

ADDRESS

of

HIS EXCELENCY

**LT. GEN. (Retd) M.M. LAKHERA, PVSM, AVSM, VSM,
THE GOVERNOR OF MIZORAM**

to

THE FIFTH SESSION

of

THE SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM

on

17th MARCH, 2010.

Hon'ble Speaker and distinguished Members,

I extend my heartiest welcome to you all to this Fifth Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly of Mizoram. I also take this opportunity to extend my best wishes and New Year greetings to the people of Mizoram through this august House.

In my address on the 17th March last year, I had promised that action will be taken soon to concretise the resolve of the new government to provide development oriented, clean, efficient and responsive administration to build a strong and prosperous Mizoram. I am very happy to state today that my Government is moving in that direction.

My Government continues to accord highest priority to ensure social and economic justice to the poor by relentlessly pushing the development activities with a view to ensure prosperity and economic well being of the people. I hope deliberations in the House will help achieve this objective.

Even though it is difficult to assess the progress made by a government elected for five years in a mere fifteen months, its direction can be fathomed in the light of its policies, goals, projects and objectives. My government has already taken several initiatives to fulfil the promises made in the election manifesto.

I would now briefly highlight the performance and some of the plans and programmes of various departments.

1. My Government is deeply concerned about the condition of the poor and the weak infrastructure in the State. Under the ***New Land Use Policy (NLUP)***, the Government visualises total transformation of the economy of the State, based on sustainable land-based economic activities for which Action Plan has been prepared to the tune of Rs. 2,527.20 crores. With the blessings of Chairperson, UPA

and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the matter of funding the project is in its final stage in the Planning Commission. Under the project, 1,20,000 families will be assisted initially over a period of 5 (five) years under the supervision of eight departments viz. Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary, Industries, Forest, Fisheries, Sericulture and Soil & Water Conservation Departments. NLUP will ensure upliftment of the rural and urban poor by providing them sustainable and permanent land based means of livelihood while at the same time restoring ecological balance.

2. Hon'ble members are aware that effective law & order administration is very important for maintaining the social order, but also for attracting investment and tourists from other parts of India and abroad. My Government has done a commendable job in containing undesirable elements and improving the preparedness of law enforcing agencies in combating crimes. The incident of crime in Mizoram has also been well under control. Unfortunately, on 13th November, 2009, some unidentified anti-social elements murdered one youth Zarzokima near Bungthuam village. In retaliation, some unknown angry mobs burnt down about 360 houses and 12 unoccupied bamboo structures in 10 (ten) Bru villages in Mamit and Kolasib districts. Ten cases of arson were registered and seven suspects were arrested by the Police. 750 Security personnel were pressed into service to maintain peace and restore normalcy. Timely intervention of the District Administration and the Police Forces ensured that no further untoward incident took place. Relief and rehabilitation for the victims were taken up in ample measure.
3. My Government is also concerned with the menace of drug trafficking and abuse. In order to control this alarming menace, the Excise & Narcotics Department during the financial year (upto

January 2010), arrested 382 traffickers and abusers of drugs and 2,653 persons who violated the prohibition law. Revenue amounting to Rs. 172.06 lakhs has also been realised. Under the *Mizoram Excise & Narcotics (Wine) Rules, 2008*; two Winery Licenses at Champhai and Hnahlan have been issued and the wineries are expected to function in a short time. The department expects to collect considerable revenue from these Wineries.

4. To strengthen the Mizoram Fire & Emergency Services, Government created the post of Director during 2009–2010 and allocated an amount of Rs. 250 lakhs for purchase of eight new Fire Tenders along with other modern equipments. Making use of Information Technology, awareness campaign on Fire Safety was launched during this dry season, through SMS and Voice Mails.
5. In order to strengthen an independent Judiciary, various steps have been taken by my Government towards this end. The proposed Raj Bhavan Complex has been handed over to the Gauhati High Court for the location of New High Court. The High Court had recently approved setting up of Family Courts at Aizawl, Lunglei, Kolasib and Champhai. 6 Senior Civil Judges were recruited and 12 posts of Civil Judge (Junior Grade) were filled up and posted in all the Districts. Construction of Additional Court buildings at Champhai and Lunglei are nearing completion, new Court building at Mamit is coming up and steps have been taken to acquire lands at Serchhip and Kolasib. The *Mizoram State Legal Services Authority* and *District Legal Services Committees* are being reconstituted. Steps have been taken to set-up *Gram Nyayalayas (Village Courts)* in a phase manner. Publication of the ***Mizoram Codes***, which is a compilation of all Acts, Rules and Regulations made by the State

since 1972 is in full swing, and four volumes covering the period from 1972 to 1986 had so far been brought out.

