

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

: : :

SECOND SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2003.

PRESENT

PU R. KHAWPUITHANGA, Pro tem Speaker at the Chair, Chief Minister, 13 Ministers and 24 Members were present.

GOVERNOR ADDRESS

1. HIS EXCELLENCY Shri Amolak Rattan Kohli, Governor to address the House.

MOTION

2. PU R. KHAWPUITHANGA to move a motion of thanks on the Address of the Governor.

PANEL OF CHAIRMAN

3. THE SPEAKER to announce names of Panel of Chairman.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members,

1. It is indeed a great privilege to welcome you today to the First Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of Mizoram constituted after the General Elections held on 20th November, 2003. I also take this opportunity to apprise you that the new Council of Ministers has assumed office on 4th December, 2003.

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2. I gives me an immense sense of happiness to witness, on this solemn occasion, the distinguished presence of a large number of well-experienced and seasoned legislators in this Assembly. Their esteemed presence has not only illuminated this august House but has also added richness to the texture of this Assembly. With this Assembly, during its tenure, will create a lasting and an indelible impression in the minds of those whom they represent, about the role of the Legislature in sustainable all-round development of the State.
3. The just concluded General Elections in the State exhibited a stamp of democratic culture not only of political parties but also of the people of Mizoram. The Election process was largely peaceful and brilliant with the participation of more than 75% of the electors. The General Elections this time was unique in the sense that Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) could be used successfully for the first time. Roles of the political parties, the contestants and the people of Mizoram as a whole in making the Elections successful are highly commendable. The Non-Governmental voluntary organisations like YMA, MHIP, MUP the Church Organisations and the Press equally deserve commendation and congratulation for their efforts and meaningful roles played in this regard. All these speak volumes of the rich culture, education, tradition, and socio-political consciousness and tolerance of the people of Mizoram. The election has thus shown that democracy has taken firm roots in the State of Mizoram as in other parts of this great nation.
4. I am happy to inform you that the priorities set by my Government five years ago have brought about a significant improvement in the financial management and economic development of the State. Declared policies and priorities of my last Government were pursued with all sincerity and earnestness significant progress towards self sufficiency in agricultural and horticultural productions; dairy farming and fisheries; environment and forest development, rural connectivity and development of ghghways, drinking water supply, housing, sports and youth services, industrial development and export promotion, art and culture, providing employment and self-employment to our educated unemployed youths, information technology, economic use of bamboo resources, self-sufficiency in power, building up of capital assets and infrastructural development, and above all, effective maintenance of peace throughout the State are some of the areas in which my last Government claims significant achievement with all humility. Another noteworthy achievement has been the elevation of our Additional Advocate General to the position of a Judge in the Honourable Gauhati High Court. We

have also been successful in accessing World Bank Assistance for our projects and Mizoram, thus, has become the torchbearer in the North East Region in this regard. Power situation is also poised for substantial improvement with the 20 MW Thermal Power Project at Bairabi which will be commissioned within this month. After having obtained all kinds of necessary clearances, my Government is also confident that the funds required for the 80 MW Bairabi Hydel Project will soon be provided by the Government of India.

5. While pursuing vigorously the on-going policies and priorities, my new Government will also embark on a task of charting out our roads ahead for speedier and sustainable economic growth of Mizoram. Strategies and approaches for addressing long-term development needs of the people of Mizoram should be worked out with vision and long foresight under your able guidance. Our planning process will have adequate sensibilities to the social needs of the rural population of Mizoram. Apart from the critical issues of food and shelter, issues like safe drinking water, good connectivity, better health-care, old-age security, power supply and rural telephony for the rural masses should receive due attention. The problem of providing sustainable employment to rural population and to educated youth should occupy centre stage. Our emphasis should also rest on providing employment and self employment to our educated unemployed youth. Information Technology (IT) should be utilised to the maximum advantage for transparency and e-governance and for generating employment in Mizoram. Our agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, dairy and farming should be developed more and more to enable this sector to absorb and provide dependable and sustainable means of self-employment to a large number of our rural population and educated youth. Our planning process will also give adequate attention to gender issues and environmental concerns. Adequate emphasis will be laid on exploration of the hidden natural resources of Mizoram. Our forest wealth, in particular, the bamboo resources, should be tapped and utilised to the extent of a sustainable limit keeping in view the gregarious flowering of bamboo in the year 2007. My Government, with all sincerity and openness, will relentlessly strive as ever before for development of this State to a green island of peace and development.
6. With an ultimate objectives of making Mizoram a model State in India, promotion of peace and development in Mizoram will continue to be the core essence of the policy of my Government. Self-sufficiency will continue to receive priority. With this objective in view, development of agriculture, horticulture and fisheries sectors will continue to receive special attention while exploration and utilisation of our rich natural resources will be on the high agenda.

