

5TH SITTING ON 28TH FEBRUARY, 1980 AT 10:30 A.M.

PRESENT

Pu C. Chawngkunga, Deputy Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister,
4 Ministers and 26 Members were present.

BUSINESS

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

LAYING OF PAPERS

2. Pu Zairemthanga, Minister-in-charge Labour and Employment
Department to lay on the table -
- (i) The Mizoram Employment Services Department (Group 'B'
Post) Recruitment Rules, 1975.
 - (ii) The Mizoram Employment Services Department (Class III
Non-Gazetted Posts) Recruitment Rules, 1975.
 - (iii) A copy of the Notification dated 8.4.78 under C.N.V.
(Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1979.
 - (iv) A copy of the Notification dated 8.3.78 on Job
preference to qualified Apprentices.
 - (v) A copy of the Notification dated 30.11.79 on list
of Hazardous employments in Agriculture Department
Schedule II to the workmen Compensation Act, 1923.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

3. Brig. Thenphunga, Sailo, Chief Minister to move -----
"With the installation -----
----- peace in Mizoram"

DEPUTY SPEAKER : "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the
counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the
way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of
the scornful."

Psalms : 1:1-6.

We shall now follow our business, Pu L. Pian
denga's Question No. 30th will be discussed.

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AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

PU L.PIANDENGA : Pu Dy.Speaker, Question No.30th (a) & (b) are as follows :-

- (a) What are the actions taken by the Government for establishing garden colony, and making terrace, dry terrace ?
- (b) What are the future steps the Government propose to take in connection with the establishment of garden colony and construction of dry terrace ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall call Minister concerned to give the answer.

PU P.B.ROBANGA,
Minister, i/c. Agriculture etc.: Pu Dy.Speaker, answer to Question No. 30th is this :-

During this Sixth Five Year Plan, 7745 families of farmers are arranged to have permanent garden colony. In this Plan, it is arranged that each family is to have 2 hectares of land. Each 2 hectares of land is supposed to be prepared for the settlement of each family. For these 2 hectares of land, the Government will give free of cost seeds and seedlings to plant. It is also planned for this Garden Colony, that each family will get Rs. 600/- for two years.

During this period, the plan is to settle 3226 families under permanent terrace cultivation. Under this plan, the availability of water in the vicinity will be given special consideration and importance. For the terrace cultivators, 80 % of their expenditure will be borne by the Government.

And the answer to question (b) - At present we have Agriculture and Terrace Garden Colony in our State. The Government is striving to make them better than before and is looking for a better way to improve them. At present in these cultivations, called Garden Colony and Terrace Colony ~~ordinarily~~ the farmers work in these, and the Government gives them help as it deems fit. However, since there is a feeling that this arrangement is not good enough the Government is thinking of preparing all the lands for the farmers.

PU L.PIANDENGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, is there any plan to make approach roads for the owners of terrace cultivators and garden colony so that they may have easy access to their lands ? Like the construction of Motorable roads ?

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PU P.B. ROSANGA,

Minister i/c. Agri.etc.: Pu Dy. Speaker, for cultivated lands, Garden Colonies and Terrace lands which are concentrated in one area, the Government, considering its financial positions, is working to make approach roads, so that as many people may use them wherever it is necessary.

PU K.LALSANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, to make a Garden Colony, does the Government consider the suitability of land or the pressure of the people ?

PU P.B. ROSANGA,

Minister, i/c. Agri.etc.: Pu Dy. Speaker, the Agriculture Consultative Committee in 1978 had already considered this matter. Hoping and believing in the success of Horticulture plantation and cash crop in these garden colonies the Consultative Committee had decided to give importance to lands which had approach roads and which are close to the main roads. And this is still followed. However, there are some crops for which the altitude of land have to be considered. And for this too, our experts analysed the soil and the suitability, and they are given due importance.

PU B.LALCHUNGUNGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister had just stated that the Government is distributing seeds and seedlings to these farmers free of cost. And since these are supplied free of cost, I believe the Department concerned checked as to the proper germination and what percentage grow normally. Since this is the case, can the Minister tell me what percentage of the seeds supplied have sprouted, and what percentage of the seedlings supplied have been alive ?

