



SPEECH OF

SHRI R. THANGLIANA

**FINANCE MINISTER OF MIZORAM
INTRODUCING THE BUDGET FOR 1976-77
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM
IN THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
ON THE 19TH MARCH 1976.**

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I rise to present before the House the Supplementary Demand for the year 1975-76 and Annual Financial Statement for the year 1976-77 of the Union Territory of Mizoram as approved by the President and recommended by the Lt. Governor. We have already completed four years as a Union Territory. The Annual Financial Statement which I am presenting represents the proposals for the fifth year since the formation of the Union Territory of Mizoram.

2. Before proceeding to give detail figures of expenditure on Plan and non Plan sides, I would like to review briefly certain salient features of the developments which have taken place during the current year. It would be recalled that my predecessor had presented the budget proposals last year in a somber atmosphere created by a deteriorating law and order situation. He had very correctly pointed out that all constructive and developmental activities depended on peaceful conditions. Today, I am happy to be addressing this august house in an entirely changed situation. I would mention the following as some of the major achievements of the Government of Mizoram during this year :-

(i) The law and order situation has considerably improved. The assassination of the Inspector General of Police and two other senior Police Officers in January last year had given a major blow to the prestige of the administration. By sustained efforts the situation has been retrieved. Today, we are having almost normal conditions in Mizoram.

(ii) The administrative efficiency of the Government has been greatly improve. In fact a process Of reorganisation of the administration was taken in hand in the first half of the last year which is now beginning to bear fruit. The proclamation of emergency gave a further boost to this process. We have today, better punctuality, better discipline and greater efficiency in various departments. Steps have also been taken to strengthen the administrative structure wherever necessary.

(iii) Financial discipline has been enforced. Hon'ble members will be happy to learn that the minus balance of about Rs. 3 crores in the Consolidated Fund of Mizoram which had been mentioned by my predecessor last year, has been brought down to Rs. 98 lakhs. This is a major achievement which has been possible on account of greater vigilance by various departments. There was a huge gap between the actual expenditure and corresponding recoveries under the Trading Scheme of Food Supply. During 1974-75 the Supply Department made satisfactory progress in recoveries under the Scheme.

(iv) Another positive indication of the improvement in administrative efficiency is the much higher utilisation of development funds by various departments. At the end of the year 1974-75 we had surrendered a substantial amount on account of our inability to spend the same on various developmental projects. During the current year, every department has exerted to utilise the allotted funds to the maximum extent. Although I am unable to mention the precise figures because the current financial year has yet to come to a close, I am confident that most of the funds allotted will be spent. In that manner the benefits of various developmental

schemes would go to our people in a much larger measure than in the preceding years.

3. We cannot of course slacken our efforts. According to the popular belief Thingtam may be round the corner and may result in wide-spread crop failures due to bamboo flowering and multiplication of rodents. Our State Planning Board at Aizawl and the Planning Commission at Delhi have appreciated the situation. There is going to be a phenomenal step up in the investment in the agricultural sector.

4. The Plan Schemes for the next year were discussed in details and the Planning Commission approved an outlay of Rs. 8.65 crores. The Sector wise distribution of this amount is shown in Appendix 'A'. Over and above this amount we would get about a sum of Rs. 1.18 crores under the regional plan of the North Eastern Council. In addition there are certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes for which various Ministries of the Government of India grant assistance and a provision of Rs. 51.23 lakhs has been included in the BE 1976-77.

5. Taking into account the Centrally Sponsored Plan Schemes and the assistance from NEC, the total Plan expenditure works out to about Rs., 10.34 crores. In per capita terms it comes to about Rs. 312.00. The Plan size has to be comparatively bigger because the investment in this part during the past was small and there is a considerable leeway to be covered.

