



सत्यमेव जयते

**ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. AZIZ QURESHI THE GOVERNOR OF
MIZORAM**

to

THE FIFTH SESSION

of

**THE SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF
MIZORAM**

on

17th MARCH 2015

Honorable Speaker and Honorable Members,

It gives me great pleasure to address you at the commencement of the 5th session of the 7th Legislative Assembly of Mizoram. I take this opportunity to convey my greetings and warm wishes to all of you and the people of Mizoram. I am convinced that Mizoram will continue its steady march towards lasting peace and prosperity despite the challenges which face us from time to time and that this State will one day take its place as one of the most developed and progressive in the country.

1. I am proud to state that General Elections to 93 Village Councils under Lai Autonomous District Council was held on 25th March 2014 in which reservation of seats for women was made for the first time in the elections conducted by the State Election Commission. General Elections to the Lok Sabha were held on 11th April 2014 and Election to member of Rajya Sabha was also held on 19th June 2014 in a peaceful, fair and orderly manner which has become one of the hallmarks of elections in this State. Bye-elections to fill 3 casual vacancies in Lai Autonomous District Council, Mara Autonomous District Council and Chakma Autonomous District Council were conducted on 4th June 2014 and 2nd July 2014. General Elections to 81 Village Councils under Chakma Autonomous Council was held on 25th February 2015 and reservation of seats for women was made for the first time in the Village Council elections. All these elections were conducted successfully as a result of combined efforts of the Government, political parties, NGO's and other stakeholders. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the newest member of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly, Nula VanlalawmpuiiChawngthu who has been elected from Hrangturzo constituency and welcome her to this august house.

2. I would like to reiterate before this august house my Government's commitment to provide more governance and less government and an administration which is efficient and target oriented, responsive, fair and just at all levels. In this endeavor, my Government has continued to implement the RFD (Results Framework Document), which is a record of goals and targets, the results achieved and the means by which these goals or targets are achieved.

3. Implementation of NLUP, the States' Flagship Programme will complete 5 years by the end of March, 2015. We are extremely happy that the entire amount approved and sanctioned by the Central Cabinet has been released in full. Implementation is going-on successfully as per the original plan. Assistance to about 62,567 beneficiaries has been paid in full. The Government shall continue to support and make payment for the remaining 72,433 beneficiaries as per the revised action plan. Even though there are pressures to stop NLUP from some quarters, I want to announce today that **"NLUP shall continue. All commitments made by the Government shall be fulfilled. Funds shall not be constraints. Instead of stopping, the role of NLUP will be expanded to make it more comprehensive"**

For this purpose, NLUP Revitalization Programme has been formulated, which has been announced by the Government from 11th March, 2015 onwards to inform all the citizens of Mizoram that upliftment of the poor, assistance for their needs and giving them priority attention in their endeavour to achieve more income, better living conditions and support for their livelihood activities shall continue to be priority for the State Government. Various

problems and deficiencies in the project planning and implementation during the on-going 5 year period have been identified. Remedial measures have been suggested.

In pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the UN Resident Coordinator, all the UN Agencies, namely, NUDP, UNIDO, FAO and ILO have been making works programme and preparing budget for implementation. Support from the UN Headquarters and the various UN Agencies is becoming a reality. Thanks to the signing of MoU with the UN agencies, several countries have shown interest to join hands with the Government of Mizoram to achieve objectives of NLUP especially in development of forests, protection and maintenance of eco-system, support for livelihood activities, water and land management. More agreements are being signed with more agencies and partners. Several projects have been prepared and are in various stages of progress. The UN Project Office at Aizawl is ready and is awaiting formal inauguration. Selection and appointment of UN Project staff is going-on in full swing. The office is expected to be fully functional by April, 2015.

