

4TH SITTING ON 22ND OCTOBER, 1982 (FRIDAY)

MEMBERS PRESENT

PU C.CHAWNGKUNGA, Deputy Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, 4 (four) Ministers and 20 (twenty) Members were present -

QUESTIONS

1. QUESTIONS entered in a separate list to be asked and answers given.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

2. PU J.THANKUNGA to present to the House the Eight Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

3. PU BUALHRANGA to move the following :-

This Assembly is of the opinion that in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-clause (1) of section 43 the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 this House resolves that the Government of Mizoram should fix the rate for carrying essential commodities by public carriers within the Union Territory of Mizoram in order to prevent uneconomic competition among the Motor Vehicles.

4. PU G.PAHLIRA to move the following :-

This Assembly is of the opinion that whereas the status of Mizoram as a Union Territory for the last ten years does not bring peace and security any nearer.

And whereas, the promise of statehood during the peace talk between the Prime Minister and Mr. Laldenga also did not bring any political settlement for Mizoram.

Be it, therefore, resolved that as measure of meeting the aspiration of the Mizo people and for bringing Mizoram at par with other tribal of the north eastern region, it is high time that the Government of India takes immediate steps to upgrade Mizoram Union Territory into full-fledged statehood with special status wherein the protective provisions to the sixth schedule to the Constitution of India be granted to the state.

5. PU C.L.RUALA )  
PU BUALHRANGA ) to move the following :-

"This House resolves that list of officials eligible to occupy Mizoram Houses/VIP suits/AC accommodation should be amended as per order below :-

- 1) Lieutenant Governor
- 2) Chief Minister
- 3) Speaker of Mizoram, Legislative Assembly.
- 4) Ministers of Mizoram Government
- 5) Deputy Minister/Deputy Speaker
- 6) MPs/Government Whip/Leader of Opposition/MLAs

OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS

- 1) Any category of officials mentioned in Group 'A' for whom VIP suits is not available.
- 2) Secretaries to Government/Secretary to Legislative Assembly/Secretary to Lieutenant Governor/Secretary to Chief Minister/Deputy Commissioner/Joint Secretaries to Government/DIG.
- 3) Heads of Major Departments/Chief Engineer/ Superintendent of Police.
- 4) Deputy Secretaries/Additional DCs/Heads of Minor Departments.
- 5) Under Secretaries/Private Secretary to L.G./Private Secretary to Chief Minister/Joint Heads of Departments/Superintending Engineer P.W.D., etc.
- 6) Deputy Heads of Departments
- 7) Ex-Speaker/Ex-Ministers/Ex-Deputy Speaker/Ex-Deputy Ministers/Ex-MLAs of Mizoram
- 8) Chief Executive Members of District Council/Ex-MPs.
- 9) Other Class-I Officer of Government of Mizoram
- 10) Executive Members of District Councils/Ex-MLAs of Other States.
- 11) Other persons permitted to written orders of the Government (General Administration Department)

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

6. PU SAINGHAKA to raise Short Duration Discussion on a matter of Communal disharmony in NEHU.

SPEAKER :

Blessed are the poor in spirit:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn:  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek:  
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger  
and thirst after righteousness: for  
they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful:  
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart:  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:  
for they shall be called the children  
of God.

Blessed are they which are perse-  
cuted for righteousness' sake:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

St. Matthew 5: 3-10

We shall start our today's business.  
Pu C.Pahlira may ask Starred Question No.16.

PU C.PAHLIRA :

Pu Deputy Speaker, my Starred  
Question No. 16 -

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge  
Public Works Department be pleased  
to state -

- (a) Is it a fact that some posts of  
SE, under P.W.D. are lying vacant?
- (b) If so, Why ?.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA :  
MINISTER

Pu Deputy Speaker, answer to  
Starred Question No.16 is Yes.  
The Post of S.E. is to be  
filled up by Promotion, and  
not by direct recruitment. The Government cannot yet  
finalise the selection of Officers due to procedural  
difficulties. That is why it has not been filled up  
as yet.

PU C.PAHLIRA : Pu Deputy Speaker, how many posts are vacant ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, there are  
MINISTER 5 posts under P.W.D., 3 Posts are already filled up and 2 are vacant.

PU C.PAHLIRA : Has seniority list been made ?  
If so, can we know it here?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, there is no  
MINISTER inter-se-seniority in department service as far as CE and SE are concerned. Their seniority in their service is counted. They are given time for making complaints. After the complaints are received, the Government has declared their inter-Se-seniority. It may be seen in the department.

PU C.PAHLIRA : These posts seem to have been vacant for some time. Every government servant expects to get promotion in due time. It is necessary to fill up the posts in order to put interest in the Government Servants. Why are not they filled up till now ? Is it not possible to fill up immediately.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the Govern-  
MINISTER ment has the same idea. As I have said, it was because of procedural difficulty. They are under process.

PU G.L.RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the Hon'ble  
Member from Sateek Constituency has said 33 Posts are vacant for about 6 months. Was it true ? How soon is the Government going to fill them up ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, it has been  
MINISTER longer than 6 month since we  
have learnt that they are vacant.  
We cannot say the date of filling  
them up. At the moment, the Government is going to make  
final selection.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Supplementary Question, Pu Deputy  
Speaker, from the Minister's reply,  
there seems to be an intention to  
do something. What is the problem  
for the same? ~~Are~~ cannot they find one from among our  
existing EEs ? Or they are looking for one from outside ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, as I have said, S.E  
MINISTER post are promotion posts.  
According to recruitment rules, no  
direct recruitment can be made.  
To fill up the posts, we can do 2 things. We can fill up  
by deputation for some time. But our EEs are qualified  
for deputation. Those are referred to DPC as departmental  
candidates.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Starred Question No.17 -  
Pu Sainghaka.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Speaker, Starred Question  
No. 17.

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Education  
Department be pleased to state -

- (a) Target date for completion of the cons-  
truction of state field at Republic  
Veng, Aizawl ?
- (b) Amount already spent by Government to  
date for its construction ?

- (c) Amount provided in current years budget for its construction.
- (d) Whether total area required for the field has been clearly demarcated and acquired from private parties (where necessary).

PU F.MALSAWMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, answer to  
MINISTER Starred Question No.17(a) is  
No target has been fixed for  
completion of construction of  
Republic Veng Field, (b) Rs. 16,26,583.00 has been spent,  
(c) There is no budget provision for the same this year,  
(d) No.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, Supplementary  
Question - Over Rs. 1,0,00,000/-  
has been spent for construction  
of this field and it was began during Congress Ministry.  
But it is not yet completed till now. This may not be  
surprising from the Government point of view. However,  
keeping the need for the field in view, this field is the  
only State Field, which can be used freely. I am sorry  
there is no target for completion of the field. Although  
there is no provision for completion, I would like to know  
if it would be possible to complete it next year.