PU P.B.ROSANGA,

Minister, i/c. Agri.etc.: Pu Dy. Speaker, I cannot just tell the calculated percentage today.

PU C.VULLUJIA : Pu Dy. Speaker, we all have seen with our own eyes that good forest areas have been occasionally cleared for garden colony. And as the Hon'ble Minister had just said the Government is giving cash to improve the land. Once the forest has been cleared for the Garden Colony, it has become wasted. But if the farmer still gets the grant given by the Government without any follow up work in the Colony; and if such a case is found out, what will the Government think of the Agriculture Officer, who gave the verification certificate, or of the farmers who took money to improve the Colony but had not done anything ?

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PU P.B. ROSANGA,
Minister, i/c. Agri. etc.: Pu Dy. Speaker, if there are people indulging in such wrong acts and if the Government found them out, they are bound by bond to return all the moncys received.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Dy. Speaker, the Government is giving aid to Garden Colony, it is good. But from this year, it is known that the owners of those Garden Colonies are expected to come to Aizawl to collect the money. Do the Government think it better? To call Gardeners to Aizawl often times when labour is much needed? If so, can the Minister tell me why it is considered better?

PU P.B. ROSANGA,
Minister, i/c. Agri. etc.: Pu Dy. Speaker, the Government usually distributed aid to the owners of Garden Colony at their place; however, there are some problems in some places. This problem may be the problem from the Officers' side, or it may be because of the complaint from the public side. Due to this, in some places, there are some people who are called upon to collect the aid personally. It is difficult to know what will be the better. What will be the best way for the farmers to get their due amount and at the right time is under the consideration of the Government and the farmers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Supplementary Question time is over.
Question No. 31st of Pu Saikapthianga will be taken up now.

AGRICULTURE & A.H. & VETY ETC. DEPARTMENT.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, Question No. 31st (a), (b) & (c) are as follows :-

- (a) How much sunctions has been accorded under Drought Scheme ?
- (b) Which are the items that had been bought under this scheme and,
- (c) Who have been appointed Suppliers ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall call upon Minister concerned.

PU P.B. ROSANGA,

Minister, i/c. Agri. etc.: Pu Dy. Speaker, Rs. 50 lakhs is sanctioned for the prevailing drought, the answer to (b) is For the Drought Scheme the following seeds had been purchased - Ground-nut, Vegetable seeds, French Mustard, Local Mustard, Sugar-cane setts, tapioca, sweet potato, Calscasia. Besides these, Paddy, Maize and Potato seeds had been purchased under this scheme. The answer to (c) is that 55 persons were selected to supply the above seeds.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any supplementary Question ?

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister answered the Questions very satisfactorily. However, I have some more questions to ask. How the items mentioned already been supplied? Let that be the first question; Have they all been supplied? If they have not been supplied, will they be able to supply during the sowing season? I came to understand that certain amount had already been supplied. I like to know whether the Government is aware that the drought stricken villagers are not getting the seeds properly. And I want to know what action can be taken if a true case could be revealed whereby the Contractors and Agriculture Officers contrived to write off some dealings which show as if the people had received the seeds whereas they have not in reality.

PU P.B. ROSANGA,

Minister, i/c. Agri. etc.: Pu Dy. Speaker, what the hon'ble Member had just asked is very important. A certain amount of money had been spent from this drought scheme. Right after our vegetables and crops were destroyed by drought last year, this Drought Scheme was formulated. A certain number of tapioca, Sweet Potato, with great amount of vegetable seeds were given to be distributed to the farmers. The expenditure for this amounts to over 17 lakhs of rupees. Anyway, as the respected Member had stated, there might be some of our farmers in remote areas who are not receiving anything, but the Government is not aware of this. However, if a reason could be given as to why they have not received implicating some responsible Officers, and made known to me, an appropriate action will be taken against the culprit. A great quantity of some seeds is planned to be purchased. Because of the drought last year, we could not have enough maize seeds, vegetable seeds and other seeds, even yam seeds this year and it is now planned to provide the same; but these had not been supplied as yet.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Dy. Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister said that 50 lakhs of rupees was sanctioned for the Drought Scheme. He further stated that a great variety of sweet potato, topiaca, yam, french mustards and other seeds were distributed in aid of the drought victims. He said the total expenditure for distributing all these amounted to Rs.17 lakhs only. If such was the case, it means there is 33 lakhs still at hand; how will this be used, and I wanted to ask what value of each item, which are said to have been supplied had been distributed.

