

will form one of the branches. So shall we all give our agreement together to pass this resolution ? Alright, we have completed our business, we will rest now, and we will meet together again tomorrow morning at 10:30.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M

L.C.THANGA  
Secretary.

### THIRD SITTING ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1986.

#### P R E S E N T

Dr. H. Thansanga, Speaker, at the Chair, 9 Ministers and 23 members were present.

#### B U S I N E S S

1. Questions entered in separate list to be asked and answers given.
2. OFFICIAL RESOLUTION.

Pu Lal Thanhawla, Dy. Chief Minister to move Official Resolution as follows :—

“This Assembly warmly welcomes the signing of memorandum of settlement between Government of India and President, MNF and thereby ushering in an era of peace in Mizoram”.

S P E A K E R : Unless the Lord builds the House, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil, for he gives to his beloved sleep.

— Psalm 127 : 1--2.

Now we shall take up questions- Pu Lahmingthanga may ask his question No. 21.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask my question No. 21 that -

“Will the Hon’ble Minister i/c PWD be pleased to state -

The problems of transferring the Office of S.E. Eastern Circle from Aizawl to Champhai.

SPEAKER : P.W.D. Minister may answer.

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Government is unable to acquire suitable plot of land for construction of the office. Nor suitable private buildings has been found for hiring for office as well as for quarters of members of the staff. Under the circumstances Government, if at present not in a position to shift the office of S.E. to Champhai.

PU LALHLIRA : Mr. Speaker Sir, what the Hon’ble Minister has now said is a lie. If the Department really wants a plot of land for construction of the office, it can be given to the Hon’ble Minister is a sheer lie. Moreover, there are suitable buildings of any size for hire. The proposal for shifting of office of the S.E. PWD has been made while the Hon’ble member who asked the question was a Minister Staff that Pu Lal Thanhawla, while he was Chief Minister promised to the people of Champhai that of Champhai that the proposal would soon be implemented. Pu R. Thangliana and Pu C.L. Ruala also made the same promise. Why is it that no action has yet been taken till today? This made the people much frustrated. What is the problem? The problems as stated by the Hon’ble Minister do not exist at all.

SPEAKER : The Hon’ble Member has said that the statement of the Hon’ble Minister was a “lie” which is unparliamentary. Can you withdraw it?

PU LALHLIRA : Mr. Speaker Sir, my statement that it was a lie is baseless. And when did the Department look for plots of land or buildings? Has the Department not been shown the land or buildings? If these are replied, I agree to withdraw my statement.

SPEAKER : If you agree it will be expunged.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Supplementary question—Mr. Speaker Sir, as stated by the Hon’ble Member of Champhai Constituency, the L.G. in his 1984 address stated that a new Public Works Department Circle would be opened at Champhai. Besides

Ministers made a commitment to the effect. The Hon'ble Minister has now said that efforts were made to acquire land or hire buildings. I have asked the same question four times and I received the same answer each time. A building belonging to Pu Sangchia located near Bazar is suitable and is capable of accommodating the office.

For the quarters of staff, there are many private buildings to hire. Did Government give wrong information? On what date did the Department look for buildings and who was sent to do that? The Village Council President of Champhai told me that the Village Council and S.D.O. already agreed to allot a plot of land for the office. When was this agreement Cancelled and what is the number of S.D.O.'s letter of cancellation.?

**PU ZORAMTHANGA :** Mr. Speaker Sir, according to information received by Government the Department buildings for hire for use as staff quarters and office and that local leaders, S.D.O (civil) and SDO (PWD) searched for suitable plots of land for construction of the office but to no avail, and also that it was because of these difficulties that the PWD circle was not set up.

However, steps are being taken to do all the needful immediately. I will personally look into the matter and taken immediate action.

**SPEAKER :** It is enough. We shall proceed to the next question.  
Question no. 22- Pu K. Biakchungnunga.

**PU K. BIAKCHUNGUNGA :** Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask my question no. 22 -

“Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge GAD be pleased to state -

The reason why no transport was provided by the Government for carrying the skeletons of the deceased MNF to each of their villages from Aizawl.

**PU LALDENGA :** Mr. Speaker Sir, carrying of the skeletons of deceased MNF to their villages from Aizawl was not within the purview of Government.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, how can it be beyond the purview of Government. Is not everything within the purview of Government? Can the Hon'ble Chief Minister define the boundaries of the purview of Govt.?

PU R. LALAWIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, has not transportation been done by interested persons? Is there any need of intervention on the part of Government?

PU K.L. LIANCHIA : Pu Speaker, Government arranged transportation for MNF personnel from their camp to Aizawl, when they depart from Aizawl Government is expected to make the same arrangement to carry each of them to his respective place. Why is it that Government is not responsible for transportation of the skeletons of the deceased MNF personnels to their respective places? Are they no longer MNF personnel?

PU LALDENGA : As agreed by the MNF Government will not be responsible for transportation of MNF personnel when they depart from Remna Run. All the coffins containing the skeletons of the deceased MNF personnel were first put at Remna Run for sometime and thereafter handed over to their Transportation of those Coffins to their respective Village is not the responsibility of MNF. The Coffins were not handed over to Government and it is not the duty of Government to make transport arrangement for these. The families of the deceased MNF personnel did not ask for transport facilities from Government and as such Government did not intervene in the transportation.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, families of some of the deceased are very poor that they had no means of carrying the Coffins home. The primitive practice of carrying dead bodies by youngmen is no longer practised. They had to borrow money. Carrying of the coffins to their respective places is the responsibility of Government. I think Government did not intervene just because the families of the deceased did not ask for it from Government. The Hon'ble Chief Minister might have been uncertain about the responsibility of Government when he said 'Government never did like that'. It is a sensitive issue directly concerning a Mizo Community and it is not true to consider carrying of the skeletons of the deceased MNF personnel to their places as being beyond the purview of Government.

It is quite a pity that Government did not intervene at that time. We ought to express condolences to the families of the deceased and tender apology for not making any transport arrangement for carrying the skeletons of the deceased MNF to their respective places.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, what the Hon'ble MLA has said is true to a certain extent. Did the P.C. Government carry the dead bodies of MNF personnel during its six year tenure ?

PU LALDENGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, let me answer the last question. CHIEF MINISTER Government refused to hand over the dead body of Thangrehlova to his family. Instead it was sent to Lunglei where it was buried. The grave was guarded by Security Forces for three months right from the day of funeral to prevent his family from going near it.

The reason why Government did not provide transport facilities is because it was beyond the purview of Government and the reason why Government did not extent any help was because it was not asked for.

SPEAKER : Question No. 23, Pu Lalhlira.

PU LALHLIRA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask my question no. 23—

Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge Revenue Department be pleased to state—

The amount of compensation paid to families on ground of—

(a) Property damaged (b) Land/Compound accupied by Security Forces or MNF during the disturbances.

PU RIJALCHHINA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Rs. 4,29,411.00 has been given MINISTER as compensation for damage of crops, Rs. 16, 21,327.00 for damage and occupation of land and buildings.

PU LALHLIRA : Mr. Speaker Sir, on what basis has the compensation been given ? On what basis has the value of Mizo treasure like Puanchei etc. and even houses calculated ? The whole village of Maite was burnt down as many as three times. Was the compensation given for that three times or only one time ?

PU ROCHHUNGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, may be it is impossible to produce the list of recipients of compensation will the Hon'ble Ministers be able to give the list to members ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, from the statement of the Hon'ble Minister, it transpires that about 36 lakhs rupees has been given as compensation for damages of various kinds of properties. If I am not mistaken, a team of officers made an on the spot verification in 1974 covering villages along the main road from Vairengte to Kolasib from Kolasib to Bawngkawn and from Bawngkawn to Serchhip from Serchhip to Lunglei and from Serchhip to Pukpui. The report of this verification covers only a few items of properties damaged and the Compensation appears to have been given on the basis of the report of this verification.

During twenty years of disturbances, Villages were grouped. Several Villages near places of armed encounter between MNF and security Forces were burnt down. The compensation already given is far from sufficient which seems to cover only about 20 per cent of all properties damaged. Is Hon'ble Government has an intention of giving compensation for the remaining damaged properties not yet compensated ? This subject is understood to have been one of the points of agreement between MNF and Government of India.

At clause 13 (b) of the Memorandum of Settlement mention is made of this subject. But it seems that those already verified by a team of officers but not reported by the investigation team be includes ? Does Government intend to take action in this regard ?

PU F.LALCHHAWNA : Supplementary question. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is known to all that during the disturbances many lives were lost and large number of properties damaged. The living condition of the people suffered a lot. In 1978, the P.C. Party promised to the people that if the party was voted to power, it would stop all the sufferings and would also give compensation for all the damaged properties.

When the party come to power cyclostyled was forms for claim of compensation for damaged properties which were sold to the public at the rate of Rs.5/- per copy. I am of the impression that all the claimants got the compensation. Is it not true that the compensation which appears in the accord is meant for the remaining claimants. ?

**PU LALHMINGTHANGA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have something to ask. While the negotiation was in progress, members of the negotiating party said that compensation is a subject of the negotiation. Therefore, it is not suitable for the local Government to pursue the matter separately. Besides Government hoped that sufficient remedy would be brought forth by the agreement. This new Government is expected to take action in this regards to the expectation of the people. Can the Hon'ble Minister tell the House what action this Government intends to take to give compensation to the victims of disturbances ?

**PU LALAWIA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, the people are very anxious to get the compensation. During the seven year tenure of P.C. Ministry, many applications were submitted to P.C. Office. It appears that all those forms for claim of compensation got lost. Is there any way of tracing them out by this Government ? It was the slogan of the P.C Party that it would give compensation to the affected people. If all those claims are produced, can Government accept them ?

