

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY HELD AT THE ASSMEBLY HALL FROM 25.9.73 TO 10.10.73

3RD SITTING OF 4TH SESSION ON 27.9.'73

P R E S E N

11 A.M

Pu H. Thansanga, M.A.B.T., Speaker in the Chair, Chief
Minister and four Ministers and twenty seven members.

SPEAKER: "These are the things that ye shall
do; speak ye every man the truth to
his neighbour; execute the judgement of truth and peace
in your gates:

And let none of you imagine evil in
your hearts against his neighbour, and love no false
oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the
Lord".

ORAL ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS.

Now, Question No. 22, Pu Sai-
tlawmas Question.

Deputation Allowance to Forest Staff.

*22:PU SAITLAWMA Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge
of the Forest Department be pleased
to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that some
people serving under the Deptt. of Forests and deputed
by the Deptt. to undergo Rangers' Training course in
Dehra Dun are not paid any deputation allowances by
the Government.

(b) If so, why ?

PUCLALRUATA Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make
one request. That Sir, we are having
many questions for today, so can it be done without
reading out those questions so that we may have enough
time to complete all those questions ?

SPEAKER: Yes, I will accept that. We are having
altogether 24 questions for today.
The Minister-in-charge will now reply to that question.

R. zht/-

.....2/-

PUR. THANGLIANA:

MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, We have sent two persons to undergo training for Forester at Dehra Dun and these two persons did not receive reputation allowance because the relevant rules under revision had not been received earlier from the Government of India. We received only in the month of September.

PU LALHLIRA

allowance now ?

Mr. Speaker Sir, Since the rules was received, are they giving such

PU R. I. W. LITNA

MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is proposed to give them.

PU CHAWNGKUNGA

Mr. Speaker Sir, it may perhaps be not relevant.

SPEAKER:

If It is not relevant, I will not allow it. We will go to question No. 23, Pu Lalsangzuala's question.

down of Vety, Establishment at Bualpui.

*23 PU LALSANGZUALA: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge the Vety. Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Vety. Establishment at Bualpui in Chhimtuipui District was closed down.

(b) If so, whether the Govt. proposed to restore the establishment ?

(c) If not, why not ?

PU R. I.
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, The Veterinary Establishment at Bualpui in Chhimtuipui District was closed down because the development department could not function since the disturbance in 1966. There is a proposal now to re-open it and the staff too will be located.

PU K. SAHACHUM:

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question Is there any proposal to increase the number of the staff ?

R. zht/-

.....3/-

PUR.THANGLIANA:
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, I did not understand clearly what he means by increasing of staff; but I can supposed that it may be a larger number than before. The staff will be located according to the duties arising there and the works as well.

SPEAKER: Question No. 24.

Sanction of Relief or Rehabilitation grant.

*24: PU SAITLAWMA Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Home Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether the Govt. of Mizoram is going to sanction relief or rehabilitation grant to 700 (Seven hundred) families who were displaced during 1967-69 and now residing at Lunglei Town.

(b) If so, in what shape ?

PU CHCHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, The Govt. of Mizoram did not sanction relief or rehabilitation grant to those 700 (seven Hundred) families who were displaced during 1967-69 and who are now residing at Lunglei Town.

PU SAPLIANA

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Do the Govt. of Mizoram make any proposal to stop all the relief or rehabilitation it used to grant in the past.?

PU CHCHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, Rehabilitation grant had been sanctioned and I do not know anything concerning stoppage of relief or grants, etc.

PUNGURDAWLA

Mr. Speaker Sir, Due to disturbances in Mizoram, many families were displaced to other Villages. Those families were granted relief or rehabilitation of Rs. 500/- each. As it occurs in Lunglei Town, many families were displaced at Aizawl due to the same reason for these people, various parties have submitted prayers to the Govt. why some people who are displaced in Aizawl could not get the relief grant or is there rather a different policy ?

R. zht/-

.....4/-

PUCHCHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, we used to press hard upon the Central in the past too in this regard. Those who were displaced at Aizawl and Lunglei are different from those grouped villagers. Even in the Villages, the money (grant) was sanctioned to those who were forcibly grouped and their houses destroyed. However, there were some who asked to be placed at another place and those people did not pursue for such grants and that is the case.

PUCHAWNGKUNGA

Mr. Speaker Sir, there are 7 (seven) households at Mamit who came from Dampui and Luangpawl and did not receive rehabilitation grant. This is also a grouped one and it seemed that the authorities were making a mistake. Has the Govt. make any proposal to rehabilitate those families?

PUCHCHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, There is not such consideration as yet.

PUK.SANGCHHUM :

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - What is the amount of the relief and rehabilitation grant sanctioned to each family and how many families have been given ?

PUCHCHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no sanction in Lunglei.

PU SAITLAWMA

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Govt. did not learn about that, will it be possible those 700 (seven hundred) families by applying in the name of the neighbouring Villages to receive such grants ?

PUCHCHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, We will rather try to find out the particular officer who gave money at Lunglei in the name of Wauruang.

SPEAKER:

Question No. 25; Pu K2Sangchhum's question.

Ex-gratia grant to Army personnel killed in Indo-Pak War.

*25 PUK.SANGCHHUM

Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Home Department be pleased to state -

R. zht/-

..... 5/-

(a) Whether the Govt. has proposed to give Ex-gratia grant to Army personnel killed in the last Indo-Pak War ?

(b) If so, what is the amount of money proposed to each Army personnel killed?

PU CHCHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr Speaker, Sir, A sum of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees five thousand) each has already been sanctioned by Government for payment of Ex-gratia grant to the next-of-kin 12 Army personnel killed in action during the last Indo-Pak War.

PU CHAWNGKUNGA : Mr.Speaker, Sir, Is the Government going to give grant to those who were wounded ?

PU CHCHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr.Speaker, Sir, We are talking about those who were killed.

PU LALKUNGA Mr.Speaker, Sir, Pakistan and India used to make war for a number of times in the past. Which was did the Hon'ble Member said ?

PU CHCHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Let the questioner replied that.

PU K.SANGCHHUM Mr. Speaker, Sir, I mean the last war. One supplementary question - Can the grant be given within this year ?

PU CHCHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr.Speaker, Sir, It was already given on the 20th November,1972.

PU K.SANGCHHUM: Mr.Speaker,Sir, What will happen to those who have applied for the grant but have not yet receive it ?

PU CHLCHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr.Speaker, Sir, If it is so, It will be considered.

SPEAKER: Question No.26.

*26: PU K.SANGCHHUM: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Home Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is no A road Branch of the Police in Chhimituipui District ?

(b) If so, who is to escort the VIPs visiting that District ?

(c) Whether CRP Forces are to be used to escort VIPs there in the absence of Civil Armed Police ?

.....7/-

PU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, One Section of Armed Branch Police Force has been posted in Chhimituipui District. Superintendent of Police, Lunglei District arranges escorts from the available Armed Branch Force at his disposal.

Even when there is no Civil Armed Police, CRP Force are not employed either for the duties.

PU SAPLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Where are those Armed Branch Police Force stationed ?

PU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, Formerly they were at Tuipui to guard the rice supply that were carried by boats; and they are stationed at Saiha at present.

SPEAKER: Question No. 27 Pu Lalsangzuala's question.

Skilled Operators for Soil Testing Laboratory.

*27: PU LALSANGZUALA: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that the mobile Soil Testing Laboratory provided by the Central Govt. some months back has been lying idle for want of skilled operators.

(b) If so, what action has been taken by the Govt. to recruit trained operators for the purpose ?

PU R. THINGLIANA

MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, Since there is not an efficient Operator for Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory, things could not be done fastly.

Necessary posts have since been created for Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory and effects are being made to fill up the same with suitable qualified persons.

PU LALSANGZUALA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary Question - We have seen that the Soil Testing Laboratory Van is still standing idly for almost one full year. Soil Testing is an important factor for the development of a country.

R. zht/-

.....8/-

Why the operator could not be found for such a long period ?

PU R.THANGLIANA

MINISTER: Mr.Speaker Sir, it is not only due to lack of Operator, but rather because of the technical side. The Finance Department is also to be convinced justifiably and that takes a long time. Assistant Soil Chemist is also required with a degree of M.Sc (Chemistry) and I don't think we have such graduate amongst us. We will also in need of an Analytical Assistant with a degree of M.Sc.(Soil), besides some Laboratory Assistants and Drivers which we could have. That is our present position.

PU ZALAWMA: Mr.Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Has our Ministry not known that such costly machine would stand idle ? Are they trying to put it still it became rotten ?

PU R.THANGLIANA

MINISTER: Mr.Speaker Sir, It will not be rotten. But as I said before, we could not find qualified persons. Whether it is difficult to find out such qualified men or not, we will have to find out.

PU ZALAWMA: Mr.Speaker Sir, Was there any advertisement or so for such posts ?

PU R.THANGLIANA

MINISTER: Mr.Speaker Sir, As I said before such posts are just created and we did not make an advertisement as yet.

SPEAKER: Question No.28 Pu K.Sangchhum's question.

Memoradum submitted by Mizoram Agriculture Graduates Association.

*28:PU K.SANGCHHUM: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Secretary, Mizoram Agriculture Graduates Association Aizawl has submitted a memorandum date 10th September 1973 to the Government.

(b) If so, what action has been taken by the Govt. in this regards ?

R. zht/-

.....9/-

PU R. THANGLIANA
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, The Secretary, Mizoram Agriculture Graduate Association has submitted a Memorandum on the 10th September, 1973 to the Government.

This Association is not a recognized association, as such the memorandum calls for no action.

PU LALSANGZUALA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Yesterday, one Hon'ble member said that some teachers in a provincialised schools have lost their morale and interests for the Govt. did not consider their conditions for almost the whole year. Has our Ministry learnt that the officers' morale too in the Agriculture Department also went down for their promotions are not considered still ?

PU R. THANGLIANA
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Ministry has not learnt about that. Anyway, their conditions will be considered as far as possible. It is expected that their promotions will be cleared out and located soon, but the Ministry has not learnt about their frustration.

PU LALKUNGA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Is the Govt. going to put aside completely their memorandum since they are not registered as an association.

PU R. THANGLIANA
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, The Govt. is not going to consider their case as an association since they are not recognised one. But if it is a personal difficulties, it can be done as a rule.

PU SAITLAWMA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - It appears that since the Agriculture Graduate Association is not yet recognized, the Govt. is not going to consider their memorandum or other cases. There are different Association in Mizoram such as - Mohurrir Association, Contractors' Association and so on. Is the Govt. going to consider their cases only after they are recognized ? Is there any necessities for the Govt. to recognise various associations ? If it used to recognise them, by what act or rule ?