And it is need less to say how  
much the need for the field for the young players is  
Sometimes we are allowed to use Assam Rifles Ground.  
So, is there any intention to construct a State Field in  
Aizawl Town in the next year or so?

PU F.MALSAWMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the Hon'ble  
MINISTER Member presumed it as a State  
Field. It is not meant for a  
state field so far. The Village  
Council of Republic Veng allotted the site and now the  
field is being looked after by Republic Veng YMA. And  
the Government gives grant to it. In 1981, about Rs.2.8  
lakhs was given to them. Now it can be used though it is  
not yet completed. Since it was not included in the  
budget, even grant cannot be fixed definitely. It was  
started from only very simple base. The Secretary to  
Chief Minister wrote that the Chief Minister wanted to

construct a field here, and that was only from his good will. It was not decided as to who will be responsible, and from where funds will be obtained. The Sports Council has been giving as much as possible from the existing field. Playgrounds are needed and proposals are made for more. Although several grounds are under construction, in Aizawl Town, none of these are meant as State Field.

**BU SAINGHAKA :** Pu Deputy Speaker, Supplementary Question. The Government gives importance to playgrounds. Considering the physical features of Mizoram, it is difficult to construct a playground within a short time just by giving fund to some Management Committee. To complete the work which have begun, we need Bulldozers. Is it not possible for Education Department to make a proposal this year for purchasing a bulldozer next year ?

**FU F.MALSAWMA :** Pu Deputy Speaker, it was considered once. However, we have to see whether we can have it as a top-priority matter. For example, if we buy a bull-dozer at a high price, while there are many Villages which have no school, can we say a bull-dozer is worth of those schools? Considering over all standard of Mizoram, it is difficult to spare money for a bull-dozer, otherwise we know the need for it. Presently, Republic Veng YMA are doing very nicely and the Government appreciates their work. The Government is willing to continue as it is.

**FU C.PAHLIRA :** Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to say a few words regarding the field being referred to as 'state field', and at the same time ask a question.

The settlement certificate is in the name of Republic Veng. So the people worked hard on it. They asked for a Bull-dozer from Army and CRP. However, it was too difficult for the local people to complete construction of the field. As a result, Mr. Ray, the then D.C. of Aizawl District asked them if they were willing to hand over the field to the Government so that the Government will be solely responsible for completion of its construction. I was consulted about this. I had no objection. So the Village Council Members told me it was handed over to the Government.

Since then I personally thought the field like to ask if there was any document regarding the handing back over to the Village Councils.

PU F.MALSAWMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, as far as my  
MINISTER knowledge is concerned, there  
was no proper handing over of the  
field. Anyhow, the responsibility  
is shared by the Government and the Republic Veng Y.M.A.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 18 -  
Pu C.Pahlira's Question.

PU C.PAHLIRA : Pu Deputy Speaker, Starred  
Question No. 18 -

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Agriculture Department be pleased to state -

(a) Is it a fact that the following posts under Agriculture Department are still lying vacant, namely :-

- (i) Three posts of Deputy Deirector
- (ii) One post of principal, Agriculture Training Centre at Hnahthial
- (iii) One post of Project Officer, (NEC)
- (iv) 18 (Eighteen) posts of Class-II Officers,

If so, Why they are not filled in ?.

PU P.B.ROSANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, answer to  
MINISTER Starred Question No.18 -

- (i) Ye.
- (ii) Yes
- (iii) Yes
- (iv) Yes

...80/-  
...78/-

His last question is - if these are so, why did not the Government fill up the posts till now? The answer is - the Government is doing its best to fill up the posts.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Starred Question No.19 -  
Pu Ellis Saidenga's Question.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, my Starred Question No. 19 -

Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Education Department be pleased to state -

- (a) Is it a fact that the Government is intending to create two more posts of Sub-Divisional Educational Officer for Lunglei District?

The answer is 'not yet'

- (b) What is the reason for not appointing District Education Officers for Lunglei and Chhimtuipui Districts?

PU F.MALSAWMA, MINISTER:

DEO Lunglei has been appointed. However, the Officer was allowed to join late because one of the members of his family was seriously ill and admitted in the Hospital. As for DEO, Saiha, the Government is trying to fill up the post. To write the ACR of the Candidates for the post, we have to send it to the Officers who are no longer serving in Mizoram. That will take time.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA : Supplementary Question, Pu Deputy Speaker, answer to my question

- (a) was 'not yet' I would like to know why.

Secondly, it seems Education Department in Lunglei District is looked after by the Government. We have many Schools. But we have only one SDEO, There are 2 SDEOs in Chhimituipui District, and 4 SDEOs in Aizawl District, considering the number of Schools we have in the district, only one SDEO cannot manage all the Schools. I would like to know if there is not any intention to appoint more.

Besides, the Vehicles provided to the SDEO was taken away. As we all know, SDEOs have to visit Schools at different places. They go by truck, and the students meet them. It does not look nice for an Officer to get down from a truck to greet the students. Is the authority aware of this? Is there any intention to improve the facilities ?.

Thirdly, I would like to remind the Government of the fact that the teachers as well as the students are having problems.

And regarding question (b) Lunglei District had DEO for a short time once. After that no DEO was appointed. As we all know, it is difficult for other Officers to do a full time work in addition to their own work. Anyway, What we require is a DEO. I am glad to hear an appointment was already made. We cannot but understand the circumstances. However, it was a long time since the appointment was made and he has not joined till now, can the Government make other arrangements ?

Lastly, we have one supposed ADEO at Lunglei who is taking charge of DEO. I would like to know if his services are regularised.

PU F.MALSAWMA :                   The pay scale of SDEO and ADEO  
MINISTER                           is same. Because of this, they  
                                      are occasionally regarded as  
                                      same grade. It may be the same  
case as this. As for SDEO at Lunglei, we cannot but  
answer as 'NOT YET' because it is intended to appoint  
one SDEO for western part but I do not know which place,  
But certainly to be useful for Lunglei area.

The Government is aware that it is necessary to give better facilities to SDEO, not only in Lunglei District, but for Aizawl District, and Chhimituipui Districts also. We are intending to provide

a Jeep to them all for which a deposit was already made and being approved by the Government.

PU B.LALCHUNGNUNGA : Supplementary Question. Is it a fact that a SDEO is to be appointed for Chakma District. Since all Primary Schools in the area are looked after by their District Council, does it mean the SDEO, if appointed will look after only Middle Schools? if so, there are only 5 Middle Schools in all in Chakma District, and it may be just trouble to appoint a SDEO. I am not thinking it badly. Instead, it might be better if we have 3 SDEOs in Lunglei District. There are 155 Primary Schools and many Middle Schools in Lunglei District.

The Minister said one more SDEO is to be appointed for Lunglei District. If so, I suggest 2 (two) SDEOs be placed in Lunglei Town. They would not be short of office building also. Does the Government know this?

