

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 5TH SESSION OF THE MIZORAM  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL  
FROM 19.3.1974 TO 2.4.1974.

.....

1st Sitting on 19th March, 1974 at 11:00 A.M.

P R E S E N T.

Shri H.Thansanga, M.A., B.T., Speaker in the Chair,  
Chief Minister, Four Ministers and Twenty Seven Members,

SPEAKER :

In exercise of the power given to me under Union Territories Act section 34, if any member cannot adequately express himself in English or in Hindi, I hereby permit him to address the House in his Mother Tongue.

" A man shall be satisfied with food by the fruit of his mouth; and the recompence of man's hands shall be rendered unto him. The way of a fool is light in his own eyes but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is presently known; but a prudent man covereth shame. He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness; but a false witness deceit. There is that speaketh like the piercing of a sword; but the tongue of the wise is health."

Today, being the First Session for the current year, Lt.Governor is supposed to give the Address. But, unfortunately our Lt.Governor himself could not come, so we have to go according to Article 175 which states the possibility of sending a message of Lt.Governor could not address the House. So, I with President's order will then read out the message in front of the members in his behalf which must be considered as his own address.

Lt. Governor Address: Mr.Speaker and Hon'ble Member, I very much regret, I am not in a position to have the privilege of addressing this august House this time in person due to my indisposition. I am happy to extend to you a warm welcome to this third Budget Session of the Assembly. It will be your privilege during this Session to assess the performance of the Government in the course of the first full financial year which is going to be over, and approve after due scrutiny the budget and the Plan for 1974-75 in the best interest of the people. This is a great responsibility, which I am sure the Honourable Members will discharge with all the sincerity and ability at their command. I am particularly happy to note the visit by the Members of this august body to various other States in the country of acquiring a first hand knowledge of the working of their legislatures and the various Committees inspite of inherent difficulties, the two important Committees of this House, namely Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee have settled down to serious business, and in due course their efforts will benefit Government a great deal

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in devising means of better control over expenditure and bringing about economy and greater efficiency in the working of Government Departments. My Government are keen to provide additional amenities for the Honourable Members, and they are making efforts in that direction. There is also a proposal to take up construction of a new hostel for the M.L.As in close vicinity of the Assembly building, which will be equipped with necessary modern facilities.

2. You are aware that this has been a year of general hardship all over the country due to continued rise in prices, causing thereby an unprecedented strain and stress to Indian economy. The task of making available adequate food and other essential supplies in all parts of the Country, meeting the demand for higher wages, striking the necessary balance of payment after paying more than double the original price for imported oil, and yet keeping the economy geared for higher production both in the fields of industries and agriculture have posed a great challenge for the Government and people of India. However, our great nation are facing all these problems with courage and viction. In giving to the country a much larger and more ambitious Fifth Five Year Plan, we have demonstrated our faith once again in orderly progress and democratic way of life. For Mizoram a Plan of Rs 40.60 crores for the next five years has been approved for the time being. You will be discussing in detail the Plan outlay of Rs 6.90 crores proposed for the first year of the 5th Five Year Plan. I am confident that as Government work gathers momentum from year to year, the Government of India will make available even greater outlay required for this region to achieve the same standard of economy as obtaining elsewhere in the country. I would also like in this context that over and above the Plan outlay approved by the Govt. of India, Mizoram expectx substantial help from the North Eastern Council under various schemes accepted by them in principle. Funds to the event of Rs 5 lakhs have already been sanctioned, and more funds will be release when detailed schemes for the construction of major roads in the North West and under Forest and Soil Conservation are finalised. My Government are also pursuing with the concerned Ministries of the Govt. of India for providing better postal, communication and transport facilities, including the need to bring Mizoram on the rail and air map of India. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has issued orders for opening a branch of his Accountant General's Office in Aizawl and it is expected to start functioning with the beginning of next financial year. This Government are also pursuing the project for setting up a 20 KW transmitter including the construction of a modern Radio Station at Aizawl with ancillary buildings, and the work is expected to begin shortly. Our proposal under consideration of the Govt. of India has also stressed the need for another radio station in the south of Mizoram. Further, in view of the difficult terrain and inaccessibility of variins Group Centre, this Government have also submitted a proposal for purchase of two helicopters, which is receiving consideration of the Government of India.