R. zht/-

.....10/-

PU R. THANGLIANA

MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, If the formality is not followed and since they are in the service, the Government cannot recognise them and if they are a recognized association, they cannot do anything if they go against the rules laid down by the Government.

The Government has none to do with the contractor's Association since they are not Government employees. If the Mohurric Association exists, it should be under the rules of the Government. The Appointment 'A' Department even gave circular on the 16th May, 1973, if the Members wish to know, and that is included in the Central Civil Service Rules. However, the Agriculture Graduate Association has not submitted the said Memorandum properly. As a rule, any Association should submit it through the Head of Department or Department Secretary and the above Association did not follow that existing rule.

PU CHANOKUNGA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Had not the Agriculture Graduate Association

mentioned their frustration in their Memorandum?

PU R. THANGLIANA

MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Since this Association is not yet recognized by the Government. I am not going to say anything about their Memorandum.

PU LALKUNGA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Has the Government informed various Associations to take prior recognition?

PU R. THANGLIANA

MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, we gave such information, and also an instruction. If they follow formalities, there is nothing to go against recognition, but this particular Association is not yet recognized?

PU LAISANGZUALA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Is the Agriculture Promotion Rule complete now?

PU R. THANGLIANA

MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, It is almost completed and the promotion also will be finalised shortly.

R. zht/-

.....11/-

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Is it a fact that the DPC will select an Agricultural Commissioner and Secretary ? Is it also a fact that non-technical person is holding a key post in the Agriculture Department ?

PU R. THANGLINA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, Who said so ?

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, It was submitted by the Association. Is the works in the Memorandum a fact ?

PU R. THANGLINA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am not going to answer anymore about the Memorandum.

SPEAKER: Question No. 29.

Stipends for Weaving Trainees.

*29: R. DOTNAIA: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that some fifteen Weaving Trainees did not receive their stipends during the period from March, 1973 to August, 1973.

(b) If so, why ??

PU KHAWINKHUMA:
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, Weaving Trainees are in receipt of their stipends now. The delay is mainly due to the late receipt of Trainees attendance Register from the Weaving Training Class at Lunglei. However, the Government sanction has already been communicated and the payment of stipends has since been made to the trainees concerned.

PU R. DOTNAIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - What is the exact date the register from Lunglei was received and when the stipends were given to the Trainees ?

PU KHAWINKHUMA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, The register was received from Lunglei on 7th March, 1973. I cannot say the exact date when the stipends were given. After they were given, they asked for sanctioned and it was sanctioned on 19th September, '73 and they were given immediately.

R. zht/-

.....12/-

PURDOTINAIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - It is said that the trainees did not get any stipends between March and August and also that the trainees made a strike !!! Is it rather that the register was not asked from Lunglei

PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, They asked the register but it was delayed. The Head of the Weaving Department at Mizawl was also given warning for some reasons.

SPEAKER:

Question No. 30, Pu Lalsangzuala's question.

Training of A.Os.

*30:PU LALSANGZUALA: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the General Administration Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that no training had been imparted to the large number of A.Os recruited in recent times for the various Centres in the interiors ?

(b) If so, whether the performance of the A.Os as a whole is satisfactory ?

PU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Training had not been imparted to the A.Os and on the whole it is satisfactory to their duties.

PU NGURDAWLA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Is the Memorandum submitted by the A.O. Association considered ?

PU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, I have not learnt anything about that.

PU NGURDAWLA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, They do have submitted some days back and mentioned in it their various difficulties and also of giving compensation or rehabilitation to the bereaved families of those killed by the underground hostiles. Will you be able to consider such ?

R. zht/-

..... 13/-

PU C.A. DUKHANA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, we are discussing about their training now.

PU LALKUNGA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Are the A.Os posted in every grouping Centres ? If not, in how many Centres they are not posted as yet ?

PU C.A. DUKHANA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I may not be able to say the exact number where the A.Os are not posted, but I can say only that we are having five vacancies.

PU LALKUNGA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Our Hon'ble Chief Minister said that the works of the A.Os are satisfactory. Can he give an assurance to this House that it is satisfactory for the general people as well ?

PU CH. CHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, It will not be the best to give an assurance in this case .

PU CHAWNGKUNGA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - It seemed that the Govt. is satisfied with the A.Os. But where there are not A.Os the L.D.Asstt. or Store Keeper are taking charges and they used to create various difficulties. What will be done with the cases of this kind ?

PU CH. CHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, Such difficulties will be reported by the Village authorities.

PU J. THANGHUAMA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Our Chief Minister said that the works of the A.Os are satisfactory. But now there are certain A.Os who are having cases of corruption. Has our Chief Minister an involvement with such cases if he is satisfied ?

PU CH. CHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, what we are discussing now is about the newly appointed A.Os and the question also is whether training is imparted upon them or not before they joined their duties ? We have answered that such training was not imparted upon them it was again asked in (b) whether the performances are satisfactory or not as a whole and we replied that they are satisfactory

R. zht/-

.....14/-

I have not learnt anything about certain cases against the newly appointed A.Os but that there are some from the senior A.Os who are having such cases; all the cases are also being registered. I think the last question is rather out of the subject.

PU LALSANZUALA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - The Hon'ble Chief *minister* said that the works of the Administrative Officers are satisfactory. But in course of my recent tour in six Grouping Centres, I found that some of the Administrative Officer including A.O., Sateek did not know even how to prepare account of their sale proceeds. This led to shortage of foodstuffs and inefficiency in Administration. Is there any proposal to give these Administrative Officers some sort of training in rotation.

PU CH. CHINJA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, this does not mean that the Government will not conduct training for the Administrative Officers. Rather it is now difficult to conduct such training as they have many works to do in regard to Relief Scheme, E.G.S., Test Relief and Agricultural loan. However, instruction have often been given to them from the Headquarters.

PU R. ZOLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, as far as I know, the Administrative Officer, Sateek is a graduate, very efficient in his work and has a fair knowledge of accounting. Did the Government know that this Administrative Officer knew nothing about accounting?

PU VANLALHRUALA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary Question - One Member disclosed that most of the Administrative Officers practised corruption. Does he have any proof of the fact and can he say how much do their misappropriate cash?

SPEAKER: Question No. 31.

Vacancies for the post of A.O.

PU J.THANGHUAMA: Mr.Speaker Sir, no replies have yet been given to my unstarred question regarding Supply Department except No.1 (A) Regarding (B) it is written that "a statement is laid on the table". But nothing could be seen here.

SPEAKER: Unstarred question will be taken up after we finished Starred Questions provided that time is available.

PU J.THANGHUAMA: Mr.Speaker Sir, I request you to give time for unstarred questions now.

SPEAKER: Now, Question No. 31.

PU J.THANGHUAMA: Mr.Speaker Sir, let me not ask this question.

SPEAKER: Let us take up question No. 32.

Enforcement of Provisions of the employment Exchange Act in Mizoram.

*32:PU LALSANGZUALA: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the General Administration Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister stated in the Budget Session of the Mizoram Assembly in reply to Starred Question No. 22 on the 26.10.72. That the provisions of the employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959 are not extended to Mizoram.

(b) If so, whether the Statement of Chief Minister is in conformity to the provisions of letter No. EEL.21(67)/73 of 29.7.72 from the Ministry of Labour & Rehabilitation, Govt. of India.

PU CH.CHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr.Speaker Sir, (a) Yes, it is a fact.

(b) No such provision referred to therein have so far been received in this Government from the Government of India.

R. zht/-

.....16/-

PU LALSANGZUALA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - It is stated in the latter of Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation that the rules framed by the Government of the Union Territory should be followed. Did not the Government of Mizoram give any consideration to this provision ?

PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, as the number of unemployed person are not big in Mizoram we are not in a hurry to adopt the said provision. The Government of India have not also fixed the date on which the provision is to be adopted in different states.

PU LALSANGZUALA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary Question - Does it not mean that the Government of Mizoram ^{gave} no due consideration to adoption of this provision ?

PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, this provision cannot be enforced in Mizoram as the Central Government have not yet fixed the date for adoption. Before it is enforced, we cannot make it compulsory to adopt the said resolution.

PU LALKUNGI: Mr. Speaker Sir, if that is so, why is it that applicants for posts of Primary Teachers are required to register themselves in Employment Exchange ?

PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is good that some relaxation is made to this provision (Speaker: Did the Government receive a letter from Government of India?) According to the letter received, it is written - "It shall come into force in the state on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf".

PU ZALAWA: Mr. Speaker Sir, from which funds - State or Central - is the Employment Exchange Department run ? If no registration is necessary for those seeking employment, what is the importance of running this Department ? Is it not wastage of Public Fund ?

PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, it would be better to ask such questions in the office.

R. zht/-

.....17/-

PU ZALAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask the Minister-in-charge of the Department to give the reply.

PU J. THANGHUAMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, these questions are relevant.

PU CH. CHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, it would be better not to give replies to such supplementary question which are not relevant!!

PU J. THANGHUAMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, should not we follow one concrete policy in regard to registration in Employment Exchange Department ?

PU CH. CHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, we followed these resolutions. But we have not made them compulsory.

PU ZALAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, if we want to follow these provision, should not we make them compulsory ?

PU CH. CHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, there can be no such question about these provisions.

SPEAKER: In the last Budget Session, the Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that such provisions had not yet been made compulsory. However, it is necessary for persons seeking employment to register themselves in Employment Exchange Department which will inform them of vacancies in different Departments. Registration may have to be made compulsory in the near future. Let us proceed to the next question.

PU SANGCHHUM: Mr. Speaker Sir, did the Government of Mizoram propose to open Employment Exchange Department in other parts of the Mizoram?

PU CH. CHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no proposal to upgrade this Department as yet.

SPEAKER: Question No. 34.

R. zht/-

.....18/-

Withdrawal of vehicles for PTV Centres.

*34. PU LALSANGZUALA: Will the Hon'ble Minister re-in-charge of the General Administration Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that those Jeeps which were provided by the Central Government for the Administration of the PTV Centres in 1967 have been withdrawn and are being used now for other purposes?

(b) If so, why?

PU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir,

(a) Yes, it is true that Jeeps have been pooled for other purposes.

(b) Because of the urgency to employ more vehicles for supply works.

PU LALSANGZUALA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Did the Government

know that Area Administrative Officers and Medical Officers in Grouping Centres could not tour different places of their areas as these Jeeps were pooled for other purposes?

