

10TH SITTING ON 25TH MARCH, 1982 AT 10:30 A.M.

Pu C. Chawngkunga, Deputy Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, Four Ministers and 14 Members were present

BUSINESS

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

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

- (i) Bill to be introduced.
2. Pu F. Malsawma to move for leave to introduce a Bill to constitute Khadi and Village Industries Board in Mizoram.
 - (ii) Bill for consideration and passing.
3. Pu Lalhmingthanga to move that The Lushai Hills District (Taxes) Amendment Bill, 1982 be taken into consideration.

Also to move that the Bill be passed.
4. Pu Zairemthanga, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
5. Pu Lalhmingthanga, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter : Fear God, and keep his commandments : for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil".

Ecclesiastes 12-1-13-14.

We shall now start our Business as we do not have Questions, we shall take up item No. 2, Pu F. Malsawma to beg leave to introduce a Bill in the House.

PU F. MALSAWMA, MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, with your permission I beg to introduce the Khadi and Village Industries Board in Mizoram Bill, 1982.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is there any member who does not allow the introduction of the Bill ?

PU C.L. RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I think we are too hasty in introducing the bill. According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business sub-section 'C' of section 77 it reads :- 'provided further so that such motion shall be made until after copies of the Bill have been made available for the use of members, and that any member may object to any such motion being made unless copies of the Bill have been made available for the use of members, and that any member may object to any such motion being made unless copies of the Bill has been so available for four days before the motion is made'.

We have only seen this Bill Yesterday. We do not have time to study the Bill before introducing it.

PU ZAIREMTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister may be permitted to introduce the Bill as begged for. The consideration and passing may be as the hon'ble Member has suggested.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Member should understand that Pu F. Malsawma will only introduce the Bill. Consideration and passing will be on No. 3. I think we have been confused by the mistake in the Business list.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, there does not seem to be any problem in the introduction itself. However, in future, such Bill may be circulated at least four days prior to introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : That would be a very good idea. Now that we agree to the introduction, the Hon'ble Minister may introduce the Bill.

PU F. MALSAWMA MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, with your permission I hereby introduce the Mizoram Khadi and Village Industries Board Bill, 1982.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The title of the Bill may be read out by the Secretary (Secretary reads out). It need not be distributed again in the House as each Member has been sent a copy with a forwarding letter.

The Bill along with the schedule may be distributed now. We shall proceed to item number 3, Bill consideration and passing. This Bill known as the Lushai Hill District Taxes amendment Bill, 1982, was introduced in the House on the 23rd March. Pu Lalhmingthanga may now request the consideration of the Bill in the House.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, with your permission I beg leave to consider in the House the Lushai Hills District (Taxes) Amendment Bill, 1982.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are there any objections to this ? If not, it means we all agree to the discussion. We shall first discuss the principle of the Bill.

PU C.L. RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, as we all know, Mizoram has very meagre means of tax resources. I therefore appreciate the principle of the Bill. However, this Bill is to amend the existing Regulation No. 5. of District Council Regulation, 1954. It means that non-Tribals will henceforth be free from professional tax, while Mizos and other Tribals of Aizawl will pay double professional taxes, while we have to produce tax clearance certificates for delivering parcels, non tribals have only to produce a 'C' form. Therefore, we are the ones who suffer, I do not understand this. I think it would be better if the Bill is reviewed by the Select Committee and re-considered by the House. It would be wise to consider the various aspects of the Bill and its repercussion on Mizo and tribal traders. However, we may hear what the hon'ble Minister has to say in this matter

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any more members who wish to discuss it?

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Deputy Speaker, what the Member from Tlungvel has just pointed out is indeed an important one to consider. However, if we study the amendment carefully, it merely means raising the rate of taxes, owing to inflation. And if it means that only the Tribals will suffer, I think that it would be unfair, however this could also be set-

tion. However, it would be wrong to educate ourselves in paying the least amount of taxes as possible. We should realize our responsibility in the interest of our States revenue. I therefore resolution.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, the Bill is greatly appreciated and I think that the intention is in the interest of the state. However, the original act which we are about to amend reads :- "Every Mizo and other Tribal Traders who has a permanent place of business in the Aizawl Town shall be liable to a Trade Tax of Rs. 10/- per year"

This means that non Mizo traders who are considered to have no permanent business are exempted from this tax. It therefore, appears that the Act has been defective originally. Therefore, inspite of the Trade Tax we have to pay from which non Mizos are exempted, we have to pay the revised sum of Rs. 50/-. Would this be the best amendment we could make? I am not sure.

