

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
FROM 15.3.1973 to 30.3.1973.

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1ST. SITTING ON 15TH MARCH, 1973, AT 10 A.M.

P R E S E N T.

Pu H. Thansanga, M.A., B.T., Speaker in the Chair, one Chief Minister and four Ministers and Twenty six Members.

BUSINESS:

1. 10.00 hrs. Members take seats in the Assembly Hall.
2. (i) 10.02 hrs. The Speaker leaves the Chamber with the Deputy Speaker and the Secretary to receive the Lieutenant Governor.
(ii) 10.06 hrs. The Lt. Governor arrives in a Procession in the Hall and takes seat in the dias.
3. 10.07. hrs. The Lt. Governor Addresses the Assembly.
(After the Lt. Governor leaves the House.)
4. (i) The Speaker to report to the House that the Lt. Governor (Administrator) has been pleased to address the House and shall instruct the Secretary to lay a copy of the address on the Table.
(Secretary will lay a copy of the address on the Table.)
5. The Speaker to report, if any notice of Motion of Thanks is received, and also the time for discussion of the address.

SPEAKER: Now, I will leave the Chamber to receive your Hon'ble Lt. Governor and in the meantime, copy of the speech of the Lt. Governor will be distributed among you.

(The Lt. Governor enters the House in procession. After taking Seats the Lt. Governor addressed the House)

MR. SPEAKER AND HON'BLE MEMBERS

It is my privilege to extend to you a warm welcome to this session of the Assembly. I take this opportunity to welcome three new Members of this august House, Smt. Saptawati, Shri Kapurchand Thakuria and Shri Lalmingthanga. I would also like to extend to you my greetings on having celebrated the first anniversary of the new political status acquired by Mizoram. The first popular Government, with all the initial difficulties it had to face, made great effort in improving Mizoram in various directions through developmental work.

2. The Government set itself the task of creating the infrastructure. The Secretariats and Directorates have been reorganised. The organisation of District administration is also expected to be completed shortly by dividing the State into 23 Police Stations and strengthening the newly created District offices while 71 new appointment of Administrative Officers has already been made. The process of setting up the machinery and reorganisation would continue till the Govt. is fully equipped. While every Government must have the necessary machinery to execute its policies and programmes, the Hon'ble Members will agree that such expansion must be confined to that which is absolutely necessary. As it is, the gross revenue expenditure under Non Plan will rise from Rs 8.81 crores in the current financial year to Rs 10.43 crores during 1973-74.

3. I am happy to say that my Government have spared no effort in discharging their special responsibilities to the autonomous areas of Pawi, Lakher and Chakma Districts. The entire process of election, starting from the de-limitation of the constituencies was completed in time before the end of the year 1972 and the three autonomous District Councils re-constituted. It gives me great satisfaction to note that 78% of electorate cast their votes and not a single election petition has been filed. This shows the political maturity of the people in these autonomous areas and that elections were free and fair. It will always be the endeavour of my Government to pay special attention to the development in this region. As against total grants of about Rs 2 lakhs in the past, my Government have given grant-in-aid amounting to Rs 14.5 lakhs for general administration and Rs 3.5 lakhs for developmental schemes in the current year. During the next financial year the general grant is going to be raised to Rs 37.5 lakhs. for the three District Councils and another Rs 5 lakhs will be spent by them on specific developmental schemes. Besides these special measures, the general activities of the various departments of the Government are also being expanded in these autonomous areas.

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4. The Hon'ble Members will recall that the current year's Budget has a provision of Rs 2.75 crores only under the Plan Schemes. However, as approved by the Planning Commission, the Government of India have released additional funds to the tune of Rs 1.62 crores, and my Government expects to utilize a large portion of the total Plan outlay of Rs 4.37 crores in this financial year. For the next financial year, the Planning Commission had originally approved a Plan outlay of Rs 5 crores. However, as a result of further discussions held by the Chief Minister with the Planning Commission, it has been raised to Rs 6 crores. Government of India is willing to assist generously the Government of this New Union Territory in their programmes for development, provided we develop our capacity fast enough to implement such schemes. The most important step to be taken by the Government in this direction is the redemarcation of Mizoram in 20 new C.D. Blocks, which will soon start their career in the first phase. In my opinion, this will constitute the corner-stone of allround developmental activities in the interior and provide great opportunity for the people to participate in such programmes.

Among the various developmental schemes, the most obvious has been the establishment of a State Transport, which will further strengthen its fleet of buses and taxis and provide passenger amenities during the next financial year.

The Hon'ble Members are fully aware of the severe limitations for industrial development in the absence of cheap electricity. However, my Government is determined to make an in-road in this field and steps are being taken to set up two Industrial Estates at Aizawl and Lunglei. Besides, 102 Rice-Hullers-cum-Oil Expellers are being distributed under industrial loan scheme. Such beginning in the field of small industries, is very significant for the economic progress of this region.

In the field of medical care the existing dispensaries are going to be strengthened and a 50 bedded T.B. Hospital set up at Zemabawk in Aizawl. It has not been possible to attract sufficient number of doctors but the Government expects to overcome this difficulty in the near future.

5. I would like to make a special mention of the steps taken by my Government in the field of agricultural development, since the economic well being of a large majority of our people depends upon such development. It is also going to provide the only answer to the chronic food deficit in this region. By pooling the funds available under C.S.R.E., E.G.S. and that of the Agriculture and Soil Conservation departments, a detailed programme has been launched to reclaim 4600 acres, much of which will be suitable for wet rice cultivation. Further, the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Forest and Soil Conservation Departments are working in close co-operation with each other in implementing a varied programme to ensure an economic return to the farmer. Efforts are also being made to obtain expert advice in the formulation

of proper land utilisation plans for individual villages.

