

**SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FOURTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 16th MARCH, 2018
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

2. * **Resolutions**

S.R. ZOKHUMA
Commissioner & Secretary

-
- **Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 205, dated the 13th March, 2018 for relative precedence of Private Members' Resolutions to be moved.**

....

SPEAKER : 'The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be forever'

Sam 37:18

Dr. K. Beichhua may ask his Starred Question No. 21.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Minister of Agriculture Department be please to State: –

- a) Nos. of Custom hiring centres in Mizoram under Agriculture SMAM and RKVY Scheme.
- b) Nos. of tractors distributed so far under Agriculture Department.

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, answer to the Hon. Member's Question is: –

- a) 24 Nos. under SMAM and 47 Nos. under RKVY.
- b) 71 Nos. tractors have already been distributed under Agriculture Deptt.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, we have many potential areas within Siaha District; so, is it possible to establish more custom hiring centres since there are only three of such within my constituency.

Pu Speaker, out of numbers of questions being submitted, about 20 questions comes out as Starred. But today, only 12 questions are accepted as Starred. May the official clarify the reason?

SPEAKER : We will look into the matter.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we are able to give only 30 Nos. of such centres at present; I believe Saiha District has also applied for the same. I will visit the potential areas after this Session and I also invite the concerned MLA if he could accompany us during our visit.

SPEAKER : Pu T.T. Zothansanga may ask Starred Question No. 22.

PU T.T. ZOTHANSANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Law & Judicial be pleased to state the estimated time for construction of

Champhai Court building?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Proposal to construct 7 court halls will be applied to the 15th Finance Commission from 2020-2025 funds.

SPEAKER : Pu T.T. Zothansanga.

PU T.T. ZOTHANSANGA: Pu Speaker, if we do not receive funds from the Finance Commission, will it be possible to construct the same from our State Funds? And, how many staff quarters will be constructed thereof?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, if we do not receive funds for the said from the 15th Finance Commission, we will find alternative means. I believe construction of staff quarters will also be included if the court buildings are constructed.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 23 to be asked by Pu Lalthanliana.

PU LALTHANLIANA : Will the Hon. Minister of Law & Judicial Department be pleased to State: –
 a) If Lok Ayukta being established.
 b) What is the present status?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Lok Ayukta has not yet been established; yet, the committee has short listed the chairperson, the members along with their names and bio-data will be sent to the Selection Committee. Recruitment Rules has also been completed and we have applied for filling up of the post to DP & AR. The office building has also been selected and renovation work will soon be started.

SPEAKER : The Hon. House Leader, Pu Lal Thanhawla to reply.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the concerned Minister had given a clear answer. It may also be noted that the Selection Committee Members consist of the Chief Minister, Chief Justice and the Opposition Leader.

SPEAKER : Pu R.L. Pianmawia to ask Starred Question No. 24.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Will the Hon. Minister of SAD be pleased to State –

- a) Whether installation of solar lighting system at New Secretariat is completed?
- b) If other offices too utilizes this solar lighting system.

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the Question.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is: –

- a) Yes, it is completed.
- b) Other offices too are beginning to utilize the same.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, is it possible to install the same at the old Secretariat and the Assembly House?

SPEAKER : Er. Lalrinawma to ask supplementary question.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, how much is spent for the installation? Who is the contractor and who is in charge of its maintenance?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, I have submitted 130 Questions but none come out. I request our Parliamentary Secretaries to look into this matter. My Supplementary Question in this regard is: -

- i) If the solar lighting system is in function presently.
- ii) The reason that Pi Hmangaihi's building at Secretariat Complex being dismantled by the government.

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with the implementation of State Solar Policy, there is a proposal to install at important public

places such as hospitals etc. Solar lamp had also been distributed in many educational institutions.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, my question has not been answered; if it is not possible to do so at present, I request it may be furnished another time.

SPEAKER : We will now move on to Starred Question No. 25, Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, will the concerned Minister of Information & Public Relations Deptt. be pleased to State: –

If there is any proposal to renovate I & PR office and staff quarters of Saiha.

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU LALTHANZARA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, initiative has been made for construction of I & PR office and staff quarters of Saiha; we have also submitted application to NEC so that it may also be utilized for multi-facilities centre.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, is it a fact that the office site of Controller, Printing & Stationery has now taken over by I & PR? If so, what is the reason?

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, we have heard that DPR has been submitted for reconstruction of various Govt. buildings of Saiha. When was the DPR submitted? May this be clarified?

SPEAKER : Pu Lal Thanzara, the Hon. Minister to answer the question.

PU LALTHANZARA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding the question asked by Pu Lalruatkima, the matter will be discussed in the upcoming Cabinet meeting.

As of the question by Dr. K. Beichhua, application for funds has been submitted to NEC; I believe DPR had also been submitted.