3. As required under the provisions of the North Eastern Reorganisation Act, the adaptation of Central and State Laws presently in force in Mizoram has been done before the expiry of two years. The complete list of such laws is being circulated and the concerned departments will be required to study to what extent these require modification in their application to Mizoram. Side by side the need for extending any other central laws is also receiving consideration. In the light of such study and with more experience the Government shall bring necessary measures for legislation before the House. Further, two new Courts at Champhai and Demagiri have been opened for trial of customary law cases.

This Government is keen to strengthen the hands of the District Councils, but in this regards much would depend on the local leadership since these are autonomous bodies. With this end in view a Conference of Chief Executive Members and Chairmen of District Councils was held in the month of November, and agreed decisions have been taken for streamlining the budgetary procedure for release of grants as well as execution of development schemes. As you are aware, bulk of the Government grants given to the District Councils go in meeting the expenditure on staff and running their offices. I am glad to note that the Chief Executive Members realised the need for curtailing such non Plan expenditure, raising their own resources and seeking the help of Government departments in the preparation and execution of major development schemes in their respective areas. The Government have therefore set up a standing development committee for the autonomous areas which will finalise the various development schemes envisaged for such areas in the Five Year Plan of Mizoram, and after assessing the needs of these specially backward region with the help of their respective prepare a supplementary plan for their accelerated development. The functioning of this committee will keep the implementation of schemes meant for such regions constantly under review and also determine from time to time the agency for execution of such schemes.

4. The task of providing various departments of the Government with the necessary staff received a slight set back when a ban was imposed during the course of the year as an economy measure by the Government of India on filling up posts which have been lying vacant for more than six months as well as on creation of new posts under the non Plan. However, after the special circumstances of Mizoram were explained to the Govt. of India, they have lifted the ban on filling up vacant posts and suggested taking up creation of new posts thereafter. In view of the fact that the need and urgency for a particular post is felt by the Government only at a certain stage of organisation, and we are still engaged in the process of building the basic infrastructure, it is again being taken up with the Govt. of India that there should be no ban on creating new posts within the Budget provision

However, bulk of the necessary posts under General Administration have already been sanctioned as part of the District and police reorganisation schemes, and it will be possible to go ahead with the filling up of these posts. A crucial gap at the level of Class II Civil Service Officers, which will also provide the B.D.Os is going to be filled shortly when the result of competitive examination held for such recruitment become available.

Similarly, the massive recruitment and training under the Police reorganisation scheme has remained unaffected due to timely action. Arrangements were made for the training of 37 newly recruited Sub-Inspectors at the Police Training College, Dergaon, 43 Asst. Sub-Inspectors and 250 Constables at Police Training College at Agartala, 21 Wireless Operators at Communication Training Centre, Lucknow, while another 150 Constables have received training locally at Mizawl and Lunglei and 175 Armed Branch Constables are also being trained locally with the help of a training team provided by B.S.F. It will thus be possible to cover the whole of Mizoram more effectively under 23 Police Stations, raising the strength of Armed Branch to a full battalion of 6 Companies.

One of the important plans of development has been the redemarcation of Mizoram in 20 C.D. Blocks, which have since been inaugurated in January this year. There has been some delay in starting the new C.D. Blocks as the Government of India had originally suggested a special pattern of assistance for these new Blocks. However, they have finally conceded the stand firmly taken by this Government that all the 20 C.D. Blocks should be given uniform treatment and started as Stage I Blocks under the normal pattern. The financial outlay in 1974-75 under C.D. Programme will be Rs 22 lakhs and the detailed schemes will be implemented with people participation. The Government have decided to amalgamate the two categories of Gram Sevaks and Agriculture Inspectors so that Gram Sevaks with basic agricultural training and minimum period of service will have a scope for promotion in the Agriculture Department.

