



SPEECH OF

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**FINANCE MINISTER OF MIZORAM
INTRODUCING THE BUDGET FOR
1975-76 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
MIZORAM IN THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
ON MONDAY THE 22ND MARCH 1975**

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I rise to present before the House the Annual Financial Statement for the year 1975-76 of the Union Territory of Mizoram as approved by the President and recommended by the Lt. Governor. As you are aware, the financial Statement for the year will indicate the directions in which efforts are proposed to be concentrated for improvement of the living conditions of the people in Mizoram.

2. As we are all aware, the general law and order situation in Mizoram during the last year seemed to improve till December, 1974, but when the situation became quite tense because of the "quit Mizoram" notice of M.N.F. for non-Mizos. Efforts to improve the situation were being made by all right thinking and peace loving people. But then on the 13th of January, came the gruesome attack right in the headquarters of our Police in which three fine officers sacrificed their lives for the country. We express our heart-felt condolence and indignation at the cold-blooded murder of Shri G.S. Arya, Inspector General of Police, Mizoram, Shri L.B. Sewa, Dy. Inspector General of Police, Mizoram and Shri K. Panchapagesan, Superintendent of Police SB/CID, Mizoram.

3. If real peace comes about as a result of the efforts being made by Government, the sacrifices of these people would not have been made in vain. Why I am emphasising the need for peace is clear from the fact that due to disturbed conditions prevailing in Mizoram the Administration could not concentrate in its efforts to fulfil the targets laid down for the current year and there is no wonder if our achievement in certain sectors is found to be lagging behind.

4. The progress made by various sectors of activity during 1974-75 is being reviewed for discussions in this House. Due to acute inflationary trends in economy in the country, the need for restraint on expenditure which does not fructify quickly continued. In Mizoram, this was further accentuated by the crop failure in several parts of the Territory. In some parts, the ominous bamboo flowering was noticed which our forefathers dreaded so much on account of the belief that such phenomenon would inevitably result in multiplication of rodents and widespread famine.

5. The Government was alive to the situation. As soon as reports of bamboo flowering started coming in, pest control measures were intensified and I am hopeful that the situation would not be as bad as was feared.

6. In the last week of November, 1974 the planning Board in Mizoram had discussed in detail the requirement of this part of the country for 1975-76. We had tentatively arrived at a figure of about Rs. 11 crores as the minimum requirement for various sectors. The sectoral requirements were as follows :-

(a) Agriculture	Rs. 338.46 lakhs.
(b) Irrigation & Power	Rs. 111.34 “
(c) Industry and Mining	Rs. 58.88 “
(d) Transport & Communications	Rs. 298.29 “
(e) Social Services	Rs. 273.40 “
(f) Micellaneous	Rs. 23.85 “

Total Rs. 1104.22 lakhs

7. After a detailed discussions of these proposals at Delhi with the Planning Commission and the concerned Ministries, we could secure an allocation of about Rs. 9 crores. The ceiling for our Plan was placed at Rs. 7.25 crores. To this a sum of Rs. 1.11 crores was added by the regional plan of the North Eastern Council. We expect to get about Rs. 45 lakhs for centrally sponsored schemes largely for certain programmes under Education and Health. A small sum for Rural Industries Programme, Family Planning and for setting up of Employment Exchanges is also included.

8. This House would agree with me that this allotment is far too meagre as compared to our requirements for building up infrastructure for fast economic growth to catch up with others. Due to overall constraint of financial resources. Planning Commission could not find it possible to make a larger allocation to us. Even with the allocation that has been made, the per capita investment for Mizoram comes a little over Rs. 270 per annum. As compared to other parts of the country, this figure stands quite high.

