



Address of

His Excellency

Pu Paty Ripple Kyndiah

Governor of Mizoram

Before the

Third Mizoram State Legislative Assembly

On

14th March 1995

Hon'ble Speaker and distinguished Members of this august House,

1. It is a great privilege to welcome you all to the Fifth Session of the Third Mizoram State Legislative Assembly. May I take this opportunity to convey to you my greetings and best wishes for the new year. I am confident that the deliberation of this august House will strengthen the foundation of all-round development and prosperity of Mizoram and the progress of the people in all spheres.

2. One of the most significant events that took place last year was the signing of a Memorandum of Settlement by my Government with the leaders of Hmar People's Convention on 27th and ushered in an era of peace. 317 HPC volunteers came overground with their arms and a pledge to abjure violence and become law-abiding citizens. This has come about as a result of the pains-taking initiative of my Government, and after several rounds of peace talks with the HPC leaders.

3. Members are aware of the financial problems, which Mizoram has been facing right from the day it attained Statehood. It has been closing every year with a deficit in its account with the Reserve Bank of India. My Government is determined to reverse the position by exercising utmost economy in non-development expenditures on the one hand, and mobilizing additional resources on the other. In Group D, in the current year, was one of the bold steps taken by my Government. My Government is awaiting the report of the Mizoram Resource Mobilisation and Taxation Enquiry Committee presently in session and intends to come up with proposals of durable nature for strengthening the financial base of the State.

4. While there is a slight increase in the crime rates, I am happy to note that throughout the year the general law and order situation continued to remain peaceful excepting for an unfortunate incident on a single night in September 1994. However, effective and timely measures taken by the Government with the cooperation of the people and all concerned has

helped bring about normalcy. Let us remind ourselves that the pace of development can only be accelerated when there exists an environment of peace and harmony. In order to achieve this end, my Government have given due importance to strengthening the Mizoram Police Force. 510 new posts have been created during the year for enlarging the 3rd Battalion of Mizoram Armed Police, Mizoram Police Radio Organisation and VIP Security Cell of Mizoram Police. My Government have also taken due care to meet the housing needs for our Police personnel as a welfare measure. In the coming year, the Police Housing project will be taken up under Plan Scheme with an earmarked amount of Rs.160 lakhs for construction of 51 nos. of staff quarters of different types.

5. To check infiltration across Indo-Myanmar and Indo-Bangladesh border, Government of India had sanctioned one Battalion of India Reserve Police. My Government have completed recruitment of 675 constables for this Reserve Battalion whose headquarters is being established at Mualvum. It must be said that the untiring efforts of my Government and the ready cooperation rendered by the people of Mizoram has resulted in an atmosphere conducive to peace and prosperity.

6. My Government accords high priority to construction and improvement of road communications as these are considered prerequisites to achieving progress and development. The Public Works Department continues to provide a network of roads in the State. During 1994-95, the PWD has completed 84.64 kms. of formation cutting, 52.76 kms. of black-topping, 155 culverts, 41.77 kms of soling and 36.18 kms of metalling of roads. The Department also completed construction of quarters at Khawzawl and the Taxation Building at Lunglei during 1994-95. Construction works on the prestigious Assembly and Secretariat buildings are progressing satisfactorily. Plans are underway to increase the length of blacktopped roads and construct more retaining walls during 1995-96.

7. Under Urban Development Schemes the Department proposes to take up drainage schemes within Aizawl town and improvement of the Pachhunga University College Road.

Works on Secretariat Complex at Khatla, Planning Department Building Phase-II, an Auditorium at Upper Bazar, and an Additional Secretariat Building are also proposed to be taken up under the State Capital Project during 1995-96.

8. I am happy to share with you today that our dream of having a modern airport at Lengpui is on the verge of becoming reality. Preliminary works for construction of the airport is to be started with an amount of Rs.10 crores sanctioned by the Government of India. An additional amount of Rs.10 crores is likely to be allocated during the next financial year. The Aircraft Refuelling Station at Tuirial Airfield has also started functioning during 1994-95.