6. The existing Central Jail and five District Jails are being modernised to ensure that they serve as corrective institution. Construction of new District Jails at Lawngtlai, Serchhip and Mamit are nearing completion. Voluntary participation of NGOs, establishment of *Continuing Education School* for illiterate inmates with the help of Adult Education Department and free admission to *Bachelor Preparatory Programme (BPP)* under *IGNOU Special Study Centre* at Central Jail, Aizawl for literate inmates are all intended to improve and shape the future of the inmates.
7. My Government endorsed the Draft Approach to the 11th Five Year Plan especially in Agriculture sector for sustainable development as well as self sufficiency in food grains. The main strategies will include accelerating the GDP growth in Agriculture sector to around 4% and larger investment of private sector through contract farming. Multi pronged action will be taken for conversion of jhum land into permanently cultivated ones particularly for Oil Palm Cultivation with a target of 2,500 hectares increasing area under High Yielding Variety and multiple cropping, balanced and integrated use of fertilizers, Integrated Pest Management (PIM), introduction of more farm machineries, promotion of vermi-composting, bio-pesticides, compost manure production, low-cost rainwater harvesting, etc.
8. In order to fetch higher price for organically certified produces, Horticulture Department has engaged '*One Cert Asia*', a certifying agency for the purposes of having organic produces in the State. Assistance is given to farmers in the form of vermi-compost units, mushroom cultivation, low-cost green houses, individual water

tanks, etc. Horticulture Department participated in the **5th International Flora Expo, 2009** held at Bangalore during 5th – 7th December, 2009 and bagged the coveted **1st Prize** in the *National Art Competition*.

9. Soil & Water Conservation Department carried out Plantation totalling 80 Hectares of Coffee, Large Cardamom, Rubber and Tea. During 2010-2011, 200 numbers of Water Harvesting, 330 hectares of Terracing, 100 numbers of Soil Conservation Engineering works are being taken up. Production of seedlings of Rubber, Broom grass and Coffee will be taken up under NLUP.
10. My Government has taken steps to make available livestock feeds at a cheaper rate by setting up Animal Feed Plant under **Project MODAFER**. A total of 11,17,500 Kgs. of Poultry Feed, Pig Feed and Dairy Milch Concentrates has been produced during the year and sold to the public at a lower rate. Establishment of Modern Animal Slaughter House with Project cost of Rs. 321.00 lakh from NEC is also nearing completion.
11. Under Fisheries Department, 9 lakhs fingerlings were produced in the four Departmental Fish Seed Farms, 229 lakh fish seeds, 1082 quintals of fish feeds and various types of fishing nets were also distributed to fish farmers at subsidised rates. Under *National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)*, 12.5 lakhs each fish seeds had been stocked at Serlui 'B' and Teirei Hydel Projects. Construction and Supply of input of new pond of 808 hectares, 3 units Hatcheries and 2 fish vending stalls are further contemplated. One State Level Laboratory at Lengpui and three Training Centres at Lengpui, Lunglei and Saiha are functioning in full-swing.

12. My Government acknowledges the potential of development of all four varieties of Silks like Mulberry, Eri, Muga and Oak Tasar. The area under Mulberry Plantation has been increased by 1,500 Acres during 2009–2010. Under NLUP, 500 families initially and 2,000 more families in 2010–2011 are to be covered under Sericulture.
13. To improve the living standards of the rural poor, 1,895 houses have been constructed and 1112 houses have been upgraded during 2009–2010 under IAY. With the objective of reclaiming degraded and waste lands, 52 projects are being implemented throughout Mizoram under IWDP/Hariyali with funds released by the Central Government to the tune of Rs. 1,704.81 lakhs. Under Social Education Scheme, construction of Community Halls, NGO buildings, Bridges, Playgrounds and Retaining walls had been taken up involving expenditure of Rs. 300 lakhs during 2009–2010. A total of 450 works are being taken up in the border blocks under BADP. Ministry of Rural Development had released Rs. 17,980.53 lakhs for NREGS during the current financial year and 1,87,773 households had been provided employment. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had released Rs. 19.28 crores as Backward Region Grant Fund for implementation in Saiha and Lawngtlai districts. The number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) assisted under SGSY totalled 130, with an expenditure of Rs. 33.69 lakhs during the current year. A total of 170 projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 946.569 crores, covering an area of 6,31,047 hectares is proposed to be taken up in a phase manner during the Fifth Plan under the *Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)*. Sanction of Rs. 93.65 crores has also been accorded for 16 projects to be implemented in the current year.