SPEAKER : Moving on to starred Question No. 26, I now call upon Pu K. Sangthuama.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the answer of Question No. 26?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to Hon. Members question is as follows: –

- a) There are 1,34,689 Nos. beneficiaries under NLUP and ₹1,29,306 lakhs so far has been distributed under NLUP.
- b) At present, the study on Impact Analysis of NLUP is conducted and we will be able to know the exact status after it is completed.
- c) There is a proposal to continue with our flagship programme.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Will the Hon. Minister be please to State: –

- a) Nos. of NLUP beneficiaries who have opened bank account.
- b) If there is a plan to transfer such funds to their accounts respectively after the announcement of election, 2018?
- c) What are the criteria for selection of NLUP beneficiary?

SPEAKER : Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, will the concerned Minister be pleased to State the criteria for selection of NLUP beneficiaries and who are the members of the selection committee.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. May the concerned Minister be pleased to state the amount received for NLUP with all the convergence Schemes and material components and how much is spent for office expenditure?

SPEAKER : Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, it is obvious that we are all very interested in the topic of NLUP. So, is there any flagship programme implemented in the previous Ministries which is better than NLUP?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I will try to answer all the questions

but if I miss any other questions, please feel free to ask me again.

Pu Speaker, 1,34,689 Nos. families have opened their bank account and 16,000 Nos. applied for it at present. Regarding the criteria for measurement of a successful beneficiary, it is determined from the surplus one is achieved from the capital. The beneficiaries are selected by the NLUP Implementing Board which consists of the senior-most MLA from the Congress Party and ex-Minister such as Pu J.H. Rothuama. The beneficiaries are selected in collaboration with the DC's in every District. Pu Speaker, I regret to inform the House that I am not able to answer the question regarding the material component but I will furnish it later.

As to whether any better project being implemented in the previous Ministries, there is none and the Prime Minister thus have in mind to implement the like NLUP in other States as well. UNO too has recognized this scheme and signed an agreement with Agriculture as the nodal department; we have even selected the CEO for this purpose. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalzawma.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. On 9th February, ruling MLAs received a DO letter regarding fund sanction of NLUP amounting to ₹400 lakhs for distribution to the beneficiaries of their respective constituencies. What is the reason that the opposition MLAs does not receive the same?

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, funds are transferred to the bank account of concerned beneficiaries just before the election like they did in 2013 election. Will the same be done before 2018 election?

PU H. ZOTHANGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Is there any kind of scheme implemented by the previous MNF Ministry which is better than NLUP?

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. What are the criteria for the selection of NLUP beneficiaries?

PU T. SANGKUNGA : Pu Speaker, if the total Nos. of MIP beneficiaries greater than NLUP.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. If NLUP is regarded as the State Govt. flagship programme, why does the Govt. fails to follow the rules and regulations in the implementation? Why did the opposition party MLA's are excluded from receiving ₹400 lakhs for NLUP beneficiaries?

SPEAKER : Pu R. Vanlalvena.

PU R. VANLALVENA : Pu Speaker, does the Selection Committee selects only Congress Party supporters as NLUP beneficiary?

SPEAKER : Too many questions regarding NLUP.

PU LALTHANLIANA : Why are we not following our conduct rules of taking only three questions at a time?

SPEAKER : We will not take any more.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, if NLUP the State funded or of the Prime Minister's Special package?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister will now answer the questions.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am not aware of any request made by the NLUP Implementing Board. I believe any interested Member may be included regardless of his political affiliation.... (Pu **LALRUATKIMA:** Pu Speaker, since Agriculture is NLUP's the Nodal department, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture Minister thus should be included as one of the members of the implementing Board.)

SPEAKER : You have asked your question already.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, as of the member, I would like to say that interested MLA's are appointed.

Pu Speaker, to make it clear, that there are about 150,000 families in the baseline survey with the increase of our population. This is a flagship programme and not of a political party. As such, all families with less than one lakh annual income are included.

SPEAKER : House leader

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the best indicator to measure the success of NLUP is increase of new registration to my party.

Also, Mizoram is among the four highest States with the fastest growth rate with a forecast of two double digits for the next fiscal year. It has also been declared as 'All rounds best state'.

PU LALRUATKIMA : With due respect, Pu Speaker, this is question hour and it is unfair to allow unrestricted time to the Member even if to the House Leader.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER:(Interruption).... NLUP will be continued as long as we are elected with a New Economic Policy planned by the Hon. Planning Minister.

SPEAKER : We will move on to Question No. 27 and Pu Lalthanliana to ask the question.

PU LALTHANLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the Hon. Minister for Law & Judicial be pleased to state the present status of High Court building and if construction is started.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister Pu Lalsawta to answer.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Construction of High Court building was started in 2017 with overall physical progress of 2%.

SPEAKER : Pu K. Sangthuama to ask Question No.28.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the Hon. Minister for Planning be pleased to answer starred Question No. 28?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Planning Minister to answer.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. NEDP has set aside ₹750 crores for the year 2017-2018 which is expected to be utilized during this financial year.

SPEAKER : Any additional Question? Pu K. Sangthuama.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, the explanation is not clear. Last year, NEDP funds had not been utilized appropriately and I suggest alternative step be taken to prevent this in the future.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to answer the questions of Pu Ruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, NEDP allocated ₹50 crores to Finance Deptt. For what purpose it is allotted?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to answer the question.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, it will be utilized for the ongoing projects under NEDP which are now in progress.