**PU J. THANGHUAMA** : I used to accompany Pu Theuphunga in 1974. He told me that he would file the case in High Court and would get all affected persons duly compensated. Has he fulfilled his commitment ?

**S P E A K E R** : We shall now proceed to the next item of business, we have an important resolution to be discussed. In the List of Business there is a typing mistake. The words "ushering in" must be inserted just before "an era of peace". The Deputy Chief Minister, may now move the resolution.

**PU LAL THANHAWLA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, as a result of the conclusion of peace talk, peace is now restored in Mizoram. In this connection, I would like to move a resolution as follows :-

"This Assembly warmly welcomes the signing of memorandum of settlement between the Government of India and President, MNF and thereby ushering in an era of peace in Mizoram".

A political turmoil hatched a disturbances. Our problem was a political problem and the only solution was a political solution. It is a matter of gratitude that all political parties tried their best to find the solution.

The darkness enveloped Mizoram for a long time. Even in that atmosphere, our leaders took bold steps to find a solution to the problem

with a fervent hope that once the problem was solved, the wounds in our Society would be healed, it will regain the lost honour and dignity and it would enable Mizoram to take steps towards development. As a result of that endeavour, a new Government has been formed today. We firmly stood against countless criticisms and accusations levelled against us because we knew what we were doing. During election Campaign also, we promised to the people that if the Congress Party was voted to power, it would try its best to bring about Solution of our problem. We also promised that the Ministry would not hesitate to step down if and when necessary, we also told the people that whatever the negotiation might yield would be gladly accepted and the underground MNF personnel who suffered in jungle would be welcomed by a huge crowd in a Mizo traditional welcoming of hunters with a good kill. We also promised that none of us should try to snatch away or try to share the kill.

As we promised to the people, as soon as this Government was formed leaders of the churches were consulted to help Government, in finding the best way to find a solution to our problem. Since this Government family believes that God wants to do something through his churches. The churches leaders extended full co-operation till the end in our endeavours to find a solution to our problem. Meanwhile, some greedy persons tried to make political capital out of it. But our leaders were firm and suffered those undesirable attitudes.

Whenever there was a bottleneck in the Course of negotiation, the MNF delegates asked our leaders to help them in any possible way. Through all those efforts, peace talk was at last concluded. As you know a Government is shared by the MNF party and the Congress party in a ratio of 4:5 whenever the MNF personnel had misunderstanding with Security Forces, this Government was ready to help them. This Government tried its best to restore peaceful atmosphere in Mizoram in which all the people can sleep soundly in peace, follow their respective professions without any fear Central Government never advised this Government to share with the MNF. In response to this Government's sacrifice that Government is shared by the two parties. I would like to make it known to members of this House that whatever there arose hardship, our leaders did their best to remove the hardship without any hesitation or fear. I firmly believe that we should gladly welcome anything which the peace talk resulted. Mizoram is now ushered in to a new era.

The Memorandum of Settlement might not meet the expectation entirely, I am very happy today as the whole lot of MNF underground per-



sonnel come overground and joined hands with us to tenderly foster a newly born Mizoram. I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the people for extending whole hearted cooperation in our endeavour to bring about peace in Mizoram. I would also like to convey my thanks to leaders of the churches for the role they played through prayers. We feel indebted to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India. As I always said pagans serve as tools in the hands of God for setting his people free. I would also like to express my gratitude to God for his willingness to restore peace in Mizoram through the efforts of our party and its leaders,

I am very happy today that a new Government has been formed as a result of signing of memorandum of settlement between the MNF leader and Government of India. In order to faster this peace to maturity everyone has to have peace in mind. This House must welcome the Memorandum of Settlement to usher Mizoram into a new era. Hence the resolution.

Thank You.

**S P E A K E R** : Fifteen minutes will be given to everyone who likes to speak, We shall call Brig. T. Sailo.

**BRIG. T. SAILO** : Mr. Speaker Sir. I am happy today for the resolution moved by the Deputy Chief Minister.

The first thing which makes me much grateful is restoration of peace in Mizoram. The statement of the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister that everyone had to have peace in mind makes me quite happy. To me, the most important thing is that there was hostility between us, and 'foregive and forget' must be our slogan. Human beings Cannot forgive others for their errors, we must pray for the help of God to enable us to foregive others.

My party gladly welcomes the signing of memorandum of settlement. When the Prime Minister visited Mizoram, we submitted a memorandum expressing our heartfelt gratitude upon signing of memorandum of Settlement. I may allowed to read the content of that Memorandum and after that a copy will be given for property of the House.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister"

When peace begins of signing of memorandum of settlement (Speaker—Reading is not allowed unless you lay an authenticated copy on the Table of the House) I shall not need but I will speak of it. However, I would like to ask you before hand to entertain a copy of it for property of the House, I bring with me copies for distribution to members. (Speaker—Lay a copy on the Table first).

PU ZALAWMA : Mr Speaker Sir, will the copy be entertained for property of the House ?

S P E A K E R Please do not read it, you may speak.

BRIG T. SAILO : Mr Speaker Sir, I am speaking we are very grateful to you for your broad mindedness in putting an end to twenty years old armed struggle. The most important development brought about by the agreement is restoration of an atmosphere of peace in Mizoram as a result of the disappearance of violence. This agreement deserves to be called "peace Accord" for the following conditions— First of all the MNF agreed to come over ground and to deposit all the arms and ammunition it possesses. As a compensation to this, the MNF leader Pu Lalderga was made Chief Minister. Removing all the bottlenecks which hampered the progress of negotiation for a long time, an agreement has now been reached and peace begins to be restored in Mizoram which makes us very happy. Moreover, the fact that central Government is taking steps to upgrade Mizoram U. T. to a statehood also makes us happy. While the Mizoram State Bill being prepared, we fervently pray you to do the followings for Mizoram.

The most important provision of the Constitution of India is the one which deals with the safeguard of the interests of minorities and backward classes, protection of the areas inhabited by them. A Mizo community has been oppressed by foreigners particularly Chakmas who started entering into Mizoram from around 1950. In 1972 even a District Council was formed for these people.

During reorganisation of boundaries of various North East States like Manipur, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya a large portion of areas inhabited by Mizo from our forefathers was demarcated within the areas of these states. Under the circumstances it becomes necessary to detect alien Chakmas who entered into Mizoram from B/Desh for the last thirty years and to deport them to Bangladesh. To discourage illegal entrants

in future, the Chakma District Council should be dissolved and abolished once for all. A large areas of land inhabited by Mizo which has been snatched away by neighbouring states should also be returned to Mizoram. We made this request while expressing our gratitude to him.

While stating that any agreement made by the MNF and Government of India would be gladly welcome, we never thought that some points which are detrimental, or harmful for Mizoram would be included the agreement. There are as many as four points in the Memorandum of Settlement. I need not point them out since all of us have already gone through it. While voting, members of the opposition will raise our right hands like this as a mark of our heartfelt gratitude at the coming overground of MNF personnel and the induction of their leader Pu Laldenga as Chief Minister. At the same time we shall raise our left hands like this as a protest against the four points harmful for Mizoram.

PU ZALAWMA . Mr Speaker Sir, our resolution is a very important resolution. Now the greatest policy all over Mizoram has been successfully implemented, and every family is no doubt happy. We must be very careful in its endeavour to take steps to bring about speedy progress. As stated by the mover, we must be certain about the background of this agreement we must tenderly foster this agreement right from the beginning.

Disturbances started on 1st March, 1966. After sometime the Congress Party was of the opinion that unless no one acted as a middleman for negotiation between the MNF and Government of India, the disturbance would go on too long. On 20th September, 1967 the Congress Party committed to this policy was formed. The Party faced many problems in its endeavour to convince Central Government that the problem of Mizoram was a political one and also that a political solution alone could bring an end to the disturbances. A true Christian has to follow the contents of the Bible from the old Testament to the New Testament. A larger portion of the Bible is occupied by old Testament with 1241 pages and The New Testament with occupies only 940 pages. This can be Compared with the fact that the disturbances lasted for 20 years while the Congress Government took 2 years and three months to get peace talk concluded. I think the parties involved in the negotiation namely the MNF and Government of India and the Congress Ministry are more grateful than others when negotiation was successfully concluded. From the beginning I was of the opinion that negotiation could not be con-

cluded oversight and that it would take quite a long time. Moreover, I believed that if the local Government failed to make congenial atmosphere for the negotiation, it was in a position to be abandoned once and for all. In 1976, The MNF and Central Government resolved that Mizoram is an integral part of India, and Government of India was at last convinced that the problem of Mizoram can be solved only with political solution. The Prime Minister Agreed to meet Pu Laldenga who came to Delhi from W. Germany. A P.C. Party was formed and restoration of peace was the party's manifesto. When the party came to power, I met the Chief Minister Brig. T. Sulo in his office chamber and advised him not to abandon the policy of peace. From the beginning up to the conclusion of negotiation there were many hardships. The tenure of Congress Ministry expired in July, 1977. Had the Congress party continued to hold the reins of power, negotiation would have been concluded three or four years earlier.

As I said earlier, unless this policy emanates from love, it cannot be lasting. For politicians with true patriotic feelings, this policy cannot be abandoned. It is a landmark in the History of Mizoram that negotiation has been concluded during the Congress regime. A special status for Mizoram with no special powers of Governor has been brought home with the memorandum of Settlement. Even Mizoram becomes of a full fledged state, there will no longer be restrictions to the powers of Government. Moreover, the Memorandum contains safeguards for Mizo customary laws, social practices, etc.