of my Government. My Government will continue to pursue vigorously its objectives of utilising its vast bamboo resources by setting up more industrial units for bamboo processing. My Government continues to tend to review the existing system of extraction and sale of our bamboo resources for evolving a more scientific method of harvesting and marketing.

7. Road sector development with an objective of connecting each and every rural village by a good network of road will receive adequate emphasis. My Government will make all endeavours to provide safe drinking water in all the villages of Mizoram. Health sector development will continue to receive focussed attention of my Government. Information Technology (IT) will be conveniently utilised for good governance and for generation of employment and self-employment. Effective steps will continue to be taken for development of Human Resources in Mizoram.

8. My Government has laid adequate emphasis on development of economic and commercial contacts with our neighbouring countries like Myanmar and Bangladesh. Untiring steps taken over the past several years for gradual enlargement of the scope of 'border trade' to all full-fledged 'international trade' have started bringing results. Very recently, the Government of Myanmar has accepted and approved Zokhawthar - Rih point as its second trading route with India. You will be happy to know that inauguration of this trade point is being held shortly. This will pave the way for opening up of international transactions between Mizoram and Myanmar, thus, fulfilling one of the visions enshrined in the Mizoram Accord of 1986.

9. My Government will continue the task of upgrading the capacity of its employees in the areas of project conceptualisation, project formulation, implementation and monitoring so that more and more projects for development of Mizoram may be conceived and posed to different funding agencies for financing the projects. My Government will take strong initiatives for providing necessary training to our employees in these targeted areas through the intervention of the Government of India.
10. My Government will continue to take strong initiatives for encouraging and promoting private entrepreneurship. Setting up of private industrial units will be encouraged.

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11. Administrative reforms, good governance, development of IT infrastructure for e-governance, development of citizen charters, financial reforms will continue to receive our attention. In order to maintain the cost of governance within sustainable limits, stringent economy measures will continue till pressures on State's finance are over. In the meantime, my Government will continue to improve the administration of finances of the State. The State will also try its best to obtain a favourable recommendation from the 12th Finance Commission.
12. I am confident that your collective endeavour and collective wisdom will continue to provide not only a strong and befitting initiative, but also unflinching guidance to the endeavours of my Government towards achievement of lasting peace and prosperity for all sections of people of Mizoram. On this occasion, I also earnestly appeal to you to work hand in hand with unity and goodwill in our march forward for the development of Mizoram.
13. In conclusion, I convey my heartiest felicitations to you and to the people of Mizoram. May your deliberations in this august House be fruitful and far-reaching.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ka lawm e.

Jai Hind.

S P E A K E R

Topic: Kan Governor zahawm tak Address
kan ngaithla a. A copy kha han
sem nise.

Lawmthu sawina Motion of Thanks
Pu Khawpuithanga hnen atangin kan hmu a. Move turin i lo
sawm ang.

PU R. KHAWPUITHANGA

: Pu Speaker, ka lawm e. Govern-
nor Address move hetiang hian
kardil e. 'That the Members of
the Mizoram Legislative Assembly
assembled in this session deeply grateful to the Governor
for the Address which he has pleased to deliver to
the Assembly on the 16th December, 2003.'

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