In brief the Budgetary position of the Union Territory is as follows:-

A. Revenue AccountIn lakhs of Rupees

(i) Gross Expdr.	R.E. 1975-76	B.E. 1976-77
Non Plan	2026.86	1910.80
U.T. Plan	465.96	616.40
N.E.C. Plan	75.91	118.05
Central Plan/Centrally Sponsored Schemes	48.74	47.23
Central Road Schemes Construction of Roads By B.R.T.F.	<u>801.89</u>	<u>721.48</u>
TOTAL :-	<u>3419.36</u>	<u>3413.96</u>

(ii) Revenue Receipts	93.06	104.49
(iii) Recoveries of Exp.	64.00	36.00

B. Capital Account :-

i) Non Plan	566.06	612.64
-------------	--------	--------

- 93 -

ii) U.T. Plan	259.04	248.60
iii) N.E.C. Plan	-	-
iv) Central Plan	<u>4.00</u>	<u>4.00</u>
GROSS TOTAL :-	<u>829.10</u>	<u>865.24</u>

the day to day administration due to inexperience in and lack of familiarity with financial rules and accounting procedures. We have recently taken up the question of reorganisation of the Directorate of Accounts and Treasuries.

(iii) PAY COMMITTEES REPORT : The Departmental Pay Committee constituted by the Government of India to make recommendations for bringing the employees of Mizoram on Central Pay Scales submitted its report in June, 1975. I am placing a copy of this Report in the Library of the House for reference by Hon'ble Members.

In November, 1975, orders were issued by the Government of India prescribing revised pay scales for certain categories of employees. Since there were certain anomalies in the revised pay structure a Committee of Officers was requested to go through the representations received from various Associations and individual employees. The suggestions of this Committee are receiving attention.

(iv) ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT : We have noted with happiness the steps that are being taken in the country for improvement of financial administration in general, and separation of Audit from Accounts in particular. We are pressing for opening of a separate office of the Accountant General for Mizoram at Aizawl. For a detailed study of the staffing pattern of major Department like P.W.D. Supply & Transport, etc. a small WORK STUDY unit is being organised in the Finance Department. We have to keep our staffing pattern and procedures of work constantly trimmed to ensure that there are no hindrance to quick implementation of various schemes and projects in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

(v) Finance Department has taken initiative and steps to see that a modicum of banking facilities is provided in Mizoram. A branch of the State Bank of India has been opened at Lunglei and very soon we are going to have another Branch at Kolasib. I understand that due to the delay in the settlement of rent of the building proposed to be hired, this branch has not come into being. A sub treasury has already been opened at Saiha and Sub Treasuries are being planned at Champhai, Kolasib and Tlabung.

8. REVENUE DEPARTMENT :

Land Reforms have been the long-felt need, not only of Government of Mizoram, but of Government of India throughout the country in order to fulfill Government policies towards quicker country-wide development. Government of Mizoram have been working on the Draft Bill in connection with legislation on Land Tenure system envisaging thereby better maintenance of Land Records. The proposed legislation, when passed and implemented, is expected to satisfy the long-felt needs of the people. This would bring about changes in the system of revenue administration. Out of a meagre provision of Rs. 1 lakh in the current fifth Plan under Land Reforms the annual provision of Rs. 10,000/- is being utilised for the purpose of procuring survey equipments, printing of forms and preparation of registers in connection with maintenance of land records and also for engaging professional special services connected with Land Reform.

9. **STATE EXCISE :**

The Mizoram Excise Act, 1974, is enforceable as soon as the Rules being framed thereunder are ready. It is expected that the Rules will be ready in a few months' time. Government have since sanctioned minimum staff to deal with Excise matters headed by Excise Superintendent.

10. **POWER :**

As provided in the NEA(R) Act 71 the Government have taken over the power generation, transmission and distribution activities from the ASEB with effect from 20th March 1975. Prior to taking over, the generation of Power in Mizoram was only 900 K.W. and there was only one Division with three Sub-Divisions. Since taking over, generation of Power has considerably increased. Works for installation of generating sets at Champhai and Lawngtlai are in progress. New sets are being purchased for augmenting the capacity. Investigation is being started for Hydro potentials. For looking after these activities one Circle, two Divisions with five Sub-Divisions have started functioning.

