

THIRD SITTING OF THE TENTH SESSION HOLD ON 21st OCTOBER,
1982 at 10:30 A.M.

.....

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pu.C.Chawngkunga, Dy. Speaker, at the Chair, Chief Minister,
Three Ministers and Twenty Members were present.

Business

1. Questions entered in separate list to be asked and answers
givens.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

2. Pu Joe Ngurdawla to present to the House the Sixth Report
of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.
3. Pu.K.Biakchungnunga to present to the House the Eight Report
of the Committee on Estimates.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bill for consideration and Passing

4. Pu Lalhmingthenga to move that the Bill to amend the Lushai
Hill District (Revenue Assessment) Regulation, 1953 be taken
into consideration.

ALSO

to move that the Bill be passed

DY. SPEAKER :

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the
salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall
it be salted? it is thenceforth good
for nothing, but to be cast out, and to
be trodden under food of men. Ye are the
light of the world. A city that is set on
an Hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle,
and put it under a busel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth
light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine
before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify
your Father which is in heaven.

Now, we will take up Business Nd. 1
which is Pu C.Vulluaia's question. He othorized someone else
as he is not present. But, his question will be taken up later.
Now, Pu V.Lalnunzira may ask his question.

PU V. LALNUNZIRA : Pu Deputy Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister i/c. Forest Department be pleased to state -
How many villagers of Tuikuk have been shifted from Dampa wild life sanctuary in 1981-82.

PU P.B. ROSANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, no village has been
MINISTER shifted from Dampa Wildlife Sanctuary in 1981-82.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : If there is no supplementary question,
Pu Saikapthinga may ask his question.

PU SAIKAPTHINGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, there is supplementary question. There is High Court case regarding this sanctuary. Is it a fact that Forest Department have still destroyed crops and jhums of the Tuikuks even after High Court released judgement order ?

PU P.B. ROSANGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, may be the hon'ble
MINISTER member raised the question in the wrong way, for, there is no such information received.

PU SAIKAPTHINGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, will the Ministry give assurance to take action if we can give information about collection of money conducted by Foresters/Forest guards from Tuikuks on pretext that they were settling and cultivating within the area of the sanctuary ?

PU P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, according to High Court
MINISTER Judgement, no cultivation is permitted
within sanctuary area. Stay order issued by
High Court has not been cancelled till
date through some amendments have to be
made in the procedure notification of Eviction order. If anyone
cultivates within Sanctuary area, it will mean that they are
breaking standing order of the High Court.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, it seems that High Court
Judgement cancelled Eviction order made
by the Mizoram Government. If necessary
it is High Court who should make amendment
to Eviction order. Has Eviction Order been amended ?

PU P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, it is true that High Court
MINISTER cancelled Eviction Order on the ground
that Sanctuary declaration was made without
Gazet Notification. But, there has not
been any cancellation of Dampa area for
sanctuary. What High Court advice is to follow normal procedure
such as making Gazet notification before declaration was made.
After all the formalities have been completed, Eviction order
will be made as a standing rule. The matter is now being processed
We should be aware that cancellation of Eviction order by
High Court does not mean settling and cultivating within the
Sanctuary is permitted.

PU V. LAINUNZIRA : Pu Dy. Speaker, is the Government aware
that there are many Tuikuals and Talams
whose Jhums and crops are not destroyed
through some of them are pestered ?

PU P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, Government have no know-
MINISTER ledge that Jhums and crops of Tuikuk and
Takams were destroyed and they also do not
know whether they were Tuikuk and Takams
Whose crops and jhums were not destroyed.

DY. SPEAKER : If there's no more supplementary question,
we will proceed to question No. 13 .

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA

: Pu Dy.Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister in-charge P.W.D. be pleased to state -

- (a) How many individuals were given widening works at K.D.road without call of tender and on what criteria the works were allotted ?
- (b) How much was spent for the work and the amount possibly involved ?

PU LAIHMINGTHANGA
MINISTER

: Pu Dy.Speaker,

- (a) The widening work on K.D. road was taken up departmentally and hence the question regarding criteria for allotment of works without call of tender does not arise.
- (b) Expenditure is approximately Rs.35,000/- (Rupees thirty five thousand) only.

SAIKAPTHIANGA :

Pu Dy.Speaker, may be the hon'ble Minister does not aware but this is the second time I asked this question. It may be aware that there is partiality in the allotment of this widening work. Work was allotted only to P.C. Members and Unit President who employed and hire only P.C. Members whereas fanime striecen persons were not allowed even as daily labourers.

The hon'ble Minister said that the expenditure involved is approximately Rs. 35,000/- But, the actual expenditure involved is more than this though I do not know the exact figure.

But, will the Government take action if we report the detailed management of the work by the Department and how much money they spent and how many Bill they have made ?

PU LAIHMINGTHANGA
MINISTER

: Pu Dy.Speaker, I know that the hon'ble member used to mention about this road through I could not remember whether he had raised question in this regard.

... is an important ...
... 40/- ...

K.D. Road is an important road. From Kanmun it is within the sphere of Mizoram. Heeding to what our hon'ble member said regarding the condition of the road particularly during rainy seasons, I personally visited the area and plied through the road.

Widening had been completed upto Tuidam. I have in fact saw three Army Trucks stationed at Tuidam. From Tuidam I proceeded to Kawrtethawveng. As planned, the road from Kawrtethawveng will catch up Tuipuibari Road. Due to shortage of Fund, no improvement could be done beyond Tuidam. The reason we rushed in taking up widening work is mainly because we acknowledge the importance of this road for transportation of suppliers to many different places. Actually, money we have spent is also not yet sponsored and many of the labourers have not been paid their wages. It is due to the pressing need of the people that the work was taken up departmentally. Hence, passing of Bills and expenditure involved mentioned by the hon'ble member could not be comprehended at this stage as no payment had been made to many of the labourers.

As regards allotment of work - I do not know to whom work was allotted. I do not deny that there will be persons belonging to PC Party and not PC Party. May be PC Unit President was not also allotted. However, the only reason we take up the work was because of the pressing need of the people which the members pointed out so after as the road is important enough for transportation of supplies to different areas. Hence, it may not be right to put the blame on the Department Officers. As I have stated, the condition of the road had improved and it is now through for vehicles.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, supplementary question - the hon'ble Minister stated the importance of K.D. Road. It was quite a long time back that Proposal and estimate for widening the road from Zamuang to Kawrtethawveng was submitted so was the estimate and proposal for the work from Kawrtethawveng to Tuilut Kawn. May we know when will the Government finalize these proposals and estimates submitted to C.E. Office ?

PU LAHMINGTHANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, what the member said was quite true. As proposed, the road starting near Sairang via Aizawl, and West Phaileng should link Tuipuibari Road. But, we after have financial difficulty. When our proposals and estimates are to NEC, they used to have different ideas. We have in fact, approached them three times regarding this road. But, the matter could not still be finalized not because C.E. Office is slow.

PU LAIHMINGTHANGA
MINISTER

Pu Dy. Speaker,

(a) No.

(b) Water Testing Laboratory is
Planned to be set up during 1983-
84.

PU SAINGHAKA

Pu Dy. Speaker, supplementary question. As we know, water distributed to the public is taken from river Tlawng. To test whether it is pure enough for drinking for human beings, water Testing Laboratory is necessary. If we do not have such Laboratory what about water distributed in the past years? Have they been tested in other Laboratory?