PU F.MALSAWMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, it is not intended to appoint two but one, and it is obvious that Chakma area need one. However, it does not seem fair to put 3 SDEOs, in Chhintuipui District where population is thinner than other Districts. Where the SDEO shall be posted is not yet definitely finalised because the proposal has not been approved by the department. Wherever he is posted, I have no doubt it would be where Lunglei District can utilise his services.

PU KELIS SAIDENGA : Supplementary Question - Previously, a DDE (Mr Baruah) used to be posted at Lunglei. After some time the post was abolished. Why was this? Is there any intention to create the post of DDE for Lunglei?

PU F.MALSAWMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I do not know the reason. There was no DEO at that time. When there was DDE, he performed the function of DEO. There is no intention to appoint a DDE at the moment. However DEO appointment has already been made.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 20 is to be asked by Pu C.Vulluaia, but he authorised Pu J.Thankunga, Pu J.Thangkunga may ask it now.

PU J.THANKUNGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, Starred Question No. 20 -  
Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge P.W.D. Department be pleased to state -  
What is the proposed width of the road from Bazar Bungkawn to Vaivakawn under extension work and the area to be covered by boulder or metalled ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, answer to  
MINISTER Starred Question No. 20 -  
the proposed width of the road in question is 3 metres. 2.70m will be metalled.

PU J. .THANKUNGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, this road is very important. There are some houses built at Bungkawn where the road is to meet the main road. What shall be done with these buildings when widening is done ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : The buildings were built long  
MINISTER before widening is proposed. The Government can give compensation to the owners, but the owners may not accept. Also we may not have the money for compensation. Anyway, the road will be improved in any possible way so as not to give trouble to the owner of the houses along the road.

PU SAIKAPTHIAN M : Pu Deputy Speaker, Supplementary Question. How much have been spent by the Government for this road, and how many contractors have worked in this road ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : The estimate amount was Rs. 4.36  
MINISTER lakhs. But the real work was  
Rs. 3,96,580.50. There are various  
works involved in the work - earth  
work for widening, culvert, retaining wall, side drain.  
I cannot say how many contractors. Who have worked  
because it was not included in the preparation for supp-  
plementary question.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, Supplementary  
Question. The Minister could not  
tell us the number of Contractors.  
I would like to know if any tender was called for this  
work, or was it done as departmental work .

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, 80% of the work  
MINISTER was proposed to be allotted on tender.  
However, to prevent too much expense  
for compensation, 20% was spared.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question hour is over. While  
answering Supplementary Questions,  
the Ministers answer without add-  
ressing the Chair. Let us try to remember to address the  
Chair.

The Speaker will take the Chair  
and will say to keep the short duration Discussion sub-  
mitted by Pu Sainghaka for tomorrow, and will explain  
the reason.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, short Duration  
Discussion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : As I said, we shall do that when  
the Speaker takes the Chair. Now,  
we shall take up item No.2. -  
Presentation of Report. Pu J.Thankunga, Chairman of  
Public Accounts Committee will present 8th Report of  
the P.A.C.

PU J.THANKUNGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, with your kind permission. I present 8th Report of the P.A.C. to the House.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed to the Members (It was done) Now, our item No. 3 is Private Members' Business. We have 3 Private Resolutions. Regarding the duration of discussion, shall we fix the time or allow the Members to say as long as necessary?

We shall take up Pu Bualhranga's resolution first. We shall call upon him to move his resolution - .

PU BUALHRANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, my Resolution is this -

"This Assembly is of the opinion that in the exercise of the power conferred under sub-clause (i) of clause (d) of section 43 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1935, This House resolves that the Government of Mizoram should fix the freight for carrying essential commodities by public carriers within the Union Territory of Mizoram in order to prevent uneconomic competition among the Motor Vehicles".

As we all know, Mizoram is a developing country. We have hardly a proper road, no railway line. Motor Vehicle is the only transport we have. Businessmen and ordinary people also depend on them. Because of this, even poor people risk purchasing Vehicles by Bank Loan. But they are having problems because of competition in the rates among the owners. One could be bankrupt from this. To prevent this, the state Governments used to make a minimum rate for the owners in various departments. This is done in other states of India as well as foreign countries. Not only the minimum rate is fixed, but also the maximum rate to prevent exploitation of the people by a Vehicle owners. Even in America, when the Government believe the products of the farmers would not be sold because of the rate being too low, not only the rates are fixed at higher rate, but also the

products purchased from the farmers otherwise the whole Agriculture of the country would suffer. The same could happen to the Vehicle owners in respect of their Vehicle.

At present, the trucks carry mostly rice which is imported from outside Mizoram. The carrying charge between Silchar and Aizawl is Rs, 23/- per quintal. That is how the contractors get the work. And those Vehicle owners can get about Rs. 3200/- in a month whereas they are required to pay Rs. 4,000/- - Rs. 6,000/- in the Bank. If this is going on for a long time, the loanees would be bankrupt before long. To prevent this, let the Government fix the rate at a reasonable rate as provided by Motor Vehicle Act, 1939. So that the carriers of essential commodities will be able to continue their work. I request the House to pass this resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Ngurdawla.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Deputy Speaker, this resolution is quite good. As pointed out by the mover, competition is becoming very high. And while answering tender and quotations, tenderers try to answer lower than others. This makes carriage of essential commodities to remote areas difficult. In spite of this, we cannot help depending on food-stuff imported from outside Mizoram.

If the Government fix the rate, only who can afford would carry. I wonder why we have not done long time back. I wish this resolution be passed.

Sometimes I think we should not favour only the loanees, there are persons who did try to buy Vehicles by loan, yet could not do so because their influence is too small. These people have to buy Vehicles by borrowing money from their friends or relatives. And when the loanees have contract work all the time, these private owners hardly have. Let us be more careful in giving contract works.

I do support this resolution.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I wonder if we think only between Silchar and Aizawl, we leave out all the remote Villages. There are many places where they do not get rice but only the papers. If it would lessen this causes, it would be quite good. But the wondering may be modified a little - 'uneconomic competition among the motor Vehicles' seems to mean that the competition is between the owners of Vehicles.

PU J.THANKUNGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I find this resolution very important. We are mostly referring to carriage of essential commodities between Silchar and Aizawl. Almost 70% of demand is reached at Aizawl and this means 70% of trucks are plying between Silchar and Aizawl. Considering the rise of price of commodities, the low rate of carrying charge is bringing lot of problems to the truck owners and this is all very clear from the resolution of truck owners and their minutes. This could also bring real problem to the Government also. Every truck owner has to pay about Rs. 100- Rs 200 for Driver, Handyman, insurance road tax, transportation tax, etc every day whether it works every day or it does not work at all. They can go to Silchar once a week in the present convoy system.