The Government are also aware of the anxiety of Assam Government employees presently serving in Mizoram for finalisation of allocation of their services so that they become fullfledged Central Government Employees entitled to similar benefits as given to such employees elsewhere in the country. The allocation of such employees who were filling due for retirement before 1st January, 1975 has already been finalised and the cases of all the rest of Assam Government employees is going to be taken up very shortly.

5. I had the occasion to mention in my last address to this Hon'ble House the cautious and result oriented policy of this Government in providing relief to the needy people. After making a careful assessment of the need for providing such relief in the scarcity areas in the light of the harvest, which have been reasonably good, the Govt. have sanctioned a total of

Rs 55 lakhs under Employment Generation Schemes. These funds are being utilised mainly for construction of feeder roads into the remote villages and maintenance of all such roads constructed in the past. My Government looks upon this E.G.S. roads as a part of the integrated road development plan for opening up the countryside, which in turn will constitute the backbone of a progressive rural economy.

As you are aware, the agricultural loan scheme formed the other plank of our relief operation. Under this scheme as well Rs. 30 lakhs have been sanctioned during the current year and a large sum provided by the Government in next year's budget. Earlier a sum of Rs 45 lakhs had been distributed in the year 1972-73. The entire loan is recoverable in the same financial year, otherwise the availability of funds in the following year, even though budget provision may exist, is correspondingly reduced. However, in view of the poor harvest in 1972 the recovery of earlier loan was suspended during the whole of 1973. Now both the loans have become due for recovery after the middle of January this year and the availability of funds in future under this scheme will depend entirely on present recovery. It is the Government's endeavour therefore to persuade the people to return these loans without any further delay in their own interest for the need may arise for the people to take such loans again in the next financial year. In this I seek the cooperation of the Hon'ble Members of this House.

6. The Honourable Members are aware that due to difficulties in procurement and movement of foodgrains throughout the country, several States have suffered shortage. However, in case of Mizoram a record supply of 20,000 metric tonnes of rice during the current financial year has been possible with the co-operation of Food Ministry. As the supplies started early, it had been possible to stock sufficient rice in the interior godowns. The fact that no critical situation of scarcity developed in any part of the State even though air dropping had been fully stopped has added to the confidence of my Government. It appears that the people have appreciated substituting the scheme of carrying supplies into the interior by head load for the earlier air dropping which was costly and wasteful. The supply of rice in open market on trade account dwindled a great deal this year after the wholesale trade in rice was taken over by the Government in Assam. Steps have been taken by the Government to raise the quota of rice issued from the Fair Price Shops in Aizawl and Lunglei to 3 Kgs. per adult per week. It is proposed to introduce the enhanced scale throughout the State provided it is possible for the Govt. of India to increase the annual allotment of rice to Mizoram. Side by side the Government have also taken steps to encourage consumption of wheat products, and the results are encouraging. Against the intake of 1900 metric tonnes this year, it is proposed to import 2400 tonnes in 1974-75.

In the field of State Transport, spectacular progress has been achieved starting with a skeleton bus service in Aizawl-Silchar route in 1972; the Mizoram State Transport has taken up four new routes namely, Aizawl-Sairang-Sihphir, Aizawl-Champhai, Lunglei-Lawngtlai and Lunglei-Demagiri, covering an additional 421 Kms. in the course of this year. The existing services on Aizawl-Silchar and Aizawl-Lunglei route have also been augmented. It can thus boast of running a bus service on each and every road in the State where buses can ply. In addition some special bus services have been introduced to carry vegetable from some vegetable growing centres to Aizawl market.

Transport operators of Mizoram had to face difficulties in operating their trucks from Aizawl to Cachar as they had to get their inter-State permits countersigned by the State Transport Authority of Assam at Shillong. Now an agreement has been signed with Assam fixing the number of inter-State permits by the respective State Transport Authority, which will be mutually honoured. The present agreement which came into effect from the 1st December, 1973 is only for inter-State movement between Aizawl and any point in Cachar District of Assam. Negotiations are going on for similar agreement with the Government of Meghalaya and also with the Govt. of Assam for operation of Mizoram Vehicles to Meghalaya and other parts of Assam.

