

PROCEEDING OF THE 6TH SESSION OF THE MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL FROM
17.9.1974 TO 14.10.1974

9th Sitting of 6th Session on 10th October, '74
at 11 A.M.

P R E S E N T

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

B U S I N E S S

1. Questions.
2. (a) Pu Ch. Chhunga, Chief Minister to beg leave to introduce "The Mizoram Official Language Bill, 1974", and
(b) to introduce the Bill.
3. (a) Pu Vaivenga, Minister for Revenue to beg leave to introduce "The Mizoram Trading by non-Tribals Regulation Bill, 1974", and
(b) to introduce the Bill.
4. (a) Pu Lalsangzuala, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to beg leave to introduce "The Mizoram Legislative Assembly Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Bill, 1974", and
(b) to introduce the Bill.
5. Half-an-hour discussion on a matter arising out of answers to Starred Question No. 43 (to be raised by Pu Lalkunga).
6. Pu K.L. Rochama to raise a discussion under rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Mizoram Legislative Assembly relating to widespread damages of crops by rats.
7. Statement by Pu Vaivenga in connection with the answers to Starred Question No.72 for further clarification and also of news item published in Tawrh Bawm, dt 30.9.1974 relating to alleged corruption in Educational Department.

SPEAKER : (Read the Bible).

Now, Question No. 100, Pu Lalkunga's Question.

STARRED QUESTIONS TO WHICH ORAL ANSWERS WERE GIVEN

S U P P L Y

Appointment of one Ex-ECO as Deputy Director of Supply.

Pu Lalkunga: Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Supply and Transport Department be pleased to state.

* 100. PU LALKUNGA: Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Supply and Transport Department be pleased to state.

Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Supply and Transport Department be pleased to state that one Ex-ECO

- Ex-ECO was appointed as Deputy Director of Supply?
- (a) Whether it is a fact that one
 - (b) Whether the post has been advertised?
 - (c) Under what recruitment rules he was appointed?
 - (d) Has he any experience in Supply Department?

LALSANGZUALA
MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir,

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) Normal.
- (d) Yes.

C. LALRUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Supplementary Question
What post had this Officer held before he became the D.D.S.? What was his pay-scale and also what is his present pay-scale?

PU LALSANGZUALA MINISTER: Mr. Speaker he had held the post of A.O. at Tawipui, Haulawng and Kawnpui. Regarding his pay-scale - usually the pay-scale of those, who entered into Civil Service from army is different. Anyway, as the question is not relevant with the topic I require notice.

C. LALRUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir,
Were there not any persons from Civil Service, though not classified, available to fill-up this post?

PU LALSANGZUALA MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I think all our honorable members know the fact that we are in short of staff in administration. Still, there are places where A.O. posts have not been filled-up. That is why Government used to make appointment time recruitment is being done.

PU SAPLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Supplementary Question-
When this Ex-ECO was an A.O., was he a gazetted officer or he was included in the category of 200 pay-scale? And is this a pay-scale of Gazetted Officer? I would also like to know the reason why can he has been promoted to gazetted post of D.D.S. Does not economy ban apply to this promotion? When was he promoted? Is it also a fact that Shri Nagga, the D.D.S., Silchar was recruited in Aizawl Civil Secretariat with special allowance of Rs. 200/- even an economic ban?

FU LAISANGZUALA
MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, as Supply Department do not yet have Officers of its own Cadre, officers of different cadre are now being employed. I think I have said about the pay-scale of those, who come from army. Those who entered into Civil services from army were given Last Pay Certificate. And their pay is fixed by Accountant General on the basis of their Last Pay Certificate, In case of the D.D.S.-it is not a promotion, it is rather a just appointment. And, he does not get higher or lower pay when he becomes the D.D.S. Economy ban' does not apply to this appointment either. Economy ban' does not affect posts which had been created before ban was imposed. Our hon'ble members just now mentioned about the Deputy, Director of Supply, Jilhar named Shri Nag. True that he was promoted to the Under Secretary in Mizoram Civil Secretariat, but, his promotion was a normal promotion. Those Under Secretaries who are Assam Civil Service Officer could get extra pay of Rs. 200/-.

ZOLIANA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, Supplementary Question-I thought that Ex-ECO was promoted from Administrative Officer to Deputy Director of Supply. But, the hon'ble Minister said that it was just an appointment not a promotion. If that was so, was interviewed by the Selection Board?

FU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, I really do hope that our members have understanding of all these appointments we have taken about. Thirteen ex-army Officers who were given appointments during the erstwhile Assam Government were as well accepted in our new Government. As a consequence, Central Government also requested us to absorb the remaining 11 (eleven) Central Service Class I Officers. In this case, the Departmental Promotion Committee was not consulted nor approached as this was not new recruitment/appointment. In case of absorption, consultation with Departmental Promotion Committee. It is regarding the post of Political Assistant. Previously, there used to be a Political Assistant whose pay-scale was Rs. 225/-. But, in view of our present circumstances and conditions, the post does not seem to suit it. Therefore, we decided to abolish the post and absorb the staff in other posts where their pay scale would be Rs. 300-800. As this is the case of absorption, the matter need not be referred to Departmental Promotion Committee.

C. LALRUATA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, I dont think it is right to raise their pay-scale to Rs. 300/- just like that others too would like the same thing. I would like to know the reason as towly their absorption was necessary.

PU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, the four of them followed administrative line as it is what they have experienced before. They can be Additional Deputy Commissioner and could as well function as Assam Civil Service Class II. Their convert designation is Personal Assistant, but when they were absorbed, we wanted them to be in line-administrative line where they have had experience.

PU NGURDAWLA:

Mr. Speaker Sir,
Our hon'ble Minister said that the rules and procedure of Mizoram Civil Service are under process. But, in view of what is happening, is it not a fact that there is no Mizoram Civil Service to be named? Have we any? If we have not, what about the recent competitive examination where 20 candidates were selected?

PU CH. CHHUNGA

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, to candidates who had been selected in the recent examination are to be our Mizoram Civil Service, that is, when we have our own cadre. They are not yet named Mizoram Civil Service only because we have no cadre at present.

PU NGURDAWLA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, If that was so, it is evident that the examination was not Mizoram Civil Service examination. We know that some of them were appointed Block Division Officers while some of them were Circle Officers. So, if they were not Civil Service Officers and if the posts advertised are not separately applied, would this be legally right?

ROCFAMA:

Mr. Speaker Sir,
It seems that the appointment of an Ex-ECC really prick the member's ears, for this has come up almost in every sittings and sessions. His appointment alone is not to be objected. But, extreme favouritism in Government is I think what we, the members, dislike most. As for the reason why he was appointed Class I Officer, our Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that it was because of a diversion from the Centre to place him in the same rank as he was in the Central Government. True, that we cannot deny the fact that he was Class I Officer and we cannot possibly object to his appointment either. But, in other States, they were not placed in Class I posts. In fact, they were appointed Class II Officers while some of them were absorbed in Tea-gardens. As was what they did in other states, it is not easy to understand the feeling of centre to make such kind of appeal even before we have our own Civil Service Cadre. Since, we are requested to place them in the rank of Class I members here in the House be shown the communication of the Central Government.

PU LALSANGZUALA
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Posts that had been created for Class II Officers were filled up by Class II Officers of Mizoram Civil Service Cadre Class II.

PU NGURDAWLA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, It can't be done just like that, there....

PU SAPLIANA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, In an advertisement also, there is written 'Mizoram Civil Service Class II' very vividly, so what happened now and what is the meaning of all these?

CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER.

Mr. Speaker Sir, If there is written 'Mizoram Civil Service Class II to be appointed' in an advertisement, I am truly sorry about that, for we do not have any such. Regarding the employment of ex-army officers in Tea-gardens that, Government would surely worry about them. If other states bothered to go so far as Tea-gardens in search of jobs for ex-service men, that is well and good. Although I could not say about them all, some of them were also fixed in companies and in some Establishments.

PU LALKUNGA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, we are not satisfied with only 'some of them'.

CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, from gossip we learned the life and activities of some of the ex-service men, otherwise how would we know the conditions and activities of all the ex-service men from here. It is not really possible to know. Regarding an appealing-letter-that I can produce it if you want it now or shall I produce it later on ?.

(Speaker - It's better that you produce later).

As for the appointment of 3 ex-army officers- I think that was quite reasonable in view of what they have done for the land since the crucial period of disturbances. From what I gathered, we might have also been a little confused by the grade of Deputy Secretary, which is higher than that of Deputy Director, Deputy Director of Supply and Deputy Director of Development. Anyway, it would not be right to think of new appointment and absorption as one and something.

SPEAKER:

Question No. 102, Pu Hrangvela's Question.

PU HRANGVELA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Will the Hon'ble Minister i/c Supply and Transport be pleased to state_____

(a) How much quantity of Cement was received by the Stockists in Mizoram for the year 1973-74 ?

(b) How much was received by them for the period from April, 1974 to August 1974 ?

LALSANGZUALA
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir,

(a) 11,456 (eleven thousand, four hundred and fifty six) bags of Cement have been received by the Stockists in Mizoram during the year 1973-74.

(b) 7,069 (seven thousand and sixty-nine) bags were received by the Stockists during the period from 1st April to 31st August, 1974.

PU SAPLIANA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Supplementary Question

On what condition that Cement, from Public Works Department Stock is taken by Supply Department and allotted to the public? Is it because there is an extra-stock to be given out? What is the reason for raising the rate of Cement? (most probably from Rs. 22 - Rs. 28/-).