It is also learnt that the reason for not starting the work till today is the differences of Department Officers in the selection of site for Laboratory building. Is this a fact?

* PU LAIHMINGTHANGA
MINISTER

Pu Dy. Speaker, regarding the testing of distributed water --before the project for water supply scheme is sanctioned estimate and certificate which certifies that water for distribution is tested in the Laboratory have to be submitted. A certificate is like one of the components in the Estimate. When Lunglei water supply scheme was submitted for example, Laboratory Test Certificate was not attached, as a result of which, the scheme was withheld for 3/4 months by the attached in the scheme estimate. For Mizoram, this has created problem as we do not have water Testing Laboratory. As the water has to be tested elsewhere, the certificate is not often issued in time to have it submitted along with the scheme estimates. Being aware of this problem the Government proposed to set up a Laboratory within the 6th Plan Period.

Regarding the site for building Laboratory as stated by the hon'ble ~~member~~ member, the officers concerned have different ideas in the selection of site for this Laboratory as they all consider which place will be most suitable. Some of them suggested Tuikhuahtlang for the site while some suggested certain area on the bank of river Tlawng. But now, the selection of site had been finalized and it is proposed to be set up at Lawipu Veng near Pump House No.3. The estimate for construction of the building is also being prepared. Once established, it will not only serve Aizawl

The main obstacle is that NEC want to have the work done in a little different ways which we will have to comply with our plans. However, the matter is being purchased further and contineus effort is being made for acquiring allotment of Fund.

PU SAINGHAKA

Pu Dy.Speaker, there is opinion that it will be better if Mizoram Government, take over K.D. Road and

A.M.V.K. Road from NEC. Have the Government had given thought to this and will it be difficult to take over ?

* PU LAIHMINGTHANGA
MINISTER

Pu Dy.Speaker, it is an important question. As we know, K.D.Road is an Inter-state-connection due to which fund is advanced by NEC. If Mizoram Government is to take over

our main difficulty will be finance. Even if we take over, our difficulty will not be much less because NEC do not have for instance separate Engineering wing to operate their works. It is the department of the state concerned who execute NEC programmes. This is tje case not only in Mizoram but also in Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura etc. Even if we take over, road fund allocation will not increase and the operators of the work will be the same department. Our main difficulty as I have said, is that we have to comply with the liking of NEC with that of ours. So far, we have not taken any step to take over these Roads.

However, Government have intention for faster propers of work. It is to concentrate fund we get for Road Project on NEC Programme. Since the last 2/3 months the matter is taken into consideration but, there has not yet been finalization.

DY.SPEAKER

If there is no were supplementary question, we will call upon Pu Sainghaka

PU SAINGHAKA

Pu Dy.Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister in-charge PHE Department be pleased to state -

(a) Whether water testing Laboratory has been established by the Government of Mizoram ?

(b) IF not, why ?

water supply but we will have water from different places of Mizoram tested here before they are distributed to the public.

However, the actual work is proposed to be started from 1983-1984 we are now, depending on time factor.

PY SPEAKER ; If there is no more supplementary question, we will take up question No.15- Pu Ellis Saidenga's question.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA ; Pu Dy.Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister in-charge Education Department be pleased to state - Whether the Government proposed to ~~ere~~ created the post of Reader in the Government College, Lunglei ?

PU F.MALSAWMA ; Pu Dy.Speaker, the answer is no.
MINISTER

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA ; Pu Dy.Speaker, supplementary question- ~~At~~ the moment, Lunglei College is the only Government Collage we have in Mizoram. In other Government College there used to be Proffesor or Reader Being one of the oldest Colleges, the staff in Lunglei College are senic~~er~~ and experienced. But, why did not the Government proposed to create the post of Reader and what difficulty is there in creating such post in Lunglei College ?

* **PU F.MALSAWMA** ; Pu Dy.Speaker, generally speaking our main difficulty used to be that of financial as money for higher education is normally sanctioned from Central Government . Many **MINISTER** recommendations we made for Higher Education have in fact, been rejected by the Government. If central Government have objection, there is not much used in pursing our recommendation further. If the plan we have in mind is not included in the sixth Five Year Plan, there is not much use in pursing the matter now. It is nor an easy matter at this stage . Bisides this we have not had the post of Reader in Mizoram. Previously, the post of Proffesor was there in Pachhunga College. But, since its amalgamation with NEHU, the post of Proffesor is not created any more.

I do not know what will be in future but at the moment, money is required for improvement of Elementary Education in far flung areas to which Central Government also give priority. This being the case, there could not be much fund for Higher Education. Had we have our own income, thing will be different. But, being dependent on Central Government, step has to be taken according to the course taken by Central Government. Hence, it is not possible at this stage to finalize what the member asked. Nevertheless, Government is aware of the needs and difficulty of Lunglei College. It is even proposed that they will be given Vice-Principal, 1 Lecturers and one LDC within 1982-'83 financial year.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I think what I am going to ask is relevant to our subject. In Lunglei College, there is Science Department, but due to shortage of teachers Lecturers, Science students face many difficulties. The post of Science Teachers which is said to be lying vacant since a long time back is not filled up till now. Is the Government aware of this and will they have it filled up immediately since the Government is said to be having much concern for the improvement of this College ?

PU F. MALSAWMA
MINISTER : Pu Dy. Speaker, as we know, science teachers are hard to find. Most of the Science teachers who are willing to come to Mizoram are those who are from Silchar. But if the atmosphere in Mizoram is not normal, they do not usually dare to come by themselves. Anyway, if the post of Science Teacher is lying vacant, Government will take immediate step to have it filled up.

SPEAKER : Now, Question No. 11 - Pu C. Vulluaia's question. The member is not present but, he authorized Pu J. Thankunga.

PU J. THANKUNGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister in-charge General Administration Department be pleased to state -

Has the ITC been given to the Government servants in Mizoram as permissible under relevant Rules .

* BRIG THENPHUNGA SAID : Pu Dy. Speaker, the answer is yes.
CHIEF MINISTER

PU B. LALCHUNGNUNGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, is it a fact that the journey tickets of Government servant who avail LTC have to be booked by Liason Officers ?

From information collected, it appears that there is no uniformity in the allotment of LTC in different departments. In some cases, money advanced for journey fares are sent to L.O. Silchar whereas in some departments, the money is directly handed to the person who avails LTC. It is learnt that Government servants whose advanced money are sent to Liason Officer used to face, some difficulty in the hands of the dealing clerks in the Office of Liason Officer who, as I gathered, used to demand certain amount of money as a reward for looking their trickets. I simply want to know whether the Government is aware of this.

It also appears that while some departments accept a certificate of Liason Officer for drawing final bill, some departments used to demand Hotel receipts from Govt. servants availing LTC inspite of a certificate taken from Liason Officer. Some Govt. servants who availed LTC used to face difficulty in drawing final bill if they could not produce Hotel receipts taken from places they visited. Have the Govt. intention to make uniform pattern for availing LTC under all the departments ? Will the Govt. accept for certificate taken from Liason Officers for making final bill for whoever avails LTC ?

* BRIG. THENPHUNGA SAID : Pu Dy Speaker, I think there can be 5 questions for supplementary. If the members have another question in this regard will it not be better to have them out before I make clarification ?
CHIEF MINISTER

* DY. SPEAKER : It seems there is no more supplementary Question.