PU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government knew this. But we could not

provide them with Jeeps at present.

PU ZALAWMA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - Are those Jeeps allo-

tted for PTV in 1967 in running condition.

PU R. THANGLIANA

MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, on the whole they are not in good running condition.

PU LALKUNGA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, after the Govern-

ment knew that people are facing much difficulties due to non-availability of Jeeps, is there any proposal to allot vehicles to these Officers?

PU R. THANGLIANA

MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, we have to examine whether the difficulties faced by

these Officers are genuine or not. Sometimes, it is

R. zht/-

.....19/-

found that their compliants are baseless. If they want to tour different areas under their control, they may Catch Government and private vehicles which are always available.

SPEAKER: Now Question No. 35.

Handing over of Aizawl Club Building.

*35: PU C.LALRUATA: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Development Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether Aizawl Club Building has been handed over to the Club Authorities by D.C. Development ?

(b) What is the present management of the Club.

(c) If not, under what terms and conditions the building is used by the Club authority.

PU R.THANGLIANA
MINISTER:

Mr.Speaker Sir,

(a) The Aizawl Club Building was handed over to the Club Authority by D.C. Development, Aizawl on monthly rent of Rs. 20/- p.m. since November, 1970.

(b) The present management of the Club has got a General body represented by an Executive Committee headed by its President and its Secretary.

(c) Does not arise.

PU SANGKHUMA:

Mr.Speaker Sir, since it now belongs to the Club authority, who pays the Chowkidar who is a Home Guard personnel - the Government or the Managing Committee, Aizawl Club ?

PU R.THANGLIANA
MINISTER:

Mr.Speaker Sir, this does not mean the building no longer belongs to the Government. Rather, the Club authority used it as a Club by paying monthly rent. I know nothing about the authority which pays the Chowkidar - Home Guard. I presume that he is paid by the Government.

R.zht/-

.....20/-

PU LAI THANGHANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, supplementary question - Outside passengers used to stay in Admiral Club who maintains food and lodging in this Club? Is there any rules or qualification for membership of the Club? Do the Government give importance to gain or loss in management of the Club?

PU R. THANGHANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the building belongs to the Government which do not try to make gain in the management of the Club. I do not know who is the present Secretary of this Club and the Government have no knowledge about the management. The building remains as it is handed over by D.C. Development.

PU C. LAIPUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Minister said that the building is used as a club by paying only Rs 20/- a month. The rate is too low for these days. Could the Government use it for other purpose. When I went to the Club on June 23, I found that one Home Guard personnel was employed as a Chowkidar. I want to know also who is the Secretary of this Club.

PU R. THANGHANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government is not trying to make profit from management of this Club. As we do not anything about its management, I cannot tell you who the Secretary is. There is not also any proposal to snatch away the building from the Club authority.

PU R. DOLHANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Supplementary question: did they use to deposit a rent of Rs 20/- P.m. into the Treasury?

PU R. THANGHANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I cannot say the rent is deposited into the Treasury or State Bank. However, it should be included in Government Revenue.

PU LAI THANGHANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Supplementary question: Is there any way out for betterment in management of the Club?

PU R. THANGHANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, as already mentioned before, the Government have no part in management of the Club. If there be any complaint in management of the club, the authority concerned may be informed to do the needful. The Club has a President and Secretary. That is all I can say.

in management of the Club, the authority concerned may be informed to do the needful. The Club has a President and Secretary. That is all I can say.

SPEAKER: Question No. 36.

Allotment of Steps to private person.

*36: PU ZALAWMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state -

Whether it is a fact that the spaces reserved for construction of Public Steps between Jail Road and Bara Bazar main Road are proposed to be allotted to private persons for construction of Stall/Shop/House ?

PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, No.

PU LALRINLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary question - There are three Public Steps between Jail Road and Bara Bazar main road, one of them is just opposite to my House. Construction works has been started by Local Administration Department. Did the Government try to allot sites for Stalls/Shops to private persons ?

PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, before the disturbances in 1966, there were 6 steps between Jail Road and Bara Bazar main road of which two of them were closed by the District Council (deFunct) - the remaining 4 public steps were made into 3 after a plan for this area is made and this gives more space in the southern area.

PU ZALAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, did the Government know that these steps are essential for the public ? If so, is it proper to give sites for Shops to Pu Thangliana and Pu Khawtinkhuma instead of to Pu R. Zoliana ?

PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, if Shop/Stall site is given to Pu Thangliana, it means that there is space in this area.

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PU LALKUNGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, there are only two existing public steps in this area. Did the Government propose to construct one more public step ?

PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, that should be included in the said plan. If it is not included, it should still be used by the public.

PU LALHINGLAWNA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Our forefathers used to say - "Do not be an obstruction for others". Did the Government think that it is good to obstruct public steps by giving Shop sites to private persons ?

PU CH. CHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, this area needs good planning. If the Shop owners want to have public Steps just opposite to their shops, it would be impossible to have such steps. The step is not very far from Pu Lalhinglunga's house. The most important step is that leading to the Civil Hospital.

SPEAKER: The question hour is over.
Now we come to item No. 2.

CONSIDERATION OF SALARIES & ALLOWANCES OF MINISTERS
BILL, 1973.

PU KHAWTINKHUMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that "The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Bill, 1973" be taken into consideration. I also move a little amendment in the Bill at page 7 under Schedule Section 5 in the last line of Para 1 instead of putting under clause (a) of sub-section 1 of section 6, it may be put like this under clause (i) (a) of section 6". Thank you.

SPEAKER: The Minister-in-charge moved "The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Bill, 1973" for consideration. We have here no amendment to the Bill. Can we pass this Bill ?

PU ZALAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I have something to say on this. During the disturbances and depression in our economy, the leaders of the Country received Rs. 500-700 only per month. Now the country is gradually returning to normalcy and the economic condition of the people has also improved. As such a salary of Rs. 1000/- per month for Ministers is a bit anomolous. Although there is no amendment to this Bill, it would be better to think it over again and then refer it to a Select Committee yesterday, we started the business by fixing the salary that is to be given to the Members. That is not proper. Let us also put this Bill for consideration towards the end of this Session.

PU HRANGALI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am totally opposed to what the Hon'ble Member has just said. Today, we are discussing the salary and allowances of Ministers of Mizoram Legislative Assembly. These salary and allowances are not enough if we compare them with those in other states of India. Non-Mizos in Mizoram used to get RCA upto 1930. But with the coming of Bu Macdonald an efficient Superintendent of Mizoram, even Mizos could get RCA for he knew very well that cost of living was as hard to the Mizos as to the Non-Mizos themselves. Our Ministers are worthy to get a monthly salary of Rs. 2500/- which will be required for maintenance of their family. This will also make them respectable in the eyes of the people outside Mizoram. In my opinion, the salary and allowances of ~~Ministers~~ as we have seen in this Bill are too small. However, I do not like to move any amendment to this Bill for raising the salary and allowances.

Let me illustrate how hard the standard of living in Aizawl is now-a-days. The price of 1 Kg of Mustard Oil is Rs. 10/- I think the price of this commodity would not be so high in other Union Territories. So is the same with the prices of Dal, Onion, and other essential commodities like sunlight Soap and Lifebouy. Therefore, I oppose to the view of the Hon'ble Member who said that salary and allowances of Minister are too high.

PU J. THUNGHUAMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I also think that Rs. 2500/- p.m. is too small for the "Labour is worthy of his pay". The Mizoram Legislative Assembly is having now the fourth Session and it need not be mentioned that the Ministers are not

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well-prepared for the business of the Assembly. I submitted my question fifteen days before the Session starts. But the Ministers often repeated the same reply "I have no information about this" or "No report was received in this regard". If they did not receive the report by I/T, why didn't they send a special messenger? This Assembly is the highest authority as well as the highest body in Mizoram !! Any Officer of the Department who gives no proper respect to this House - Let them be kicked out" Mizoram does not need their Service! It is a shame that we have such Minister who have no control over their subordinate - Officers !!! We are now discussing the Bill relating to salary and allowances of these Ministers. In my opinion, they are not worthy of such a high salary.

Mizoram is now on the road to development. How many persons were sent by the Government of Mizoram to undergo training in various States ? Not a single one ! We sent four/five persons to undergo training in Stenography in Calcutta. But they could not receive stipend till today. It seems that the Ministers are idly away their precious time as if they have no work to do for the country ! They could press their staff and Officers to work from 5 A.M. in the morning till 10 P.M. while they were preparing plan schemes for inclusion in the Five Year Plan. Why did not they do the same during the Session ? Why did the Minister-in-charge Supply send the Supply Director to New Delhi while the Assembly session is in progress ? If this Minister has no respect for the Members, let him resign ! Mr. Speaker, I am not pleased with the behaviour of the Supply Minister. He does not know the manners of the Assembly. (Speaker: Carry on. You should speak on relevant points). We raise questions regarding the works executed by different departments. For instance I asked questions on the stock of rice in every Grouping Centre. But the Minister-in-charge could not give me information in this regard. I believe that the Minister i/c has a relative amongst the Contractors who were entrusted with the work of carrying rice to Grouping Centres.

I asked many questions but many of them could not be answered by the Ministers. I cannot understand this. In August they knew that the Mizoram Legislative Assembly will meet on 25th September, 1973. But they are not well-prepared for this Session. They did not collect information for their respective Departments. Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to discuss this Bill - Salary and Allowances of Minister. Pu Zalawma

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proposed that Rs 700/- p.m. is sufficient for them. In my opinion, this is even a bit too high. They should work even without any salary. If they are not prepared to work without salary, let Pu C. Lalruata and Pu Rawnga take charge of Ministership.

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the salary and allowances of Ministers must be fixed after taking into consideration of the present price-rise of essential commodities in this land. The pay of Ministers should be such as would make them respectable to the public. But I am not proposing now to raise the salary and allowances of Ministers. What I want to say today is that the salary and allowances as laid down in this Bill is too small. In this connection, I would like to point out that the salary and allowances of the Dy. Minister and the Deputy Speaker is even much too low. This is quite insufficient.

Much has been said and written about the corrupt practices of the Ministers. I also opine that many of the National Leaders do not know their policy. We cannot write off poverty. It should be driven away. In order to drive away poverty, the politicians - Ministers must have economic stability and sufficient pay and allowances. They have to pay a visit to different areas in their constituency to fully know the difficulties faced by the people. How can they do this if they do not get enough pay and allowances? So, many of the corrupt practices of Ministers have a root in inadequacy of their pay and allowances.