PU BUALHRANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, on discussing the Lushai Hills District Taxes Regulation 1953 (amendment), we have associated it with the cases of non tribal traders. This is of course not applicable to them. What we should consider in the amendment is whether the rate suggested is reasonable or not. The non-tribal traders will duly be covered by a different Act. The revised rate of Rs. 50/- to that of Rs. 10/- of the 1953 Regulation is the only thing we have to discuss. As we see, the figure is five times the amount it used to be. However, inspite of the large figure, inflation has been so great that prices of commodities in 1953 are now much more than five times literally. Therefore even though the rate appears to be quite high the actual equivalent of what it used to be is much higher. It therefore seems quite reasonable to me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It seems that we do not appear to have much more to say in this matter. Did the hon'ble Member Pu C.L.Ruala suggest that it be considered again by the select Committee ?

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, Yes I do suggest it. Why should the Mizo and other Tribal traders pay the same Professional taxes double while non-Mizos are exempted? I would be most grateful if it could be referred to the select Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall call upon Pu Lalhmingthanga to explain the principle of the Bill.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, I think the four Members have given very informative speeches. However, I shall try to explain the principle of the Bill and I do believe that the House will see the point. The original Regulation which we are to amend is the Lushai Hills District Taxes Regulation Act of 1953. There is also another regulation regarding professional taxes known as The Mizo District Profession Trade Calling & Employment Taxation Regulation 1953. There is also another Act known as The Mizo Trading by Non-Tribal Regulation Act 1974. It might be easy to confuse these three acts. The clauses to be amended are Clause A and B of Section 8 of The Lushai Hills District Taxes Regulation 1953. It is to avail Rs. 10/- to Rs. 50/- and Rs. 5.50p to Rs. 25/- owing to inflation during the past 30 years. We have given you the copies of our proposed amendment before our introduction as we do not wish to act in contradictory to public opinion. Copies of the same were also given to leading citizens of Lunglei, Aizawl and Kolasib towns. No comments have come from these so far. Reminders were again issued, but even this was not responded. The intention is to amend the tribal trade act and not the non-tribal which is of a different issue.

Therefore it would not be correct to say that the professional tax is double for the tribals. If the Members realise this, I do not think it would be difficult to amend it as proposed. C.L.Ruala :- Are you still insisting that it should be considered by the Select Committee or shall we proceed to discuss it? (Pu F. Malsawma : Pu Deputy Speaker, I think its quite clear now). It may be clear to some extent but in reality there is no difference in this taxes. Tribal Traders are expected to pay Rs. 50/- in addition to the Rs. 250/- they are already paying. This is a bit difficult to understand. The summary assessment is also not accurate. The total payable tax amounts to Rs. 300/- and as this is a very big amount, I suggested to refer it to the Select Committee before we pass the whole matter. Otherwise we would surely lose if put to the vote of the House.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It appears very clear and I believe the suggestion of Pu C.L.Ruala was purely out of caution. That closes our discussion of the Principle of the Bill. Clause No.2. is the same (Pu Joe Ngurdawla, does it mean that we accept Clause No.2. as it is?) Yes, are there any members who have anything to say on Clause 2? If not, we shall proceed on to Clause No. 3.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Deputy Speaker, this clause is also similar to the second clause. (Deputy Speaker : Do we all agree to this? If so, the House declares that Clause No. 3. In section 8 of the Principal Regulation No. (1) in clause (a) for the letter and figure Rs. 10/- is substituted by the letter and figure Rs. 50.00. And also in the clause (a) for the letter and figure Rs. 5.50, the letter and figure Rs. 25.00 is substituted.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we have finished the two clauses, we shall take up the first clause, Short title, Are there any members who have anything to say in this title? If there are none, it means that we all accept the title. Therefore Clause No. 1, "District may be called Lushai Hills District Taxes Amendment Act, 1982". No. 2, Let, extends to the whole of Mizoram including the area of the autonomous District Council of Pawi, Lakher and Chakma. No. 3. It shall be due to have come into force on the 1st day of April, 1982 is now declared passed. Now we have passed Clause 2,3 and 1 clausewise and now let us raise our right hand to show our willingness to pass the whole Bill. (All raise hands). We are unanimous, therefore, The Lushai Hills Taxes may be called Lushai Hills District Amendment Bill 1982 is declared passed. We shall turn to our next business which is Voting on Demands. Pu Zairemthanga, Hon'ble Minister to move his Demands regarding various departments under his charge.

