

SPEAKER: 'Blessed are the peacemakers: For they shall be called the children of God.'

Now, obituary reference on the death of Pu Lalrinliana who was a member of the previous Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

Pu Lalrinliana was born on 18th April, 1921 at Mission Veng, Mizawl; started business in 1940; married in 1944; 3 sons and 4 daughters; entered politics in 1946; Office Bearer of Eastern Indian Tribal Union Party during 1946-66; Member of the Mizo District Council from 1957-62; Village Council Member since 1960; Member of Council Election Tribunal in 1957 and again in 1960 and 1971; ordained as Presbyterian Church Elder in 1971; elected to the First Legislative Assembly of Mizoram in April, 1972 on Mizo Union ticket from 24 (Mizawl Central) Constituency. He was a member till the expiry of the term of the Ministry on 9th May, 1977. On 19th February, 1978 he breathed his last.

On my being Speaker of the House, I would like to say something about him as Pu Lalrinliana was a close friend of mine since childhood.

Pu Lalrinliana and I was born in the same locality. He was 10 days junior to me. Being brought up together we entered into politics together. But, after sometime our family moved to Dawrpui Veng. All these I stated because I want our members to understand my feeling on his death, for, he was a friend with whom I have close association.

If any of you have things to say on the obituary reference of Pu Lalrinliana, you may do so.

PU F. MALSAWLI: Mr. Speaker, it is a great loss to us and to this House that Pu Lalrinliana, one of the prominent figures of Mizoram passed away. We offer our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family.

Thank you.

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PU C. CHAWNGKUNGA: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to say few things about Pu Lalrinliana.
DY. SPEAKER.

Pu Lalrinliana and I was together as member of the previous Assembly. He was a man of strong determination. Being Govt. fearing person, he never began the days of the Assembly sittings without a prayer. It was also he who strongly opposed, with quotation of passages from the Bible, passing of an Excise Act to permit selling of alcoholic drink in public. Truly it is a regret that he is no more here with us today.

PU LAL THANAWLA: Mr. Speaker, there are many things to say of Pu Lalrinliana. I think Pu Rina had truly justified being prominent figure of Mizoram in various walks of life. He was one of the most successful business men, and in case of religion, he was a Church Elder besides being a practical devoted Christian. He hardly missed Church services and he led his life as a Christian should. He led his political life befitting the Christian principles. As our hon'ble Dy. Speaker had stated, in him we noticed a true believer of the living God not only in the Church but also in this House as well as in his day to day activities. Besides being a man of strict principles Pu Rina was friendly person with pleasing personality and also generous by nature. He was fond of humour and games. It is truly a great loss for us all that Pu Rina, a prominent figure, a veteran, a politician and one time member of this House had breathed his last.

That's all I have to say.

Thank you.

PU K. SANGCHHUM: Mr. Speaker, Pu Lalrinliana and I had shared the task of guiding Mizoram for the last 5 years since 1972 during which period I noticed in him good qualities which I want us to copy and follow. From what I gathered on close observation I came to the conclusion that Pu Lalrinliana was God-fearing person who used to search God's guidance in everything before committing himself to the task. That is one of the qualities I feel we should copy and follow. Secondly, he had a good sense of duty as the Chairman of the Committees to safeguard the interests of the members and his colleagues. He used to uphold integrity among the members of various House Committees of which he was Chairman. As a member, he gave respect and extended co-operation to his superiors and to Chairmen.

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He did not give advice to anyone without prior thinking. The advice he gave are of value to the country and to the people. The death such as of Pu Lalrinliana is a great blow to the people of Mizoram. He is no more here with us in person. Yet, he had set good examples before us which I hope would linger forever in the minds of the people of Mizoram. May God bless his soul.

PU J. THANKUNGA: Mr. Speaker, I am glad for having an opportunity to say some things about Pu Lalrinliana today in this House. Being one of the closest neighbours of his I am deeply moved by his death as he was a person with meek and virtuous nature. All through his life, he had been a leader or a person whom everyone regards as a guide in various activities of the locality and community not only in Church activities but also in times of troubles when misfortunes fell on others. Even when he was in death-bed, his advice was sought every now and then. Realizing the necessity of having entertainment for younger generations of Mizoram, he decided to built a Cinema Hall. But, unfortunately, his end came before the work is completed. His death is truly a loss to us all.

Thank you.

PU J. KAPTHIANGA: Mr. Speaker, our members have expressed and stated their sorrow and regret on the death of Pu Lalrinliana. I too would like to add to what they have stated about him. Being in the business together long before the disturbance of 1966, I know that Pu Rina was an unselfish person and a true parliamentarian which qualities I think we should follow. He was also the founder of Mizo Wrestling Association, a game which we, the Mizos, greatly value. I also greatly admire and value his truthfulness, honesty and unselfishness even in business or in his dealings with other business associates. I feel that we, the new members of the Assembly should follow his ideals. Lastly, I express my regret over the death of such a worthy person as Pu Rina.

PU R. ROMAWLA: Mr. Speaker, I also would like to say something about Pu Lalrinliana. It is truly a great loss to Mizoram that a man such as Pu Rina who always tried to see the good side of others inspite of their faults and blemish had passed away. However, I strongly believe that the good examples which he had set before us would be cherished in our minds for future guidance of the House and the country. Thank you.

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PU HIPHEI: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have an opportunity to make a short speech today. Though sad and heart-breaking to talk of him now, it is but gladdening that Pu Rina had set many good examples before he left this world. Having known him only since 1972, I realized how little I know of him. However, from what I gathered, I think all that had been said of him by our members can be summed up as 'Pu Lalrinliana was a religious man.'

Our members have stated the pious life he led because of his devotion to God. They had also stated him as a man who never spoke ill of others. Being away in my headquarter when he was in death-bed I wrote him a letter. From what I gathered later on, it seems that he counted my prayer for him as God's blessing which comforted him and which gladdens me as well. Though we cannot say all that have to be said of him now in a short time, we can but initiate his ways of life and his devotion to God which I hope we would do. May God bless his family to be able to continue the works he had started and which he left incomplete.

PU K. CHAWNGLIANA: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that an opportunity arises today for us to know more about Pu Lalrinliana whose personal qualities our members have stated. From their accounts of him we know that Pu Rina was a man of religion who led an honest life. He was also a man in whom we found many good qualities which can be and will be an example to us all. What we should consider is what qualities we would leave behind or would we leave good qualities as that of Pu Rina when the time comes for us to leave this world which is a thing of Must for everyone. I therefore want us all to keep in mind the qualities we have found in Pu Rina so that we may follow his examples. My deepest sympathy to the bereaved family.

PU VANLALHRUMIA: Mr. Speaker, listening to various speeches made by our Members on account of Pu Lalrinliana's death, there are things that struck my mind, Pu Rina was endowed with peculiar qualities. He neither showed his anger nor reproached those who worked under him, despite their wrong doings. Even when he did, he did it jokingly yet meaningfully which they all dreaded. Another peculiar quality of Pu Rina was his ability to catch up with the life and ideas of younger generation of today. The youth of Dawrpui Veng have been missing his guidance in times of troubles and merry makings in all of which.

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he was their guide and leader. I truly regret to have lost an honest and gentle person such as Pu Rina.

SPEAKER: If there is no other person to make a speech, we would all stand in silence for 2 minutes to pay tribute and express our sorrow on the death of Pu Lalrinliana.

(Members stood in silence for 2 minutes)

Now, we will proceed to the next item. But, before we go on further, I want to declare the names of members who are nominated for Panel of Chairmen. I believe members of Panel of Chairmen know their duties. They are expected to run the House of help the House of function in the absence of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker from the House. They are -

- (1) Pu J. Kapthianga
- (2) Pu Lal Thanhawla
- (3) Pu Hiphei
- (4) Pu Vanlalhruaia

Now, I request our hon'ble Chief Minister to lay notifications on the table of the House.

PU THENPHUNG, SAILO

CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, I do hereby lay on the table of the House the following Notifications of the Government:- (i) Notification No. LJD.5/77/7 dated 6.5.77 regarding Amendment to the Rules relating to duties, fees etc. of the Standing Counsel, Government of Mizoram, and (ii) Notification No. LJD.2/77/5 dated 16.2.77 regarding Mizoram Authentication (Orders and other Instruments) Rules, 1977.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Our hon'ble Chief Minister has laid the notifications on the table of the House.

Now, Pu Zairemthanga, Minister-in-charge L. I. D. may lay other Notifications on the table of the House.

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PU ZAIREMTHANGA: Mr.Speaker, I lay on the table of the
MINISTER. House Notification No.LAD/D-6/77/25
dated 13.12.77 regarding Mizoram (Election to Village
Councils) (Amendment) Rules, 1977.

SPEAKER: Our hon'ble Minister has laid the
Notification on the table of the House.
Now, we will discuss Lt. Governor's Address delivered
by him yesterday. A motion of thanks on the Address had
been moved yesterday. Before we start the discussion I
want our members to know that only 15 minutes each is
alloted to one member so that our members who want to make
speeches may have an equal opportunity of time. Now, we
will call upon Pi Thanmawii.

PI THANMAWII: Mr.Speaker, our Lt.Governor's Address
is being taken up for discussion today.
I am glad that the Address contains many things about the
developmental works which have been done and which have
to be done for Mizoram. It seems however that there are
some works which need prior attention. We must be thankful
that the Address reveals steps taken by our new Government
for the implementation of various developmental schemes,
the success of which would greatly depend on our co-ope-
ration and support.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Now, Pu Lalsanga, the seconder of the
motion may make a speech.

PU K.LALSANGA: Mr.Speaker, besides various efforts
made by the Government for development
of the country. Our Lt.Governor, in his address mentioned
steps that have yet to be taken. It is evident that Govt.
is intending to make improvements though works that had
been done might not be satisfactory. It seems that the
things mentioned in the Address are of great value for the
progress of the country and the people even though they
may not be carried out all at once. I strongly believe that
the fruits of success will be harvested if we all make
efforts and co-operate in the task of developing our
country.

Thank you.

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SPEAKER: We may start discussion on the Administrator's Address. If two members stand up simultaneously to make a speech, I'll give direction as to who would speak first.

PU LALTHANHAWLA: Mr. Speaker, we too support a motion of thanks moved by our hon'ble Member.