PU LALSANGZUALA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, the total allotment of Cement for each State is taken from the Controller by the respective Government. Thereafter, the Government makes a detailed allotment to be given to the Public as well as to the Public Works Department. During the month of July-September also, out of the total allotment- 30000 bags, 14000 were detailed for Public Work Department whereas the rest quantity - 16000 bags were kept for the Public.

As the Mizoram Government have a right to detail the quantity of Cement to be allotted to different bodies, it is nothing impossible to use some quantity even from the share of Public Works Department, if there is necessity.

As for its rate- I think you have read in Newspapers that the rate of Cement is raised all over India, not only in Mizoram. As I have said in the house it is unavoidable to raise the price when its transportation is counted by pull-price, particularly those allotments that go to the southern side of Chhimitupui, Lawngtlai and Lunglai.

PU C.LALNUATA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, from what I gathered the Public Works Department seems to be loss hundred by transport difficulties because they could always produce spare cement bags when necessity arouse among the public. While there are many difficulties in conveying cement allotment for the public, is there no difficulty for the Public Works Department ?

Our watchfulness of Central's direction is evident almost in everything we do. If we are directed to appoint I Class Officer, we obediently did so. Now also, in this case of Cement, there seems to be certain directions in Newspaper to give priority to those who are constructing houses and stalls - do Government intend to follow this principle ?

PU NGURDAWIA: Mr. Speaker entrusted to convey Cement allotments for the public ? And, how many times each during the month of January to this day, they have unloaded the goods here, officia? And what about those corrugated Iron sheets, cement and other sometime back, when our hon'ble Minister became the Minister of Supply and Transport ?

PU LALSANGZUALA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, Regarding the movement of our allotment of our allotment - the Mizoram Government have to arrange Railway Wagon though Deputy Director of Supply and Transport, Calcutta, to carry the load from Factory to Railhead-Silchar, But, the workers who see to the conveyance of allotment in Railway Wagon seemed to give priority to Public Works Department, as their need is for the Government itself.

As for its (Cement) utilization and distribution -there is a direction from Central which would be notified in Gazette.

PU SAPLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Why has priority been given to Public Works Department if the distributor is India Government ? And, has not the allotment that had arrived here been distributed to various Departments according to their needs ?

PU LALSANGZUALA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding its utilization - the Public Works Department also usually makes an estimate as to how much quantity of Cement would be needed for a year. But, as it is not always possible to be exactly right in our estimation of things, they too used to have a surplus from their estimation, which we then diverted for public use, instead of keeping the whole surplus unused.

There is also an instruction from Central Government to limit the use of Cement due to certain foreign difficulties. Like, for instance - not to use cement for the construction of offices and Stalls. But, to those who had completed plinth-area with cement, the restriction is not enforced.

The following persons are Cement dealers we have in Mizoram -

1. Pu Pachhunga & Sons
2. Chhotalal Seth & Company
3. M.K.Guha & Sons and
4. Vanhlira & Sons.

PU NGURDAWLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Is it true that, of the 4 dealers only Pu Vanhlira delivered 5 times, during this year, whereas the rest of them delivered only once each ?

PU LALSANGZUALA
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, I have said how the allotment had been moved from factory to Railhead - Silchar i.e. by Railway Wagon arranged by Mizoram Government through Deputy Director of Supply & Transport, Calcutta. From Silchar to Mizoram, the Public Works Department have their own contractors to move their allotment. But, for the public our dealers have to make their own arrangement according to the Commission and distribution rates we have fixed. The details of Cement bags received are - Pu Vanhlira & Sons received 946 bags and Chhotelal Seth & Co. received 942 bags both in the month of February. And, in March, no delivery. In April, Vanhlira & Sons received 476 bags; in May, M.K. Guha received 1511 and Pachhunga & Sons 1032 bags. In the month of July Vanhlira & Sons - 942 bags; in August, M.K. Guha - 2068 bags; Pachhunga & Sons - 1040 bags. In September, C.L. Seth & Co. received 478; Vanhlira & Sons - 478 bags.

Regarding Pu Ngurdawla's questions - perhaps he talked about - Iron materials. Well, 3000 S.C.I. Sheets that had been allotted to us by Centre are now lying in Calcutta as we have not yet found Railway Wagons to move them. Last time we went to Delhi and the Centre granted our wish of having more bundles and so gave us 2000 more bundles.

As we all know the recent railway strikes and floods caused difficulties in conveying goods and other commodities. On the top of that, Punjab, from which we normally get rice supply did not have food harvest as expected due to scarcity of rainfall. Then the F.C.I. decided to allot some quantity from Andhra Pradesh; But, due to railway strikes and floods as I have said, there is yet a difficulty in moving them here. As a consequence, we received 7500 quintals less than our usual allotment in the month of July. And in September, we received 3500 quintals loss, than normal allotment. In addition to this, Central Government reduced our allotment into 10000 out of the total allotment - 20000 quintals, that also, only half of it was received.

PU V.L.HRUAI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister had stated the quantity of Cement received, but I would like to know the number of Cement bags that had not been received, And, if the people of Lawngtlai, Lunglei and Aizawl could purchased Cement at the same rate in their respective places how much is the excess amount of money fined by the people of Aizawl ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Supplementary Question-
It is quite important for the members
to know how Cement allotment comes.

There are two avenues by which cement is allotted. One is D.G.S. & D quota which is Government quota as well. It has a different rate and is indented differently. The other is Free-Sale quota which is supposed to be exclusively for consumption of the private. As there are difficulties in wagon allotment for D.G.S. & D quota I suggest that all the Cement allotment be done through Government while the account be handed over to Director of Supply and the account to dealers respectively, which would ease booking. If we can really do this way, wagon allotment also would be much easier.

As for the reason for raising the rate of cement due to imposition of increased rate in Excise duty and Railway Freight by Government of India. What I wanted to ask is - did the Government know all these before they are questioned ?

PU HRANGVELA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know whether there can be a way for the Stockists to divert some of the cement bags from Mizoram quota, for their private use, for we know that some of our Stockists for instance, Pu Lalhmingthanga, C.L. Seth and M.K. Guha could carry on the construction of their houses continuously while the rest of the public faced so much difficulties in obtaining cement bags. And, if I am not mistaken in noting down the quantity of cement delivered by each of our Stockists, Pu Vanhlira, who is not building houses like others delivered more bags than the rest of the Stockists. At that, do the Government have something to enquire about ? And does it intend to bring more Cement from other states, for example - from Meghalaya ? If so, how far we have done in this connection? For the onlookers, Stockists, using cement as much as they like while the public faced much difficulty in getting them, So, do the Government have something to say regarding this ?

V.L. HRUAIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Is it a fact that Government gives 500 bags each to the Stockists ?

**PU LALSANGZUALA
MINISTER:**

Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all, let me answer Pu Vanlalhruaia's question which is regarding the number of cement bags is not yet received. That we cannot be certain now as some bags are still on their way here. But, so far, from the month of July - September, 30000 bags had been received.

Regarding its rate - the reason for raising the rate of cement is due to the increase rate of Petrol all over India. Because of this, the rate of conveying the allotment is raised by Re. 1/- per bag. Besides, this, the rate of cement could varied from time to time. without definitely knowing the reason. As for answer to

As for the answer to Vanlalhrual's question regarding the allotment of 500 bags to the Stockists - It is a fact that 500 bags each was given to the two stockists who were badly in need of it for construction of their houses.

Pu Hrangvela's question, regarding the quantity of cement delivered by each of the Stockists - well, there might have been differences in quantity of cement delivered by each of them as it is the company, not Mizoram Government, who controls all these. The quantity received by them or allotted to them by the company is varied from Stockist to Stockist. For instance - now, 5000 bags of Cement are on their way here, but Pu Vanhlira & Bros is not allotted any bag, while the other two Stockists are given the whole gives the allotment all

We also know that both Pu Lalhmingthana and C.L. Seth are constructing bug houses of which we need, particularly that of Pu Lalhmingthana's. So, Pu Lalhmingthana was given permission to purchase 2000 bags from Cherra Cement Factory and C.L. Seth was also given the same to purchase 600 bags by his own arrangement. As hinted before, there might be a thing you do not fully understand regarding the conveyance of these Cement bags, so let me explain it this way, Whenever Cement is allotted to us by the company, voucher is sent to the Director of Supply unless and until all the vouchers are received and are thoroughly checked by the Director, Cement cannot be issued or distributed. This is how we handle, I think there is nothing wrong

PU C.LALRUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir,
Our hon'ble Minister said that the house of Pu Lalhmingthana or Pachhunga & Sons which is now under construction was needed. If that was so, for what purpose it is needed ?

PU LALSANGZUALA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, The house is needed for the purpose of opening 'Out-Agency', which has to be opened if and when North East Frontier Railway directed us to have such. And the reason why we choose Pu Lalhmingthana's house is due to non-availability of other suitable and convenient houses for our purpose.

Regarding Pu Hrangvela's question - I think I have said this, that Government is looking for a mean to obtain Cement, besides Mizoram quota, from Cherrapunjee side so as to have more Cement. And for this, Government has also persuaded Cement Controller to communicate the Company. But, the result is not yet known.

PU SPEAKER: Question No. 103, Pu Hrangvela's Question.

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

... ..
... ..

How many Vehicles have been registered by the Government of Mizoram uptill now for those non-residents of Mizoram?