In order to ensure full support to all the ongoing NLUP beneficiaries and to supplement several other complementary projects, the State Government has decided to extend NLUP for another 5 years. Looking at the prospect of good success, it is expected that NLUP will reach production stage in the 2nd Phase and will contribute immensely to economic growth of the State. In order to provide sustainable income to all beneficiaries, various internal experts have been working for the various needs since January, 2013 onwards to make inclusive growth and financial inclusion a reality. There will be problems and hardships in the road ahead. I request support and cooperation of all sections of the people, the beneficiaries and the Departmental functionaries. Due to abolition of the Planning Commission and delay in finalization of role and functions of the NITI Aayog and changes made by the Central Government regarding strategy for planning and policy for delegation of funds to the State in the 14th Finance Commission and the Central Budget, the strategy for planning & implementation of NLUP will also be modified to conform to the new strategy. I am fully convinced that NLUP will bring a new hope and a new dawn for Mizoram.

4. As always, agriculture remains the stronghold of Mizoram's economy. My Govt. is committed to enhance agricultural crop production and increase crop productivity to make it a sustainable livelihood. Rice productivity under WRC has increased from 2.09 MT/Ha to 2.20 MT/ha due to adoption of High Yielding Varieties of seeds, Improved Production Technologies such as System of Rice Intensification (SRI) etc. Similarly, Jhum area is also at a decreasing trend as many farmers have opted for permanent system of cultivation through the introduction of improved system of farming and the State Flagship Programme, New Land Use Policy. The total area under Oil Palm cultivation as on 28th February 2015 is 20,377 Hectare and 5459.4305 tons was produced during this year. Many Oil Palm cultivators are getting remunerative prices from selling of FFB. Oil Palm Mill at Bukvannei, Kolasib District was commissioned on 18.10.2014 with a capacity of 5 MT per hour by the Honorable Chief Minister of Mizoram on 28th October, 2014 and establishment of another two (2) Oil Palm Mills at Lunglei and Serchhip districts is in the pipe line.

5. Implementation of NLUP has resulted in a 13.8% increase in production of milk, 25% increase in eggs, 35.2% in meat and broom production has increased to approximately 32,74,093 Kg. To supply quality feed to farmers, different types of animal feed are being produced at Tanhril Feed Mill and 10,78,662 metric tons was sold to livestock farmers during 2014-15 at subsidized rates.

6. My Government recognizes the importance of minor irrigation and in line with this realization, 58 new Minor Irrigation Projects have been proposed and sanction from the Central Government is expected in the near future. These projects are estimated to cover an irrigation potential area of 4,349 ha and will benefit 1,592 farmers. My Government has constructed Khawlailung Anti-erosion Scheme for protection of 135 hectares of agricultural land belonging to 52 families.

7. Horticulture is another field in which My Government has made several strides forward. Under NLUP, several farmers practicing Jhum cultivation have adopted permanent cultivation of Orange, Grape, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Mango, Squash, Aloe vera, Arecanut, Tea and Tung with financial target of Rs. 2840.00 lakhs. Some of these farmers now have incomes ranging from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 2,50,000/- per annum as a result of such cultivation. To promote commercial cultivation of Herbal and Medicinal Plants, 130 Hectares of new Aloe vera gardens are being established at Baktawng, and Soap is being prepared from the extracted gel of Aloe vera which are now available in the local markets. Centre of Excellence at Serchhip was inaugurated by Honorable Chief Minister, Government of Mizoram on 5th March 2015 and other Centers of Excellence are also being established at Lunglei District and Kolasib District.

8. Mizoram is an ideal place for development of all the varieties of Silk viz. Mulberry, Eri, Muga and Oak Tasar. It plays an important role in restructuring rural economy of Mizoram and upliftment of the rural poor with the Government flagship NLUP. 340 metric tons of cocoons, 7.5 lakh silkworm seeds and 39.97 metric tons of raw silk have been produced. 25 Kilo watt Solar Power Plant was installed in Zemabawk Sericulture Complex using NLUP infrastructure fund. Silk Sales Emporium was also opened in the premises of Directorate of Sericulture.