14. To cater to the need of the urban poor. Housing under *Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP)* and *Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)* is going on in full swing. In the State capital, construction of 408 Housing units is in progress, and another 688 units will be started shortly. In the meantime, Rs. 3,926.84 lakhs have been sanctioned under IHSDP to provide housing for 1,950 urban poor families in other District Headquarters. Two major projects under *North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme (NERUDP)* and *JNNURM (UIG)* had been started to provide adequate supply of safe and clean water in Aizawl. In addition, sanctions have been received by the State PHE under *UIDSSMT* for Greater Water Supply Schemes at Lunglei and Serchhip. Other Urban Development Schemes include Solid Waste Management Centres, oxidation ponds, storm water drains, car parkings, pedestrians' footpaths, etc. Training of BPL families and wage employment are also being undertaken under the new guidelines of *SJSRY*. This august House had also unanimously passed '***The Mizoram Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2009***' on 29th October, 2009 to remove certain infirmities in the original Act.
15. The *State Election Commission* was formed in 2008. At this stage, election to 7 newly created Village Councils and 2 dissolved Village Councils have been announced. To implement the Constitutional requirement for formal constitution of Municipality, all out effort is being made for the conduct of free and fair election to the *Aizawl Municipality*.
16. Local Administration Department with an allocation of Rs 750 lakhs is implementing development works in Urban and Rural Areas in six districts excluding the Autonomous District Council Areas. An allocation of Rs. 622.50 lakhs under Urban Development is being

spent on minor works, parks, construction of steps, urban forestry, monsoon damage schemes and liquid waste disposal. A grant from the 12th Finance Commission of Rs. 400 lakhs is allocated for implementation of Grants for Local Bodies pertaining to Panchayati Raj Institutions in all villages excluding Aizawl City.

17. My Government had made an investment of Rs. 233.50 lakhs for Bamboo Development Agency. This Agency has entered into joint ventures with Companies in India and abroad. Industrial Growth Centre at Luangmual is under construction. Geological investigations of ground water, dam sites, minor minerals and slide areas are actively being undertaken by Geology & Mining wing. Exploration of Oil and Gas in northern Mizoram is being undertaken by ONGC and further exploration works in the southern parts is expected to start soon.
18. The new Department of Information and Communication Technology has taken up various activities of Capacity Building, hosting of Official Website of Government of Mizoram, Software Development, integration of existing *Community Information Centres (CICs)* into *Common Service Centres (CSCs)*, *State Data Centre* and the *Mizoram State Wide Area Network (SWAN)* Projects. The Government of India also conveyed administrative approval for implementation of '*Pilot e-District Project*' in Aizawl District with an estimated outlay of Rs. 315.88 lakhs.
19. To cater the need of travelling public, construction of Inter-State Bus Terminus at Chaltlang which was started during August 2004 had been completed during 2009. DPR for construction of Bus Terminal at Lunglei and concept paper for Bus Terminal at Silchar were also completed. Government of India had approved Rs. 325 lakhs for

purchase of buses under JNNURM, out of which Rs. 146 lakhs had been sanctioned for purchase of 14 urban buses. Rs. 105 lakhs had been sanctioned out of the approved Rs. 527 lakhs for development of Inland Water Transport at Tlawng river. Construction of Directorate of Transport building and DTO Office, Mamit are to be started in the near future.