PU LALSANGZUALA

MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, no registration is made for non-residents of Mizoram.

Those registration made for non-Mizos are done after obtaining necessary residential. Certificate from either Police Department or Revenue Department vide Chapter III of Selection 23 of M.V. Act of 1939.

PU HRANGVEIA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, Supplementary question- Is it a fact that these vehicles, belonging to non-residents of Mizoram

are registered ?

(i) ZRM 1301, the owner being Halkit Singh, whose brother is C.R.P. Sub- Inspector, Daljit Singh.

(ii) 1373, belonging to Mama Lal, the owner of Assam Rifles Canton

(iii) 361 belonging to Dharam Singh.

PU LALSANGZUALA

MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, Government have no knowledge of this.

G. LALRUATA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, Could the Minister check whether these persons are residents or non-residents

of Mizoram ?

PU LALSANGZUALA

MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, Actually, the Government now have certain conditions to buy a Vehicle. Tata and Leyland Dis-

tributors also have been approached in this connection. What they are afraid most is, we, being exempted from taxes sold it to the residents of other states. That is why certain condition is made by which no one even the resident of Mizoram is allowed to re-sell the vehicle before possessing it for at least 2 years. And I would also see to the matter referred to by Pu Ruata.

PU IALKUNGA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, What kind of certificate is given to one who wants to buy a Vehicle ?

PU LALSANGZUALA

MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, a certificate that would justify him being a permanent

resident of Mizoram.

PU SPEAKER : Time is up. But, let us finish only this one - Pu Hrangvela's question.

PU HRANGVELA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Will the hon'ble Minister i/c General Administrative Department be pleased to state,

Question No. 104.-

(a) Whether it is a fact that the counter signature and seal of Village Council President is necessary when Administrative Officer is drawing the Final Bills for Development and Relief works of a village ?

(b) If so, whether it is a fact that the new Administrative Officers of Vanzau Group Centre and Farkawn Group Centre have drawn such Bill by forging the signatures and using the seals of the Presidents of the said Village Councils.

**PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER:**

Mr. Speaker Sir,
(a) It is not a fact.
(b) Does not arise.

PU V.L. HRUAIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Supplementary Question. Are the makers of Seal registered in Government? And do the Government check their making or they just made it as they wish ?

**PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER:**

Mr. Speaker Sir, Previously, Village Council Seals are made by the District Council, after which the seals are given to them. But, nowadays, I have no knowledge of this.

PU SPEAKER : As the time for question is already up, we will go to the next item. Now, we shall call upon Chief Minister to introduce his Bill - Mizoram official Language Bills 1974.

**PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER:**

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg leave to introduce my bill - Mizoram Official Language Bill, 1974.

SPEAKER : Any objection ? If there is no objection then, introduce it to the House.

**PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER:**

Mr. Speaker Sir, I, now, introduce my Bill, with your permission.

SPEAKER : Though the Bill has now been introduced discussion would be held only tomorrow not today. And its amendment and other necessary things also would be done tomorrow since the copy of the Bill has been in our possession already for three days. Now, we will proceed to our next item, item No.3.

Secretary may read out the title of the Bill.

PU N.C. HANDIQUE
SECRETARY :

(Read out title of the Bill).

SPEAKER :

Now, Revenue Minister may ask the House to introduce the Bill - Mizoram Trading by Non-Tribals Regulation

Bill, 1974.

PU VAIVENGA
MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Mizoram Trading by Non-Tribals Regulation Bill, 1974.

PU SPEAKER :

Any objection ? If there is no objection, you may introduce it.

PU VAIVENGA
MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, With your permission I introduce the Bill.

PU SPEAKER :

Now, the Bill has been introduced. Secretary may read out title of the Bill.

PU N.C. HANDIQUE
SECRETARY :

(Read out title of the Bill).

PU SPEAKER :

Item No. 4., Mizoram Legislative Assembly Proceedings Protection of Publication Bill, 1974. Now, Parliamentary Affairs Minister may ask the House to introduce

the Bill.

PU LAISANGZUAIA
MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Mizoram Legislative Assembly Proceedings Protection of Publication

Bill, 1974.

PU SPEAKER :

Any objection? If there is no objection, you may introduce it.

PU IALSANGZUALA
MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, With your kind permission, the Mizoram Legislative Assembly Proceedings Protection of Publication Bill, 1974 is hereby introduced.

PU SPEAKER: It is now introduced. So, Secretary may read out title of the Bill.

PU N.C. HANDIQUE
SECRETARY :

(Read out the title of the Bill).

PU SPEAKER :

If there is going to be an amendment, you will have to do it today, for these are to be discussed tomorrow. Now, our next item, item No. 5. As provided by Rules of Procedure 52, we can have half an hour discussion. So, we will call upon Pu Lalkunga, from whom we received notice, to read out his starred question, question No. 43.

PU IALKUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, My question, question No. 40 (a), (b), (c), & (d).

(a) Whether it is a fact that one Ex-E.O serving in Mizoram as Administrative Officer has been promoted to Deputy Director of Community Development?

(b) Whether the D.P.C. sat for his promotion ?

(c) Whether he has any experience in Community Development working before

(d) If not, why not ?

Mr. Speaker Sir, Thank you for giving me an opportunity to say about my notice.

Had I been given satisfactory answer for this question, it might not be necessary to give notice. But, being not at all satisfied with the answer given for the question, we simply cannot avoid giving a notice. Unless, we, the members are shown the communication letter of Central Government to place an Ex-ECO in Class I Officer rank, it is hard not to have suspicion, since everyone seems to have now suspicious mind. Not that we are jealous of Shri Palit who was promoted to Class I Officer, but it is the consequence which saddened the members. After Shri Palit was promoted, our senior Officers from the erstwhile District Council and A.C.S. Officers who also know a kind of treatment given to ex-service men by other states, pointed out their disappointment regarding Shri Palit's appointment, in their representation No.2. If the backbones of our Government have such disappointment, what would be the consequence, no one can tell. Perhaps he had done so much during the disturbance that he is shown such an obvious favouritism. But, who knows which is preater- his benefit or his loss, that is the question I would like to move regarding this. Therefore, I

see no reason to give such an obvious favouritism. He is not the one and only ex-army Officer, there are others as well. Now also, 1 Mizo ex - captain who served for short service commission in the army are struggling hard in an interview for Deputy Superintendent of Police, while Departmental Promotion Committee not even sat for the appointment of Shri Palit. If our Mizo ex - service men also suffered and go through all the trails, why should we mind so much for no more competent E.C.O.

Besides these two, there is also one Ex- E.C.O. who is still a Major, longing to serve in Mizoram as D.S.P., and who at the same time applied for it. Knowing all these, how can our Government still make such a partial appointment disappointing our own employees. It is really so, lamenting when we think of the consequences to be.

And, why has not Deputy Director of Community Development who had been appointed for Liaison Officer, Delhi be placed there now ? If the present Liaison Officer, Delhi is Class II Officer, and if it is your excuse for not placing Deputy Director of Community Development, there in Delhi, then promote the Liaison Officer, Delhi to Class I Officer, if that is what you wish. Whether they are Class I Officer or Class II Officer, why not place them in their own rightful posts ? While our own Mizo ACS Officers are anxiously waiting for their chances of promotion, Shri Palit was promoted from nothing to Class I Officer superseding other senior Officers who deserved promotion. If we have a way of by-passing others and if it is how we decide a promotion, who would like to serve Government faithfully ? Who would not be hurt by such unfair deed ?

And what about the Mizoram Civil Service examination ? In their question papers, there was written 'Mizoram Civil Service', but after they finished they were again named Class II Officers. I doubt, they too would serve with enthusiasm. In case of promotion to Under Secretary a rule was laid down, but, at the same time you were the one who again break it. What sort of Government is this ? Public as well as our workers had been hurt by what you have done to them. Who would not be hurt if someone else comes and take away one's chance or fortune. From somewhere came someone and easily get the post of Architect, while there are many from this place who applied for the same post. Who would understand all these ? There is none among our Government servants who is not disappointed by the way you decide promotion. So, think over all these and do something about it. Don't you know that this way you killed their enthusiasm in their services.

Was Central direction so forceful ? Why do not they themselves absorb these Ex - E.C.O.s, for we too have got Ex- E.C.Os among us ? Did not our Government make any reply to their letter ? Are we to say 'yes' to everything they said ? No, that is not the way. If our Government do not think of all these, twice, surely the consequence would be too great and unbearable.

SPEAKER: Now, Fu Sangchhum. If one takes too long, others would have no chance to speak. And, please remember that, it is only half-an-hour discussion.

PU SANGCHHUM : Mr. Speaker Sir,
As a principle, I do appreciate a direction given by Central Government to employ Ex- E.C.Os and ex-service men, and I do also appreciate what our Government did for them. But, I wonder whether it will be right the way we consider it. For example - As far as Ex - E.C.Os are concerned, we have done things as we are directed, But, on the other hand, we did not follow the rules and directions made by Central Government regarding 4th Grade employees. For example - one ex-service man who even won Seva-Medal applied for IV Grade post, but was not considered, while a layman from local was appointed although both of them were the residents of Mizoram. But, I myself still understand this. What seems to be not right in our present condition is our readiness to accept and execute everything that has been said by Central Government. Actually, there are also qualified persons for different posts, in Mizoram. For instance - just recently, an interview was called for D.S.P. There, the interviewers out-numbered the vacancy of posts, which means that there sure to be some who are not to be appointed. Supposing, they are then offered the post we now take about, who can say that they would not accept? If the Government go on meaningl ss, what would be the opinion of the Public? As a matter of fact, public are quite embarassing to see Government taking meaningless steps and could no more certain as to the true policy of the Government.