It may be noted that the main function of NEDP is to create market economy from subsistence level that we are currently in.

In reply to Pu Lalruatkima, ₹50 crores is kept as an emergency fund which we refer to as 'Park'.

SPEAKER : Question hour has ended. I would like to inform the House that Pu John Rotluangliana is granted leave of absence for today.

As today is of Private Members, we shall move on to Resolution No. 1. Let us invite Pu K. Sangthuama to move his Resolution.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I believe this is the third time that this kind of resolution is admitted and I am thankful that my Resolution is balloted for today's discussion.

This Resolution came into being due to the existing problems of road communication Mizoram is facing. It indicates we are not satisfied with the existing work carried out by the government and this Resolution thus is formed.

Pu Speaker, we currently have not spent up even half of our budget which clearly shows that the government is lagging in their work. If this Resolution is passed by the House, we may be able to put more efforts as a team to improve the condition of our National highways and roads.

In the meantime, I would like to acknowledge the effort of the government in maintaining our roads. We have many roads upgraded and being constructed under several schemes such as NEC, NLCPR, AI & ISEC, CSS, BRTF, NSRP and PMGSY where as 11 bridges are completed and 9 more remains under construction. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Resolution is moved and Notice of Amendment is submitted by Pu R. Vanlalvena. I now invite Pu R. Vanlalvena to move the amendment.

PU R. VANLALVENA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. My Resolution is almost similar to the previous one except its conclusion.

I would like to strengthen the ending part with the term 'the current projects carried out under PWD are quite sufficient'. I suggest this change with the opinion to boost up the morale of the working staff and thereby improving the work.

We are all aware of the projects carried out by PWD in different parts of Mizoram and I would like to acknowledge their good works which is my reason for moving amendment of this Resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Discussion will now be opened.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, do you think 15 minutes is too long?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will 10 minutes be enough? 15 minutes is the longest that is allowed.

PU JOHN SIAMKUNGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, let us be aware that we cannot exceed 4 PM.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, the discussion cannot be extended beyond 4 PM.

PU R. ROMAWIA, MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, is this discussion opened for the Resolution or its amendment?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will be opened for both and votes will be taken at the end.

PU K. LALRINTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, first of all, I would like to emphasize on the performance of PWD. It is not appropriate to blame this ministry for anything which may turn out not s expected.

The main reason of our problem is transfer of maintenance of road from BRTF to the state's PWD. We are all aware of the fact that there is no contest between the two since PWD does not have sufficient staff and machinery to maintain the projects. Another problem which impedes the progress is excessive numbers of compensation. Lastly, I would like to point out that construction requires enough time and funds which we were in short on both.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalthanliana

PU LALTHANLIANA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. I first of all express my support to the Resolution submitted by Pu K. Sangthuama.

I support that more efforts should be made to resolve the problems we have faced due to poor road conditions. I also support handing over the charge of maintenance of our roads to PWD as has better knowledge and of the layout of our land. However, it is the responsibility of the government to equip the department with more funds and staff to improve performance. Also, there are certain instances where we can prevent such kind of incidents and the government should take measures from this angle. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu P.C. Zoram Sangliana

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, in support of the Resolution for the amendment, I would like to state that the mover does not provide any explanation of

his reason; yet it does not change my support as I opine the performance of PWD is satisfactory.

In order to improve the performance and maintain work quality, PWD established Training Cell, training programmes, road fund board, road sector maintenance plan, IT cell, information cell, traffic engineer cell, construction material test and secretarial cell.

In view of such endeavors and accomplishments, I support the resolution of the amended form. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will take a break and our discussion will be resumed at 2:00 p.m.

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : To continue with our discussion, I invite Pu K.S. Thanga

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, I, first of all would like to give my support to the amended form of the Resolution moved by Pu R. Vanlalvena.

Considering the efforts and accomplishments made by PWD, I opine it is inappropriate to lay the blame on the department for the condition of our roads and highways.

Since Mizoram lies in a tropical area, monsoon is more severe compared to other regions in India where as the geographical layout of Mizoram is one of the main factors of poor condition of our roads.

Considering our climatic condition, concrete pavement is opined as a better option for it can withstand monsoon better than bitumen. However, it is essential that we must better equip ourselves to prevent further incident in the future. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalrobiaka

PU LALROBIKA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. I, first of all express my support to the amended form of the resolution moved by Pu R. Vanlalvena.

We are all aware of the climatic condition of Mizoram and would like to acknowledge that it plays a major role in the condition of our roads. In the meantime, I appreciate the efforts made by PWD in tackling these problems.

PU LALROBIKA : In the olden days, it is the mentality of the Mizos to serve the community with no cost; they were ready to do any works of

public necessity. We need to revive such mentality. Why don't we act likewise as we see the road in front of our house needs repairing. Let us not wait for others or the Government alone for such problems.