9. The Honourable Members of the House would be interested to know how the allocation made by the Planning Commission has been distributed over various sectors of activities. The Statement at Appendix 'A' gives the details of sectoral outlays. Briefly, these are :-

Sector of Economy	Outlay (Rupees in lakhs.)
1. Agriculture and Allied Services	214.10
2. Water and Power Development	50.00

3. Co-operation	20.00
4. Industry and Minerals	28.00
5. Transport and Communications	232.00
6. Social and Community Services	165.00
7. Economic Services	<u>15.90</u>
	Total 725.00

10. These figures when compared to last year's figures stand out as follows :-

Rupees in lakhs		
B.E 1974-75	R.E. 1974-75	B.E. 1975-76
690.00	690.00	725.00 {4,66 Grants {2,59 Loans

The schemes which are in the nature of capital investment and which would yield some returns over the next few years qualify for loan assistance. The schemes which result in general welfare and are not expected to yield direct and distinct returns qualify for grants-in-aid.

11. From the regional plan of the North Eastern Council our share has appreciably increased for the next year. The Council Secretariat would be prepared to recommend larger allocation if the concerned sectors could demonstrate the need for it by their quarterly progress reports. These allocations for the year 1974-75 and 1975-76 are as follows :-

Name of Scheme	R.E for 1974-75	B.E for 1975-76
Jhum control and research Programme for Dhaleswari (Tlawng) River Basin	13.01 lakhs	17.78 lakhs
Regional Pig Breeding Centres.	14.97 “	3.99 “
Construction and survey Of Roads.	60.00 “	80.00 “
Power Investigations.	2.00 “	2.00 “
Survey of Oak Tesser & Test rearing.	0.24 “	6.25 “
Agricultural Education & Training.	-	0.47 “
Total :	90.22 “	110.49 “

12. As the House is aware we have a Consolidated Fund of Mizoram to which the Grants and Loans from the Central Government and our domestic Revenue Receipts are credited. According to the information supplied by the Accountant General, Assam, Mizoram etc. we had a minus

balance of Rs. 250.81 lakhs on the 1st April, 1973. This minus balance became Rs. 270.30 lakhs on the 1st April, 1974. This means that there was a further increase of minus balance by Rs. 19.49 lakhs in 1973-74. The reasons for this minus balance have been investigated and it has been found that this minus balance was due to short recoveries in State Trading in food-grains and other supplies not keeping pace with the outgo. We are to ensure that at least the cost of these supplies plus nominal administrative charges are recovered from the consumers and duly credited to Government. In so far as the transport cost is concerned, a scheme of subsidy to cover the same can be worked out.

From the monthly Statement of our balances received from the Accountant General, Mizoram, Assam, etc. it appears that our expenditure pattern is very uneven. There are heavy drawals during the last quarter of the year. We are taking steps to see that unusually heavy drawals do not take place in the last quarter and that the flow of expenditure is regulated. We have to ensure that we end the year with a small balance at our credit rather than with a minus balance.

13. In the years to come we have to find ways of increasing our Revenue receipts which at present total just about Rs.60 lakhs as given in Appendix 'B'. We have a shortage of staff trained in 'accounts'. Arrangements are being made to provide some training to the staff by deputation to the Accountant General's Office at Shillong. The services of a few experienced officers are being obtained on deputation. Some progress has been made in the proposal for opening a branch of Accountant General's office at Aizawl. During 1975-76 we may be able to persuade the United Commercial Bank to open a branch at Aizawl.

REVISED ESTIMATES 1974-75

14. On Revenue Account in the Revised Estimates for 1974-75, there is an increase of Rs. 231.86 lakhs. The large chunk of the increase to the extent of Rs. 130 lakhs is due to the fact that the Government employees in Mizoram have been granted central D.A. with effect from the 1st May, 1973. A sum of Rs. 34.13 lakhs had thus become payable for 1973-74 and Rs. 95.87 lakhs during 1974-75, making a total of Rs. 130 lakhs.

15. Other factors leading to this increase are (i) provision of a sum of Rs. 44.97 lakhs towards payment of interim relief for the period from 21.1.'72 to 28.2.'74; (ii) Rs. 12.05 lakhs provision of salaries in respect of vacant posts filled during 1974-75; (iii) committed liability of Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the 4th Plan, Rs. 14.84 lakhs; (iv) vacant posts in the Police Dept. allowed to be filled up in December, 1974, Rs. 1.64 lakhs; (v) Rs. 4.15 lakhs for purchase of a plot of land at New Delhi for construction of Mizoram House; (vi) Provision for amenities for Camp Jail at Tuirial, Rs. 5.40 lakhs; and (vii) provision for "on account" payment to Class III and Class IV employees, Rs. 10.33 lakhs. Towards revision of pay scales.