The contention of some people that the accord is not satisfactory is true to a certain extent. But we all know that there arose a necessity of negotiation which proves that there was an abnormality somewhere. There was misunderstanding or disagreement between the MNF and Government of India and negotiation of the disagreement was necessary. Therefore, we are not in a position to insist upon the points of agreement to our entire satisfaction. This House ought to express its gratification upon the conclusion of negotiation. Frankly speaking the atmosphere which prevailed between 1979 and 1983 was extremely dull and far from peaceful. But God did not allow his people to suffer for a long time. A Congress Ministry was formed on 5th May. Through its sincere efforts the negotiation was concluded and Memorandum of Settlement was signed by the MNF and Government of India.

The provisions of the Memorandum of settlement require to be implemented. As such at the present stage, the memorandum cannot be

satisfactory. There is no doubt that the people of Mizoram are happy for the conclusion of peace talk and signing of Memorandum of Settlement. May be the members of P.C Party do not welcome it, but members did. The Opposition leader said that there are certain points in the memorandum which are detrimental to the Mizo Society. I wonder what those are. Nothing against the upgradation of Mizoram to a status of statehood and its power of legislation is to be found in the memorandum.

To me it is not yet a time to foretell what we should do. All the provisions of Memorandum of Settlement have to be implemented. Assembly Constituency will be reorganised into 40 constituencies after Mizoram is upgraded to the status of statehood. At this time the state Government will have higher autonomy.

I am afraid that while peace is restored in Mizoram, the hostilities among us would remain. Therefore, we must forget all the past and be inspired with the lone of Government. The only thing we have to do is to welcome this peaceful, new era from which we shall start to progress.

A father goes for fishing and he brought only one fish. His two children happily eat the fish while the parents share only the soup. Just like this we must have true love. Those who sacrifice for the Service of Mizoram should be have just like this father who does not envy his children.

In the field of development too, progress can be achieved only through our joint efforts. The source from which we can attain success is the central Congress (I) with a good co-operation with the Congress (I) we can make Mizoram a pleasant state, that was promised by Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He promised to develop Mizoram. He also promised that a team of experts would be sent to have an on the spot study of situation prevailing in Mizoram for undertaking developmental works. As he promised a team of experts come. Let us extend co-operation to them.

Thank You.

**SPEAKER** : Member must take out time. Please try to go direct to the points otherwise there will be no time for others to speak. We shall now call Pu R. Lalawia.

PU R. LALAWIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am grateful that the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister moved an official resolution on the successful conclusion of peace talk. I also submitted a private resolution on the same subject. This House ought to express its gratification over the successful conclusion of peace talk and signing of the Memorandum of Settlement. Today there is a strange development as a result of signing of an accord. Those who are not even an MLA become today as Minister and Chief Minister. Such an arrangement is honourable and there never is similar instances in other parts of the world. It is quite a paradox that the leader of those Government of India called "rebel" becomes Chief Minister today. This can be achieved through the sincere endeavour of Congress Party, P.C. Party and Students. From this stage, a Mizo Community will take steps towards a higher status which is most fortunate. Mizoram will become the 23rd state of India. Other states will also be created and I don't think other states would be born like Mizoram. This proves the greatness of this settlement. This Peace Accord is bearing many fruits for Mizoram. In response to the invitation of the then Chief Minister, the Prime Minister visited all parts of Mizoram during 9th—12th July to have a first hand knowledge of the actual condition of living of poor people in villages. As a result of his visit, many developmental works are proposed to be taken up. This is one of the fruits borne by an accord. More and more funds have been allotted. For construction of more than 300 km. long jeepable road, more than Rs 200 lakhs has been allotted. As promised by Prime Ministers, a team of experts and a team of Ministers come to Mizoram to have first hand knowledge of the requirements for the all round development of Mizoram. We read in local papers that experts said their intention of setting up a factory in Mizoram for manufacturing of fibre from wild banana trees which are abundant in Mizoram.

Words can hardly describe the cheerfulness of the people the night the Memorandum of Settlement was signed by the MNF and Government of India. Had the previous Ministry fore-known it, it would have been willing to work for the conclusion of peace talk.

The opposition member found the provisions of the accord unsatisfactory. We might make a mistake by accusing the P.C. Party of lack of interest in bringing about peace during its Ministry because we were not aware that God has already nominated someone as Chief Minister during whose tenure of office negotiation would be concluded. The provisions of the Memorandum of Settlement are not to our entire satisfaction. The MNF leaders also said that they were not to their entire

satisfaction. No one dares to support the MNF personnel since they were branded "Rebels" by Government of India. Some of our leaders even say that "Rebellion should not pay" while the MNF and Government of India signed an agreement which contained many precious things the implementation of which would result in the uplift of Mizoram. Some people are in a habit of criticising it. If Government is interested, Mizoram can have border trade with neighbouring countries under supervision of Government of India, we are looking for the time when ginger can be sold to Bangladesh at a higher rate. No other states in India have been allowed to have border trade with neighbouring countries. This is a special status. Therefore, the most important thing is to join hands and work together for the development of Mizoram. (Speaker :—Please stop there. If there is point of order, you must stop speaking and the point of order has to be discussed first). (Pu Zairemthanga—rule 265 (I) of Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business provides that document having connection with the business of the House. No mention is made of giving a copy to the House).

**SPEAKER :** Let me clarify it. A member is allowed to consult a letter while he is speaking but reading the contents is not allowed. At the same time I would like to clarify that this Ministry is a united Parliamentary Ministry. This is informed to the Speaker, Leader of the House is Pu Laldenga. Deputy Leader Pu Lalthanhawla, Pu Liansuama and Pu Vaivenga are Secretaries, the Chief whip is Pu J. Thanghuama and Pu Saikapthianga is the whip and Pu R. Lalawia, the treasurer let us call Pu J. Thanghuama to speak.

**PU J. THANGHUAMA :** Our resolution today is very good resolution, Mr. Speaker Sir, and I hope it would be unanimously adopted. Some people argued that interim Government could not be installed in any way. Now we are sure that it can be installed.

I am very happy to note that the Memorandum of Settlement is pregnant with many good provisions. Moreover, I am very grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for his four day visit to Mizoram which he never spent more than a single day to visit other greater states of India. Again this was followed by an allotment of lakhs of rupees to be utilised for various developmental works. All political prisoners are also given to be set free.

As soon as Memorandum of Settlement was signed a team of experts come to Mizoram to study the conditions of Mizoram for taking up various developmental works. All these are the results of signing an accord. As stated by Pu Laldenga politics has beginning but not an end. At the request of churches, various political parties and voluntary organisations. The MNF has now come overground. The MNF personnel now live happily in a land where they used to study previously as refugees. While they roamed in a jungle for 20 years fighting for the freedom of Mizoram we stayed in our own home preoccupied with construction of 40 storeyed buildings and having 10 cars. We spent all our times prospecting wealth. It is no doubt the results of the hard work of our fellow MNF personnel that a lot of money can easily be earned. Government of India in its bid to please the Mizos liberally made allotment of funds for Mizoram.

Regarding Border Trade, some people said that even other states also have the same. No other states in India have been allowed to have border trade with neighbouring countries. If this special provision is properly implemented, ginger which sold at Rs. 1.50 per kg. locally will be sold at about Rs. 10/- per kg. in Bangladesh. At that time, there will no longer be a rash for appointment to the posts of peon or L.D.C.

After passing this resolution unanimously, no one can criticise the Memorandum of Settlement outside this House. Some of our members visited Sateek and neighbouring villages a few days earlier and severely criticised the Memorandum before public meetings. The MNF personnel did not come overground on their own accords, but it was a response to the request made by the people of Mizoram. As such we are not in a position to say any thing against them but to utter words of praise. The fact that other states viewed with Mizoram for its special status testifies that the provisions of the accord are good enough. Thank You.

PU K. SANGCHHUM : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very happy today that DEPUTY SPEAKER what we were searching for many years has been secured. Mizoram now enters into a new era. I am further glad that Pu Laldenga and some of his colleagues can attend our session in this House. I am also glad that the Deputy Leader of the House moved a resolution expressing our thanks for the conclusion of peace talk between the MNF and Government of India.

I wish that other members speak on my behalf because I cannot adequately express in words what is in my mind. But I consider it ne-



cessary to say something about the beginning of this negotiation. The reasons for the disturbances are best known by Pu Laldenga, but I want to point out some points of view from outside.

There seemed to be differences of opinion among the MNF, Government of Assam and Government of India regarding the best way for administration of Mizoram. As a result the MNF followed its own way for more than twenty years. The people of Mizoram suffered untold miseries during that period. The worst among these is that we became demoralised. We adopted poor moral in our profession and in our social life. Politics become duty and our speeches are punctuated with duty accusations and allegations unpleasant to listen to. Demoralisation also affected our religion and religious practices. Because of these, the people are craving for restoration of peace in Mizoram.

All political parties follow their own ways in trying to find solution to our problem. The churches also tried their best to find the correct way to peace. To meet the aspirations of the people, a popular Government required to be formed. Each political party canvassed to the people. Various political parties formed Governments after disturbances broke out. Those Governments failed in their beds to solve the problem. At last the Congress party came to power and contacted both the MNF and Government of India in order to set a table for negotiation. God blessed the endeavours made by the Congress party as a result of which Pu Laldenga and Government of India became willing to sign the Memorandum of Settlement. Had either of the parties refused to sign it, peace would never have been restored in Mizoram.

I am very proud of the efforts and endeavours made by the MNF leaders Pu Laldenga and his Colleagues, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Pu Lal Thanhawla and his colleagues in bringing about conclusion of peace talk. Even though there were disputes the leadership of Pu Laldenga, all ranks and file of MNF returned and came overground today and I would like to convey my thanks to them for this. What I do not understand is that some people asked why Lal Thanhawla Ministry did not step down while it always said that it was ready to abdicate in favour of Pu Laldenga and his colleagues. The present arrangement is adequate and no more arrangement is required at all. The death of Jesus Christ is enough for salvation of the world. Similarly the present arrangement of coalition Government is enough for restoration of peace in Mizoram. While this is a question in one sense, it is at the same time an attack of the Ministry.