Meanwhile, I opine we need cooperation of the Central YMA for better road. It is the mindset of anyone that we have a sense of ownership if we participate in it. New works are set to be started under various schemes like PMGSY. In this regard, I opined that we need to adopt our system according to the place of such work. For instance, black topping may not last long in wet area and alternative thus be introduced in such places. I have a firm believe on the works and ability of the department concern in the efforts for better roads. As for having a good road communication is an important yardstick for development, I am supporting the resolution moved by Pu R. Vanlalvena of the amended form. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu John Siamkunga

PU JOHN SIAMKUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The mover of amendment of the resolution has clearly stated the objective of this resolution. I believe this to be the result of positive desire for the state instead of playing a blame-game against the ruling party. It is very difficult to have durable roads in a monsoon region like ours. It is the concern of all as we all want to have good roads. However, there are factors beyond our control.

Where as mover of the original resolution did not mention any suggestion for improvement our roads. It seems that it is an attempt to make the people aware of the performance of MNF ministry way back in 2000. I opine it is unnecessary if there is no clear cut objective to be mentioned.

In other region within the country, roads equipped with the same materials as ours last 10 to 15 years; but under the climatic condition as ours, it is expected to last only for three to five years due to the condition of our soils. This factor further cost us more expenditure on road maintenance comparing to other regions.

I opine the performance of our PWD is good enough though I am not aware of the exact strength of the department in terms of manpower. However, we have seen many work tenders being floated for construction of roads from time to time. Yet, there used to be some problems in the application of such work tenders as some applicants particularly from outside usually applied at a very low rate without the knowledge of the topography of Mizoram and other difficulties which may come in the process of such construction. And, when such contractors from outside are about to start the work, they begins to experience the problem and sold the work on sub-contract which consequently affect the quality of the work. Even though the Government has a plan for better quality, it usually ends up the opposite way due to such dishonest contractors.

Regarding bridges, we have several under the maintenance of PWD including 18 temporary and 34 permanent on National Highway. It is the desire of the

government that all bridges are well constructed and in a good condition. However, there are certain things which are beyond our control. It is not the fault or desire of the government that bridges are collapse but due some reasons beyond control. There is no use of playing blame game on the part of the oppositions also but give useful advices for improvements.

There are 127 bridges under the maintenance of the state government, 52 under the National Highway and 72 under the State road. The PWD has formulated Vision 2020 which is of well planned vision. However, in order to achieve that vision, proper training and technical improvement is necessary.

One of the main problems we are facing in selecting the contractors is most of the applicants claims they have owned the required machineries and equipments for the work. However, when the actual work is started, we have found out that the selected contractor has none as previously claimed. This is not the government fault; there is no reason to blame the government if the works are not of departmental. The government has no responsibility as it has done everything for the work. Therefore, I believe that bridges under the maintenance of the government so far are good. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This Ministry has been in power for 10 years and as we may all aware, the condition of our roads is very poor. The resolution we are discussing aims at improvement of our roads. It is a fact that we need to try harder as monsoon season in ahead. Thus, I consider the original resolution is appropriate and very important. While this is the case, Pu R. Vanlalvena has also moved another Resolution which is almost the same with the first one.

Two Resolutions from the Opposition members have been defeated in the past. It seems that all the efforts made by the government recently are manipulated for the benefit of one particular party in the coming election. It even seems like an intention to justify the negligence of the government for the past years.

The government claims poor condition of our roads as a result of monsoon. However, it can be seen from the record that rainfall was not that much last year. Thus, blaming rainfall for the cause seems to be of a lame excuse.

The working season this year is almost over and we have heard from the Hon. Finance Minister that sufficient amount of fund is available for road construction. What is important is if the work appropriately monitored. I am afraid that the assigned contractors and the department may again take the blame for poor quality of roads where as it is responsibility of the department on such failure. It seems we pay less attention on monitoring works. Apart from this, I believe too much of revised estimate of the work usually brings extra expenditure to the government and poor quality to the road.

To a certain extents, it is appropriate to lay the blame on contractors since any of the estimates is made as per requirement and prior to allotment of the work. But it is the Ministry to take any responsibility. Usually the Ministry takes the credit when any project is initiated but it is the assigned contractors and maintenance staff who take the blame when a project is failed or being damaged. It is the Ministry or the Government to take any responsibility and strive to bring about improvements.

Many contractors are working in our state and it is a fact that some of them receive excessive favour with many works which leads to poor quality of works. It is therefore the duty of the government to carefully monitor any work within our state. Many claims poor quality of work as due to ignorance of the assigned contractor of the geographical condition of a place but I opine this is just an excuse as no contractor would invest crores of money without prior knowledge of the condition of a place he is allotted whereas such knowledges could easily be availed through internet also. Besides, it is also the duty of the government not to give contract works more than one could afford.

Giving away contract work to other party too is illegal as the Hon. House Leader has clearly mentioned about it. While this is the case, there are none penalized on such ground. I believe such practice can be stopped if the government takes action against such practice. Thus, it is the sole responsibility of the government to maintain proper monitoring of contract works.

