

**SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
(TWELFTH SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR SIXTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 21st MARCH, 2017
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

1. **Questions** entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

LAYING OF PAPERS

2. **PU R. LALZIRLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House the a statement of correction on the reply given on the 15th March, 2017 to Starred Question No. 100, Ballot No.8 asked by Pu Lalruatkima regarding “Buh thar chungchang”.
3. **PU ZODINTLUANGA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House the following :
 - i) “The Mizoram Water Supply (Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2016”.
 - ii) “The Aizawl Municipal Corporation Building (Amendment) Regulations, 2016”.
4. **PI VANLALAWMPUII CHAWNGTHU**, Chairman to lay on the Table of the House a copy of Statement on Action taken on the further recommendations of Subject Committee-II contained in the Fourth Report 2016, relating to Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

5. **PI VANLALAWMPUII CHAWNGTHU**, to present to the House the following Reports of Subject Committee-II :
 - i) Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of Subject Committee-II of the Seventh Legislative Assembly

- of Mizoram relating to Border Area Development Programme under Rural Development Department.
- ii) Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of Subject Committee-II of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of Mizoram relating to Tlawva Small Hydel Project under Power & Electricity Department.
 - iii) Eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of Subject Committee-II of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of Mizoram relating to Mizoram Houses (New Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati) under General Administration Department.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

6. **GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2017-2018.**

General Discussion on the Budget for the year 2017-2018 (to be concluded).

NGURTHANZUALA
Secretary

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SPEAKER : “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.”

Proverbs 19:17

We shall now move to Question Hour. Let us call upon Er. Lalrinawma to ask Starred Question No. 44.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 44. Will the Hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare be pleased to state: -

- a) Number of families registered under Mizoram Health Care Scheme;
- b) Number of patients enjoying the scheme during 2015-2016.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned may answer.

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows:

- a) The number of families registered under Mizoram Health Care Scheme during 2015-2016 is 1,15,221.
- b) 5258 patients have been given assistance under this scheme during 2015-2016 which incurred an expenditure of ₹12,80,26,231/-.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Questions.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, we have learned that the Health Care rate is very low as it is made in 2008. Is there any proposal for its revision?

Secondly, payment of Bill under the Health Care is made at an interval of around 4 months. Will it be possible to pay more frequently?

Thirdly, is not it more appropriate not to club the Health Care scheme and RSBY scheme together?

SPEAKER : Another Supplementary Question from Pu Ruatkima and then Pu Pianmawia.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. How much and when was the fund for Mizoram Health Care Scheme borrowed from Asian Development Bank? What is the rate of interest and how is it proposed to repay the sum borrowed?

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, Is there any corruption being involved at the ministry level on Health Care Scheme? And, there are certain cases when some patients having smart card could not get medical bill in some Hospitals. Could the problem be solved?

PU S. LALDINGLIANA : Pu Speaker, we are now having a debt of around

₹1 crore at TATA Hospital, Mumbai. I was informed that we may continue to enjoy credit facility if our debt has been paid. Could this remaining debt be paid?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may now answer.

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding Er. Rinawma's question, we have a very limit financial resource under Health Care scheme. The package rate is also made in 2008. If this rate is not used, we could face huge financial problem and we therefore have no choice but to continue at the current rate. The government has made every possible effort so that the rate could be increased.

I am not sure about Pu Ruatkima's question at the moment, it will be intimated later.

Regarding Pu Piana's question, there is no corruption being practiced under Health Care Scheme as far as my knowledge is concern. The limited number of bills in some hospitals is due to limited bed reservation for RSBY patients. The bills will be paid sooner if the Hospitals sent it earlier.

Regarding Pu Dinga's question, it requires some discussions with Finance Department. It will be taken into consideration.

SPEAKER : Let us now take Starred Question No. 45 from Pi Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu.

PI VANLALAWMPUII CHAWNGTHU: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 45.

Will the Hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare be pleased to state: - Whether it is possible to post a doctor at East Lungdar PHC sooner? Thank you.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned may answer.

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, due to shortage of doctors, it is not possible to post a Doctor at East Lungdar PHC at the moment. We have availed the permission to recruit 26 new Medical Officers yesterday. As soon as this new recruitment is completed, it is likely that Doctor could be posted at East Lungdar PHC.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Dr. K. Beichhua to ask Starred Question No. 46.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 46. Will the Hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare be pleased to state: -

- a) The status of physical and financial achievement of the ongoing construction work of General Nursing Midwifery (GNM) School at Siaha;
- b) The estimate amount for the construction of this school;
- c) The amount of fund which had been received from the Central Government and the amount released to the contractor;
- d) Name of the contractor.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned, Pu Lal Thanzara may answer.