11. **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT :**

Roads :- The constructional activities of PWD have been increasing year by year. In spite of various difficulties and inadequate staff, the PWD has been shouldering the responsibilities entrusted to it. The major achievements of PWD during the year 1975-76 consist of following :-

(i) Completion of formation cutting of 71 K.M. long 5 metre width Khawzawl – Lungdar Road. This road is expected to be opened for trucks and vehicular traffic within March, 1976.

(ii) Noteworthy amongst the schemes taken up by PWD which are making good progress are Bilkhawthlir – Saiphai Road, Kolalsib – Lokicherra Road, Hnahthial – S. Vanlaiphai road and Lungsen – Chawngte road.

(iii) Another noteworthy development has been the finalisation of the contract for construction of bridge over river Tuichang. As the contract has been finalised only in January, 1976 it may not be possible to start the work in full swing during the current financial year.

12. **WATER SUPPLY :**

P.H.E. department is making all-out efforts to ensure supply of water to public in Aizawl Town with the help of existing Aizawl Water Supply Scheme and no truck carriage is resorted to for distribution. The P.H.E. Department has so far succeeded in this and it is hoped that for the entire period of dry season this year, it may not be necessary to press any truck for carriage of water. In respect of augmentation of existing Aizawl Water Supply necessary data is being collected for formulating a proper Scheme. Under the rural Water Supply Schemes, the schemes at Lokicherra, Sihphir, Durtlang, Thenzawl, Champhai and Zemabawk are expected to be completed very soon.

13. POLICE DEPARTMENT :

(i) Effective steps have been taken to improve the capability of Police Force to meet the challenge of disturbed conditions and sporadic instances of violence. Under the able leadership of Inspector General of Police, the Police is now fully equipped to ensure the security of peace loving people.

(ii) A number of posts have been created during the current year for strengthening the Police Force.

(iii) 6 Probationer DSPs have completed their basic training in the National Police Academy, Hyderabad. 215 Constables of MAP have also completed their basic course of training from BSF Training Centre, Hazaribagh.

(iv) One Fire Service Sub-Station has also been established at Lunglei during this period. Work is in progress at Shivajitilla for construction of the police complex there.

14. COOPERATION :

(i) The Government organised two State Level Societies viz. Mizo Wholesale Cooperative Society and the Apex Marketing Society. The former takes up purchase and

distribution of manufactured goods whereas the latter takes up purchase and distribution of mostly food items. During 1975-76 the Wholesale Cooperative Society opened up retail outlets (shops) at Saiha, Lunglei, Lawngtlai in addition to two retail shops in Aizawl, and an outlet is being opened at Kolasib shortly. During next year it is proposed to open retail outlets in all sub-divisional headquarters. Quantum of sale and purchase through these societies have considerably increased. Prices of essential commodities have been brought down to a great extent through the distribution system under these two Societies. The Apex Marketing Society in collaborations with NAFED continue to help the ginger growers in selling ginger at reasonable prices.

(ii) The Government also propose to organise a Cooperative Departmental Store (Super Market) in Aizawl very shortly. The Store will serve consumers and it is intended to distribute variety of manufactured goods through this Super Market at reasonable prices.

15. **RELIEF MEASURES :**

The Relief measures are administered through the Deputy Commissioners. Relief is given to the needy persons in the form of (a) Assistance to the victims of Natural Calamities such as accidental fire, landslides etc; (b) Gratuitous Relief to those who are unable to earn their living owing to physical disability, tender or old age or infirmity, (c) Employment Generation Scheme, giving employment to the people through construction of roads, play grounds etc. so that permanent assets are built up and (d) Short term Agricultural loan given to distressed Cultivators who do not have means of their own to go on with their agricultural pursuits.