9. My Government has given its utmost priority to improve marketing aspect of Agricultural produce by providing physical market infrastructure and protecting the general interest of the farmers. As of now, there are as many as 224 markets within the state which are directly or indirectly managed by Trade & Commerce Department.

10. Mizoram offers various opportunities for tourism, including archeological and heritage tourism, cultural and eco-tourism. My Government has been making endless efforts to place Mizoram as a prominent tourist destination in the tourism map of India and in the international market at large. In this endeavor, focus has been given to creation and development of Tourism infrastructure as well as improvement of existing infrastructure with financial help and expertise from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. At present, My Government is undertaking the development of Eco-Tourism Mega Circuit at Thenzawl with a sanction amount of Rs. 48.29 crore. Development of trekking routes to

attract adventurous and enthusiastic travelers are also being undertaken at three routes with a total sanction amount of Rs. 16.95 crores. Two rural tourism projects at Thenzawl and Lungtlan have been completed. A Project to develop Aerospots is also being undertaken to attract thrill-seekers from all over the world and under this project, nine (9) Mizo youth have successfully completed training courses in Paragliding. As part of tourism marketing, my Government has successfully organized Anthurium Festival and ThalfavangKut which are both celebrated with traditional festivities and fanfare to attract more visitors to the state. The number of tourist arrivals during the year 2013-2014 was 65,485 persons and 51,901 persons during 2014-15, upto December 2014.

11. My Government recognizes the special relationship between sports and our youth and has rolled out a special programme called "Olympic Vision 2016" in which sportspersons are given special intensive training in selected disciplines such as Archery, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Boxing, Weightlifting, Judo, Badminton, Shooting and Hockey. Results seen have so far been very encouraging. In the recently concluded 35th National Games, forty five (45) athletes participated in seven (7) Sports disciplines. The Mizoram team won gold in football, one (1) silver and three (3) bronze medals in Taekwondo and one (1) silver medal in Weightlifting. Projects such as Sports Training Centre at Saidan, construction of a Cricket Stadium at Sihmui at a cost of Rs. 1128.16 lakh, construction of a Table Tennis Hall at Kawltheihuan and laying of synthetic football turf at Chhangphut Field, Champhai has been completed.

12. My Government places great emphasis on welfare of all citizens, from the new born to the silver haired. 27 ICDS Projects covering all Rural Development Blocks are being maintained in the State. Almost all the 2,244 AnganwadiCentres have pucca buildings constructed and sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India and community contribution and participation in the programme especially for construction of AnganwadiCentreshas far exceeded our expectations. The State Resource Centre for Women has been set up for economic and social empowerment with emphasis on health and education, elimination of violence against women and gender mainstreaming programmes. My Government is giving Old Age Pension to persons who are below poverty line @ Rs. 500/- per month to 4267 persons above the age of 80 and @ Rs. 200/- per month to 20,984 persons between the ages of 60 – 79 years. Widows from BPL families whose age is between 40 – 59 years are getting monthly pension of Rs 300/- and there are 1925 beneficiaries under the scheme. Under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), 618 disabled persons between 18 – 59 years from BPL families are given a monthly pension of Rs 300/- p.m. Under the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), 197 families of a household below poverty line receive assistance of Rs. 20,000/- on the death of its primary bread winner whose age is between 18 – 64 years. Construction of Eklavya Model Residential School, Serchhip is ongoing. Five (5) Tribal Girls Hostels at Saitual, Aizawl, Pukpui, Lunglei District, Thenzawl, Serchhip District and KVM Higher Secondary School, Aizawl have been completed.

13. Upliftment of the poor is one of the top priorities of My Government. For provision of housing and other basic amenities to families below poverty line and economically weaker sections of the society, three (3) housing projects in Aizawl City, namely, ChiteLawipu Combine EWS Housing Project, Rangvamual EWS Housing Project and

Durtlang EWS Housing Project are being implemented under Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP). These projects together will provide housing to 1096 urban poor families and are expected to be completed in a few months' time.