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to to Starred Question No. 46 is: -

- a) The Physical Achievement is 50% and the Financial Achievement is also 50%.
- b) The estimate amount for construction of Siaha General Nursing Midwifery (GNM) building is ₹10 crore including the state matching share of 15%.
- c) So far, we have received ₹4,25,00,000 as the first installment and another ₹2,50,75,000 in January 2017 as a second installment. ₹3,10,68,885 has been released to the contractor.
- d) The contractor is Pu Lalparmawia of Chanmari, Aizawl.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question from Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, we are pleased at the development of Siaha Hospital. However, the said construction work has been going on for around five years now. How many times was the contract extended till date? What is the expected time for its completion?

SPEAKER : Pu Rinawma may also ask.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, I have a doubt on how Health Deptt. could undertake this work which worth ₹10 crore as it is against the Delegation of Financial Power issued by Finance Department. I would like to ask if this is violation of Financial Rule.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned may answer.

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: Regarding Er. Lalrinawma's question, it is undertaken by Health Department as the project is of the National Health Mission.

I could not answer Dr. K. Beichhua's question at the moment. It will be intimated later.

SPEAKER : Dr. Ngurdingliana may now ask Starred Question No. 47.

Dr. NGURDINGLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 47. Will the Hon. Minister for Tourism Department be pleased to state: -
For what purpose the Govt. is planning to use Vanzau Tourist Resort which is constructed at the cost of 4.197 crore and has been left unutilized for nearly five years?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned, Pu John Rotluangliana may give the answer.

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is: -
Vanzau Tourist Resort could not be inaugurated as yet due to unavailability of fund for furnishing. The Product Development for Destination & Circuit had been stopped with the delinked of Tourism Deptt. by the Central Govt. whereas the second installment is being awaited; we are making all possible efforts so that it is released immediately. We have also applied for fund to the Mizoram Planning Commission and inauguration will soon be done when fund is made available.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu K. Lalrinthanga.

PU K. LALRINTHANGA : Pu Speaker, we also have a Tourist Spot at Serlui B Hydel Project which remain not inaugurated; yet, a receptionist staff is posted there. I would like to ask how this matter is administered.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may give the answer.

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, yes, it is not yet inaugurated. However, there are certain things which need to be taken care and a receptionist is thus posted on MR basis.

SPEAKER : We shall now move on to Starred Question No. 48 to be asked by Pu K. Sangthuama, the Hon. MLA.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 48. Will the Hon. Minister for Home Department be pleased to state: -
Whether there is a proposal for reconstruction of Sairang Police Station (Thana) and staff quarter buildings.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned may answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer is:
At present, there is no proposal for reconstruction of Sairang Police Station (Thana) and Quarters buildings.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, I have mentioned several times that the buildings of Sairang Police Station and staff quarters are very old. Could the Hon. Home Minister assure us for its reconstruction?

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Chalrosanga Ralte.

PU CHALROSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, we have learned that there is a proposal for establishment of Police Station at Lunglei. There are also some works which have been stopped at the moment. May the Hon. Minister state the reasons?

SPEAKER : Pu R.L. Pianmawia may also ask.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will it be possible to provide Xerox Machine to Police Stations?

SPEAKER : Pu S. Laldingliana.

PU S. LALDINGLIANA : In my constituency, Pu Speaker, there are 11 villages beyond Hrangchalkawn which have no Police Beat Post or Police Outpost within the area. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if it is possible to establish a Police Beat Post or Outpost at Tawi South or Thingfal or wherever convenient within this area.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon the Hon. Minister to answer them.

R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Regarding reconstruction of Sairang Police Station as pointed out by Pu K. Sangthuama, it is our desire as well. However, it is not possible at the moment due to financial problem; it will be given priority as per availability of funds.

It is correct that, as mentioned by Pu Chalrosanga, there is a proposal for construction of new building of Lunglei Police Station as some works have been

started. However, it could not be continued due to objection from some NGOs there. Therefore, it is decided that the place may be used as a public point while it is still under Police Department. If the fund has to be transferred, it is decided that Siaha Police Station should be reconstructed.

Regarding Pu Pianmawia's question, we will look into it as necessary steps being taken by the department.

It is a valid argument which has been made by Pu S. Laldingliana. It is very desirable to establish new Police Outpost within his constituency. However, there are certain things which should be done first like creation of new posts which is very difficult at the present condition. There are also many vacant posts within the department which leads to shortage of manpower. Therefore, it is my answer that it is difficult at the moment.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu Lalthanliana to ask Starred Question No. 49.