(ii) Provision of funds under different items of relief mentioned in the preceding paragraph for the year from 1974-75 upto date is given below :-

Year	Natural Calamities	Gratuitous Relief	Employment Generation Scheme.
1	2	3	4
1974-75	2,00,000/-	4,00,000/-	64,00,000/-
1975-76	2,00,000/-	4,00,000/-	54,00,000/-

As a result of the works taken up under EGS, many villages in the interior are connected by Jeepable roads. An additional sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is being made available for employment generation scheme in RE 1975-76.

16. **AGRICULTURE :**

Agriculture development in Mizoram primarily aims at land development for permanent cultivation. During 1974-75 the Government spent Rs. 23,25,000/- as a subsidy grant for land reclamation. About 1735 hectares of land were reclaimed. During current year i.e. 1975-76 work order covering about 2,500 hectares of land has been given. Work order for additional land continue to be given involving expenditure over Rs. 33 lakhs. Minor irrigation projects were also taken up. During 1975-76 Rs. 10 lakhs will be spent on minor irrigation and 1,000 hectares of land will be brought under irrigation.

(ii) There is a steady decline in the number of people engaged in jhum cultivation. The Village Councils also render active cooperation and the families who have been given suitable permanent cultivation land are deprived of jhum land. This process will also help in preservation of natural forest in Mizoram. The disturbances and the grouping of villages caused a set back in the growth of rural economy. Constant food shortage from 1959 has also rendered a large number of people in the villages incapable of rebuilding their economic base. In fact, apart from shortages of suitable land for permanent cultivation a large section of people in the villages had neither the means nor the capacity to take up permanent cultivation. The Government considered it, therefore, important to encourage cultivation of ginger which is quick yielding and easy to cultivate. During 1974-75 the Government distributed about 1,000 Qtls. Of ginger seeds to the rural population. During 1975-76 about 10,000 Qtls. Of seed will be distributed by the Government mostly to the poorer section in the rural areas and mostly in the form of loan on easy terms. A better variety of ginger also is being introduced and about 120 Qtls. Of better seeds will be grown for multiplication during the current season. The total ginger production during this season i.e. 1976 is expected to reach 10,000 metric tonnes.

(iii) Mizoram Government have sent out 8 students for B.Sc. Agriculture Course in various Universities in India with liberal stipend during 1975-76. In addition there are 3 students doing B.Sc. Agriculture Course from the previous year and 2 serving Officers were also sent for post-graduate studies.

(iv) The Government also have taken steps to have more scientific approach to agriculture development. In this regard a beginning was made to have soil survey of selected areas. The All India Soil and Land use Survey, Ministry of Agriculture, had taken up soil survey of Kawnpui area. A survey of the area east of Bilkhawthlir is now being taken up. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has also established a sub-centre of the Research Centre at Kolasib. Some scientists are already in position. During 1975-76 a team of scientists under this sub-centre experimented growing of a few varieties of wheat in Thingdawl farm and the result is very encouraging.

(v) Both Mizoram Government and the Central Government give priority to Agriculture development in Mizoram. As against the Plan provision of Rs. 85 lakhs in 1975-76 the Plan allotment for 1976-77 is Rs. 129 lakhs. In addition the provision under minor irrigation has been increased from Rs. 10 lakhs in 1975-76 to Rs. 20 lakhs in 1976-77. The North Eastern Council also is giving substantial help and under the Jhum Control Scheme it is expected that about Rs. 16 lakhs will be given to Mizoram during 1976-77 by the N.E.C. Considering the peculiar position in the Chhimtuipui District Mizoram Government made a special scheme for Agriculture development for Chhimtuipui District. The N.E.C. and the Planning Commission also have approved this special scheme which will cost Rs. 50 lakhs. In 5 years and the provision during 1976-77 will be Rs. 10 lakhs. North Eastern Council has further agreed to assist us in two new schemes viz. Potato Foundation Seed Farm and Fruit Nursery both of which will cost Rs. 3 lakhs during 1976-77.