In Union Territories pay and allowances of Ministers are more or less the same. But this is not good. Prices of essential commodities are different in different Union Territories. For instance, in Mizoram prices of most of the daily necessities of life are much higher than those in other Union Territories. The value of Rs 300 is not the same in other Union Territories. So the pay and allowances of Ministers in Mizoram is too small for maintenance of family.

Before I conclude my speech, I would like to say that questions admitted by the Speaker should be answered in the House. However, if it is not possible to give replies to such questions, the Speaker should find out some methods for declining such questions.

PU LALKUNGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, in the Bill, it is written - "Travelling allowance for himself and members of his family". I demand explanation from the Minister concerned.

The Hon'ble Member who has spoken before me said that the salary and allowances of our Ministers is too small. Here in Mizoram prices of essential commodities are very high and the Ministers failed to control the spiralling rise of prices. Will it then be justifiable to raise the salary and allowances of Ministers who could not control the sky-rocketing of prices? Will it be reasonable to pass this Bill at a time when the Ministers themselves are threatening to discontinue giving of RCA, SCA, HA and Winter Allowance to their employees? If I were the Minister, I would not have introduced the Bill to the House!!! Shame to the Minister concerned!!!

PU SAITLAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, it appears that Section 4 "Sumptuary allowance of the Chief Minister and other Ministers" is ambiguous. This can be taken as if it covers sumptuary allowance of Deputy Minister. I request the Minister i/c to make clarification on this.

PU LALSANGZUALA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I feel very unhappy that there are too many facilities in the pay and facilities enjoyed by Ministers and Deputy Ministers. It is also required that Minister who have taken Motor Car Advance, after quitting their office should repay the advance on lumpsum basis. This is not also good.

PU K. SANGCHHUM: Mr. Speaker Sir, in my opinion the pay and allowances of Ministers is the very foundation on which are built the development programmes of Mizoram. The Hon'ble Members have already made mention about the difficulties faced by the Ministers. Ministers have to do a lot of works both at the Headquarters and in interior Villages. In order to carry out their duties efficiently, they should be provided with a good means of transport and suitable conveyance. I am very much annoyed that the Central Government fixed the pay and allowances of Ministers in Mizoram at such a low rate. It is now one year and months that we had a Union Territory in Mizoram. But I have learnt that the Ministers have not yet paid a single visit to many interior Villages. The reason for this lies in the fact that the Ministers have no good conveyance. Their pay and allowances should be increased for "The Labourer is worthy of his pay".

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Their pay cannot be compared with that of the Staff working under them. It is the very mirror which reflects the image of the Mizos and their Ministers. So, I believe that we have to vote for this Bill.

PU CH. SAPRAWNGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, we should know first of all that the salary and allowances of Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly is not fixed by the Ministers themselves. Rather, it is the Central Government which made fixation of pay and allowances. Mizoram is not the only Union Territory in India. The Central Government fixed this salary and allowances with a view to introducing uniformity in the salary and allowances of Ministers etc in different Union Territories in India. Some Members are of the opinion that salary and allowances of each Minister be fixed in accordance with his efficiency in administration. If that be so, the salary and allowances of Members must also be fixed according to their efficiency. But some of the Members will not be contented with such fixations.

I oppose the Central Government in their fixation of salary and allowances of Ministers. Mizoram has a special case. We had inflation in this country and this has become worst since we have a Union Territory. The labour charge has also gone up. The daily labour charge of Carpenter is now a-days Rs. 20-25 and that of common labourers - men Rs. 7/- and women Rs. 6/- a day. According to this Bill, the Chief Minister will get a total emolument of Rs. 1200/- p.m., the Minister, Rs. 1100/- (including sumptuary Allowances) p.m., the Deputy Minister, Rs. 850/- and the Deputy Speaker, Rs. 700/- But this could not be accepted in Mizoram today !! Even the monthly salary of a senior peon is Rs. 300/- senior LDA, Rs. 450/- and Senior UDA Rs. 590/-. So if we pass this Bill, the Ministers' salary will be a bit higher than that of their Officers.

During the British period, a Minister was given a total pay of Rs. 1000/- p.m. . The Congress Party then promised that if they could take the rein of Government, they would fix the pay at Rs. 500/- p.m. But that could not be done even after they had taken the rein of administration in India as the cost of living was higher every year. The Ministers should therefore be given such salary and allowances as would be sufficient for maintenance of their family.

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One Member suggested that the Ministers should work without salary ! This is absolutely impossible. They are the same human being as we are !! They have to support their families in addition to their usual works in administration of the Country. So they should be given more pay. Otherwise we would not be able to criticise them even if they practised corruption. And we should also expect great things from them. However, I do not like to make any amendment to this Bill now. This should be done later on. In this connection I would like to point out that the salary and allowances of the Members should also be increase. The salary and allowances of the Deputy Minister and Speaker is also too little. At any rate, let us pass this Bill unanimously. We will try to make amendment to this Bill at the earliest convenience.

SPEAKER: Now we shall have recess. We will meet again at 2 P.M.

2 P.M.

SPEAKER: We have already discussed the Minister's salary and Allowances Bill 1973" in the morning. Is there any Member who wants to speaker on this Bill ? (Members kept silence). Then let us call upon the Minister.

PU R.THANGLINA

MINISTER: Mr.Speaker Sir, I want to make some clarification to day. The Supply Director did not witness this Sitting. I have sent him outside Mizoram to do official duty. He has gone with my approval. I believe that even in his absence, I could somehow manage to give replies to the questions that may be raised by the Members. The Opposition Leader charged the Ministers that they could not give replies to many questions. Here, we have to remember that Supply Department covers the whole of Mizoram. Due to bad system of communication, we could not get information in time. But I see that most of

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the questions were answered by the Minister-in-charge and I have also done quite well regarding question in my Department. The Opposition Leader then criticised me in building my house at a time when there is scarcity of Cement in Mizoram. But I think that he would also laugh at me if I could not build my own house. He would say, I suppose: How can he carry out his duty as a Minister if he cannot build his own House? But he should rather rejoice with me for I could build my own house. Lastly, I want to point out that I should give correct reply to relevant questions. This morning I did not like to give reply to one supplementary question raised by the Pu Ngurdawla on Agriculture Graduate Association which is not recognised by the Government of Mizoram. I did not like to answer that question only because the Association was not recognised by the Government. So, I request the Members to understand this.

PU J.THANGHUAMA: Mr.Speaker Sir, Mizoram has a monthly quota of 200 tons of Cement at Calcutta. This is about 4000 bags. It is learnt that Mizoram Government had never done lifting of this Cement. Then who will do lifting of this Cement?

PU R.THANGLIANA
MINISTER: Mr.Speaker Sir, let me try to give clarification on this. The Government of India sanctioned 1500 tons of Cement for Mizoram for the period - October, November and December. After this we were informed that the total quantity was 1000 tons and not 1500 tons as notified earlier. This Cement was taken from four different Cement Companies which sent the Cement by rail wagon. At a time when scarcity of food prevailed in West Bengal we could not get our quota of Cement. In the priority list, Cement is given only No.3 Essential commodities were given priority No.1. That is why we could not get Cement in time. It is not to be taken that the Government did no lifting nor our dealers. The fact is that Cement was not released by the Company. The rail wagon is also to be reserved by the Rail Ministry. Mizoram is not the only country where there is scarcity of Cement.

SPEAKER: Now, we shall call upon the Minister-in-charge to speak on this subject.

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PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Mizoram Minister's Salaries and Allowances Bill was already published in the Mizoram Gazette issue of 8th May., 1972. But our Assembly have not yet consider this, this will be the first time. Therefore, this Bill, which I introduced is necessary to be passed by our Assembly. This Bill has a slight difference from the former. There is a little enhancement in the sumptuary allowance. Therefore, this need to be passed by our Assembly, before the amendment comes into force. But, a few minutes back, some members point out that this pay and allowances Bill has not been prepared at our own will, but after the Central Government approves the rates after compare the salaries and allowances given in the other Union Territories. As such it is only after we obtain the Centre's approval, that I can only introduce the Bill in this Assembly. Some Members asked about payment of T.A and D.A. to family members. After reading carefully, you will find that a Minister who is not a resident of Aizawl, but who live in a Village or some other place, will be entitled to claim TA/DA for his family when he comes to Aizawl to join Office. So also they could claim this when going back to their home after leaving the office. It is not possible to claim this at other times. But the rates will be 1st Class T.A. as given to those of the Ministers. The pay of Deputy Minister is also very little and that is also less than what we demand. We wanted to give him Sumptuary allowances, but that was not allowed by the Centre. So it appears that, we shall have to convince the Central on these points.

I don't know whether Motor Car advances are given in the full fledged States, but in Union Territory Government there is possibility to give Motor Car advances. Accountant General was rather apprehensive about this provision. Ministers are to have Cars, if not, they are given motor cars allowances their term of office can be less than five years. Therefore, difficulties may arise when they are to refund the motor Car advances at the end of their terms. The Government of India allowed them to refund the balance is one lump sum after they left their officers. Though it is quite correct, as some members pointed out, but this is inevitable as the Ministers are not like Government Servants who worked permanently till their pension. So, I request the Hon'ble Members to agree to pass this bill which I have introduced and which had been discussed.

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PU ZALAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, In the definition, it is mentioned "In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires" and on page 2, it says "Minister means Minister appointed under Sub-section (1) of Section 45 of the Government Union Territory Act, 1963 and includes the Chief Minister and Deputy Minister" So, does it mean that Deputy Minister will receive facilities similar to those given to other Ministers ?

PU KHAWTINKHUMA MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the Suamptuary allowance the Deputy Minister is not to get it. Section. 4 does not clarify this clearly, also a letter we have from the Home Ministry does not say that the Deputy Minister is to get this allowance, as such we regard that the Deputy Speaker will not get this allowance.

PU SAILAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, In the definition it is stated "In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires". In other parts, they are specifically mentioned. But there is no such in Section 4. Therefore, if we accept the definition as correct and we are to pass the Bill, the definition of Minister in sub-Section (e) and Chief Minister in Section 4 are the same. So, I am not satisfied with the explanation forwarded by the Minister i/c for this reason I don't consider this Bill possible to be passed.

PU KHAWTINKHUMA MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, we are not qualified to make an interpretation. We have a legal branch in our Law Department, who could do this. Because interpretations of any Bills are to be done by Law Department. And if they could not do so, we may consult Ministry of Law of the Government of India. I believe that we are not qualified here to make this interpretation.

