 48 lakhs and 43 thousand only to meet the expenses during the year 1976-77 in respect of the Departments 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.

Do you agree to pass this Demand ?
(Members- 'agree'). Anyone who disagree ? (Members-silent).

Well, the Demand is passed without anyone's objection. Tomorrow is Saturday. So, there would not be any sitting tomorrow. However, our sitting will be resumed on Monday i.e. the 29th March, 1977 at 10:30 A.M. I think all of you have got list of Business for Monday.

Meeting adjourned.

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