PU ZAIREMTHANGA, MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, with the recommendation of the Administrator of Mizoram and with your permission Sir, I beg to move the various Demands under my charge, Demand Nos. 1,5,12, 15, 20, 22 and 35 amounting to Rs. 15,23,77,000 only for 1982-1983 to be used as follows :-

Demand No. 1 - Legislative Assembly	-	16 lakhs
Demand No. 5 - Election	-	18 lakhs
Demand No. 12 - Supply & Disposal	-	12,63,68,000.00
Demand No. 15 - Other Administrative Services	-	4,19,000.00
Demand No. 20 - Urban Development	-	27,50,000.00
Demand No. 22 - Labour & Employment	-	19,50,000.00
Demand No. 35 - Road & Water Transport	-	13,80,000.00
The total amount		- 15,23,77,000.00

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Members may speak on the Demands moved by Pu Zairemthanga, Hon'ble Minister.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to speak on Demand No. 1, Assembly Secretariat. I feel that it would be beneficial to exchange cultural visits with MLAs of other states. I would also like to speak on Demand No. 11, Other Administrative Service. We are very much aware that the President of Village Council is the key person in rural areas. Some of these V/C Presidents have acted according to their own when's especially the new Congress V.C.P. of Hnahthial Village. It seems that he has encouraged the settlers of Khawhlum bawk to remain in their place against the instructions of the Government. I also think that a Village Council House should be constructed whenever there are Village Councils. Demand No. 20, Urban Development should also be given vital importance. What happened to the Municipal Board that was supposed to be set up at Aizawl and Lunglei towns respectively ?

Demand No. 35, Road & Transport is also very much in need of more attention. Transport buses have also increased in number considering the condition in the past three or four years. We are very happy to have bus services between Pangzawl and Lunglei. There are also several Bus routes from Lunglei to other Villages, however, the Transport Department face a great deal of difficulties because there is no Government workshop in Lunglei.

Lunglei and Chhimtuipui Districts are also very much in need of M.V.I, as the number of Vehicles in these districts are quite many. Lastly, I would like to remind the authorities concerned that the N.Vanlaiphai - Thingsai road which is being undertaken by the P.W.D. is likely to erode by monsoon. Therefore it would be good to take necessary precautions so that the food supply to Cherhlun may not be hampered.

PI K. THANSIAMI : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to speak on Demand No. 1, Assembly Secretariat. The Budget provision for the Assembly Secretariat which is only Rs. 16 lakhs is very meagre. I am sure we are all aware of the shortage of staff in the Secretariat. There are only two Committee Officers and the post of Senior Committee Officer is not yet filled up. The building itself is also not adequate to meet the need of the Secretariat. What we need is a new building. The building can be utilised for other purposes if and when the Secretariat is shifted to Luangmual complex. I also feel that it is necessary to have the pass issued for the M.L.A. Hostel Compound as allotted by the Site Allocation Committee. This should no longer be delayed.

Considering the expenditure of the Assembly Secretariat in 1981-82 which amounts to Rs. 1,11,0000.00, the provision of Rs. 60,000.00 is too meagre. Most of the type-writers are out of action and new ones are needed to replace them. Contingencies & equipments worth Rs. 400,000 are needed. Attention is therefore needed to these mentioned items.