16. In Capital Account we had a provision of Rs. 443.67 lakhs. This gross provision has been increased to Rs. 528.95 lakhs. This increase of Rs. 85.28 lakhs is mainly due to increase in the cost of foodgrains.

17. During 1974-75, a number of instructions were issued by the Central Government for economy in administrative and non-Plan expenditure. We were required to review the expenditure pattern to ensure that ineffective and non-essential expenditure is cut out to the minimum.

Instructions were issued to Administrative departments to exercise utmost economy in Government spending. We had taken effective steps to reduce our mounting expenditure on POL. The need for utmost economy in Governmental expenditure with a view to reduce wastage and avoidable expenditure continues to be there. Government of Mizoram is constantly reviewing these measures for economy with a view to ensure that whatever funds are available to us, these are used most effectively for the betterment of the lot of the people in general. It is only in this way that we would be able to contribute our mite in reducing inflationary pressures and rising costs.

18. The broad picture of Budget Estimates for 1975-76 can be had from the Table given below :-

	(Figures in lakhs)	
Non Plan	R.E.	B.E
Revenue Account	1974-75	1975-76
Gross expenditure	1488.55	1624.33
Recoveries	<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
	1458.55	1594.33
Revenue Receipt.	<u>60.12</u>	<u>60.49</u>
Grants-in-aid from Central Govt.	1397.43	1533.84
Capital Account		
Gross Expenditure	528.95	568.81
Recoveries	<u>441.95</u>	<u>506.81</u>
Net loan from Central Govt.	87.00	62.00

U.T. Plan

Revenue Account	454.70	465.56
Capital Account	<u>234.61</u>	<u>259.04</u>
	689.31	724.60

N.E.C. Plan

Revenue Account	28.22	28.49
Capital Account	<u>62.00</u>	<u>82.00</u>
	90.22	110.49

Centrally Sponsored Schemes/

Central Plan Schemes

Revenue Account	524.31	38.35
Capital Account	<u>4.00</u>	<u>-</u>
	528.31	38.35

Total Gross	3325.34	3066.58
Recoveries	471.95	536.81
Total Net	2853.39	2530.77

19. It is obvious that we would have approximately a sum of Rs. 31 crores available for our Plan and Non-plan expenditure during 1975-76.

20. PAY COMMITTEE FOR MIZORAM EMPLOYEES :

In Chapter 46, Para. 9 of their Report, the Third Central Pay Commission had not considered worthwhile to make recommendation regarding the pay and allowances of the employees of Mizoram and

Arunachal Pradesh. They said that if the employees of these territories express preference for Central Pay Scales, a departmental Committee could review the whole position and suggest for posts in these territories the adoption of one or other of the standard scales introduced as a result of their recommendations. It is only towards the end of 1974 that the employees of Mizoram exercised this option to come over to Central scales of pay. A Departmental Pay Committee has accordingly been constituted by the Govt. of India.

Finance Department of Mizoram is actively assisting this Committee which has already held discussions with most of the heads of departments and representatives of employees. After the report of this Committee had been received and Government decisions taken thereon, there would be no difference in the pay-scales, etc. of Central employees and Mizoram employees. These new pay-scales would be made applicable with effect from the 1st January, 1973. The Report of the Committee is likely to be available early in 1975 and Government decisions would become available soon thereafter. All the employees of Mizoram have already been sanctioned the Dearness Allowance at Central rates. These rates at present are as follows :-

(As from 1st September, 1974)

Pay Range.	Rates of dearness allowance per month.
Upto Rs. 300/-	36% of pay.
Above Rs.300/- & Upto Rs. 2250/-	27% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 108/- and a maximum of Rs. 243/-

Subject to marginal adjustment so that pay plus dearness allowance does not exceed Rs. 2400/- per month.