Though appreciating, the Address however does not include some important matters. For instance - the matters relating to infiltration of immigrants from Bangladesh and development of Sub-Villages (Thlawhbawk) were omitted. I think however that these subjects were dropped after some initial steps were being taken by the previous Government. Besides, the matter relating to the dispute over the boundary line of Mizoram-Cachar (Assam), a privilege to be enjoyed by sons of the soil in regard to employments and the percentage of posts to be recovered were not mentioned. Shifting of Assam Rifles from their present cantonment, removal of Brigade Headquarters from private areas they now occupy at Bawngkawn and regularization of the services of some Mizos who had served under this Government for a long time were also not mentioned.

Besides what I have mentioned, there are other points that had not been mentioned in the Address. The last election was stated as being peaceful which might be true as there was no confusion or violence. Yet, the election held at the time when Mizoram was still under the shadow of disturbance was no worse than this. In fact, the last election may not justify being called free and fair election the reasons of which we have stated in writing and in person. Though precautionary measures were not properly taken, we are thankful that there was no violence anywhere during the election, the credit of which should go to the people who do not like making scenes or trouble in public. Though the election was held smoothly as stated in the Address, we have stated the reasons for not accepting the election as free and fair, which was omitted in the Address

As regards 'peace and tranquility' every step taken in this regard was said to be done in a spirit of reconciliation due to which many commitments have been made. I have in fact wondered if the peace-talk also has suddenly come to an end in a spirit of reconciliation. Steps to be taken in a spirit of reconciliation were also not mentioned. The election though stated as being freed

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of group interest or party influence which in my opinion was a thing that needs no mentioning unless party interest actually shadowed the atmosphere of the election.

So far as communication is concerned, nothing about Railways and Airways was mentioned in the Address. It seems however that the public are more in favour of the achievements of B.R.T.F. than that of our local P.W.D., perhaps because of their promptness. But, in view of their expenditure, the works done by the B.R.T.F. might not escape criticism. For instance, black-topping done by them is so narrow even in a wide road that it is highly inconvenient for vehicles to pass while crossing. Apart from this, their expenditure is much higher than that of our P.W.D. which most of the people do not know. If our local P.W.D. is not strengthened or reinforced with equipments or capital so as to compete with the achievements of the B.R.T.F., the public would soon form a low opinion of their works which can as well be a disagree for the Government under whom the P.W.D. functions.

Apart from communication, water supply is another problem in Mizoram. As we know that the seven stages of Pumping Station also does not meet the requirements of Aizawl town. If one stage fails to function, other stages fail too. During rainy season, water supply is muddy and turbid which is not fit even for use in bathroom. If that is the condition of water supply in Aizawl town, we can presume that it will be worse in villages. One or two Pumping Machines were installed at Thenzawl. But, the pipe-lines have now all dried up after functioning only for 2/3 days. Similarly, many pipe-lines have dried up in various places and are not immediately repaired, it will hardly be possible to meet the requirements of the people. In view of what had been and had not been mentioned in the Address, I think we would do better in making work-plan than proclaiming what had been achieved.

Recognizing the fact that Mizoram has been passing through a period of famine the Government sponsored Famine Relief scheme under which programme State Level and District Level Committees were formed. However, steps taken in this regard have still been inadequate. There are yet many empty Godowns in Villages. When the matter is reported, the authorities seem to pay no heed unless the report is from A.Os or other officials concerned. Programmes set by the State Level Committee are also not being carried out justly. For instance - Agriculture Distress Loan is

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interpreted as relief, the reason of which even the members of the Committee do not know. A suggestion was also made for distress farmers to receive a quota of rice sufficient for 3 months so as to enable them to continue their daily labour without thought for next day meal. But, there are yet many farmers who have not received their quota. Instead, Agriculture loan was distributed in small amounts which barely covers their requirements. We would do well in considering as to how the relief programmes are implemented.

Despite growth in production, Ginger market is still a problem. At present, there is no market where it can be sold at the rate of Rs. 90/- whereas in previous days it was sold at the rate of Rs. 125/- per quintal. Being encouraged by the Government, the people started growing more ginger neglecting other crops. But, as there is no market to dispose of their products, cultivators who depend on this cash crop had been greatly affected.

Similarly, large amount of money was incurred for purchase of various seed crops, the collection of which was done on contract-basis. The seeds distributed were so bad in quality that some of them were rotten while some were not productive even when properly planted. Such cases can be found even in villages nearby Aizawl. The Address however does not mention what substitute would be given to the people or in what way the cultivators would be assisted.

If we go through last year's and the previous year's Addresses of Lt. Governor, we will see that there had been a proposal for the construction of scientifically designed Godowns the work of which has not been done till today. I also believe that site cannot be allotted for installation of Art Satellite Station. If we cannot allot the site, it will be transferred elsewhere which means to a loss to Mizoram. Had the Station been installed at Aizawl there would have been many benefits to be enjoyed. Besides television, other parts of India would easily be connected by Telephone. In addition to this, the Station would have been used for nuclear energy which we might like to have in future. It will truly be a regret if we cannot find site for installation of such Station.

Besides what I have said, there are yet things that had not been mentioned in the Address. Infiltration of refugees from Bangladesh is another problem. Yet what policy would Govt. adopt in this regard is not mentioned here.

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As I have stated earlier, there is a dispute over the boundary line of Mizoram - Cachar which alerted the minds of every Mizo besides the tension it creates at border areas. Though nothing had been mentioned in the Address in regard to this dispute it is but necessary to take immediate step to settle the dispute. I believe some political party even made a promise to carry out this task.

It may be noted that the Address did not mention trading of non-tribals in Mizoram. I would like to know the number of non-tribals to whom Trade Licence had been issued during President's Rule and how many of them are living in Mizoram without Permit should also be checked. I think it will be wrong to take no measure in this regard as it has been the thing we promised to do during the Election campaign.

We might have also noticed that Armed Force units who are posted in Mizoram have non-tribal traders. In some places they run Entertainment Hall both for civilians and the army staff which to some extent creates better understanding between the public and the army. But, in course of time, these entertainments become part of trading and one source of income as they extort lots of money from the people while they evade taxation. As these entertainments can lead to bad influence on the life of younger generation besides improper maintenance of the Halls, measures should immediately be taken.

Apart from what I have said, there is one thing which concerns both Mizoram and India as a whole. Being through all sorts of hardships and miseries, the people of Mizoram are longing for peace. While the peace talk was awaited with great anticipation, it has suddenly come to an end. But, when the Central Government expressed their willingness to resume the talk with other leaders of the M.N.F., Pu Zoramthanga was despatched to Arakan by their permission. However, before he reached Arakan a warrant for his arrest which came through the signature of Pu Laldenga was a forgery. So he was arrested. The incident more or less seemed to be an act of contempt on the part of Central Government. Was it because they hold no esteem for our efforts for attainment of peace that they committed an act of contempt while the spirit of reconciliation is at its tender stage. What steps would be taken in regard to the attainment of peace?

PU K. SANGC HUM: Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to thank God and the authorities concerned for paving a way for us to enter into a new era.

Broadly speaking, Mizoram has gone through three stages of transformation, the fourth stage being the present era with new Ministry. Of the things I want to say, peace and tranquility should come first, for others would have no value or significance without it. There might have been lots of improvements in the past few years, yet these things have no real value if there is no peace. In spite of various attempts made by various organisations of churches, political parties etc., Mizoram has not yet attained real/lasting peace till the present/arc day. Though an understanding was reached between the Central and the Underground Governments on 1st July, 1976 it is but mutual agreement or lasting peaceful agreement that we the Mizo people want and need. I think we should accept every path, how difficult it may be, if it leads to the attainment of lasting peace. We should also believe that there will be many difficulties to go through in order to attain lasting peace. I regret to say that our Lt. Governor seems to be wanting peace without having to go through hardships which would hardly be possible. In his Address, the Lt. Governor stated that his Government will give peace to all people in Mizoram including those who are still underground which means that peace has to be made with some Group or persons. In spite of various efforts made by various organizations of Churches, political parties etc., peace has still been our desire till the present day. I want to tell the Government that that we are ready to contribute our fullest support and co-operation in their attempts to bring about lasting peace in Mizoram.

I would also like to point out things that concern utilization of fund. Since the time of Assam Government, Mizoram has gone through many changes and there has also been heaps of written utilization of money. What I want to know is the difference between written and practical utilization of fund as there had been many written orders which were not being carried out. For instance - due to prevalence of Thingtan famine all over Mizoram, the quantity of rice quota supplied to the people was increased from 3 Kgs. to 4 Kgs. per head. But in Chhimtuipui District from where I arrived just a few days back, Deputy Commissioner was contacted to increase

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the quota from 2 Kgs. to 4 Kgs. What had been stated in the Address regarding increase of rice supply from 3 Kgs. to 4 Kgs. was far from truth so far as Chhimituipui Dist. is concerned. As such can be the condition in various places, the written orders and their implementations should be differentiated. At page 7 of the Address, the Lt. Governor stated the weakness of the machineries of Mizoram Government which means that the Mizos who work under the Govt. of Mizoram are not efficient enough or well-experienced. On the contrary, he stated the Mizos as hard working and forward looking people who, given the opportunity and guidance, will forge ahead and bring prosperity to their territory. Sometimes we are flattered and sometimes we are criticized. As such was how we, the Mizos have been spoken of, we do not know how to behave or how we would do the works to be efficient. Government would do well in giving the people proper direction.

Whether it is right to call it 'partiality' but I request the Govt. to do something to what I am going to say now. It may be noted that while the civilian passengers are checked and searched at Check-Gates. Army Vehicles have never been checked even if they are fully packed with security personnel which greatly surprised me. I too have been searched eight times while I was on tour in various parts of Mizoram. If that is not partiality for armed personnel, we would be glad not to be checked and searched at the Check-Gates of Mizoram. I want the Government to be practically involved in the affairs of the people instead of leaving things in written orders.

At page 2 of the Address, the Lt. Governor revealed prevalence of corruption among the Government employees both Mizos and non-Mizos. The Mizos had been spoken as hard working people, weak, forward looking people and also as corrupt people. But, since it has been revealed in writing, we might have actually committed corrupt practices. Government would do well in taking measures to prevent further corrupt practices.