PU P.B.ROSANGA,

Minister, i/c. Agri. etc. : Pu Dy-Speaker, let me first tell how the Government got this sanction of Rs. 50 lakhs. As it was received from the Central, out of 50 lakhs, 25 lakhs were solely for the purpose of Drought Relief. Besides this, we received another 25 lakhs under plan loan; and a little below 17/18 lakhs had been spent. However, for the variety of items mentioned 17 lakhs and certain amount had been spent. I cannot inform you how much was spent for each item right away. However, with the balance of approximate Rs. 25 lakhs, it is arranged to purchase potato seeds. It is also planned to purchase maize seeds and quick yielding seeds with Rs. 5 laks. And one lakh is sanctioned to purchase yam, sweet potato, plants with edible roots. About 2 lakhs was also estimated for the purchase of vegetable seeds.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA : Pu Dy. Speaker; it seems that a greater quantity of these seeds were supplied from Aizawl. In Lunglei, we have Jt. Director and D.A.O. too. Why is it that suppliers are not appointed from Lunglei for items which are easily available in the area ?

PU P.B. ROSANGA,

Minister, i/c. Agri. etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, it might be that the respected Member misunderstood the answer given a moment ago. A greater amount of money spent out of over 17 lakhs was spent by the District Officer in their own level and they have called tender for suppliers.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I want to know clearly how these aids to drought victims were distributed. I like to stress matter on the future distributions. The intensity of the suffering from drought deffered in each region. I really do not know what information the Government have, but from the harvest report for last year, the suffering of the people of the

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eastern belt, where many villagers were under famine without any harvest, is more severe. There must be a guiding principle for distribution of aids for the future as to whether it should be distributed or special consideration should be given to the more severely effected areas with more grants. Can the aids be given considering the suffering of the people by having careful survey of the plight of each region? If it is not done in this way, but distribution is made to the people as a whole without special consideration of the deserving cases it means that the relief does not go to the real sufferers. I want to ask whether the relief could be concentrated solely for the sufferers?

Loqually

PU P.B. ROSANGA,

Minister, i/c. Agri. etc.: Pu Dy. Speaker, according to report received, the damage caused by drought of last year was taken on average for the whole state. The assessment of Agriculture Department revealed that 70/80 % of paddy were destroyed by drought. And 50 % - 60% of other crops were also destroyed. However, the relief measures given by the Agriculture Department is not to be distributed in cash, but to give seeds and help them in whatever ways necessary as commonly done under Agriculture Scheme. In this scheme, 50% of the sanction received were to be distributed for providing such relief, but the other 50 % were to be used for plan loan, as such, therefore it seems that the Government will provide relief by giving seeds or Agriculture tools and implements considering the reports of the sufferers of the drought in all areas.

PU LALTHANZAUVA : Pu Dy. Speaker, it is noticeable that special importance was given to supply of potato seeds to relieve the drought victims. For the supply of potato seeds alone, 25 lakhs of rupees were set aside out of a balance of 33 lakhs. We have small area of land suitable for potato growth, and the potato growers are small minority among us. How do the Government come to believe that supply of potato seeds is the best method of relieving the drought victims?

PU P.B. ROSANGA,
Minister.

: Pu Dy. Speaker, the hardship we are about to face this year is unthinkable and the best substitute for our staple food rice is potato. Therefore, potato is a good relief for drought victims from famine. It is given special significance, it grows fast, and it can be used as food in the rainy season.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us take up Question No. 32nd.

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PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Dy. Speaker, may I ask one more question ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may ask, but don't talk for a long time.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Dy. Speaker, when will it be possible to supply potato seeds ?

PU P.B. ROSANGA,
Minister. : Pu Dy. Speaker, we received some complaints regarding supply of potato seeds. As of today 5,000 quintals of potato seeds had been purchased. We are now distributing the seeds to the growers, and many of them had grown the seeds we got locally; but the potato seeds we got locally is not sufficient and we are now getting from Meghalaya state. A greater quantity is now on the way. According to the programme of the Government, all the seeds are to reach the growers before 15th March, 1980. This is the position of the Government.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question No. 32nd of Pu Saikapthianga.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, my Question No. 32nd (a), (b) & (c) are as follows :-

- (a) Whether Sabbi and Kharif seeds purchased so far by the Agriculture Department were certified by competent certification agency or not ?
- (b) If not, the reason for buying uncertified seeds; and,
- (c) Has the Agriculture Department an intension to procure certified seeds ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall call Minister concerned.