17. **EDUCATION & SOCIAL WELFARE :**

(i) The Directorate of Education & Social Welfare has been adequately strengthened and for more effective inspection and supervision of schools a new post of Inspector of Schools has been created recently for the Districts of Lunglei and Chhimituipui.

(ii) The earlier adverse pupil-teacher ratio of 46:1 in the L.P. Schools has now been improved to 41:1 and efforts will be made to improve it still further during 1976-77. As a measure of satisfying the aspirations of the people in the Chhimituipui District, all Govt. Primary Schools within the jurisdiction of the District Councils of Pawi and Lakher have been transferred to their control. Two new Unicef assisted pilot Projects (a) Primary Education curriculum renewal and (b) Developmental activities in Community Education, have been allotted to Mizoram this year and are being implemented. These will provide substantial qualitative improvement in the sphere of School education. Under implementation of Prime Minister's 20 point economic programme Book Banks have been set up in most of the Primary, Middle & High Schools and Colleges for the benefit of the poor students. Prices of School text books and exercise books have been substantially reduced and essential commodities have been made available for all

the hostel students in Mizoram. The Mizoram Institute of Education presented its first batch of deputed teachers for the B.Ed. examination and it is very gratifying that except one out of 30 deputed teachers all have passed, 6 of them being placed in the 1st class. The Mizoram Board of School Education Bill (1975) has been passed by Mizoram Legislative Assembly and the Govt. have included provision for starting this Board during the next financial year. This will certainly be a land-mark in the progress of Education in Mizoram. It is reassuring to inform that Government of India have approved in principle the taking over of the non Government College at lunglei and that we may hopefully expect its implementation during the next financial year, for which necessary funds have been provided in the budget estimates for 1976-77.

(iii) A State Library at Aizawl and 2 Districts Libraries one at Lunglei and the other at Saiha, have started functioning effectively. Besides a State museum is also being started during the current year and it will be fully equipped during 1976-77 to project Tribal culture of Mizoram in all its varied grandeur.

(iv) Under Social Welfare Schemes, preliminary steps have been completed for opening of a Blind School through a voluntary organisation and 110 old people beyond 65 yrs of age have been given old age pension at the rate of Rs. 30/- p.m. per head. The Tribal Research Institute has brought out 3 important Research publications. The highly valued Mizo-English Dictionary by J.H. Lorrain, so long out of print, has been reprinted and made available to students and interested public at concessional price. Besides four other very important rare books have also been reprinted for the benefit of Research workers and scholars. For

effective propagation of Hindi in Mizoram a Hindi Training Institute has been started at Aizawl during the current year and the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra, have provided one of their senior Lecturers to act as its Principal. Construction of Hostels for Tribal girl students, one at Lunglei and the other at Aizawl is also being undertaken with a special grant provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

18. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY DEPARTMENT:

(i) The Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department which was a wing of Agriculture Directorate has been allowed to function as a separate Directorate from the current year. It is expected that the Department would achieve the target of various developmental schemes drawn up for the current year.

(ii) Under the Cattle Development Scheme 3 Cattle Breeding Farms at Aizawl, Lunglei and Saiha are being commissioned during the current year. The Feed Mill at Selesih has been functioning satisfactorily, from which sizeable quantity of ready mixed feeds and feed ingredients have been supplied to the private dairy farmers. Aiming at rapid increase in milk production to meet the over increasing demand for wholesome milk at Aizawl town, the Cattle Breeding Farm at Aizawl is proposed to be expanded during next year.

(iii) Two mammoth incubators have been installed in the Central Hatcher cum Poultry Farm at Selesih which started functioning with 5000 chicks brought from Bhubaneswar with the aim to produce large number of poultry birds required for distribution to Government Farms.