PU LALTHANLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 49. Will the Hon. Minister for Social Welfare Department be pleased to state: -
 a) If there is any proposal for renovation of Anganwadi Building;
 b) And, whether there is a proposal for free water supply to the Anganwadi centres?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned Pu PC. Lalthanliana may give the answer.

PU P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is:

- a) Yes, there is.
- b) No, there is no proposal at the moment.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question.

PU LALTHANLIANA : Pu Speaker, is it possible to mention the location which has been proposed for renovation?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister to answer.

PU P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the exact location could not be given as yet. However, 703 Anganwadi centres are being proposed for renovation as the proposal has already been submitted to the central government with photographs.

SPEAKER : Pu Nihar Kanti.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, there are some Anganwadi centres within my constituency without proper buildings. Is it possible to build new building for such centres? Thank you.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may answer.

PU P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we have availed fund for construction of 250 Nos. centres. There is a new convergence scheme with RD Department adopted by central government in which ₹171 lakh has been released from central Rural Department; ₹2 lakh each will be provided from ICDS in every centre. All the centres without buildings will be provided as per availability of sanction.

SPEAKER : We shall now go to Starred Question No. 50 to be asked by Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 50. Will the Hon. Minister for Home Department be pleased to state: -

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Zodintluanga to answer.

PU ZODINTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows: -
Construction of Aizawl Convention Centre is underway at the old location of Circuit House. It is funded under Special Plan assistance 2014-2015. The estimate amount is ₹2499.99 lakh. The contractor is selected through tender and Class-I contractor, Pu P. Lalbiaka, Luangmual is selected. It is expected to be completed by April, 2019.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, due to construction of this Convention Centre, it is learned that the Bible House which is next to the site has to be dismantled. Will the Bible House be compensated? What plan has been had by the government to this concern?

SPEAKER : Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, besides this Convention Centre, is there any proposal for construction of other public meeting place?

SPEAKER : Pu K. Sangthuama may also ask his question.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, is there any plan for renovation of Vanapa Hall?

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon the Hon. Minister to answer.

PU ZODINTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the said Convention centre is proposed to cope with the problems we face from time to time. We have no proper places to camp VVIP when they came to our state. This centre will be equipped with presidential suite for VVIPs; it will have VIP rooms, deluxe rooms, meeting rooms, auditorium and dormitory. As mentioned by Pu Ruatkima, it is unfortunately that the Bible House which is located next to the construction site has to be terminated. The government is taking all necessary steps for another location for reconstruction of Bible House.

Pu Speaker, regarding Pu R.L. Pianmawia's question, the government is planning for the construction of such public meeting place yet the exact location is not decided. Fund for its construction is also allocated under NEDP.

Regarding Pu K. Sangthuama's question, as far as my knowledge, funds had been allocated for renovation of Vanapa Hall.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I would like to add some words in this regard. It is believed that Vanapa Hall may not be safe anymore and also a little old fashioned. We search for a place to construct Convention Centre. However, it is very difficult to find appropriate place for that. At last, we decided to build at the present construction site.

It is not known whether the collapse of Bible House is due to the construction of Convention Centre. However, the government takes initiative as it is an important place for the state. We have plans to give a good site to build a new Bible House.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Er. Lalrinawma to ask Starred Question No. 51.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 51. Will the Hon. Minister for Fisheries Department be pleased to state: -

- a) How many times Fish mela was organized during 2016-2017 by the Fisheries Department;
- b) How many quintals of fish were bought from Mizoram Fish farmers for the

fish mela? What is the total cost for the purchase of such fishes?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned Pu B.D. Chakma may answer.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, the answer is: -
 a) Fish mela was organized once.
 b) 37.1 quintal of fish was bought from Mizoram fish farmers at the cost of ₹6,47,675/-.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. How much was allocated for this purpose? How much is the actual expenditure? Could they found such an amount of fish from Mizoram?

SPEAKER : Lt. Col. Z.S. Zuala.

Lt. Col. Z.S. ZUALA : Pu Speaker, there is a rumour that formalin is used to preserve fish imported from outside the state. Is there any prove that this is false?

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon the Hon. Minister concerned.

PU B.D. CHAKMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the amount allocated for fish mela is ₹25 lakh which is the same as its expenditure. The fund for this purpose was availed from National Fisheries Development Board. No use of formalin was seen nor complain was received in Mizoram regarding use of formalin in the preservation of fish in Mizoram till date.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, it means that fish was bought ₹170 per kg from the farmers. At what rate per kg was it sold? I found the expenditure was too much for organising fish mela. Could the general expenditure be highlighted?

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, one of my previous question that if they get sufficient supply of fish from Mizoram is not answered.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned may answer.