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PU P.B. ROSANGA,
Minister, i/c. Agri. etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, the answer to Question No. 32nd (a) is that - The seeds which we purchased from local area are not given certificate by Certificate Agency. But for example, the seeds we acquired from Government farms such as the National Seeds Corporation and Registered Growers/ to question (b) is the seeds which are brought to the Government by the farmers who grow them are carefully examined whether the seeds are fit and approveable to be grown. After the experts examined and approved, such seeds are only bought.

The question (c) - Is there any decision on the part of the Government to buy such certified seeds? The answer is 'Yes'.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, supplementary question - The Hon'ble Minister had stated that the Government bought the seedlings from the growers in Mizoram, and that is right. However, the rate in which we bought the local seedlings differed from the rate supplied by the National Seed Corporation and I want to ask whether the Government is intending to buy the local seedlings in parity with the rate supplied from outside the state, and if there is any new thought on this matter? And, there might be something better. But why did the Government buy the local seedlings at such high rates? Is there any thought on the part of the Government to do it otherwise?

PU P.B. ROSANGA,
Minister, i/c. Agri. etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, the question posed by the Hon'ble Member merited due consideration of the House. We bought our local product at higher rates whereas we could get them at lower rates from the National Seeds Corporation and other Registered Growers. The Government is not unaware of this. However, the Government bought the local seedlings so as to give incentive to our farmers. But we believed that this could not be done for a long time. For example - Vegetable rate which is very high in the market sell at very low rate when two Truck loads a week arrived from Serchhip. As we grow more vegetables and crops and as the seeds and seedlings increased, we believed that our local seedlings could soon be bought at lower rate, and hoping this to materialize, we are buying from local seed growers.

PU C.L. RUALA : Pu Dy. Speaker, there is a great deal of controversy among those who professed to be experts even in the Agriculture Department regarding these Rabbi and Kharif. Potato is especially the main target of this controversy. Even in the Office, they are arguing as to what kind of potato is best for plantation. Do our Government have experts to examine this? If not, is there any proposal to have one?

Are given Certificates. And the answer

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PU P.B. ROSANGA,

Minister, i/c. Agri. etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, it is very clear from the question of the hon'ble Member. The ideas of our experts are contradicting each other. However, in the Agriculture Department, we have expert Plant Pathologists, and their decisions are binding on the Government.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us take up Question No. 33rd.

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

PI K. THANSIAMI : Pu Dy. Speaker, my question No. 33rd regarding mini-sugar plant (a), (b) & (c) are as follows :-

(a) Is there any proposal to cancel the proposed Mini-Sugar Plant in and around Kawnpui village ?

(b) If so, the reason thereof; and

(c) If not, what steps Government are taking towards its early implementation?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will call the Minister concerned to give answer.

PU F. MAISAWMA,

Minister, i/c. Industries, etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, the answer to Question 33rd is -

(a) There is no proposal to cancel the proposal plan. Since there is no proposal to cancel, there is no reason therefor, as was asked in question (b). (c) The Question is - If not, what steps Government are taking towards its early implementations ? Regarding this, we have requested the experts of the National Sugar Institute at Kanpur to submit their final report on this project. They have informed us their intention to come soon. And for the establishment of the plant, the Government had already selected a site between Kawnpui and Sairang, which is 12 Kms. distance from Kawnpui.

PI K. THANSIAMI : Pu Dy. Speaker, it is indeed gratifying to know that the experts are coming. I proposed that the plant may be established at

Kawnpui. Besides, will it be proper to request the experts to see other places too ?

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PU F.KAISAWMA,

Minister, i/c. Ind., etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, if they happen to come, we intend to send them to Tlabung too.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Question No. 36th the question of Pi K. Thansiami.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PI K. THANSIAMI : Pu Dy. Speaker, my question No. 36th (a), (b) & (c) are :-

- (a) Is there any proposal to construct a P.W.D. Road from Serkhan to Tipaimukh via Bukpui, N.Hlimen and Saipum ?
- (b) If so, how the Department concerned have taken steps towards its construction; and
- (c) If not, the reason therefor ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall call upon the Minister concerned.