PI L. THANMAWII : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to a little more to what has just been said about the Assembly Secretariat. The fund provision for the Secretariat on the whole is very meagre. The expenditure exceeds the fund allotted every year and therefore provision should be made to meet their needs.

The post of Senior Committee Officer has also not been filled in inspite of the post sanctioned. I am glad that the proposed Booking Office of Transport is being undertaken along with the Central Work-shop which has been badly needed for a long time. However, our Transport Buses are not very lasting. I wonder if some sort of healthy competition can be created among the drivers in Vehicle maintenance. In doing this some sort of prize may be given to the best maintained Vehicles.

I would also like to say a few things on the M.L.A. Hostel. It is shameful to say that the occupants of the building in the Hostel compound cannot vacate it. They should be forced to do so, in order that the Hostel staff, Receptionist and other 4th grade staff may have quarters. This must be settled as soon as possible.

PU BUALHRANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to speak on only one Demand, Legislative Assembly. We have heard that the monthly allowance of Members is to be increased and not only this, proposals are being made to provide pensions to the Members. This is indeed very good news. However, if the Hon'ble Minister i/c Parliamentary Affairs would kindly enlighten us as to whether the Members of the 1st and 2nd Assembly of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly are entitled to the pension provision.

PU SAINGHAKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to make short speeches for the Hon'ble Minister i/c to vote. Is the proposed Village Council election for the 12 Thlawhbawks not yet ready to be carried out ?

Coming to Demand No. 12, Supply & Disposal of Food stuff carriage, it was formerly in the hands of the FCI. Now that Mizoram has sufficient Vehicles to utilise for food stuff carriage, does the Government of Mizoram intend to take over from the FCI ?

Regarding Demand No. 35, Road & Transport the provision for purchase of new Vehicles is less than that of last year. Is there any intention of buying new buses ?

If so, more attention should be paid to the body building.

Lastly on Demand No. 1, it is understood that the Committee on Salary & Allowance of Members have submitted three reports. The first report was on M.LAs, the second on the Assembly Secretariat and the third report on the Speaker and Ministers. I would be grateful if the Hon'ble Minister i/c Parliamentary Affairs can tell us how far this has progressed in the Central Government.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to say a few words regarding the M.L.A. Hostel. In Shillong, the Superintendent is in charge of the Hostel, he caters efficiently to the needs. It is a pity that we still do not have a Superintendent in our hostel. This should be urgently filled up.

As it had already been mentioned in the General Discussion, the sudden rise in bus fares has been a blow to the public. However, the public had the decency to keep quiet. Such high percent increment at one time is not to be found in any other state of India.

Coming back to Demand No. 1. There should be more solid, relationship between the Legislature and Parliamentary affairs. A seperate Department should be set up to look after the Parliamentary affairs.

Along with this, I want to mention the election to two Committees, Public Accounts and Estimate Committee. The time given for the filing of nominations is too short.

It had earlier been agreed generally that the elections be held sometime in May. However, I do not know if this sudden call has been issued from the discretionary power of the Speaker.

PU H.K. CHAKMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to add a few more words to what has been said on Demand No. 1, I think it is to fill up the post of Committee Officer in the Assembly Secretariat. Regarding the M.L.A. Hostel, I do not know why the boundary line is not yet demarcated upto this day.

Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to say a few words regarding Transport. The sudden rise in bus fares has created a great problem for the public. The poorer section of the people are suffering a great blow, and it would therefore be very much appreciated if the Government would see to this matter again.

PU ZAIREMTHANGA, MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, I shall try to make my speech brief. Firstly, the suggestion that the Election Department should take up the District Council Elections had already been discussed.

However, the Election Manual of Election Law States that the Election Department can take over only the M.P and M.L.A Elections. It can supervise only the Parliamentary and Assembly Elections. Therefore, the District Council elections cannot be covered by the Election Manual, much as we may desire.