PU B.D. CHAKMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there are some risks involved as fish is a perishable goods. We did not sell huge amount in the first day. However, we have

no other shortage other than that in the second day and the third day.

Regarding the rate, it is bought at the rate of ₹175 per kg from Mamit and Kolasib and sold at ₹150 per kg. We know that it is a loss from the part of the department. It is a matter of subsidy so as to encourage the fish farmers which we regarded as an achievement of the department.

It is too much to spend ₹25 lakh for a day. However, it has to be noted that the mela was held for three days. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Dr. K. Beichhua to ask Starred Question No. 52.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 52. Will the Hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare Department be pleased to state: -

- a) If the government signed an MoU to provide cheaper cost for treatment of Hepatitis 'C',
- b) The cost of full course of Hepatitis 'C' treatment at Aizawl Civil Hospital.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned may answer.

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is: as follows:

- a) Yes, it has.
- b) No cost is needed for those who enrolled under Health Care Scheme.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, firstly I would like to ask with which company the MoU was signed.

Secondly, is there any assistance for hepatitis 'C' patients who are not registered under Health Care Scheme?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, is the name of Aizawl Civil Hospital changed to District Hospital, Aizawl? If so, when and why was it renamed?

SPEAKER : Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, can free treatment for Hepatitis B also provided?

SPEAKER : Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, what step has been taken so far for development of Aizawl Civil Hospital?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may now answer.

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the party which we signed MoU with for the treatment of Hepatitis C is Maylan Laboratories Limited, Bangalore which is done without tender. The MoU is signed for a period of six months. Meanwhile, I am not sure if free treatment scheme could be enjoyed for those who are not registered under Health Care Scheme.

Aizawl Civil Hospital is renamed as Aizawl District Hospital since February, 2016. This is done for administrative purposes and also as per convenience with the establishment of Medical College.

Regarding the question raised by Er. Lalrinawma, I am not sure if there is a provision for Hepatitis B treatment. It will be intimated later.

Regarding Pu R.L. Pianmawia's question, funds are allocated for renovation and upgradation for not only Aizawl Civil Hospital but also all District Hospitals under NEDP. There is a proposal for procurement of more advanced equipments soon.

With your permission, Pu Speaker, I would like to add that I am really thankful to Dr. K. Beichhua for his efforts and attention for the betterment of our department. As a medical practitioner himself, he even carried out an operation within his constituency at the absence of the doctor posted there. I thank him in this House for his efforts for our department.

I would also like to state that, as an answer to Pu Lalruatkima's question, that Health Care Scheme was initiated from 2008. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Dr. Ngurdingliana to ask Starred Question No. 53.

Dr. NGURDINGLIANA : Pu Speaker, as my question is answered in the light of Starred Question No. 45, I would rather not take my time anymore.

SPEAKER : Then, let us call upon Pu K. Sangthuama to ask Starred Question No. 54.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 54. Will the Hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare be pleased to state: -
Whether construction of Sairang Hospital is completed?

PU LAL THANZARA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer is: -
The construction work of Sairang Hospital is in progress. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Questions, if any?

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, I thank the Hon. Minister for the ongoing construction work of Sairang Hospital. We do hope that it will be completed soon. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The Question Hour is now over. I would like to inform the House that Pu J.H. Rothuama and Pu Hmingdailova Khiangte were granted leave for today.

The Hon. Home Minister would like to make a “statement of corrigendum” regarding Starred Question No. 100, Ballot No. 8, Dated 15.3.2017. He may now lay the copy on the table of the House.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I hereby make a “statement of corrigendum” regarding Starred Question No. 100, Ballot No. 8, Dated 15.3.2017 asked By Hon. Member Pu Lalruatkima that the area cultivated under WRC should be corrected as 16,862. Also in (c), the amount of money spent for WRC during 2012-2016 under RKVY should be ₹2776.24 lakh instead of 2,777.684 lakh. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu Zodintluanga, Hon. Minister to take his time for Laying of Papers.

PU ZODINTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your kind permission I hereby lay on the Table of the House, “The Mizoram Water Supply (Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2016” and “The Aizawl Municipal Corporation Building (Amendment) Regulations, 2016”. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO: Pu Speaker, Starred Question No. 16 which is concerned about Health & Family Welfare Department has been answered by P&E Department. Will it be possible to make a corrigendum to uphold the honour of this House?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pi Vanlalawmpuii to lay paper of her concern.

PI VANLALAWMPUII CHAWNGTHU: Thank you, Pu Speaker. With your permission and as I have been authorized by Subject Committee – II, I, hereby lay “The Statement on Action Taken on the further recommendations of Subject

Committee – II contained in the Fourth Report, 2016, relating to Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department” on the table of the House. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. Let us again call Pi Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu to present three Reports in the House.