PU LAIHMINGTHANGA,

Minister, i/c. P.W.D., etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, the answer is - No proposal yet to construct road from Serkhan to Tipaimukh via Bukpui, N.Hlimen, Saipum.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The answer is that - This road has not been included in this 6th Five Year Plan, however, it will be included in the 7th Five Year Plan.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any supplementary question ? If not, we will take up Pu P. Lalupa's question No. 38th.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PU P. LALUPA : Pu Dy. Speaker, Question No, 38th (a), (b) & (c) are as follows :-

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- (a) Whether it is a fact that construction of NEC road from Kawnpui to Bairabi has been completed ?
- (b) If so, whether the construction of the said road has been in accordance with the specification of NEC.
- (c) If not, why not ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA,
Minister, i/c.P.W.D., etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, the answer to question No. 38th (a) is that -
The NEC road from Bairabi to Kawnpui is not yet completed. And for question (b) Does not arise; and (c) also Does not arise.

PU P.LALUPA : Pu Dy. Speaker, the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister was clear and I am very grateful. My question is that when will this work be started ? And when do the Government plan to complete ? Concerning this matter, does it take up this construction with a time bound target ? When can we expect the NEC road as a vehicular road ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA,
Minister, i/c.P.W.D., etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, the answer to the question of the hon'ble Member is this - The length of Kawnpui to Bairabi NEC road is 52 Kms. According to the latest report we have received the formation cutting was completed for 51 Kms. However, after the formation cutting was done, there were some curves and small vallies which need redress. It could not be done as time bound target. Public Works Department, too, face certain difficulties. Firstly in Mizoram, there is no labour class as such, therefore the contractors faced shortage of labour. Secondly, there is scarcity of explosive in India. Many times the Government also could not urge the contractors to complete the work on the appointed date of completion in the agreement because they are given a chance in the agreement to put forth their defence.

Therefore, as the hon'ble Member had just asked, I cannot say right away when will it be opened for traffic. However, that is an important road, and it is good for communication with other states and we are trying to complete as soon as possible.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : If there is no Supplementary question, we shall go on with question No, 39th asked by Pi L.Thanmawii.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PI L.THANMAWII : Pu Dy. Speaker, my question No.39th (a) & (b) are :-

(a) Is the P.W.D. schedule of rates going to be revised ; and

(b) Whether the P.W.D. Code is being made for use in Mizoram particularly ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall call upon the Minister concerned.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA,
Minister, i/c.P.W.D., etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, the answer to question 39th (a) is - The Government is thinking of revising the P.W.D. schedule of rate now. And the Government is planning to use the P.W.D. Code in Mizoram.

PI L.THANMAWII : Pu Dy. Speaker, supplementary question - The P.W.D. schedule of rate is very important; and what we are using now is that of 1977. Many new developments have been seen, and for the last two years rates have increased considerably. Therefore, the rate of 1977 is not applicable for the contractors/expedite the revision of P.W.D. schedule of rate ?

Secondly, it appears that the P.W.D. is using the Central Code. The contractors are facing difficulties because the situation and the general working condition is much different. Is it not therefore, an urgent matter that special code for Mizoram be formulated at an early date ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA,
Minister, i/c.P.W.D., etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, may I ask question in answer to the question ? When we talk of revising the P.W.D. schedule of rate, we think of only raising the rates. Does the hon'ble Member mean raising the rate or lowering the rate ?

PI L.THANMAWII : Pu Dy. Speaker, I meant raising the rate.

PU LALTHANZAUVA : Pu Dy. Speaker, In 1978, the P.W.D. has tried the work study of earth cutting between Zemabawk and Selosih. 50 labourers were

/today. Will it therefore, be possible to

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employed, and when the bill is made according to our present schedule of rate, the total comes to Rs. 306/- only. Labourers' wage is Rs. 12/- per day if they camp at the site, and Rs. 10/- only for day labourers. Even at this rate the contractor has to spend Rs. 500/-. This finally meant that the contractor lose Rs. 194/- daily in employing 50 labourers. Can not the authorities make an idea from this as to whether to raise or lower the rates? Can they also change what is called our workable rate even before the schedule of rate is changed? Our workable rate is too low, and it invites corruption. I want to ask whether a manual of our own specification in accordance with the working condition in our country be made besides the modification of the code?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA,

Minister, i/c. PWD etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, what the hon'ble Member has just said is interesting.