Regarding the Allowances of Members, it is hoped that the Bill may be presented in the House by our next Session. The effective date will probably be from 1st January. Members will receive an increment of Rs. 100/- and Rs. 10/- on daily allowance. Apart from this there will be Pension benefits of Rs. 200/- per month and an increment of Rs. 50/- annually if they continue to stay in Office after completing one term. The suggestion made by Pu Bualhranga that this Pension scheme should also include Members of the 1st and 2nd Mizoram Legislative Assembly is indeed a very good suggestion. We shall bear it in mind and do our best towards its implementation. The Mizoram State Transport has enlarged a great deal and there have been suggestions that it should be set up as a separate Directorate.

In fact, there is an intention to make the Mizoram State Transport into a corporation. However, this has not materialised upto the present day. It is rather learned that the Home Ministry is not interested in the matter.

Regarding Housing Loans being operated by the Finance Department and not by the Housing Department, there have been a lot of suggestions. However, it is felt that the recovery of Housing loans is far better than any other type of loans owing to the fact that it is operated by the Finance Department.

The fund provision for the Assembly Secretariat has also been mentioned several times. We should know that the required amount of fund may be included in the Revised Estimate. The question of making Aizawl and Lunglei towns into Municipals have been processed and the terms are now being examined by the Law Department.

The Supply of food grains is by far the best during these days, compared to the past 3 years. The matter of Motor Vehicles Inspector had already been discussed in the last session, however, as Aizawl town is the main gateway, there does not seem to be a grave necessity to have it in Lunglei, as the two in Aizawl can look after the whole area by visiting them when even necessary.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to know the reply now if possible. Vehicles bound for Silchar from Lunglei have to get permits at Aizawl and therefore they have to stop and waste a lot of their time at Aizawl. Is there no way of arranging the issue of permits at Lunglei Town ?

PU ZAIREMTHANGA, MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, Yes this has often been mentioned and I thought it had already been done. However, it can be members mentioned that there does not seem to be any fund for Village Council elections. This can be found in Demand No. 15. Where we find a provision of Rs. 50,000 for Village Council which may be utilised for the elections.

The Food Grain Movement from Silchar to Aizawl is in the hands of the FCI, However, the movement from Aizawl - Lawngtlai, Aizawl - Lunglei, Aizawl - Hnahthial, Aizawl - Silchar, Silchar - Lawngtlai, Silchar - Lunglei, Silchar - Hnahthial, Silchar - Serchhip and Silchar - Kolasib are in the hands of the Government of Mizoram although it is actually the FCI undertaking. This is owing to the law fume of the FCI, contractors are allowed to reimburse according to the Tender rates of Mizoram Government. We have tried to take over the whole movement, it needs the consent of the F.C.I and the Government of India without which we cannot make our own move.

Pu Deputy Speaker, those are among the foremost topics under my Demand which have been mentioned by the Members. Therefore, I request the House to pass my Demand, Rs. 16,00,000/- for Legislative Assembly, R. 18,00,000/- for Election, Rs. 12,63,68,000.00 for Supply & Disposal, Rs. 41,09,000.00 for other Administrative Services, Rs.27,50,000.00 for Urban Development, Rs.19,50,000.00 for Labour & Employment, Rs. 1,38,00,000.00 for Road & Water Transport, the total amounting to Rs. 15,23,77,000.00.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister has moved and requested the Demand under his charge to be passed by the House.

Members may raise their right hands to show their consent. (All Members raise hands) Therefore the Demand under the charge of the Hon'ble Minister Pu Zairemthanga. Demand No. 1, Legislative Assembly Rs. 16,0000/- Demand No.5. Election Rs. 18,0000.00 Demand No. 12, Supply & Disposal Rs. 12,63,68,000.00/- Demand No. 15. Other Administrative Services Rs. 41,09,000.00, Demand No. 20 Urban Development Rs. 27,50,000.00, Demand No. 22 - Labour & Employment Rs. 19,50,000.00, Demand No. 35 ; Road & Water Transport - Rs. 1,38,00,000.00 the total amounting to Rs. 15,23,77,000.00 is now declared passed.

The House will now be adjourned till 2:00 PM in the afternoon.

Recess till 2 P.M.

2:00 P.M.