The truck owners could not profit the amount mentioned by the mover at the present rate. When truck owners face a certain problem, the public suffers as a result. This year due to the efforts made by the Supply Department and Contractors, a proper rate has been fixed by the Government for carrying charge between Silchar and Lawngtlai, Silchar and Lunglei, Silchar and Serchhip, and Silchar and Hnahthial. Since the truck owners carry loads of rice, almost the whole Mizoram is spared famine this year. Where the rate is too low, corruption may be easily practised which would consequently make the people suffer. Moreover, when the rate is too low and the truck owners do not want to carry, the Government requisitions the trucks and force them to carry at the same rate. The Contractors pay them at the same rate. This makes truck owners suffer more. Not only that, the Government do not pay the requisition bill to the owners at an early date. FCI tender was answered by many Contractors. The Government of Mizoram requested the FCI not to give at such low rate. In spite of this, the FCI allotted the work at a low rate. If we are not going to find a way out of this, we may not find it very pleasant in January and February. 25% of trucks will carry water, agricultural

products from Villages. Besides this, all Cachar trucks will have to go on different routes, and it will not be very easy to get hold of Vehicles. The Government will have to requisition Vehicles again. In order to avoid all these difficulties as far as possible, this resolution deserves careful consideration. Apparently, the Government has a proposal to control Mizoram trucks. If they can control Mizoram trucks, other state trucks may not come to work all the time.

Let us not forget that the truck owners would not go between Silchar and Aizawl so long as they can go to Lunglei, Serchhip, Hnahthial where requirement is more at a good rate. Considering the present situation of price of commodities and the rapid increase, it is necessary to pass this resolution if we are to request our truck owners at such low rates.

PU SAINGHAKA :

Pu Deputy Speaker, the Members have supported the resolution.

I also support the resolution.

Unlike other States, Mizoram cannot use boats, railways. Every thing is imported from other States and road transport is the only means we have. In India, Agricultural Products are important for development. An Agriculture Price Commission has been set up to be responsible as to low. Agricultural products are to be distributed. The Government of Mizoram has to set up such body regarding transport.

In Mizoram there are about 230 trucks registered. We do not have agricultural products to carry to give work to all these trucks. The only work these trucks have is to distribute the goods they carry from other states in different parts of Mizoram. Other States like W. Bengal have faced the same problem we have and they have urged the Government. Some of us started our business from nothing whereas our friends are very rich.

For solving our socio-economic problem, drivers, unemployed graduates, ex-servicemen, and MNF returnees are given bank financing and are allowed to purchase trucks with loan. It has been learnt that at Gauhati, State Bank, Commercial Bank, Vijaya Bank, which refinance all Schedule banks sanction Rs. 80 lakhs for Mizoram for purchase of trucks. The Government has a list of applicants. And it will be much better for these would be truck owners if we have a proper rate. If it goes as a competition, we

...87/-

cannot help running at a low rate. To do away with the unhealthy competition regarding truck transport, the Government may make a notification fixing the rate as per the motor Vehicle Act 1939. If this is not done, and had the truck-owners agreed to run at the same rate, the consumers are in a position to buy even essential commodities at a very high rate. Considering the possible reaction on both sides and the good results it may bring to all of us, I wish to pass this resolution.

**BU C.PAHLIRA :** Pu Deputy Speaker, as I do not have any Vehicle, I am rather ignorant of the problems faced by Vehicle owners. I really appreciate the resolution and the manner in which it has been moved. We heard that an Agriculture Price Commission has been set up in other States. The mover also said that State Governments purchase the products. As a matter of fact, I class Vehicle Owners as a higher class than the general mass of the people. However, 80% of population in Mizoram are agriculturists. We may not do much in this Session, but let us hope to have a Price Commission to dispose our Agricultural products before the next Session.

**BU LALINGHENA :** Pu Deputy Speaker, it seems the mover thought what would be best for Mizoram. However, as one has said, most of the trucks plying between Silchar and Aizawl carry rice. It is regrettable that Mizoram Government does not give contract of carriage of rice. If this resolution is passed and the rate of carriage is fixed, but the Contractor can still give at a lower rate. So, the most important point seems to be how can we deliver rice from FCI at Silchar. This House may urge the Government to do this, otherwise, this resolution would have little meaning.

**PU H.RAMMAWI :** Pu Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the mover for having moved this resolution. In Mizoram, we face food problem every year specially in rainy season. This difficulty is faced by the people at different places. Even the Government has to spend lots of money, because it used to be necessary to do air-dropping where we can employ motor transport. For example, carriage of rice has been adver-

tised for a certain Village. One contractor answers it at the rate of Rs. 25 per quintal eventhough it is obvious that he cannot do it less than Rs. 75 per quintal. The Government has to allot the work to the lowest rate. And he got the work. Now, he tried to carry the rice somehow. Misappropriation results. The Contractor makes no profit nor the owner of the truck. Since the rice cannot reach the destination, the Government is disgraced, and the people who are waiting for that rice eagerly have no food. Personally, I think to pass this resolution is a must in the circumstances where competition is too high.

Even after passing it, it is my wish that the rates are fixed at considerably high. That will solve the problems of the people as well as the Government's. It is because there is no proper rule that all of us are in trouble.

As stated by the Hon'ble Member from Khawbung Constituency, it is necessary to ascertain the financial position of the truck owners. Once I heard that the Government has reservation in carriage of cement for a certain association.

As for what the Hon'ble Member from Tlungvel Constituency said, I do not object if, yet the Act is like this, and it seems to cover all necessary points. So, I suggest to pass this resolution without further discussion.

PU ZAIREMTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, to day we  
MINISTER have been discussing a very  
important resolution. Obviously  
some of the Members are not  
very clear in the subject. For this reason, I would  
like to make it clear.

This resolution originated from the low rate of carriage of foodstuff. Although all the essential commodities are imported from other states by road, the trucks carry mostly rice. 75% of rice is imported, and it is necessary to consider the rate very carefully.

As stated by the Members, the carriage of rice from Silchar to Aizawl is in the hands of FCI. Even contractors are appointed by them for one year. The other routes : Silchar - Kolasib, Silchar-Serchhip, Silchar- Hnahthial, Silchar- Lunglei and Silchar- Lawngtlai, although the expense is borne by FCI. We are looking after them, and we appoint Contractors for these routes. To point out, M.K.Guha and Sons were the Contractor in 1980-81 and 1981-82, and

...89/-

the rate was Rs. 30 per bag. However, since september 1981 they could not carry due to some difficulties. So we asked Pu Hauva and Sons, and Zangena and Pro. to continue where they left. They obliged. Whenever their appointed Contractors cannot finish, we move to the FCI to appoint new Contractors. However, they said that the term was almost up and they would call new tenders for the new term and requested us to arrange before the term was up. For these reasons, we had to make requisitions, sometimes it was a strong request. When the truck owners, while obliging the request, it has been realised that the contractors paid the truck owners at the rate at which the appointed contractors could not carry. This brought us difficulties. The truck Owners wanted to have a fixed rate and moved to the Government. So we tried to fix a rate and called tenders. The reasonable rate at which the tenders replied was Rs. 29. Something, FCI we urged to approve this rate. But they could not.