PI VANLALAWMPUII CHAWNGTHU : Thank you, Pu Speaker. With your permission and as the Chairman of Subject Committee-III, I, hereby present three Reports, viz. “Sixth Report of Subject Committee II on Action Taken Report relating to Border Area Development Programme”, “Seventh Report of Subject Committee II on Action taken Report relating to Tlawva Small Hydel Project” and “Eight Report of Subject Committee II on the Action Taken Report relating to Mizoram House (New Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati)”. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now go to Financial Business. We will continue with discussion of the Annual Budget 2017-2018 of yesterday. Let us call upon Pu K. Sangthuama.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to start regarding Health Care scheme. Around 67% of Mizoram population is of rural people. It is a must to provide better medical care for them. Many of them have to face very high cost of treatment like kidney transplant. The assistance given under Health Care Scheme serves as a blessing for those people in such situations. Therefore, I believe that it is important to increase the prevailing amount of medical assistance given under Health Care Scheme and also allotting more funds towards this scheme.

Regarding the medical reimbursement of government servants also, I believe that around ₹80 crore has been allotted for this. However, it is a fact that the government servants could only reimburse around 50% of their treatment cost. It may be good if the government takes steps for financial restriction in this regard. However, it is really desirable that more percents of their treatment cost could be reimbursed. I implore the government to take more considerations regarding the healthcare of the people.

In Health & Family Welfare Department, we are facing huge problem due to shortage of Doctors and Nurses. Thus, it is vital to solve this problem soon. They are the people concerning the health of rural areas. It is more important to fill up these vacant posts than other posts like administrative services. I sincerely plead the government to take consideration in this regard.

Pu Speaker, among many subjects, we have seen that ₹270 crore has been allotted for NEDP. However, we knew very few of the utilization of funds under

NEDP in the past. It is desirable that information could be given in this House for our information as well as the people also. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Pu Z.S. Zuala.

Lt. Col. Z.S. ZUALA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. We have heard from the Finance Minister's speech that ₹76 lakh has been added to Home Department budget. We therefore can learn that the department is under-strength very much. Therefore, it is important to give the available force proper treatment. Our state is in a very strategic place with state and international boundary. Therefore, our police force needs proper training and refresher courses. Meanwhile, they are having very limited resources for that. Thus, I believe that it is necessary to provide more funds so that they could have better training and preparation. It is the same in the intelligence service also. Collection of intelligence is very important task in security matters which may requires huge expenditure.

Besides, regarding Excise forces, we need to strengthen the enforcement if we are undertaking prohibition or control. We also need to increase manpower. Therefore, I believe that the government needs to provide better financial backing towards Excise Department as well as Police Department.

Pu Speaker, I appreciate the efforts made to avail funds for infrastructural development. Good monitoring is important so that the available funds are properly utilized.

Regarding medical reimbursement of government, I believe that we have to pay a closer watch. I request the government servants also to be fair in their reimbursement. At the same time, authorization of the attendants should also be done properly.

Last of all, it is a fact that our financial situation is much better than before. I really appreciate the way this government handles financial matters. I do hope this could be continued in the future. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. Ngurdingliana.

Dr. NGURDINGLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. First of all, I would like to appreciate the efforts made by the Hon. Finance Minister and officials of the department for bringing up a regular budget for 2017-2018. It is also notable that proper arrangements are made on the basis of recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

We can see that 35.21% of the total budget is allocated for salary of government servants. Besides, ₹98 crore is also kept for the medical reimbursement. It is obvious that the government is giving a favourable treatment for its officials. Therefore, it could be expected that the government servants should work more efficiently in their respective works.

Looking at the Capital Expenditure, we can see that huge amount has been allocated for infrastructure development. We can see that maintenance of roads and construction of new roads is prioritized. Availing of market ₹4 lakh market loan and ₹150 lakh from NABARD is also a positive one. Meanwhile, I am a little confused that Health Department is not included in the list of departments availing loan. We heard that recruitment of 25 doctors is under process. Besides this, there are too many shortage of manpower within this department at different fields. I wish we could manage to resolve this problem at least from NEDP.

I appreciate the achievements of the Finance Minister as well as Finance Department regarding RBI ways and means, allotment of ₹1,206 lakh towards Police Department for travelling expense motor bill and purchase of new vehicles and uniforms. There used to be financial shortage for them even though we are having a very good police force. It is really pleasing to learn that infrastructure development could be found within the department also. There is still a long way to go in this regard. It is my desire that more funds could be allocated for Home Department, Health Department and School Education Department under NEDP also.

Moreover, I believe that it is necessary to have women battalion within our police force which will be an important step for employment generation. Besides, women could serve as the pride of our state.