It is really unfortunate that six bridges had collapsed and immediate investigation should be prevailed in this regard. We need to see all the bridges so that such kind of incident is not recurred in the future. Pu Deputy Speaker, I am glad that even the Hon. Members from the Treasury Bench are also convinced that our roads are poor in condition but refuse to accept the fact. It is necessary for the government to take due action on such cases whether it is difficult or not. So, I am supporting Resolution moved by the Hon. Member, Pu K. Sangthuama. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I am glad to discuss this kind of resolution which concern strengthening the government in an effort for better road. I opined it is unnecessary to move the Resolution for amendment of the original form as done by Hon. Member Pu R. Vanlalvena since it does not contradict opinion of the government. It only concern for the efforts already made by the government.

We are all aware of the problems we are facing nowadays regarding the condition of our roads which indicates more efforts are needed. The Hon. Members have even stated their preference to cement concrete for black topping which indicates the majority is not fully contend with the existing effort being made.

It the process, I opine it is necessary to find out the main reason for poor quality of our roads; we need to know who is responsible and what improvement could be made. It is arguable that contractors are given another work due to their performance where as there are any of them who finished their works within the stipulated time. On the contrary, they usually applied for extension with the hope for a revised estimate. So, it is responsibility of the government to stop such practice which seems to be of our main problem.

According to the Report of World Bank, 15% of the problems in road construction in India are due to the fact that government could not give site clearance. As this is the findings within India, it includes Mizoram as well as we have also witnessed this kind of problem with many projects. Unless site clearance is obtained, any contractor could not start the work despite the contract agreement. So, it is much desirable that at least 50% to 75% site clearance should be given at the time the contract agreement is signed.

Another obvious reason for the problem is delay of decision by the employer. Now is working season but the work could not be started due to work order which may be delayed due to long process of the selection of contractors which further delays the construction work. It is solely the government which is responsible to resolve this kind of problem.

Regarding the amount spent so far for road construction, it is learned that only 38% of the available fund for road construction is utilized. Can we consider this much of expenditure to be sufficient? It seems that we need to make more efforts to spend more on improvement of our state.

Regarding contractor payment also, all any contractors are expected to produce the report of their performance by bar chart yet, only a few complies. As a member of the Assembly Committee, I visited some construction sites in which many contractors were found keeping their bar chart and work programmes in the files only. Such being the case, they eventually apply for extension of the time for completion with the hope to make more profits.

We also make excuses base on rainfall. If the method we are using for road construction fails to withstand the weather, it is important to find alternative method to serve the actual purpose. Some Members proposed concrete pavement for road construction and I urge the government to give important to this suggestion.

Regarding selection of contractors, it is a fact that there is too much political involvement in the process. It is regretted that some contractors who are excessively favoured by the Ministry does not afraid of engineers, department concerned and monitoring agency. Pu Dy. Speaker, it is utmost important for the government to strengthen the hands of our monitoring agency so that they may be able to object any wrongdoing of the contractors.

Shortage of experienced manpower is another problem we are facing today. We used to speak about skill development but it is a fact that we have no sufficient workers for road construction so that we are compelled to import workers from outside. We need to change our mindset so that we may have enough workers for our own as many of our contractors often faces problem due to shortage of workers.

I am glad that the road fund rule which has been delayed for a long period is now completed. According to this new Mizoram Road Fund Act, 2007, ₹50 crores is allotted for State Road Fund; I regarded this as an important achievement.

Some problems arise due to petty cases which have been left unattended. Even if a small pothole being ignored for a long time, it can become a major problem later. Therefore, road maintenance requires prompt action and I hope this could be achieved by having strong financial power on NEDP.

With these words, I support the Resolution moved by Hon. Member, Pu K. Sangthuama in its original form as I consider strong enough in resolving the existing problem. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Hmingdailova Khiangte.

PU HMINGDAILOVA KHIANGTE: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. We are now discussing the original Resolution moved by Pu K. Sangthuama and the amended form moved by Pu R. Vanlalvena. It seems that this resolution mainly concern last calendar year. It is true that many problems came up during last year. We all are aware that last year's monsoon was of the longest; it started as early as first week of February and last till November/December which left barely a working season. That is the reality of the problem we are facing today.

It is learned from the Governor's speech that the PWD has done a great job in maintaining roads within our state including 11 new National Highways with total length of 1500 kms which has also been taken up under its purview. This further supplements responsibility of the PWD also. Despite this additional workload, many roads which were left unattended by the previous ministry were taken up during the whole season last year.

Many roads which were known to be in a very poor condition are now maintained properly. This shows performance of the government is good enough. Thus, I consider the amended form of the Resolution which acknowledged the work done by the government is more suitable and should be supported. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. H. Ngurdingliana.

Dr. NGURDINGLIANA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I am supporting the resolution of the amended form moved by Pu R. Vanlalvena from Aizawl South-I. We have learned that ₹66,764 is allotted in the new budget for road construction with

the additional fund of ₹19,153.25. Hon. Pu Ruatkima has claimed that last year was not the year we received highest rainfall which may be correct to some extents. However, it is obvious that it is the longest monsoon. Even though we have sufficient amount of fund, enough work could not be done due to monsoon.