21. In the annual financial statement being presented to the House, provision has been made on account of the aforesaid dearness allowance payments and the impending pay revision in 1975-76.

22. The Hon'ble Members of this House would naturally desire to have a report of the activities of various Departments of Mizoram Government to assess the performance during 1974-75 and the targets laid down for 1975-76. Due to various difficulties it has not been possible for Government to place before the House an Annual Report of the activities of various Departments during 1974. I am therefore, giving a brief outline of the activities of some of the more important Departments and Directorates.

23. **Police :**

As you are aware late Shri G.S. Arya was vigorously pursuing various schemes for reorganisation of Police work in Mizoram. Substantial improvements have been made in the set up to cope with the increased duties. With the newly trained staff 17 new Police Stations have started functioning in the interior places in basha type departmental buildings. Seven new Police Radio Stations have been opened and Aizawl has been linked to New Delhi and other State capitals. Fire Stations at Aizawl and Lunglei are already functioning. A Police hospital is also being established. The Home Guards organisation has been expanded and this includes 20 women Home Guards.

24. **Revenue Dept.**

Rules under recently passed Excise Act are being framed and an Excise Commissioner is being appointed. A sum of Rs. 2,62,000 has been raised by land revenue, Excise and Profession tax so far. Market sheds

have been established at Kolasib, Champhai, Vairengte, Lunglei and Demagiri. A plot of land is being proposed for establishment of a market at Vaivakawn and also at Republic Veng and Kanhmun. Two thirds of the Survey of the areas under Wet Rice cultivation at Champhai and Bilkhawthlir region have been completed and the work is continuing. The Land Tenure System Committee is likely to submit its report very soon on efficient management of land in Mizoram. During 1975-76 construction of markets at Serchhip, Saitual and Kawnpui is being taken up and offices and quarters are being provided at Aizawl, Champhai and Kolasib. The land settlement work at Champhai has made a good progress and further work in this direction is proposed to be taken up.

25. Election Dept :

Electoral Rolls of all constituencies are being revised under the Crash Programme and the rolls will be finally published on the 30th April, 1975, according to the programme approved by the Election Commission of India. The delimitation of 30 Assembly constituencies for Mizoram Union Territory has been finalised by the Delimitation Commission of India which is being published in the Gazette of Mizoram.

26. Health :

Aizawl Civil Hospital was expanded by the addition of 20 bedded isolation Ward. Another 4 bedded ward is being added. Acute dearth of Quarters for doctors and nurses is being felt. 20 nucleus medical centres have been established in various Group Centres. A convalescent home is planned at Kulikawn. At several places work on dispensary buildings and health centres is in progress. One of the problems faced by the Department is the shortage of doctors and technical staff like Pharmacist, Radiographers and Laboratory Technicians. This has resulted in a comparatively poor and inadequate medical services. Efforts are being made to obtain the services

of qualified personnel particularly of specialists. An integrated maternity and Child Welfare Programme is under way and besides this Family Planning Programme and N.M.E.P. are being pursued under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

27. Other Programmes :

Apart from the need for building up infrastructure like roads communications, Mizoram has a vast potential for agricultural development. Great emphasis is laid on agricultural development and in particular Jhum Control and encouragement of permanent cultivation.

28. Animal Husbandry and Veterinary :

In the field of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, the Department is to have a full-fledged separate directorate during the current year in pursuance of the commitments made by the Government at the floor of the Assembly. However, complete separation from Agriculture is not yet effected due to non-availability of Government of India's permission for creation of the post of the Director at par with other major departments. In the meantime, the organisation of the department has been poised for a separate directorate and the post of the Joint Director, created during the year has been filled up.

The budget allotment for 1973-74 under plan of Rs. 14.00 lakhs and under N.E.C. for establishment of a Regional Pig Breeding Farm of Rs. 5.00 lakhs were fully utilised and all the targets achieved and during the year 1974-75, the plan outlay has increased to Rs. 39.00 lakhs and Rs. 14.97 lakhs was also made available for the Regional Pig Breeding Farm under the aegis of North Eastern Council.