PU C. LALRUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir, when definite mention is necessary, they are specifically mentioned. If such specific mentions are not required, the definition here is sufficient, which is that the word "Minister" included a Deputy Minister, or even a Minister of State if there be any such. When specific mention need be made, mention is specifically made of the Deputy Minister. The definition at (e) in page 2 stated that "Minister" includes the Chief Minister and Deputy Minister. Since there is no need to mention the Deputy Minister in regard to sumptuary Allowance, it is clear no specific mention of Deputy

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Minister is made here. This is where the definition of "Minister" is applicable. As such, what is the necessity of consulting the Legal Remembrancer?

PU SATTILAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, if we look at Section 5, it seems that that definition must be accepted. It mentions Deputy Minister separately where necessary; and when no specific mention of Deputy Minister is made the word "Minister" includes Dy. Minister also. If this cannot be cleared, it would be wrong to continue this consideration of the Bill and to pass it.

PU R. THANGLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, this is what this MINISTER. definition may mean. In page 2-(e), Minister means 'A Minister appointed under sub-section 1 of section 45 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963; If the Union Territories Act, sub-section 1 of section 45 defines "Minister" as including Dy. Minister this sumptuary allowance also must be paid to Dy. Minister. If the definition there does not include Dy. Minister under "Minister", it may be taken that Dy. Minister is not included here. Does anyone keep the copy here? If you keep it here, you may see if the definition includes Dy. Minister. In which case the Dy. Minister should be accepted as included.

PU C. LAIRUARA. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is not necessary to point out any section or Rules, we can see the definition here - " and includes the Chief Minister and a Deputy Minister".

SPEAKER: For easy understanding if the heading had been "Sumptuary Allowance of Chief Minister and other Ministers other than a Deputy Minister" that would have been easy to understand, is not it? Since that is not done, this has created confusion when the definition under (e) is read -

The Minister in-charge has stated that your interpretation has not been the intention, but this could be interpreted as inclusive of the Dy. Speaker. This could be interpreted that way.

PU ZALAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I think that he commit a mistake in thinking that there is differentiation; when Deputy Minister has not been mentioned in connection with this sumptuary Allowance, Does that not make it clear that the Deputy Minister is to be included?.

PU R. THANGLIANA

MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, this is the Union Territories Act, 1963, if the

definition of Minister "have includes Deputy Minister this should have also include Deputy Minister. Mr. Speaker Sir, may I be permitted to read it out ?

(Speaker: Yes, read out) Sub-Section 1 of Section 45 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, include Deputy Minister among the Ministers, and it is stated here as follows - "The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister; the Minister shall hold Office during the pleasure of the President, the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory.

Before a Minister enters upon his Office, the Administrator shall administer to him the oaths of office and a Secrecy according to the forms set out for the purpose in the First Schedule. A Minister who for any period of six consecutive months is not a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory shall at the expiration of that period cease to be a Minister. The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers shall be such as the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory may from time to time by Law determined, and until the Legislative Assembly so determines, shall be determined by the Administrator with the approval of the President".

PU C. IALRUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is not necessary to read out such lengthy matter.

This says "Minister appointed under Sub-Section 1 of Section 45 of the Union Territories Act, 1963, and includes the Chief Minister and Deputy Minister. As such this Bill is very clear. There should be no controversy since our opinion that Deputy Minister is included must be correct.

PU SAITLAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, if we see Section 5 and 6, they mention that Minister includes Chief Minister and Deputy Minister. How is it that we interpret and define otherwise in regard to Sumptuary Allowance ?

PU K. SANGCHHUM: Mr. Speaker Sir, when we read Section (e), it is clear that Deputy Minister also is appointed. In Section 4 also, they just write its general meaning. We are not to pass what is the intention that had been conveyed to us by an Hon'ble Member; what we are to approve is the things that are written here, and not the things intended.

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PU SAPLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is clear from Section 2(e) that Deputy Minister too is entitled Sumptuary Allowance. But, it seems that Hon'ble Minister in-charge has the intention to send this to the legal remembrancer after it has been passed in the House. When things are so confused and require consultation of Legal Remembrancer, would it be proper to pass it by the House?

SPEAKER: The Union Territories Act Sub-section of Section 45 includes Deputy Minister; but it appears that things are not sufficiently clear from the provision of that section alone. If the Hon'ble Members are not satisfied, the intention could have been very clear if the heading had been made as I have stated earlier.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir, it has already been made clear.

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, we should be clear in the first place and not argue about what may be the intention or otherwise. Unless there is definite mention that the Dy. Minister will not get this allowance, and since the definition of "Minister" is said to include "Dy. Minister" also, are we to make conclusions on the presumption that something not appearing here is present.

SPEAKER: Let us try to explain it this way. Look at Section 5, regarding Residence of Ministers (Read out the section), definite mention is made of Dy. Minister where it is intended that he should be paid something. Read section 3 also (Read out the section). Thus definite mention is made of Dy. Minister whenever the intention is to give him something. Since no mention of the Dy. Minister is made in regard to Sumptuary Allowance, the intention appears that the allowance is not to be given to him.

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is specifically mentioned only where different provision is made for this office.

PU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I feel that this matter is clear when we see Sub-Section (e) of the explanation at page 2. Definition of "Minister" includes Chief Minister and Deputy Minister. The Bill mentions Deputy Minister separately when his entitlement and that of the Minister's is

differentiated. Therefore, a Deputy Minister also should be paid when a Minister gets Sumptuary Allowance of Rs. 100/- per mensem. The word Ministers also include Deputy Minister when we see page 2(e). In this Bill wherever a Deputy Minister is mentioned, you will find that his entitlement is different. You will find that he is not specifically mentioned in regard to travelling allowance; and the reason is that he is not given at a different rate. I feel that the Minister-in-charge should inform us his opinion about this, since this cannot mean that the Deputy Minister will be deprived of this allowance. The reason is that meaning of Minister includes Chief Minister and Deputy Ministers; therefore, when there is no differentiation between Chief Minister and other Ministers, they are simply referred as Ministers. If you see other clauses that will confirm this. In Conveyance Allowance also, there is no separate mention of the Chief Minister, it is provided - "Each Minister shall, at his option in writing be entitled to" -; does this mean that the Chief Minister is not entitled? Will not our Hon'ble Deputy Minister be entitled to Travelling Allowance? Impossible! Therefore, Chief Minister and other Ministers are separately mentioned only when their entitlements are different. When their entitlements are not different, they are commonly expressed as Ministers. As such the word "Minister here includes Deputy Minister also, and this must be the correct interpretation.

SPEAKER: All right, now we shall call upon the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to explain.

PU J. THANGHUMA: Mr. Speaker Sir we, the Members may be clear about this Bill, the Minister who introduces this Bill himself is not clear about his Bill and we should not easily pass for his convenience.

PU SANGKHUMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I feel it unnecessary to explain the intention of the Bill, for we are not going to pass the idea of Hon'ble Minister concerned, it is not necessary to discuss the presumed intention of the Bill, we should rather pass this Bill as it is.

SPEAKER: Let us give him chance to speak so that we may know what to do.

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PU KHAWTINKHUMA

MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, it seems that this Bill is not clear enough and is therefore unsatisfactory. Earlier we had communication with the Government of India, prior to the preparation of this Bill, and their reply was that Deputy Minister and Deputy Speaker shall not be paid Sumptuary Allowance. It would have been clear had they mentioned in this section, "Other than Deputy Ministers". However, this Bill has been approved by the Government of India too. According to this Bill, Deputy Ministers must have been included, but the letter from the Government of India did not permit the inclusion. But the Government of India had approved this Bill, and though they do not agree to give this allowance to the Deputy Minister, let us try to make them agree to our way of thinking. Since Deputy Minister is included here, it would require another order to cancel it. It would be safer for us if we pass this as it is.

SPEAKER:

Our Minister-in-charge knows all about this correspondences, as such his reply also was based on that knowledge to some extent, and I hope you understand that, your ideas are somewhat different, but what is written in the Bill must be given priority. We may pass this Bill for it has the approval of the Central Government. We shall now close the discussion. However, Pu Thanghuama and Pu Zalawma suggested in the morning that this should be referred to a Select Committee; it is necessary to know whether they really mean that.

PU ZALAWMA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, I know my opinion will be turned down. But I have said that the rates are too high and I still feel that to be so. I also feel that it is too early to start considering matters concerning our own amenities. As you are so eager to pass this, perhaps we are already too hungry and thirsty. It seems that we are going to pass this which will be for improving our own interests, while we have no time to think for the improvement of our children. However, let the Hon'ble Speaker decide it.

SPEAKER:

You don't mean it as amendment ?
If you mean that we shall have to take vote. We can pass now if you don't mean that as an Amendment. Can we pass this Bill as it is ?
(Members: Yes) - Alright, we have passed it.

R. zht/-

.....37/-

Our next item will be Salaries and Allowances of Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly, Bill, 1972. I think it would be better to make this as a convention; the Speaker should not take the Chair while his Salaries and Allowances are under consideration, the Deputy Speaker is also concerned and he should neither take the Chair. Therefore, we shall call upon Hon'ble Member Pu Lalsangzuala a member of the Panel of Chairmen, to take the Chair now.

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON THE MIZORAM SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER BILL, 1973.

PU LALSANGZUALA: Now, we shall call upon our
CHAIRMAN: Minister-in-charge to move the
Bill for consideration.

PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the
Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of
Speaker and Deputy Speaker Bill, 1973 be taken into
consideration.

PU LALSANGZUALA
CHAIRMAN: All right, our Hon'ble Minister of
Finance has moved the Bill. You all
have the Copies of the Bill, Can we pass it as it is
here ? Do the Members have anything to say or we shall
pass it as it is ?

PU J. THANGHUAMA: Mr. Chairman, in other Union Terri-
tories, like Manipur and Nagaland
the rules are not the same as we have here this is so
even in other States. It seems that Deputy Speaker is
here treated in the same rank as Deputy Minister. May
I know whether there is difference in the pattern in
our Union Territory ?

PU LALSANGZUALA
CHAIRMAN: There is one important point you
Hon'ble Members should keep in mind,
as the Speaker cannot conduct this proceeding, I am
conducting this meeting and I should be addressed as
Chairman, I therefore request you to address me as
'Mr. Chairman'.

R. zht/-

.....38/-

Here in Mizoram, we have no Minister of State, as Hon'ble Member Pu Sangchhuma questioned. We have Ministers, Deputy Ministers and a Chief Minister, as such they may have a Deputy Speaker to the nearest equivalent office amongst those. Any other who have to say anything?