14. My Government remains committed to maintenance of Public Distribution System (PDS) for the benefit of poor people. In spite of the acute financial constraint faced by the Government and limited allocation of subsidized foodstuff to the state by the Central Government, My Government has managed equitable distribution of foodstuff to the general public, thereby ensuring food security within the state. My Government has completed 93.58 % computerization of Ration Cards which will eliminate the problem of bogus Ration Cards as well as prevent leakages of food grain from the entire Supply chain – Fair price Shop level.

15. My Government is much concerned with the menace of drug trafficking and drug abuse which has assumed alarming proportions. The Excise & Narcotics Department has made all out efforts to control this menace . As a result, 366 drug traffickers and abusers were apprehended during the current financial year 2014-2015 (upto 31st Jan.,2015). Under licence of Excise & Narcotics Department, two (2) wineries have been established at Hnahlan and Champhai from which an Excise duty of Rs. 14.25 lakhs is expected during this year. The Mizoram Liquor (Control & Prohibition) Act, 2014 which repeals the MLTP Act, 1995 has been enforced w.e.f. 15th January, 2015.

16. Under the flagship NLUP, the Fisheries Department harvested 2,578 metric tons of table-size fish. The Government has introduced Cage Culture Fish Farming at Serlui 'B' Hydel Project and 25 metric tons of table-size fish has been harvested so far and 1500 families have been provided livelihood under Reservoir Fisheries. The Government has also established 2 Mini Ice-Plants at Darlak, Mamit District and Lunglei. 400 metric tons of fish feed and 237 lakh fingerlings have been supplied to beneficiaries under RKVY program. There are also currently 2 Fish Feed Mills under construction.

17. The State of Mizoram is blessed with a large extent of forest cover with rich biodiversity. To tackle the problem of depletion and degradation of our forests, creation of new plantation of over 11,310 hectares of degraded forests have been taken up during the current year (2014-15).

18. State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has been established in 7 armed battalions of Mizoram Armed Police (MAP and Indian Rifles (IR) Police in the state for a prompt response in the event of any disaster and 662 SDRF personnel were trained in the basic course.

19. Providing quality education at all levels has always been one of the top priorities under My Government. Free text books have been distributed by SSA amounting to Rs. 329.12 lakhs for 1,71,075 students of Classes – I to VII belonging to Government, Deficit and Adhoc Aided Schools. Two (2) sets of uniforms costing Rs. 400/- for 1,63,393 students amounting to Rs. 653.57 lakhs have been provided to students of all Elementary Schools free

of cost. Various programs under RMSA and SSA have been carried out successfully and effectively. The Mid-Day Meal program has been carried out successfully without interruption for which Rs. 1908.89 lakh has been utilized. My Government has decided to introduce Pre-School (KG-I & KG-II) from the next academic session 2015-16 in 148 selected Primary Schools as a Pilot Project. The College of Teachers Education (CTE) has been upgraded into the Institute of Advanced Studies (IASE). Six (6) District Resource Centers (DRC's) have been upgraded into full-fledged DIET's for which the Govt. has approved UGC pay-scale. The new scheme viz. RastriyaUchchatarShikshaAbhiyan (RUSA) for Higher Education in Mizoram State is also implemented.