* BRIG. THENPHUNGA SAID : Pu Dy. Speaker, it is good that the member raised this question. Before I go further, I request the hon'ble members and others who assembled here to day in the Hall to listen carefully to what I am going to say. As there is not ample time, I may not be able to make my meaning clear enough. But, please try to
CHIEF MINISTER

to grasp my objective.

To answer these questions is not the most important thing. In this regard, I need the co-operation of the Members who represent the people from all over Mizoram. It is a shame that the Government have taken much trouble regarding LTC. I have served in other states and also under Central but, I have not seen or heard any other state except Mizoram where LTC is greatly mis-used. I do not deny that what the member said were true. But, it is because of our dis-honesty that all these out difficulties arise.

Let me point out certain things for example. A government servant for example, wants to avail LTC and he/she has a long list of dependents. At first, the Government servants. But, in the course of time, LTC turns into corruption loop-hole. A Government servant who has only 2 dependents began to write only one member sets out for the actual journey and he/she will reach only upto Silchar while his/her destiny is the longest possible distance such as Kanyakumari, Bombay etc. At Silchar, he somehow obtained Railway tickets and money receipts which he submits to the Office where he works for drawing final bill. Some of the Government servants who availed LTC never reach their destination. Some of them have in fact, never crossed Mizoram. Such is how LTC is mis-used in Mizoram. When the Government realized the evil which had cropped up among Government servants availing LTC, instruction was given to Heads of the Department to take steps to check it. In pursuance of this instruction that Government servants availing LTC were used to produce certificate from Liaison Officer to prove that he/she actually takes the journey. But, in the course of time, thing becomes more complicated and it is no more possible to know whether the certificate was actually taken from Liaison Officer. As it is not possible to verify, it is very complicating

Some times back, one Government employee gave the expiry of his relative as being the reason for availing LTC to Orissa with six of his department. Unfortunately however, he himself died in Goalpara while six of his departments were all in Aizawl never setting out for the actual journey. We are dishonest that it is shameful. Frankly speaking, this question may be first initiated by some Government servant who want to mis-use LTC but who could not do so. I think it is because they could not avail LTC as the way they want it that they have let you their story, you may not have given thought to the other side of their story and you may not have intention to verify it either. May be you simply accept their story as you were told without further verification. What we are discussing is service matter should not be taken lightly. Actually, had my statement before yesterday been more detail, it might be quite disgraceful for the member who raised the question. It is because of their approach you and pour out their half-truth story. These are the persons who disgrace your name and they will let you down when they do not yet things done the way they want it.

...47/-

However, for representatives of the people, it is inevitably necessary to pay attention to what the people say particularly if we feel that there was some irregularities involved. But what I advice the members is not to make final judgement only from one side of the story. You should believe that there is always the other side of the story whoever may be the person who poured out the story to you. If however, your enthusiasm for the Government and the country motivate you to use this question, why did not you come to the Minister concerned or Department Head-in-charge to enquire full detail of the matter. If you could set ever only fifteen minutes with L.S. Dy Secretary, he will be able to tell you the full detail of what you wanted to know. There have been too many unjust things involved in LTC. What is more reprettable in this case is that there are Government servants are Officers. They may be dismissed from service as it is a serious matter. In a way, I am glad that this question was raised as it gives me an opportunity to speake out about LTC and how it had been mis-used. I hope you will understand the reason why I said it that way. It is because of my enthusiasm for the Government and the country that I made a statement this way.

As I have said earlier, we should certainly pay attention to what we heard. But, let us not make judgement only from what we heard from discentented Government servants. This is not the only time I heard some Govt. servants poure out their disappointment regarding allotment of LTC. There had been 'say' in the matter. It seems that the members readily accepted the story of that particular dis-appointed person is usually un-true. As I have said, service matter is not an easy matter Officers who had served for many years also donot know all the service matter. If those with many years service in the Govt. also do not know, it is well believeable that we, the MLAs will know less. This however, does not mean that I discourage this kind of question. But, what I advice is to study more about the background of the matter you intended to put up for question before it is asked in the House, The Department concerned should be approached. As I have said, the person who made the complaint will tell only one side of the story i.e. his pathetic story. If you want, you can also ask the Minister concerned and if he cannot give you the required information, there is Department head who could always give you information. Otherwise, if you have different motive other than improvement of the Govt. and the country, asking this kind of question in the House may not serve its purpose. If the question was politically motivated to distract the Minister concerned, it will be quite meaningless. As a matter of fact the member who raised such question could be in a humiliating condition.

PU B. LAICHUNGUNGA : Pu Dy Speaker, none of my questions were answered. Is it a fact that Liaison Officer should book train tricket for whoever avail LTC ? It is gathered that that some Govet. servants who avail:

LTC were given advanced money in their hands, whereas for some of the them who are from the same department advance was sent to Liaison Officer. This is the cases in some departments. Is there any intention to give equal treatment to whichever Govt. servants availing LTC ?

BRIG. THENPHUNGA SAILO : Pu Dy. Speaker, had we all been honest we could have done as the provisions of the Rule . As a rule, Govt. servant who avails LTC would have advance before he set out for the journey and he himself would buy Railway ticket. When he returns he would claim and draw final bill. But, in Mizoram, there was so much mis-use of LTC that it is not possible to follow the Rule and in fact, some measures have to be taken to check mis-use LTC. It is not that the Departments want to make things difficult for Govt. due to our dis-honesty, Departments heads are detailed to buy Railway Ticket for their staff who avail LTC . It is in the hope of checking mis-use of LTC that Chief Secretary made this order the copy of which was distributed to all Heads of Departments. In spite of all the preventive measures taken by the Departments, LTC is still being mis-used sometimes by refunding Railway or Air Ticket. By refunding the ticket, the ticket holder could still possess bigger share of the money from the fare of the ticket though some amount was charged for withdrawing the ticket. There are many of such cases.

The Noble member said that his questions were not answered. But, I will not be able to answer all his questions now because there are too many to answer. If the member really wanted to know, he may please come to the office at General Administration Department and he will be given all the necessary informations he wish to know. Instead of charging me for not answering the questions, please try to understand my motive. It is a shame to be so dis-honest. Truly speaking, when you raise questions asked us the House only encourage Govt. servants who intend to do wrong. To encourage these kinds of persons is not the way to love the country or the people. It is rather an encouragement for them to become more dis-honest. If our really want to know the details of the matter connected with your question, please come to the office where all the necessary information is available.

* D. SPEAKER : What the members should know is that making questions in the House is one of the duties in serving the country. To make question in the House is our own right and duty.

PU H. RAMMAWIA : Pu Dy. Speaker, will it be proper to address oneself without addressing the Chair ?

(Dy. Speaker, I think it was by mistake).

* BRIG. THENPHUNGA SAHO : Pu Dy. Speaker, I am sorry I made a mistake. I was a bit angry that is why I think I made a mistake.
CHIEF MINISTER

DY. SPEAKER : Question hour is over, so we will proceed to our vent business.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Dy. Speaker, before we take up the vent business, I wait to ask you permission for short Duration Discussion. It is in connection with Post Graduate Student union Election in Shillong.

DY. SPEAKER : Yes, that is a matter of public important. But, as the motion is submitted only at this moment, it will be better to take it up tomorrow at the first house.

Now, Pu Joe Ngurdawla will present the the House the Sixth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation. If Pu Joe Ngurdawla is not Present, we will call upon Pu K. Biakchungnunga who was authorised by the Chairman to present Eight Report of the Committee on Estimate.

PU K. BIAKCHUNGNUNGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, with your permission, I present the House the Eight Report of the Committee on Estimate.

DY. SPEAKER : The copy of the report be distributed to the members.

We will proceed to our vent item --
Item No. 4. Pu Lalhmingthanga, Minister in-charge Revenue will now beg leave of the House for consideration of Amendment Bill to Lushai Hill District Revenue Assessment Regulation, 1953 which had been introduced in the House last Monday.

PU LAIHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Dy.Speaker, as I have introduced and with your permission, I beg leave of the House to move and consider. The Lushai District Revenue Assessment Amendment Bill, 1982.

DY SPEAKER : The Minister moved his Bill for consideration. Anyone who donot agree ?

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Dy.Speaker, I have party stated limit action of time. The Bill, as stated has to be considered carefully. I think we should first collect public opinion and have the Bill circulated before it is considered and passed. This can be done as provided in section 77 of Rule of Procedure and conduct of business.

The aims/objectives of the Bill are quite understandable. But, on closer study of the condition of taxes in Mizoram, there are things which cannot simply be ~~injured~~ injured or overlooked. For example - In Mizoram, the highest tax payees are some wealthy merchants and class 1 contractors whose montly income range from Rs. 10,000 to some lakhs of rupees

They are the highest true payees and the Professional Tax they pay is around Rs. 250/- per annum. On the other hand, cultivators who do not know what kind of harvest they will have at the end of the year ate going to be tax-ed Rs. 450 /- or more. It is not right to have the rich paid only Rs. 250/- whereas the poorer ones. have to pay Rs. 250/- or more. This being the case, it may not be proper to consider the Bill before we know the opinion of the public.

(Dy.Speaker, -This side of theings will be discussed later)
But, Pu Dy.Speaker, I suggest that the Bill be circulated first so as to know the general opinion of the public. At this stay, it will be better not to discuss the Bill.

DY.SPEAKER : Does that mean the member did not agree to consider the Bill moved by the Minister in-charge Revenue for consideration?

PU C.L.RUALA : Yes, Pu Dy.Speaker, I want to have the Bill circulated first to know the opinion of the public before it is being discussed and considered in the House. Let us apply sub-section (c) of section 77 of Rule Procedure and conduct of Business as ot os mpt a simply matter

I do not want to rush things in this matter as it is a matter of public importance.

DY. SPEAKER : The Bill as we know, had been introduced in the House last Monday. Today is the day fixed for its consideration. The Minister in charge have asked House's permission for consideration of the Bill. But, Pu C.L. Ruala suggested that the Bill be circulated first for collection of Public opinion before in the House. What is the opinion of the Members ?

PU BUAIHRANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, as this Bill is a matter of public importance, it will not be right to do things hastily. I do not know what step should the House take regarding suggestion made by the Bill. I think we should express our opinion in this regard. As provided in the Rule, the matter can be referred to the Select Committee. But, if we want to know first the opinion of the public, we can leave the Bill for pursuing at some other time. It will then come forth for public discussion. It will not be therefore, better to discuss the Bill now without passing ?

DY. SPEAKER : Does that mean finalization of the Bill will depend on the discussion and we will have consideration now ?

(Pu C.L. Ruala -yes, that will be alright)

If the members agree to have consideration of the Bill, we will now call upon the Minister in-charge to move his Bill - 'The Lushai Hill District Revenue Assessment Amendment, 1982'

PU LAIHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I, first of all, would like to thank you for allowing me to move the Amendment Bill I have introduced. What the members particularly members from Thungvel and Serchhip constituencies said were true. As stated, being a matter of much importance, the Bill has to be considered seriously. I am glad that the members irrespective of different political party we belong to have expressed, right from the day the Bill was introduced, their desire to have the Bill considered more seriously as it is a matter of great importance relating to the public.

The Lushai Hill District Revenue Assessment Regulation was first formulated in 1953. It was with much thought and serious consideration that the previous leaders

of Mizoram made this Regulation. The Bill was very useful and Mizoram had great use of it. Generally speaking, the Government whichever political party may form it, to have collect certain taxes from the people. It was considering the economical condition of the people and the land at that time that this Regulation was made. It is now almost 30 years since this was made and as we can see, there had been many changes since then prices had increase so has money.

While this Assessment Bill was made, Mizoram was under the Government of Assam and there was D.C. as head of the administration, and District Council was the highest Legislation bo-dy. There were not much Government servants as there are many now. Due to the many changes that had taken place in various aspects of life many Rules and Regulations made in those days have to be amended as it is the case with Revenue Assessment Bill. Many departmental rules have also been amended. If not amended, many rules and regulations are no more applicable to the present situations. Keeping all these in mind that this Amendment Bill was introduced.

I think we all knew it, but there is one thing we need to know. Through not a full - fledged state Mizoram have to take up many things in its own hand since it attained U.T. status in 1972. For improvement of the people and the country, Government have taken various developmental activities. Efforts are being made to have permanent assets such as roads, buildings irrigation, power and etc. Which we can all share. It is for this that proposal and scheme to be pursued in the next plan are made and submitted to Central Government at the end of each Plan Period. The Government is well aware of a peculiar problem confronting Mizoram and they also knew that a special treatment has to be given. But, this realization did not stop them from reminding us of the necessity to have one's own state income. It is not wrong on their part to make such demand from us and it was not with bad intention that they asked us to have our own state income. The total outlay of fund we have in the Budget was quite enormous and this was all from Central Government. If we could have local resources to contribute, it will be to quite good with good on both the parts of Central and Mizoram Governments. As a good citizen should, the Government feels the need to find the way to have our own state income. But, there is no Industries or other resources in Mizoram except Revenue Tax. It is therefore, decided that Revenue Tax can be continued and the rate be amended according to the prevailing economical conditions of Mizoram.

One important point we should also remember is that as no country is going to receive money for development defectly from heaven, resources mobilisation is a must for every country whether big or small. When the 6th Five Year Plan was going to be launched, the hon'ble Prime Minister called together Finance and Revenue Ministers of the state and she lectured on what steps should Government take for development of the people and the country. It was an excellent and interesting speech. She said that 'TAX', in a practical sense, is a means for self-improvement for everyone and for making a better place to live in. She also asserted that there is no

other motive behind taxation except for improvement of the people of all walks of life. What she said was a fact which Mizoram also could not deny. As we can see, Mizoram received enormous amount of money from Central Government every year. Being aware of our backwardness that fund is liberally sanctioned from Central Government while we could not contribute even 10% to our own Budget.

If we could make at least small contribution of our state's income without causing difficulty to any family, it will mean that we are helping ourselves and Mizoram for the money collected are again to be used for development of Mizoram. It is with this spirit in mind that we put much emphasis on the only source of our income which is taxation. It is for development of Mizoram and the people living here that proposal is made for amendment of Revenue Tax.

In this connection, I think I better explain things right from the beginning. Being a sensitive subject the copy of Draft amendments to Revenue Tax was distributed to the members asking for their comments.

But, no written comment was received. However, I had personal discussion with some of the members. I did not move this Bill to state that Drafting done by the Government is best or that it is most applicable to the present conditions. It is understood that the members would have different opinions and suggestions to make. As you, the members have more contact with the public than Government, I request you to be frank and open in your opinion and belief in this matter. As I have also stated earlier, the Government is also stated-aware of the importance and delicacy of this matter and as stated by the members, it has to be considered seriously and carefully. I also do not object to a suggestion made to have first public opinion collected.