PU K.SANGCHHUM: Mr. Chairman, I have some points which is not clear. Page 1 provides about the Salary and Allowance of Speaker, at page 2 it is the Salary and Allowance of Deputy Speaker, so far what is alright. But Sumptuary Allowances is not provided for the Deputy Speaker. Does it mean here that Deputy Speaker shall not get Sumptuary Allowances? I want clarification on this point.

PU LALSANGZUALA

CHAIRMAN: It is understood from the previous Bill which we have passed that the word "Minister" included Chief Minister and Deputy Minister; and there was argument on the (question) point; but here Speaker and Deputy Speaker are differentiated. It is clearly expressed here in page - 1, para - 3 and 4, how much the Speaker shall get as such Allowance. In page - 1, para - 6, allowances for the Deputy Speaker is separately written, and I feel there can be any controversy. I also request Hon'ble Member's to address me as Chairman.

PU ZALAWMA: Mr. Chairman, our Speaker and Deputy have gone out while we are discussing their Salaries and Allowances, what is the meaning and reason for the Ministers for not leaving the House while Ministers' Salaries and Allowances was under discussion? Does it mean that we shall all have to go out when the Members' Salaries will be discussed?

PU LALSANGZUALA

CHAIRMAN: The Hon'ble Speaker is the conductor of business in this House, whereas our Hon'ble Ministers are not so, and thus their positions are different. It would have been improper had our Ministers taken the Chair while discussing their Salaries, but they were present as ordinary members, with the Speaker in the Chair, thus there is difference between the Speaker and the Ministers. Is there anybody who want to say anything in this regard?

R. zht/-

.....39/-

PU CH.SAPRAWNGA: Mr.Chairman, I feel it necessary to mention some points has our Speaker drawn equal Salary as the Ministers, or is his salary higher by Rs. 150/-

PU LALSANGZUOLA
CHAIRMAN: Though he get Rs. 150/- as Sump-
tuary Allowance, his pay is same as that of the Minister's he gets more Sump-
tuary Allowance than the Minister. It seems that Deputy Speaker is not entitled to Sump-
tuary Allowance. I have clearly expressed this earlier. It is clearly specified how much he should get. In the previous Bill there could have been controversy, but in this Bill, their entitlements are clearly specified.

PU CH.SAPRAWNGA: Mr.Chairman, it seems to be unfair because our Deputy Speaker is not given proper consideration. It appears that his position must at least be on same footing as the Deputy Minister, and I feel that this should be the opinion of this House. We should make known this opinion to the Central Government otherwise it is a great injustice that the Deputy Speaker should be deprived of the Sump-
tuary Allowance. This must be the consensus opinion of all the members here. Perhaps this is not the proper time to make amendment, but even then we must convey our feelings about this as soon as possible.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA: Mr.Chairman, in the eyes of the public the Deputy Minister and Deputy Speaker occupy the same position. The Deputy Speaker can even do flag hoisting while the Deputy Minister is not entitled to do it. It is therefore reasonable enough if same pay of scale is made for the Deputy Minister and the Deputy Speaker.

PU LALKUNGA: Mr.Chairman, I support the idea that the Deputy Speaker should get Sump-
tuary Allowances, but since it is not included here, are we just to support the idea or, we should not pass this Bill now ?

PU LALSANGZUALA
CHAIRMAN: Our Hon'ble Finance Minister has clearly expressed the meaning of the Bill, yet it is clear that modification is impossible. As proposed by our Chief Whip learning the Bill alone, it appears that we could agree to express the dissatisfaction of this House in black and white to the notice of the Central Government. Let Hon'ble Finance Minister kindly explain the true meaning.

R.zht/-

.....40/-

PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER:

Mr. Chairman, your statement seems to be quite correct. The draft Bill has already been approved by Central Government. And we are not entitled to change it without consulting the Central Government as it is a matter of money. The demand Sumptuary Allowance for Deputy Speaker will be a good thing as advised by our Chief Whip and let the Government also press the Central Government for this purpose.

PU LALSANGZUALA
CHAIRMAN:

Our Hon'ble Finance Minister had explain it clearly. Is there any member who want to speak? If not, let our Hon'ble Finance Minister move it to be passed.

PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER:

Mr. Chairman, we have discussed Salaries & Allowances of Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Mizoram) Bill, 1973. It was already notified on May 3/5, 1972, but we have never discuss it before and now is the first time. According to our rule, the Bill on the Salaries of Speaker and Deputy Speaker is to be discussed and passed. So, I beg the respectable House to pass the Bill.

PU LALSANGZUALA
CHAIRMAN:

Are we all agree with it? (Members say "Yes") Now, the bill is passed.

Let us proceed to item No.4 - "Salaries and Allowances of Members of Legislative Assembly (Mizoram) Bill, 1973, Let the Hon'ble Finance Minister move the bill.

PU KHAWTINKHUMA
MINISTER:

Mr. Chairman, I move Salaries and Allowances of Members of Legislative Assembly (Mizoram) Bill, 1973 be taken into consideration.

PU LALSANGZUALA
CHAIRMAN:

We are all given the copy of the Bill. Now is the time to have a talk in this regard.

PU SANGKHUMA:

Mr. Chairman, I want to say a few words. In the third page of our bill (m), it says "Usual place of residence" in relation to a member means the place where the member personally resides or works for gain within the Union Territory".

I want to know the real meaning of "for gain". To what extent does it include ? It is said that candidates for the election of M.L.A. should not be registered contractors on the eve of election. But here, it means the place where the member resides should be the place of works for gain. Are members permitted now to be registered Contractors ? What is the meaning ? If the bill is passed like this, does it mean that we shall now be free to do contract works ?

PU LALSANGZUALA

CHAIRMAN: Let our Hon'ble Finance Minister define the word "Gain" later on. In the general rule of the Government, it means "source from where we get our income, the source of our livelihood."

PU SANGKHUMA: Respectable Chairman, if it is so, it seems that nothing can be done from villages as Aizawl is the only place where we perform our duties and where we earn our salaries.

PU LALSANGZUALA

CHAIRMAN: No, it does not mean that, when we become M.L.A, we should reside at Aizawl and we should get our salaries only from Aizawl.

Those who have to say anything regarding the bill may speak now.

PU C.LALRUATA:

Respected Chairman, I want to say a few words. Now we are discussing the salaries and allowances of Members of Legislative Assembly, and it is likely to be passed. It is rather a shame that the Bill on our salaries and allowances is ready for consideration only in our 4th Session. A few minutes ago, some of our Hon'ble Opposition members had said that it is a shameful thing to discuss our own salaries first though we have other bills to discuss. This is contrary to my opinion. There is no difference between the bills which are passed today and those which will be considered the day after tomorrow as the effective date regarding our salaries will remain the same. Some of us may think that the estimated salary is still insufficient - the salary being Rs. 350/- only with conveyance allowance of Rs. 100/- only. It may not be adequate for maintenance of our family. But it will be a difficult thing to say what will be sufficient for our livelihood. The number of our family members are not the same, Some are few while some are large in number. And adequate sum of money for livelihood may vary from family to family.

R. zht/-

.....42/-

In Bihar Member of Legislative Assembly gets Rs.600/- while the Member at Goa and W.Bengal get Rs.250/- only. Generally, it is Rs.500/-. The rates of salaries also varies from state to state.

Anyhow, I have nothing to say about the amount of Salary. I don't think that we are to depend solely on our salary as M.L.A, M.D.C. or as M.P for our livelihood as we are politicians, the salaries should be considered only as a sort of remuneration only. And if we think that the amount is insufficient, it can be increased by conveyance allowance, constituency allowance or other allowances which may be called anything we like, without increasing the Salary.

As we know, Mizoram is a rugged hilly area and it is a difficult thing to go to our constituencies as it needs great energy and strength, as it is the land where there are no powered conveyances. As Pu Chana had said 'It is the area of the Yoke' Under that circumstance there may be good grounds for payment of the constituency allowance and I think it is not necessary to increase the salary if allowances could be increased. I want our Mizoram Government to look into this.

PU NGURUWLA: Mr.Chairman, just a few words. It may be a bit difficult to find out what would be enough for maintenance of family. But pay should be a reasonable one as would suit the difficult situation in a country and the Government and Ministers should provide for better facilities to the Members of Legislative Assembly. In other States Members have good facilities. For instance Members in Goa have been given the privilege of having for journeys by vehicles for some distance. In this way, facilities, such as free telephones and others, are also provided in some states. It may not be possible to say definitely what sort of facilities should be given to the Members, today. But if there is real desire, things could be done somehow. It may be difficult for the nascent State of Mizoram to give all kinds of facilities to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Perhaps it is for this reason that only very little facilities are provided to us. To do something good, a man of capacity and power is necessary.

There may be some Members who are of means, but ordinarily our influence and prestige will depend upon the importance and attention that the Government gives to us. It would not be advisable to give much more than what other states give to their Members, but the Government should see that what facilities are usually given to Members should also be given to us.

....43/-

R. zht/-

It may be possible to criticize about the low rate of salary when we think of the facilities available to us. But to do that may not be our idea. We must be realistic, and we must consider whether the good things we want will be practicable too.

P^U SAPTAWNI: Mr. Chairman, there is a meagre increase in the salary of Members of the Legislative Assembly; though it is far from satisfactory. As far as I know the position of M.L.As in Mizoram is not a coveted one for most people because to be an M.L.A has now, of late, become too expensive. It is a custom among the Mizos to have a number of guests in our house. People from villages come and stay in our house very frequently. The salary of M.L.A. is not enough even to meet the expenditure incurred in a month on feeding of guests. If the present tendency, continues only those person who belong to the rich, and well-to-do class in society will be able to hold the office of Member of Legislative Assembly. But people who are concerned about the public are not only from such classes of the society. On this consideration, the increase in salary by Rs. 100/- is very insignificant. I never thought that it will be less than Rs. 500/- per month. But I feel dissatisfaction because the salaries have not even gone above Rs. 500/- p.m. as yet.

The wives of the Members, except Pu Lalmingthangas, will find it very difficult to maintain their families with the meagre salaries. The Members will not know their difficulties because it is their wives who are doing shopping for the family. In this connection, I also want to point out that no Member is allowed to undertake contract works. Those who cannot have other sources of income will find real difficulty to maintain proper standards. So even if uniform salaries are to be given to the Members in all the Union Territories, at least some steps should be taken after passing this Bill to enable the MLAs in Mizoram to get more allowances. We should not, I think, be opposed to this suggestion because this would benefit the Members who would succeed us to this Assembly House. Lastly, I thought that sitting allowance of M.L.As would be at least Rs. 30/- a day; but it is still Rs. 25/- a day. This should also be raised to Rs. 30/- per day.