To the best of my knowledge, what the people desired most during the disturbances was restoration of peace in Mizoram. There never was any mention of Memorandum of Settlement. But today, some members spoke about other political developments. This undesirable attitude can be attributed to the demoralisation of the people. Recently, one local papers severely criticised meat supplied to MNF returnees at Remna Run. I don't think the MNF returnees criticised it. I think there is an undesirable motive behind it.

As stated by the resolution we must be grateful today because an agreement has been reached between the MNF and Government of India. There was a difference of ideas between the two parties previously. In order to make an agreement, it becomes necessary to find out certain principles upon which both the differing parties can agree. These points cannot be entirely satisfactory for either of the parties. The point between the wishes of each party requires to be struck. Under the circumstances, we are not in a position at all to criticise the terms of agreement now made between the MNF and Government of India.

Today, we are all happy. We must leave behind any undesirable attitude. We must try to make good use of our valuable time for progress. Mizoram is becoming a full fledged state with a vast autonomy and we must appeal to all the people to extend co-operation so that Mizoram can take steps towards progress and development.

Lastly, the Mizo Community as a whole has been striving for peace and I could hardly digest the classification made by the MNF leader in his speech. We must forget the past and join hands to keep pace with those states who went before. Therefore, we must pass this resolution unanimously. Thank You.

**PU K. BIAKCHUNGNUNGA** : Mr Speaker Sir, I am very happy today that an agreement was made between the MNF and Government of India after twenty years of hostility. I am further pleased that the MNF personnel, after ceasing their stay in the jungle, came overground to live among us. I hope that fear and sufferings which enveloped Mizoram during the disturbances would no longer remain as the two hostile parties made an agreement.

The greatest consequence of this agreement is the formation of the present interim government. It is a matter of great pleasure that the agreement worked beyond the limit of the constitution. A coalition government like this cannot be formed without violating many rules, acts and norms. Such a government is very rare in the world.

MNF returnees all over Mizoram sincerely expect this Government to give them rehabilitation. This interim government should be a powerful government. Government of India will never install an unelected Chief Minister in future. I, therefore, would like to appeal this Government to work its best for the people. While it is in power without making any excuse. Otherwise, MNF party might not be voted to power for the Congress I party is might and rich. Now is the best opportunity to work. We, the opposition members submitted amendment of the resolution but to our surprise, the amendment has not been accepted.

There are certain provisions of the agreement which required to be amended. For example, it is indicated that the Mizoram State will cover an area specified in the Section 6 of N.E. Area Reorganisation Act, 1971. Farmers on the Mizoram Assam boundaries are now eager to sell their plots of land because they fear that their areas would be demarcated in Assam. I would like to apprise all members that as a result of signing of an accord a large portion of Mizoram has to be added to Assam. We must all join hands to fight against this. I cannot but blame the previous Chief Minister for this. Pu Laldenga is often quoted as saying, "What we need is a special provision for Mizoram".

As negotiation went on, the then Chief Minister argued that no special provision was required, dissolution of Chakma District Council and creation of Greater Mizoram were not necessary. This greatly lighten the pressure put on the Central Government. Moreover, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that we need not talk about the accord. The accord is for all Mizo people, why is it that we are not allowed to talk about it? Is not there something wrong in it, Mr Speaker Sir? I am afraid there is a secret in the accord. I am afraid the MNF and Congress I secretly wedded. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that survival of a nation is not in independence. It is mentioned too late. I remember Pu Ch. Chhunga, Pu Ch. Saprawnga and Pu C. Pahlira who knew twenty years earlier that survival was not in independence. Had Pu Laldenga known it at that time, Mizoram would have attained statehood much

earlier. At the eve of signing of an accord, the Chief Minister in his public speech at A.R. ground severely attacked us. Some were stated to wield an image of a calf under the leadership of Aron some were like a crow putting on a feather of peacock while we are expecting that he would preach a message of peace. Instead of conveying his thanks to leaders of Congress party, what he mentioned were the Students and Churches. Because the Chief Minister is the aggressor, we tried to study what he brought home but he said, "Don't touch it. It is a legal matter and there can be another interpretation". Therefore, I am uneasy until the Home Ministry gives clear interpretation.

Regarding release of prisoners, I think the interpretation of Home Ministry is not correct. The interpretation of Hon'ble Chief Minister seems to be the correct one. The reputation of Home Ministry in this House is very bad since it always has a different interpretation.

To conclude, I would like to say that members of the opposition party will raise our hands to vote for the resolution. At the same time we shall shield our heads with the left hands as an indication that there are many things to do before us in which Pu Laldenga is also not excluded. Thank You.

SPEAKER : We shall now have a recess to continue at 2:00 P.M.

Recess till 2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER : We shall now resume the discussion. Who will speak first ? Let us call Pu Lalchhawna.

PU F. LALCHHAWNA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very glad today because we have a good opportunity to discuss the Memorandum of Settlement. Mizoram is ushered into a new era, and signing of the accord is a milestone in the History of Mizoram. I am grateful to god for sparing my life to see this great day.

When I look back at the night of 30th July when Memorandum of Settlement was signed between the MNF and Government of India, there is no denying the fact that all the people were happy. The achievement of that great occasion was made through the endeavours of the MNF, Government of India and the Mizoram Congress I. The present condition of Mizoram is almost similar to the one mentioned in verses 6-9 of chapter 11 of Isaiah which says, "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb

and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together and the little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed, their young shall lie down together, and lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaved child shall put his hand on the adders den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain."

There are provision in the Memorandum which are to be implemented and all sections of the people have a role in it. As an agreement has been made, there are many things to forget and many things to remember. There are some people who attribute all our sufferings during insurgency like damage of properties, death of relatives and burning of houses etc. to the misdeeds of others. We must forget this. There was always hostility amongst us. This must also be forgotten. At the same time we must remember those persons who worked for this agreement, particularly the Central Government, MNF leaders and Mizoram Congress Ministry and all the credits must go to them. We must also remember those who visited us in prisons. We must not be reluctant to give credit to this people. We must warmly welcome the file and rank of MNF who came overground to live with us leaving behind all their greatness and fearfulness. I, therefore, would like to say that we must pass this resolution. Thank you.

**S P E A K E R** : Let us call Pu Saikapthianga.

**PU SAIKAPTHIANGA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to convey my thanks to Central Government, our leaders and the MNF personnel who sacrificed their lives for Mizoram for their about an atmosphere of peace in Mizoram today. At the same time, I would like to say that peace can be restored in Mizoram through the endeavours made by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Pu Lal Thanhawla and various leaders. Representatives of Mizoram who assembled here today might have different ideas. While the people were very happy on the night an accord was signed, there are some people who wept the whole night. In order to make Mizoram a pleasant land, members of this House have important roles to play. We belong to various political parties but as we are all Mizos, we must join hands to work for the development of Mizoram. Thank you.

**PU ZAIREMTHANGA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, I hope all members cordially welcome the signing of Memorandum of Settlement. What makes me more happy is that with the signing of this Memorandum, peace begins to be restored in Mizoram. The happi-

ness of those who suffered greatly during the period of insurgency can hardly be imagined since I, whose only suffering is one night detention in A. R. Quarter Guard am also very happy.

I do not say that all the provisions of the Memorandum are acceptable. There are certain provisions detrimental to the survival of Mizo Society. However, we shall fight to do away with this in the coming years. I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the MNF leaders, Government of India and the Congress leaders for the efforts made by them to bring about an agreement between the MNF and Government of India. Besides this, we are indebted to students, editors in their endeavours to create a congenial atmosphere for resumption of peace talk. The appeal to the people by our leaders to keep quiet while peace talk was in progress was gladly responded by the people. Similarly when there was a bottleneck which hampered the progress of peace talk, the MNF leaders requested us to pressure Government of India through memorandum or Press Release and we did as requested. Therefore, all political parties deserve credits. The role played by churches cannot be omitted. A conference was convened attended by various political parties and the church to chalk out action to be taken for resumption of peace talk. At that time it was decided that the church would take a leading part and political parties would support it. Lastly, our God Almighty arranged everything and we should give our thanks to God. At the same time, there are many provisions necessary for the progress of Mizoram omitted in the Memorandum. We must be ready to fight for these. Thank you.

PI K. THANSIAMI : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very happy today for having an opportunity to participate in the discussion of a resolution regarding Memorandum of Settlement. First of all I would like to convey my thanks to various organisations and political parties for the roles they played for the conclusion of peace talk. I would also like to convey my thanks to Pu Laldenga, leader of the MNF and to Government of India. We are also indebted to the Mizoram Congress (I) Government. We must also be thankful to Pu Lalduhawma for an important role played by him. He disclosed many hidden activities which go along way in hastening the progress of peace talk. The prayers of members of the church were answered and I firmly believe that God made Pu Lalduhawma a tool in his hands. Therefore, the paramount power behind all these is God Almighty. We must not forget to offer a prayer of Thanks to him.

I think no one can forget the darkness of the last twenty years. The killings by Security Forces, manhandling, assault of innocent people and raping of our women by Security Forces will disappear and this is worthy of gratification. Intimidation, a spirit of fear in heart, the increasing number of widows, and orphans will disappear and everyone can speak as he likes. Life will be restored from hell to heaven. I am therefore very glad to support this resolution.