There is however, one thing we should remember. I want the members to keep this in mind that it is for the welfare of Mizos and Mizoram that much emphasis is laid on taxation. This is the only motive behind this taxation. As permitted by the House, we will discuss the Bill slowly and carefully. As for passing of the Bill, we will leave it at the discretionary Power of the Chair. I thank the Chair for allowing me to move my Bill and I hope that the members will extend their whole hearted co-operation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think the members have carefully studied and considered the Bill. I believe all the members would want to speak in this regard. How many minutes would be allotted to each member ?

PU P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I think provisions
MINISTER of the Rule should be looked into while
the Bill is discussed. The hon'ble member
from Tlungvel constituency suggested that
sub-rule (a) or (b) or (c) of the Rule
of Procedure. But, it is necessary to know which of the sub-rule
should we follow today, I feel that a suggestion made by one
of the members made thing confusing. The mover of the Bill did not
say specifically whether he would give the Bill to the select
committee or that he moved it for passing and consideration
today. He also did not say whether he would first collect
public opinion and leave the Bill to be moved and considered
at some future date.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : He did say that he agreed to follow
whatever suggestion the members make)
No, that is not the point. As a rule
the Bill could not be discussed today
if it is not moved for consideration
today.

(Deputy Speaker) The Minister concerned may clarify what
the members wanted to know.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the Minister had state
all that is there to say. He left it at
the decision of the members.

PU LAHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, as I have said earlier
MINISTER I want the House to have broad discus-
sion on this amendment Bill. If the
members, after discussion, want to have
no objection and I also do not object
to collecting public opinion before it is
considered and passed, I neither object to passing the Bill
now nor do I object to putting off for passing at some future
date. However, whichever way we may go, enhancement is a must.

The rate we have fixed will however,
have to be examined carefully as no written comment was received
from the members. When it was processed and considered at the ca-
binet, we do not know the opinion of the members who have
supreme authority. Such being the case, the Bill has to be
discussed broadly. If the members do not want to pass it now,
I have no objection. If they want me to re-introduce for parsing
in the next session, I do not object. As regards the rules to
be applied, I am not thorough in the rules.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, if the Hon'ble Minister had moved the bill, it is not legally possible to refer the Bill to Select Committee and it can not also be circulated. Perhaps suggestions I made came a bit earlier. But, if he had made the Bill for discussion we can no more apply sub-rule (b) and (c).

PU P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, that is the reason why
MINISTER : I referred those sub-rules. If we are to follow sub-rule (a), we could have two alternatives to considered and pass the bill today or to put the Bill for passing at some future date. At this stage, there is no other alternative except those two I mentioned.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that is right. The Hon'ble Minister will ask for passing of his will when he is called to windup the discussion. Now we will start the discussion.

PU HIPHEI: Pu Deputy Speaker, whether we agree to pass or not as introduced is a difficult matter, but, if the Hon'ble Minister is not regarded as begging the House to pass his Bill as introduced, it is difficult to have discussion. Does the Minister agree to this?

PU P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, that will not be possible. The Hon'ble Minister said that he is not thorough in the Rules. I think it is therefore, better to give him chance to know his mind as to follow. (Deputy Speaker- I think the Hon'ble Minister had stated clearly what he wanted) But, it is legally impossible to proceed simply as he said. It is necessary for us to follow a specific rule.

PU SAINOMAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, let us take it for granted that the Hon'ble Minister moved his Bill according to the provision of sub-rule (a) and rule 77. We will ...

now discuss the Bill and as for passing be it now or in the next session, we will apply Rule 78.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, we will go on as provided under sub-rule (a) Now, let us start our discussion.

(Pu Sainghaka - Pu Deputy Speaker, if the mover of the Bill did not beg leave of the House to pass his Bill, should he not withdraw his Bill ?) We will start the discussion.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister in-charge had already stated the reason why he moved this Bill. He also requested us, the members to examine carefully the advantages and disadvantages of draft amendment they have made.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Waite a minute. How many minutes should we allot to each member? Will 6 (six) Minutes sufficient? Well, as suggested by Pu Hipei, 10 minutes will be allotted to each member.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, as I have said earlier the Bill has to be considered seriously. The Minister in-charge said that no written comment was received when the comment. But, it was because no copy of the letter inviting for written comment was received that we did not make comment. I therefore, request the House to understand why we did not make written comment.

The time has come to make the people. It realize the importance of taxes and the matters relating to it. It is also necessary to find the way to increase local revenue but, as to how we would increase is a matter which has to be considered seriously. Truly speaking, the poor depending on the rich is a common pattern of living in different countries of the world. Having no property or tax to pay, the poor are depending on taxes collected from the rich.

Regarding taxation, the Government of India held a liberal view towards Mizoram. It is not only our I.A.S Officers but also our wealthy business are exempted from Income tax. Realizing the importance of taxes however, the Government decided to have certain taxes collected since 1953 and fixation of rate was made on the basis of the economical

condition at the people at that time. As a result, the Lushai Hill District Revenue Assessment Regulation, 1953 has come into force. But, due to the changing economical condition of the people and the country, amendment has to be made to this Act as it is now realized the necessity of collecting more taxes. If the people are not educated to realize the importance of taxes at this stage, we may have difficulty depending solely on the income of other states.

When I studied the amendment Bill, I feel that the rate of taxes to be levied on our cultivators and farmers is too much in comparison with the rate to be levied on our rich contractors and businessmen. I wonder why taxes are concentrated only on poor village farmers. I could not find any reason why the cultivators will pay more tax than that on the wealthy traders/Contractors. The newly fixation rate is I think a little too much. It is understood that the rate will have to be increased from the old fixation rate, but, the increasing rate is too much. I therefore, desire that this amendment Bill be considered more seriously. I neither object to increasing the rate of taxes nor do I oppose to collecting more taxes. But, as to how we would collect and on what basis should we fix the rate. I feel that our imposition of taxes should not cause much difficulty to general public. As under the present fixation, our cultivators/ farmers are the ones who will suffer most. Such being the case, I suggested to leave the Bill for re-consideration right from the beginning. I am still in favour of leaving the Bill for re-consideration and I have in fact, wanted to have it referred to select Committee. In the meantime, the Government should do well to appoint tax-collectors in every locality, for, it is troublesome for each household to go to Republic Road to pay land tax wasting the whole day just for this. I think the old collectors would like to continue their job if they are given good salary. That is all.

Thank you.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I appreciate the principle of the Lushai Hill District Revenue Assessment Amendment Bill, 1982.

But, the reason we object the Bill is that the rate which we feel needs to reconsider. I do not have to explain in detail, but, as under the present fixation rate, it is farmers and manual workers who are going to suffer most. In other states, farmers are not generally poorer section of the people. But, this is not the case in Mizoram. The poor are going to suffer much more than rich. If there is no corresponding increase to be collected from the rich, we apprehend that there will be disappointment from general public. It is because of this apprehension that we want the Bill to refer to Select Committee. We do however, appreciate principle of the Bill.

It is common practice among prominent figures and well-to-do families to hold land by way of reservation. Yet, may be because there is no heavy tax to pay by holding such land that they are not tended or cultivated. If however, the rate of tax is increased, I think we would like to tend and cultivate our idle lands at least to recoup the amount we pay for tax. Hence, the Bill, when put to force, is going to be an encouragement for us.