The Government has also finalised the arrangement for starting an out agency service on behalf of Railways between Silchar and Aizawl for both passenger and goods traffic and it is expected to sign the necessary agreement with the Railways in this behalf in the near future. The out agency service will be run by the Mizoram State Transport.

7. Progress in the field of agriculture and in scientific exploitation of forests wealth is considered by Government as basic to the growth of economy in this State. As such the Planning Commission have allocated the largest share to this sector in the Plan outlay, and a variety of schemes to help the farmers introducing permanent cultivation and increasing productivity with the use of better seeds, implements and fertilisers have been launched by the Agriculture Department. During the next year Government also propose starting a Centre at Thingdawl to impart integrated training to Gram Sevaks, Agriculture demonstrators and farmers. A research Centre will also be opened with the help of North Eastern Council for finding out the right crops after testing the soil condition.

In the field of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary services also considerable expansion has been planned by the Government during the next year, while the physical targets set for this year have been fully achieved. The Government have felt encourage therefore to set up a fullfledged Directorate of A.H & Veterinary in the next financial year. The various schemes drawn up by the Department included the establishment of a modern slaughter house at Aizawl.

The same is also true in regard to the schemes under Forests and Soil Conservation. While 688 hectress have been brought under plantation for industrial and commercial use, another 135 hectress have been planned with quick growing species, beside the arduous task of demarcating 100 Kms. long boundary of reserve forests. Forests resources survey to find out the cellulosic raw materials, specially bamboos, for the proposed paper and pulp project is also in progress. In the year 1974-75, the department proposes to take up 18 different schemes amongst which forest education and training, economic plantation for commercial and industrial use, wild life management and fuel wood plantation are most important. It is also proposed to reclaim 200 hectress of valley between land in Mat Valley, Chamdur, Tuirini and Demagiri.

8. From a long term point of view however if scientific growth of agriculture is to be sustained and forest wealth properly conserved and exploited, the Government find it necessary to evolve a suitable land policy. The basic objectives to be achieved are due encouragement to permanent and more scientific cultivation, development of orchards and plantation, and regeneration of forests to meet domestic, commercial and industrial requirement. It will also be necessary to undertake proper land survey and build up necessary land records to enable the owners acquire regular settlement with transferrable rights. In due course, this will also require legislation. Similar steps will also have to be taken in regard to land put under forests. As a first step in this direction a wholetime Director of Land Record and Settlement has been appointed and it is proposed to conduct land survey and demarcation of individual holdings in various parts of Mizoram, where permanent cultivation have been in vogue. The survey of Shamphai wet rice cultivation area will be completed shortly and it is intended to give regular settlement to individuals thereafter. Similar survey work will be taken up in stages in other compact areas where permanent cultivation is practiced.

Although no legislation has been undertaken in Mizoram for fixation of land ceiling, it has been the policy of the Government not to allot more land to individuals than what can be developed and cultivated. With this end in view the Government have decided to review during April, 1974 the passes for gardens and W.R.C. etc issued by the erstwhile District Council, and all such passes which have remained unutilised shall be treated as cancelled. Thereafter the Government will make every endeavour to allot sufficient land for whatever purpose required to every applicant, backed by necessary records based on proper survey and demarcation of boundaries. This is a gigantic task, but on this would depend the orderly and scientific growth of agriculture and forest wealth for generations to come. My Government seeks the co-operation of the Village Councils and the people at large in implementing this land policy.

9. The Industries Department are going to set up 3 units of saw mill and 5 units of mechanised carpentry workshop this year in the interior where timber is available in plenty. They also have an ambitious plan to assist people in setting up various small scale units for which Rs 13 lakhs will be distributed in cash and another Rs 5 lakhs in form of machinery on hire purchase. Further progress is expected to be made in the next financial year by setting up to more units of saw mill, one wood planing unit, one barbed wire manufacturing unit, two units for manufacture of wire nails and one unit for manufacture of hand-made paper. In regard to the prestigious paper and pulp mill project considerable progress has been made both in resources survey by the Forests Department and the preparation of detailed feasibility report by the consultants selected with the help of the Govt. of India.