There are certain provisions in the Memorandum which are very harmful for Mizoram. One of them is the provision of chapter 4, clause 3(1) of the Memorandum which provides that the Mizoram state will cover the boundaries specified in section 6 of the NEAR Act, 1971. The P. C. Party submitted a memorandum to Government of India many times in which its stand was that the boundaries of Mizoram should be based on the areas occupied by Mizos in 1875. If the boundaries of Mizoram is demarcated as provided in the Memorandum, Mizoram will lose 4000 Sq. m of its areas. This is very sad. Next, at chapter 4, clause 3 of the Memorandum, it is provided that Mizoram and Central Government will share the natural resources of Mizoram fiftyfifty. In Nagaland, the natural resources is monopolised by the State Government. This is another provision detrimental to the interest of Mizo people.

At chapter 9, Chakmas are included among minorities in Mizoram. Chakmas have never been minorities in Mizoram and Pawi and Lakher are the only minorities. This is another provision which can be harmful. This paves the way for influx of Chakmas from Bangladesh and we can be in a danger of assimilation. These are the four provisions which are harmful for Mizoram.

It is a pity that Mizoram State Assembly will have only 40 members while Article 170 of the Constitution of India provides that the Legislative Assembly of each State shall consist of not more than 500 and not less than 60. The seat is not allotted on population basis and there is no reason why Mizoram cannot have 60 seats.

Hon'ble member of Khawhai constituency said that no other states have border trade. Let him please study the constitution of India a bit more thoroughly and he will see that neighbouring states and not western states have border trade with neighbouring countries. Thank you.

**F. LALRAMLIANA :** Mr. Speaker, I submitted a private members resolution on the subject of gratification about the signing of Memorandum of Settlement. Since there is an official resolution, I shall not move my resolution tomorrow. I moved the same resolution in Pawi District Council Session and it was gladly passed unanimously.

Mizoram was plunged into a two decade disturbance. In the beginning, we thought that the disturbance would be a hostility between Mizos and Government of India. But as time went on, there was a hostility between the Mizos. As a result many people died in the hands of the MNF as well as in the hands of Security Forces. Many people lost houses and properties, some villagers were herded together by Security Forces at night, many villages were grouped, and the moral of the people was extremely down. But with the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement, I hope we shall regain a Mizo morality with courage. This agreement between the MNF and Government of India has been possible through the endeavours made by various political parties, churches, teachers & YMA and we must convey our heartfelt thanks to them. The P.C. party also tried its best to bring about restoration of peace in Mizoram but it followed a wrong, rugged path and it failed in its goal. The Congress party under the leadership of Pu Lal Thanhawla fortunately picked up the right path. As a result the MNF and Government of India reached an agreement. The Congress Ministry made an honourable agreement for restoration of peace so that Pu Laldenga became Chief Minister and some of his colleagues are sworn in as cabinet ministers. I believe that God destines Mizo people to do a certain important thing and I believe God wanted Mizo people to serve Him. Thank you.

**SPEAKER :** Let me clarify one thing. If we say 'Vai' merely to mean the plain people in India, it cannot be taken offence at. If we utter it to mean an undesirable meaning, it can be unparliamentary.

**PU ROCHHUNGA RALTE :** Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very happy today because we have a good opportunity for discussion a resolution of thanks on the signing of Memorandum of Settlement between the MNF and Government of India. I feel very fortunate since peace is being restored while I am a sitting member of this House.



Personally, I did not suffer much during the disturbances except imprisonment for short time. Two of my uncles were also imprisoned for about four years. To my level best I preached this policy of peace all over Mizoram. As students, we extend all possible Cooperation to those who fought for restoration of peace in Mizoram. As a result peace has been restored at last and it is quite fortunate that a resolution about that is being discussed in this House. If we consider as to whom we shall convey our thanks, first of all it is God who deserves to be thanked. Next, the people of Mizoram, who craved for peace and fought in every possible way for restoration of peace should be thanked. Particular reference has to be made to the MNF who struggled for Independent for Mizoram and who abandoned the policy just because the condition of Mizoram could not afford to be a disturbed state. The people appealed to the MNF leaders to abandon and come overground since they no longer had strength to suffer under the cruel grip of disturbances. It is not because the MNF no longer dared to fight against India that they come overground. It is because it paid heed to the appeal of the people. Therefore, I would like to convey my thank to all MNF personnel.

If we thoroughly study the provisions of Memorandum of Settlement, it is evident that they are not to our entire satisfaction. Our cherished dream is sovereignty. The MNF party also likes it and fought for twenty years to get it. It is, therefore, unfair to criticise the accord. To conclude I would like to say that this official resolution on Memorandum of Settlement must be unanimously adopted. Thank you.

PU K. LIANCHIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am glad today that an atmosphere of peace has now been restored. During the period of insurgency, I personally faced many problems, but God protects me. In an atmosphere of peace, one can speak anything one likes freely. I don't think there is anyone who is not happy.

While expressing our happiness, there is something which requires careful consideration. The peace talk was started as far back as in 1984. A great goal is difficult to achieve. To a certain extent, I am discontent about the performances of Government of India in this regards, while the success or failure of the peace talk was in the hands of the Central Government, it is most unfortunate that the Prime Minister could not spare even an hour to talk to MNF delegates. When peace was concluded, the Prime Minister stayed for four days in Mizoram. This remind me of one story. One church known as a sleepy church did not have a bell and the members made contribution of money for purchase of a bell.

Even after they tried their best they could not contribute enough money. One army personnel on leave came to know that and donated Rs 40 with which a bell was purchased. Members of the church were very happy and decided to make a celebration for which they easily contributed Rs. 300/- with which they purchased an ox and feasted happily. Had Rs. 300/- been contributed earlier, they should have purchased a much better bell. Similar is the case of peace talk. I cannot but wonder what the reasons for the delay of peace talk were.

The MNF and Government of India have built a house with an agreement for dwelling of all Mizo people. Don't we have any right to have a look at the house built for us? It is our duty to explore the House built for us, and point out the damaged portion if any for repair. It is not a criticism. In the agreement there is a provision that Mizoram will cover the boundaries specified in section 6 of NEAR Act, 1971 when this Act was made, there was a popular Government, in Mizoram. Has anyone thoroughly persued the Act that time? It is because we were not familiar with the provisions of the Act that the boundaries of Mizoram was changed. Had the Government at that time have good knowledge of the Act, it would not have a of the Act, it would not have accepted it at all. The Act was been accepted once again in the accord and it poses a big problem today. What is wrong in studying the provisions of Memorandum of Settlement? The P.C. Ministry tried its best to alter the boundaries. It submitted memorandum to Government of India suggesting alteration of the boundaries and follow the boundaries delinted by the British regine, in 1875. The cherished dream of Assam has now been realised by this memorandum. If this provision is implemented Mizoram has to lose 790 paddy fields and part of Vairengte village to Assam. We must all join hands to fight against this. Not a single Mizo will take offence at over pointing out of this undesirable provision.

The Memorandum also provides that the rights and previledges of minorities would he preserved and protected. Many of us do not really understand the meaning of this passage. We are neither certain about the interpretation of the word 'minority' in Mizoram. The NEAR Act, 1971 empowers Autonomous Regions in Mizoram to set up Autonomous Districts. This is incorporated in para 20 of the Sixth Schedule. With this provision, Chakma District Council has been created. Why had the Government at that time accept the NEAR Act? With the upgradation of Mizo District to a UT status, Chakma District Council was born. So minorities in Mizoram are Chakma, Lakher and Pawi and their rights and previledges have to be preserved and protected and at the same time

their social economic advancement has to be ensured while the MNF delegates insisted upon resting with Government of Mizoram the powers to dissolve district councils.

While the provision is already in-Corporated in the constitution of India, I am eager to know why the same provision has been incorporated in the Memorandum of Settlement. Now implementation of the provision of Memorandum of Settlement begins and it is not satisfactory as expected, For instance, regarding release of prisoners, the Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that Central Government made certain objections.

An issue of a separate High Court for Mizoram is said to have been a bottleneck blocking the progress of peace talk, The constitution provides that each state will have a separate High Court. It appears that as soon as Mizoram becomes a State, it will have a separate High Court. After some pressures from Students, the Central Government was reported to have agreed that Mizoram would have a separate High Court. But when the constitution was amended, it become clear that Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram will have a common High Court to be called Guwahati High Court. I do not know why a separate High Court is not set up for Mizoram. The NEAR Act, 1971 provides that the Guwahati High Court's jurisdiction will also extend to Mizoram UT and Arunachal Pradesh U.T. When Mizoram attains statehood, everything is the same Government of India also has to look into our condition carefully, we have many tasks ahead and I appeal to all members to join hands and work together to achieve our goal. Thank You.

PU HIPHEI : Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to express my heartfelt gratification today about the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement. As soon as I hear about it, my family had a thanks giving prayer. Generally, the sufferings of Chhimtuipui Dist. is much less when compared with these Aizawl District. But we have had enough of the disturbed conditions and we warmly welcome restoration of peace and normalcy in Mizoram.

The responsibility or the delay of peace talk has been fixed by some people on Pu Lal Thanhawla and his colleague. At that time we dared not accuse God, the churches, students and other political parties of playing a role for the delay of peace talk, Pu Lal Thanhawla and his colleagues were held responsible. I am very glad today because we realise that the accusation was absolutely baseless. Today, we conveyed our

thanks to God, the churches, various political parties, Pu Lal Thanhawla and Pu Laldenga, yet some of us expressed our happiness in a strong way.