DEPUTY SPEAKAR : We shall now ask Pu Lalhmingthanga, Minister to move the various Demands under his charge.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA, MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, with your permission and the recommendation of the Administrator, I beg to move the following Demands under my charge for the year 1982-83.

Demand No. 6	Revenue	- Rs.	68,70,000.00
Demand No. 7	Treasury and Accounts Administration	- Rs.	28,33,000.00
Demand No. 16	Retirement Benefits	- Rs.	17,23,000.00
Demand No. 19	Housing	- Rs.	1,22,38,000.00
Demand No. 34	Electricity	- Rs.	8,67,00,000.00
Demand No. 36	Public Works Deptt.	- Rs.	20,58,08,000.00
Demand No. 37	Loan to Govt. Servants	- Rs.	70,00,000.00

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister has moved the Demands No. 6,7,16,19,34,36,37, are there any Members wishing to discuss the demands ?

PU C. VULLUAIA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to speak on Demand No. 34, Electricity. The efforts of the Government of Mizoram in the Power and Electricity Department is indeed worth mentioning. The streets of Aizawl town are now electrified and many of the Villages have been provided with electricity. In spite of this, two villages, Reick and Ailawng are still deprived of the same.

The achievements of the P.W.D. and P.H.E. are greatly appreciated by the people of Mizoram. The more the achievements are the more there will be criticisms, of this there is no doubt. However, Mizoram has benefited greatly from their works. The water supply in the town is rather unequal. While some sides get regular on alternate days, Dawrpui Vengthar and Vaivakawn get only once a month. The fund provision for supply of water has been greatly misused. Such minor things made the achievements of the Government.

PU JOE NGURDAWLA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I wish to speak on Demand No. 36, Public Works Department. The Department has utilised their provision very quickly and one in great deficit. This indicates the amount of work they have achieved. The Department has improved greatly during recent years.

Power Electricity have also done commendable works. Their separation from the P.W.D. has helped a great deal in their works. Would it be possible for them to have a Chief Engineer ? If so, it would be another step towards development.

Another one is Demand No. 6, Revenue. The main problem of the Department is the chanel between the Directorate and the District Office. This is a big stumbling block in efficiency. And as the District Office is very loaded, it would be a great help if the work loads are lightened as far as possible.

PU ELLIS SAIDENGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I think what the Member has said about Revenue is very true, especially in Lunglei, the D.C. is all in all. Revenue Officers are not competent to do much. Among the Villages declared as towns, the village of Hnahthial which was among the list was not included, it would be good if the Government follows up the matter.

In Demand No. 36, Public Works we had already mentioned the N. Vanlaiphai - Thingsai road undertaken by the P.W.D. This road faces certain hazards during the monsoons and needs better maintenance.

Regarding the mechanic wing of P.W.D. and the Power and Electricity Department, I think there is a link between the two. It might be a good thing to either amalgamate the two or put them in a common cadre so that the staff can be transferable. In Demand No. 37, it is understood the

Government servants are granted House Building Advances. However, some Government servants residing in Durtlang and Sihphir are not given this privilege in that they are outside town area. This is a very unfortunate thing. It would be appreciated if the Government gives them some special considerations.

PU B.LALCHUNGNUNGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I shall start with Demand No. 6, Revenue as we have already mentioned, the Revenue Department in Lunglei are very short of staff. They have only one LDC and the work load is too heavy. In Demand No. 34, Electricity, we are very satisfied at their work in Lunglei. However, we are very anxious to have electric current during the day time just as we have it at night.

In the Public Works and Electricity Department, the Executive Engineers have the power to grant leave for three months had they do not have the power to appoint their substitutes.

The people of Lunglei are very anxious about the proposed Building Division to be opened at Lunglei. And as this had taken rather longer than expected, the Government may kindly see to its implementation.

PI L. THANMAWII : Pu Deputy Speaker, I wish to add a few more to what had already been said about the Revenue Department. The relation between the Directorate and the District Office is extremely lacking efficiency. Something ought to be done about it.

Public Works Department has the largest amount of fund provision and the largest amount of work too. Their work schedule is also very satisfactory and their performance has shown year by year.