Our Lt. Governor's statement 'Government will leave no stone unturned to remove any difficulties which may be faced by these autonomous District Councils and provide adequate assistance financially, as well as, administratively for development in these areas' was I think the best speech he delivered in years so far as those areas are concerned. We truly hope

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that what had been stated in the Address will come true practically. As provided in the 6th Schedule to the Indian Constitution regarding Autonomous District Councils, the Autonomous District Councils of Mizoram also want to have power. However, to prevent mis-use of power, we would like to have co-operation and proper guidance of the Govt. The prestige or disgrace of the Mizoram Government will greatly depend on the administration of the three Autonomous District Councils.

Mr. Speaker, this will be my last point. Needless to say much of the things of the past as we have something to look forward in the new Ministry. My only hope for the attainment of peace and prosperity is in the new Ministry because of the fact that the new Ministry depends on the words of God - Peace and Security. The new Ministry is the one who intend to work hard for the attainment of peace and they are also the ones who are ready to fight corruption as far as practicable. We are also ready to support them in their fight for attainment of peace and in their attempt to wipe out drinking of alcohol. May God bless the new Ministry and the people for prevalence of peace among the people, irrespective of caste and creed of Mizoram.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: We may continue the discussion. But, I request the members to adjust your speech to the time fixed which is 15 minutes. You may also note that if I press the Bell, it will mean that you have only 1 (one) minute more.

PU J. THANKINGA: Mr. Speaker, I am glad for having an opportunity to discuss the Lt. Governor's Address today.

If we study the content of the Address, we will see the difference with the previous Ministry. In the past years, our underground friends who fought for freedom of Mizoram were stated as persons who were led astray from the path of truth. It is not for us to give judgement on the path they have chosen which in their opinion might, be the right path. Hence it might not be a pleasant thing for them to be often told that they were being led astray. However, the term used for speaking about them is different today for which I am thankful. And I am also glad that the Lt. Governor expressed in his Address

the intention and sincere endeavour of his Govt. to work in a spirit of goodwill for the achievement of peace with those who remain underground.

It may be noted that in the new Ministry Villages and rural areas have many things to look forward to in the field of developmental projects. I strongly believe that the Govt. will strive hard for successful implementation of various developmental projects for better uplift of villages and interior areas.

I must also express my gratitude over the statement 'common man gets the maximum benefit' for it means that there is an opportunity even for poorer sections of the people to get benefits in course of development. We are glad for the efforts made by the Govt. for removal of traditional system of shifting cultivation, by which system, forests are devastated every year. So long as God's gifted forests and trees are destroyed mercilessly, Mizoram will never attain self-sufficiency in food.

At para 6 of the Address, the Lt. Governor stated the formulation of schemes for promoting plantation of various crops apart from foodgrain for self-sufficiency. In a way, it is a shame to carry on rice cultivation as the only main occupation inspite of the unfavourable conditions of our land. It will be highly appreciated if Govt. could find an alternate foodgrain for rice of one harvest a year, the kind of which is grown all over Mizoram. In plain areas, the variety of rice they grow can be harvested more than once a year. If we depend only on rice cultivation for livelihood, famine is what Mizoram will have to face year after year. I therefore request the Govt. to carefully consider variety of crops which should be grown in Mizoram.

At para 7, places where bridges should be constructed were mentioned. It is believable that many difficulties which confronted the people of Chakma and Chhimituipui Districts will be removed when bridge is constructed on river Tuipui. Besides this, we know that work has been started on construction of a bridge on river Tuichang below Keitum in addition to the proposals for construction of bridges on river Tuipui below Khawbung and river Tuivawl Chhuah below Khawlek. Aware of the difficulties faced by the people of these areas, I hope that the Govt. will take immediate steps for completion of the construction works. Though there are other places where bridges have

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to be constructed. I think it is unnecessary to mention them as it has been only a week since the Ministry is functioning.

As we are aware, water supply has been one of the major problems in Mizoram and it has also been the thing that humiliated us in front of tourists and other visitors. 'There is no water' is the popular saying of outsiders who visit Mizoram. Though Pipe line connection had been given to many people in Aizawl, this hardly suffices the requirement. Not only towns, but villages also face water problem. I want the Govt. to note that in Villages water can be drawn from nearby streams by short pipe-line for which there need be no high expenditure.

Aware of the delicacy of our position in Electricity power, Government launched investigation for the establishment of hydel-generating stations. Truly speaking, small-scale Industries installed at various places of Mizoram have no real value without electricity power to run machines. Government would do well in taking speedy actions in this regard.

As stated, education is an essential factor for the improvement of the conditions of human beings. Particularly Mizoram, with its population of only 3 lakhs will never keep pace with other states except in the field of literacy. I want the Govt. to note and take action that inspite of various efforts made for expansion and improvement of education, there are Villages/Temporary Villages where there is only one teacher for 200/300 pupils and in a place like Mauhar in Ratu Constituency there is not a single teacher.

I believe that the people of Mizoram will be pleased to know various efforts to be made by the Govt. for the improvement of health services in this territory especially in view of the difficulties they face due to non-availability of hospitals and congestion of seats in places where there is hospital. What I want to tell the Govt. is my astonishment over the poor treatment given to ordinary persons in Civil Hospital. I know there might have been times when a patient has to purchase medicine from the market when stock is limited, yet it is hard to understand why poor villages who come from far away places have to purchase almost every kind of medicine from market till today. I believe there will be some way to stop this practice and I request the Govt. to consider it.

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At para 16, prohibition of alcoholic drinks is mentioned. I am glad to note that Govt. intend to take measures to implement prohibition programme introduced by the Central Government. As we are aware, liquor (Zu) is a social evil and enemy which has been a blockade to the progress and decent living of the society. I think everyone should be concerned with the successful implementation of this prohibition programme.

Never had before developmental measures to be taken for Thlawhbawks been mentioned in the Hall. But today, for the first time in years, our Lt. Governor stated measures to be taken and the great concern the Govt. have for the development of Thlawhbawks. It appears that various difficulties faced by the residents of Thlawhbawks have now been recognised in the new Ministry. I strongly believe that the Govt. will turn their attention to the problems of these villages as expected by them.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: I am glad that our member knows how to adjust his speech to the time fixed. Now, Pu Zachono may make a speech.

PU R.T.ZACHONO: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to make a speech on the Address which had been delivered yesterday.

If we thoroughly go through the Address, we will find that there are many interesting things and novel ideas which had never been mentioned before and of which we have never heard.

Listening to the speeches given by our members, it seems that there is diversified opinion in the Address. Some members stated things that had not been mentioned in the Address while others pointed out the inefficiencies of the Government. I can believe that Govt. will have weaknesses in certain fields. What had been stated by our members regarding supply of rice in the Chhintuipui District and the construction of bridges on rivers Mat and Tuirial might also be true. However, in view of the Ministry and its members being new I somehow feel that inefficiencies pointed out were due to the previous Government.

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I am glad that Government have intention to make right what had been done wrong in the time of the previous Ministry. Though I have much to say, I would but read out para 17 of the Address which I think sums up all the things that need to be said and done - 'For implementing all the programmes which have been mentioned above we need a strong and efficient administration. Mizoram became a Union Territory only six years ago and the process of building up the administrative infrastructure has been going on since then, on the ground one administrative machinery is rather weak. There is also need for re-organisation of certain Departments and delegation of greater powers to the Field Officers so that problems and difficulties of the common people may be attended to on the spot. These tasks will be undertaken by the Government in a systematic manner after a careful study. Apart from re-organisation and strengthening of the Administration a special drive will be launched for eradication of corruption in the Administration. The efficiency of Administration, to a large extent is dependent on the integrity of the officials manning the Administration and every effort will be made to improve the standards of integrity.' I hope that everyone will make effort for successful implementation of these programmes.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Now, Pu Kenneth Chawngliana.

PU KENNETH CHAWNGLIANA: Mr. Speaker, I am glad for having an opportunity to give a speech today.

As Pu Thankunga had stated, it is comforting to know that Government will now strive hard towards achieving lasting peace in the interest of the public. In view of the statement given by the Lt. Governor in this regard, we can presume that party interest had come in the way in the past years. However, this task will now be conducted in the interest of the public for which I am thankful.

As one of our members had said, it is a fact that Mizos have been spoken of in various ways. A time may also come for us to criticize the activities of the Govt. However, we should know that the new Govt. is ready to hear praises or criticism where and when necessary. And the Govt. is also established in such a way that the people could express their views freely.

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On closes scrutiny of the statement 'proper utilization of these funds so that the common man gets the maximum benefit' we can presume that the Lt. Governor had also been aware of the corruptions practised by Govt. employees. I am glad that in him we have a courageous man who dares speak out wrong-doings and who is ready to strive hard towards removing corruption.

I am glad that the Government have taken steps to reduce the amount of money annually invested for housing the various offices which comes to over Rs 11 lakhs. What I really want to say is about the other name given to river Tlawng which had been mentioned at para 8 of the Address.

As we see it here, river 'Tlawng', is given the name 'Dhaleshwari' while 'Tlawng' by which the river is most popularly known is placed within the bracket which means that 'Tlawng' is only the secondary name given to this river. Since the name 'Dhaleshwari' is not popularly known in Mizoram, I feel that it should be changed by the name 'Tlawng'.

At point 8 of the Address, the Lt. Governor mentioned installation of Dyeing Factory which I am sure will encourage the people in dyeing business.

I think we all are happy to note efforts to be made by the Govt. to preserve our social and cultural heritage. Apart from this Govt. is intending to enact legislation for prohibition of alcohole drinks which had badly affected the life of our society. In view of the economical condition of Mizoram and even from religious point of view alcoholic drinks should certainly be prohibited. I believe the people too are glad for the measures taken by the Govt. for eradication of this social evil. I hope that the prohibition programme will be successfully implemented.

Thank you.

PU HIPHEI: Mr. Speaker, I feel that there is much to thank for in the Address. Besides cordially welcoming in the House, the Lt. Governor expressed his hope in the new Government to bear fruit for the people. I truly desire that his hopes and dreams would be fulfilled in this new Government.

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As our members have said, there are many new things to be noted down in this Government. However, before I go further I would like to point out certain things in which lies my enthusiasm.

