



Address
Of
HIS EXCELLENCY

SHRI VAKKOM B. PURUSHOTHAMAN
THE GOVERNOR OF MIZORAM

To
THE SECOND SESSION

Of
THE SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM

On

18th MARCH 2014

Hon'ble Speaker and esteemed Members of the Legislative Assembly:

It gives me great pleasure to address you at the commencement of the second session of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of Mizoram. I whole-heartedly congratulate the Chief Minister on winning the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly alongwith the new Ministers and the new Members of this Legislative Assembly. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my greetings and good wishes to all of you and the people of Mizoram. In this session, the Supplementary Demand for Grants for the year 2013-2014 and Demand for Grants for 2014-2015 will be presented.

1. With considerable joy and pride, I congratulate the Mizoram Football Team on their triumph in the 68th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy. The dedication of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Sports Minister to uplift sports in the State is admirable, and the hardwork put in by everyone involved is praiseworthy. The support given by the people is indeed overwhelming. Sports have made Mizoram and Mizo people popular to other States of India and this can be extended to other parts of the world also because Mizo people have so much natural talent in sports. I urge everyone to continue giving their full support for the advancement of sports.

2. On this day, I would like to invite this august Assembly to witness my Government's commitment to provide efficient, responsive, accountable, fair and just administration at all levels of governance. The various progresses and developments, maintenance of peace and harmony

achieved by my Government during my time is immense which makes me very happy and proud.

3. My Government has enthusiastically marched on in the continued implementation of the Flagship Programme, New Land Use Policy (NLUP) and it is heartening to see the fruits of our hard labour. The original project target of 1,20,000 beneficiaries for 5 years have been achieved in three successive phases during the last three years. Proposal to assist additional batch of 15,000 household beneficiaries has been approved and the total household to be assisted under NLUP will become 1,35,000. So far, Planning Commission has released Rs. 1208.82 crores purely as grant under ACA component. In addition, expected fund flow from central ministries under convergence plan is estimated at Rs. 760.43 crores by the end of 2013-14.

The concept of NLUP received worldwide acknowledgement and appreciation resulting in study tours for impact assessment by Minnesota University of USA and Food and Agricultural Organization of UNO. Both the teams observed its potential to address current global concerns for environmental protection, soil conservation, water resource management, renewable energy sources, health care and food security. These teams have put forward their recommendations which are expected to further leverage NLUP implementation providing for technical and financial support from international agencies. For the first time in our history, top level Heads of key UN organisations based in Delhi like UNIDO, UNDP, FAO, ILO have visited Mizoram from during February 2014 with the objective of collaboration and partnership to strengthen UN development affair.

4. The safety of the people is paramount in my Government's priority. Peace and tranquility has been maintained at a significant level. This exemplary feat can be attained only with the help and co-operation of the Government through Law enforcement, the NGOs, the Religious Institutions, the Media and most of all the people. While there has been no major outbreak of law & order in the State, our Police Department has made remarkable achievement in maintaining Law and Order, in capturing criminals, in dealing with drug traffickers, cyber crime, human trafficking, and improving justice delivery system and this is actively taken up by our Police. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the national level implementing agency, Mizoram is assessed as one of the front runner states in the country in the implementation Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) Project which is a central Government flagship programme that aims at empowering Indian Police with Information Technology (IT) and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing through adoption of the principle of e-governance. Fingerprint Database for detection and identification of criminals have been created and maintained at Forensic Science Laboratory. With the addition of 350 arrests and 260 convicts' fingerprint, as many as 4308 fingerprints have been computerized for use in crime investigation.