I have also gone through the revenue expenditure. While the capital expenditure is increasing, the revenue expenditure is also quite satisfying. Lastly, Pu Deputy Speaker, there are 185 Banks functioning in our state. The amount of total Bank Deposit in such banks as on 31st March is ₹6,423 crore. However, our Banks contributes comparatively less towards their corporate social responsibility. I urge the banks to be more generous towards CSR as it is done in other states. Thank you.

PU LALROBIAKA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I found our budget this year as one of the best budgets we have ever had after statehood. I do appreciate the efficiency of the Hon. Minister, Parliamentary Secretary and officials of Finance Department.

In order to achieve development, it is vital to have peace and proper maintenance of law and order. In that regard, the achievement of the Hon. Home

Minister, the Hon. Chief Minister and all the staff of Home Department is noteworthy. It is also notable that ₹427.70 lakh is kept for vehicle maintenance cost and other funds for training and travelling expenses. We can also see huge development in the supply of clothing.

There is an allegation from other parties that this government has poor financial management. However, considering the financial status of the state, statement of ways and means from RBI, it is obvious that this government may be the best in financial management this state has ever had. More funds are also allotted for TA where as the distribution pattern of available funds is also very well planned. There are certain results we are witnessing today within my own constituency also. The success of farmers nowadays is the result of NEDP introduced by this government. It is overwhelming to hear that ₹750 crore is kept for NEDP in this budget. I am also very grateful to hear that huge amount of money is available for farmers under Central Sponsored scheme like NLCPR and proper plan for utilization being prepared.

The amount prescribed for construction and maintenance of road within the state is also a massive one. It is expected that this amount will be sufficient for improving the present situation of roads hindered by intense rainfall in the passing years. It is also great to learn nowadays that there is no difficulty in getting household supplies. The presence of peace and proper and maintenance of law and order is also notable. Thus, I am supporting this well-prepared budget to be passed in this House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Pu Rinthanga.

PU K. LALRINTHANGA : Thank you, Pu Chairman. We can see that this Budget is giving great importance to NEDP. We have learned in the ongoing financial year also that the NEDP scheme has contributed a lot for the socio-economic progress for the people. What I would like to stress upon is its contribution for the farmers. Many agricultural link roads have been constructed under this scheme and is great to learn that this would be continued under this budget also.

In Para 24, we have seen that ₹239 crore for maintenance of roads and ₹657.64 crore for construction of new roads has been allotted in this budget. Roads within Aizawl city are also maintained very well under UD & PA Department. Certain works like extension of road at Vaivakawn and other places are notable. It is a great achievement of the government that tenders are floated for the maintenance of National Highways.

Besides, within my constituency, there is an important road connecting North

Thinglian. This important road for the locals has been constructed under RD Department. However, there is no fund available for its further maintenance. We are very grateful to learn that ₹239 crore has been kept for road maintenance and we do hope that the said road will be renovated from this fund.

₹140 crore of Centrally Sponsored Schemes is seen in this budget. If this is to meet the state matching share, the total amount expected will become ₹1400 crore. I believe that this amount will contribute a huge leap towards the development of the state.

₹473.01 has also been kept for Police domestic travelling expense. The police forces used to face a great deal of problems in claiming their TA/DA in the past. It is a pleasing knowledge to learn that their financial needs are now going to be met.

It is also great to learn that the market borrowing decreases to 40.87% during 2017-2018. This is only possible with the efforts made by the Hon. Finance Minister. Moreover, the State GSDP is also raised to 13.05. Regarding food security, separate scheme has been chalked out by the Hon. Finance so that each and every family could enjoy the scheme. I would like to point out these matters among many other things worth mentioning. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Pu H. Zothangliana.

PU H. ZOTHANGLIANA : Thank you, Pu Chairman. We can know how good this budget is from the comments made by a major party leader in today's newspapers as he branded it as a populist budget which means is good enough for the general public. There are many comments to criticize NLUP in the past also. However, the people especially the farmers are witnessing how good the scheme is. Construction of agriculture link roads which is the immediate need of the farmers has been undertaken from the allotted amount of ₹250. It is an inclusive development that the state needs which this scheme provides. In this coming year of 2017-2018, larger amount of ₹750 has been kept for NEDP. I believe this amount will bring more inclusive development for all sections of the society.

We may all aware that huge amount could be availed under the centrally sponsored scheme. This budget has kept ₹140 crore solely for state matching share. This is an important and a wise move for the development of our state.

The government is much aware of poor condition of roads and bridges at some places. However, it is our opinion that last year could be spent as year of consolidation. As a result of this wise decision and financial management, we have now witnessed a huge amount of budget for construction of roads in this year's

budget.