(iv) The Piggery Demonstration unit at Kolasib has been consolidated and improved. The Regional Pig Breeding Farm sponsored by NEC is being expanded to house approximately 100 sows. Under the Animal Health and disease control programme the Department have achieved the target of construction of Veterinary Hospital at Aizawl and also one Veterinary Dispensary. A number of Rural Animal Husbandry Centres have been opened during the current year. Full fledged dispensaries at Khawzawl and Saitual are being established during the coming year.

(v) In Dairy and Milk Supply Scheme the Department have been distributing 300-350 litres of Milk to consumers at Rs. 3/- per lit. at Aizawl town. The Milk collection at the source of production including distribution will be stepped up during the coming year.

19. INDUSTRIES :

Though traditionally Mizo women are weavers, the most popular method viz. Loin loom is a slow process and detrimental to health for women. Cost of production also is high. The Government from 1975-76 have taken steps to popularise Handloom Industry in more economic process. Villagers by and large, do not have suitable and sufficient houses to locate Handloom equipments. The Government have taken up construction of 10 buildings in selected villages each of which will accommodate 10 looms. The weavers interested to work in the Handloom sheds thus provided will be given loom at 50% subsidy. It is hoped that a number of women out of more than 400 who have received training in Handloom will be benefited by this scheme. During next year

it is proposed to construct additional 23 numbers of such buildings and distribute 280 looms on 50% subsidy. In addition it is proposed to set up a Raw Material Depot from where yarns will be distributed to the weavers at much lower rate than the prevailing market rate. Yarns are being procured direct from the manufacturers. Dyeing through private agencies in Mizoram is still very costly. In fact, local dyer charged Rs. 200/- for one bundle of yarn for double dyeing. The Government proposed to set up one Dyeing Unit during 1976-77 which will enable the weavers to get dyed yarns at still lower rate.

(ii) Training-cum-Production Centre for Handloom has been started during this year at Luangmual near Aizawl. Apart from women who are traditional weavers some young men also have been attracted to take up Handloom Industry as a profession.

(iii) The Government also have helped in organising Weavers' Co-operative Societies. These Societies are assisted by Industries Department as well as Cooperative Department. We may mention in particular the Weaving Society at Muallungthu which has derived production of the traditional Mizo carpets.

(iv) The Government appointed a Consultancy Firm viz. Development Consultants Private Limited, Calcutta to study a feasibility for starting paper industry in Mizoram. The Consultancy Firm has now submitted a report. The report envisages the setting up of Paper Industry with the daily production of 200 tonnes of paper. This will be discussed with the Govt. of India. The question of setting up the Industry finally will

depend on the economics of the scheme and the decision to be taken by the Central Government.

(v) Financial Institutions like S.B.I. has rendered very limited financial assistance in the form of credit to small Industries. Practically the only credit source is from the Government. The Government have, therefore, distributed Industrial Loans to the public for feasibility schemes. The other handicap in Industrial development is lack of proper organisation to procure and distribute raw materials. During 1975-76, however, the Government have strengthened the Raw material Depot. Industrial raw materials such as Iron, sheets, rods, yarns, knitting wool, mutton tallow etc. were distributed to the local units at cheaper rates. It is proposed to increase the quantum of raw materials distributed through this Raw material Depot next year. This also helped local industrial units in regard to working capital because some raw materials are made available on easy payment.

20.SUPPLY & TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT :

Effective steps have been taken to ensure that people in Mizoram get their regular supplies of essential articles at reasonable prices. An order under DIR was issued which required dealers to display prices of 41 items of essential daily requirements and maximum prices of 24 articles were fixed.

(i) ELIMINATION OF BOGUS RATION

CARDS : Drive against bogus ration cards was launched and more than 13,000 bogus adult ration units have been detected and eliminated in Aizawl town alone.