However, the test conduct mentioned was conducted not only at Zomabawk, but in 10 sectors in the whole of Mizoram. Besides the test conduct, what becomes important is the rate quoted by our contractors. If a contractor said that he could work even when there is a probable loss the Government could not but treat it as on competition as it is an expenditure. Therefore, schedule of rate means the market value. So the rate fluctuate upward or downward. It cannot be based on a particular year, hence we cannot take the year 1972 as a reference as 10 years have gone by. However, if the rate decreases now **three** fold than the rate in 1972. We cannot simply try to revise it upward. That is why I ask whether the hon'ble Member meant to raise or lower the rate.

Whatever may be the case, to revise the schedule of rate is not the best solution of the problem of our State today. The Government has considered this problem as far back as in 1977, and the Consultative Committee also has reviewed. The CPWD Code and Mizoram PWD Code are similarly in principle. Their foundation is the same. If Mizoram is to have one, it will be framed with reference to that code. However, as the working condition may be differ in accordance with the land and soil the Government has constituted a Committee in November, 1978 to see whether there are many inconveniences to apply the CPWD code to Mizoram and if so whether it will be the best for Mizoram to have its own PWD code. At present, the report of the Committee has not reach the Government. With these in mind the Government is trying to take action. We are planning to do things as desired by the respected Members.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Dy. Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister has said that a Committee is formed to draw up the PWD code and manual, and it is quite right. But the Committee was formed in 1978 to last for 6 months. Six months had expired, and since their term had expired, it seemed that the Committee had asked the Government what they are going to do. They cannot submit their

report after the expiry of their term, and I want to be informed as to whether their term has been extended?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA,
Minister, i/c. PWD etc., : Pu Dy. Speaker, the answer to the question of the hon'ble Member is that their term will be extended.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Dy. Speaker, nothing has been done so far even though there was a plan to revise the PWD schedule of rate from last year. Especially in building, the rate of materials such as GCI sheets and glass are much higher than the PWD schedule rate, and the rates of contractors under PWD are mostly 13%, 15% above the PWD schedule rate. The other Departments are bound to follow suit, and they are facing many difficulties. What I have said is for the building division. Even if the rates for other things could not be raised now, will it not be possible to raise at least the rates for buildings? It is quite evident that the proposed revision of rates could not be downward revision since all contractors quoted rates above the schedule rate. If this has not been done already, how long will it take? Will it be possible to revise the rate before the next financial year?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA,
Minister. : Pu Dy. Speaker, this does not actually effect the expedition of the works as alleged by the Member. The schedule rate itself is only an experiment whether it will be workable rate. The contractor made his bidding at much higher rate, and since the Government accepted the contract agreement is made, the contractor, therefore cannot lose in anyway due to the schedule of rate. And what the hon'ble Member has just stated is also correct. The rate of G.C.I. Sheets in 1972 according to the schedule of rate was approximately Rs. 156.72. As of today, since the market rate increased, the P.W.D. increased the issue rate to over Rs. 500/- without even revising the schedule of rate. Therefore, the value of the materials which have gone out of our Godown has been deducted from the bill. The contractor is making profit only on the works done. Hence this could not retard the progress or slow the completion of the work. Whatever may be the case, we cannot fix the exact date, but the Government is intending to revise the rates as soon as possible.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time is up. Shall we finish our business? Do we want to finish it? Let us finish our business.

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/or otherwise

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PU P.LALUPA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I would support the Member.
In reply to question (a) It has just been stated that the Government is planning to revise the P.W.D. schedule rate/that the P.W.D. Code is also under consideration. However, I want to ask on what basis the plan for this revision is based, whether to make a scope for profit making by the PWD Officials and the contractors. It has been stated that specific date could not be fixed, but will it be possible to tell me the approximate time when this would be done ?