5. Agriculture as the major source of income is the chief focus of my Government. Mizoram has a Mission to ensure food security of the State and is committed to enhance Agricultural Crop production and productivity to make it a sustainable livelihood support. There have been remarkable achievements made during 2013-14 in this field. There is a

good increase in Rice Cultivation under WRC over last year from 14,636 Hectare to 16,835 Hectare which accounts for 15.02 % increase. The total Rice production (Advance Estimate) under WRC during 2013-14 is expected to reach 34,514 MT against 30,572 MT of last year (2012-13) which accounts for 12.89 % increase. The area under Jhum cultivation is also expected to decrease from 24,307 Hectare (during 2012-13) to 23,150 Hectare (during 2013-14) which accounts for 5.00 % reduction. The Rice productivity (Advance Estimate) under WRC is also reported to be increased from 2.09 MT/Ha to 2.20 MT/ha and is mainly due to adoption of new seed varieties, improved Production Technologies such as System of Rice Intensification etc. Under Oil Palm cultivation, additional areas of 4,532 Hectare have been covered during 2013-14 and the total area under Oil Palm accounts for 17,588 Hectare. Construction of Oil Palm Mill with a capacity of 5 MT per hour is on the verge of completion at Kolasib District and is expected to be commissioned by the month of March, 2014. Establishment of Oil Palm Mills at Lunglei and Serchhip are also in progress. Under RKVY scheme, three numbers of Custom Hiring Center @ Rs. 24.00 lakh/- per center at Champhai and Serchhip District will be established during 2013-14 wherein Farm Machineries will be provided to the Farming Community which would facilitate land preparation, sowing, harvesting and threshing and will ensure timely Farm operation for crop production.

6. My government seeks to ensure that its people receive sufficient foodgrains and fuel. Rice has always been given adequately at a subsidised rate to the people. The Central Govt. has abolished Levy Sugar

and PDS has been stopped since June/2013. However the State Govt. is going to distribute sugar shortly as the Central Govt. will be providing a subsidy of Rs.18.50 per kg for sugar. With regard to LPG, the IOC has selected 25 (twenty five) villages for new appointment of LPG Distributors under Rajiv Gandhi Grami LPG Vitsak (RGGLV) Scheme in addition to the existing 25 (twenty five) LPG Distributors in Mizoram. Supply of LPG to the people is expected to improve.

7. In order to ensure that the health of the people is properly taken care of, new Public Health Centers and Sub Centers have been built. Implementation of various National and State Health Programs has helped in reducing disease prevalence as well as Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio. The State Referral Hospital at Falkawn has become operational again with 150 beds and the Hospital is proposed to be upgraded into a 400 Bedded Hospital. Government has taken steps to establish a Medical College and a 200 seat capacity Hostel for Mizoram College of Nursing at the State Referral Hospital Complex. Steps are also being taken for establishment of 100-Bedded Cancer Hospital at Zemabawk, upgradation of all District Hospitals, establishment of 4 (four) GNM Schools at Serchhip, Kolasib, Champhai, Saiha and 1 (one) ANM School at Lawngtlai, construction of 100 Bedded Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Science (Mental Hospital) at Kulikawn. Our hospitals are also being equipped with modern and sophisticated facilities and equipments to provide better health care. The National Rural Health Mission has provided Ambulances to our PHCs. The Government of Mizoram has also continued implementing the State Health Care Scheme

since 2008 incorporating with Rastrya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). The intended benefit of the said scheme is being availed by the needy patients who are essentially BPL. The Scheme also cover APL who are not in Government service.

8. Providing quality education at all levels continues to be one of the top priorities under my Government. Under SSA and RMSA, schools are constructed, midday meals are continued to be given, textbooks and uniforms are also provided free of cost to many students. The Government has also taken up various schemes for Infrastructure Development of Colleges. The construction of Post Matric Students' Hostel at Aizawl is now completed with the total expenditure of Rs.141.39 lakh. The building is already handed over to MZP on 28.6.2013. Construction of new Polytechnic Schools are being completed at Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Mamit, Saiha and Serchhip. The tremendous effort put in over the last few years in the pursuit towards expanding, strengthening and enhancement of proficiency in the field of Teacher Education has finally been rewarded with significant and noteworthy outcomes. With the already existing 2 DIETs and the 6 new ones, Mizoram has become one of the few fortunate states of the country to have functional full-fledged DIETs in each of the districts of the state. My Government had implemented various State and Central Government sponsorship Scholarship Schemes for Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Studies, during 2013-2014, Rs. 4461.66 lakhs has been given to 24519 post-matric students. Sanction of Rs. 207.225 lakhs for 2894 pre-matric students is expected soon.