Some of the major achievements during the current year are, Establishment of 3 new State Veterinary Dispensaries and 7 Rural Animal Husbandry Centres in the field of Animal Health Services. And in the Production aspect apart from the continuation and expansion of the existing Pig & Poultry Demonstration Farms and the Cattle Breeding Farm near Aizawl, one district level Poultry Farm at Lunglei, one Central Poultry Farm with hatchery at Aizawl and one new Cattle Breeding Farm at Lunglei, and one Goat Demonstration Farm near Aizawl have been established. One new Cattle Breeding Farm at Saiha is proposed to be taken up during the next fiscal year.

Regarding Pig Production, 40 pigs of exotic variety from Gannavaram has been stocked in the month of October, 1974. All the farm buildings in this farm including Pork Processing Unit will be completed and power supply covering the Selesih Complex is also being installed.

The Food Mill-cum-Mixing Plant is also commissioned with diesel engines as motive power.

In the aspect of dairy and town milk supply, the department has been establishing the Dairy Plant at Zemabawk together with the residential quarters for the staff which will be in operation during the next year. And two Matador vehicles are in operation for collection and distribution of fresh-pure milk at Aizawl town which will be extended to the most remote corner in the next year, on the basis of no profit no loss system.

In the field of Education and Training, the department fully utilized the allotted seats totaling 5 new entrance at the College level and 10 trainees at the School level. One new Veterinary graduate has joined the profession during the year.

In the field of publicity and propaganda, the Information & Statistics Wing has been established; however, the State Livestock and Poultry show could not be held due to disturbed condition of the State.

The Plan outlay for the year 1975-76 is Rs. 39.00 lakhs and Rs. 4.00 lakhs under N.E.C. which is proposed to be utilized for continuation and improvement of the existing projects and establishment of new projects, such as, a modern Slaughter House at Aizawl and Cattle Breeding Farm at Saiha and new dispensaries etc.

29. Agriculture :

The Department has been doing without full time Director for sometime and it is hoped that we shall soon have a competent Officer to man this important post. For the current year i.e. 1974-75 there is an over all Plan budget provision of Rs. 77 lakhs including Rs. 10 lakhs under minor Irrigation. During the year a great emphasis is laid on agricultural development in the rural areas. As against the fund allotment of Rs. 12 lakhs under Land reclamation the Department is likely to spend Rs. 20 lakhs during this year. The Planning Commission also has attached great importance to agricultural development and particularly Jhum Control. For the next year i.e. 1975-76 we have a total provision of Rs. 29 lakhs for land reclamation. In addition the Soil Conservation Department is also taking up land reclamation works and jhum control both under State Plan and under N.E.C. Schemes. Training is also given importance in the current year programme. A Gram Sevak Training Centre will be started at Hnahthial near Lunglei and in the current year site preparation, collection of materials for construction of the Training Centre has been taken up. During next year buildings are to be completed and Training Institutions will start functioning. During the year the Department also procured 30 (thirty) Power Tillers. These machineries will be distributed to the farmers at 30 percent subsidised basis. The Department is also likely to distribute

about Rs. 10 lakhs as Agricultural Loans. Some of the low-lying areas, particularly in the north and the western part of Mizoram, requires mechanised cultivation. The distribution of Power Tillers on subsidy and through agricultural Loan will go a long way for better utilisation of Agricultural lands.

Though the Government's intention is to finally enable the cultivators to have economic and permanent cultivation for some time the majority of the rural population will have to depend on jhumming till the transition period is over. Marketing of produce from jhums such as Ginger, Sesamum etc. needs help and regulation. Through the efforts of the Government during the past and the current year Ginger produce in Mizoram has found good market. For the current season also the Mizoram Government, through the Apex Marketing Society and National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation have taken up procurement and sale of Ginger. This has greatly encouraged the growers in the rural areas and has helped the economy of the State to a great extent. It is also hoped that during next year the Government will be in a position to help the growers in marketing their produce. With this help from the Government the production of Ginger and other commercial crops is expected to increase considerably.