/and

PU LALEMINGTHANGA,
Minister. : Pu Dy. Speaker, on the question of the basis for revision of schedule of rates asked by the hon'ble Member, as I said before, the market rate and the contractor rate are the main factors. It will not under any circumstances use as basis the agreement of the contractors and P.W.D. officials. Regarding the code, the salient features are all the same in the whole of India. I cannot tell the date or the month except that it is to be expedited.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we will go to Pi L.Thanmawii's Short Notice No.2. The Minister concern is not present. Under the same rule refered to before, the answer will be given. Unstarred question No.2 of Pu P.Lalupa is not to be asked since reply to it has been circulated to the Members.

Now question hour is over. A privilege motion has been submitted, under Rule 145, and it is admitted. The Motion is submitted by Pu B.Lalchungnunga and seconded by Pu H.Rammawi. We will now call upon Pu Lalchungnunga to move the Motion.

PU B.LALCHUNGNUNGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I moved the motion of Privilege under No.145 of Rules of Proceftures and Conduct of Business of Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

I have the honour to state that the publication in local daily newspaper called 'ROMEI' under the caption of "CHAIR ATANGIN LO CHHUK LA, CHAIR KA'N LA VE ANG E - DAN LEH DUN AH RULING PARTY IN OPPOSITION AN KUAN LO" which was published on 27th February, 1980 is apparently an intention to lower the image of the Members of the Ruling Legislature Party of Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

After examining the whole contents of this headline, I found that it is an intention to degrade the decorum of the House also. The statement of a Member under

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quotation "Come down from the Chair and let me sit on it" is also a sign of disrespect shown to the Hon'ble Speaker which can impair the decorum of the House.

I believe some of you have read and aware of the article published in 'ROMETI' on 27.2.'80. It is apparent that it is an attempt to denigrate the Ruling Legislature Party and the people. In some parts it says that the ruling party is over-riding the Opposition Party because they are a small minority. It is written in the paper the charge to the Deputy Speaker, "If you who is supposed to keep up rules, justice and the prestige of the House would go against the Procedure of the Assembly and could not listen to the Members 'come down from the Chair and I will sit on it". This is a serious matter, and it is an attempt to denigrate and to lower the image of the Ruling Party M.L.As in the eyes of the public. Since this is an attempt to impair the prestige of the House, and a show of contempt to the Ruling Party M.L.As, it is clearly a breach of privilege. And the statement "Come down from the Chair, and I will sit on it" is showing disrespect to the Hon'ble Speaker. Besides, it is very clear that it is a disrespect to the House. I believe that the Motion which I moved is genuine. I feel it is really a disgrace not only to the Ruling Party but also to the whole House. I take it as a teaching to the public not to respect the House, and to impair the image and to disregard the House in the public mind. Therefore, I moved this Motion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER :- This Motion has been accepted. However, instead of discussing here, it is better that this be referred to the Privilege Committee.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I like to have a short speech. (DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not proper to discuss it, the Privilege Committee will consider the matter) I want to say whether it is clear or not. The words "Come down from the Chair" is just quotation from the speech of a Member. The newspapers have the right to publish it, and it is not showing disrespect to the Speaker. And since yourself have bravely accepted it, it is not a breach of Privilege.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Privilege Committee will make decision.

PU C.L. RUALA : Pu Dy. Speaker, the statement was made by me, and they should have raised point of order, and I should have apologised for it.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Dy. Speaker, whatever may be the case, the Privilege Motion has been admitted, we have a Committee to deal with all the points raised. Regarding this matter, it is not only one case, the statement that the Ruling Party Members could not compete with Opposition Party Members in knowledge of House Rules. Such a statement to impair the image of the Members is often taken as breach of Privilege in other States too. But this is not the end. Let the Committee carefully consider the motives of the publishers, and see whether it constitutes a breach of privilege or not. We have a Committee and I consider it to be wise to refer the matter to the Committee.

PU H. RAMMAWI : Pu Dy. Speaker, I consider the publication in yesterday's issue of Romci to be very bad. I firmly regard it as a contempt not only of the Party, but also of the Members of the Ruling Party. Also, as it is published in the Newspaper it implies an intention to spread the undesirable news to the public. Each of us the Members, whether he is of the ruling party or opposition party should consider such matter very carefully. I also take it as an attempt to shame the people of the Mizo as a whole. As provided by rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business only the Member of Panel of Chairmen can sit in the Chair and that only when the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are absent. I take it for granted that this newspaper is intentionally putting also the hon'ble Opposition Member to shame because he was speaking in contravention of the rule. This paper despises the Members of this House irrespective of the Ruling or Opposition Party.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is enough. As we have said the matter will be referred to the Privilege Committee who will consider and dispose of it by calling upon the Editors concerned.