It is pleasing to note that the Government thought out the means to increase local revenue while we all feel the unpleasantness of being merely dependent of central resources. As stated, it is necessary to fix the rate of taxes according to prevailing economic condition. But, I wonder we will do right in increasing by forty-sixty folds at one instant. As under the new fixation rate the rich are going to pay less than the poor which will be somewhat like the policy of Socialism. I do not know what step we would follow at this stage, though the Minister in-charge want us to give our opinion as to how we will take up this Bill. As it was our desire right from the beginning I still want to have the Bill referred to select committee to review the increasing rate. That is all I want to say.
Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : That will mean that you do not want to pass the Bill but want to constitute Select Committee to review it. Now Pu Lalchungnunga may speak.

PU B. LALCHUNGUNGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, I am glad that there seemed to be advantages in discussing the Bill today. Unlike other days, we, the ruling and opposition members are quite agreeing on each others opinion regarding the bill. It secures that it is only in fixation of the new rate where we get refused. What had been stated by the members were all true. I will not therefore, say much further except few things.

I have no objection to increasing the rate of tax. I was in fact, strongly convinced by statement of objection and reason made by the Minister concerned. It is not that law made earlier was not good. It was rather good enough considering the prevailing economical circumstances at that time. But, as the country progress the economical condition of the people also improves and as such the state of tax fixed at earlier years is no longer applicable to the present situation. The Minister concerned stated how we were urged by Central Government to increase local revenue and we, the public also may have realized how unpleasant could be to depend totally on the resources of others.

If the rate of tax is increased as intended here, we are going to have more than ten lakhs additional income which is going to be quite an achievement for our State. However, as already stated by the Members, if the increasing rate is too much all at once, not only will there be disappointment but that the public will suffer. Hence, the increasing rate may have to be revised. Nevertheless, it is good to have discussion today. I believe that our discussion will awake the people to realize the necessity of tending and cultivating land they possessed but which they never really care to look-after most probably because there is no heavy tax to pay for keeping such lands.

If the increasing rate is not however, reviewed or revised, farmers and cultivators are the ones who will suffer most. In fact, many of them may not be able to continue their cultivation due to lack of money if the tax they have to pay is too heavy. As often stated earlier, we are at the initial stage of development. If we raise the rate of tax too high just at the initial stage, I am afraid that we will cause hindrance to further progress for our and cultivators.

This does not however, mean that we should not increase the rate. We should certainly increase it, but the rate should be re-considered.

Thank you.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, so far as the principle of the bill is concurred, our discussion ran smoothly. There is however, no way we could say further beyond the principle. As stated by the members who stood before me, we all seemed to be having the same opinion regarding the Bill.

When the Lushai Hill Taxes was amended last March, the increase was by four hundred percent. In the case of Revenue tax however, the increase comes up to five thousand nine hundred percent cultivators having Rice terraces which mean that the cultivators are most effected by the increase. Hence, the percentage of increase does not seem to be satisfactory.

We have also come across Building Assessment. If the assessment is too high, it is understood that house rent also will increase and poorer people who have no land or house are the once who will be most effected. Similarly in the case of Revenue tax fixation, it is Agriculturist who would suffer most. While 20 Points Economic Programme is being launched and while Central Government declared 1982-83 as 'Agriculture Productivity Year' it will not be fair to increase tax by high percentage. Besides this, the condition of the people should also be considered. As we know, that majority of the people in Mizoram are still living under Poverty Line.

There is however, one thing the Government bother the ~~said~~ days. It is requisition of hands which are not tended/cultivated. In this regard, a discussion was arranged by the Department in the Synod Hall sometimes earlier. According to circulation made in this discussion, there seems to be yet many un-occupied and untended lands but which are reserved by someone or the other. I do not know what action will the Government take should these lands be still neglected when tax is increased, but, the matter may have to be considered seriously. Hence I appreciate the principle of the Bill and it is time to increase tax. Since 1953 there has not been any amendment made to Revenue tax Bill. It is therefore, high time to amend it and increase the rate. But, as pointed out earlier, there is not much we can say beyond the principle. Considering the condition of majority of the people, the rate may have to be re-considered. If the Minister in-charge could refer it to Select Committee as pointed out before and he would also make earlier for collection of public opinion. That is all I want to say.

Thank you.

PI K.THANSIAMI : Pu Deputy Speaker, I have no intention to say much. What I intended to say was mentioned by the members from Aizawl South Constituency. I feel that our wording 'Tax increase' is not appropriate the reason of which I will say later.

It seems that there is an intention to edify the people regarding aquisition of lands by way of reservation not because of requirement while there are many landless who, for many years, have lived in poverty in rented house. Hence, it seems quite proper to increase Tax from .50 paise to Rs 30/-. By increasing from fifty paise to Rupees thirty, it does not mean that Tax is increased because of devaluation of money. As we know, the value of one rupee now and 5 years before is not the same and the value of one rupee in 1953 and today is not even comparable. We, Mizo women once made a fuse over the amount of money had to be paid by the father for having illigitimate child. The money had to be paid by the father is Rs 40/- which, at the time of fixation, was quite heavy. But now, Rs 40/- of those old days are valued at Rs 5,000/- now. If the value of Rs 40/- has come to that of Rs 5,000/- now, it will mean that the value of money decreased by one hundred twenty five folds. Hence, if the increase is from fifty paise to Rs 30/-, it will mean that we decrease the value by sixty folds. Such being the case, it may not be appropriate to use the wording 'Tax increase'. Considering the value of money, it seems that we are decreasing Tax instead of increasing it. As revenue otherwise, we shall always be dependant on Central Government as we have no self sufficiency in anything. This does not however, mean that I approve the rate fixed. The rate may be revised and reconsidered according to the value of money. I also do not want to pass the bill today of Monday. I think it will be good to know the opinion of public before it is passed.

Thank you.

.....61/-

PU K. BIAKCHUNGNUNGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, the Bill we discuss today is quite important. It seems that it can be studied from two aspects.

Though the number who stood before me does not seem to approve saying 'tax increase' it is but necessary to use the word and surce tax is increasing in some way or other. When tax is increased, there is advantage as well as disadvantage. If one only thinks of the disadvantages side it is quite easy to become champion of the poor. For example - it is a touching and great statement if one says that he is hurt to see high increase in taxes while the condition of the people is such that majority are still living under poverty line. It appears however, that no member seems to have objection to increase tax inspite of all the disadvantages which are likely to be there. I am glad that we realize the importance of having tax increased. From what we have said, it can be presumed that more of us want to have tax increased by high percentage.

While speaking about the disadvantages of tax increase, it is as well necessary to speak its advantages. I think we all know that Government is depending on taxes collected from the people. But, it almost appears that we, the Mizos have not fully realized this. It will not be right if one thinks of only his/her pocket instead of many advantages his/her contributed money would bring to the people and the country. If one pays much, there will naturally be a deeper sense of belonging to the Government and he/she will be more pricket than others if some Government employees mis-used Governments money. It is because he pays much that he has a sense of ownership. If one pays little or does not pay at all, he does not care much about the spending of money or how and for what it was spent. It is going to be necessary to make the people realize the importance of tax and how it is used by the Government for the development of the people themselves all over Mizoram.

As stated by the Hon'ble Minister, we are spending quite alot of money considering our state revenue. It will be very unfortunate if depending on other's income in is taken for granted by masses of the people. As we are not yet in a position to reject what others offer, we gladly have to accept whatever amount of money offered to us by Central Government. The future of one who depends solely on his neighbours is not very prospective and the condition of his family is not either secure. If he is not in good term with his neighbour and have his income withdrawn, he will be in work position. Hence, any normal person will certainly think the way to earn his own living instead of depending on his neighbour. Our way of thinking should be likewise. It will not be right if we, the Mizos are content to live at the mercy of Central Government. It is also necessary to make the people realize this fact.