On the first day of the current session I came across a poster in which was written 'we demand free and fair election.' But, as we, the people of Tuipang Constituency have no knowledge of the election as being unfair I paid no heed to what I read in the poster. However, on scrutiny of the passage 'passed off smoothly without any untoward incident' of the Address I somehow wonder if it has same meaning with 'free and fair.' If it has same meaning I would regard the poster as nothing. But, if the passage I quoted has different meaning, I wonder if there is some truth in what had been written on the poster,

In regard to the statement of Lt. Governor's my Govt. would therefore, appeal to all people in Mizoram including those who are still underground' - It may be noted that it is peace which everybody wants eventhough the method or an attempt made or adopted for its attainment widely differed. It is not that I criticize the statement given by the Lt. Governor, but I wonder why it is so necessary to appeal to people overground while settlement of peace lies in the hands of Central Govt. and the underground activists. Though one of our members almost seemed to blame previous Govt. I would but like to state that the previous Govt. too have done their best for the attainment of peace. Pressure they put on the Govt. with a slogan 'let there be peace-talk between Central and Underground Governments.' was the only thing they can do at that time. I do not know whether I am right in believing, but I think it is only Central and Underground Governments who can reach peace settlement and it is what we have told the Prime Minister when we went to see him last year although we expressed our readiness to support them in their attempt. It might be more effective to adopt other measures rather than making appeal to people overground in the attempt toward achieving peace.

I think we all are aware of the difficulties that confronted the people of Mizoram due to an outbreak of Thingtam Famine. At para 14 of the Address, the Lt. Governor mentioned various measures taken up by the large-scale relief works provided under E.G.S. I think we know that the Famine which confronts Mizoram at present is the kind of famine which occurs at some years interval

like other famines which have often confronted Mizoram occasionally and of which everybody dreads. Last time Central Scheme officials came to Saiha. We asked them why Mizoram was not declared Famine area as we want provisions from Central Govt. Free of cost which we are sure they can do for the people of only about 3 lakhs. They said that even if Mizoram is not declared Famine area, Central Govt. is capable of supporting it free of cost even for 7 years. Practically, it might not be easy to support the whole population free of cost for 7 years. However, what we want is that the Govt. take steps towards supporting the affected people until paddy is harvested.

What had been stated by the Lt. Governor regarding the backwardness of the Chhimituipui District was true. As the area is not easily accessible, bridge is badly needed particularly over the river Tuipui below Khawbung. I don't know whether it is included in the state List, but we would truly be glad if bridge is constructed on river Tuisumpui Chhuah (Tuipui) which serves as a communicating door between Saiha and Lawngtlai. As there is no bridge on this river, the people face many difficulties particularly during rainy season, apart from regarding themselves as living in outside world. I request the Govt. to take immediate action in this regard.

It seems that none of the rivers in Chhimituipui District were investigated when investigation was launched for installation of Hydrel-generating Stations. If I am not mistaken, I think some expenditure was incurred for investigation in previous budget. I don't know why nothing about it is mentioned in the current Budget, but Govt. would do well in launching investigations, for there might be suitable rivers where Hydrel-generating stations can be installed.

As one of our members had stated, the speech contained things that had never appeared before. Our Lt. Governor's statements, 'Government will leave no stone unturned to remove any difficulties which may be faced by these Autonomous District Councils' and 're-organisation of certain Departments and delegation of greater powers to the Field Officers so that problems and difficulties the common people may be attended to on the spot' were the things that gladden me, for now, we can be sure that Govt. will take every possible step to remove our difficulties either administration or financial. I would also like to make additional request. If we go through provisions of the Sixth Schedule we may find this wording- 'the District Council for an autonomous district may establish, construct,

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or manage primary schools, Dispensaries, markets, Cattle ponds, ferries, fisheries, roads, road transport and waterways in the district and may, with the previous approval of the Governor, make regulations for the regulation and control thereof.' If the new Govt. gives this provision to our autonomous District Councils, it will mean that the difficulties of the common people are being attended to on the spot as the Lt. Governor had stated in his speech.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion of my speech, I would like to point out the working of the provision of the Sixth Schedule after it has been amended which runs 'the Governor may, with the consent of any District Council, entrust either conditionally or unconditionally to that District Council or to its Officers functions in relation to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Community Projects, Co-Operative Societies, Social Welfare, Village Planning or any other matter with respect to which Legislative Assembly of Union Territory of Mizoram had power to make law.' According to my interpretation, if the Legislative Assembly has power to enact legislation, provisions contained in my second reading as well as provisions of the Sixth Schedule are to be included in the power of the District Councils. If these provisions are delegated to District Councils I regard the policy of the Government as being successful.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Now, we will call upon Pu C.L.Ruala.

PU C.L.RUALA: Mr. Speaker, we may find the Lt. Governor's Speech pleasing and interesting. But, on closer scrutiny of its content and measures taken by the Government. I did not find much to thank for. Right from the beginning of the speech there are things that have to cover up by smooth talks.

He said that the election had passed off smoothly without any untoward incident. Yet, of all the elections held in Mizoram, the last election was I think the most unfair. There were ballot boxes which were opened and unsealed. Re-election had to be conducted in some Polling Stations. However, these were all covered up by smooth talks.

It was also stated that the Govt. of India eagerly await final implementation of the 1st July, 1976 agreement between Central and Underground Governments. Nevertheless, we never know whether Govt. had truly made efforts towards achieving lasting peace. If they had really tried, why did they want to have no talk with MNF President, Pu Laldenga or why were they so choosy in selecting persons to hold talk with. It seems that they were not so eager as they said they were. However, if they are willing to strive hard towards this object, we are ready to support them. And if they sincerely wish to bring about peace in Mizoram, I think they must resume the peace-talk at an early date.

At para 4, the Lt. Governor mentioned about the enthusiasm of Central Janata Government on rural development and small-scale industries. At para 10, distribution of various machines like sewing, knitting, hand-tools etc. was also mentioned. But, we should know that the people are not satisfied with mere statements and promises. I do not know whether our Ministers are aware of it but, Sewing and Knitting Machines sanctioned for rural areas are mostly allotted to persons living in Aizawl leaving only few for Villagers. And the recipients seemed to be persons who have time to make fuss and visit offices. By the time the villagers learn about the distribution, all the allotments are made. If things goes on as like this, the people of rural areas would never get chance. Government would do well in giving fair chance to rural areas.

As we are aware, some areas of land have been reclaimed and terraced in the past few years. There is also a proposal for reclamation and terracing of 4500 hectares of land this year. However, as there had been no proper direction cultivators who have terraces are confused as to what crops they will grow in their lands. If we intend to encourage hill-side terracing and land reclaiming let us first consider what crops we will grow. If cultivators do not know the kind of crops to be grown, it is a waste of time and money to reclaim/terrace lands and Mizoram will not attain self-sufficiency in foodstuff either.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that our Lt. Governor has high hopes in the cultivation of potato. But, in view of the seeds distributed by Agriculture Department. I don't think there is much to hope for. Potato seeds distributed by the Government through Agriculture Department were either rotten or unsuitable for growing the good, example of which

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can be seen in places like Tawizo areas and Chalfilh where potato is largely grown. However, surprisingly, Tawi Village which has suitable climate for growing potato has never received potato seeds distributed by the Government. Having no other alternative, the people have now started growing Mizo onion. We should know that onion will not increase our production of potato. Under the present circumstances, it is doubtful whether production of potato will go up to even half of our estimate which is about 50,000 quintals. It is truly a regret that rotten potato seeds were being distributed to the people for seedlings. If our thanks be for things which we simply expect them to come true, let us all withdraw it.

We have learnt of the setting up of Agricultural Training Centre and sub-station. As this has been another sign of progress, I can't say that I am not pleased. However, as a result of my contact with the staff when they were here at Aizawl, I think that the machines were out of order. I am afraid if all other machines installed at the above centre and sub-station are out of order. That is the reason why I want our Ministers to keep an eye on the functioning of these newly set up ~~training~~ training centre and sub-station.

It is pleasing to note that 2,200 hectares of land are to be brought under new forests during the current year. However, I want our Ministers to note that let there be no devastation of 2,200 hectares of good forests to bring 2,200 hectares of new forest. I think I would be able to give thanks only after the proposal is being carried out successfully.

At para 7, provision for road development during the year is mentioned which comes to Rs 6,24,000/- both on the Plan and Non-Plan sides. Nevertheless, considering the money surrendered last year I am afraid that large portion may have to be surrendered again. Had all the money spent been fully utilized, we would have had many good roads by now. I feel that Govt. should think of some way for proper utilization of all the fund provided for road development.

As regards House-rent- we must be aware that large amount of money is being spent on rent every year. I think the monthly rate of rent for Delhi Mizoram House is Rs 6,000/-. In case of Delhi Mizoram House where two air-conditioned rooms are being reserved for Ministers and Lt Governor, I regret to say that Govt. have to spend heavy amount of money every month on renting few rooms only for high officials. I would like to know whether there has

been an order to reserve particular room for only high officials in State House. I request the Ministers to see to the matter. I am truly sorry that nothing about the construction of Mizoram Houses in other States is being mentioned in the Address. In view of the heavy expenditure incurred on rent, I think Mizoram Houses should immediately be constructed in Delhi and Shillong since we already have plot of land where to construct.

It is well and good that Government attached a high priority to the task of providing sufficient water to the people. But, if we consider the past performance of the PHE Department. I wonder how many schemes out of 51 will successfully be implemented during the current financial year. Hualtu Village has water supply of their own without any financial help from PHE Department. Had the construction of this water supply system which they managed by themselves been left to the hands of the PHE Department. I think it will take more than 5 years for them to complete. I think it is known that Rural Water Supply Scheme is left in the hands of D.C. in addition to famine relief works. Because of heavy pressure of work that arises due to famine, they have no time to carry on the work of Rural Water Supply Scheme in the hands of Community Development. Government will also do well in providing rural areas short pipes to draw water from nearby streams which I think is the easiest way. In some places like Tawizo for instance, water is drawn from nearby stream by bamboo pipe line which of course can easily be blocked by earth and gravel. In view of the difficulties of water supply faced by rural areas, Government should immediately take action to remove their difficulties.

So far as education in Mizoram is concerned, I think we are aware of the presence of non-plan growth in our educational system. While our farmers and working people are badly in need of leaders to give them proper guidance in their daily activities there are yet many educated but un-employed Graduates and Post-Graduates. Though there may be progress in various fields of knowledge, we can but presume that the progress will be bias if our educational system does not have proper basis. Hence, our education system should be based on prior proper planning.

Recognizing the inadequacy of health services in this territory, Government established 35 Primary Health Centres and 160 Sub-Centres. But, in view of the services of these centres plus the facilities provided, I am afraid

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that patient gets worse than he/she was before being given treatment. At Tlungvel Sub-Centre there are just two workers - trained and untrained. That is how it has been with the service of these Centres. I request the Government to treat all these Centres as they are to be treated.