9. The welfare of my people and protection of the weaker section is and will continue to be the focus of my Government. Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), 27 ICDS Projects covering all Rural Development Blocks are maintained in the State. Almost all the 1980 Anganwadi Centres are having pucca buildings constructed and sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. 264 additional Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned recently and are in operation from February, 2014. The State Mission for the Empowerment of Women works on economic empowerment, social empowerment with emphasis on health and education, elimination of violence against women and gender mainstreaming of programmes and policies. State Resource Centre for Women has also been set up funded by the Government of India. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has been implemented in the State and at present there are 9 (nine) Protection Officers and 6 (six) Service Providers. Swadhar Shelter Home with a capacity of 50 inmates was established at Maumual with the Government of India's 100% funding for women who need temporary shelter, women victims of all sorts of crime and women in difficult circumstances like women released from jail who have no family support, women with HIV/AIDS etc. Several steps have been undertaken for the full realization of the provisions of Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Right & Full Participation) Act, 1995. And for the welfare of the aged, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) has given pension to 80 years & above @ Rs. 500/- p.m. to 4267 persons and also 60 - 79 years @ Rs. 200/- p.m. to 20984 persons/beneficiaries.

10. My Government is committed to provide better opportunities to our youth in various fields especially sports and employment. To train our sportspersons to qualify for participation in the Olympic 2016, a special programme “Olympic Vision 2016” has been launched in which sportspersons are given special intensive training in selected disciplines such as Archery, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Boxing, Weightlifting, Judo, Badminton, Shooting and Hockey. There are various development works going on for sports: construction of Cricket Stadium at Sihhmui, Indoor Stadium at Bungtlang, Indoor Stadium at Keitum, State Sports Academy at Zobawk, Regional Sports Training Centre at Saidan, Kolasib, Mini Sports Complex at Lengpui, Sports Centre at Phulpui, Multi-Sports Centre at Muallungthu, Multi-purpose Indoor Hall at Mualpui, Aizawl are all going in full swing, with majority of the projects on the verge of completion. Several projects like construction of Multi-purpose Hall at Sazaikawn, laying of synthetic football turf at Chhangphut playground, Champhai, construction of Dawrpui Multi-purpose centre, construction of Indoor Stadium at Electric Veng, Sports Infrastructure Development of Hachhek Area and others are also being taken up. Mizoram Football Team is also the Champion team at the recently held NEC Dr. T.Ao Memorial Football Tournament held at Aizawl Lammual. The Grassroots football is going on in full swing and having received the “Best Grassroots Development Programme” in India, I expect we will achieve great heights in this sport in the future.

11. Providing adequate safe drinking water to the people is an essential part of my Government. Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme

(NRDWP), 46 rural habitations are targeted to be provided with safe drinking water during 2013-2014 and 27 habitations have been commissioned and the works at the remaining habitations are in full swing. A number of 53 Schemes (19 on-going and 34 new) were approved by the 4th State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee (SLSSC) with total estimated cost of Rs. 6449.17 lakh. Many water supply schemes funded by Govt. of India will be taken up in the coming year. We will cover Marpara WSS with the estimated amount of Rs.183.00 lakh, Thingthelh WSS – Rs. 194.00 lakh, Extension of Distribution Network at Hnahthial WSS – Rs.150.00 lakh, Extension of Distribution at Tuipang WSS- Rs. 140.00 lakh, Improvement of Lungsen WSS –Rs. 130.00 lakh, Extension of Water Supply to Kawnmawi/Chhippui from W. Phaileng WSS – Rs. 135.00 lakh and Construction of Storm Drainage within Aizawl City during 2014-2015 with an estimated amount of Rs. 260.00 lakh, Greater Saiha WSS, Tlabung WSS and Greater Khazawl WSS. There are also ongoing projects like Greater Saitual WSS, Greater Lawngtlai WSS, Greater Hnahthial.