PU LALMINGTHANGA: Mr. Chairman, I want to say just a few words on M.L.A. Salary Bill. Many of the Members are residing at Aizawl. According to the Rules Sitting Allowance will be given to the Members for the days including three days before the Session starts and three days after the Session is over.

R. zht/-

.....44/-

I am surprised to see that no sitting allowance as mentioned here is given to the Members at Aizawl. It is desirable that steps are taken to give this allowance to all the Members including those who are residing at Aizawl.

Besides, I would like to point out that daily sitting allowance of Members of Legislative Assembly in a full-fledged State is Rs. 40 or Rs. 45. The general opinion among the Members now is that the daily sitting allowance should be fixed, at least at Rs. 35/-. I find this a reasonable rate for the Member. I wish that this suggestion be given due consideration in this House.

PU DALSAINGZUALA

CHAIRMAN:

The difference between a full-fledged State and an Union Territory is that the former has full financial power for its own administration while all financial matters relating to the administration of the latter have to be approved and sanctioned by the Lt. Governor (Administrator) and the Central Government. This is the reason why we cannot do things as we like.

PU LALRENLIANA:

Mr. Chairman, I think I have something to say on this Bill. What the Hon'ble Member Pi Saptawni said just now is true. Some of the Member may have no financial problems. However, some of the Members, before entering this political play-ground worked in Government Offices. With meagre salary, they will get they are now facing great financial problems. The difficult situation in the Aizawl market needs no further emphasis on the other hand, the Members have to live up to the standards of Class I officers. Moreover, the people of our constituencies often come and stay in our houses. This is a great distinction from the people living in plains. Sometimes, we have to feed as many guests as that which could consume one goat in our houses. For this sort of responsibility the salary of the Members is too insignificant! I understand the financial difficulties which the Members are facing to-day. Even if it is impossible to increase the pay, at least steps should be taken to raise the allowances given to the Members. I therefore feel it essential for the Ministers to do everything necessary for increasing the Salaries and Allowances of Members so that they may be able to maintain their families and live up to their standards. Thank you.

R. zht/-

.....45/-

PU SAPLIANA: Mr. Chairman, we are discussing today the salaries and allowances of Members and Ministers of Mizoram Legislative Assembly. This morning some of the members, while speaking on this Bill, pointed out the difficult economic condition prevailing in Mizoram. I have something to say on this condition also. The economic condition in different parts of Mizoram is quite different. The economic condition in Aizawl town is a little better than that prevailing in Villages as Aizawl is not far from big markets in the plains. But if we go to Lunglei District, we will find that the condition is worse than that of Aizawl town. If we go to Chhimituipui District, we will see that prices of essential commodities are double those prevailing in Aizawl town! As such I consider it ~~is~~ very unfair that the Central Government fixed the salary and allowances of the Ministers, Speaker, Dy. Speaker without considering the difficult situations in Mizoram. For me it is impossible to accept Rs.350/- as pay of MLA as already fixed by the Central Government.

Next I would like to mention that daily sitting allowances of MLAs in other States are usually between Rs.30-Rs.50. But in Mizoram the allowance is Rs.25/- only a day. As already suggested by the Hon. Member Pu Lalmingthanga, this allowance should be fixed at least, at Rs.35/- a day. I request the Hon. Ministers to take necessary steps for increase of this allowance. In this connection I would like to point out that a total emolument of Rs. 450/- for the Members is very small and people are very much surprised to learn that such amount is fixed for the MLAs.

Some Members may hesitated to speak for increasing the salary of the MLAs as they perhaps thought that the salary is to benefit themselves alone. But I believe that we should not hesitate. People also expect that we get reasonable pay and they think that we should be given better salary than those received by L.D.As and U.D.As. At present, we are ashamed of telling people the exact amount of our salary.

Most of the Members are also living in Villages and we enjoy no facilities worth mentioning. The system of communication is very poor and the service of State Transport is not available in most Villages. I therefore request the Hon. Ministers once again to take steps for increase of our salary, daily sitting allowance and Travelling allowance as soon as possible. Thank you.

.....46/-

PU LALSANGZUALA
CHAIRMAN:

Any other Member?

PU SAITLAWA:

Mr. Chairman, I want to say a few words on this. Section 6: "allowance during short interval between termination of one session and commencement of another Session" is debatable. Let me cite an example: One Assembly Committee sits for meeting on 6th - 8th October. Then after this the same Committee or another Assembly Committee sits for a meeting on 15th October, there are 9th - 12th October between this interval. A member is entitled to draw daily allowance for 13th & 14th October as usual. This is not clear. Members may have different interpretation of this Section. Let me read it out - "Where the interval between the adjournment of the Assembly or, as the case may be, one sitting of a Committee and the re-assembly of that Assembly or the next sitting of the Committee at the same place does not exceed three days and the member concerned elects to remain at such place during the interval, he shall be entitled to draw for each day of residence at such place daily allowance at the rate specified in section 3". Yes, I understand the Section now.

PU NGURDAWLA:

Mr. Chairman, this section is a very short one. Even when he could not understand this section, I find it very clear.

PU C. LALRUATA:

Mr. Chairman, this Bill appears effective from 8th June, 1973. Is it possible to fix the effective date from the beginning of the current Financial year or from the 10th May, 1972 - the day we had taken Oath/Affirmation. Will the Finance Minister be pleased to explain this?

PU LALSANGZUALA
CHAIRMAN:

Any other Member?

PU SANGKITHA:

Mr. Chairman, we must have deliberate consideration on salary and allowances of Members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly. Mizoram has earned no money from her products. This country has many problems which are not found in other Union Territories. We know very well that officers such as I.A.S. officers who came to Mizoram are given special pay/allowances. They are given such allowances only because cost of living is very high in Mizoram. Why should not therefore the Members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly be given such special allowances? We cannot compare the economic position of Mizoram with other Union Territories.

PU LAISANGZUALA

CHAIRMAN:

Any other Member who wants to speak on this Bill? (Members kept silent). From the

foregoing speeches the Members are of the opinion that the present salary and allowances of Members as is seen in this Bill is too little. If it not possible to make amendment to the Bill, we desire the Government should make arrangement for giving to the Members some special allowances. The effective date will be 8.6.1973. I request the Minister i/c Finance to give statement on definition of "place of residence" at page 3 in the Bill and why 8.6.1973 is fixed for effective date.

.....47.....

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foregoing speeches the Members are of the opinion that the present salary and allowances of Members as is seen in this Bill is too little. If it is not possible to make amendment to the Bill, we desire the Government should make arrangement for giving to the Members some special allowances. The effective date will be 8.6.1973. I request the Minister i/c Finance to give statement on definition of "place of residence" at page 3 in the Bill and why 8.6.1973 is fixed for effective date.

..... 47.....

in-charge Finance to give statement on definition of "place of residence" at page 3 in the Bill and why 8.6.73 is fixed for effective date.

PU KHAWTIINKHUMA
MINISTER:

Mr. Chairman, I will try to give explanation. "Works for gain" means the works of Member for his livelihood such as Jhumming, running a shop, gardening etc excluding Contract Works. Which is mentioned in the Bill. It is also mentioned that a person should not do contract works before the ensuing election. This is laid down because it is believed that the person would have undue influence to the Government employees. Members are permitted to do works other than Contract Works.

We want to fix the effective date as on the date of our taking oath. But this could not be done. On 8th June, 1973, this Bill was submitted to the Home Ministry, Government of India for studying. It was then sent to the Finance Ministry for final approval. The 8th June, 1973 is the date on which the Bill was passed by the Finance Ministry. It is therefore fixed as the effective date.

In First Schedule 3.(3), it is mentioned that a Member will be entitled to draw daily allowance "for the period of three days immediately preceding the commencement of the session and three days immediately succeeding the end of the Session". Some Members said that members residing in Aizawl should also be entitled to draw this daily allowance. Members residing outside Aizawl are given such privilege because they have to reach Aizawl two or three days before the commencement of the Session. They have to stay here also two or three days after the Session. For doing some important works for the people of their constituency.

Some Members pointed out that Members of Legislative Assembly must also get reasonable allowances as other Government employees in Mizoram. This principle is true, indeed. The Government of Mizoram also pressed the Central Government to do this. We have asked the Government of India to give to the Members a monthly salary and allowances of more than Rs. 450/-. But in spite of all this, the Government of India make a uniform pay and allowances for Members of Legislative Assembly in all Union Territories in India. I believe this will be taken up with the Central Government. I hope the Government of India will also understand our difficult situation.

R. zht/-

.....48/-

Lastly, I want to point out that it is our desire that Members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly be given good facilities. Here, we have to bear in mind that good facilities will incur additional expenditure to the Government of India. Should the Mizoram Legislative Assembly be an independent body, we could have done it. But Mizoram is only a Union Territory not a full-fledged State. I believe that the Government of Mizoram will bring this matter to the notice of the Central Government. I am very glad that you have made a detailed study of the Bill and suggestion for increase of the salary and allowances of Members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly. An order on salary and allowances of Member of Mizoram Legislative Assembly was published in the Mizoram Gazette, on 5th May, 1973. We have never discussed salary and allowances of Members in the past. I am very grateful to the Members for their keen interest in this discussion. So I request the Hon'ble Member to vote for this Bill.

PU LALSANGZUALA

CHAIRMAN: The Finance Minister has clearly explained the Bill. He said Mizoram is not a full-fledged state and the final authority is vested in the Central Government. The effective date is fixed on the date on which the Bill was approved by the Finance Ministry. The Government is well aware of the need for more allowances and better facilities for the Members. So can we pass "The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Legislative Assembly Bill, 1973". Those who can pass this Bill, say "Aye" (Members said "Aye") Those who cannot pass this Bill will say "Noe" (Members kept silent). Then the Bill is passed.

PU R. ZOLIANA: Mr. Chairman, the Finance Minister said that Members coming from interior Villages will not be entitled to draw daily allowance for 22nd and 23rd September, '73 if they arrive at Aizawl on 24th September, when the Session is scheduled to commence on 25th September. But such privilege is included in Travelling Allowance Rule. I think that Members should be entitled to get this daily allowance.

PU LALSANGZUALA

CHAIRMAN: No Statement can be made after the Bill is passed. So, "The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Legislative Assembly Bill 1973" is passed unanimously.