Why did not Assam Government also absorb them in their time? And why don't we also tell the states in which they reside to absorb them if we too have such ex- service men? If we have qualified persons within our state, we do not actually need their services. But, if there is none, qualified for the post within our state, then we can appoint them or employ them which no one will object. If not, it is not right and fair to appoint/ employ them just because we are directed by Central Government. And if we are to do like this, we must as well appoint one IV Grade I mentioned just now.

PU NGURDAWIA : MR. Speaker Sir,
As they have said before me, I too do appreciate Governments attitude towards ex-serviced men and those who come from Emergency Commission. But, there must an uniform rule/way to deal with them. In Assam State, D.S.P. is usuallu Class II Officer so is in B.S.F. Anyhow, I think, it is wrong of Central Government to give such compulsory instruction, for once we place these Ex-E.C.Os Class I Officers, the same

principle and method have to be followed for those who come after them, which in the long run, would again cause disappointment among our Government employees as well as the public. Viewing, the possible effect this can lead to, Government must think it carefully, Unless and until we have definite rule and policy, there will always be confusion. And what about one person whom Government promised to help in finding a job, most probably, an L.P. Teacher at Reiek? After his elder brother died, he was given a certificate by Central Government office, but, nothing is done till now, although Central Government was very much concerned about him, and majority of Ex-Service men who applied for High Grade post are also facing lots of difficulties. Therefore, as I think it most reasonable these Ex-E.C.Os whom we appointed Class I officers must be appointed Class II Officers. I think this will be the best way to make right the mistake we have done.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Before time for discussion is over, let us call our Chief Minister.

PU SAPLIANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I won't take long. Our honorable Chief Minister stated the appointment of Ex - E.C.Os as of an absorption, not new appointment/promotion. If that was so, what about them being served as Administrative Officers while in Assam Government? Would not this mean that they are already absorbed when they retired from the army? If they are already absorbed where would we absorb them again? Had they not served as Administrative Officers before, we can understand our Government absorption of them but, as that was not the case, I do not understand how they were absorbed and why D.P.C. did not sit for this. As it concerned Public and Government - caused disappointment among Government employees, something must be done about it.

PU SATTI LAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, How many Ex - E.C.Os are being employed in Civil Service, under Mizoram Government? And was any competition held when one Ex-E.C.O. was appointed/absorbed Deputy Director? Besides Ex-E.C.Os, how many Ex- S.S.C.O. are being employed under Mizoram Government? We would also like to see the instruction letter received from Central Government.

PU E.L. ROCHAMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, It seems an Ex-E.C.O. was absorbed Class I Officer in consideration of his high basic pay. If that was so, would not these outsiders and senior employees of District Council who are within the Cadre also be named Class I Officer if their basic pay is as high as an Ex- E.C.Os basic pay?

PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am truly sorry that none of our hon'ble members could accept the absorption of these Ex - E.C.Os. There is no other way to make it right and I don't also know how to make it right. Anyway, as I have said before, I think their appointment was quite reasonable in view of what they have done for the land since the crucial period of disturbances. Besides this, they were the only remaining Ex- E.C.Os who are not yet absorbed at that time.

Pu Saitlawma's question, regarding Ex - E.C.O and Ex - S.S.C.O. - They are in a different position and Government usually gives priority to those emergency Commissioned Officers. That is why, the remaining three - Shri Kapur, Shri Brothy and Shri Kumar were absorbed. Whom they were under Assam Government, their appointments were temporary and were employed in Contract-basis. As such, it was necessary to make fresh absorption.

True that some of them would enter into D.S.P. But, as we have not done that way at the beginning I request our members to accept what we have done, for, to deal what had been done would not be the right they do for Mizoram Government. It has also been said of our Officers as being much annoyed, but, so far we have not received any representation from them. And, I never knew that our Officers were much annoyed by these appointments.

PU IALKUNGA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, Here is the letter to Chief Secretary, in which is written the disappointments of District Council Officers regarding these appointments. It is also the public who had been disappointed.

PU CH. CHHUNGA
CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir,
Perhaps District Council Officers asked for consideration of their cases as we considered the cases of these Ex-E.C.Os. But, for them, there is no necessity of it, They are District Council who ranks and designations long before we become Union Territory Government. In the new Government also, they are permanent whereas others are to be given permanent allocation. Anyway, the case of District Council employees also would be considered. And, here is the instruction letter of Central Government.

SPEAKER:

Now, time for discussion is up, The Members can see the instruction letter afterwards.

FU K.T. KHUMA
MINISTER :

Mr. Speaker Sir, May I take only a minute.

SPEAKER :

Yes.

FU K.T. KHUMA
MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker Sir,
It is just this that these Ex - E.C.O. are not employed as regular Government servant. Being employed on contract basis, they too have certain difficulties now and then. So, the Cabinet, having discussed as to what should be done with them, took a decision which affects our Government as well, which we all know. Hence, it is not necessary to consult Departmental Promotion Committee as their absorption is a policy matter.

SPEAKER:

Now, we will go to next item, item No. 6. As provided by our Rule 53, there is short duration discussion. So, we will call upon Fu Rochama from whom came the subject for discussion.

FU ROCHAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir,
Thank you for accepting the subject I brought up for general discussion. My subject basing on one daily newspaper of Lunglei 'Jupiter' dated 14th September, 1974 is in regard to an increasing rate of rats all over Mizoram. From what we gathered, the people of the hill ranges of Haulawng, Pangzawl, Rawpui, Chhipphir, and Mualthum have nothing to reap as their paddy was all destroyed by rats. In some places, there are some who do not even have corn seeds be preserved for the next year.

Besides rats, there comes Cinnamonbeetle, in vast swarms which is another signs of approaching famine. If famine is what we have to face in the near future, it will be necessary to prepare ourselves from now on. As soon as a report came from those places I mentioned, Lunglei Agriculture Department tries it best to help them in their possible ways, collecting reports, sending officers and staffs to have investigation and distributing certain kind of insecticide to kill rats. Although 47½ Kg. of insecticide had been distributed there are still many difficulties, due to the shortage of insecticide. According to the last report - dated 8.10.1974, these are the places where rats increased and pestered crops ---- Pangzawl, Mualthum, Haulawng, Buarpui, Zobawk, Hnagthial, Chhipphir, Lungdar, Serte, Kampui, Lunglei, Laisawral, Bazo, Zotlang and Chengpui. Besides this report, a special messenger was sent from here to Rangzawl and Rawpui whose

report was exactly in accordance with other's report. Our hon'ble members Pu Thangzila, Pu Saitlawma and myself also had witness all these happenings. In such a situation, people really suffered and have nothing to eat. In some places like in, for example - Mualthuum Grouping Centre, the population is about 1800. So, to meet the requirement before harvest time, rice was stocked during dry season, as there is no jeepable communication during rainy season. The people hopefully grew paddy and were anxiously waiting for harvest time. But, when the time comes, all their paddies were destroyed and damaged by rats. So, they now have to carry rice in head-load, from Lunglei, 50 K.M. away from this Grouping Centre. That also, if there is rice supply in Lunglei Godown. If there is no supply they have to wait for many days, leaving their fields to the fate of rats. While they are away, their families have to live without food. That was how famine hard-stricken people suffered. Various newspaper of Mizoram also predicted the approaching Famine, seeing bamboos in Mizoram started flowering and an increasing rate of rats which are all the signs of the approaching famine.

In view of what is happening in the whole world, it is not only Mizoram who has to face this great famine, it is India and the world as a whole. Therefore, now is a time, when a major operation is inevitable. The Government of Mizoram also must do its best in launching major operation to fight against rats and to save the land from this potential danger, which now started threatening the economic life of Mizoram. What I wanted to suggest is this that we preserve even small quantity of foodstuffs which Mizoram produces. If we cannot preserve all these, our future would be too dark and gloomy.

We might have failed in fighting rats this year, but for the next year, we must launch major operations. When famine strikes the country, there are many other difficulties that crop up along with it. I think Mizoram Government have not yet Relief & Rehabilitation Department. Officers and Staffs from various Departments are detailed to do certain works. But, being from different establishment it is not easy to work together. The many difficulties in their assignments. So, Mizoram Government will do well in establishing Relief & Rehabilitation to work from now on to fight and challenge the approaching famine.

My third suggestion is to strengthen Agriculture Department to which Department priority is given by both the parties - Mizoram Union and Congress, and also by Merger Congress. Of all the daily basic needs, I think food is one of the most important items without which none could have enthusiasm to work hard. To produce that item, we have a special Department which is Agriculture Department. But, the Department have not yet made much progress and have not yet achieved much success. Therefore, to strengthen the Department I suggest and request Government to establish Sub-Committee to lay and Frame Agriculture Programme which would help in running the Department more faster. Actually, Planning Board we now have is not very affective. I should say, as it is not easy to launch a big

thing from a big board. In view of what had been done and how much money had been used in land reclamation since 1956, the benefit is not much to count, our production in Agriculture does not increase much either. So, for the smooth running and proper functioning of the Agriculture Department, Government must establish sub-Committee as I have suggested.