9. My Government is determined to improved transport facilities for the public. Besides construction of Depot-cum-Workshop at Chaltlang, the Department has taken up construction of seven bus stations during 1994-95. The Department has also taken up construction of the Administrative Building at Central Workshop and DTO's building at Aizawl. During 1995-96, the Department proposes to augment its fleet by nine new buses. Construction of three bus stations one each at Mamit, Marpara and Zawngling and improvement of Depot-cum-Workshop at Chaltlang, Central Workshop at South Hlimen and Lunglei Bus Station will also be taken up.

10. Power generation continues to receive high priority. Dependable power supply is the basic input for development today as without it no State can be industrialized in the real sense. Hence all-out effort is being made by my Government to improve power supply in the State. Works on Maicham (2 MW) Hydel Project has since been completed and is expected to be commissioned by the end of March 1995. Preliminary works of Teirei (3 MW) and Tuipanglui (4.5 MW) have also taken up. Under NEC schemes, civil works of Ramri Lui (300KW) and Vawra Lui (50 KW) have been completed. We hope to commission these projects in the middle of 1995. Efforts are also on to obtain environmental clearance for Tuirial (60 MW) and Tuivai (210 MW) Projects.

11. Works for construction of 5 numbers of 132 KV lines are in progress. They are (i) Zemabawk- West Phaileng (ii) Serchhip – Marpara (iii) Serchhip – Lungdar East (iv) Lunglei – Lungsen and (v) Lunglei – Lawngtlai with associated sub-stations at Khawzawl, West Phaileng, Saitual, Bunghmun (Marpara), Lungdar East, Lungsen and Lawngtlai. In the field of Rural Electrification, with the electrification of 50 villages by conventional method and 14 villages by non-conventional method anticipated during 1994-95, the total number of electrified villages by the end of March 1995 will raise to 592 covering about 88 percent of the total number of villages in the State.

12. The public Health Engineering Department continues to provide potable water to the people. Upto December 1994, augmentation of Rural Water Supply Scheme in 36 villages has been completed and commissioned. Under the Urban Water Supply Scheme, Greater Lunglei Water Supply Scheme with single diesel operated pump has been successfully tested and water is being distributed to the people of Lunglei town. Works of Greater Serchhip Water Supply Scheme is processing satisfactory and works of Greater Kolasib Water Supply Scheme has been started. The Department proposes augmentation of water supply scheme in 40 more villages during 1995-96 with a total outlay of Rs.340 lakhs. Under Urban Water Supply Scheme the Department proposes to start the work of Greater Aizawl Water Supply Scheme Phase-II. Work on Greater Serchhip and Greater Kolasib Water Supply Schemes will be continued during 1995-96.

13. My Government aims to achieve self-sufficiency in food-grains. It will continue to take vigorous steps to increase production and productivity in agriculture and allied sectors. Besides agriculture, considerable headway has been made in Rural Development, Horticulture, Pisciculture, Soil & Water Conservation and Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Departments.

14. Under Agriculture Department, positive steps have been taken to increase the production of paddy, maize, pulses, oilseeds, tapioca and sugarcane. During the current year, 12 small tractors have been distributed to the farmers at subsidized rates to encourage mechanized

farming. The Department has established a State Seed Farm at Champhai. Potential flat land covering 725 hectares have been developed by manual labours for wet rice cultivation. The Department also organized training programmes to popularize use of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides instead of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Over 300 tonnes of fertilizers and sufficient quantities of weedicides were distributed to farmers at subsidized rates.

15. The Agriculture Department has planted 1.84 lakhs sugarcane sets of high yielding varieties for further multiplication. Nine Irrigation Projects covering 260 hectares of land have been completed. The Department has completed Reconnaissance Soil Survey in 12 Rural Development Blocks. During 1995-96 the Department proposes to undertake the Reconnaissance Soil Survey in two more blocks namely Hnahthial and Bnghmun besides developing 500 hectares of potential flat land under Employment Assurance Scheme. In order to encourage mechanized farming and use of fertilizers the Department proposes to distribute 15 Nos. of tractors and 5 Nos. of power tillers, 455 tonnes of NPK fertilizers and 5 tonnes of bio-fertilizers to the farmers at subsidized rates. The Department also proposes to cover 320 hectares of Wet Rice Cultivation (WRC) land under Flow Irrigation during the coming year.