In spite of large stock of foodgrains figured out, there are yet villages where there is no rice to be obtained, for example, Kawrtethawveng. Till 3 O'clock in the evening yesterday, I waited for information as to whether the D.C. can immediately issue rice to this village. But, the D.C. had to first examine stock position to issue rice while the people are eagerly waiting for relief. Instead of displaying large figures of stocks in the papers, let the distressed villagers have food-grain in their own villages.

As stated in the address, every effort should be made to preserve our cultural heritage and traditions. I feel that Y.M.A. is an accomplished body to take up this task as this has also been one of their aims. However, in this endeavour Government should give them every possible assistance and this is also my request.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Now, Pu H.Kiautuma.

PU H.KIÄUTUMA: Mr.Speaker, I would first of all like to say that I support the motion of thanks moved by Pi Thanmawii.

To begin my speech, I want to mention things that concerned the last Assembly Election which some of our members described as the most unfair election in Mizoram. None of us denies the fact that the election had passed off smoothly. As such, I thought we would as well accept it as free and fair. I think we better judge our own self in this regard. If one takes his/her own election to membership to be fair, he/she should as well accept others election as such. If any of us here do not accept our own election to membership as to be unfair, I think it is far better for him/her to leave the House. Let us therefore judge our own self. I also want to declare that the election was free and fair.

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As regards the peace talk - I found nothing wrong in the Lt. Governor's statement 'my Government would therefore appeal to all people in Mizoram including those who are still underground, to extend their whole-hearted co-operation in achieving this great objective.' In fact, the word 'including' had made the intention of the Govt. more perfect, for, had the 'including' been 'excluding' it might be very regrettable. Apart from this, I feel that the Govt. did the right thing in appealing to the Mizo people to extend their co-operation in achieving the objective, for, I don't think it is necessary to appeal to Bengalis or Americans in this matter. I would therefore, like to request the people of both over and under grounds to pay heed to this appeal.

In spite of many thanks that had been expressed on the Address, there are also many criticism. On listening to the speeches of our members I feel as though we are inclined towards believing that the new Ministry is responsible for the past-misdeeds. It has been just a few days since this Ministry started functioning. I think perhaps what had been said by one member regarding his getting off and on from the bus eight times was a thing that had happened during the time of old Ministry or during the time Mizoram was brought under President's Rule. I am of opinion that the present Ministry have no responsibility for what had happened or what had been done wrongly in the past. Anyway, I am glad that the Lt. Governor expressed the intention of the Govt. to strive hard towards abolishing corruption that prevailed among the Govt. employees.

Our Lt. Governor said that drunken behaviour in public places will be firmly dealt with by the Police. Yet, Police men are also the ones who often get drunk in public. It is not going to be easy for drunkard to deal with another drunkard person. As such, it is going to be necessary to think of some way to superintend our Police men. As our hon'ble member, Pu Lalthanhawla had stated, housing them for moral and service efficiency may not be enough. I don't think occupying a good house alone would make a man efficient. The Govt. would do well in taking measures to improve the working standard of our Police Forces. I think our Lt. Governor too had this intention in mind when he gave the speech eventho' he did not write the details in his Address.

There has been much talk about Multipurpose Health Scheme these days. Workers under the scheme have been saying that Dhais are being appointed in place of pharmacist which, if it is true, Govt. will have to check.

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It may be noted that in the previous years particularly during the President's Rule there were school teachers who refused to go to places where they were posted. Surprisingly, they were successful in their refusal. Nevertheless, I am pleased to note that Govt. is undertaking special programme to improve the teaching of Science and Mathematics, in addition to measures taken to strengthen our institutions. Now-a-days, cane-work is introduced in the School extra-curricular as Hand Work. But, in places like Alzawl and Lunglei there is hardly cane to be found. In fact, it is no more available within the reach of children. As such, I think Govt. would do well in abolishing cane-work for school hand work. In its place, clay-work may be introduced.

The Government recognized the necessity of strengthening administration towards which action is going to be taken. I think we are aware that one of the weaknesses of the Govt. lies in the administration. For instance - if D.C., Lunglei is transferred elsewhere or is on leave, D.C., Saiha will have to relieve him and perform his duties in addition to his actual assignments as D.C., Saiha. In a way, it is a shame not to be able to place even only three Deputy Commissioners. Perhaps recognizing this that the Lt. Governor stated the intention of the Government to strengthen the administration.

Though nothing is mentioned here, we can but hope that there will be better maintenance of law and order. Let us take Chakma Area. For example, In view of the many incidents that are taking place every now and then, this area looks more or less like lawless country of Western America in olden days. I think Police Forces will also have to be strengthened and the Government may as well take action in this regard.

One of my observations focus on Agriculture. With a view to produce more food and cash crops Govt. since the last few years allocated funds for land reclamation and hill-side terracing. But, inspite of large amount of money that had been spent and distributed to cultivators, our production of food crops does not increase. As a matter of fact, it was stated that had all the funds been fully utilized the whole of Mizoram would have turned into terraces by now. As the situation is the Govt. should take firm measures in regard to the utilization of Fund. Apart from this, they may as well introduce cultivation of other food crops like Potato, Ginger, Millet etd. besides paddy.

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We may be happy to note various improvements made by the Govt. particularly in the field of electric power. Needless to say of the necessity of power for generating machines in Industries, even Lunglei Town does not have electric current at day time which shows that the Government still has a long way to go in this regard.

Generally speaking, the new Ministry is intending to take up the works that lay before with vigorous speed and enthusiasm. I hope no one minds my saying this. But, I think Govt. will take sometime to set right what had been wrongly done in the past. Actually, most of the speeches delivered by our members were appeals and requests to the Govt. to set right things which have gone wrong in the past. In undertaking this task, Govt. may not be in a position to make steady and fast progress in other fields. However, as we are all here to work for the people and the country, we should extend every possible assistance to the Government with understanding of each other. Lastly, I want to inform the House that I support motion of thanks moved by Pi Thanmawii.

SPEAKER: It is now almost 1:00 P.M. I think Pu Sainghaka wishes to make a speech.

(Pu Sainghaka: Mr. Speaker, I think I better not say anything now).

Well, that might be a good idea since it is now almost 1 p.m. which means only few minutes are left for noon break. I think we should give him first chance in the afternoon sitting which will begin at 2 p.m. Before we disperse I will announce afternoon programme.

After Pu Sainghaka makes his speech, there may not be time for others, as the Ministers will have to be allotted time to give replies to questions in addition to need to discuss amendments and motion of thanks on the Address moved by Pi Thanmawii. Every member should try to adjust himself/herself to the time allotted. We should try to finish the business listed for the day. We will now have noon break.

Sitting will be resumed at 2 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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Afternoon Sitting (2:00 P.M.)

SPEAKER: We will continue the discussion on the Lt. Governor's Address. Now, Pu Sainghaka may be called upon. He may be allotted 15 minutes.

PU SAINGHAKA: Mr. Speaker, I have few things to say in regard to the speech given by our Administrator.

Generally speaking, I found nothing much to thank for in the speech. However, his statement 'my Government will direct all its energies to the essential tasks of eradicating poverty, un-employment, distress on account of Thingam and most important of all, to the task of achieving lasting peace in Mizoram' and last part of his speech deserves comments. As we might have known, our members hold various opinions and interpretations in regard to the speech, particularly of the wording 'free and fair' which applies to the last Assembly Election. We can believe that there will be right and wrong interpretations, since memorandum had also been submitted to the Prime Minister jointly by political parties after a serious consideration of the matter. If the hon'ble Speaker permits, I would like to give our members a copy of this memorandum for record. As our members had stated, the Government had been warned of the possible occurrence of some incidents during the period of election. But the warning did not come off successful and the election was held. I want our members to know that we are not saying things in the House as the children do when they are playing.

Much had been talked about the statement of the Lt. Governor at para 2 of his speech which runs 'My Govt. stands committed to finding a peaceful solution of all problems in a spirit of reconciliation. In this spirit we welcome the understanding reached on 1st July, 1976, between the MNF and Government of India and eagerly await its final implementation.' The 1st July, 1976 agreement was only an undersnading as stated by our Lt. Governor though our Newspapers described it as agreement. However, it is understood that the public, various political parties, Govt. of India and the Govt. of Mizoram are all interested in the peace-talk. Whether be it agreement or understanding, what we have to consider is the reason why final implementation of 1st July, 1976

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agreement is never reached till today. If I am not mistaken, I think there was a circular issued by the M.N.E. in which they stated non-acceptance of 1st July agreement and if it is true, what can the people and the Government do? It seems that an appeal has to be made to our underground friends rather than to Central Government to reach the final course of the agreement. We, the members should also try to understand the gravity of the situation. As stated earlier, without peace all other developments will have no significance. If Central Govt. is striving hard for the successful implementation of the agreement, we should be glad. But, if the announcement made by the Home Minister on 20th March regarding peace-talk was a standing order, Mizoram will have to give serious thought to its position. I am glad that our Lt. Governor expressed the attachment of Govt. to finding solution for attaining peace.

On scrutiny of the speech as a whole, we can presume that Govt. attaches great importance to economic development. He also stated the need to have prior planning for all developments which shows that much had been done in the past without prior planning. We can also believe that Mizoram Government had functioned without proper statistical basis. However, the Lt. Governor did not mention as to what development should be given priority. Detailed instruction/direction may be necessary for proper guidance of the people.

Apart from economic developments, our Lt. Governor mentioned various measures taken by the Govt. in regard to the present famine. For all we know, E.G.S. is the only means sought by the Govt. to relieve the distress of the people of Mizoram. Perhaps we know that E.G.S. originates from Test Relief the aim and purpose of which was to create employment for un-employed labourers to who might like to be employed at their leisure at lower wages. Thus, E.G.S. emerged out of this. Though differed in name, E.G.S. and Test Relief have the same aim and purposes. Under this scheme, the daily wage rate of adult labourer is Rs. 3/- or Rs. 5/- which is not at all sufficient to relieve the distressed persons. So long as we stick to the spirit of the E.G.S., the distressed people would never be relieved even if more fund is allocated or if more schemes are formulated.

Apart from E.G.S., Government initiated relief works for distressed people under P.W.D. But, the estimated rate for the work which is mainly formation cutting and jungle clearance is so low that it is doubtful whether the people would be relieved by this.