(ii) F.C.I. AT AIZAWL. On request of Govt. of Mizoram, F.C.I. have established godown since Sept. 1975 and the responsibility of moving rice from Silchar to Aizawl was handed over to them.

(iii) WARE HOUSING.

(a) Arrangements have been made with the C.W.C. for construction of Pucca, modern & scientifically designed godowns at Aizawl with capacity of 30,000 Qtls and the site is being acquired for the purpose.

(b) Supply Godown of 5,000 Qtls capacity was recently commissioned at Lunglei in addition to the godown already in use.

(c) Three pucca godowns with capacity of about 4,000 qtls each are being constructed at Kolasib, Aizawl and Serchhip.

(iv) The Government of Mizoram had decided to reorganise and decentralise the work of the Directorate of Supply by setting up separate office of District Civil Supply Officer in each District and these officers will work under the general supervision of the Deputy Commissioners and will be responsible for Planning, movements, storage, stocking and distribution of food stuff in their respective jurisdictions. The Deputy Commissioner assisted by the District Civil Supply Officer will then be responsible for proper accounting of food stuff and other materials being supplied to them and would submit accounts to the Director of Supply & Transport. Procurement, transportation to District Headquarters and District-wise allocation of food-stuff with compilation of accounts for the whole of Mizoram will be the responsibility of the Directorate.

The Officers of the District Civil Supplies have started functioning from February, 1976.

21. INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS :

The Information & Public Relations Department are playing a vital role in bringing the spirit of democratic participation amongst the people making them to feel proud of belonging to the great motherland, India, maintaining their own identity of being Mizo. The Department have also taken up various cultural programmes for widening the horizon of enlightenment and better understanding amongst different communities. The department is also bringing out press releases, posters news bulletins and daily news translations. Through news despatches and Photo coverage of happenings in Mizoram the Department have been able to focus attention of the country.

22. BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION :

Under the Border Roads Organisation, construction of roads in the Union Territory of Mizoram is progressing rapidly. Since the induction of the organisation into this area in 1963, a number of important places such as Aizawl, Lunglei, Demagiri and Champhai have been connected by all weather Class IX roads. During the year 1975-76, this organisation has completed 89 KM of new formation cutting, and 80 KM of newly surfaced roads. By the end of March, 1976, the formation cutting on Road Lunglei – Tuipang will reach a point approximately 25 KM short of Tuipang. Simultaneously from a suitable point on this road, a link road is also being constructed to Saiha, work on which has also reached an advanced stage of completion. It is expected that Tuipang and Saiha, will be connected by a motorable road by the end of March 1977. Construction of

the road from Seling to Tipaimukh has also been progressing satisfactorily. Formation cutting has already been completed beyond Ratu, and it is expected that the road will reach Tipaimukh by end of March 1977. Similarly, on Road Aizawl - Tuipuibari, formation cutting has been completed upto river Teireilui and it is anticipated that Tuipuibari will be connected with a motorable road by the end of March, 1977. For the year 1975-76 the outlay on construction of roads by the Border Roads Organisation in Mizoram has been approximately Rs. 556.82 lakhs, and the expenditure on maintenance of roads already constructed, Rs. 45.57 lakhs. During 1976-77, it is anticipated that the expenditure on road construction and maintenance in Mizoram would be approximately Rs. 721.48 lakhs.

23.HEALTH & FAMILY PLANNING :

(i) The Department has an approved outlay of Rs. 40.00 lakhs during the current year, 80% of which is being utilised for building projects. The major achievements during the current year are completion of works for 37 bedded ward with operation theatre in the Aizawl Civil Hospital. Construction of 50 bedded Hospital at Champhai and T.B. Hospital at Zemabawk is completed during the current year. A double storied building for Nurses' Quarters at Aizawl and 2 quarters for Doctors at Lunglei are nearing completion.