Some of us twisted our speeches to the birth of Chakma District Council alleging others as responsible for that. At the time of the outbreak of disturbances in Mizoram, the administration we had was a District Council and its powers were very limited that even security forces personnel paid no heed to its voice, when Mizo District Council was upgraded to the status U.T. it was expected that the powers of the Ministry would be more than that of Dist. Council and it was hoped that the Ministry would be able to do something to control the high-handedness of Security Forces. It was because of this that an offer of UT was accepted. There is no one to blame for that. Today, the terms and conditions of the agreement between the MNF and Central Government may not meet the entire expectations or aspirations. We must remember that these are what could be attained in the maximum. No more could be attained. Had everything we aspire been attained, we should not have anything to say today.

Today, the powerfulness of politics has been revealed to the people. Disturbance in Mizoram broke out for political reasons. All of us remember our sufferings during the period of insurgency. Even a Minister did not escape checking by security forces let alone MLAs. Today the disturbances were solved with political solutions when the late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi visited Aizawl on the eve of general election, the people asked her to promise to solve the Mizo problem immediately and she did, when Rajiv Gandhi visited Mizoram he was again asked to promise to solve the problem immediately and he also did. Those promises made at the request of the people were fulfilled today. This confirms the importance of the role played by the people in a democracy. May be some people are not entirely satisfied with the provisions of the agreement. But we must be happy because the two hostile parties reached an agreement.

All members of this House were elected for a five years term. But as a result of conclusion to be upgraded to statehood. The Mizoram State Bill has already been passed by the Parliament. This House requires to be dissolved before expiry of its term of office. Some members maintained that how an issue of setting up of a separate High Court for Mizoram could be a bottleneck in the progress of peace talk while the constitution of India provides that there should be a High Court for

each state. We should know that all that is written cannot be implemented. For example, it is written that the President shall appoint a Prime Minister but in reality it is not so. The constitution does provide that there should be a High Court for each state but several states can have a common High Court. This does not indicate that the speech of Prime Minister is more binding than the provision of the constitution. What all political parties would unanimously welcome is impossible. That is, if a provision that in the next election all political parties would hold the reins of Government is included in the constitution, all political parties would welcome it. But this is impossible. So, let us welcome what we have at present. Thank you.

**PU ZOSIAMA PACHUAU :** Pu Speaker, while expressing gratitude over the signing of Memorandum of Settlement, some of us appear unhappy. This quite possible since some of us are required to step down in favour of MNF leaders, we must accept that Mizoram welcomes this agreement made between the MNF and Government of India. The MNF personnel who were underground come overground to reunite with their families. Those who feel unsafe in the hands of MNF now feel safe - A policy of peace and harmony canvassed by each political party no longer has any place in political propaganda. Every individual, every political party desires to have the credit of this agreement. It would be a good idea if a particular political party does not intend to have the credit. Some Ministers stepped down in favour of MNF leaders as they promised to the people before election. The people vote them to power thereby enabling them to fulfill their promises. They should not be proud for the promises they kept, because they could keep their promises just because the people enabled them to do so.

The MNF personnel who went underground were likened with a group of hunters going hunting. When a group of hunters return with their kill, the villagers welcome them and closely look at the kill to know what kind of animal it is, whether it is a male or female, whether it is big or small. Similarly, the Memorandum of Settlement is likened with the kill. The people who have a share in it have every right to scrutinise the Memorandum.

The night and accord was signed, I ran through the streets of Aizawl three times. The happiness of the people at that time cannot be forgotten. But today, it seems that our happiness wanes. This resolution of thanks must be unanimously passed. Some opposition members said that voting would be required. In my opinion no voting is required at all. A voice vote is enough.

I remember those days gone by when members always shouted angrily in this House because Police personnel and Security Forces, used to search their residence without any warrant. No one, could sleep in peace at night. I cannot express my happiness today over the disappearance of all the fears of that time. It is our duty as representatives of the people to express our happiness today through this resolution. It would be still better if we can make a much better resolution than the one moved by the Dy. Leader of the House. However, words cannot adequately express our heartfelt gratitude. We must therefore, unanimously pass this resolution.

There are many reasons why we should be happy today. Even after Mizoram attained a status of U.T. many people dared not sleep in their home for fear of security forces. There were at that time many people who preferred to revert to District Council provided peace and harmony was restored. Today, peace and normalcy have been night is very clear. While expressing our joy, some members said the provisions of the Memorandum do not meet the entire expectation and aspiration of the people. A speech in this direction is quite enough.

Our cherished dream is an independent state for Mizoram. Many Mizo youths sacrificed their lives for this cause. But this goal cannot be attained and we have to be satisfied with a lower status brought about by a negotiation between the MNF and Government of India. Whenever negotiation is needed, it is evident that the goal cannot be achieved. If we are going to make wistful thinking today, the people are sure to have much more today. Regarding demarcation of boundaries, there is not much to say in this House. Mizoram was upgraded to the status of UT from District Council. At the same time NEAR Act, 1971 was passed in which it is clearly written that Mizoram UT will consist of an area covered by the District Council. We are discontented about the specification of boundaries of Mizoram State in the Memorandum of Settlement. However, a door is open for reorganisation of the boundaries in future. During the first P.C. Ministry we collected old documents which depicted the boundaries of Mizo District. A cabinet Memorandum has also been submitted to Government of India. I am not aware of what the congress Ministry did to pursue the matter. As I belong to another party, I shall not be informed of what has been done, but the fact that Mr. Zairemthanga, who is among those who did all the pioneer works was not included as a member of boundary committee makes me quite uneasy. However, settlement of boundary dispute with Assam is a task set before all of us and each of us should be aware of the importance and urgency of the matter.

If you continue to say that with the attainment of Statehood, a large part of an area formerly inhabited by Mizos was lost to Assam. Government of Assam will be encouraged and will drive out farmers along the boundary. Such an action was taken previously by Assam. The biggest blunder you have committed Mr. Dy. Speaker Sir, was signing of an agreement that Mizo farmers along the boundaries be not evicted for the time being. You even did not realise the undesirable consequences this agreement had afterwards. I would like to explain it now.

Mr. Dy. Speaker Sir, we must speak about anything which we know very clearly. When we speak of something of which we don't have a thorough knowledge, the people are dismayed and stirred. Even today, we should not go beyond expressing our happiness over the signing of an accord between the MNF leader Pu Laldenga and Govt. of India. If we go beyond this and bring back all the past, it can have undesirable consequences. I, therefore, appeal to all members to concentrate on the resolution and vote for it unanimously. Thank you.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in the light of the discussions, it transpires that those in the Treasury Bench have been confused an accord with the administration. When ever anyone expresses desire for a better status, it was regarded as an attack on the Memorandum of Settlement. Today, we should be grateful upon signing of an accord. While expressing our happiness we cannot but think of the status which our state would attain in the near future. That is what confused many members.

When I first learnt that Pu F. Lalramliana was submitting the resolution, I intended to submit a resolution. The Rules of Procedure prescribes that an amendment to a resolution submitted one clear day before consideration of the resolution can be considered. I later learnt that an official resolution was going to be submitted and I am prepared to make amendment. But Government submitted the resolution without giving a chance to make an amendment, I would like to advise Treasury Bench not to oppress members of opposition party in future since it is violative of democratic principles.

Now that an agreement has been made between the MNF and Government of India. We must consider if there really is peace and harmony in our hearts. A tendency of accusing others of being discontent about signing of an accord just because they expressed their desire for

better creates an undesirable atmosphere. Besides, oppressing the constitutional and democratic rights of opposition members should also be stopped forthwith.

No doubt, everyone is happy for the restoration of normalcy in Mizoram. It is quite a pity that many of us quarrelled over the subject as to whom the credit would go. I would like to say that those who never claim any credit today will be those who work more for Mizoram. I highly appreciated the deeds of the Congress Ministry in its accommodation of MNF leader in its Ministry. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the MNF personnel who came overground in order to prepare a ground for restoration of peace in Mizoram. We are also indebted to students, various church denominations, the people of Mizoram as a whole and all political parties for their earnest efforts in preparing a congenial ground for resumption and conclusion of peace talk. In this connection I would like to say that if we meticulously pursue the provisions of the Memorandum of Settlement, it is apparent that the way the Mizos have been treated by Government of India is no better than what is known as a step-motherly treatment. I do not blame the MNF for this, India is comprised of countless castes and tribes. If we consider the status of other states, that of ours is far from satisfactory. For instance, with the State Reorganisation Act, 1966, a greater Tamil Nadu State and a greater Maharashtra State were formed, why is it that, even after struggling for an Independent Mizoram for more than two decades, a Greater Mizoram cannot be created despite repeated request of the MNF delegates? How I wish that are rewarded with this which is sure to add jewels on the crown of MNF. Mizos are not third class citizens. The constitution of India provides that all people are equal. What was done for the Tamils and Marathis in Maharashtra should also be done for Mizos.

The Mizos were divided as a result of implementation of Divide and Rule Policy by the British Raj. After India become independent, reorganisation of such divisions is the duty of Government of India. The MNF delegates were given step-motherly treatment and in the provisions of the Memorandum of Settlement, it was written that Government of India did not make any commitment for creation of greater Mizoram although the MNF delegates raised the point during discussion. This is not an attack on the MNF. What Government of India can do to those whom it regards as its children should also be done to Mizos.



The Hon'ble Agriculture Minister stated the Mizoram state will consist of an area covered by the District Council. How can he solve the problem without knowing the fact? At section 6 of NEAR Act, 1971, the boundaries of Mizoram state is clearly specified but there is no mention of an area covered by District Council, instead it is written that the area of Mizoram state will be the area covered by Mizo District. Mizoram was one of the fourteen states of Mizoram. We must carefully study the boundaries demarcated by Assam. It is a pity that the boundaries of Mizoram as specified in the NEAR Act, 1971 has been confirmed once again. It is harmful and detrimental for the descendants of MNF, Congress or PC Party. We should demand and insist upon reorganisation of boundaries of Mizoram on the basis of boundaries specified in an order issued from Buckingham Palace in London in 1908. This is not an attack on the MNF. Since it has not included among the provisions of the Memorandum of Settlement, we must all join hands to fight for reorganisation of boundaries of Mizoram. Article 321 (a) of the Constitution of India provides that ownership and transfer of land and its resources shall apply to the State of Nagaland unless the Legislative Assembly of Nagaland, by a resolution so decides. This is the result of an agreement between the Nagas and Government of India in 1963. We, the Mizos also deserved this treatment. The surrender of arms and ammunitions and coming overground abandoning all unlawful activities on the part of the MNF are quite enough to earn special status as granted to the Nagas.