When the Contract period of 2 years was up and a new one was to be appointed, they made quotations. The lowest rate was Rs. 20/- and it was from Assam Bengal carriers. The second lowest were Mizo contractors. We were afraid that they would be appointed as carriers. So I told the L.G. and Chief Minister of Mizoram and they wrote to FCI and food Ministry.

Anyway, the tender of Assam Bengal Carriers was not valid technically. So Mizo Contractors became lowest. Generally lowest tenderers are appointed as Contractors. When we had discussion about appointment of Contractors with the Zonal Manager at Calcutta. I requested them to give us Silchar - Aizawl route and allow us to carry at our own Government approved rate (Rs. 6 per Km). They agreed to recommend us. However, they negotiated at Rs. 23/- making all the efforts of Government of Mizoram vain.

As a consequence (let me say what they have already said) many people purchased vehicles by bank loan. The banks, at present are having difficulty in giving loans to others because the recovery instalment is not received properly from the loanees. It may be said that the rate at which they carry is too low. The Truck Owners as well as the Contractors make investigations. Although the process is quite different from each other. I ask my department to make investigations also. I wanted to use the findings of the department. Suppose a truck takes 10 trips to Silchar in a month, at the rate of Rs. 20/- per quintal. He loses about Rs. 1153.85 because he is supposed to repay Rs. 5997/- in the bank. If it makes 12 trips at

the same rate, he profits Rs. 1220.00. At the rate of Rs. 23/- per quintal, his profit will be Rs. 1246/- at 10 trips. At the rate of Rs. 23/- per quintal, he can make a profit of Rs. 4001/- an 12 trips.

Coming to the present resolution, it seems fixation of the rate is to be done by state transport authority. The possible consequences are also examined. Had the rates been fixed, it will bind registered Vehicles in Mizoram. The Vehicles of neighbouring States having national permit and jonal permits will not be bound. It may be quite difficult to make agreement with other States in this regard, and we cannot force them to carry at our rate. If the FCI made this rate, it will bind registered trucks in Mizoram. If the appointed contractors can employ Cachar Motor or Tripura Motor having national permit or jonal permit at their own rate, one truck owners will suffer unless they have national or jonal permit. So it may not be so good for some truck owners.

Apparently, our truck owners are willing to carry at the rate of Rs. 29/- something. Had the rate been fixed here, we have to consider the consequences. If the carrying charge is high, let us not forget the price of commodities will be high. Although the general people may not suffer that much, let us remember that what is best for some people may not be best for the general mass of the people. If the Contractor fails to do his job, the only solution is to make requisition of Vehicles. The Contractor is to report that he could do no longer. However, in food grain movement even one day halt is suffered by the people. And even before they do not want to declare their failure. We have to take them as fail due to the circumstances. We are to make requisition at the rate of FCI. There were times when we had to make strong request to the truck owners and such were the cases the Members mentioned. Since the Contractors paid them at their own rate, there was no chance of their earning a bad name. I would like to say that if and when the need arises to requisition Vehicles, it will be at the rate of FCI (Rs. 23). And it will be declared as the failure of the Contractor. We can tell the FCI that their Contractor fails and they have to change their system.

I would like to point out that there could be disadvantages although it seems to be very advantageous. So I request the mover of the resolution to have a second thought.

PU BUALHRANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I moved this resolution because it concerns not only the truck owners, but also the general public.

The Hon'ble Minister has explained very clearly. One thing very clear is this: When the department itself calculates, they find out that the truck owners are losing every month. The truck owners would not like to go on losing. However, the Minister pointed out three important points - 1) If the Contractor appointed by the FCI fails to complete the work and Mizoram Government is to make requisition on the Vehicles, the rate will be at the rate of FCI (Rs. 23/-) 2) and the Contractor will be declared failure. 3) And the Government of Mizoram would urge the food Corporation of India to change their system. If the House can give assurance to the cited three points I am willing to withdraw my resolution otherwise I insist voting.

PU ZAIREMTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I promise the first point, and also the second point. If this should happen, we shall continue to urge FCI to give the Silchar - Aizawl route to Government of Mizoram.  
MINISTER

PU SAINGHAKA : According to Government's assessment, the net-profit was high. From the public point of view, the truck owners have nothing to complain. How many kilometres is between Silchar and Aizawl, according to FCI? Suppose there is difference in the distance, and should the Government makes requisition to carry essential commodities, and the truck owners are hesitant to go at FCI rate, will the Government enforce Essential Commodities Act which is now in ill-force?

PU ZAIREMTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the rate was not fixed per kilometre wise. It was fixed at Rs. 23/- per quintal only.  
MINISTER

PU BUALHRANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister in-charge has made the points very clear. If the resolution stands, there could be some disadvantages for the truck owners and the people. Now he has given an assurance and I do not mind to withdraw my resolution and I ask for permission of the House to do so.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Bualhranga has asked for permission to withdraw his resolution. Do we agree to give him permission to withdraw his resolution? (Members : Yes) since the Minister in-charge has given assurance, it is better than were passing of the resolution.

Now, the Speaker may take his Chair.

SPEAKER : We shall go to item No.4. Pu C.Pahlira may move his resolution.

PU C.PAHLIRA : Pu Speaker, may I read out before I move ?

SPEAKER : Read it out and move.

PU C.PAHLIRA : "This Assembly is of the opinion that whereas the status of Mizoram as a Union Territory for the last ten years does not bring peace and security any nearer;

and whereas the promise of statehood during the peace talk between the Prime Minister and Mr.Laldenga also did not bring any political settlement for Mizoram.

Be it, therefore, resolved that as a measure of meeting the aspiration of the Mizo people and for bringing Mizoram at par with other tribal of the north eastern region, it is high time that the Government of India takes immediate steps to upgrade Mizoram Union Territory into full - fledged statehood with special status wherein the protection provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the constitution of India be granted to the state"

Yesterday I took leave because I had an important thing to do. This morning, I saw this amendment copy of my resolution. I saw 2 important points there.

SPEAKER : Support your resolution first, and we shall discuss that amendment.

PU C.PAHLIRA : Pu Speaker, I have not yet moved. (Speaker : move it without preliminaries) Pu Speaker, allow me to say a few words before I move it. (Speaker : I cannot allow because we are to consider your resolution. Support it) Pu Speaker, I would like to withdraw my resolution, allow me to say why I would like to withdraw it.