The need to re-organize administration was mentioned which shows that Mizoram Government lacks personnel management. It may be noted that there are many disappointed Govt. employees who have lost enthusiasm for work in spite of heavy schedule of works. Due to this works cannot be executed speedily. Under Assam State Electricity Board, some local persons were recruited by Mizoram Government. Yet, to this day, there has not been allocation of Fund and facilities for them. It is not only that, but, there are still many who have not enjoyed certain privileges enjoyed by other States and U.T. Government employees. All these show lack of personnel management on the part of Mizoram Government.

As regards the functioning of various departments, we have been informed of various difficulties faced by the people because of the weaknesses of the Govt. and how long the P.W.D., for instance, takes to approve Plans and Drawings that had been prepared for the construction of bridge on river Tuichang. Similar cases are to be found in other Departments too.

In his Address, the Lt. Governor stated about facilities provided only to Aizawl Civil Hospital. Why did he not mention about Hospitals of Lunglei and Chhietuipui Districts as well? It is hard to understand. Was it also that Government have no intention to implement the proposal made by previous Government for the construction of Hospital at Kulikawn Damphai?

We know that Government is spending large sum of money annually on rent for housing the various Government Offices Mizoram Guest Houses. Recently, the one and only remaining M.P. of Rajya Sabha from Mizoram, Pu Lalbuai was not allowed to occupy V.I.P. Room at Calcutta Mizoram House, the reason of which we are not aware. We are also not aware as to why the Lt. Governor did not mention the detailed working of the L.A.D. particularly in regard to steps taken by them to provide Street lights in towns/villages.

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There is one thing that had not been mentioned in the Address, but to which I attached much importance. It is beautification of towns. Not to mention other places, even Aizawl, our Capital, is badly in need of beautifying. As we are aware, human refuse and dirt are disposed of in the town itself which shows how undeveloped the town has still been. However, nothing about this subject is mentioned.

We may also be aware that while our nearby villages like Durtlang, Hlimen etc. are regarded as town area, they are not given proper attention particularly in the field of development. I just want to point out negligence of villages situated around Aizawl South so that Government may take action to improve them.

I may as well point out my heartfelt gratitude over the things to be done for development of the country which our Lt. Governor mentioned in his address. I am also glad for having an opportunity to make a speech this afternoon.

Before I end my speech, Mr. Speaker, let me say just one more thing. In other States, Speaker and Dy. Speaker of the House used to leave the party with which they are affiliated so as to be able to discharge their duties more fruitfully and efficiently. Similarly, I request Speaker and Deputy Speaker of this House to do the same so that their performance may be like that of a beautiful flower.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Before I call Members, I would like to tell our members one thing.

Our Members are not to take/bring into the House drinking water and they are also not to send peons on errand i.e. to get water or eatable things. Drinking water placed at Speaker's Table should not be taken as precedent.

Now, we will call upon Pu Lalthanzauva.

PU LALTHANZAUVA: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the speech of the Lt. Governor is being discussed today.

Some of our members have given speech in regard to the Address. On listening to their speeches, it seems that some of them forgot our main subject. So far as the speech is concerned, I found nothing to dislike or criticize. I do in fact support motion of thanks moved by Pi Thanmawii.

At last para of the speech, the Lt. Governor himself stated the inadequacy of his speech. He also said that what he mentioned are only an outline of activities of his Government and the programmes and policies to be persued during the current year. When Lt. Governor Addresses the House, they never give details of what Government had done or what they will do. Perhaps our members also think that Government is not going to do things that had not been mentioned in the Address. We should know that there are things that had been done and things to be done but which were not mentioned in the Address. Had the detail of everything been mentioned in the Address, the book will be too thick and one may take more than a week to go through it. If Government is intending to fulfil or implement only things that had been mentioned in the Address, it will be very regrettable. However, I strongly believe that in this new Govt. there will be written and unwritten programmes and policies to be persued.

Since the formation of U.T., Govt. is spending large sums of money annually for housing Govt. Offices and Guest Houses. It is obvious that the Govt. was not fully aware of the large amount of money spent and did not take steps to reduce the expenditure. However, I am pleased to note that the new Govt. is taking measures to reduce the expenditure on house/office rent.

Our Members have stated about the cultivation of food and cash crops and also non-availability of suitable markets for our surpluses which to some extent kills enthusiasm of the cultivators to grow more. But, at para 5 of the Address, our Lt. Governor mentioned efforts to be made by the Government to explore suitable markets for our surplus production. I don't know why some of our members still try to find fault with the speech in spite of all the good things mentioned.

....35/-

Recognising various difficulties faced by the people living in Thlawhbawks, Government made a decision to extend some developmental benefits to them. As I have said before, I think the speech as a whole is quite appreciating. In fact, I found nothing to criticize or to make addition to.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Now, we will call upon our Chief Minister.

PU THENPHUNGA SAILO:
CHIEF MINISTER.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps our members are already aware of it, but, I would still like to say few things in regard to the Address. The aim of the Address is to give only an outline of the activities of the Govt. and the programmes and policies to be pursued or which had already been pursued. As stated in the Address itself, it is not possible to cover all the activities and all the programmes of Government in this brief review. There are various things and topics which have much importance even if taken one by one though they are not mentioned in the Address. If we take the subject of Trading by Non-Tribals for instance, this subject alone might cover the whole chapter of the Address. However, I hope our members will not think that Government will not take up tasks which are not mentioned in the Address.

In spite of its incompleteness, the Address contains different subjects which have much importance in our daily life and activities, for instance, food, water, Electricity, Health Services, Education etc. Lt. Governor's Addresses of other States are also not in detail. In spite of my dislike, it is inevitably necessary to mention things of the past to know the background of the condition of Mizoram on various walks of life. If we are to talk about things that had been done or have not been done, we will have to look back to the time when Mizoram was under previous Government or under President's Rule. As we know, there was nothing much done nor was there much damage during the President's Rule which lasted more than a year. I regret much for having to say that various conditions which have been assailing Mizoram are reflection of the past.

.....36/-

As regards Famine - there has been much talk about distress and relief. Apart from various suggestions, there was also criticism of the spirit of E.G.S. and talk about the inadequacy of the scale of rations. Perhaps it is also true that the people of Chhaintuipui District have not received full ration after the scale was raised. But, message has been transmitted. It is expected that the people would be called to receive their quota by tomorrow. May be we are not aware that the activities of the new Government are still unknown to Villages as it has been only about a week since it started to function. Had there been election at the beginning of this year, much of what we have said will be saved. But, not wanting election, we cannot help mentioning all the things we have mentioned. Actually, it is already late for starting everything afresh. As we know, relief works also can be started only in the months of June/July inspite of heavy pressure to start the work earlier. Had the Ministry been formed earlier, I think many of our troubles would be saved. I think it is an ill-luck not to be able to hold election earlier.

I would also like to express my appreciation of the speeches made by Pu Hiphei, Pu Sangchhum and Pu C.L.Ruala. The speeches were interesting and worthy of imitating as every subject was stated clearly and point by point. I think everyone of us should try to follow such form of speeches.

As stated by Pu Lalthanhawla, it is a fact that there are many things to be done besides what had been mentioned in the Address. Had he been given more time, I think he will have still more to point out. However, I want our members to be aware of the responsibility shouldered on us to fulfil the task which lies before us. If our members have suggestions, we would be glad to receive them in writing.

There is much to say regarding Peace-talk. Our members have said much about 1st July, 1976 Agreement. But, whether it was agreement or understanding, it may not be necessary to repeat, for, we know that the agreement was welcomed by all at that time. And everyone awaits its final implementation. In fact, it is our wish that the peace-talk be continued. Frankly speaking, it is the Govt. of India and the Underground activists who are at daggers drawn and between whom there has to be peace.

....37/-

There is not much to do for others. What we can do is to press them to come to term to hold peace-talk. Though we can do nothing to cause peace, we are but trying to make use of our ability towards this if there is anything that can be done within our power. As we all know, when the peace-talk came to an end the Government of India stated their reason for not wanting to talk to the MNF spokesman, Pu Laldenga. Sometime later, letters written to India Government by Pu Laldenga were spread far and wide in Mizoram. Perhaps we have read those letters. If we want to know the meaning of those letters, we would easily find it by going through the contents. When the spokespersonship of Pu Laldenga was not accepted by Central Government, there was hardly a ray of hope for success of peace-talk. Had the situation been like before, there might have been strong opposition from Central Govt. to hold further talks. But, wishing for peace in Mizoram in addition to an eagerness with which the people and other leaders of the MNF await resumption of peace-talk, the Govt. of India announced their willingness to hold further talk with other MNF leaders rather than Pu Laldenga. Hence it is learnt that some talk is being conducted between the MNF National Council and the Government of India. Having no knowledge of the outcome of their talk, we cannot as yet make conclusion that the Govt. of India did not really want to have talk with Pu Laldenga. As peace settlement now rests with the MNF National Council and the Govt. of India, it is not possible for us to know where and when we would come into the picture.

I would also like to assure our hon'ble members not to worry so much about 20th April incident, for, something better might turn up in course of time. In fact, I am of opinion that we would soon hear better news than the one he mentioned. It is better to leave everything in the hands of those who can do in this matter.

As regards election - I think the Lt. Governor had given a clear description of election in his address. Frankly speaking, there were many persons - Mizos and Non-Mizos and other officials of the like who tried with every possible means to put off the election when it was being processed. Being aware of this intention, the Government took every possible measure to go through the election. It is in view of the disturbed conditions which have prevailed in Mizoram that the Lt. Governor said "the election has passed off smoothly without any untoward incident." If we want to point out unfairness of election, we may have lots of things to say though I have no intention of doing it. However, I think we need to consider what had been stated by Pu Kiautuma regarding election.

....38/-

I would like to express my appreciation of the speech made by Pu Sangchhum. It is a fact that mere written orders will not bring developments unless they are actually implemented. This home truth is what we have often talked about even in the past. It is also true that mere talks will not make us developed unless we ourselves do the work. As such, we need to have co-operation among us.

In view of what he stated in regard to revision of the scale of ration, it seems that Pu Sangchhum also has not learnt latest events and up-to-date activities of the Government. If there is convenience, I would like to explain to him programmes pursued by the Government which I intend to do to Deputy Commissioners of the southern Districts at my office chamber. As I have said, the programme is initiated just a week back. However, I am ever ready to explain programmes and policies pursued by the Government to those who wish to know.