In the plan development covering both Industrial and Agricultural sectors, the co-operatives have an important role to play. A big gap have been filled this year with the establishment of the State level Apex marketing society at Aizawl. Among the items, this society is also handling the marketing of ginger, and the price fetched this season to the grower is as high as Rs 125/- per quintal. An rice plant is also being established at Demagiri on co-operative basis to help the marketing of fish next year. Considerable expansion and strengthening of co-operative movement has been envisaged in the Fifth Five Year Plan and an outlay of Rs20 lakhs has been approved for 1974-75.

10. The P.W.D. have spent altogether Rs 182 lakhs on the construction and maintenance of roads. During the current year formation cutting continued on 4 roads already taken up earlier and started 4 new roads. While this work will be completed in the next financial year, survey and investigation will also be taken up of such new roads as are decided for construction during the Five Year Plan period. It is also proposed to start work on permanent culverts and small bridges during the coming year. One good suspension bridge over Tuichang river on Keitim-North Vanlaiphai road will be completed during this dry season.

As I had mentioned in my last address to this House, the long and arduous task of opening up the interior in the difficult terrain of Mizoram has been possible mainly due to the role played by the Border Roads Organisation. The existing Silchar-Aizawl-Lunglei road and Aizawl-Champhai and Lunglei-Demagiri roads which have been almost completed are a magnificent tribute to their effort. The works on Aizawl-Tuipuibari and Lunglei-Tuipang roads are in good progress. Apart from this, Seling-Tipaimukh, Serchhip-Thenzawl roads and a link road to Saiha from the main Lunglei-Tuipang road have also been taken up by them for construction.

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From the next financial year, our efforts in this direction will also be supplemented by the North Eastern Council, as they have already accepted to finance three such roads in Mizoram. The Government of India have also under consideration setting up a special road fund by pooling the resources which will accelerate road construction in this area.

With a view to build up the technical know-how among the locals, the Governments have sponsored 5 new students for degree course and 25 students for diploma course in Engineering this year. This process will be continued in future.

You are already aware of the inadequacy of the water supply scheme in Aizawl and the efforts made by the Government to improve the position temporarily. Steps are now being taken to make necessary addition and improvement in the distribution lines and to increase the pumping house by providing stand-by diesel sets. However, it will be possible to increase the water supply on a regular basis only after necessary improvements have been effected in the distribution lines and power supply becomes available for switch over to electric pumps. Apart from Aizawl water supply, works have been started on such schemes for Lunglei, Vairengte, Bilkhawthlir, Thingdawl, Kawnpui, Sihphir, Durtlang, Zemabawk and Baktawng during this year.

For ensuring continuity in the execution of 66 KV transmission line from Dulabcherra to Aizawl and a few other Plan schemes, the life of the A.S.E.B. in Mizoram has been extended for another year till 21st January, 1975. The Government propose taking timely action to create the necessary organisation and be in a position to take over total responsibility in this behalf after the expiry of this period. Adequate provisions have been made in the next year's Plan for completing these schemes and also taking up investigation of hydro electric projects in the State.

11. In the field of Medical care, steps have been taken during this year to add 104 beds in the existing Hospitals and Dispensaries, and strengthening the hands of the department by opening the offices of the Civil Surgeon at Lunglei and the Sub-Divisional Medical and Health Officer at Saiha. Two S.E.T. Centres for treatment of leprosy have been opened at Demagiri and Chawngte as a centrally sponsored scheme. The Government have also given Rs 3.5 lakhs by way of grant-in-aid to non-Government Institutions. Since much more remains to be done by way of extending medical facilities in this territory, the Plan allocation has been doubled during the next financial year. This will enable the Government to strengthen facilities in the existing Hospitals and Dispensaries as well as taking up certain new schemes, such as minimum needs programme, setting up of drugs control organisation, health Education bureau, construction of 25 bedded T.B. Ward and Public Health Laboratory etc.