As I have said, I saw a copy of my resolution and its amendment copy. I changed my mind suddenly. In the amendments copy, it was suggested to call 'Zoram State' instead of 'Mizo State' And also 'let the state has special status' was omitted. There was no time for discussion with those who amended my resolution. I realise there could be different opinions. Although we need statehood very badly, and considering all other tribes having their own state already, and the important point: the state should have 6th Schedule provision being omitted, I prefer to withdraw and I hope we shall have a chance to discuss before it is moved some other time. (Speaker : If you support strongly and if it is found good. We cannot say it shall go through) (Pu C.L.Ruala : Rules 125 allows to withdraw the resolution. Let him withdraw before he moves - and ask for permission of the House not to move it ? )

PU BUALHRANGA : Pu Speaker, the owner of the resolutions prefers to withdraw. However, it is desirable that we should discuss this resolution. Let the Member who made amendments to it state why he has done so. After that if he still wishes to withdraw, let him ask for permission of the House. Even if he is allowed to withdraw, it is better to discuss before now. Everything is done with the interest of the country, and even amendment was made with best intentions. If the House can give permission to withdraw before now, it may be carrier for the owner of the resolution. We do not know that we may be convinced from the discussion also.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Speaker, he is not willing to move the resolution. He can however, make a mere statement. Besides, although there is its amended form, the Member who amended it has not yet moved it, so nothing can be said about its being amended.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Speaker, before it is being moved, it cannot be amended, if he decline to move it, it is all right.

SPEAKER : The owners of the resolution has already expressed his wish not to move it. We cannot force him to move the same. Therefore, resolution submitted by Pu C.Pahlira has been withdraw.

Now, we shall take up business No. 5- joint resolution submitted by Pu C.L.Ruala and Pu Bialhranga. Let us call upon Pu C.L.Ruala first.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Speaker, all the Members must have seen the resolution we jointly submitted. We hope that it will be passed without much discussion. Any way, I would like to say why we have brought this resolution.

On May 6, 1976, the Government of Mizoram issued a list of persons entitled to get accommodation in Mizoram House New Delhi in order of precedence. In that list, MLAs were placed under Private Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, actually at the 16th. We have complained about it in this House. I do not know whether it was heard in the House or not, the Government of Mizoram issued another list last July of this Year. The list was made in such a way that the persons who are entitled V.I.P. Rooms and air-conditioned rooms are shown. MLAs are placed in No.2. among those who will get ordinary accommodation.

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation has reviewed the list and it was not satisfied. A fresh list is proposed by the Committee. Because an order of precedence was issued in which Secretaries, IGP and Development Commissioner were placed below MLAs. We cannot accept the list issued which makes us unable to occupy an air-conditioned room. For example, in Mizoram House, New Delhi, ex-Chief Secretary of Mizoram was given accommodation whereas MLAs could not be accommodated. We cannot understand why we, the elected Legislators should be placed at such low category. We have no doubt that it will be passed because no Member would hesitate to vote for his benefit. However, we can allow if there is any change is to be made below MLAs. But we are firm about the position of MLAs. Pu Speaker, let us pass it without much discussion.

PU BUALHRANGA : Pu Speaker, the Member who represents Tlungvel Constituency and I have a joint resolution. I would like to say that this resolution is submitted from the point of view that the MLAs should be placed in a respectable position in Government even though they may not be very rich or the standard of their personal life may not be very high.

Subordinate Legislation Committee has made two proposals, but it is felt that they are not given due consideration by the Government. The Committee felt it necessary to submit to the House. Being MLAs, it is not an interesting subject to discuss how to promote our own position, from the Mizo point of view. It may seem to be a selfish business. However, in a democratic country, the people themselves do not legislate but their representatives. If their representatives are given high position, it means the people are given high position, and vice versa. Getting proper accommodation can be regarded as

one of the ways. Our opinions may not be same. Anyway let us have a careful consideration of the resolution and if we do not find the proposed list good enough we are ready to have it amended as desired by the Members.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Speaker, the Hon'ble Member said that this resolution is moved to promote the position of the people. I regard this resolution just to revolve the order of precedence issued by the Government of Mizoram and other states have which has been ignored too much. It is very important that it is considered very carefully. The order of precedence has been issued more than once. We do not want to be placed at a place higher than we truly deserve. As for deprivation of air-conditioned rooms, other states are not doing this to their MLAs. The order of precedence is mostly used on national important days. However they are not following the list strictly. The order of precedence may not be same in all the states, yet they never put MLAs below Secretaries. The States of the people become lower when their representatives are low. It seems whoever prepares the list puts themselves above others. Anyway the existing order of precedence has to be revised.

SPEAKER : We have only three minutes. shall we have recess now or continue it? We shall have recess now and sit again at 2:00 P.M.

Recess till 2:00 P.M.

2.00 P.M.

SPEAKER : We shall continue discussion we began this morning. I call upon Pu H.Rammawit.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Pu Speaker, I am sorry it has become necessary to move a resolution on the subject. It seems possible to settle the matter by the Executive. However, it seems thing could not do it, because in the list issued by the Government of Mizoram on May 6, 1976, the MLAs appeared at 16th. Executive Members of District Councils were placed at 21st, which is the bottom in the list. This is not very people. It is against the common sense of ordinary man. In every democratic state, the Members of the Legislature are having a high status. We all understand this. According to the latest list.

1st is Governor  
2nd is Chief Minister  
3rd is Speaker  
4th Ministers

Speaker and Ministers may be placed at the same level. 5th is Deputy Speaker/Deputy Ministers. This may be put as Speaker/Deputy Speaker/Deputy Ministers.

It is not right to put the Sitting M.Ps/Sitting MLAs among those who cannot be accommodated in VIP suites and Air-conditioned rooms. If I am not mistaken, a Committee is formed to have a District Council in Aizawl District. At present we have three District Councils in Mizoram. The C.E.Ms of these District Councils have more responsibility than the MLAs in their respective positions. Elected Members are given a high status in any Democratic Countries. Although they are included in the list, it would be better if they were not included because to be put at the bottom is an insult to their designation.

Even in the latest list, the CEMs are placed at the bottom. The whole list has to be revised. Coming back to the present resolution, in the 5th, Deputy Ministers/Deputy Speaker is put. It would be better if we put as Deputy Speaker/Deputy Ministers, because it looks better to put Deputy Speaker before Deputy Minister if we put Speaker before the Ministers. Deputy Speaker is also elected.

The main purpose of the resolution is very good. No.8. is Development Commissioner. No.7 and 11 are Ex-MLA, and no Ex-MP is seen. Those mistakes are there which are to be corrected.

The main purpose of this resolution is that the elected Members of Legislature should have their rightful status in the administration and in the society in a democratic country. They are not given

much priority, and it is intended to reform the system. The Government should see the list and see that they are properly arranged. Resolution No.11. may have to be amended because there are many omissions. I suggest to put it this way, and I hope the movers of the resolution do not mind:

"This House resolves that sitting MPs and MLAs of Mizoram be entitled to occupy VIP suites/A/C Accommodation in Mizoram Houses/ Circuit Houses".