Government would also do well in considering the fate of those places I have mentioned. If they are not immediately relieved, it is going to be so hard for them. Something must be immediately done for them. In some villages like Pangzawl, there is not even an Administrative Officer who is to make a scheme and programme, for the progress of the people of that village. So here, an Administrative Officer must immediately be placed. If there is no Administrative Officer in villages to whom the people would turn to in time of hardships and troubles. At least there must be Government representative in each villages. This way, we can relieve the people and also learn their hardships and difficulties.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Now, we will have recess. But, we will begin again at 2 P.M.

Afternoon Sitting 10th October 1974 - 2 P.M.

SPEAKER: Our item No. 6 has not yet been finished. So, anyone who want to say about our item ?

PU LALKUNGA: Mr. Speaker Sir,
Due to an increasing rate of rats in Phuldungsei, Zopui, Sabual, Lallen and Parvatui, Pu Nikhuma's and my constituencies are also affected. Due to rats and wild pigs, they do not expect to have good harvest. I know it is not possible to destroy all the rats as they are the production of femine. But, when budgets for the current year and the next year is under preparation, I want the Government to remember them and their difficulties. And, I think it is also necessary to find some other occupations in substitute of rice do not grow well. Had there been no pestering from rats and wild-pigs, they could have produce more rice than the previous year, for, there was enough rain to flourish their paddies. But, as such was what they are facing this year, their economic condition of next year is not very hopeful. Therefore, I want Government to prepare the budgets in such a way that the people of South West are also remembered.

FU CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr. Speaker Sir,
Our subject is really an important subject. As Fu Lalkunga had mentioned, the people of south-west are really troubled and pestered by rats and wild-pigs since the year before last year. Cultivates who cultivated Dampa area did not get even a single grain as all their paddies were destroyed by rats. That is why, I want our Government to consider their hardships. Not only them, cultivates of those areas lying on the bank of river Tlawng are also facing the same difficulty. From various places came such kind of reports. Therefore, as Fu Rochama had stated, Government must prepare to meet the coming famine.

Thank you.

FU NGURDAWIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, We might not know the art of studying the phenomenon of nature, but it is worth studying if we can. Now also, the rate of rats increased so much in many parts of Mizoram which is a sign of the approaching famine. As some of our hon'ble members had said, it is well to be aware of the things mentioned by our members regarding the coming famine and must also prepare ourselves. As Fu Rochama had suggested the Government would do well in establishing Sub-Committee or Master-Plan for our preparation. Actually, every famines has gloomy effects. When the last great famine was about to come in Mizoram, the people cried and called the Government to take strong precautionary measures.

When the people were in such a tumult, many difficulties arose. If economic life of the country is on shaky ground, and if we do not have enough to eat, other developments would have no meaning. As advised by Public Accounts Committee leaders who had recently been here, economic condition of the country must be given priority than most other things. If we do well in Agriculture and if we can increase our production, other developments also would be much easier to under-take, otherwise if we go on as it is, it would not be easy to meet the coming famine which we all dreaded. Let us, therefore, take a bold step and big concentration on this line.

Thank you.

FU SATTAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir,
Tho' I have much to say regarding our subject I do not intend to say everything I have in mind. As famine is what we had experienced even in the past years I think we can recognize its signs. From what I gathered, I think Bungtlang area is also one of the affected areas. If we travel by bus or vehicles from

here to Iunglei, we can see paddy fields along the motor road in Bungtlang area, and I think we also noticed paddy withering away where rats remain active. Usually, rats remain active till the month of November, which means there would be many who have nothing to reap. If the Famine stricken till the month of March/April, there might be some who die of hunger before that. That is why, it is most necessary to take a relief measure immediately. May be Government do not have on the spot verification, but, it is certain from the reports received from Village Council President and other Village elders that the people of southern-side of Iunglei, particularly those of Thingfal and Tawipui are also really pestered by rats. Many cultivators do not expect to have good harvest while some expect not even a single grain. Many families are facing great difficulties because of this. In addition to this hardship, E.G.S. money on which many families depend for their daily living could not be drawn easily. Therefore, I would like to request Government to take immediate relief measures. It is also inevitably necessary to make progress in agriculture within these 5 years (from 1972 onwards).

It is mainly due to our bad economic conditions which prevent us from boosting our political status and the many other developments we have achieved. When Assam Government makes some restrictions we are in great tumult as we have no production of our own to suffice our needs. We first have to depend on the production of other States which is a great shame, when we think of the past years while we were self-supporting. That is why something must immediately be done to strengthen agriculture at least to suffice our basic needs. For this end, I would like to suggest proper classification of land and to adopt Dry Terrace/Permanent Cultivation which I think would to some extent prevent rats from entering the fields of paddy. Actually, the habit of cultivation we adopted provides too wide a space for rats to enter the paddy-field. So, let us therefore take at least one step ahead in agriculture.

PI SAPTAWNI:

Mr. Speaker Sir,

What we have heard and learned from the reports given by some of our hon'ble members was really a thing that saddened the people of Mizoram. As they have suggested something must immediately be done about it.

Usually, different kinds of Famines in Mizoram occurred at some years interval, which were all a great hindrance to the progress of the country. From the last great Famine, there is not a day or a year on which we have sufficient foodstuffs to meet our requirements. While such was our condition, another Famine is approaching. So, what lays ahead is unthinkable. tho' many insecticides had been used to destroy rats, there seems to be not enough for all of the cultivators. So I think Government would do well in launching major operation from

now. I know it is not possible to do anything for those fields that had already been damaged, but those that had not yet been destroyed must be looked after and cared for. I do hope and pray that Government would consider a way to take precautionary measures.

Thank you.

PU VANIALERUAIA: Mr. Speaker Sir,
Things that we have heard seemed to be mostly concerned the people of the southern Mizoram. The great difficulty they are now facing is not to be neglected. It is a surprise that Agriculture Department do not have a store of enough insecticides to be given to these cultivators who are now being pestered by rats. Besides rats, wild-pigs and Cinnamon-beetles also destroy paddys right from this time, but, no guns to shoot these wild-pigs. If Government do not take initiative step in this regards, we never know which parts and which areas of Mizoram would be again effected. So therefore, precautionary measures must be taken not only against rats, but also wild-pigs and Cinnamon-beetles.

It is also well and good that some of us had suggested Dry-Terrace system, which might be profitable for some places. But, I don't think it is adoptable in every places of Mizoram. It now about 14 years since we are hit by Famine and our food production does not seem to increase either even in recent years. As was our position, I wanted to suggest the cultivation of other food crops like maize, corn and potato especially in places where rice does not grow well. But, as I have said in some places, it is inadequacy of corn-seeds which prevents many of the cultivators from trying this crop. It is also necessary that Agriculture Department equipt itself so as to be able to give enough seeds to our cultivators. Last year, a proposal for the cultivation of Potato was made, but no seeds were distributed which was a great shame for the Department. Therefore, from this year, we must try to have enough seeds for those who wanted to try and cultivate this food crop.

The necessity of changing our food crop is also felt when Famine is caused not only by rats but also by rain and weather, It will be a pleasure if the Minister could tell us what steps had been taken by the Government in this connection. If nothing is done yet, I would like to request them to consider the matter right from this time.

Regarding those constituencies mentioned by Pu Saitlawma - If their present condition is as bad as that, it is certain that they would have nothing to eat by next year. In view of what lies ahead for them, I feel that it is the duty of the Government to take concentration steps in Supply and I, at the same time request them to make certain preparations from now on.

PU C. LALRUATA: Mr. Speaker Sir,
I would like to say few things regarding our subject to support what had been said by our members.

As we all know, Famine occurs regularly at some years interval and the coming of another one is not a novel thing either. As such, we could be glad to know what had been done by the Government to challenge them. If they have not done anything as yet, something must be done right from this time as they had suggested before, I believe what had been said by our members regarding the things that are happening in southern side of Mizoram are true. So, therefore, immediate relief measures must be taken which is first and foremost thing to do. I believe, various kinds of development we have suggested for the progress of Agriculture can wait. Even things we have suggested are carried out and implemented, we do not know how far we can go on the line and what achievement we would make, and we also know the difficulty of making progress even while priority is given to the Department. But all these sayings of mine do not mean that we are to neglect it. What is more important for the present would be to do our best in what we are understanding in our present condition. Whether we have Sub-Committee or not, we must try to improve with Planning Board and Agriculture Consultative we now have.

Besides rats, there are still many that can destroy crops. From different villages came representatives to report the difficulties they are facing from wild-pigs and deer who destroy their paddy and other crops. They also reported the necessity of having guns to stop them from damaging their fields. Just now, during our break, I went to the Deputy Commissioner enquiring about allotment of guns to the Cultivators. Actually, it is every year that we or our cultivators so to say, are pestered by wild animals, but, it is regrettable that there are not enough guns to be given to them. Before the disturbances, there used to be at least 4/5 guns in every Villages, but when the disturbances broke out, all the guns were taken away from them by the Security Forces and other persons, While some of them were said to be lying at Silchar. Not even one can be taken out. To wholly destroy these wild-animals, we must somehow try to obtain these guns at least to prevent our crops. I do hope that Government will consider the matter before it is too late.

What had been suggested by Pu Rochama regarding the establishment of Relief & Rehabilitation Department - I really appreciated the idea, for I too could feel the necessity of establishing it. We know that the one and only Relief & Rehabilitation Branch we have is at Deputy Commissioner, which comprise of 1 Officer and 1/2 Clerk. As Famine is what we face every year, it is really necessary to have a separate Department to undertake the affairs of Rehabilitation & Relief not entrusting 1/2 person to tackle the heavy work besides their actual assignments. I do really hope that Government will consider this as soon as possible.