The public debt has decreased to 90% under this government headed Pu Lal Thanhawla. It is estimated that public debt will decrease to 40.87% and fiscal deficit to 0.79% by the end of this ministry. This is a great achievement made by this government.

Regarding Food Security Act, the wise move made by the Hon. Supply Minister is noteworthy as procurement of rice from the local suppliers is being introduced. As a result, we are able to save the estimate amount of ₹58 crore. Thus, I fully support this budget to be passed in this House. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I am grateful to learn that a regular budget is presented today. The ruling party greatly emphasize on the success of NLUP. However, the contribution of Agriculture and allied sector contributed only 18.75% according to Economic Survey of India and 55.64% by the Service Sector. This shows that there is no actual development to those who engaged in agriculture and its allied sectors.

It is said that there is huge increase in expenditure in MR Bill. I do not believe that anyone would like to have ailments to claim MR Bill. Meanwhile, it is a question if the imposition of MLPC Act contributed for the increasing MR Bill. We had learned yesterday that we could make a profit of ₹1.5 crore out of the interest from Health Care Corpus Fund if we have deposited the amount in an appropriate bank. This further indicates we need to put more efforts on resource mobilization.

Pu Chairman, the strengthening of Home department and allotment of budget for maintenance of road are a notable for these happened to be the main factor of the problems we are facing nowadays. I would like to add that we need to find a better method of road construction as the prevailing system is not good enough. We need to introduce different methods like paver blocks, Cell-filled Concrete Cement, etc. Besides, it is my desire that the CSS teacher would be provided their welfare as assured by the Hon. Finance Minister.

Lastly, it should be our first priority that our state witnesses development, and that the farmers get what they deserve. In order to achieve that, it is necessary to meaningfully dispose the budget we are having today with a good monitoring. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take a recess till 2:00 PM.

2:00 PM

SPEAKER : To continue with the budget discussion, let us call upon Pu Joseph Lalhimpua.

PU JOSEPH LALHIMPUA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to speak about some points regarding this budget. The increasing budget is at some points due to new system of financial devolution introduced by the central government. While this is the case, the Hon. Finance Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary have choked out a good budget. We used to have no problem in terms of state matching share also in the past. The problem is arises when the central government withheld release of funds under Centrally Sponsored scheme. This is why salaries of SSA teachers, RMSA teachers, etc could not be paid in time. It is the same this year as well.

Pu Speaker, there are many thing to say about NEDP. The contribution of this policy towards development of village infrastructure, road infrastructure development, etc. is quiet notable. Besides, there are certain schemes and the ongoing works which have been delinked by the BJP-led government. In such cases in which the next installment of funds is being awaited, the ongoing works needs to be inevitably terminated. Yet, the NEDP Scheme provides the necessary funds for the completion of such ongoing works. New model schools are established and new buildings in Higher Secondary Schools are constructed so as to accommodate more students. All these are done through NEDP.

When this Ministry, under the leadership of Pu Lal Thanhawla came into being, the state has a debt of more than 100% of our GSDP. However, as we have listened in the Hon. Finance Minister's Budget speech, it decreased to 40% as of now. Meanwhile, certain funds for development have been availed from different Banks which are all the signs of good financial management.

It is often said that the condition of our roads is intensive and it may be true to some extents. However, it should also be noted that there are many states whose roads are not as good as ours. It should also be remembered that problems regarding roads are also due to bad weather and financial limitations.

To conclude, Pu Speaker, I am pleased with the distribution of funds in this budget as a huge progress is seen in the budget alone. I am grateful for all the plans under NEDP also. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Pu K.S. Thanga.

PU K.S. THANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to say a few words about our budget. I am very grateful to have a regular budget being discussed today. There are certain problems as a result of new financial system introduced by the central government. It is a great achievement that the Hon. Minister could present a regular budget today despite all the problems that may arise.

In the new financial system, the previous classification of plan and non-plan fund had been eliminated. It will be clubbed together simply as a budget.

We have seen a huge plan for infrastructure development in the budget. The estimated Capital Expenditure is amounting to ₹2,414 crore while increase in the budget amount is 45.72%. It is apparent that this will contribute greatly for the development of the state.

All these improvements are the result of the year of consolidated declared last year for financial improvement. Steps taken for development of Home Departments are also worth mentioning. It is also a new practice that the budget has been presented in Mizo language so that the majority could understand it. The allotment of funds for Home department is also an important content of this budget.

Revenue Expenditure seems to be a huge amount. This head is meant for providing almost all the basic necessities of the people. The MLA funds which is fully utilized for the public also falls under this category. Likewise, the estimated fiscal indicator shows a huge amount of revenue surplus of ₹1,787.10 where as the fiscal deficit is increased by a margin of 0.79%. This is a great achievement for our state.