.....62/-

As stated, Central Government have often urged us to make use of the fund they provide for finding the way for us to improve our economy. Whether we are urged or not, it is good to have our own income. Hence, exemption from tax due to poverty may not be the best thing. It is none other than for ourselves that the Government used tax money. Small contribution was made as tax is made use of by the Government for improvement of the people. It is not therefore wrong to say that paying tax is still good inspite of all the dis-advantages which are likely to be there when tax is increased. To urge one to earn his own leaving is a good encouragement as it is done in the case of Mizoram by Central Government I feel that the people also should be taught to realize the many advantages of paying tax. It is good for me, for the people and for the country as a whole.

As regards the rate - there could be many view points. According to the member who spoke before me, tax have not yet been increased. She said that it is still decreased considering the value of money at present. However, in view of the present condition of the people of Mizoram, the rate will have to be considered more seriously. I think we should do well to educate the people the advantage of paying tax before the rate is finally increased.

Thank you.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, what we consider today is an important matter. It also reminds me of what Paul says in the Bible - let us

go on towards maturity. I am glad that this Bill is going to awake us towards maturity. Some members alleged the rate as being too high which in my opinion is not so. The members stated that the people do not bother to pay tax. Truly speaking the rate of tax is so low that no one really bothers to pay. Hence, Bill for increase of tax is very acceptable. The rate of house tax fixed at the time of British Rule is still practised. It is shown to pay only Rs 2/- as house tax which amount is sufficient only for buying Pan (Betle nut) nowadays. At the time it was fixed at Rs 2/- the value of money has not gone down much as it has gone down now. During those days Rs 2/- was of high value. Even to earn Rs 2/-, a man had to labour 2 weeks. As such was the condition at that time, everyone give tax due importance. Nowadays however, Rs 2/- is nothing and it has not much value either considering the value of money and the present condition of the country, Rs 2/- is too little and to increase it at Rs 5/- is also still too little.

However, considering the condition of different families, it may not be good to increased it at high rate all at once. What I want to say is that the rate of tax is not high. Actually, if one does not have any responsibility, he/she tends to be idle and un-caring.

.....63/-

I feel that we have in fact, forgotten our main occupation. More of us seems to care cultivating land which had been our main occupation. Nowadays only few families have large area of cultivated land. Hence, as stated by the member from Tlungvel Constituency, it seems that we, the poor are depending on the rich who have good harvest. For those who have no good cultivated land, it is not necessary to pay heavy tax. But, for those who have good lands, the Government will make assessment. Hence, there is nothing to worry about and I don't think tax will be too heavy either. Actually, what we discuss today is a matter which I have longed to move as private Resolution. It is a matter I have given due importance. Personally, I do not mind to pass the Bill now. But, if the members want to postpone it for later days, I do not mind.
Thank you.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, when I see this Bill being introduced, it gave me many thoughts. I appreciate the principle of the Bill and as stated by the members who stood before me, there are yet many things to do as we are developing state. Besides, house tax, various taxes have yet to be fixed and processed. For example - when I visited my constituency at the beginning of this year, I noticed that many Teak growers have chopped down their teak for sale. But, as the forest authorities living there do not know the rate of tax to be collected from them, they could not give Permit for selling Teak trees. If we have not had rate fixed for such thing, it will be soon necessary to have one.

Though some of the members reluctant to use the word 'increasing tax' it is but true that we are intending to increase tax. I am of the opinion that the increasing rate is too much. As suggested by the members who stood before me, I think the rate should be reconsidered. It appears that land holders and those who hold cultivable land are the ones who would be affected most. I wonder if we could take into consideration the case of those whose lands situated in interior areas where there is no proper communication and where transport facilities are scarce. For example for those who hold land in Kawnpui, there is no transport problem for disposal of their production and their production also will soon reach market. But for those who hold land in far flung areas, there is transport problem for their production. When their production actually reach the market money may have been lost and damaged while in transit besides petrol consumption. Had there been transport facilities and good market nearby, they too could have drawn in handsome money and they would not also suffer by paying tax as the rate fixed by the Government. But due to non-availabilities, their productions have to be sold at much cheaper rate nearby while the same quality of production are sold at high price in Aizawl Bazar. This being the case, the people of villages are going to suffer if they pay tax as the rate fixed by the Government. As stated earlier, much of the money needed for maintenance of their garden and Rice fields are going to be used for tax.

Hence, I think it will be a good thing if the Government could make the rate into different category. I do not object to increasing tax rate but, to rise it at high rate all at once may bring difficulties to poorer section of the people. I am afraid that we will cause acute difficulty to families who could hardly produce enough even for their own consumption.

In the case of those who are to be exempted from tax due to failure of their crops - I think it is not necessary to have the Administrator involved. If the rate is going to be revised, I think the Department could come to a good decision as to what should be done without getting Lieutenant Governor involved. Personally, I think it will not be to make the people understand if the increase is from 50 paise to Rs 3/4. I feel that the increase from fifty paise to Rs 20/30 is too much. As stated by the members who stood before me, I think that the rate should be reconsidered before the Bill is passed in the House.

Thank you.

PU HIPHEI :

Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to make certain points in support of the increment Bill of taxation. Revenue income is obtained from the citizens themselves. Government does not have a mint to make coins or money. People pays tax from which the poorer section of the citizens obtains income. The rich are highly concerned with taxation whereas the poorer section is next in line. It is more blessed to give than to receive has the some meaning in all aspects of life we need to educate this biblical truth to our people. However, I would like to express my opinion on certain clause of the Bill. For instance, a clause containing particular areas within 10 KM State that the areas within this boundary will be take able and that the rate is Rs 30/- per two acres. Further the the rate is fixed at Rs 30/- in case of Jeep road. I feel that the clause is not inclusive enough to cover all the possible land areas. To illustrate B.R.T.F. Road between Lawngtlai and Saiha is a case in point. I do not agree with the difference in rate between Jeep road and Truck. The whole aspect based on two classes, total failure and partial failure. It appears that negligence on the part of the cultivator is the case of partial failure. In critical of the clause with provision for free of tax for the partial failure. How can we make demarcation line? For instance, one cultivated land produces 2 tons of Rice and the other 1 ton. How can we know which one of the two is a total failure or partial, one unless definite rules is (or norms) with reference to area and production. I feel that the Government should look on the Bill once again before it is given for voting.

Thank you.

10.11.65/2

PU J.H.LIANGHUNGUNGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, it appears that we dwell mainly on Land and Revenue Assessment Bill with reference to vegetable and fruit garden or rice field (cultivable land) Our discussion look like focussing towards rural areas particularly. If the taxation Bill for cultivable land and areas under W.R.C. Mizoram is sure to gain from the hill. In illustration, we have seen waste get cultivable land through out the state. The land in this category should be utilised. The increment in taxation will chive people to plough the land. It is hoped that in future the land will be ploughed and looked after and thereby, the utility. The increment will therefore ensure utility and productivity (i.e. Rs 30/- per 2 acres) We can not expand the land but increase utility. It is high time for use to pass the Bill other-wise the next generation will suffer for want of economy. The Bill can increase employment availability. I support passing of the Bill.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ; Any other to say? If not, shall we request the Minister in-charge to say.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA :^{By} Pu Speaker, I am glad that at least ten Members have expressed their opinion about the Bill I would like to bring out certain principles in which the bill was prepared. Firstly, it appears from the record that most of the cultivable land belongs to the rich for instance, Aizawl, Lunglei and so on. The W.R.C. and Permanent garden includes 10 percent of families in the Union Territory. A considerable areas of land is required by businessman, Contractors and Government Employees The urban people appears to be on the loosing side. Secondly, by looking 1952, 61, 71 and 81 we can say that this taxation increment will touch upon landly 5 per cent of population of the Union territory. Deputy Speaker : It is now 1:00 P.M. shall we stop the meeting to be continued in the afternoon. Any idea?