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However, the main difficulty in pushing through the scheme for medical care arises out of the serious shortage of doctors. Whatever few doctors we managed to recruit from outside have left after they were harassed by the underground insurgents and left insecure. However, we remain anxious to provide medical facilities in the remote interior villages and would continue our efforts to attract more doctors.

12. In the field of Education, sustained improvement both in quality and enrolment has been maintained during the year. The pupil teacher ratio at Primary stage has been brought down from 46:1 to 41:1, and it is proposed to achieve further improvement by taking it to 38:1 in the next Plan period. It may be mentioned that within the last 25 years before the formation of the Union Territory only 3 High Schools and 41 Middle Schools had been provincialised, while within the short life of the present Government as many as 7 more High Schools and 27 more Middle Schools have been provincialised, 42 non-Government High Schools and 57 non Government Middle Schools are covered by the deficit scheme. The training course for Primary School Teachers has been reorganised, and with a view to remove long standing grievance of the people from Southern Districts, steps are being taken to locate one of the two Training Institutions at Lunglei for combined training of Primary and Middle School Teachers. The Government have also paid special attention to reconstruct the School buildings and equip them with necessary furniture and teaching aids. The UNICEF assisted Pilot Project for improvement of science teaching in Schools has also made very good progress. The Government College at Aizawl has also started Pre-University science teaching from the current academic session. Recently, as many as 62 Scouters and 42 Guiders have been successfully trained in a training camp at Aizawl by a team of very experienced trainers from West Bengal. A large number of Centres were also opened this year for the first time in Mizoram to conduct physical test and a State (Junior) Hockey Team was sent to Delhi to participate in the All India Nehru Junior Hockey competition, where their performance earned the trophy for "Best Discipline and neat Play". A vigorous drive has been launched for quickening the pace of literacy and it is hoped that by the end of the Fifth Plan period our literacy figure will arise from the present 53 per cent to 62 per cent. For promoting Social Welfare activities on sound lines a State level Social Welfare Advisory Board had been constituted. The quantum of grant from the Govt. of India for stipends/Scholarships to post-matric Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes students have been increased from Rs 7.5 lakhs to ; 11.5 lakhs during the current year, enabling this Government to provide financial relief to all eligible post-matric students. The necessary buildings for locating I.T.I. in Aizawl are nearing completion and it is expected to start functioning from the next Session. With this firm foundation, the cause of maximum literacy and good education is sure to be achieved during the Fifth Year Plan, and liberal provision has been made towards this end.

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13. In the end, I wish to draw your attention to the great harm being done to the cause of future development and prosperity of Mizoram by the Underground Mizo National Front continuing to disturb the law and order with acts of arson, illegal and forcible collection of taxes and violence on innocent civilians. While this is not going to deter the Government or the people from marching onwards, it certainly retards the pace of progress and causes great harrassment to the people. The Government condemns such acts on their part as anti social and anti people, and would like the Honourable Members to carry this message to the people that they must desist from co-operating with such undesirable elements in their own interest. No sacrifice on the part of the present generation is too great for ensuring a peaceful, progressive and prosperous future for their children. My Government have made it clear more than once in the past the futility of continuing with senseless acts of violence and disorder, and would still welcome those misguided persons in the underground who wish to return to normal peaceful life. At the same time, those who fail to pay heed will be dealt with firmly and all protection given to law abiding citizens in the pursuit of their normal avocation.

**SPEAKER:** We have now heard our Lt. Governor's and it was placed on the Table of The House. Here, we received a motion on the address, so let's call upon the movers.

**PU J. THANGHUAMA:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following motion of thanks. The Members of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly are deeply grateful for the Lt. Governor's Address which was read out to this House by Hon'ble Speaker, on this 19th day of March, 1974.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** Shri Rochama is seconder.

**PU ROCHAMA:** I support the motion.

**SPEAKER:** Well, we have listened to the motion in regard to the Lt. Governor's Address. As this motion is not to be discussed today, we will put it off for tomorrow.

Our list of Business had been our Lt. Governor's Address and motion of Thanks which we have just listened. So, the motion would be discussed tomorrow. We will now disperse to continue tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

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Under Secretary,  
Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

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