20. The year marked the launch of 4 nos. of two-wheeler ambulances initiated as a Pilot Project in Aizawl Urban area to respond to emergency calls from various corners of the city during the heavy traffic hours of the day for seven (7) days a week. Community Based Planning and Monitoring (CBPM) / Community Action for Health (CAH) Programme has been launched to develop and strengthen community involvement in accountability, planning and action mechanisms and processes to improve access and utilization of health services under National Health Mission (NHM). AYUSH in Mizoram is a sunrise sector since its inception in 2001 having one (1) PHC in North Vanlaiphai, one (1) CHC in Thingsulthiah and one (1) PHC at Haulawng. At present, AYUSH facilities, both OPD and clinic are co-located in eight (8) District Hospitals, eight (8) CHC's, and three (3) PHC's with one (1) Medical Officer (MO) each being posted. A 50 bedded AYUSH Hospital at Thenzawl is underway and 70% of the work is complete. AYUSH free clinics/Health Camps are regularly organized in every District, CHC and PHC in which medicine is distributed free of cost. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1940 and Rules 1945, Drugs (Price Control) Order 1995 and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954 have been enforced to ensure the availability of standard quality of drugs and cosmetics to the consumer, to ensure safety of blood transfusion, to control drug prices and ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices, to ensure availability of sufficient quantity of drugs to the public and prevent objectionable and misleading advertisement in order to discourage self-medication and self-treatment and to prevent misuse of abusive drugs. Till date, 8,444 drug stores have been inspected and 63 drug licenses cancelled. The Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules and Regulations 2011 is enforced to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food to consumers. Under this Act, 1214 Food Registrations and 98 Food Licenses have been issued. The Government has initiated establishment of a Medical College which will be housed at State Referral Hospital Complex which is proposed to be opened in August 2015 with an intake capacity of 50 students.

21. The 13th Finance Commission has granted Rs. 600 lakh for construction of Fire station-cum-Quarters with Water Reservoir and Fencing for Kolasib, Mamit and Serchhip.

22. My Government is committed to the promotion of Mizoram's Art and Culture. Construction of Suakphunga Heritage Centre at Hliappui amounting to Rs. 120 lakhs was completed in November 2014. A Cultural Heritage Centre at Lunglei amounting to Rs. 300 lakh is under construction.

23. My Government is committed to the welfare of workers in the unorganized sector. The Mizoram Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board has been functioning silently but efficiently and the number of beneficiaries registered so far has exceeded 20,000. This Board has collected Cess in the amount of Rs. 20 crores with Rs. 6 crore having been disbursed to beneficiaries. It had also organized training on glazed tile and cement work .

24. During the Financial Year 2014-15, the State Government released Rs. 3726.94 lakh under Plan fund and Rs. 17293.88 lakh under Non-Plan fund for achieving all-round development and administration in the three (3) Autonomous Districts. Other funds released during 2014-15 upto February 2015 are Rs. 1094 lakh to the Lai Autonomous District Council, Rs. 1593.89 lakh to the Mara Autonomous District Council and finally, Rs. 1502.52 lakh to the Chakma Autonomous District Council.

25. My Government regularized the services of 164 Muster Roll employees and 227 Contract employees. Dearness Allowance was enhanced by 10 % from the existing 90 % to 100% with effect from 1st July 2014.

26. To have healthy economic progress, My Government aims at bringing about improvement in the industrial sector .My Government has allotted more than twenty five (25) units of Industrial plots in Zuangtui Industrial Area and ten (10) units in the Export Promotion Industrial Park at Lengte. ‘Bamboo handicrafts cluster’ and ‘Agarbati cluster’ has been set up at six (6) and four (4) different places respectively, in Mizoram. Mizoram Ispat Industry and Chinzah Enterprise at Lengte have started commercial production and three (3) Food Processing units are expected to commence commercial production in the near future.

27. My Government has taken various e-Governance initiatives. I am proud to mention that Mizoram has been awarded ‘Emerging ICT State of the Year’ with the Transport Department and State Unit of NIC having received the winning prize on ‘Real Time Courtesy & Information SMS Service on Vehicle Registration without Using SMS Gateway’. Special Mention awards were given to Taxation Department and East Lungdar Block Development Office with Department of ICT on ‘e-Governance & Citizen Services Delivery’ and ‘e-Culture & Heritage’ categories respectively.

28. My Government has made important provisions in ‘The Lushai Hills District (Village Council) Amendment Act 2014’ to facilitate reservation of a number of seats in all Village Councils for women and the term of these Village Councils shall now be five (5) years.

29. ‘The Mizoram (Land Revenue) Act, 2013’ and ‘The Mizoram (Land Revenue) Rules, 2013’ were notified. This will solve basic problems in land administration and meet the needs of the people while enhancing our land revenue.