The Hon'ble Members will be happy to learn that with the help of the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation, a break-through has been made this year in the marketing of ginger which has so far fetched a price of Rs 70/- per quintal to the growers.

6. In the context of Mizoram, the development of communications is of considerable importance. In this field the Border Road Organisation have rendered a great service in completing 483 miles of all-weather road, while work on another 240 miles of such road length is in hand. However, this leaves a considerable lot of effort required to be put in by our own P.W.D. With this end in view, this Department has been reorganised by creating 3 additional divisions and a Planning Division attached to the Principal Engineer's office. Presently work is in progress on 7 roads having a total length of 355 Kms. and it is proposed to take up survey and investigation of many new roads of 1400 Kms. in length. In the future programme for new roads due importance is given to the Southem region. With such reorganisation the total work load of P.W.D. is expected to go up from Rs 2.58 crores in 1972-73 to Rs 3.70 crores in 1973-74. The Public Health Engineering Department is also being strengthened for taking up the investigation and finalisation of water supply schemes on proper lines. They are expected to be in position to execute works upto Rs 67 lakhs in the next financial year. For executing electricity schemes in Aizawl areas also, a beginning has been made by creating a new electrical division in P.W.D. The proposal for creating a division for investigation for micro hydel potential in Mizoram is also under the consideration of the Government.

7. I had the occasion to note with pride in my last address to this august House the high percentage of literacy in Mizoram. It gives me satisfaction that the Education Department have been able to make an impact within the short period through a variety of programmes. With the schemes for provincialisation of schools implemented during the current year, the Government are now directly responsible for the welfare of students and maintenance of proper standard of teaching in 10 High Schools, 63 Middle Schools and 1,214 Primary Schools spread all over the State. Besides, adequate grants-in-aid are being provide to 42 High Schools and 58 Middle Schools under the deficit financial scheme. While the existing L.P. Teachers have been extended the benefit of Government scale of pay, recruitment of another 200 L.P. Teachers is in progress. These and various other schemes for improvement of general education are going to entail a heavy expenditure and the budget of Education Department will be nearly 10 percent of the total budget of Mizoram. It is the policy of my Government concentrate in improving the quality in the existing Schools.

8. In the absence of sufficient food stock and purchasing power during the lean months of this year, large scale relief measures had to be adopted involving a total expenditure of Rs 1,40,00,000/- (140 lakhs). I am happy to say that the popular Government realised the futility of gratuitous relief or that in form of test relief works continued from year to year. While an amount of Rs 46 lakhs had been spent in the old form, my Government decided as a matter of policy to help the farmers in their hours of need through agricultural loans and utilise the relief funds in form of Employment Generation scheme so as to create permanent assets. With the amount of Rs 46 lakhs spent under the Employment Generation scheme, it will be possible to reclaim 870 acres of Wet Rice Cultivation area, provide necessary inputs for the total reclaimed area of 4600 acres, construct 339 miles of fair weather road besides improving another 511 miles of such existing roads.

Under the Agriculture Loan Scheme an amount of Rs 48 lakhs has been distributed during the current year. My Government is anxious to ensure recovery of this loan. Otherwise it may be difficult for the Government of India to sanction such loans in future. I would like to take this opportunity of enlisting the support and active co-operation of the Hon'ble Members in persuading the people to return the loan in their own interest.

The Hon'ble Members will also be happy to know that the Govt. have launched a vigorous programme for connecting the air-fed centres with road and in the meanwhile build up stock of foodgrains in such centres through headload schemes, which will also give to the people necessary purchasing power.

9. Mr. Speaker, and Hon'ble Members, steady progress on the road of development is possible only with peace and stability. The efforts of the Government in this direction are only supplementary to that of the people. While the Government have called off year old curfew and movement restrictions and have spared no effort to put down lawlessness, I am sorry to note that isolated incidents of violence, robbery and dacoity continue in one corner or the other. The most shocking incident took place recently when a bomb was exploded in Aizawl Power House putting it out of commission and causing great inconvenience to the public. Board authorities repaired the damage and restored the power supply within three days, such incidents are causing great concern to the Government. These isolated incidents not only interfere with the normal life of the citizen, but, if unchecked, they are going to retard the progress of this nascent State. It is obvious that the people cannot tolerate for long such acts of hostility, and it is my earnest hope that they will soon rise as one voice and lend their full support to the Government in dealing firmly with such persons.

I wish you all success in the task before you.

JAI HIND

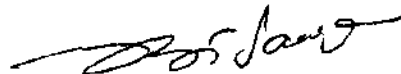
LT.GOVERNOR: (After the Lt.Governor delivered his address, he left the House in procession.)

SPEAKER: Now, in pursuance of sub-rule(2) of Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business Mizoram Legislative Assembly, I hereby report to the Assembly that the Administrator has been pleased to make a speech and now the Secretary will lay a copy of the speech on the Table of the House.

I have received one notice. That is, the notice of a motion of Thanks on the Administrator's address from Pu Hrangala and it is seconded by Pu Vanlalhruala. The motion is this" I beg to move that the Members of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly assembled in this Third Session, are deeply grateful to the Lieutenant Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House to-day, the 15th March, 1973."

And in accordance with sub-rule (3) of Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assembly, I fix Friday, tomorrow, the 16th March, for discussion of the motion of Thanks and also the matters referred to in the address by the Hon'ble Governor. I also like to inform the Hon'ble Members that those who desire to submit any amendment to the motion of Thanks may be ~~submitted~~ ^{submitted} and the notice will be received by the Assembly Secretariat upto 3 P.M. today.

Meeting adjourned at 10.30 A.M.



(B.T.SANGA)
Under Secretary,
Mizoram Legislative Assembly,
Aizawl.

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