R. zht/-

.....49/-

PU LAISANGZUALA

CHAIRMAN:

Now we will continue our business according to the Programme. I think all of you have got a copy of list of Private Members Resolution. In accordance with the Rules, a ballot was held in order to find out the order of priority of the Resolution for discussion. No favouritism prevailed in holding of a ballot. Let Pu Saitlawma move his resolution first.

PRIVATE RESOLUTION OF PU SAITLAWMA : CHANGE OF NAME OF DEMAGIRI INTO TLABUNG.

PU SAITLAWMA:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad that you have permitted me to move my resolution. This is my resolution:

"This Assembly is of the opinion that the Government of Mizoram do take steps to change the name of DEMAGIRI into TLABUNG in the Lunglei District".

As we all know all Nations in the world give due regard to the promotion of their languages. In India there are also different Tribes and Races each speaking a different language. With a view to promoting our language, we are now giving new Indian names to places, Hills, Mountains, Rivers, Cities, Towns and Streets all through India. Today I do not say that the name "Demagiri" itself is not beautiful. I do not also intend to give to the Members the meaning of this name to-day. But I want to say that the name "Demagiri" should be officially changed into "Tlabung" so that generations after generations may call it by the name "Tlabung". With Mizo Nation taking the paths of development, and maturity, I believe that we will give new names to places which have at present foreign and non-Mizo names. We have already gone a long way in this direction. Aizawl and Lunglei are already given Mizo names even during the time of Mizo District Council. Even some change is also made in names of places which have Mizo names. In the same manner, the name of Madras has now been changed into "Tamil Nadu". Names of places and Streets in Cities like Delhi are also given new Indian names. I therefore request the Hon'ble Members to pass this Resolution so that we may henceforth call "Demagiri" in the District of Lunglei by the name of "Tlabung".

R. zht/-

.....50/-

PU LALSANGZUALA

CHAIRMAN:

The mover has clearly explained the object of the Resolution. The object of the Resolution is - Demagiri shall be changed into "Tlabung". Any member who want to speak on this Resolution may speak now.

PU LALHLIRI:

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to say a few words on this Resolution. I wish this respectable House to accept, and pass the changing of the said 'name', and I want to express my point of favour briefly. Firstly, all the names we have in Mizoram, meanings and reason of calling them so. However, the word 'Demagiri' seems to have no meaning in Mizo, and I find it improper to have the name of Village which has no meaning in Mizo. Therefore, I hope that we shall never fail to change the names of villages and places of Mizoram which are meaningless in Mizo; for instance - as pointed out previously, Aijal has been changed into Aizawl as Aijal has no meaning in Mizo language and is undesirable to remain as such. I believe that it would be proper to drop the foreign names of villages and places of Mizoram, which are meaningless in Mizo-like Demagiri. Hence, I find this Resolution is worth giving consideration.

Besides, while this particular village Demagiri., has its beautiful Mizo name it is not desirable that it should remain as Demagiri which is a foreign word. Therefore, I support this resolution for I object to have places and villages which bear names unfamiliar to Mizo people of Mizoram. So far as we know this name, ^{Demagiri} is not English nor Chakma language but rather Bengali language. They said that 'Dobo' means the dwelling place of God; and these people other than Mizos have yarns of historical or religious background to tell. In future time may some when controversy arise over the place as to whether it belongs to Mizoram or not. It would therefore be wise if it is called by its Mizo name. Besides, such is the case in India, too, as the mover of this Resolution has expressed, so also in Mizoram. I therefore fell responsible that this is our duty to change the name of this village and I support this Resolution. I therefore request this respectable House to pass this Resolution.

PU SAPLIANA:

Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg to support the resolution and would like to say a few words on the subject. Though I am not so old, in my childhood, the Mizos named it as Tlabung.

R. zht/-

.....51/-

But I heard that, recently it is recognised even in an official matters. There are some places which have two names in Mizoram. The reason, as I know, is only because of the British annexations. When the British annexed Mizoram, they could not pronounce the name of some of our places, and called them dissimilarly to what we have named. They named "Aijal" in stead of "Aizawl", and "Kolalino" in stead of "Chhimituipui". According to Mizo History, "Vai" (Plain people) invaded Mizo Hills intruding from the Chittagong Hills Tract and fought heavily against the Mizo Chiefs. In that time, they named some villages as rivers in their even language, which were already named by the Mizos. In this way, there are several places, ranges and rivers which have two names. There are some, which some Governmental Departments gave the name for their conveniences.

Though there are different tribes in Mizoram, I don't realise "Demagiri" as a local language of any tribe. The "Vai" (Plain people) merely named as "Demagiri" when they entered into Mizo Hills through Chittagong Hills Tract, which the Mizo called "Tlabung". Therefore, it is right to change into our own language which still have two names. So, I wish that this resolution be passed so as to have our Mizo name "Tlabung" in stead of Demagiri.

PU SANGKINMA: Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to say a few words regarding this Resolution. Though its aim is good, there is an unacceptable thing to me in its wording which reads "Government of Mizoram do take steps to change the name of Demagiri into Tlabung". It will have an importance for the future regarding boundaries and other things. In the present wording it means that the name of Demagiri which has stood for a long time is to be changed into Tlabung only from now. This will have a long and lasting importance. It will be acceptable if the ~~xxxx~~ resolution reads do takes step, not to call Demagiri but Tlabung. I am not in favour of the Resolution to pass it as it is.

PU SANGCHHUM: Mr. Chairman, As soon as I read this resolution one thing that comes to my mind is "Shivaji Tillah". It troubles me as I have no knowledge of its meaning. Is it taken from the language of one of the Tribal clans living in Mizoram ?

As such is the position, I am now pondering what would be the purport of this resolution! Let me cite one example. Some places, towns and Cities in Dhutah were given Chinese names after the Chinese

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aggression on the Indian territory. But after the aggression was over, the people of Bhutan found out that these names had no connection with their language and at the same time that they were meaningless. They had a mind to give these places new names found in the language of the inhabitants of these places and this was done accordingly. It would not be necessary for us to change the name of Demagiri into Tlabung, as this name been found in the language of the majority of the information received by me, this name was derived from the language of foreigners. It would therefore be meaningless to retain such name as Demagiri which is meaningless in our language. In this connection I want to point out that we should retain the name "Tlabung" as it was its primal name. The name "Tlabung" reminds me also of the time when Mizos used to go to this Village to carry salt for their families. These men, when asked where they were going said: "We are going to Tlabung". Even we call this village by the name of "Tlabung" upto this day. We should therefore retain the original name "Tlabung" ** people ofungle District, But according to -*

PU LALSANGZUALA:

CHAIRMAN: The points raised by the Hon'ble Member Pu Sangchum are different from those given by other Members. There is a great difference between official and unofficial name. The place (Village) is officially called "Demagiri" or "Tlabung" is the name by which the Mizos used to call this village. If we want to change this name officially, we have to pass this Resolution.

PU SANGCHUM:

Mr. Chairman, we have therefore to call it officially by the name of

"Tlabung"

PU LALSANGZUALA:

CHAIRMAN: It is officially called "Demagiri" and the mover wants to change this name. In postal and official letters, the name of this Village is "Demagiri"; so also in a Map.

PU H.K.CHAKMA:

** X* Mr. Chairman, I, on behalf of my community and people of my locality, strongly oppose the changing of the name of Demagiri.

The name of Demagiri has a historical background. From the beginning of the British occupation the place has been known as Demagiri all British documents, Books and official records have described the place as Demagiri. There is no official record known to me, where it has been mentioned otherwise.

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Demagiri was a local name and the British simply accepted it. There is no truth in the suggestion that Demagiri there is no word as Dema.

The name of a place should be changed in accordance with the wishes of its people. The local people, at least majority of them do not want to change the name of Demagiri. Before passing the resolution we should circulate the resolution eliciting public opinion.

There are many States in India where minority people live in some parts of the state with their own names for those places in which they live. Now here in India such attempt has been made to change the local names. Wrong pronunciation and wrong spelling of the names of places by the British have been altered. But names of places with historical and cultural back-ground never changed, not only in India but all over the world.

Everybody takes his own name. There is a sentiment attached to the name. There is a History behind a name. There is a culture behind a name. If we try to change the name of a place against the wishes of its people it will be interpreted as a crude attempt to suppress the culture and sentiment of its people.

We are for integration of different communities living in Mizoram. But we cannot accept imposition of such thing against the wishes and sentiments of the local people.

To conclude, we are opposed to the change of name of Demagiri because the history and culture of the Chakmas in Mizoram are associated and centred round it.

I request the mover of the resolution to withdraw it in view of the feelings and sentiments of the local people.

SPEAKER: The business of the Assembly has to be transacted in the official language or languages of the Union Territory or in Hindi or in English. As we do not have yet official language, a Member is permitted to express in his own native language. Pu H.K.Chakma is also permitted to speak in his own native language; but he has to submit to the House a translation copy of his speech. I think all us understand this.

PU SAITLAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Member has violated Rule 269 sub-rule(2) according to which a private Member may not read his speech, but may refresh his memory by reference to notes.

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SPEAKER: Now I will call upon the Hon'ble Member to lay a translation Copy of his speech on the Table of the House. The Member has the right to speak in his own native language in the House. If he can speak in Mizo, it is all right. But this may be very difficult for him. He may also find it difficult to speak in English unless he has prior preparation. That is why he read out his speech in English. So he has to lay a copy of his speech on the Table of the House.

We have not yet finished discussion on this Resolution. We will resume the discussion tomorrow. Next I want to tell you that many questions were left unanswered this morning. Pu C. Lalruata also asked me what would become of those questions which were left unanswered this morning. In reply, I told him that replies to these questions will be circulated to the Members and these replies will be taken as part of the Assembly proceedings. That is one way of dealing with such unanswered questions in the House. But there is another way. Considering the tentative programme/Calendar for this Current Session, it now appears that there will be time for giving of replies to these unanswered questions in the House. As such unanswered questions will be included in the list of Business for tomorrow. We will start from question No. 37 tomorrow.

PU LALHLIRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to ask Starred Question found here, may we get the copies of the answers which we detail statement is laid on the Table of the House ?

SPEAKER: Yes that is possible as it is here, you shall get if you want it; it appears that you should have liked it as that is alright.

Alright, the meeting is adjourned for to-day, and we shall meet again at 11 A.M. tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at _____

(N.C.HANDIQUE)

Secretary,

Mizoram Legislative Assembly,

A I Z A W L.

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