30. I would like to congratulate our efficient law enforcement agencies which have been supported by NGO's, religious institutions and the media, for maintaining our State as one of the most peaceful in the country. Police personnel are actively involved in maintenance of law and order and the resulting peace and tranquility is the envy of many of our neighbours and other States in mainland India. Sincere efforts to rescue people abducted by insurgent groups like the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) were made and

abductees have been safely rescued time and again. I also appreciate the efforts of the Police in detecting and recovering of high quality Fake Indian Currency (FIC), smuggled arms and ammunition, opium and other contraband drugs and in swiftly detecting the main culprit in gelatin bomb blasts which rocked Aizawl. I am proud to say that implementation of Crime & Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) Project is actively taken up by CID Crime and according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Mizoram is assessed as one of the front runner states in the country in implementation of this project for which a letter of appreciation was received from Director General, NCRB in August 2014 to CCTNS Mizoram team for its achievements.

31. My Government accords priority to the provision of clear and safe drinking water to citizens and has undertaken several projects in rural and urban areas during 2014-15. Efforts have been made to improve and consolidate the infrastructure by which water supply is provided to people of the State, especially in the rural areas. Extension of distribution network for Hnahthial Water Supply Scheme, enlargement and extension of distribution network of Tuipang 'V' Water Supply Scheme, extension of Bilkhawthlir Water Supply Scheme are some of the examples of work done in this regard in rural areas apart from upgradation and renovation of Aizawl Water Supply Scheme (AWSS). There are other schemes being carried out under NLCPR like Greater Lawngtlai Water Supply Scheme (Pumping), West Phaileng Water Supply Scheme (Pumping), Bairabi Water Supply Scheme (Gravity), Sairang Water Supply Scheme (Pumping) to name a few which are expected to be completed shortly. In line with the national focus on providing every household safe and sanitary toilets along with hygienic and efficient management of solid waste, My Government has constructed 84,647 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL's) for BPL families, 1,455 Anganwadi Toilets, 4,050 School Toilets and 72 Solid Waste Management units all over the State. The Government has also amended 'The Mizoram Water Supplies (Control) Rules 2011' for enhancement of revenue generation.

32. To enhance Water Supply, Sewerage & Sanitation and Solid Waste Management within Aizawl, a project amounting Rs. 330 crore is being implemented under State Investment Program for Management and Implementation Unit (SIPMIU).

33. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has indicated their finding of Natural Gas at Meidum, Kolasib District. Oil India Ltd. (OIL), who are operating in the Central part of the state will also start exploratory drilling. At Maubuang, Oil India Ltd. has drilled about 2 km out of a target depth of 4.5 km. Oil & Gas exploration work will be done at Phulmawi, Keifang, Sabual and Darlung Village in the near future. All these Companies are expecting to strike oil/gas in the near future. The state has received Rs. 18,88,26,337/- from Petroleum Exploration Licensing Fees from these Companies up to February, 2015.

34. My Government is fully committed to root out corruption in all its forms and at all levels and this has been one of the main agenda to achieve good governance for the people of Mizoram. The passage of the Lokayukta Bill, 2014 in the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram is an important step in this direction. In order to regulate marriage, divorce and inheritance of property in line with customs and traditions prevailing among Mizo society, 'The Mizo Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2014' has been passed by the Legislative

Assembly during its fourth session commencing on 11th November 2014. This historic Act aims at ensuring equality of the Genders in Mizo society.

35. One of the main thrust areas of My Government is power generation. Various projects such as construction of 12.5MVA, 132/33kV Sub-Station at Champhai completed at a cost of Rs. 1232.87 lakh, construction of 132kV Khumtung - I bay at Melriat, Mizoram funded by NEC, construction of 2.5MVA, 33/11kV Sub-Station at Durtlang, improvement of 33/11kV Sub-Station at Ngopa and construction of 2.5MVA, 33/11kV Sub-Station at Zokhawsang AR Complex have been completed. Construction of 5MW Tlawva SHP, 3.5MW Kawlbem SHP, 100KW Tuiriza MHP, 100KW Tuiching MHP and construction of 132kV Melriat to Lunglei, 132kV Luangmual to Sihhmui and 132kV Melriat to Luangmual line under NEC are also being carried out.