Pu J.Thankunga mentioned about the inadequacy of health services in this Territory which undoubtedly is true. We have also learnt about scarcity of medicines in the Dispensaries and Hospitals. Because of all these, we need to work harder.

As regards what had been stated by Pu Kenneth Chawngliana regarding peace-talk - I think it was a mistake that he stated about ourselves taking certain measures in this matter. As I have said, we can do nothing and have done nothing due to the fact that peace settlement lies in the hands of the MNF and the Government of India.

Regarding the name of Tlawng river being written 'Dhaloshwari' - I think it was by mistake that it was written like that. There was so much hush at that time that other persons also will make mistake against such background. Anyway, we will remember what was said next time we write the name.

Our hon'ble member Pu Hipei said that the Government do not have to appeal to the people of Mizoram in their attempt to finding peace as peace settlement lies in the hands of the MNF and the Government of India. Nevertheless considering the attitude of some persons towards peace-settlement, co-operation and support of the people will be an important factor due to which an appeal has to be made to them. It is almost certain to strict observes that there are persons in Mizoram who are against achieving peace.39/-

Lastly, I regret to say that we, the newly elected members have to attend to the task of reconstructing things wrongly done in the past years. Actually, it is not an easy task that lies before us. It is a matter of fact. I don't think we would make much improvement during our term of 5 years. Considering the need to formulate plans and schemes for further developments in addition to the task of reconstruction of past misdeeds which will require at least 3 years, it is doubtful whether the tempo of development will improve. Though what we can do may be a little, we will but extend our whole-hearted co-operation in whatever task we undertake.

I would like to say that when we talk about things of the past, we should not altogether blame our former leaders for past misdeeds. They have done much, and did what they could for the country which on the other hand does not mean they have done no misdeeds or have no faults.

We should also remember that in order to achieve great things in life, we have to do right from the beginning. As we are aware, we have just entered into the first stage of our term which is an important stage. It is obvious from our speeches that an eagerness with which we view activities of the Government. We have also said much about things that had not yet been done by this newly created Government. Frankly speaking, I think there is none among human beings who is capable of doing so many things just within a week. Instead of pointing out the slow speed of the Government off and on in matters relating to various developments, we would better do well in making suggestions to the Government.

That is all I want to say.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Anyone from Treasury Bench may give a speech. Pu Zairenthanga, Minister may give a speech now.

PU ZAIRENTHANGA: Mr. Speaker, I too have certain things to say in the light of our discussion.

As our members have said, there are many things to consider in regard to supply and Thingtan Faminé. From what I gathered, it is evident that everyone of us here including our Chief Minister and you, our hon'ble Speaker

is most concerned with matters relating to Thingtan Famine for which I am thankful.

Our hon'ble Members have stated about various measures taken by the Government to relieve famine affected areas. E.G.S. as stated, is one of the most popular relief works initiated by the Govt. On the other hand, we have learnt the true aim and purpose of E.G.S. which in its true sense does not mean famine relief work. But, being famine affected area, the Government take advantage of the scheme for relief work so as to offer employments to persons who have no work and who are being affected by famine. I think we should be glad for this arrangement made for the people. Perhaps it is also not proper to totally reject E.G.S. as it offers an opportunity to many persons to earn a living. In fact, the Government is intending to revise the daily wage rate under this scheme, for which I think we will be thankful.

Due to the fact that we, the Mizos are rice-eater who regard other foodstuff only a substitute, the Government stocked large quantity of rice at various centres of Mizoram. As stated before, the scale of ration had also been increased. Even when there is an additional requirement, the Govt. made arrangement and steps were taken to stock more rice to be able to meet the requirement. In spite of the efforts made by the Govt., one of our hon'ble members reports non-availability of rice at Kawrtethaweng, the report of which should be given due importance. However, I want to request our members to consider whether reports received are facts or mere rumours, for, there had been false report about supply condition at Phailong and Tuipubari where our hon'ble member had on the spot-visit, found out availability of rice after the report. This does not either mean we do not believe the report given by our hon'ble member. Actually, these places are the most famine affected areas in Northern parts of Mizoram partly due to non-availability of good roads. As the roads are pliable only by four-wheeler vehicles, Security Forces were contacted to lend their vehicles for transportation of rice in those areas. The work had also been started.

One of our members raised a question as to what action would the Government take if there had been no rice at certain centres. In this case, Government will take all possible steps to provide them with adequate rice to meet their requirement. It is needless to say as to when we will ask for such provision. Everyone of us should extend our whole-hearted co-operation in our attempt to relieve famine affected areas. I therefore, fervently appeal to all members to extend their co-operation instead of waiting for the time when we are exposed to disgrace.

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Our members have given an account of various relief measures initiated by the Government. Of these, Agricultural Distress Loan and Relief Loan are most commonly known. As stated by the Lt. Governor, Government proposed to disburse about Rs. 90 lakhs under Relief Loan. However, if necessity arises, there will not be financial difficulty to disburse additional sum of money.

Apart from various relief measures initiated, the scale of ration was revised. By this revision, Government do not aim at helping only the famine affected areas. It is decided that every affected family all through Mizoram should be provided with foodgrain ration so as to make them free to work in their fields for production of good crop during the current year. However, as our hon'ble Chief Minister had stated, informations and activities of the Govt. cannot be speedily communicated to all parts of the territory. This is the reason why some of our members also do not know about the recent activities of the Government.

Besides revision of the scale of ration, sanction of Fund for destituted and physically handicapped persons under Gratuitous Relief has also been continued.

As our hon'ble member Pu Lalthanhawla had pointed out, nothing much about Thlawhbawk is mentioned in the Address. However, I want to tell our members that Govt. is making every possible effort to re-settle these Thlawhbawks as into their former condition before they were grouped with proper administration under Village Council. As at present, they are only somewhat like living in jhum huts which to some extent caused hesitation on the part of the Government to extend developmental benefits. As soon as they can be administered as Villages, developmental benefits will automatically come along.

One of our members said that Speaker and Dy. Speaker of the House should leave the party with which they are affiliated as soon as they are elected Speaker and Dy. Speaker. In view of the statement given by him, it seems that our Speaker and Dy. Speaker are still inclined towards their party or perhaps it is the way our member feels. Though he did not mention I think it is because of the 'Tawhloh Puan' or 'Cloth of no retreat' they worn that our member feels it that way. Tawhloh Puan is not party uniform nor is uniform of particular party's M.L.A. Tawhloh Puan is Mizo traditional cloth which P.C. Party use as a symbol to

show that we are not to despise our customs and traditions but are to cherish and uphold them. In fact the P.C. party wishes that whoever values this message will wear this cloth. Actually, persons who value this message wear Tawhloh Puan irrespective of party.

It is a fact that the Address did not cover all the activities and all the programmes of Government. As stated, there are various things and topics which have much importance even if taken one by one though they are not mentioned in the Address. But, as our hon'ble Chief Minister had said, Government is not concerned only with things mentioned in the Address, but also with things to which Govt. attach great priority. Having heard of the various efforts made by the Government in the field of development in addition to the concluding remarks made by the Lt. Governor in his Address, it may not be necessary to amend the motion. Hence, I request our hon'ble member Pu Lalthanhawla to withdraw his amendment motion while at the same time I suggest that we pass the motion of thanks ^{as} moved by Pi Thanmawii.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: We will call upon our Education Minister, Pu F. Malsawma.

PU F. MALSAWMA:
MINISTER. Mr. Speaker, it is enlightening to listen to various speeches given by our members particularly those of our opposition members as there was much to note down besides what we have learned from the Address. Though our hon'ble Ministers have stated, I would once again like to request our members to believe that Govt. will undertake not only things mentioned in the Address but also various developmental schemes which were not mentioned.

It was stated that various implements distributed under Industry Department for small and village Industries were disposed of mainly at Mizawl Town. In this case, I would like to assure our members that the new Govt. will firmly deal with such misdeed. Re-organization of Loan Board is also being processed so as to have a strict watch over the distribution and utilization of these implements.

As regards damaged machines being distributed - it is likely that there will be damaged parts or damaged machines amidst heaps of machines. There are cases where supplier supplied damaged machines while in other cases, machines are being damaged after they are installed. However, whatever the reasons for damages may be, Government will try to find a means to repair them.

Though the refusal of some teachers to go to the place where they are posted was mentioned, Government have not yet had such knowledge. But, if a report of such cases comes to the notice of the Government, I dare say that necessary action will be taken.

One of our members alleged Education Department as having no proper plans. But, there is hardly a Department which has proper plans besides Education Department, the proof of which can be seen at page 4 of the Address which runs - 'an idea regarding the expanded activities of the Education Department can be formed from the fact that the Annual Plan budget of this Department which has been in the neighbourhood of about Rs. 40 lakhs during the past few years is being sought to be raised to Rs. 90 lakhs for the current financial year.' Actually, unless there is proper planning the budget will not be approved. However, in education, the achievements cannot be certain even though there may be proper planning. Anyway, I want us to know that Education Department have proper planning for their future schedule of works. Generally speaking, the new Government aim at introducing orientation in various fields of education. Apart from this, Social Welfare wing will also be welfare-cum-social reform oriented. Hence, every project in Education Department is based on prior planning. However, our Govt. is just like a new born baby due to which it may not be right to expect so much from it. Nevertheless, we should aim at having better performance in various fields of developments.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Now, Pu P.B. Rosanga may give a speech.

PU P.B. ROSANGA: Mr. Speaker, I am glad for having an opportunity to discuss the speech made by the Lt. Governor through I have not much to say.

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Generally speaking, it seems that most of us are pleased with the content of the Address. As we have known, all the programmes and activities of the Government cannot be written down in a brief review of the Address. Only an outline of important programmes and policies to be pursued are shown here which does not mean that things that had not been mentioned are not important. Every Department has heavy schedule of works before it. We can presume that every possible effort will be made for successful implementation of these schemes and programmes.

On listening to the speeches made by our members, I would like to say certain things in regard to election. It appears that some of our members are not satisfied with the statement 'smoothly without any untoward incident.' But, I think there can be no free and fair election better than that of our election even in the whole of India. As a matter of fact, it was so free that members who said it was 'not free and fair' were only making a contradictory statement.