Regarding the distribution of drinking water in the town, some areas like Chhinga Veng and Armed Veng never receive water inspite of the pipes and public water points.

PU K. BIAKCHUNGNUNGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to mention the great improvement made by the Public Works Department. However, the distribution of water is something that needs great understanding of the public need. The Government may not be aware of the details of water distribution. Distress may be caused by irresponsible employees who are drunk while carrying their duties. It is therefore important that the Department should see to all these details.

PU C.L. RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, in Demand No. 6 Revenue, I think Finance is included. However, I do not understand how we are going to use rules that do not exist regarding animal control. Are there no Revenue in fares of buses? We have increased bus fares but at the same time do not appear to profit from it. In Demand No. 36 Public Works Department, I do not find the work schedule for construction of Aizawl to N. Vanlaiphai road which had already been approved and recommended by the Estimate Committee. This is a very important road and I want the Government to see to the matter.

Lastly what the hon'ble member said about employees of PHE who are drunk while distributing water in town. The Government should please see to these matters.

PI L. THANMAWII : Pu Deputy Speaker, I wish to mention the Electricity Power House. The Staff shortage in the Power House is very regretful. They do not have enough metre readers and the issuing of Bills are quite inefficient, ought to be looked into.

PU H.K.CHAKMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I wish to speak on Demand No. 36 Public Works Department. There is no jeepable road between Demagiri and Lokicherra. If this is not constructed, we have practically no way for facilities in this area. I have also mentioned earlier the need for a rest House in the Chakma District. The inspection Bungalow in Demagiri is also badly in need of proper maintenance, and along with this I want to point out the need for Rest House and Circuit House at Lunglei. These have created many problems in the area. Officers who come to this area. Officers who come to this area, face these problems and I urge the Government to take the necessary steps towards this. Another important matter I wish to point out is the need for State Bank at Demagiri. Pu Deputy Speaker, in Demand No. 19 Housing, it is extremely difficult for those in Demagiri to get Housing Loans. If they are not specially given attention in this matter, they are in a very sorry plight.

PU C.L.RUALA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I had requested earlier today that the time for filing of nomination to the election of PAC and Estimate Committee be postponed till May owing to the absence of some members. Are there no information in this respect ?

PU K.LALSANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, In Demand No. 36. P.W.D., PHE we are facing great problems regarding water supply. Formerly MLA's were given free supply of pipe water. Now however, if we do not pay for it we are not supplied water. I feel that Members should be given the same privilege as then Government Officers.

In my constituency there are two Block Headquarters where there are no Rest Houses. The one at Lungsen is so old it was built during the British period, and is almost falling to pieces. It is therefore most important that the Government should see to these matters as soon as possible.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has been requested by the Members of the Opposition to postpone the last date for filing the nominations to the election of PAC and Estimate Committee, Is the Members agree to the proposition ? (all agree).

PU LALHMINGTHANGA MINISTER : Pu Deputy Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the Members of this August House for their speeches of thanks in discussing the Demands 2 had moved, especially Demand 34, and 36. I also want to express my sincere thanks to Members who participated in discussing other Departments. Next, I would like to inform the House about the Pension and Gratuities which had been brought to notice by Pi L.Thanmawii. I would like to notify the House that henceforth from the new financial year, all pension benefits and G.P.Funds will be undertaken by the Administration of Mizoram. There will no longer be any need to deal with the Office of the Accountant General, Shillong. Besides this, I would also like to notify the House that the Central Government has agreed to instal a Megawat 5.10 Gas Turbine Generation Project as we had earlier applied for. This was cleared on 17th March, 1982, under the Tribal Programme.

One Unit will be installed at Vairengte, one unit at Kolasib and four units at Azawl. This 5.10 Megawat Generation Scheme is expected to be completed within one year or more. The Government of Mizoram is deeply indebted to the Central Electricity Authority. Most of the Members spoke on Demand No. 36, P.W.D. The distribution of drinking water in the town of Aizawl is likewise. The pumping of water from Tlawng river to Tuikhuahtlang goes through seven pumping stations. The average amount of water pumped daily is about Litres 20,0000. The daily average distribution of water by truck is about 32,0000 litres and altogether the average daily distribution of water is about 52,0000 litres. The population of Aizawl is around 17,5000, therefore the daily ration of water for one person can not be more than 3 litres.