(ii) There is acute dearth of Doctors particularly specialists and also other technically qualified personnel like Pharmacist etc. For meeting these requirements 50 selected students are prosecuting M.B.B.S. Course in different Medical Colleges with Government Stipends. Another 9 students are under-going Pharmacists training at Dibrugarh and Agartala. The

Department is also maintaining an A.N.M. training School attached to Aizawl Hospital in batches of 20 trainees.

(iii) In addition to the U.T. Plan Schemes the Department is also implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Family Planning, National Malaria Eradication Programme, National Leprosy Control Programme, V.D. Clinic. National Trachoma Control Programme and T.B. Clinic in accordance with the approved pattern of the schemes, within the approved outlay.

24.FOREST & SOIL CONSERVATION :

(i) The Forest in Mizoram has been very much depleted. Even in the reserve forests, the forest have been much destroyed for shifting cultivation. The main object of Forest Department is proper management of these forests both from physical and economical point of view. Revenue from the forest product is not upto the expectation because of colossal destruction of the commercial species in accessible areas. Large scale plantation is being taken over by the Forest Department of trees which are important commercially as well as trees suitable for firewood. As the area is to be re clothed quickly in the deforested areas, quick growing species have also been selected for plantation in different centres. Under economic plantation during 1975-76 the target is kept at 200 ha. and same target is kept for the year 1976-77. Under quick growing species, 60 ha. have been taken up during the current year and similar hectarage is kept for the coming year. Fuelwood plantation is taken in a small scale and only 10 ha. is kept for 1975-76 and same target is kept 1976-77 . But for extensive fuelwood plantation a scheme to be sponsored by the Centre has been submitted to raise 1400 ha. of fuelwood plantation in different centres

in 5 years time. Besides these trees special importance is given to raise Minor Forest Produce and during the current year preliminary work for creation of 100 ha. of rubber plantation at Vairengte is taken up and same target is kept for the year 1976-77. As the present two divisions are not enough for proper management, schemes are there for strengthening of staff and opening more divisions and ranges. Besides these territorial functions, working plan is being carried out in the Inner Line Reserve Forest during the year and forest resources survey of bamboo in the north western region has been completed and as per the stock arrived at a paper mill is feasible at Bairabi in Mizoram from the stock of bamboo from north western portion only. One Wild Life sanctuary at Dampa has been notified and action is being taken for final notification of another Wild Life sanctuary known as Tawi. Besides this, road construction is also taken up and 3 Kms road is under construction during the year in Kolasib Range.

(ii) The allocation of funds under plan for the current year is Rs. 20 lakhs and for the next year it is 26 lakhs.

(iii) The Soil Conservation Department is working with the main aim to provide permanent cultivable land to the villagers to minimise jhuming and in time to come stop jhumming completely. During the current year work order has been issued for hill side terracing for more than 500 ha. and out of this more than 193 ha. have already been completed in Aizawl Division only. For the next year the target is kept at 800 ha. Alongwith the development of terraced fields, Department is taking up afforestation of denuded hill slopes and the physical target kept during the year is 640 ha. and same target is kept for the coming year. Besides these two, the Department is also growing cash crop to raise coffee and rubber. The

revenue from sale of Coffee beans was worth about Rs. 30 thousand last year and during the current year much more revenue is expected. 50 ha. of rubber plantation is being taken up during the year at Bilkhawthlir and Vairengte. Under the scheme of Composite Farm Development 3 centres have been selected. These are at Boirai, Khawzawl and Lunglei and for development of village grazing ground 100 ha. is taken up during the current year. Leaving aside these items, the department is also confined to small irrigation projects and control of stream bank erosion.

I appologise to the House for taking a good bit of its time in describing the activities of various departments/agencies of Government. A brochure has been prepared giving some details of the activities which form a background of the estimates submitted by me.

A copy of the same is being laid on the table of the House.

With these words, Sir, I beg to present the Revised Estimates for 1975-76 and Budget Estimates for 1976-77.

JAI HIND.