20. My Government has made significant achievement in building infrastructures of roads, bridges and buildings. During 2009-2010, an amount of Rs. 5,887 lakhs was provided under Road & Bridges. With this fund, construction of new roads, widening, improvement, and rehabilitation of State roads are being taken up all over the State. *'Widening of Aizawl-Thenzawl-Lunglei road'* under *World Bank Aided Project*, will be completed during 2010–2011; *Multi-Modal Transport Project* connecting Southern Mizoram from Lawngtlai to Myanmar; taking over of NH-54 from Border Road Organisation by the State PWD; and the targeted 400 Km of roads to connect 80 villages during the next financial year are notable. Under the building sector, major projects taken up include Mizoram Legislative Assembly Annexe, Circuit Houses at Kolasib and Champhai, Mizoram Houses at New Delhi and Shillong, Indoor Stadiums at Aizawl and Champhai, Raj Bhawan Complex, Tribal Arts Centre at Tuivamit, Rajiv Gandhi Stadium at Mualpui, 43 units of Residential Quarters and Tourist buildings at various places in Mizoram.
21. My Government is convinced that no progress is possible without transforming the power situation in the State. 20 kms long 33kV D/C Serlui 'B' to Bawktlang line was completed on 27th November 2009 at the cost of Rs. 596 lakhs. The 12.5 MVA, 132/133kV Power Transformer at 132kV Sub-Station, Khawiva (Lunglei) was

commissioned on 28th August 2009. Maicham-II SHP having the capacity of 3.0 MW was technically commissioned on 10.9.2009 and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 11.11.2009. On-going and planned projects include Serlui 'B' SHP with total capacity of 12 MW, Koladyne HEP Stage-II (460 MW), Tuivai HEP (210 MW) and numerous Sub-Stations and Transmission lines. Sanction of Rs. 267.95 crores for rural electrification under RGGVY was received on 25.8.2008, aiming at electrification of all 137 un-electrified villages, intensification of 570 electrified villages and free connection to 27,417 BPL households.

22. Provision of adequate, safe and potable water and appropriate sanitation facilities are part of my Government's priorities. With the introduction of *new Guidelines for Rural Water Supply Programme*, revalidation survey had been conducted by PHE Department during February to May 2009. During 2009–2010, the department provided 46 habitations with safe drinking water at Fully-Covered status under *National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)*. A target of 151 rural habitations is proposed to be covered during the next financial year. It is also proposed to achieve full coverage of all 22 Census Towns during the 11th Five Year Plan period. Under the *Total Sanitation Campaign*; 58,185 Individual Household Latrines for BPL families, 3,219 School Toilets, 912 Anganwadi Toilets and 360 Sanitary Complexes were completed till date. ***Nirmal Gram Puraskar*** were given to 20 Village Councils having sanitized latrines for each household and schools as well as open defecation-free villages on 9.12.2009.
23. My Government is fully committed to develop and upgrade modern infrastructure for Government Hospitals. Under *NRHM Flexi-Pool Fund*; construction of Staff Quarters, Gynaecology Block, Vertical

Extension of OPD Block, Radiology and Imaging Department are being started at Civil Hospital, Aizawl. Extension of Regional Cancer Centre is going on and is equipped with modern instruments. To strengthen and facilitate District Hospitals, new equipments and materials have been installed and commissioned to provide better health care facilities to Indoor and Outdoor patients. In order to avoid referring large number of patients outside the State for investigation and treatment, tele-consultation with District Hospitals of Lunglei, Saiha and Champhai has been started at Civil Hospital, Aizawl.

24. My Government continues to implement welfare activities by giving assistance to the handicapped, the aged and the disabled, women empowerment, upliftment of women and children, and in the field of social defence. With opening of 4 (four) additional ICDS Projects at Champhai, Bilkhawthlir, Bungtlang 'S' and Saiha in February 2010, there are now a total of 27 ICDS Projects with 1,692 Anganwadi Centres. Under the two new schemes of *Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Schemes (IGNWPS)* and *Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)*, 1,779 persons received a pension of Rs. 200/- per month. My Government now disburses a total of 23,747 *Old Age Pension* with the addition of 8,231 beneficiaries during 2009–2010 to the existing 15,516 aged persons.
25. Improvement of education standard in the State is of great concern to my Government. Vacant posts in the education department are being filled up by promotion, and appointment on regular and contract basis. 19,834 students were awarded *Pre-Matric Scholarships* and *Incentives* amounting to Rs. 1.76 crores. Award of *Pre-Matric Scholarship for Minority Communities* and *Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education* are under process. *Mid-day meals*

are continually given and construction of Kitchen sheds and procurement of Kitchen appliances are being undertaken. Construction of School buildings, toilets, boundary walls and electrification under SSA mission were executed during the financial year. Preliminary activities had been taken for implementation of a recently launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme called *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)* to universalise access to and improve quality of education at Secondary level.