As regards an appeal made to the people and to the M.N.F. to extend their whole-hearted co-operation in achieving the objective of the 1st July, 1976 agreement - I think one of our members stated as cancelling the 1st July agreement on 20th April. If we are to discuss about the 1st July agreement, I think we remember the persons who signed the agreement. They were Pu Laldenga, on behalf of the MNF and Home Secretary, who represented the Government of India. Documents other than the document signed by Pu Laldenga and Home Secretary are not worthy to be discussed in the House so far as peace agreement is concerned. As we all know, everyone - Church leaders, political party leaders and various organizations joyously welcomed the peace agreement when it was signed. And it has been everyone's wish that this agreement will lead to the attainment of true and lasting peace. Hence, there is nothing wrong in making appeal to the people and to those who remain underground to extend their co-operation in achieving our main objective which is peace.

One of our members alleged the Address as mentioning no Planned Economic development programme. It seems that our member did not properly go through the content of the Address. If we turn to page 2, para 4 of the Address, we will see the many plans and programmes chalked out by the Government for economic development.

We learnt that Government attached great priority to agricultural development. The importance of

agriculture is so great that other economic developments would hardly be possible without prospective agricultural background. It may be noted that except on agriculture, there has not yet been other things to depend for Mizoram. I am glad that the Lt. Governor mentioned various efforts made by the Government apart from plans and policies formulated for development.

I regret to say that only few members show interest in agriculture development. As we are all aware, the physical feature and climatic condition of Mizoram is widely different from plain areas due to which vigorous step has to be taken towards agricultural development. The present method of cultivation i.e. shifting cultivation which has been practised from generation to generation will also have to be changed, for, it is doubtful that this method will be adoptable for all time. As a matter of fact, I don't think there will be much agricultural development in shifting cultivation. Our members have stated the necessity of changing our crops and they have also suggested to encourage cultivation of ginger and potato, the suggestion of which I appreciate. By now, we must have realized suitability of Mizoram for growing the kinds of crops our members have suggested. I don't doubt what had been stated by our members regarding distribution of rotten potato seeds. Yet, inspite of this, production of ginger has gone up which I believe will strengthen our economic condition. It is also the aim of the Govt. to promote production so as to avoid importation of seed from outside.

One of our members stated about the condition of machines installed at Agricultural Research Sub-Centre in Kolasib. I am truly sorry that these machines remained out of order while we want them to be in service. Actually it is also the intention of the Govt. to keep these machines in good order at all times. Nevertheless, I want to caution our members that these machineries and tools are not for lending, they may give vague reply if there is an interference from outside or from persons who are not researchers.

Regarding housing - it is learnt that the Government of Mizoram used to spend about Rs. 11 lakhs for house rent every year. The reason behind this is that the previous Ministry had completed only a few Government buildings. There are no Departmental Office or quarters or Residential buildings to be seen which are constructed and completed by them. So, having no alternative, they had to spend 11 lakhs of rupees every year as house-rent. But now, I am glad to

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learn from our Lt. Governor that Rs. 25 lakhs has been estimated and sanctioned for the construction of Government buildings in this territory within a period of 4 or 5 years. Had such an enormous sum of money been spent for the construction of the said buildings, we will surely have enough Government buildings to be used by now and the present financial problem would have also been removed. Now the best thing to be done is to have the construction of all the buildings completed very soon and for this, planning has already been done. What is now needed, is to get the required money for use.

After carefully examining the content of the Address, I think it is not necessary to amend the Address. As our hon'ble Minister had said, what had been stated by Pu Lalthanhawla are also to be included in the programmes of the Government though they are not mentioned in the Address, for, it is not possible to mention all the activities and programmes of the Government.

Thank you.

PU ZAIEMTHANGA:
MINISTER.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say again a few words to make my earlier statement clear as I am afraid there will be some sort of misinterpretation.

As regards rice distributed on loan - it should be need based which means that rice should not be distributed only to the famine - affected areas but also to every family who is in need of it.

I would also like to inform our members that revision of the scale of ration to 4 Kgs. per head does not include people living in the areas where there are good transport facilities.

SPEAKER:

Now, Pu J. Kapthianga may make a speech.

PU J. KAPTHIANGA:

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have an opportunity to discuss the Lt. Governor's Address today. In view of the speeches made by our members on various subjects, it is evident that everyone is concerned with the development of the country. I particularly appreciate proposals made by the new Government which the Lt. Governor mentioned at page 17 of his Address. I don't think it is necessary to amend the address as suggested by one of

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our members, for, I think page 17 clearly reveals firm determination of the new Govt. to set right things which had been wrongly done in the past. I would also like to tell our members that by 'for implementing all the programmes which have been mentioned above' Government do not mean that they will take up only things mentioned in the Address. As a matter of fact, our Government aims at persuing various programmes and policies mentioned by our members. I am truly glad to know that our members have high hopes in the new Government.

As regards withdrawal of Speaker and Deputy Speaker from the party with which they are affiliated - I would like to inform our hon'ble member that in our P.C. Party Constitution, it has already been enacted that whoever member holds office shall withdraw from the party.

So far as peace is concerned, I think we should be most concerned with finding a way to bring together the people who are at daggers drawn to have peace talk. It will be wrong to make an attempt in our own way of as we think proper irrespective of the path followed by both the parties concerned. The people should also be cautioned not to come between them in their attempt to have peace-talk.

Much had been said about election. As stated, the election was free and fair. In spite of much rumour and propaganda, the election has passed off smoothly which clearly reveals the maturity of the voters, for which I am thankful.

On closer scrutiny of the address, it seems that the achievement made during the period of President's Rule has better far-reaching effect than that of previous Government.

We are aware that Mizoram has been facing a crucial period due to Thingtam Famine. Because of this, agriculture has to be strengthened. If we thoroughly go through the address, we will see that the new Government have various programmes and policies to persue. Though every programme and policy of the Govt. is not mentioned in the address, we can but hope and believe that the Govt. will make headway in various walks of life.

I must say that our discussion has truly brightened my mind. From what I gathered, it seems that we have high hopes in the new Government for which I am thankful. I particularly appreciate criticism made by our opposition members, for, I know they were all constructive criticism. I am also glad that the new Government aims at setting right things that had been wrongly done. I request our members to extend their co-operation in the attempt made by the Govt. to solve various problems which confronts this territory and also to lend their hand for successful implementation of various tasks that lie ahead.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Even if we are not content with what we have said, I think we have said enough for the time being. Our Ministers also have given reply to various questions raised by our members along with explanations to various things. I think replies and explanations given by our Ministers are clear to our members.

There is an amendment motion on the Lt. Governor's Address. I would like to hear from the mover, Pu Lalthanhawla whether he intends his motion to be put to vote inspite of replies and explanations made by our Ministers and members or he wants to withdraw it.

PU LAL THANHLAWLA: Mr. Speaker, before I inform the House my decision, I would like to make few statements since it is not outside the rule.

(Speaker: I permit you). Mr. Speaker, I must say that the new Government do not know how to differentiate between praise and flattery in view of the replies and explanations made by the ministers. However, we are not blind to see the good deeds done by them within a short period.

When the Central Minister of State for Home Affairs came to Mizawl, perhaps other parties also begged, our party begged him to raise the scale of ration from 2 Kgs. to 3½ Kgs. per head. However, not satisfied with this, our new Government revised it to 4 Kgs. per head for which we are thankful.

As regards election - it is not that we do not accept the election and its result. We only made criticisms just in case there was something wrong as there was no much noise and fuss when the result was announced. We do not we accept the result. I know there are persons from different parties even from the Ruling Party itself who have criticisms. As such, it is wrong to say that 'those who do not accept the election/result should resign.' Actually, we are also church members. When there is something wrong in the administration, we criticize it which does not mean we want to resign from our membership. We do not resign just because there is something wrong. As a matter of fact, we try to make things right. Similarly, we only pointed out things which we want them not to be repeated so as to avoid further misdeeds. We hope that our members will understand our point of view. It will be truly unfair if our members, particularly from the Treasury Bench take our criticism as unprogressive and unconstructive.

The reason for moving this amendment motion is not that I emphasize too much stress on the content of the Address. I have in fact admitted my appreciation of it. What I have pointed out things are of extreme public importance and delicate issues and which most of the members gave priority in their speeches. Having in mind the interest of the people and also because of my concern for the well-being of the Ruling Party, I pointed out things which were omitted in the address.

Listening ^{to} various speeches made by our members, it seems that majority are in favour of dropping my amendment motion. As we are outnumbered by ruling party members, it is not hopeful that they will support me in voting the amendment motion. I don't think they will also dare to stand by me even if they want. I therefore agree to withdraw my amendment motion.

SPEAKER: Now, Pu Lalthanhawla has just requested for the withdrawal of his amendment motion. I am requesting members to show sign of their consent to withdraw the same.

The amendment motion will now be taken as having being withdrawn.

Business listed for today is finished. We will now come to the last part of our business. Before we end up, I want to call upon Pi Thanmawii, mover of motion of thanks to make a speech. If she does not have anything to say,

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her motion of thanks will be put to vote. Let us call upon
Pi Thannawii to make concluding remarks.

PI THANNAWII: Mr. Speaker, we have been looking
through and deliberately discussing the
address made by Lt. Governor. It is now clear that this address
is good as it contains all which are good and necessary for
our country. Even before I extend my heartfelt thanks. I think
the members would have already many things to say as a token
of their gratitude and thanks to the address. The address
from para 1 to 18, though not in detail, contains what are
necessary for our territory. This indicates that we all have
trusted our newly created government and I, therefore, request
the House to agree and accept the motion.

SPEAKER: Now, we have completed discussion on
the address of our Lt. Governor, each
member speaking with his utmost ability. Those who have not
understood the content of the address also received a clear-cut
explanation from the Government. I now feel good to present
our address to the Lt. Governor in this regard in English as
our Lt. Governor is non-Mizo who could not speak and read in
dialect. So I will read out what we prepared to present to our
Lt. Governor and request at the same time, those who find it
good to say 'yes' and 'no' to those who find not good. It
goes like this 'That the Members of the Mizoram Legislative
Assembly assembled in this session are deeply grateful to the
Lt. Governor (Administrator) for the Address which he has been
pleased to deliver to the Assembly on the 22nd June, 1978.'

Those in favour of the motion will say
'Yes', if there is any one who is against the motion may
say 'No'.

(Members said 'Agree')

So all the members agreed and welcomed the Address. The
motion of thanks is adopted.

Thank you.

Now, I'll adjourn the House till 26th
June, 1978 and we will assemble here again on that date at
10:30 A.M.

Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

D. C. PAUDE,
SECRETARY.

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