Regarding the works done within Chalfilh Constituency, the total amount spent within this constituency is ₹18,567 lakhs. Blacktopping work of Phullen-Khawlian road is completed and Khawlian-Daido is in progress. Apart from this construction of Phullen-Suangpuilawn road, Dilkhan-Tualbung road, Dilkhan-Lungpher road and N. Lungpher-Buhban road also are in progress.

Pu Dy. Speaker, effort made by the Govt. on collapse bridge of Tuirini is noteworthy in which ₹210 lakhs has already been released to meet the needs. Reconstruction of the bridge is proposed to be done immediately where as there is a proposal to construct by-pass road through Khanpui-Vanzau-Buhban. There are several ongoing projects under different agencies within this constituency. Moreover, it is worth-mentioning that if the ongoing proposal of Daido-Vawngkawt road is successful, the additional budget of ₹22,067.6 lakhs will be made available for road construction within the area.

We are pleased with the efforts made by the government regarding road construction. So, I support the resolution in the amended form as moved by Pu R. Vanlalvena. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I am glad to discuss this important resolution. 34 members from the treasury bench did not submit their resolution on a stipulated so is unbecoming to receive proposal for this amendment. Obviously this is manipulation of the facts by amending the original resolution where as there is nothing for the Government to wary of the original resolution for it concern strengthening the hands of the government on construction and maintenance of roads.

We are aware of all the developments being brought under this ministry during the past 10 years; yet, there are also some shortcomings as well such as their negligence in maintenance of roads and bridges. I am personally concern about this problem. So, I have moved a Private Member's Resolution on 21st November, 2014 which is similar to this resolution we are discussing today. At that time, some members had even claimed we are having the best roads in the North-east region and our bridges as in a very good condition. However, not a very long after that, five of our bridges collapsed which purely is of negligence. Accidents may occur beyond control but some seem to be of man-made disaster. No factual development is seen on our roads after my Resolution was defeated.

Consequently the same Resolution was moved by Hon. Member Pu

Vanlalawma on 16th October, 2015 but many members still claimed our roads as in a good condition; they consider the efforts made the government so far as being enough. As such, we are witnessing this problem. This Resolution is moved for the third time as we felt the need to strengthen the government for improvement of our roads condition. I believe this Resolution moved by Hon. Member Pu K. Sangthuama to be effective in resolving the existing problems on road communication. I also appeal to this august House to pass this Resolution in the original form. (*Speaker's in the Chair.*)

Pu Speaker, it is often claimed that it is not the Govt. responsibility when contractors do their work poorly and our roads as being damaged due to heavy rain which I opine as of false argument. However, the amount of rainfall is more during 1998-2008 than of 2009-2018. There are other states in which heavy rainfall is experienced but they could manage to have good roads. I have visited Arunachal Pradesh recently and what they have done to have good road is worth mentioning. They also faces calamity like landslide which hamper road maintenance work all through monsoon season but uses such off-season for collecting materials for road maintenance so that the work could be started as soon as working season comes. We may do the same in our state also and I implore the Govt. to take responsibility for this. I also beg the House to pass the Resolution in its original form as the amended form seems to be of less effective. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu T. Sangkunga.

PU T. SANGKUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This Resolution mainly concerns the poor condition of our roads. Meanwhile, I believe there is a huge difference in what we consider as good and bad. The roads we considered good in the past may not be considered good anymore; I think it depend on the person in making such decision. The PWD has a working plan for construction and maintenance of roads and there may not be other means to attain more progresses. As for me, I am quite impressed by the efforts made by the Hon. Minister concerned as well as the Department officials.

Huge amount of fund provision was made for road construction last year but being held unspent due to weather. Hon. Members has mentioned that there are other years in which we received more rainfalls than last year. However, the real problem is the prolonged monsoon season where as working season is barely two or three months. This is the reason why the allotted fund remains unutilized. Road construction done in monsoon is prone to landslide and other problems. Even though the government and department officials tried their best, it is inevitable due to the weather.

I am really pleased by the proposals made by the PWD such as procurement of laboratory equipment. The people of my constituency are often disappointed by the condition of our roads and we try to figure it out what is wrong in the process. However, nothing much could be done as there is no equipment for testing the

materials used in the work. In such cases, laboratory testing equipments are very important. Besides, there are other machineries and equipments which have been proposed and i believe that even the opposition members would be impressed if they know the reality of such proposals.

There are ongoing projects and some which have already been completed within my constituency. Many old roads are renovated and blacktopped and the people are quite impressed with the work. We even believe that we could have the best roads in Mizoram in the near future. ₹48 crores from NABARD loan is recently sanctioned for pavement work of Keitum-Tuipui-Khawbung-Champhai road. It is a fact that our state is heading to have a good roads.

Pu Speaker, I suggest that the proposed work plan should also be given to all the opposition MLAs so that they may be aware of the initiatives and visions of the PWD. I believe that they will be impressed as well and gladly support the amended form of the Resolution as moved by Pu R. Vanlalvena. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am happy to discuss this Resolution and the amendment as proposed by Pu R. Vanlalvena. Regarding poor condition of our roads, we need to be aware of the root factors. The Opposition Members seem to make an attempt to conceal their mistake through their Resolution as the real problem emanated from the previous ministry. Maintenance of many roads was taken over from BRTF with an intention to gain personal benefit from it which further creates a huge burden for the department and leads us to the current condition.