The Government also distributed seeds of various types on subsidy basis. About 500 quintals of Sugar Cane sets, 90 quintals of Oil seeds, 400 quintals of Ginger and other variety of seeds have been distributed to the cultivators. From the current year the Department encourages procurement of seed from the local growers and distribution to the local areas. This ensures distribution of good variety of seeds and it also encourages the local growers wherever the seeds locally grown are found to be satisfactory. One variety of paddy locally known as Phul Buh has been

found suitable for cultivation on dry terraced land. About 500 quintals of Phul Buh seeds have been distributed to the cultivators.

The Department has started taking the assistance of Community Development Blocks and Block officials in agricultural development. During the year village-wise statistical information has been collected and the same is being compiled. The data will give land under Wet Rice Cultivation, under Cash Crops and various other information which will be relevant for area development planning. The Department also has started building up basic data for each Village Council area in regard to land reclamation, Government expenditure in the form of assistance etc. The Village Council concerned and the Block agencies are also kept well informed of the activities of the Agriculture Department. This will bring about better achievement and more agencies will be actively involved in the developmental work. The area under permanent cultivation, area of land reclamation etc. in the entire State will be clearly shown in the village-wise statistics and the data could not immediately be given now as the compilation of required statistics is yet to be completed.

30. Education and Social Welfare :

In Education, certain improvement in developmental activities has been maintained both qualitatively and quantitatively during the current year. There has been substantial increase in the enrolment figures of students at all stages of Education. The pupil-teacher ratios too have been brought to very satisfactory figures both in schools and colleges. It is gratifying to note that with the persistent efforts of the people coupled with the cautious distribution of funds in instalments to the Managing Committees, the Non-Government Institutions all over Mizoram have now got satisfactory buildings with fairly good amount of furniture, teaching-aids and other equipment.

Important Seminars have been held to improve teaching and working efficiency of educational institutions and Training of elementary School Teachers (Primary and Middle) has been strengthened by increasing the intake of teacher-trainees as also by introducing a two-year course for the Primary School Teachers' Training. Besides, with a view to remove the long-standing grievances of the people from the Southern Districts, one Under-Graduate Teachers' Training Institution has been started this year at Lunglei. A Graduate-Teacher Training Institution for B.Ed. course is also being started before the close of this financial year at Aizawl providing for an annual intake of 30 graduate teachers as per conditions of affiliation of the North Eastern Hill University.

The assurance given previously to shift the Aizawl I.T.I. at Present functioning as guest institute at Srikona, Silchar to its present location at Aizawl is also on its way to fulfilment.

A vigorous drive has been made for quickening the pace of literacy (age group 15-45) and as many as 2000 adult illiterates have been converted to neo-literates during the current year. It is hoped that with that with the efforts now set on foot. The literacy figure for Mizoram shall be raised to 62% by the close of the 5th Five Year Plan.

Social Welfare:

In the field of Social Welfare, a land-mark has been created by introducing a Social security measure in the shape of giving subsistence allowance at the rate of Rs.30/- per month to 100 old and deserving poor people beyond the age of 65. Steps have also been taken to start, in the near future, a school for the blind through grants arranged for one of the very dependable Social Welfare Organisation, namely, Salvation Army, Aizawl.

During the current year a total plan allocation of 39 lakhs for General Education including Art and Culture, Tribal Research, and Social Welfare, has been made by the planning Commission. The entire amount will be utilised fully as per approved plan schemes. As against the current year's allocation of 39 lakhs the planning Commission have approved an allocation of 44 lakhs against the same items for the ensuing year (1975-76) and it is hoped that the tempo of developmental activities will be possible to be geared up further during the ensuing year.