We do not hate Chakmas as a whole. Mr. H. K. Chakma is also our good friend. Those who settled in India before Independence are citizens of India. There are many such Chakmas in Mizoram too and creation of a separate District Council for them is not necessary. But when insurgency broke out in 1966. Government of India tactfully created Chakma District Council in 1972 to attract Chakmas from Bangladesh so that a Mizo Community could be gradually assimilated. This contravenes the provisions of the Constitution. Since we were treated as rebels, assimilation of Mizo by Chakmas was considered better by Government of India. Now that a reconciliation has been made between the MNF and Government of India, the existence of this District Council is not justified. It should be dissolved as soon as an agreement is reached. On the contrary a provision that the rights of minorities would be protected has been incorporated in the Memorandum of Settlement. This is a very sensitive provision which can be extremely detrimental to the survival of Mizo Community. While expressing our happiness on the signing of an accord, we must carefully look forward to see the actual position of Mizoram. We must not try to make political capital of this agreement. Ra-

ther we must join hands to fight for the good of the whole community leaving behind political sentiments otherwise the generation to come will blame us for not doing this thing at the exact time.

We can unanimously pass the resolution of thanks. At the same time we must take note of all the provisions undesirable for Mizo people and demand Government of India to give us special status as it did in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra States. It would be the fault of Central Government if it refused to shower upon us the blessings which even the constitution provides. To conclude I would like to reiterate that all of us are happy today and we offered thanks giving prayers to God. Thank you.

**S P E A K E R :** It is now three o'clock. The participation of members is quite satisfactory. About 15 members participated in the discussion. Now the remaining time will be allotted to Ministers. Now we shall call Pu Laldenga to speak. For information of Members it is Parliamentary and Legislative practice not to disturb a Minister when delivering a maiden speech.

**PU LALDENGA :** Mr. Dy. Speaker, I want to say something in support of our resolution. First of all, we are thankful to God for his able guidance which enabled the MNF and Government of India to sign this Memorandum of Settlement. We are also very grateful to the people who contributed much for the success of peace talk. We are also indebted to leaders of the churches for the important role they played in the course of negotiation, which was abandoned in 1982 was resumed. Even after that, whenever there was a bottleneck, they rushed to Delhi to help us. For all these, we are very grateful to them.

We are also indebted to the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi who was no more with us for her enthusiasm in starting negotiation. It was she who sent for me from London for the purpose. I feel obliged to mention her name and her contributions for resumption of negotiation in this House. We also ought to convey our thanks to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for his earnest effort to settle the Mizoram problem. Under his able guidance and patience, an agreement was reached.

The contributions of Pu Lalthanhawla and his colleagues cannot be omitted. An arrangement has been made in his Ministry so as to accommodate me and some of my colleagues. Moreover, when both sides

of the negotiating parties faced a deadlock, they rushed to Delhi and served as middlemen to appease either sides so that negotiation might continue. Their contribution other than abdication in favour of MNF leader for bringing about a congenial atmosphere for resumption of peace talk is worth remembering. After the peace talk reached a deadlock two or three times, the Congress leader successfully paved way for resumption of peace talk. The importance of the role they played cannot be overemphasized. The patience shown by the then administration of Mizoram was laudable, we are also indebted to the Security Forces and Police personnel for their calmness and patience. The atmosphere was so changed that the slightest spark could influence the tinderbox and completely spoil the atmosphere. Through the patience and able leadership of the top brass of security forces, the worst which could easily happen was evaded and a path of peace was followed.

I knew before hand that, even before and after signing this Memorandum, all the people would not have the same view of it. I always joked that even a Seraphim State would not satisfy some people. While others would be contented with the status of U.T. Whenever there is a new development, some people expect to take advantage of it. Even political parties are no exception, we foresaw that certain political parties would try to make political capital out of the Memorandum of settlement.

All people don't have the same opinion, some tastes and some like and dislikes. Therefore, the Memorandum of Settlement cannot escape criticisms. But I am glad today that members of this House unanimously expressed their gratitude over the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement and I would like to say that this House is happy. At the same time an issue of boundaries presented itself for discussion. We all know that a new state cannot be created without a definite boundaries which the new state should consist. I think this august House known that all conscutions people know that agreement cannot be made with a condition that the new Mizoram state, from the date of its formation, would have a border dispute with neighbouring states. Moreover, no condition that Mizoram state will have a border dispute which will be settled in due course cannot be included in the Memorandum. While demarcating the boundaries of Mizoram, we had in mind the Mizoram - Cachar boundaries, when Mizo District was upgraded to the status of U.T. there was definite boundaries. Various political parties accepted the boundaries set for Mizoram U.T. when making an agreement, the boun-

aries specified in the NEAR Act, 1971 was considered safest for Mizoram and Mizoram State also has to comprise the areas within the boundaries specified in the said Act.

I think many of us are not clear about the High Court. The constitution of India provides that each state shall have a separate High Court. At the same time article 213 of the constitution provides that two or more states may have a common High Court. Thus Mizoram, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura have a common High Court. This topic was discussed with Government of India for a long time. We insisted that this article should not apply to Mizoram and that it should have a separate High Court shared by none. As a result of our persistent request, a provision that Mizoram state shall have a separate High Court become incorporated in the Memorandum of Settlement.

Regarding the Amendment of the Constitution, it may be clarified that a new state cannot be formed without a High Court. Until such time a separate High Court is set up for Mizoram State, it has to share the High Court of Assam etc. Some members are not satisfied with the number of constituencies for Mizoram State. Just because we ourselves suggested the number at 40, it was so made. If Mizoram is divided into sixty constituencies, some big towns can constitute one constituency. If so there is the danger of converting the political system into a family system. Under the circumstances we suggested that Mizoram State have 40 constituencies instead of 60 which was agreed upon by Government of India. If that is not your opinion, we have nothing to say.

An issue of natural resources was discussed with the representatives of Government of India for a very long time. We strongly demanded that provisions of article 371-A of the constitution of India to be applicable in respect of Mizoram. But Government of India refused to give in till the end. The stance of Government of India was that they committed a serious blunder in giving resources to the power of Nagaland State and that they did not intend to repeat the same blunder. We also insisted we could not accept a status lower than that of Nagaland. As a result of the disagreement, the negotiation came to an abrupt end. That was in December. The Chief Minister and Pu Laldhawma rushed to Delhi and contacted Home Minister immediately. The Home Minister told them that it was beyond his discretion to make a decision and he advised them to meet the Prime Minister when approached, the Prime Minister frankly told them that he would not accede to the demand of MNF delegates. He told them that there were no other points of disage

reement and that if the MNF delegates agreed to leave this issue, an agreement could be reached forthwith, and that otherwise peace talk could not be resumed. That was the reason why the subject of resources was left out. On further scrutiny of the status of Nagaland, it was found that exploration of mineral resources was very very slow and the State Government receives no royalty worth the name till date. Moreover, consider that being in the same status with all other status would not be of disadvantage to Mizoram. Moreover, we did not allow this single point to bring all the negotiations to a complete failure.

There can be different interpretations of the term "minority" Usually, when we talk of minority, Chakma District Council comes to our minds. The term "minority" is clearly indicated in the constitution of India. We cannot insist upon deletion of this term from the constitution and thereafter sign an accord. We are not in a position to reject any of the provisions of the constitution of India. Chakma District Council to foreign immigrants. We also demanded deletion of "Chakmas" from the Sixth Schedule to the constitution of India.

Government of India agreed that if the constitution was amended as a result of negotiation, it would tantamount to an acceptances of defeat on the part of Government. Therefore, they bluntly refused to get the Sixth Schedule amended. Whatever the definition of the term 'minority' may be, in Mizoram, it is the duty and responsibility of Mizos, the majority community to preserve and protect the interests and rights of the minority which is native of Mizoram whichever community it may be. I hope this House also is aware of this. However, this is not to be confused about. It is merely an acceptance of the provisions of the constitution of India for we are bound to accept them. The Mizo Community is also a minority in India and we have been given special treatment in various matters. Similarly, minority communities amongst us deserve to be given special consideration in every matter as per provisions of the constitution of India. But this does not at all include illegal immigrants.

I think it is the best think not to talk much about the boundaries of Mizoram. We need have a positive approach to this subject. An agreement could not be made without demarcating boundaries. We know that the boundaries as specified in the Memorandum cannot be acceptable, but we did not allow the subject to make the negotiation a failure. Acceptance of the boundaries does not tantamount to a surrender or acceptance of defeat and we therefore considered that restoration of normalcy in Mizoram at the earliest possible was the best thing. Thank You.

**PU LALHMINGTHANGA :** Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that Article 213 of the Constitution of India provided that two or more states could have a common High Court. That is not correct. Article 213 is regarding the powers of Governor to promulgate ordinances. Unless he withdraws and make correction our records will be incorrect.

**PU LALDENG A :** Pu Speaker, when I spoke of the number of articles, I said I was not sure. However, I withdraw it and the correct one may be recorded.