FU CH. SAPRAWNGA: Mr. Speaker Sir,
From what we have heard, the approaching Famine which had already been started in some parts of Mizoram particularly on southern side seems to be a Famine of 'Thingtam' (Famine caused by lowering of bamboos). It appears that those constituencies mentioned by Fu Rochama and other members are the places where this Famine started. If this Famine has already in those places, we would not be wrong to guess the coming of it to other places as well, for this kind of Famine does not spread to the whole of Mizoram at once. It gradually spreads out from place to place one year after another. According to the reports received from various sources bumper harvest is expected except from Famine-stricken constituencies mentioned before. But, we cannot be sure of all these unless and until all the paddy is brought to rice bins. That is why, we have to go a long way here regarding our preparation. It will also be good to accept all these happenings as a warning of the coming catastrophe. I think we can also expect the intensity of the Famine by the next year. For the present year, I don't think it is too difficult to look after those Famine-stricken areas. However, some preparations would have to be launched from now on to meet the coming of it to other places, most probably by the next year.

If we look back the past years, Thingtam Famine used to be less intense than that of Mautam (the name given to the periodic dying down of some kinds of bamboos and to the subsequent Famine) Famine. However, we cannot simply neglect the coming of Thingtam Famine tho' it may not be as bad as 'Mautam' Famine. What I intended to say is the coming of another great Famine much more intense than Mautam and Thingtam which the whole world have to face in the near future as predicted by Economist, Scientist and other Philosophers. If the whole world have to face Famine and if food production of the world decrease we can be sure of the impossibility of acquiring foodstuffs from outside. If no supply comes from Bihar for a month, we know what a trouble we had. Therefore, Agriculture Department has to go a long way in this regard, not only the Department everyone of us have to do our best to produce more food, for we cannot wholly depend on the Department alone. Being a senior member, I would like to say my disappointment with our junior members. I think you have not thought much about a way as to how we would produce more foodstuff in Mizoram. I am truly sorry to see that no one can bring forward concrete policy for the production of more foodstuff even the Government itself does not seem to know. If we ask ourselves as to why we cannot think out a concrete and better policy the answer may be that we are still too engrossed ourselves in other things.

Some of our friends suggested the cultivation of corn and potato in substitute of rice cultivation, but if these two food crops can solve our problem, there would have certainly been some results, long before. Therefore, it is evident that these two food crops alone could not solve our food problem. But, there is a solution

which is Dry-Terrace system of cultivation, but no one really bothers to see the merit and demerit sides of it. If we whole heartedly pay attention to this cultivation to know the benefit for Mizoram, there could have been some ways for the Government to run on the line. At present, Dry-Terrace cultivation is successfully ran in places like Thingdawl, lungdai and Sihphir where in such case, no fertiliser is needed. If more money could be implemented for Dry-Terrace cultivation, our food product also will surely increase, instead of implementing tools, machines na potato seeds for which so much money had been wasted and which produce no good result either. It is well and good if certain tools are needed for Dry-Terrace system, that we can implement it. Many kinds of seeds were purchased from other States, but again left them all rotten. Wastage of money for this thing must be stopped. Being rice eaters from earliest times, I don't think we, the Mizo people will suffice with other foodcrops, except rice. , what our cultivators need is something to start Dry-Terrace cultivation and we, on our side, must help them in our most possible ways.

It is also observed that 'Pawn Buh' (a species of early rice which ripens before others) grows well in the outside of towns and villages as it grows well in Forest Soil. I think this kind of rice could flourish almost all over Mizoram as it grows best in hilly regions. Its ripening is also earlier than 'Tai' (another species of early rice). But, investigation must be taken first. It is also necessary for each member to know and investigate each of our constituencies for the success of things I have suggested. Otherwise, Potato seeds, Maize, Corn and all those things our members had suggested would lead us nowhere if we want to attain self-sufficiency in food products. Therefore, Dry-Terrace system of cultivation must be fastered up in places where there is potentiality.

PU F. HRANGVELA:

Mr. Speaker Sir,

As some of our members have said before me, we seemed to be at point-blank as far as our progress in Agriculture and Economic condition is concerned.

One of the reasons why we cannot attain self-sufficiency is because of uneconomical life we, the Mizo people lead. With the present standard of living we are leading, self-sufficiency is far from our grasp. The people must be taught to be economical with what they have and scalter definite policy to be followed by them. It will also be a good thing if we could grow corn, yam or other food crops in our gardans just to meet the requirement of our own family. Otherwise, to clear forests and jungles in far away places for rice cultivation would never suffice our needs, for the soil is too deteriorated.

Recently I accompanied our Education Minister on his tour to eastern part of Mizoram. There I learned that every household was asked to grow certain

fooderops in their garden for their own consumption which I do really appreciate. If we had failed in Jhum cultivation of rice, I think we must now start growing fooderops in our own garden at least just to meet our own requirement. It is well and good if we could get more money for Dry-Terrace system or Bull-Dozer to start with, but, if we could have a garden of our own to grow crops to meet our own need, self-sufficiency would be easier to attain, for, there would be no pestering from rats or wild animals.

FU K. SANGCHHUM:

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I would like to make few suggestions regarding the prevalence of rats in various parts of Mizoram. For immediate relief what had been suggested by Pu Rochana was acceptable. But in the long-run, it won't be acceptable. For, instance- if we only think of destroying rats, we are sure to come down in our crops.

Our member, Pu Saprawnga condemned us for being unmindful of the country's affairs in agriculture and foodproducts, but I think I am no included, for I have always approached our agriculture staff like D.A.O and Director to tell them my opinion and suggestions which I had in my mind for the advancement of Mizoram in agriculture. Now also, I intend to say the same ideas and suggestions which I have told our agriculture staff. The idea and suggestion which I intend to say is quite a concrete one and I think it can be regarded as the best policy. But, if our members know or can think of a better one, that also would be welcomed by me. If we study the system of cultivation all over India, we notice that there is not much difference in our art of cultivation. Broadly speaking, the physical features of India can be divided into two - (1) Plain and (2) Hilly region. As such, there can be two systems of cultivation- Plain and Hill cultivations. If we, hilly people try to adopt the system that exist in Plain areas, it will be like diving into the hard rock, due to which I find no necessity to concentrate on the system which does not suit our land and its physical structure,

I think we all know our way of cultivation which is 'Sgifting Jhum Cultivation'. This kind of cultivation really devastated the land as we know. Some of our members suggested Land reclamation and the implementation of tools, which I appreciate. Though so much money had been used for land-reclamation especially in Chhimituipui District, no result is to be seen, instead, money were used not for land reclamation but for other things. Now also, we heard many suggestions like cultivation of corn, potato and so on. I remember last year's Session where the Minister said that they would introduce

Corn-Machine particularly for Chhimituipui District. From that time upto now, two machines had been introduced in the said District. But, I could see that only two machines do not help them much. If Government could give the people clear-cut instruction, things would be much easier.

I presume. In our previous session, we suggested to give Agriculture Department top priority and Government also gave it so. It was also said that an expert agriculturist from the Centre would be invited to see and study our land for progress in Agriculture. Now it has been 2½ years since that time, but what good comes out of those statements? Have those experts studied our land? And what suggestions had been made so far? And do the Government implement those suggestions? If there is no implementation or execution of things we suggested, what is the use and benefit of having concrete policy and idea? If Government have concrete idea they must carry it out from now on. But, as they seemed to have none of those as yet, this is the concrete idea that I have. At any rate Mizoram has to have two things. For one, it is Hill Terrace, If shifting cultivation could not satisfy our needs the only alternative we have is Terrace system of cultivation. So, let us concentrate on this. If we do so, we need not have another demonstration, for the result would come out by itself. We have also talked about the prevalence of rats, but frankly speaking, some places do not have even small quantity of rice to be eaten by rats, let us therefore concentrate on hill terrace from now on. If we are afraid of failing on this, we can take precautionary steps like for instance - we can grow corn in larger quantity. That way we would be able to solve our food problem. As for measures to be taken against rats - a Committee must be formed as soon as possible and whatever the Committee suggested we, on our side, would back it up.

PU SAPLIA A:

Mr Speaker Sir, what we have heard and listened today really touched me as it concerned the whole of Mizoram although specific places where rats increased were mentioned.

As our member have said, I think Government would do well in taking immediate relief measures. Strong measures also must be taken to challenge other Famines that are likely to come in future. Our members, who have this motion had stated how some villages were left without an Administrative Officer to guide them and help them in their distress and trouble. Although we now cannot predict the result of their harvest and their position to be, E.G.S. or other schemes must be initiated for them to earn their living. And, I believe there are some ways to relieve them from Supply Department. While we make enquiry from them being pestered by rats, we must as well find a way to help them by starting E.G.S or by using fund from our Budget provision. But, as immediate relief can also lead to corruption by some persons who want to take advantage of it, honest and efficient officers must be detailed for the work.

... that the whole world

If Famine is what the whole world has to face in the near future as predicted by Scientists, Economists and Philosophers, we must as well start preparing ourselves from now on. But, if Government have definite policy to be implemented from within, good ideas and suggestions proposed by our agriculture officers and experts from outsider would have not much importance. And our preparations also would not play an important role as it should.