36. My Government has approved "Approach to Developing Growth Strategies for Mizoram" that sets out the new approach to Planning, Monitoring and Surveillance. To facilitate the growth diagnostic process, Sectoral Surveillance mechanism has been established under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, Mizoram State Planning Board. The main aim of Sectoral Surveillance is to monitor sectoral as well as Department-wise performance in the economy and to review their performance vis-à-vis their contribution to growth in the State Economy.

37. My Government has enhanced gratuity given to World War-II Veterans from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1200/- per month for Veterans and Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1000/- per month for Widows. A sum of Rs. 71,04,400/- has been sanctioned and disbursed to 197 veterans and 683 widows during 1st April 2014 to March 2015. Construction of Sainik School at Chhingchhip is underway and is expected to be completed soon.

38. Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. (MCAB Ltd.) opened Core Banking Solution with DATA CENTER on 17th June 2014 to provide easy access to customers for deposits and withdrawals. Further, MCAB Ltd. provided credit requirement to the tune of Rs. 10,038.48 lakh to 1690 families during 2013-14.

39. The majority of Mizoram's population still live in rural areas and it is because of the need to further develop this section of the population that My Government has focused on Rural Development programs. Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is one of the major programs being implemented in 16 RD Blocks and funds received under BADP have been utilized for construction of school buildings, Anganwadicenters, Community Halls, playgrounds, provision of medical equipment, capacity building and skill development of rural youth and for various infrastructural development. Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) is being implemented in two (2) districts, ie. Lawngtlai and Saiha districts with an aim to redress regional imbalances in development. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), approximately 1,86,800 families have been provided employment. A total number of 410 houses have been constructed under Indira Awaaz Yojana (IAY) in 2014-2015 up to the month of December 2014. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) has seen an area of 35,251 hectare of wasteland being developed under different land development components. 335 water harvesting structures have been created and 589 Self Help Groups (SHG's) have been given

financial assistance with 2,090 beneficiaries given financial assistance under Production system and Micro–enterprise system. NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission) is being implemented in 27 villages of 2 Districts with 198 Self Help Groups (SHG's) being formed during 2014-15.

40. Development, construction and maintenance of infrastructure like roads and highways is another area in which my Government has focused its energies on. The Government recognizes the need for better road connectivity in the State, the need for systematic and efficient maintenance of existing networks and construction of new roads to bring the people of this state closer together. In this connection, the Government, through the Public Works Department has completed formation cutting of 19.55 km, black topping upto 71.538 km, construction of 98 culverts and 1 bridge. My Government has also completed construction of 37 buildings to be used for various purposes in the State.

41. Tax and Revenue collection is improving substantially under my Government. Revenue collected through Property Registration amounts to Rs. 243.43 lakh and Building Tax amounts to Rs. 470.22 lakh during this year upto January, 2015. The revenue generated from Lottery is Rs.947.15 lakh and collection under small saving schemes amounts to Rs. 629.98 lakhs upto February, 2015. Taxation and Transport Departments have contributed Rs.20287.61 lakh and Rs. 1747.24 lakh respectively upto January, 2015. Revenue generated from Trade & Commerce amounts to Rs.147 lakh upto January, 2015 while Excise & Narcotics Department collected Rs. 257.14 lakh in the same period. Revenue collected by Tourism Department upto December, 2014 was Rs. 173.73 lakh.

42. Honorable Speaker and Honorable Members of this august house, I have presented before you a brief summary of My Government's achievements and an overview of its programs and policies. I assure all that My Government remains fully committed to maintenance of peace and the all-round development of the State and its people. I hope that My Government will continue to receive the cooperation of Honorable Members of the House and the citizens.

I convey my best wishes to you once again and wish you very fruitful deliberations.

KA LAWME

JAI HIND