PU HIPHEI : Pu Deputy Speaker I suggest that we continue in the afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us stop the meeting and continue at 2 P.M.
 recess, till 2:00 P.M.

2:00 P.M.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will continue our Business and invite Mr Lalhmingthanga to speak.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, May I continued what
MINISTER : I have said earlier. The increase in
tax concerned will effect hardly 10 per
cent of population and the vast majority
will not be effected in the present situation. Take rice
field, for instance, if such tax is taken on the same the
sense of ownership will be established say, 50 paise be taken
for one bigha of land the tax per annum. For example - for
30 bighas will not be too high to pay. After realizing the
tax the prospective owner may hold the concerned land indefi-
nitely. Therefore, the enforcement of higher tax on rice
field can be seen favourably. Further cultivator be given
say. Three years of initiating for further allotment of the
rice field concerned. The main issue according to 1953, Land
Act dwells on the fact that Mizo was a nomadic tribe and
that the Act passed aimed at establishing what may be said
as permanent ownership whether rice field vegetable or kitchen
garden or the same sort. I am saying all these facts and
figures in order to provide background for favour of incre-
ment in the rate of land revenue.

Concerning Revenue collection let me
assume you that the Central Government is not irreciprocal
to our demand in this respect. It is generous in granting
the demanded funds without considerable problem for instance,
irrigation, electrification and agricultural project and so
on. But, for Revenue, it is not the same issue. The Central
Government makes it clear that the State Government say,
Mizoram should invent the Revenue source of its own in order
to develop the said Department. Funds increments for Revenue
Department is therefore, ruled out such be the case, Mizoram
has no alternative but to increase the source of its income.
There are a number of reasons to support the necessity.

Coming to all whether road question,
the Government's intention is to construct the route con-
cerned into all weather road in Central. The whole problem
however, rest with the shortage of Staff in the concerned
Department. The Department does not claim perfection of the
whole route in the street sense of the term. It is a
generalised kind of statement. Taking building tax, the
proposed imposition can not be implemented due to shortage
of staff ideally. The capacity of organisation at present
does not allow us to implement the same fully. On short,
such were the background in the preparation on the Bill
concerned.

I must state the fact in this connection
that Mizoram lags for behind in ownership responsibility
development with other States. There are a number of
cases of damage and theft of public property in different
places of the said State. For instance, breaking of
street electric bulb, the removing electric wire etc. for
personal use or some sort.

It is hope that paying tax will create a sense of ownership and responsibility in the hearts of the citizens. To provide public education in this matter is the concerned and responsibility of the Members. Returning of rate of increment in Land Revenue, the Government of Mizoram is making effects to enhance her agricultural activity in all possible ways 85 percent of Mizoram's population belongs to agricultural group. The Government is giving subsidy to cultivators who are considered to have put efforts to their respective filed in sincerity. The subsidy provision at the present situation reaches say 60 per cent or 80 of the total group in the field of agriculture. It may be made clear that the Government demands tax from the cultivators directly from their own pocket on the other hand.

In view of the opinion of the various Members this Bill may not be moved further.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shall I seek adjournment of the discussion for indefinite period. Let this be considered in the House in the first opportunity. I hope all Members understand the motion. It is more or less the same proposal by Mr C.L.Ruala this morning to adjourn the discussion. Is there any objection to adjournment.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, may I suggest that taxation increment be put to a select Committee or public opinion poll since we may still go to the same old 78 clauses under Rules. As suggested earlier by the members from Tlungvel constituency What about going to the suggestion if the Minister in-charge would agree?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : MINISTER ; Pu Deputy Speaker, The reason why, I am seeking adjournment is that the House will have a larger time to discuss the Bill. It is hoped that a better idea may appear from further discussion. In seeking adjournment with a heart to accommodate more idea for the Bill. We need to consult the opposition members on this issue. The House can still discuss if the adjournment is granted.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is not it agreeable, as the Minister in-charge has given assurance?

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to make suggestion that the Amendment Bill be put to select Committee immediately. Further constituting or Commission on taxation increment is also a desirable suggestion I hope. To sum up the whole thing referring the matter to select Committee is my suggestion.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the adjournment sought by the Minister in-charge does not appear possible within the rules of the House. If of course, the mover seeks withdrawal of the Bill or replacement, it is permissible. Referring to the Select Committee appears to be the best method I think.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA :
MINISTER ; Pu Deputy Speaker, if the other people moves the Bill for referring to the Select Committee with the Houses permission. I agree on that. But as a member in-charge of the Bill and its mover. I seek adjournment within the rules of the House. I do not disagree with the House if the later agrees to referring.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, having discussed the Bill in general of still suggest for referring.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Our Minister in-charge has sought for adjournment of discussion. Selection Committee is not usually suggested by the Minister in-charge as a rule. Is Pu Sainghaka's motion for Select Committee agreeable to all the House or if any member to say on this?

PU BUALHRANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to point out that referring to select Committee may take a long time and that the whole matter may not be ready for the next discussion. If the case is likely the other way round. I do not think it is a mistake in mistaking to agree the latter's proposal.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Referring to the Select Committee appears to be the best way. What is our Minister in-charge opinion?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA:
MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, what our the House votes for. I am agreeable.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, let me make a point of difference between withdrawal and replacement of Bill. The former will require another set of time whereas the latter revising the whole scheme. The two requires both time and revision and the select Committee requires a panel of Members.

PJ P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I support the Minister
MINISTER : in-charge in seeking adjournment of the
discussion because the bill is an extensive
one affecting the whole State. If adjourned, it will mean
giving more time to look the matter in more details and a
larger prospective review. It can still be discussed in the
next sitting or later be referred to a Select Committee. I
support adjournment.

PU H.RAMMAWI : Pu Deputy Speaker, according to Rules
clause 77 it is permissible for the
Minister in-charge to seek adjournment
and it is for him or her to refer it to a Select Committee.
But, according to clause 79 it is not allowed for members of
the House other than the Minister in-charge to refer to
Select Committee. With a view to obtaining a longer time for
consideration for the Bill I support the adjournment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any different opinion?

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I doubt that the
previous member has fully understood the
rules referred. However, it is appoint
that the other members of the House can also more referring
to the Select Committee. If the adjournment is sought in
order to obtain more time for consideration and review for
the Bill and allowing the Bill to refer later. I do not
myself object to that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do we all agree to adjournment of the
discussion as sought by the Minister
in-charge? (All Members agreed) I
declare that the Lushai Hill District Revenue Assessment
Amendment Bill prepared and submitted by the Minister
in-charge is adjourned for an indefinite period. Shall
we close the meeting for today and continue tomorrow at
10.30 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

J. MALSAWMA
Secretary,