In view of all the money that had been spent for land reclamation, our fear of Famine does not seem to grow lesser. If we think of what we have done and what we have passed we are supposed to be in a better position. But, as we seem to be in the same position, there must be some mistakes and wrongs, in which case Government would do well in making them right from now on. As we do not have right for implementation or execution, schemes and suggestions that we have proposed in the House or in the Committee are never carried - out and implemented. Even if they are implemented not as we suggested. So, the result is never - ending Famine. What is the use of an E.G.S. money if it is not utilized for its true purpose? We talked of Supply and all that, but our way of distribution and the way it is utilized would never lighten our Famine problem, and even if we are given 1000 quintals of rice, Famine would still be there, for there is no justice in both the distribution and utilization. If we calculate again, the money that had been used for agriculture since Union Territory day, there is no improvement to be seen. We have often pointed out Thingdawl farm for example, but what good does it bring? Where had all the money that had been distributed for Terrace cultivation and gardens gone to?

If all this money is not distributed justly and utilize it justly, there would never be an improvement in agriculture. Some Forests and Jungles were cleared for rice cultivation and money was also allotted for the purpose, but in the end, nothing good came out of them, all ended in smoke. If it is the way how we try to improve agriculture, there is no hope. If we really want to improve agriculture, let our educated ones also work in field instead of idling themselves in the Offices. And, Mizoram soil also be classified for the people/cultivators to know what kind of crop would be sowed in their field. Government also would do well in employing expert agriculturist to do classification of soil and to prescribe the cultivators what kind of crops to be sowed in those classified soil. That way, we would make improvement.

Thank you.

PU SAILAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, for those who acknowledged the importance of agriculture, it is really a thing that cannot be neglected. One of our members condemned us of being unmindful of agriculture which really touched me. As they have stated before, top-priority was given to Agriculture both from the party and the Government. But now I want that top-most-priority is given to agriculture, I think other members also accepted this. Well, now we give agriculture top-most priority. But, what did I see? Is there any Director of Agriculture today? For how long we are to go without Agriculture Director? How many times we've made provision in our Budget for the appointment of Agriculture Information Officer? What efforts had been launched by agriculture to educate the people in agriculture line?

We have endlessly announced the success of Thingdawl Agriculture Demonstration Farm, but, will its maturity be engaged up only there? Now, the people of the surroundings areas like Kolasib, Kawnpul started Copying Thingdawl Farm and many Dry-Terrace cultivations are to be found here and there. But will not there be dry-Terrace in other places too? Why don't those places be shifted somewhere else so that everyone can be benefited by it. The old and full-developed ones can be handed over to a deserving family for 2/3 years for them to make their living within that years, after which, to be again handed over to another family who can retain it as their own, so that everyone can have a share in the success. I think, this is the best method applicable. I think there is none who have heard Dry-Terrace cultivation being pestered by rats.

For hilly regions, cultivation of 'paw Buh' (a species of early rice that grows well in hilly regions) had been suggested where as I would suggest cultivation of 'pangsin' (a species of rice) and 'Ngokhawi' (another kind of rice) for low-lying plain where they flourish. But, if our Demonstration Farm remains in the same place forever, the people of the southern, eastern and western sides would never have a chance to learn this kind of cultivation. Mr. Speaker Sir, do let us gradually try to drop our present methods of shifting cultivation so that we might attain self-sufficiency within 20/30 years. Even if we could not attain self-sufficiency fully, we would not have to get the entire quantity from outside. Actually, we have enough ground for cultivation and the climate is also Monsoon type of climate which is favourable for rice cultivation. There is also no dry and dreary areas to be found. So, what we need is only efforts and strong determination. Truly, none of our members would be interested in agriculture if it is always Economic Programme and Agriculture which they tell the people of their constituency instead of political programme. So, let us therefore adopt the system of cultivation which is more

permanent than that of shifting cultivation and which would be more safe from rats and wild animals.

Thank you.

PU LALKUNBA: Mr. Speaker Sir, since, we, junior members are condemned for being unmindful of agriculturè by one of our senior members, I would like to ask certain questions or should I say clarification from jim (Pu Saprawnga). He, in every Sessu on used to put forth suggestions and ideas like Rubber Plantation, 'Sapthei' (the passion flower creeper and its edible fruits) plantation and lastly Hill Terrace. So, which one will be best for our country, that I would like to know.

PU SAPRAWNGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad that such question comes up, for I would be most interested in answering it. First of all, I would like to tell you that I do not at all mind withdrawing my words, for you all seemed to be interested in agriculture.

As for my answer to the question - I must say that Rubber Plantation is much more preferable to Sapthei Plantation, as it offers a good prospect in the long run. Rubber Plantation is run sucessfully in Bilkhaw-thlir. Nowadays, they extract latex from 200 stems every-morning, with which rubber-sheet is made. That also, the plants are not carefully tended, But, due to oil-crisis all over the world, synthetic rubber can not be produced again. However, the price has come up so much t at now 1kg of rubber is sold at the rate of Rs 10/ which used to be Rs. 5/- before. As such was the profit, we must inevitably start planting.

Besides rubber plantation. I would also advise Sapthei plantation for it is easy to dispose of, But, what seems to be most important is Dry-Terrace cultivation, for without it, we would be nowhere. Even rich and well-to-do- families would have nothing to eat if rice sup ly does not come from other States. As we have stated, if Famine is what the world has to face in the near future, we can foresee the shortage of sup ly from other places. To save Mizoram from this grave situation, Dry- Terrace cultivation would be much more important than the cultivation of Sapthei and Rubber, However, if any one likes to start Rubber & Sapthei plantations, we can do so. And I know many persons who are interested in these two plantations.

PU NGURDAW LA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know whether any report has been received from an Agriculture expert who had recently been here and what had been done to the report.

I think we know that gun is necessary to keep away Wild-Pigs from destroying crops. Altho' Nagaland is declared disturbed area like Mizoram, they could have guns, while we could not. Is there not any means by which we too could have guns like them? Is it also a fact that a condition by which one could keep gun was not applicable? If security force had to follow the keeper of gun everywhere, how would they shoot animals?

Regarding prevalence of rats - why should we talk so much of world Famine just because 3/4 villages are pestered by rats. I don't think it right to totally rely on fantasy before we know the accuracy of their prediction. If we are to rely on Fantasy of Scientists and Economists, I too know one Scientist who stated that there would be no Famine. Whether we believe these prophecies or not, it is not right to try to solve world problem just because 3/4 places in Mizoram are pestered by rats.

PU R. THANGLIANA. MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, what we have listened was all worthy of listening.

It is a good thing that Pu Rochama brought up the subject. What had been reported by our members was all true. The prevalence of rats in Pangzawl, Rawpuichhi, Haulawng, Mualthuan and Chhipphair, published in our Newspapers is also true. While such report came, Lunglai D.A.O., who was here by that time was sent to have time to visit all these Villages, he only visited Pangzawl from which he made assessment of things.

But it won't be right to charge the Agriculture Department as not having zinc phosphite (for killing rats) for we have. The thing is that we could not give it freely as we do not have much. Anyway, it is only Rs. 7/8 per Kgs. And, so far we have disposed of about 50 lbs for those areas.

As most of our Members have saidm Agriculture Department has done its best to wipe out rats, visiting different places with insecticides. Western parts of Mizoram particularly Kawrthah and Mamit and their surroundings areas are already visited by Agriculture staff together with Plant Protection Officer. Actually, it has been only 2/3 weeks since we recieved the report of the prevalence of rats in southern areas. However, it is lamenting to know that 75% of paddy was destroyed within two weeks. Although the Department is trying its best, it is not easy to wipe out all the rats. They are too cunning that sometimes it is not possible to kill them, As such there would be a time when the Department also fails.

Regarding allotment of guns - every village council was instructed by the Government to allot guns (if there is any) to the cultivators for protection of their crops from wild animals. Of the 87 Group Centres in Aizawl Constituency, only 5 cartridges each is allotted for 1/2 guns. Our main difficulty lies in cartridge. I was told by Aizawl Deputy Commissioner that one cartridge costs Rs.20/- that also from Silchar. But, I don't know about Lunglei side. As for Pu Ngurdawla's question - there might have been some such incidence but, not all together I think. Frankly Speaking, there are many among the armies, who have no proper education, If they see a man carrying gun, they might try to follow especially in this kind of circumstances. Anyway, let us try to take it easy if their intention is to protect us,

From our Members came various suggestions. One of which was establishment of Relief and Rehabilitation Department. Having had to face Famine every now and then, it might be necessary now to have one. Other States also used to have this Department. But the reason why they established this Department is mainly because of heavy flood and drought which hit them almost every year. To relieve the victims of floods and drought, Relief and Rehabilitation Department is established.

Fortunately, Mizoram hardly had to face this kind of ill-fate. Actually, it is only two/three years back since we are severely hit by Famine due to drought and severe wind. Altho' we have no specific Department of Relief and Rehabilitation, we have General Administration Department whose task is no difference from the task of Relief and Rehabilitation Department. Like so, there used to be a separate establishment in D.Cs too. If there is unfair means or injustice in their works, that would not be because of the absence of a specific Department, it might rather be that the staffs themselves are unjust.

FU ROCHAMA:

Mr. Speaker Sir, our Minister said that there is no Relief and Rehabilitation Department but General Administration Department takes up the task. If so, there would be certain difficulties. For instance - previously, there used to be Relief and Rehabilitation Officer who takes up the task and who was later appointed Administrative Officer.