If we pass it like this, it will not lose the purpose. If the joint movers can give their consent, I have copies of it ready for distribution.

PU K.BIAKCHUNGNUNGA : Pu Speaker, M.L.As are the representatives of the people. Even Government Servants are also the 'people'. Although we want to say that the MLAs, being the elected representatives of the people be entitled accommodation in Mizoram Houses and Circuit Houses. At the same time, we want to make it clear that MLAs, the elected Members, deserve to be shown our respect, and wishes. This is not only for us who are sitting here, but also for others to sit here after us. Besides, we have high ranking Officers. We all want them to have a comfortable accommodation whenever they travel on official duty. It would be better if we all could have a nice accommodation without having to think the order of precedence. The most important thing is the impression it gives to the people. Let the Government try to have more VIP suites so that all Government Officers also would get accommodation. The MLAs, out of the respect for the people they represent, deserve to be accommodated in the VIP suites. It does not seem right to be deprived of accommodation in these suites even when it is available. The Government should see that they get VIP accommodation not because they demand especially since it has been brought into the House.

What the Member has just said before me about Deputy Minister and Deputy Speaker is very important. Deputy Ministers are appointed by the Leader of the House. Whereas Deputy Speaker is elected by the elected Members of the House. Deputy Speaker seems to be higher. Any way, we had better go that way. If our wishes for our Officers be realised, And at the same time, let the MLAs be given accommodation properly. If we could compromise in this way, it would be better.

...99/-

PU J.THANKUNGA : Pu Speaker, our Resolution today is not a nice topic to discuss. However, in democratic countries elected representatives are given high status especially on national days like Independence Day and Republic Days. Even in other states it is taken for granted. And also in International Airports like Delhi, they can move about easily if they have their identity cards with them. Looking at the existing order of precedence, even a Member of Parliament is placed very low. The status of Parliament Members is very high in Delhi and other places. But in Mizoram, even in 1982, the status of legislators is still very low.

Other states are having about 500 MLAs, and for them it may be difficult to arrange everything. But here, only 30, 40 or 60 at the most, of us, it should not be difficult. When I visited Sikkim I was taken ill unfortunately. As soon as the Chief Minister was informed, they put me in a VIP suite immediately. They are very particular in these things especially these small states. However, we do not want to look too selfish.

We have several 'Houses' in Mizoram. Whatever arrangement be made, there should not be irregularity. It may not seem right to occupy better rooms than the Chief Secretary, the head of the Government. But to put CEMs of District Councils too low is not good. They are the heads of Government in their respective Governments. Other states may not have CEMs, but we have and we should put them at their rightful place.

Any way, let us pass the Resolution. If it has to be amended, let it be amended so that the Members who come after us may also benefit from it.

PU BUALHRANGA : Pu Speaker, I accept Pu Rammawia's suggestion.

PU C.L.RUALA : It is not very pleasant to have brought this resolution to the House. However, I have represented this very House in different seminars in all of which I experienced an unpleasant experience. Every time the MLAs from other states wanted to come to our places we had to say that we would rather go to

their rooms. We used to be accommodatéd in the same room with some 4 or 5 strange people, and sometimes it had been with CRPF. All these unpleasant experiences completed me to move this resolution in the House.

If our status is low, it shows the position of the people. I believe this will be worse for those who will come after us. Can we have assurance from the Government ?.

If it is necessary to make an amendment, let us do it and pass it. If not, we shall surely experience another unpleasant experience when we represent Mizoram Assembly. There should not be so much modification to be done. Let us do it and pass it.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA : Pu Speaker, I do not have much to say on the subject. It is needless to say how the Members have suffered. If we do not pass it now, the Government will ignore it again. Our need for the same is urgent, too.

PU H.RAMMAWI : We should respect the opinion of the movers. We have heard that one of the Committees of this House has requested the Government to modify the order of precedence, and till today we have not heard its modification. We must have known about the chit being sent out from Political Department. I suspect that was something unhealthy. Had the requests made by the Committees of this House been pursued, there would have been no need to move this Resolution.

What the mover of this Resolution said about his experiences are true. We shall have to go on duty to different parts of India and it is incredibly strange to knock out an MLA and accommodate some party of Officers. Obviously the Government is not aware of these incidents.

The matter was brought to the notice of the former Ministry and it is not yet removed till now. We have colonels in some Departments as Head of Department. We may be quite advance in some respects. But there are still many respects in which we are to make progress. We do not seem to protect the privilege of the Members.

Minister in-charge of GAD and Minister in-charge of supply and Transport are responsible. Their responsibility is defferent. Assurance will have to be given by two Ministers.

The Members have only one wish and since it may not be best to pass the resolution as it is, I suggested a small amendment to be made so that the wording may be more smooth. I request the movers to accept the emendment.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Speaker, I have only a few words to say. As far as the resolution is concerned. I accept the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Member from Sangau Constituency. However, I am sorry to hear that the Government did not pay attention to the recommendations made by a Committee of this House. Any one Committee of the House represents the whole House. The present resolution is not a rice subject to be discussed in the House by the Members because it is for their benefit. Obviously it should be settled by the Government to the satisfaction of all.

Besides, the Members may also take wrong ideas about it. When Supply Department looked after Mizoram House, they issued occupation rules twice. Looking at the existing order of precedence, it looks as if the GAD makes all decisions. There are some clarifications to be made. Had this been done, it would have deared. Considering the necessity of having new order of precedence and the discussion held to day. I support the suggestion made by the Member from Sangau Constituency.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : The House is willing to pass. You may use your discretionary power to get this resolution passed. I suggest Pu Rammawi read out his amendment.

PU H.RAMMAWI : I wish the opinion of the mover may be known by the House.

PU C.L.RUALA : My fellow Members have good ideas. It seems we have to pass as they suggested. However, I demand the Government do not forget that the House Committee note down that it has been discussed in the House that the Government ignored the House Committee. We have submitted a proposal for amendment of the order of precedence which was not even considered till now. I agree to pass the Resolution as suggested by Pu Rammawi.

PU F.MALSAWMA : Pu Speaker, the impression given by the discussion is that the Government did not pursue their proposal. In fact, a new order of precedence was issued last July. Let us not forget that it was not done without thinking. Let us also remember that we are still learning everything.

PU C.L.RUALA : The day after the order was issued, Committee on subordinate Legislation, considered it and a fresh recommendation was submitted which was left unconsidered.