PU HIPHEI : Pu Dy. Speaker, If they are going to dislike whatever we say, how dare we, the Opposition Members speak in this House? (DY. SPEAKER : Do not fear that, you can freely speak) It is wrong to move a privilege motion. If he committed a mistake they could have pointed out while he was speaking and that is true according to our procedure.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is enough.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Dy. Speaker, I want to say a few words. In other States also, such degradation of the image of the Ruling Party as "The Ruling Party does not equal to the Opposition Party in the knowledge of rules" is taken as Breach of Privilege. The Committee will examine it with the motive of the publisher and carefully consider it. Before thorough examination it's not proper to make much noise. They will see if it actually amounts to breach of the privilege of the House. Let the Committee look over whether the intension is to lower the image of the Ruling Party Member or not. I believe it's not necessary to shout of it now.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is very fine.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Dy. Speaker, the paper has reported factual news. If we move privilege motion for every such news item, there will be no freedom of the press; and it is not a proper thing for us to do.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Dy. Speaker, the Press has freedom to publish factual news, of course. However, the law safeguards the Members from furnishing their image and lowering their prestige by the Press. The motive of the publication, whether there is such intention to lower the image of the Members of the Ruling Party or not, that is the question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whether it is right or wrong depends on the yardstick we used. Therefore, the Privilege Committee will carefully consider the matter and decide. Now we better go to our next business. We will invite Pu Zairomthanga, Minister i/c. Labour & Employment Department to lay paper 5- on the table.

PU ZAIROMTHANGA,
Minister, i/c. L&Emp. etc. Deptt. : Pu Dy. Speaker, I beg to lay these papers on the table -

- (i) The Mizoram Employment Services Department (Group 'B' Post Recruitment Rules, 1975)
- (ii) The Mizoram Employment Services Department (Class III Non-Gazetted Posts) Recruitment Rules, 1975.
- (iii) A copy of the Notification dated 8.4.1975 under C.N.V. (Compulsory Notification of vacancies) Act, 1979.

- (iv) A copy of the Notification dated 8.5.1978 on job p-reference to qualified Apprenties.
- (v) A copy of the Notification dated 30.11.'79 on list of hazardous employments in Agriculture Department to schedule II to the workmen compensation Act, 1923.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Those papers have been laid on the table and let the copies be distributed to the Members. Now, we will go to business No.3, the Official resolution -

"With the installation of a new Government at the centre, this House is of the opinion that peace dialogue between the Mizo National Front and the Central Government be resumed in order to bring about a permanent and lasting peace in Mizoram".

We shall call upon the Leader of the House, Brig. Thenphunga, Sailo to move the resolution.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA,
Minister, Finance, etc. : Pu Dy. Speaker, since the Leader of the House, Brig. Thenphunga, Sailo, is absent, may I be permitted to move the resolution? First, I want to inform the House, the reason why he is absent. As I have stated previously, Members asked why he is not available to answer questions. There was an unfortunate incident near Kawnpui village yesterday. In this incident, 6 persons died, and a number of people were injured. The information was given to him only at 4 P.M. yesterday, because the House was in session. Believing it is proper for him to verify the incident on the spot, he left for the place this morning. Therefore, even though he is not available, may I move the resolution?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Did he himself authorise you to move the resolution?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA,
Minister, Finance, etc. : Before he left, we discussed it, and he told me to move it.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House cannot accept verbal authori-
sation except written one. An amendment
has been submitted by Pu Lal Thanhawla.
According to our Rules 125, if the mover of the resolution
is absent, and if there is no written authorization to move
it, the resolution is lapsed. The rules does not allow you
to move since there is no written authorization. Therefore,
the resolution is withdrawn for the present time.

Our meeting will be adjourned now and we
will sit again tomorrow at 10:30 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 1155 hrs.

J.Malsawma,
Secretary,
Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

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