**BRIG. T. SAILO :** Mr. Dy. Speaker, can you give me a chance to discuss the speech of the Chief Minister ?

What we wanted most is restoration of peace in Mizoram. We must, therefore, gladly welcome anything which is agreed upon by both sides of the negotiating parties for that purpose. The subject of setting up of a separate High Court has also been clarified. When this subject hampered the progress of negotiation, we met the Prime Minister at Guwahati during the conference of North Eastern Congress (I) Chief Ministers. I also apprised and asked the Chief Ministers who attended it to pass a resolution for setting up a separate High Court so that the Prime Minister could be hard pressed. The resolution was thus passed since each of the states desired to have separate High Courts. After that the Prime Minister announced that each U.T. and state in N.E. area could have separate High Courts if they like, during a conference of Chief Justices and Law Ministers. I, with Pu C.L. Ruala attended the meeting and approached Chief Justice & Law Minister who told us that a separate High Court could be set up anytime but first of all there should be a building for the court. This matter has to be pursued by the new Government.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has adequately clarified about ownership and transfer of land and its resources. We were very sad to know that negotiation was at the verge of disagreement on this point. On the night of 23rd December, we approached the Home Minister as many as three times with a request to accede to the demands of MNF delegates on this particular point. The Home Minister frankly told us that they committed a big blunder in respect of Nagaland on this issue and that they were pondering over the subject how to repeal that. We were told that no such blunder would be committed anymore. When he clarified everything, we were quite convinced. In Assam also, the State Govern-

ment does not monopolised the oil produced in the state, the royalty is under the direct control of central Government. After repeated request from the state Government the royalty was recently raised.

If an Independence is attained tomorrow, I shall gladly accept it too. That is my stance in connection with the special provision for Mizoram. Whenever I was asked newsmen about my idea about special provision, I answered that since I was not a party to the negotiation. I was not in a position to say anything I also told them that if and when I am asked by either of the parties I would give my opinion.

Many of the points raised by members were already clarified by the Hon'ble Chief Minister who participated in the negotiation from the beginning to the signing of an accord. If there can be many questions.

Regarding expression of thanks we never expect anyone to express thanks about any achievement we made. But wretched are those who have no conscience to be happy over any achievements advantageous for all of us. However, all members expressed their gratefulness today over the signing of Memorandum of Settlement and I am very happy to note it.

All of us are happy that a Memorandum of Settlement has been signed which will open a door for restoration of normalcy and lasting peace in Mizoram. And we must convey our thanks to anyone, any political parties or organisations who played important roles for the conclusion of peace talk. Regarding the number of constituencies, we were of the opinion that 35 would be quite enough considering the number of electorates each constituency would consist. As already stated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, if an area comprised in a constituency is too small the political system can go familywise thereby resulting in instability in Government. Moreover, money power will be able to play a crucial role in election, If things go like this, politics can be rendered absolutely meaningless. However, since we are not a party to the negotiation, we did not say anything about that.

**PU K. SANGCHHUM :** Now the time is very limited yet each Speaker  
**DY. SPEAKER** has been allotted 15 minutes time. The Chief  
 Minister has been allotted a bit longer time  
 since it was his maiden speech. Now, let the CLP leader, Dy. Chief  
 Minister Pa Lal Thanhawla wind up the discussion. After that the reso-  
 lution will be put to the vote of the House.

**PU LAL THANHAWLA :** Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, First of all. I  
**OY. CHIEF MINISTER** would like to make one clarification. Hon'  
 ble member Mr. K. Biakchungnunga accused  
 me of saying something about the creation of Greater Mizoram and spe-  
 cial status for Mizoram. I think he got a wrong information. To the  
 best of my knowledge, all political parties included in the subject of  
 Greater Mizoram as part of their constitutions. As an individual and as  
 a party this is party. When asked by newspaper reporters my answer has  
 been that every Mizo craves for unification of Mizos in various parts of  
 the country and that how to achieve that goal is a difficult matter. More-  
 over, reunification of the entire Mizo people remains in our heart which  
 is our birth right. Personally I desire that these good could be  
 achieved. Politically it is our desire to annex our territory upto  
 Akyab so that we can have an important outlet to the sea. Sometime  
 I want to abolish family planning scheme in Mizoram because we faced  
 many problems because of our small population. I think all Mizos have  
 one voice in the achievement of Greater Mizoram.

Regarding special provision for Mizoram, I would like to make  
 known to all people that a special status up to sovereignty is our che-  
 rished dream even till today. But I have no strength and courage enough  
 to fight for the sovereignty and I gladly welcome any arrangement made  
 within the framework of Indian Constitution I accepted District Council,  
 U.T. and State.

Of late I realised that Nagaland faced many problems in exploring  
 natural resources because of the state's monopoly over it. Till today, the  
 resources has not been properly explored. We also made a request to  
 MNF delegates not be too persistent on their demand in connection with  
 this particular point in order to save the negotiation from breaking down.  
 We met the Prime Minister too two or three times a day who frankly  
 told us that the demand of MNF on this issue was neither profitable for  
 Mizoram nor acceptable to the nation. Finally, the MNF delegates could  
 agree upon the idea of Central Government and as a result Memoran-  
 dum has been signed.

The Hon'ble member of Ngopa Constituency said that accommoda-  
 tion of Pu Laldenga and his colleagues in the Congress Ministry was not  
 a thing to be boast of. This is true we are not at all proud of this ar-  
 rangement in the Ministry. But we are thankful to God for enabling us  
 to keep our promise as a result of which an agreement was reached be-  
 tween the MNF and Government of India. The P.C. Ministry also made  
 the same commitment but no congenial atmosphere prevailed at that time



for consumption and conclusion of peace talk. During the two years Congress regime, God has restored peace for all Mizos in Mizoram and we are very happy for this.

There are many allegations and counter allegations among various political parties about the demarcation of boundaries. If we are really interested in reorganisation of boundaries, a committee can be formed under the auspices of Government. A long time back, a boundary committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Pu Ch. Chhunga with Rev. Zairema and Mr. Poonte as members. The findings of the Committee and its recommendations were submitted to Government and the matter was pursued with Government of India, when the peace talk discussed the issue of boundaries, we furnished all important documents to the MNF delegates to authenticate their demands. But as we listened, there was a limit beyond which Government of India could not be pressurised in order to save peace talk from total failure. In this connection I would like to say that after the last time a dispute broke between Mizoram and Assam regarding boundaries, the matter was taken up on D.C. level and Aizawl D.C. and Karimganj D.C. made an agreement that no more violent disputes be made in the border. After that no such dispute seems to happen till date. If there is any such incident the matter may be brought to the notice of Government and Government will take action immediately.

I am one of those who know that the terms of agreement are not to the entire expectation and satisfaction of the MNF delegates. When there was a problem in connection with Mizo customary laws and practices, we met the Prime Minister two or three times on 25th June. There are many important things which are not included in the Memorandum of Settlement. But the MNF delegates were not in a position to fight for inclusion of these since it would greatly delay conclusion of peace talk. The people of Mizoram could no longer afford to suffer under the darkness of insurgency. Therefore, the first important thing was to make an agreement. After making an agreement, we can fight for what are essential for the uplift of Mizo Society.

Today, a peaceful atmosphere has been restored. Obviously during the period of insurgency, even an MLA was under the Control of riflemen. Mizos, who used to be brave and ferocious, no longer dared do anything against security forces. In order to retain our dignity, the first important thing is restoration of peace in Mizoram. Today Mizoram is spoonfed by Central Government. The sooner we leave this stage

of spoonfeeding by Central Government and attain self sufficiency, the more dignified a Mizo Community would become we must create an atmosphere in which all Mizos can join hands to work together for the uplift of the whole community. There must obtain a peaceful atmosphere in which people from all walks of life can follow their own professions with more enthusiasm and in peace. This Government has voted to power for a five years term, but the Ministry opted to step down if it is required for restoration of peace in Mizoram. True to their commitment, some of our Ministers stepped down in favour of the MNF leader and his colleagues to be inducted in the Ministry. We thanked God for enabling us to stand firmly to our commitment.

Dissatisfactions expressed by some members over the provisions of Memorandum of Settlement are, I am sure, not an attack on the MNF but they were expressed out of a desire for more, a desire for better. In the course of proceeding towards this goal, various political parties may differ, but in any matter of the direct concern of the Mizo Community as a whole, I hope we can have one voice. The happiness expressed by each member today is genuine, and no one pretends.

The MNF President and Chief Minister Pu Laldenga also admitted that this Memorandum has certain shortcomings. But if we are to make an agreement after all these shortcomings are amended, it would take time and Mizoram may be plunged into a deeper sea of trouble we also fully agree to this contention.

To conclude, I would like to ask this House to pass my resolution that "This Assembly warmly welcomes the signing of Memorandum of Settlement between Government of India and the President, MNF and thereby ushering in an era of peace in Mizoram" Thank you.

PU K. SANGCHHUMA : The resolution moved by Pu Lal Thanhawla  
DY. SPEAKER Dy. Chief Minister has been discussed for  
nearly five hours. Now we shall put the  
resolution to the vote of the House. The resolution is - "This Assembly  
warmly welcomes the signing of Memorandum of Settlement between  
Government of India and the President, MNF and thereby ushering in  
a new era of peace in Mizoram". Those who agree to pass may say  
"agree". Is there anyone against it. Okay, the resolution was unani-  
mously adopted.

I would like to add a few words. The signing of Memorandum of Settlement has been the cherished dream of the people for a long time and today it has been realised. We are all very happy today. I hope this Settlement serves as an important step towards the development of Mizoram so that Mizoram state can emerge from the bottom rung of the ladder of development to the top. I would also like to appeal to all the people to have peace in minds. Okay, the meeting is adjourned till 10:30 tomorrow morning.

Meeting adjourned  
at 4:55 P.M.

L.C. THANGA  
Secretary.