It is the same in other departments also. I do not believe that the RGGVY scheme will be a success if the Congress party did not come into power. In the previous ministry, 80% of the estimate amount was given to the contractors in advance which led to negligence at the part of the contractor. When the Congress party came into power, we tried our best to continue with the remaining 20% so that every village is electrified.

Pu Speaker, several new Highways have also been constructed during this ministry. Within my constituency of Highway No. 306A, proposal for New Vervek-Vairengte road has been approved where as even New Vervek-Sakawrdai road left unattended during the previous ministry. We need to know all these facts prior to making some decisions.

I am among the first owners of public transport bus in my area where as during that time also condition of our roads had never been improved but we repaired it on our own expense for we have sense of belonging of our roads; development then comes along with that sense of ownership. The department also had tried their best to help us maintain the roads and we had good cooperation between them and the public. This is how we have to work together.

Many equipments and materials need to be imported for the work in our state and it takes time. There are times in which we could not find materials of required quality which imposes many problems also. Considering all such difficulties, we need to understand the situation.

I am glad to have a suitable amendment moved by Pu R. Vanlalvena and I am supporting the amended form. I also beg the House to pass the same. Thank you.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, the main subject we are discussing today seems to be of our preference of the two Resolutions moved by Pu K. Sangthuama and Pu R. Vanlalvena. The main factor seems to be of prolonged monsoon season; it is not about the amount of rainfalls but the duration of monsoon season as it is also stated in the Governor's speech. As pointed out, bitumen could not be applied under rains which make it very difficult to maintain our roads.

Another problem is our habit of disposing our sewage on the roads; we hardly care for the road while constructing our own buildings; we also have poor drainage system as there are many who used to wash their car on the road. We need to stop such practices in order to have good roads.

In 2008, the previous MNF ministry collected 3% of any contract amount from the contractors which imposed huge burden for the department. Moreover, construction of the National Highways is beyond the capacity of local contractors and tenders thus are floated nationwide. As such, the local Engineers are not involvement in the case despite their familiarity of the topography of our land and condition of our roads. In fact, collecting 3% from the contractors during the previous Ministry and the idea of getting personal benefit are the main factor of today's problem on road communication. So, I support the Resolution of amended form as moved by Pu R. Vanlalvena. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Vanlalzawma.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Though this Session covers four days only, we are witnessing unusual incidents during this Session. On the very first day, the Governor reached the House before anyone sits in the House; Section 144 has been declared without the knowledge of the Hon. Home Minister and Amendment is moved even before concluding discussion of the main Resolution is held. If any amendment has to be proposed, it should be done after discussion.

It is the third time that this Resolution has been moved in the House. However, amendment is proposed right after the original Resolution is moved. Yet, the amended form is also lenient comparing with the original one.

It seems that even the Hon. House Leader is not impressed by the practice of floating tender outside the state and giving contract work to contractors from outside. While this is the case, it is unbecoming to claim such practices as good enough. Besides, some contradictions are found in this statement as well.

From the light of our discussion particularly from the treasury bench, it seems that our roads are in a good condition though we all have known the reality. Some civil societies from Lunglei District have even expressed their grievances regarding their road. So, it seems inappropriate to say that our roads are in good condition while we are all aware of the reality.

Many people are watching our discussion here in the House and I am afraid they will be very disappointed. They may even opine base on our discussion that is no improvement on our roads. We have also learned from the reply to Starred Question the other day that huge amount is left unspent for maintenance of our roads and is really disappointing. The condition of our roads will never be improved by having a sufficient fund but only by spending it for the purpose.

Therefore, Pu Speaker, I am supporting the resolution moved by Pu Sangthuama to be passed so that we may bring about change in a positive ways. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now call upon Pu Lal Thanzara, the Hon. Minister-in-charge to wind up the discussion.

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I believe the Hon. Minister concerned has some clarifications to be made from the light of our discussions. Mover of the original Resolution asked for clarification on Tanhril-PTC road which is within his constituency. This road serves only as bypass road of NH 54 which is often blocked by landslide. The funding is availed from NABARD amounting to ₹931.86 lakhs. Open tender was floated and was given to Pu Lalfamkima, the lowest bidder. Co-ordination Committee of Sakawrtuichhun was then formed to see that the work is expedited. The work programme has also been altered as per requirements; yet, there is a complaint regarding the material used in the work. Thus, it is decided that all the materials should be changed. Despite availability of the Supervising Engineer and Junior Engineer at PWD, a Diploma Engineer was placed to monitor the work. If the weather permits, it is expected to be completed by April, 2018.

Pu Thanliana has stated that there are 986 spots of landslide affected, 81 damaged roads, 94 damaged retaining walls and 83 damaged culverts during last year. Even so, there is no shortage of supplies in any villages due to the efforts made by the government.