16. Besides the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes my Government has taken up the New Land Use Policy (NLUP) for the uplift and prosperity of the rural people. Continuous efforts are underway to educate the people and to wean them away from the unproductive practice of jhuming replace it by more permanently productive means of live hood through NLUP. The NLUP schemes have so far covered a total number of 42,514 families in 10 Rural Development Blocks. During the year 1995-96 the Rural Development Department proposes to cover parts of Tlangnuam Block and Khawzawl Block thereby assisting 4800 new families in addition to maintaining the old beneficiaries under NLUP within an allocated amount of Rs.2500 lakhs. Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, (IRDP) the Department has extended assistance to 1501 families during the year. 748 rural youths have been given training during 1994-95 under Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM). Under Development

of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) 110 groups have been formed during the year. These groups are taking up various income generating activities. During 1995-96, 135 more such groups are proposed to be formed in Mizoram. Besides the centrally sponsored schemes mentioned earlier, there are two other schemes namely Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and the Employment Assurance Scheme aiming at generating employment to the rural poor. Under these two schemes, employment opportunities of 23.30 lakhs mandays were generated during the year. Under the scheme of Rural Housing, 1656 rural poor families are proposed to be assisted with GCI sheets for roofing .As a result of implementation of various schemes under the Rural Development Department, different areas of the State have through development of Rural Link Roads, Drinking Water Supply, Construction of School Buildings and other amenities.

17. With the creation of a separated Horticulture Directorate, 4 Horticulture Divisions have been opened at Aizawl, Lunglei, Khawzawl and Tuidam. A Horticulture Research Centre is being started at Kolasib. In addition to the existing Mushroom Laboratory at Aizawl, one more Laboratory has been opened at Lunglei. Under Horticulture expansion scheme 400 hectares of fresh areas have been brought under cultivation of fruits, vegetables, spices and flowers benefiting 812 families. Passion Fruit Cultivation, which covers an area of 80 hectares, is being given an impetus.

18. Fish seeds produced by fish Seed Farm of the Department of Fisheries were distributed to private pisciculturists at 50 percent subsidy. Two fish seed farms will be established at Tamdil and Zawlnulam during 1995-96.

19. In the field of Soil & Water Conservation, 800 hectares of land have been terraced. Steps have also been taken to bring 150 hectares of land under micro watershed management and 680 hectares of land under cash crop cultivation. Out of the total plan outlay of Rs.335 lakhs during 1995-96; main thrust of the scheme will be focused on the projects directly affecting rural farmers. Two Soil & Water Conservation Functional Divisions at Darlawn and Tlabung are

proposed to be opened for effective implementation of schemes under Border Areas Development during 1995-96.

20. Great importance is attached to improvement of livestock, poultry and animal husbandry. I am happy to say that in the coming year the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary plans to establish a Veterinary College under Central Agriculture University. Under this Department, steps have been taken to increase production of milk, meat and eggs. The Department has also established 40 numbers of Artificial Insemination Centres performing sizeable number of artificial inseminations.

21. My Government accords high priority to promotion and development of Industries in the State. Out of the total Annual Plan outlay of Rs.775 lakhs, an amount of Rs.312 lakhs was contributed to the four public sector undertakings in the Industrial sectors and Mizoram Khadi and Village Industry Board in the form of share capital or grants. Small-scale industrial units are also encouraged by providing them Central Transport Subsidies and various other State incentive subsidies. Cultivation of tea as a family oriented scheme is considered to be an area that will economically benefit the cultivators and small planter. A start in this direction has been made during the current year by upgrading the existing tea plantations in Biate, Ngopa and Khawdungsei areas. A tea nursery has also been raised at Luangmual with about 13 lakhs of tea seedlings. Two more tea nurseries are expected to be raised one each at Pawlrang and Biate shortly. Preliminary works for setting up of a Tea Processing Unit at Biate has begun and construction is expected to start in the next financial year. The Industries Department is laying stress on promotion and development of small scale and mini industrial units in the State. Infrastructural development is the prerequisite for industrialization. Keeping this broad objective in view, the Department has focused on development of Industrial Estates and Industrial Growth Centre. Major thrust is given on Research and Survey in Handloom in addition to distribution of improved looms and subsidies to handloom weavers. Training centers for knitting, tailoring and cane and bamboo work are being maintained by the State Government and stipends and grants-