The Aizawl Water augmentation Scheme phase I. is now under construction. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 250,00000 for this scheme. We hope to have enough drinking water supply for all when this Scheme is completed.

The much discussed problem of electrification of Border Villages is indeed most important. This may be included in the 7th Plan.

The proposed to amalgamate the Mechanical Wing of P.W.D. with the Power Department had already been suggested to the Government by the consultative Committee. This may be examined again. The problem of government employees from Durtlang and Serchhip who are not eligible for Housing Loans will be solved when the extension of Aizawl town area is completed. The electrification of North Tawipui is included in the 6th Plan.

The opening of Building Division P.W.D. at Lunglei was a little delayed partly owing to the spacing of Lungsan Division. In the opinion of the Government of Mizoram, even if the Division is opened at Lunglei we do not have Officer to post there immediately, as it is we still have not posted Officers at Khawzawl and Kawrthah.

The suggestion to provide a Bus for the trainees under P.W.D. will be examined. The proposal made by Pi L. Thanmawii to have the P.H.E. separately with an Superintendent Engineer of their own has been submitted to the Government by the consultative Committee. The reply from the Central Government is being awaited.

The construction of roads for Chakma area is now outlined in a big programme. The West Phaileng Demagiri road is now being started by the B.R.T.F. Another construction towards Chawngte and Pharva will be started. Construction of roadstake 4 or 5 years may be even 10. And we are all aware that there can be no real development without roads. The B.R.T.F. are very speedy in their work, the Government has now ordered them to upon the Bridge on Tuichang and the necessary datas are now being collected, The suggestion of Pu H.K. Chakma to have a State Bank at Demagiri was already included in the proposal. It has not yet been implemented owing to some inconvenience on the part of the State Bank themselves. It is however included among their programme. The Government is also aware of the need to renovate and maintain the Circuit House at Lunglei. There is a provision of Rs. 50,000/- for this propose.

The suggestion made by the Member from Hnahthial to enlarge the Thingsai. Hnahthial road was already Tendered. However as there was a complaint on this, it is now being re-tendered.

Regarding the Water Supply to Officers and M.L.A's it is not a free supply. However, during the previous Ministry there were many Members who did not pay the fees. Even though it is not free now, we shall see what can be done about it.

Now therefore, Pu Deputy Speaker, I request the House to pass my Demand No. 6. Revenue, Rs. 68,70,000/-, No. 7 - Treasury & Accounts Administration Rs. 28,33,000/-, Demand No. 16 - Retirement Benefits Rs. 17,23,000/-, Demand No. 19 - Housing Rs. 1,22,38,000/-, Demand No. 36 - Public Works Rs. 20,58,08,000/-, Demand No. 37 - Loan to Government Servants Rs. 70,000,000/-, The total amounting to Rs. 32,31,72,000/-.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister i/c Finance Department has put to the vote of the House the various demands under his charge amounting to Rs. 32,31,72,000/-. Members may raise their right hand to show their approval. (All raise hands).

Therefore the following demands were :—

Demand No. 6	- Revenue	- Rs.	68,70,000.00
Demand No. 7	- Treasury Account Adm	- Rs.	28,33,000.00
Demand No. 16	- Retirement Benefits	- Rs.	17,23,000.00
Demand No. 19	- Housing	- Rs.	1,23,38,000.00
Demand No. 34	- Electricity	- Rs.	8,67,00,000.00
Demand No. 36	- P.W.D.	- Rs.	20,58,08,000.00
Demand No. 37	- Loan to Govt. Servants	- Rs.	70,00,000.00

The sum total Rs. 32,31,72,000.00 is declared passed. This is also to notify that the PAC & Estimate Committee Election will not take place during this current session. The meeting is adjourned till 10:30 on 26.3.1982.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:00 P.M.

J. MALSAWMA
SECRETARY