PU F.MALSAWMA : Pu Speaker, since the GAD Minister has not come today, I cannot say its existing situation. I do not find it proper to compare the MLAs with Government Officers. Anyway, the present MLAs may not sit here very long, and those who are entitled VIP rooms may become MLAs. And it may be noted that the working system of MLAs and Government Officers are a bit different. For example, we have to give C.S. priority in order of precedence. Let us think very carefully to claim our rights in a democratic country. Some states like West Bengal, where there are many MLAs, the treatment they give to MLAs is different. Since may come when we shall be opposition Members where politics is taken extremely. It may not be very proper to think that the recommendations made by the House Committee are neglected. I do not object to our awling the facilities. However, I would like to mention the necessity of having a broader outlook.

**SPEAKER :** We have said quite a lot. Pu F.Malsawma has also said from Ministers' side. Supply Department has been looking after Mizoram Houses. Let us call upon Pu Lalhmingshanga to make clarification about it.

**PU LALHMINGSHANGA :** Pu Speaker, since our administration is very young, it is not upto the mark. Previously, we used to share Assam Circuit House at Silchar. However we have constructed Mizoram House, P.W.D. is looking after its construction and maintenance. But the staff are supply and transport's. In Shillong, we never had Mizoram House before since the year before last, a house has been hired though it is not satisfactory. There are only very few rooms. The Staff are provided by Supply Department. In Gauhati we have a hired building. This is also staffed by Supply & Transport Department. Unlike other Mizoram Houses, they are not very busy.

In Calcutta, the former Ministry purchased a building which is proposed to be extended. Contractor has already been appointed. The Central PWD has been given the work as an agency. They are not very fast. Calcutta is a busy centre and the officials and MLAs used to have difficulties in getting accommodation. Since recently, GAD started maintaining the House.

In Delhi, we hire a house. We have two Houses in Delhi - in South Extension and Teen Murti. The GAD are staffing both the Houses. A new building is under construction in Delhi. The progress of work is faster than we expect. We expect to occupy the new building by April next year.

The problems regarding occupation of the rooms in these Houses are caused mainly by shortage of rooms. Although we have rules, we cannot apply them 100%. In fact, we can apply only 20% of it. For example, there is entitlement list for all these Houses. However, there are many ordinary travellers who go for medical check up, treatment and other important business. If the rooms are available, we have to accommodate them.

As for Silchar Mizoram Houses, they have to accommodate Mizo travellers especially after Mizo- non- Mizo trouble.

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Anyway, let us hope our problems will be solved gradually when our Houses are constructed properly. It is my desire that the Members would also understand our problem. As for the entitlement list, we would like to make the list to include all important officers but for the limited accommodation in the Mizoram Houses.

Considering the present motion very carefully, the MLAs' direction of their rights as people's representatives in a democratic country is quite appreciated. At the same time, the administration of Mizoram Government, as a whole, is too young as yet. And compared to other states, our Assembly Hall itself is not satisfactory. The spirit of self-sacrifice at all levels from Grade IV to Ministers is most useful. Our joint effort for survival is required, and with that spirit of self-sacrifice, there is no problem big enough which cannot be survived.

The Resolution it-self is quite natural to be moved by the Members. Because whenever the list is revised, we might have misplaced MLAs and there could be many omissions. I believe the order of precedence may be, revised remembering the MLAs, MPs to entitle VIP suites. As mentioned by some Members, even other states do not exactly put Deputy Speakers above Deputy Ministers. They are given the first precedence though. Anyway, to have discussion on the subject it self is quite beneficial because the Government can get the opinion of the House, and get guideline for taking necessary steps.

The order of precedence issued by the Government of India can be based to some extent. However, the chart is mainly used for ceremonials. But we cannot apply the list practically all functions.

So, it may be too difficult to make a detailed, however, I would like the hon'ble Members MPs to entitle VIP accommodation. Office order may be issued remembering our discussion to day.

PU ZAIREMTHANGA :  
MINISTER

Pu Speaker, only a few words to continue what the hon'ble Finance Minister has said, as for staff system in Mizoram

Houses, the staff in Mizoram Houses at Silchar, Shillong, Gauhati and Calcutta were provided by Supply & Transport Department.

However, the question was about the present condition. Now, Silchar, Shillong and Gauhati is staffed by Supply Department.

We have a separate Liaison Officer for Shillong and Silchar. Deputy Director is looking after supply and Transport Office at Silchar. In Gauhati, we have Deputy Director, Supply & Transport-cum-Liaison Officer. In Calcutta, although the GAD is maintaining the House, since there are still some Supply Department concerned business, the Liaison Officer is still having the title of Deputy Director of Supply and Transport. Delhi Mizoram Houses are all under GAD.

SPEAKER : GAD Minister is not here to give assurance. It is the opinion of the house to pass the resolution in its amended form because there are some points which are to be modified. So there are two opinions because Pu Ruala said he wished it to be passed. But the Minister is not here to give assurance. The reason why I called upon the Ministers incharge of P.W.D. and Supply, Forest, was to make clarifications so that a proposal can be made to these departments for the MLAs to get accommodation in their V.I.P. suites. The actual order may be issued by the Government at the earliest convenience. Let us hear Pu Rammawia's suggestion so that the discussion may be wound up.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Speaker, let us consider it as amendment we shall second it.

PU H.RAMMAWI : Yes, it is amendment, and we all seem to appreciate it. We are trying to find out what would be best, and the movers have expressed their acceptance. I am grateful to them. My suggestion is as follows.

"This House resolves that sitting MPs and MLAs be entitled VIP suites/Air Conditioned Accommodation in Mizoram Houses/Circuit Houses".

If other Members can second it, let us pass it.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : I do second "Sitting MLAs and  
MPs of Mizoram....".

PU H.RAMMAWI : Pu Speaker, I did not say '  
Mizoram'. I take it as  
understood.

SPEAKER : The amendment copies have to be  
given to the MLAs.

PU H.RAMMAWI : If I am given a few minutes I  
can give. There are some  
corrections to be made.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : We shall do it ourselves.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be given to the  
MLAs. (It was given).

SPEAKER : We have got the copies now.  
Any Member who agrees to pass  
the shortened resolution may  
raise your hands .... (the Members raise their hands)

... So, the amendment to resolutions -

"This House resolves that sitting MPs and MLAs  
of Mizoram be entitled VIP suites/Air Condi-  
tioned Accommodation in Mizoram Houses)  
Circuit Houses" is passed unanimously.

Now, business item No.6. seems  
to be discussed. However, as soon as it was heard  
that it was going to be discussed in the House, the  
authorities of NEHU and Meghalaya were contracted. And  
they were ready to take necessary steps to solve the

problem, intimating the steps they have already taken. Besides, this concerns our communal feelings. So, it was thought better not to discuss it here today. But the negotiation between the Government will be continued.

Now, we have finished our today's business. Sitting is adjourned till 10:30 A.M. on Monday.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:15 P.M.

J.MALSAWMA,  
SECRETARY.

...108/-