12. My Government will strive to give better supply of power and has undertaken many projects. The installed capacity of Hydel Generation in Mizoram at present is 29.75MW. To enhance Hydel generating capacity the Government is taking up construction of 5MW Tlawva SHP near Khuangthing village at an estimated cost of Rs 57.49 crore which is expected to be completed in 2015, it has also taken up construction of 100kW each Hydel projects at Tuiriza and Tuiching at the estimated cost of Rs 2.20 crore and Rs 1.56 crore respectively which are expected to be

completed by 2014. Construction of 3.50MW Kawlben SHP from the year 2013-14 at the probable cost of Rs 49.60 crore has also been taken up.

The 18th Meeting of Empowered Committee on 18.9.2013 for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support has recommended for 210 MW Tuivai HEP to be executed on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of Rs 340 crores which was approved by Finance Minister on November 2013. The project is the first infrastructure Public Private Partnership (PPP) project in the North East and the first power generation project to be executed on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support in India. The project will be completed within 12th Plan.

13. Transport and communication are also expected improve as better roads are being built all over the State. Railway line extends to Mizoram at Bairabi, near Assam border and is measuring only 1.5 km from Katakaj junction. Passengers and goods arrive at this station once a day. As Railways play a vital role in carrying essential commodities to the State, a new railway line project from Bairabi to Sairang having a length of 51.38 kms. was sanctioned in the railway budget 2008 - 2009 at a total cost of Rs. 510.34 crore. A 'Task Force on National Railway Project' has also been constituted to function as a mechanism of continuous inter-action between the Railway and the State Government.

14. My Government has taken ambitious steps to ensure that modern technology is available to the people. 376 public service delivery centers have been established across the state through which the citizens can avail

various services such as residential certificate, tribal certificate, income certificates, etc. The Government also envisages to cover all the villages in the next two years. 31 e-Governance services are provided to the citizen in electronics form and 57 more e-Governance services will be made available to the Citizens by 24th March, 2014. The Ministry of Communication & IT, New Delhi in association with the Department of ICT, Govt of Mizoram is establishing Software Technology Park of India at Ch. Chhunga's Bus Terminal Building, Aizawl through which local IT entrepreneurs will be able to setup Call Centre, ITES-BPO, Medical Transcription, etc. to enable them to export software and services. Currently, the STPI is ready for inauguration

15. My Government intends to take care of all habitats in the State. Besides the people, the environment, the flora and fauna will be preserved and protected. Deeply concerned about the continued loss of healthy forest cover, the State Government launched "Green Mizoram Programme" in 1999 for planting trees on barren lands including private, Government, and Semi-Government lands. Every year, a particular day in the month of June is observed as "Green Mizoram Day", which is sincerely dedicated to planting of trees as well as maintenance of trees planted in previous years. Trees are planted at identified sites by the Government and the Semi-Government Departments, the Non-Government Organizations, the Educational Institutions, and the Public. So far, more than 20 lakh seedlings have been planted or distributed for planting under this programme. During the current year (2013-2014), about 2,00,000 seedlings were planted/distributed for planting for making the State greener.

16. Rural Development occupies the foremost objective of my Government. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is still going strong. The Annual Physical Target for the year 2013-2014 is 181.735 lakhs person days. Out of this 73.066 lakhs person days has been generated. Average No. of days provided employment till date is 56 days. The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) provide financial assistance for construction and upgradation of houses to rural households living below the Poverty Line. The quantum of financial assistance provided for construction of a new dwelling unit is enhanced from ` 47,500.00 to ` 75,000/- per unit w.e.f. 2013-2014. The No. of houses targeted to be constructed for the year 2013-2014 is 3661 nos. The total number of houses constructed under this scheme till date is 1579 houses. For Creation of Village Assets, fund is being received under 13th Finance Commission Grant for Village infrastructure development like Construction of water storage tank, Community auditorium, bridges etc. During 2013-2014, Recreational Parks such as Lalthanhawla Park (Lallianvunga hmun) at Hmuifang, Brig.T.Sailo Park at Lengpui, Laldenga Park at Kawmzawl (Lunglei) Muth and Thenzawl, have been commissioned. They are now enjoyed by the public and it is also now a good source of revenue for the Government.