26. During 2009–2010, sanction of scholarships for a target of 37,134 students under *Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST Students*, 3,781 students under *Minority Communities* and 278 students under *NEC Scheme* was received and are being disbursed. Infrastructure development of four Government Colleges; Saiha, Lunglei, Serchhip and Zirtiri Residential Science College amounting to Rs. 5.46 crores was approved by Ministry of DoNER and sanctioned Rs. 1.97 crores as first instalment on 22.9.2009. Ministry of Human Resource Development approved Rs. 12.3 crores each for setting up of new Polytechnics at Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai and Mamit. Ministry of DoNER released Rs. 90.48 lakhs as first instalment for construction of *Mizoram Law College* building at Aizawl. All these works will be started shortly. The *National Institute of Technology (NIT)*, to be funded by the Government of India, is being setup at Aizawl and classes are to be started from the coming academic session.
27. Promotion of Sports and its infrastructure is essential component of my Government's policy. The foundation stone of a full-fledged Sports stadium named '**Rajiv Gandhi Sports Stadium**' was laid by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 6th March, 2010. Work is going on in full swing and 40 percent of earth-work is already completed. With a total estimate of Rs. 1,855.81 lakhs, nine District Sports Complexes

in all District Headquarters and Dungle village shall be completed in the near future. Under the National Scheme of *Panchayat Yuva Krida Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA)*, competitions at R.D. Blocks, Districts and State levels were successfully organised throughout the State for the rural youths during 2009. *Sports Promotional Fund* was created to promote sports from the grassroot level for talent identification and development through '*Catch Them Young*' Policy introduced by the Hon'ble Sports Minister. *SYS Football Academy* at Kolasib-Saidan and *State Hockey Academy for Boys* at Kawnpui were inaugurated in the recent months. My Government has created 11 new posts for establishment of NCC Air Wing and will be functioning shortly. Aircraft Hanger was already constructed at Lengpui and the Defence Ministry is to allot Micro-Light Aircraft for training of NCC Cadets.

28. The *Mizoram Youth Commission* is now placed under the administrative control of Labour & Employment Department so that the Commission could directly and more efficiently deal with the overall welfare of the Youth. The Commission is running *Civil Service Coaching* from June 2009 and also maintains a web site named '**mycmizoram.net**', where information pertaining to reliable jobs and employment opportunities were made available.
29. Steps have been taken by my Government to develop Mizoram into a major tourist destination. The total domestic and foreign tourists registered during 2009–2010 till the end of December 2009 was 43,560 and 368 respectively; and the total revenue earned by the department during the financial year upto February 2010 is Rs. 105.12 lakhs. Construction of 11 Tourist Lodges at the total cost of Rs. 968.01 lakhs during 2009-2010 were completed and will be commissioned shortly. ***Chapchar Kut*** and ***Anthurium Festivals***

were organised as part of promotion of tourism with the funding from Ministry of Tourism.

30. Preservation of Cultural Heritage and promotion of Tribal Arts is a must for safeguarding the ethnic identities of communities living in Mizoram. Construction of State Central Library, extension of State Museum and State Archives and preservation of 32 historical monuments were undertaken during the financial year. Twenty eight youths were trained in traditional dance and modern music. Cultural programmes, meets and seminars were conducted and participated within the state and outside. **Chapchar Kut 2010** celebration was held on 11th March at Aizawl and an attempt to earn a place in the **Guinness World Records** for **Mass Cheraw dance** attempted successfully at Aizawl last Friday.
31. I am delighted to say that '*The State of Forest Report, 2009*' declared the state of Mizoram having highest forest cover in the country with 91.27% of geographical area. During 2009–2010, thirteen projects with financial outlay of Rs. 1,283.25 lakhs for creation of 3,050 hectares of plantations under *National Afforestation Programme* were sanctioned, the *National Bamboo Mission* approved allocation of Rs. 900 lakhs for implementation of Bamboo projects. Under NLUP, it is proposed to create 21,480 hectares of bamboo plantation to benefit 10,740 families. The NLUP project also intends to keep 60% of geographical area under forest cover and the remaining 40% for land-based development.
32. My Government is taking vigorous steps for ensuring availability of food grains and food items at lower prices. Today, rice purchased at an economic cost of Rs. 2,137.00 per Quintal is distributed to the public at normal APL rate of Rs. 9.50 only per Kilogram; the