31.Roads and Bridges:

The Fifth Plan has provided for construction of 10 roads in addition to roads within town and villages and investigation for Bridges. It has been possible to start work in all these roads in 1974-75. Bilkhawthlir-Buhchangphai Road which was started in the time of Assam Government as 12 ft. road (for one ton vehicle) has been completed and opened for traffics. This, most probably, is the first road started and completed by P.W.D. in Mizoram. The first road undertaken by P.W.D. after Mizoram became Union Territory, the Khawzawl-Lungdar Road as 16 ft. Road (rural road of Indian Road Congress Standard) for about 72 Km. Is almost completed. In other roads works are being continued. In addition to 10 roads taken up in the Fifth Plan 2 roads are being taken up under N.E.C. Schemes and works are being started in 1974-75. The expected expenditure on Roads and Bridges during 1974-75 is Rs. 290 lakhs. Rs.56 lakhs is spent for maintenance of existing roads and bridle paths maintained by P.W.D.

During 1975-76 it is proposed to complete the entire length of Khawzawl-Lungdar Road, about 60 Kilometres on Aizawl-Thenzawl-Lunglei

Road, Kolasib to Bairabi on Kolasib-Lokhicherra Road and open them for traffic, when continual progress will be maintained on other Roads.

In Bridges, the previous conception of making suspension bridges is being reviewed and whether construction of Bailey Bridges with higher cost will be of real use for economic and other development purposes is being considered.

32. Buildings:

The expected expenditure on Buildings constructed by P.W.D. is Rs.104 lakhs in 1974-75. Most of the works are in continuation of the works already done in 1973-74. Till 1973-74 works were concentrated on repair, modification and renovation of existing buildings and construction of buildings essential for administrative purposes only. During 1974-75, it has been possible for the P.W.D. to construct Buildings for Development purposes. Construction of quite a number of Buildings for Medical, Agriculture, Veterinary and other Development Departments have been undertaken. It is expected that P.W.D. will be able to bear more and more burden of construction of Buildings for Development purposes in addition to Buildings to be constructed for administrative purposes. During 1975-76 the proposed expenditure on buildings is Rs.126 lakhs.

33. Power:

The Power Development was to be taken over from Assam State Electricity Board from 21.1.1974 under the N.E.A.R. Act. But by amendment of the Act the time as extended by the Govt. of India by one year. Now, this time has again been extended by 2 months by President's Ordinance. As things stand now the Mizoram Administration is to take over Power from 21.3.1975. For this purpose it is proposed to make Power Department in the Administration, and 2 Divisions have been sanctioned. It is expected that organisation of Power Department will be completed in

1975-76 with one Electrical Circle and 2 Electrical Divisions consisting of a nucleus staff for investigation. In taking over Power from A.S.E.B. the Administration will have to take over all the materials, assets and liabilities created for Mizoram and the actual valuation of those is to be completed within one year from the take over according to the N.E.A.R. Act. It is expected that expenditure during 1974-75 will be about Rs. 55 lakhs and it is intended that materials required for continuation and extension of Power generation would be purchased within this amount.

The difficulty in Power Development in Mizoram will be want of any source of Power other than Diesel Generation. Due to the high cost of diesel and the difficulty of obtaining it, the task of Power generation and Development is going to be costly and very difficult.

34. Public Health Engineering :

The Aizawl Water Supply is still unable to function as per original scheme mainly due to want of Electric Power. Due to non-completion of treatment Plant crude method of chlorination is still in use. For rural areas works taken up for water supply by pumping will be continued and completed. But in other cases it has been intended to concentrate on taking water by gravitation. As it has not been possible to make water supply arrangement by P.H.E. Department in all the villages, a new scheme of developing and improving existing village water supply sources has been got approved by the Planning Commission. It is proposed to spend Rs. 6 lakhs for this purpose in 1974-75 and Rs. 10 lakhs in 1975-76. It is expected that this new scheme will mitigate the difficulty of villagers in having good water supply.

35. **Inland Water Transport :**

The amount provided for this purpose is Rs. 5 lakhs only. After meeting expenditure on staff the rest amount is spent mainly for clearing existing water ways in Tlawng and Tuirial rivers. In 1975-76 it is proposed to create a full Division and concentrate on investigation of water transport possibilities.

36. I do not wish to take the time of this House for going over the detailed activities of various Departments and Directorates. A brochure on this subject is separately being laid on the Table of the House.

37. With these few words, Sir, I present the Revised Estimate for 1974-75 and Budget Estimate for 1975-76.

JAI HIND