17. My Government gives priority to the Industrial sector, especially indigenous small scale industries like Handloom and Handicrafts. In this field, the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India has approved Cluster Development Project of Rs. 1700.00 lakhs, Technology Upgradation of Rs. 201.10 lakhs and Marketing of handloom product at Rs. 348.00 lakhs. The Revised Revival, Reforms & Restructuring Package for the handloom sector

is being implemented. The State Implementing, Monitoring and Review Committee already approved and vetted Rs. 176, 74, 405.00 as Central grant and a state share of Rs. 19,54,768.00 covering 61 Primary weavers Cooperative Societies. The unidentified weavers during 3rd Handloom Census in the year 2009 are being issued Weavers' Photo Identity Card to enable them to avail the benefit under Weavers' Credit Card scheme.

18. Our aim for economic growth has strongly ventured into border trades. For Border Trade with Bangladesh a suitable plot of land measuring 224.99 bighas was acquired at Kawrpuichhuah for establishment of Intergrated Check Post, close to the International Border and opposite to Thekkamukh of Bangladesh. Out of the area already acquired, 9 hectares (65 bighas) of land has been leased out to Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on 2.12.2009 and DPL 5 of 2010 was issued in the name of Home Secretary to the Government of India. Land Port Authority of India entrusted with the ICP has been requested to start the project as early as possible. Construction of Trade Facilitation Centre at Tlabung at a cost of Rs. 108.07 lakhs has been commissioned. With a view to promoting Indo-Myanmar Border Trade, the Land Custom Station (LCS) at Zokhawthar, Champhai District in Mizoram has been completed and is ready for joint commissioning/formal inauguration by Commerce Minister of Myanmar & Bangladesh. A project for improvement of Rih-Kalemyo road via Tiddim-Falam was proposed in the past and survey of the same was done by Border Road Organisation. A comprehensive DPR was submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GOI. The total cost of this road, Rs. 711.47 crores was approved by Government of India. An MoU for the project has been signed by Government of India and Union of

Myanmar. As and when this proposed road is completed the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade from Mizoram Sector is expected to flourish immensely.

19. Government of Mizoram has taken various steps to develop Mizoram into a Major Tourist Destination. In this aspect, trust has been given to promotion and development of tourism infrastructures and these objectives are achieved through the liberal financing of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. The following seven (7) Tourist Facilities were commissioned during the current financial year 2013-14:

- i) Tourist Lodge E.Lungdar
- ii) Tourist Lodge N.Vanlaiphai
- iii) Tourist Lodge Saitual
- iv) Tourist Lodge Bualpui NG
- v) Tourist Lodge Sangau
- vi) Tourist Lodge S.Vanlaiphai
- vii) Tourist Lodge Darzo

Construction 11 tourist spots at various places in the State are also completed and expected to be commissioned soon.

20. I am pleased to declare that taxes and revenue collection is increasing. To mention a few, a sizeable increase in revenue collection has been noted in the course of implementing the MVAT Act since 2005, and efforts to strengthen the revenue collection are always ongoing. Revenue collection under Taxation Department for the current fiscal year (2013-2014) up to January 2014 is Rs. 180.20 crores against the target of Rs. 190.00 crores which is expected to be achieved by end of the year. Under Excise

and Customs, revenue amounting to Rs. 2.60 crores have been collected during the last 10 months i.e. upto 31st January. Lottery is one of the most important source of revenue for the State of Mizoram. The total Receipt/Collection of Revenue from Lottery business during the year 2013 - 2014 upto January, 2014 is Rs. 8.92 cores. The revenue generated from various markets during the current year upto December 2013 is Rs. 1.36 crores and so far received from Transport Department upto December, 2013 was 16.57 crores, and from tourism during the current financial year is Rs. 2.16 crores. Let us continue to aim for better revenue collection.

Hon'ble Members, I have presented a summary of my Government's achievements, policies and objectives. These are not exhaustive and more details will be spelt out in the deliberations of the present session. I hope that all of you will actively participate in the deliberations and hope that the House will function with a deep sense of responsibility and purpose, and that the dignity and reputation of the house as also the high standard of debate will be maintained.

I extend my best wishes to you again and wish your deliberations every success.