Government bears the differential cost. Storage Godown at Champhai and Lawngtlai are being completed and funds have been sanctioned for Lunglei, Aibawk and Mamit. The Legal Metrology Department has done its best to maintain the standards, purity and measures of cements, iron rods, POLs, LPGs and other consumer items under control. Under the Scheme of *Integrated Project on Consumer Protection*, Central Assistance of Rs. 246 lakhs is being utilised for construction of ***District Fora*** buildings at the District Headquarters, renovation of State Commission building and for procuring non-building assets.

33. During the year, Land Revenue & Settlement Department completed Cadastral Survey Operations in 4 Village Councils in Aizawl and 8 village areas in Lunglei Town. House site plans were also prepared at different District Headquarters for allotment to the poor during the year. Under NLUP, Family Land Records drive is being carried out with the allocation of Rs. 80 lakhs. The above operations are to be continued and construction of *Mizoram Survey Training Institute* at Hualngohmun is proposed to be taken up in the coming financial year.
34. Great attention is directed towards regulating the mushrooming growth of private banking and non-banking institutions and firms by my Government. Implementation of the following Acts & Rules are under active consideration:
 - 1) The Mizoram Money Lenders and Accredited Loan Provider Act, 2007.
 - 2) The Mizoram Chit Fund Rules, 2007.
 - 3) The Prize Chit and Money Circulation Schemes (Banking) Mizoram Rules, 2007.

Revenue collection during the financial year upto January 2010 from the *Mizoram State Lottery* is Rs. 760.03 lakhs and Gross Collection under the *Small Saving Schemes* upto February 2010 is Rs. 2,649.07 lakhs.

35. My Government has enhanced the rate of *Dearness Allowance* payable to all categories of its employees from the existing rate of 17% to 54% from July 2008, to 64% from January 2009 and to 73% from July 2009. Enhanced rates of Dearness Allowances to all pensioners will be paid in cash with effect from July 2008 at 7%, from January 2009 at 17% and from July 2009 and at 26% respectively.
36. I am happy to announce that Mizoram is to drive tremendous benefits from the recommendations of the **13th Finance Commission** which have been accepted by the Government of India. The normative total of shares from sharable taxes and service tax for the coming five years amount to Rs. 3,901.30 crores, which is an increase of 166% from the award of previous Commission. The Commission also awarded Rs. 3,991 crores as Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant, Rs. 310.70 crores as grant for local bodies, Rs. 47.50 crores as State Disaster Response Fund. Over and above these, the 13th Finance Commission awarded Grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 304.36 crores for various Social & Economic measures and Rs. 250 crores to tackle State's specific needs. The overall devolution from the sharable pool of taxes recommended by the Thirteenth Finance Commission to Mizoram is, therefore, Rs. 8,805.26 crores, which is 88.92 percent increase from the award of the Twelfth Finance Commission.

37. My Government, in its commitment to bring about necessary fiscal reforms in a balanced, sustainable manner, and for enhancing the revenue earning capacity of the State, implemented the '*Mizoram Public Resource Management Programme*'. Under this Programme, the state avails a Program Loan, also called *Structural Adjustment Loan* from *Asian Development Bank (ADB)*. The total loan availed was \$100 million, which is equivalent to Rs. 470 crores. The Government of India converted the loan into 90% Grants and 10% Loan. The first tranche of Loan amounting to \$47 million (Rs. 221.46 crores) was already released by the ADB and it included the components of *Pre-payment of high cost debt, Health Insurance Corpus* and *Voluntary Retirement Scheme*.
38. Taxation department has made a significant contribution toward total State revenue. Under the VAT regime, total revenue collected from Professional Tax, Sales Tax and Entertainment Tax at the end of February 2010 was Rs. 8,398 lakhs, thereby maintaining a steady trend in revenue collection. The Department is in the process of organisational restructuring to equip itself for the forthcoming introduction of *Goods and Service Tax* from April, 2011.
39. Trade & Commerce Department had also played a pivotal role in revenue collection, market administration and development of Border Trade. There are currently 174 markets across the State managed by the Department, with a collection of Rs. 87.37 lakhs revenues. Construction of *Composite Land Customs Station (LCS)* building at Zokhawthar had been completed at Rs. 422.08 lakhs and ready for commissioning. Construction of Rih-Tiddim and Rih-Falam roads, notification of Tlabung as Land Customs Station and Khawthlangtuipui river as authorised export/import route and establishment of Border Trade Centre at Kawrpuichhuah near