We have also heard our road being compared with that of a much older states like Shimla. The department continues to put its best to bring improvements and MoU will also be existed with NGOs in order to have better roads.

It is true to a certain extent to claim the monsoon last year as very long. Regarding Kawnpui-Buichali road, it is true that a revised estimate was prepared but it is done following instruction of Transport Ministry to make anew after agreement was signed. We also have encountered problem due to laying of telecom cable lines which often damages our roads.

PU LALTHANZARA, MINISTER: The high rate of KDZKT Contract is based on the old SOR and it is below SOR according to the new rate. The State PWD could not accept that the high rates of the old rate and an agreement was made after NEC accepted their request. Moreover, it is a competition rate and he was accepted for being the lowest rate. The previous ministry leader said that they took 3% on party fund but the collector took 10% as well apart from the 3% from PMGSY contractor. This is during the MNF Ministry and I am asking for a clear statement if we took anything.

SPEAKER : It is inappropriate for the member to answer the Minister making a speech by sitting.

PU LALTHANZARA, MINISTER: The world knows they took 3% plus 10% and that is why we still have roads with poor condition.

Collapse bridges are unfortunate and the main reason is due to missing of some parts and vehicles crossing the bridges with excess bitumen etc. So, this is why we do not blame the Deptt. Engineers and we are aware that this is PWD's responsibility. We are currently maintaining bridges but our fund is not enough for better materials. We want to resurface our roads as soon as possible but we could not do so since we have no enough maintenance fund.

I hope Dr. K. Beichhua is satisfied with the condition of our roads from his constituency to Aizawl. As mentioned earlier, highways are tendered from the Central and they have no idea that we have very few working season.

Regarding the point raised by Pu Vanlalzawma of Tlawnglui-Pukpui road, the local contractors are hesitant to take up the work due to the scarcity of stone boulders and the extreme measures to resurface the roads. So, we requested two non-mizos contractors who are now currently working on it; we are doing our best to provide smooth roads. Our engineers are dedicated and hardworking so that we will soon have smooth roads if the weather permits. That is why I support the Resolution. Thank You.

SPEAKER : Now, I call upon Pu K. Sangthuama to take his time and then Pu Vena. After that, we will take a vote.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Thank You, Pu Speaker. I never said that we excavated Serkhan-Bagha road; the works schedule prepared by our engineers can

clearly be seen from this record. Pu Speaker, I make some suggestions to expedite and improve our works as follows: –

1. To stock better quality stone boulders for black-topping and the PWD should also provide better machineries. The work should also be handed over only to those having wood machineries.
2. Black-topping in other states is supposed to last for 10-15 years but since our state is like no others, it is expected to last for 3-5 years. However, it barely lasts for a year and I would like to request the PWD to utilize better machineries with standard work quality.
3. Contractors should be selected carefully since we often face big problems as the contractors started their work. So, we need to approach the Central to release any tenders here in our state.
4. PWD engineers should carefully inspect black-topping works and give better instructions to the contractors.
5. The RCC roads should be resurfaced as much as possible and road excavation and black topping should be completed within the stipulated time. The PWD should cancel any work which is not completed on time.
6. Maintenance funds should also be provided with more budget funds.
7. I believe we would make a great progress if a separate division for maintenance of bridges is set up under one Engineer-in-Chief.
8. Manpower should be reinforced.
9. Inactive and idle contractors should also be punished.

Contractors whose bidding rates lower than SOR should not be given contract works and the Government needs to lay down some rules in this regard. Apart from this, there are many contractors who sold their contract works on sub-contract and will be appreciated if such practice is stopped. Lastly, I suggest the Hon. Minister to strongly enforce bar charts application to improve the process of work.

Though we all seem to agree that the condition of our roads as a whole is not good but there is divergent opinion as to how to resolve the problem. So, I find my Resolution good enough for the purpose. I therefore beg the House to vote for my Resolution. Thank You.

SPEAKER : Pu R. Vanlalvena

PU VANLALVENA : Thank You Pu Speaker. It seems that some members including mover of the first private resolution did not receive the copy of works taken up. The first private resolution concern with the works being taken up and that is why I asked for a minor amendment. Numbers of department officials are present today and this indicates measure being taken by the department is impressive. So, I beg all the members to support my Resolution. Thank You.

SPEAKER : That is all for today. Though the Speaker has the power to extend the time as seen on Rule 136, we need to know that the Speaker does not extend time in his own will. The House agreed to conclude our discussion at 4:00

PM as each member were given 15 minutes as permitted by the rule. We have discussion under a free environment which is quite impressive. We will now take a vote. Those in favor of Pu K. Sangthuama's Resolution may say, "YES". (MEMBERS: Yes) All those in favor of Pu R. Vanlalvena's Resolution may say "Yes". (MEMBERS: Yes).

Alright. The majority is in favor of Pu R. Vanlalvena's Resolution and the original resolution is defeated by the amended resolution.

Our business for today is over and we will continue on Monday, dated the 19th at 10:30 AM.

The House is adjourned (5:15 PM)