in-aid are being given to the trainees in Handloom and Handicraft industry. During 1994-95 training in knitting, tailoring and handloom was imparted to 220 girls. 90 boys and girls were also exclusively trained in handloom industry. In order to promote and develop handloom and handicraft industry. The Mizoram Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation Limited is planning to open sales emporiums at Calcutta and Bombay, in addition to the existing one at New Delhi.

22. Adequate emphasis has also been laid in creating awareness about the potentialities of electronic and computer sciences in the State. As a part of manpower development efforts, training in Electronics and Computers has been organized at Aizawl and Lunglei during the current financial year. The Computer Training Centre Started during 1993-94 under the Zoram Electronics Corporation Limited (ZENICS) continues to impart training to youths.

23. My Government recognizes the need to encourage sericulturists and has distributed 30 lakhs mulberry cuttings to farmers during the year 1994-95.

24. The Cooperative movement in Mizoram is fast gaining momentum. The Cooperation Department in its endeavour to promote cooperative movement has extended financial assistance to 307 Primary Cooperative Societies and 8 State Level Cooperaitve Federations. Under the NCDC sponsored scheme, the Cooperation Department has constructed 55 rural godowns for village Farming Cooperative Societies at a cost of Rs.120.17 lakhs. Besides, 5 more godowns of Service Cooperative Societies at a cost of Rs.10.92 lakhs and 25 weaving sheds at a cost of Rs.69.30 have also been completed. Two Integrated Cooperative Development Projects (ICDPs) at Aizawl and Chhimtuipui Districts at a cost of Rs.355.31 lakhs and Rs.171.17 lakhs respectively are coming up.

25. My Government is conscious of the needs to develop human resources in particular context to education, sports and promotion of art and culture.

26. During 1994-95 three new sub-divisions were opened by the Department of School Education. Under the scheme “Education for All”, free textbooks were supplied to poor and needy students. In the sphere of Higher and Technical Education two private colleges one each at Zawlnuam and Khawzawl were upgraded to deficit status. Besides this, three private colleges namely, Lalhmingthanga College, Bungkawn College and North East Khawdungsei College were affiliated to NEHU upto Pre-University level. Permission was accorded to opening of Kamalanagar College at Chawngte and TLR City College at Aizawl.

27. Development of sports and youth services forms part of our programmes to promote youth in the fields of youth activities. A Mizo youngman, Zothanmawia was declared the best boxer in the 27th Junior Nation Boxing Championship held at Guwahati during November 1994. The Mizoram Football team won the coveted King’s Cup Trophy at Thimpu, Bhutan, in September 1994. The 4th Fraternity Gold Cup Football Tournament for the North Eastern States including Sikkim was held at Aizawl and the Mizoram football team won the Gold Cup with a cash award of Rs.1.00 lakh.

28. My Government recognizes the need to preserve and nurture the rich cultural heritage of the Mizo people. The Department of Art and Culture is striving hard to protect and promote our proud traditions and indigenous culture. Several competitions were organized to popularize traditional music, folk dances and games and to advance our culture through dramas and paintings. Folk songs festival, language symposium, writers meet, music seminar, cultural unity day etc. were also sponsored by the Department. “Chapchar Kut” a traditional Mizo festival was held in all its gaiety on 23rd and 24th February 1995. This was followed by the Seven Sister States Festival organized by the North Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre and the Department of Art and Culture.