Tlabung will promote border trades with neighbouring countries of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

40. My Government strives to strengthen and enhance the progress of Co-operative Movement for socio-economic development of the people. During 2009–2010, Financial Assistances in the form of *Share Capital* and *Grants-in-Aid* amounting to Rs. 347.60 lakhs have been given to State Level and Primary Cooperative Societies.
41. My Government is committed to its Constitutional obligation towards the people living in the Autonomous District Council areas. Out of the total outlay of Grants-in-aid of Rs. 12,856 lakhs, Rs. 12,412 lakhs was released to the three Councils till February 2010. A good number of link roads, water tanks, government offices with staff quarters, family oriented schemes on self-sufficiency in fish and food products, improvement and maintenance of existing roads, buildings and plantations have been taken up. Construction of LADC Session Hall at Lawngtlai is going on. The Autonomous District Councils have made an achievement of collecting revenue of Rs. 72.25 lakhs for their own resource mobilisation as on January 2010 against a target of Rs. 133.93 lakhs during 2009–2010.
42. Mizoram, apart from frequently experiencing cyclones, landslides, floods and hailstorms during monsoon, also lies within the Seismic Zone-V. My Government under the *Government of India-United Nations Development Programme (Disaster Reduction Management)* Programme has been taking initiatives to generate awareness and preparedness on earthquakes and other natural disasters. As stipulated by the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the *State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)* under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister has been formed on 1st

September, 2009 to lay down the State Disaster Management Policy. *State Executive Committee* under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary and *District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs)* in all districts have been notified. *District, Block and Village Level Disaster Management Committees* have also been formed. *State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)*, comprising of one Company each from four State Armed Police Battalions were also established. Buildings for *State Emergency Operation Centres (SEOC)* and *District Emergency Operation Centres (DEOCs)* in all districts have been constructed from UNDP funding, which will function as **Control Room-cum-Information Centres** during disaster.

43. Economics & Statistics Department is continuously conducting surveys and regularly bringing out Statistical data pertaining to Mizoram. Registration of Births & Deaths is also an important activity under RBD Act, 1969 and three new Registration Centres were opened during 2009.
44. To make use of the State's rich bio-diversity in Medicinal Plants, Science & Technology Wing of Planning Department organised '*Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Biotechnology*' in collaboration with Department of Biotechnology, Government of India at Aizawl during January, 2010. An invitation for preparation of DPR for '*Development of Medicinal Plant Sector of Mizoram State using Biotechnology*' has also been floated.
45. My Government is taking rapid pace in equipping itself with latest electronic media devices for dissemination of information to meet the challenges of fast growing media world. Information Department conducted Media workshops, Photo & Painting exhibitions, Editors'

conferences, Press visits, Press tours, Inter-District Journalist Tours, and *Aizawl Darshan* for elderly persons from interior villages. The spectacular ***Mizoram State Tableau*** presented at the ***Republic Day Parade*** in New Delhi was impressive.

46. During the past year, the Government Press has been modernised by installation of new printing machines and modern equipments. The Department of Printing & Stationeries is taking action to establish the first and only *Institute of Printing* in the North-East at Aizawl, for which DoNER had agreed to finance to the tune of Rs. 8.75 crores.
47. My Government has recently approved the establishment of two new Zila Sainik Welfare & Offices at Kolasib and Champhai, as well as establishment of Sainik School. My Government continues to pay Financial Assistance to World War-II veterans, Cash Awards to winners of Gallantry awards and Ex-Gratia to war widows and disabled soldiers at enhanced rates.

I have presented the highlights of my Government's policies and programmes, and the accomplishments. The Hon'ble Chief Minister will spell out further details in his Budget Speech.

This august House is the repository of the collective wisdom of the people of Mizoram. I hope all of you, regardless of the shades of the political spectrum to which you belong, will devote all your energies to generate new and constructive ideas for the States, and then find a way of turning these into realities.

I convey my best wishes to all of you, and I am sure your deliberations, will be extremely fruitful.

KA LAWM E.

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