After this Officer was transferred to Tlabung, Government seemed to be incapable of detailing another Officer to take up the work for Saiha and Lunglei D.Cs. Establishment. As such, one person who ever he is had to do all the work alone besides his own assignment. It will not also be easy to co-ordinate different Departments. It might also be beyond his capacity to take heavy works besides his own. Therefore, I would like to hear an explanation for this mess.

FU R. THANGLIANA
MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, If such difficulty arose, Deputy Commissioner can make arrangement, for, he has separate A.D.C and S.D.P.O who could help him. Normally, what we called 'Group Centre Branch' is left in charge of Sadar S.D.O. and if he does not take up the task of Relief and Rehabilitation, A.D.C. or other convenient staff used to take up the task. It is true that there used to be a separate Relief and Rehabilitation Office, but, now we don't have such. If there is any suitable A.D.C. to handle the work, D.C. could hand over the charge. But, if there is going to be so much difficulties here, it won't be so difficult to establish a separate Department.

As stated by our Chief Whip, the approaching Famine called Thingtam is what seemed to occupy our minds. If we wanted to know the year in which it is likely to occur, we can calculate it from Mautam (a great Famine that hit Mizoram in the year 1959) and from previous occurrences of Thingtam. If so, we can suppose its occurrence by the next year i.e. 1975 most probably. It is not far ahead now, in fact, we seem to be facing it right from this time. If Thingtam is not as severe as Mautam as they have said, it is likely that only places mentioned before are the ones that would suffer most. And I think those are the only places in Mizoram where Rawthing (kinds of bamboo) grows in abundance. However, the only thing we can do is to distribute zinc phosphite to our cultivators. Besides this, our B.D.Os are also directed to hold Scaling Campaign in their respective Blocks to teach the people, how to use zinc phosphite and traps, and are also requested to do their best in their understanding.

Some of our members had also emphasized their fear of the coming Famine in the whole world. But, whether this prediction would come true or not is beyond our power to see. However, if we calculate the increasing rate of population and decreasing rate of our food products all over the world, we cannot simply say that there would be no Famine, and we cannot simply neglect the prediction either.

Our knowledge of cultivation varied from person to person in Mizoram. One might be interested only in rice cultivation, while some other's interest may lie in rubber plantation. As we all have our own interest, we cannot simply advise one to grow crop in which he has no interest. But, if there is a demand from the people for cultivation of those crops you have suggested, we can do so. However, what I regarded as important crops for our present condition are Corn, Potato and Tapioca, for all these are also food crops. Usually, we the Mizos seem to be contented when we have money to buy food as we are used to purchasing it always from Government. But, from next year, thing might not be the same as we expect. Therefore, we must from now on teach the people to cultivate food-crops more intensively. We must also remember that the reason why we cannot maintain self-sufficiency in food is not because of deteriorated soil. It is rather

because of decreasing percentage of workers and labours in fields.

At present, there are some Group Centre where there is not even 50% of cultivators. Previously, there used to be 95% of cultivators in every village and those were the days when we maintained self-sufficiency in food products. If the rate of cultivators decrease day by day as we see today, there is no hope of attaining self-sufficiency in food products,

Dry-Terrace system of cultivation suggested by some of our Members is really a thing to be encouraged. I too do really appreciate it. I had also visited Sihphir where Dry-Terrace is successfully run. We might not be successful all at once. I somehow believe Dry-Terrace would, in the long run, solve our food problem. Even if we do not want to cultivate rice in the Terrace, we can as well cultivate other crops. Encouraged by the system, Government have now swung in this direction by giving first and foremost priority to low lying terraces where rice grows best. It has also been decided to spend most of the money here; meanwhile second priority is given to hill-side terraces. Having had enough ground for cultivation of crops, we must try to depend on our own products. The people also must be taught to work harder in agriculture. (C. IALRUATA - Mr. Speaker Sir, Is there any proof to be certain that Dry-Terrace cultivation could be successfully done without fertiliser/manure?). Mr. Speaker Sir, the thing is that one has to be careful when the ground for Dry-Terrace is ploughed.

(CH. SAPRAWNGA - Mr. Speaker sir, let me help our Minister in answering the question. The best thing to know the fact is to go to the spots. You will know the answer if you go to Sihphir and Lungdai where Dry-Terrace is successfully run).

(PU NGURDAWIA - Mr. Speaker Sir, has an agriculture expert Dr. Bhowmick given any report? What was his recommendations?)

Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer given by our hon'ble member Pu Rawnga was correct. If fresh ground is ploughed carelessly manure can be ploughed away. Actually, those terraces in Sihphir and Lungdai are also ploughed sometimes, before rice is cultivated, so as to accumulate manure that had been washed down from hill-sides by rain. Regarding Pu Ngurdawla's question - - so far as I know, no report is received from Dr. Bhowmick and his party. I only know that they recommended Fry-Terrace system of cultivation.

SPEAKER: Now, we will proceed to our next item, item No.7. We will call upon our Education Minister to make a statement as provided by our Rule 58.

PU VAIVENGA MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, thanking you for giving me an opportunity to make a statement in the House, First of all. I wanted to make clarification of our answers to Starred Questions No. 72. Second, I would also like to explain one statement "Corruption in Education Department" which we've come across in our local paper 'Tawrhawm' published on 30th September 1974.

Affirmative answer was given for question No. 72, which was in regard to the appointment of L.P. Teachers. Though our guiding principle for the appointment was on merit basis, the principle could not be followed all thro' the proceeding. From each of 31 centres in Mizoram came co,petitors. If we make appointment on merit basis, many backward villages where teacher is most needed would have to be left out. So, in order to include backward villages and backward section of the people in our appointment, selection was then made village wise.

There can also be particular cases that cannot be dropped out in time of appointment/selection. If any of our employee suffers from T.B. or Cancer his/her children has to be considered, A special consideration is also given to those persons who are affected by the disturbances. And if onw suffers in the hands of Security Forces or Under-ground activities, his/her case is specially considered. As such, merit basis has become a mere guiding principle, while actual appointment was made as I have stated.

Next thing, I want to say is in regard to corruption in Education Department, we have read in our Local papers 'Zomi' and 'Tawrhbawm' how students Unions have swung into protest against our Director of Education and his sub-ordinates whom they thought are practising corruptions. In the same papers, my answers to their protests and certain explanations I gave were also published. True, it is my duty to see the matter whether or not there was corruption. However, as I have a high opinion of our authorities in Education Department, and I trust them too. I even found it hard to believe what had been said of them and the charges made against them, for they are the ones who are enthusiastic in uplifting the life of the people. Spiritually, they are also the ones who had guided us eversince the time of Missionaries.

The disappointment of our Students' Union mostly concerned Book Grants and sports equipments. As we have often said before, previously Book Grants and Sports equipments were allotted to Primary and M.E. Schools, in cash. But, as we thought it to be better for the students, particularly in villages, we decided to give the allotment in kind. However, it is not possible to get all the necessary Text Books and Sports equipments all at once, fir all the students.

When they were given in instalments, they considered that the equipments and text books delivered to them were not considering the prices equivalent to the sanctioned amount of money. But, I think, they understand the reason why we did like that after our office staffs explained to them. But, due to non-availability of text books for all students we have again decided to give, the grant in kind and if it is what they prefer. Particularly of sports equipments our D.Is themselves have done their best in collecting such equipments from local as well as

from other places to be distributed again to villages. Like that, our officers also did much in helping our students. In view of what had been done by our authorities and Officers for our school children, we might be wrong in guessing them to be practising corruptions. In various local papers, we read passages which conveyed the utterance of our students 'Director of Education to resign before 30th October', which I think is not the right way to charge our staff. In this case, I would like to request our members to co-operate with Government. After our Director of Education alone rendered one year's service, we could then have other staff in the Department to help him. Hence, it has been only a year since he, along with other staff worked together. But, within that short period, there are many improvements in the Department, not only because of much efforts rendered by the Department itself, but also by our Members. Particularly, we must also thank our Consultative Committee, for without their guidance and suggestions we would not have achieved all these improvements. Next, our gratitude must also be attributed to Public Works Department, for, within only two years, we could have more than 32 buildings in the name of Education Department.

Lastly, it is in regard to Hostels. From Shillong came a suggestion to establish Mizo Hostel at Shillong. So, the Meghalaya Government was consulted in this connection. Soon a proposal came from them to hire building not only for Mizoram but also for other States as well, whereas the expenditure would be borne by the contribution of each State. After this proposal, we were again informed of the availability of one building on hire. So, a proposal is now being processed for this and we hope that Finance also approves of it.

There is also a demand for the establishment of Hostels in places where we have no hostel within Mizoram, and hostel facility is also demanded by those who reside with relatives/friends. If they are recommended by Institution Heads, hostel facility is provided. Like that, so much had been done for the well-being of our students. As I have said, our authorities in the Department have tried their best to uplift the life of our students not only in Mizoram but also outside the State as well. Hence, it won't be right to think of them as being corrupted while they rendered so much services. I therefore, like to conclude my statement that it is not a matter of corruption, but, of efforts and enthusiasm that mattered most in the minds of our authorities in the Department.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: The saying 'corruption' could be connected with various things, for instance. Hostel or perhaps with building so on and so forth. But, if our members want to ask questions, you can do it so afterwards, but not while the Minister makes statement. We must try to follow the rules. We will recess now, and the meeting will be resumed tomorrow at 11 A.M.

(Meeting adjourned at 4:05 P.M.)

Secretary,
Mizoram Legislative Assembly.