29. My Government is committed to achieving “Health for All by 2000 AD”. A 30 bedded Community Health Centre (CHC) at Ngopa and 10 bedded Public Health Centres (PHC) one each at Sairang and Khawhai were constructed during the current year. Under Hospital

Programme the construction and expansion of Civil Hospital at Lunglei at an estimated cost of Rs.468.70 lakhs is expected to start soon. Construction of the Administrative Building at Civil Hospital, Aizawl is nearing completion.

30. During 1995-96, the Department proposes to establish a 30 bedded Community Health Centre at Sakawrdai. Construction of the 30-bedded Community Health Centre buildings at Vairengte and Saitual is in full progress.

31. During the year 1994-95, the Environment & Forest Department has taken up afforestation activity covering about 14,070 hectares of land and maintenance of older plantation areas covering 43,117 hectares under different schemes. The Department has collected revenue to the tune of Rs.100 lakhs till the end of January 1995 against the target of Rs.130 lakhs. During the coming year the Department proposes to cover 9600 hectares under afforestation programme and maintenance of 46000 hectares of old plantation. The Department also lays emphasis on preservation of wild life, development and maintenance of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries including infrastructural development of the newly created Dampa Tiger Reserve.

32. For proper maintenance of land records, the Department of Land Revenue and Settlement took up Cadastral Survey of seven rural towns namely, Thingsulthliah, Aibawk, Chhingchhip, North Vanlaiphai, West Phaileng, Hnahthial and Bairabi. Out of these seven towns, four were successfully surveyed and work is in progress in respect of the remaining three towns. Besides, cadastral survey for issue of Land Settlement Certificates was completed in respect of Lengpui, Thenzawl, Khawzawl and Vairengte covering an area of little over 2600 hectares of land. Aerial Cadastral Survey of Bilkhawthlir village and its surrounding areas covering an area of 42 square kilometers was also completed.

33. My Government is concerned with drug trafficking and drug abuse. The Excise Department has taken steps to control this menace. Due to the untiring efforts of the enforcement staff 111 drug traffickers were arrested during the current year. To facilitate its work, the

Department proposes to deploy its staff permanently at Serchhip, Champhai and Kolasib in the near future.

34. The Local Administration Department has taken up improvement works of different areas in towns and sub-towns. Under the project of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, the Department is taking up development schemes for Lunglei, Kolasib and Serchhip townships.

35. The Social Welfare Department continues to render financial assistance to poor and destitute women, children, handicapped persons and old and infirm persons. The Department also provides grants-in-aid in cash or in kind to various voluntary organisations that are running Counselling Centres for alcoholics and those addicted to drugs.

36. Mizoram is endowed with natural scenic beauty with an ideal climate throughout the year. Realising the scope for attraction tourists to enhance our revenue, the Tourism Department has taken up several schemes. Three Tourist Cottages at Chhiahtlan and a Tourist Lodge at Lunglei were recently constructed. Wasyside Restaurants at Hnahthial and New Maubawk and Picnic Cottages at District Park, Zobawk, in Lunglei District and at South Hlimen near Aizawl have also been completed during the year. A tourist lodge at Bairabi is also expected to come up during the early part of the next financial year. Construction of tourist lodge building at Saiha and wayside facilities at Tawipui 'South' started earlier are also expected to be completed during 1995-96.

37. The Department of Information & Public Relations continues to improve infrastructural facilities. The Department successfully installed community viewing sets and community listening sets in the remotest areas of the State. Besides, the Department also launched Multi-Media Publicity Campaign covering six townships. To commemorate the Gospel Centenary Celebrations 1994, the Department produced and released a documentary film titled "The Fire

shall not be quenched". The Government of India approved of a Mizoram Tableau on the theme "Dances of Mizoram" to be displayed in the Republic Day Parade 1995 in New Delhi. Accordingly, a tableau was presented on the above theme and a 24 member cultural troupe was sent to participate in it.

38. I have briefly outlined some of the achievements and future plans of my Government. I sincerely hope the deliberations of this House will help and guide the Government in the implementation of its policies and various programmes in the best interest of the State and the people of Mizoram.

I wish you all a very successful Session.

JAI HIND