Keeping ₹239 crore for maintenance and ₹897 crore for construction of roads is a very important content of this budget. It shows that there is a positive signs under this government. It is obvious that government's initiatives towards year of consolidation and other economic measures pay off. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu T. Sangkunga.

PU T. SANGKUNGA : Thank you Pu Speaker. The budget we are discussing is an important milestone in Indian budgetary system as all the categories like Plan Budget, Non-Plan Budget and railway budget are now clubbed together as a general budget. This is started by the UPA government by the formation of C. Rangarajan Committee which further recommended this new system way back in 2011.

As already stated, this budget seems to be one of the best since our statehood. It is a fact that our budget size could not be large at the time of UT and the same trend

continued even after the statehood. However, this increase in our budget is the result of efforts made by the Hon. House Leader, the Hon. Deputy Leader and the Hon. Finance Minister as well as government officials with the coming 14th Finance Commission. The increase in Capital Expenditure is 22.86% which is a massive increase. It is the largest among the budgets we ever had and also the biggest increase rate. The Capital Expenditure is meant solely for development and thus, indicates that development is awaiting us. I really appreciate the works done by the Hon. House Leader and the Hon. Finance Minister in this regard.

The construction of agriculture link roads under NEDP is noteworthy. In my constituency, we are witnessing immense development in infrastructure under NEDP. It is our priority as an MLA to have good education and health facility. This government has filled up several vacant posts in this regard as several number new posts are also created. I am very happy to have this government who works tirelessly for the welfare of the people. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Thank you Pu Speaker. I am grateful to discuss the Budget for 2017-2018. It is notable for its simplicity that we can easily understand the contents. Meanwhile, I have a little doubt that a huge amount of ₹750 crore as being kept for NEDP.

The budget lays stress on infrastructure development which is very important for the state. We know that the conditions of our roads are very poor nowadays and I hope this problem could be resolved through this budget.

As mentioned earlier, Health Care Scheme is very important for the poor sections of the society which comprises mostly of manual labourers. In case of ailments, these people have no assistance other than the Health Care Scheme. Therefore, it is my desire that more funds could be allotted for this purpose.

Education seems to be a little neglected. Amidst different important aspects, education remains one of the most important factors for development. There are many shortcomings in our present education system as shortage of manpower and infrastructure needs are many. I urge that new consideration should be made in this regard.

Regarding Transport Department, it will be appreciated if bifurcation of STO is done immediately. I request the Hon. Minister to consider the matter.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, what matters the most is not only the amount of the budget but also its utilization. The success and failure of this budget will be seen next year. Therefore, good monitoring is a must for a success budget. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon the Hon. Finance Minister to wind up our discussion and after that, the Hon. House Leader may also take his time.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, 21 Members have participated in the budget discussion and I will try to react what I think to be necessary. It is a fact that the budget amount is much more than that of the UT period; it was only around ₹17 crore in 1972. We have said that a new system of financial eliminating the Plan Fund, Non-Plan fund and Railway Budget has been introduced. However, as asked by Er. Lalrinawma, the non-plan is included in the Budget estimate due to the need to continue with the ongoing budget. It could be seen that it is not repeated in this year's budget estimate.

We have tried our level best to adopt the best economic measures for our state as we have even received certain suggestions in this regards for which we are very thankful. It is a part of this that we declared the Year of Consolidation. The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Economic Measures is established.

Pu Speaker, certain Members have mentioned about NEDP. The Economic Survey 2016-2017 contains important points about NEDP but could not be highlighted in depth as this is only a general discussion.

₹250 lakh has been kept under ICT Department to improve the system of online transaction. It contains several points such as Falkawn Hospital, establishment of Aizawl City Centre and steps to alleviate traffic problem within Aizawl city. However, the most important, as mentioned by the Opposition Group Leader, is how we utilize the available fund. Even if there is huge amount, there can be no improvement without proper management and monitoring. Knowing this, the government laid stress on development of infrastructures which could uplift the rural areas as well as the farmers. Assistance will be provided under NEDP for the farmers and the needy. In this regard, it is the opinion of the government to lay stress on crops which have high demands.

One of our members had spoken about Lottery. They keep questioning about why we are not making only ₹25.45 crore out of the total ticket cost of ₹11,834 crore. We need to understand that when we sold a lottery, there is a prize to be paid. A huge amount has been spent on its prize. Besides, huge amount of tax should also be paid. This is why the profit we made from lottery seems a little less.

Regarding the bad condition of road, there are allegations that the government as not doing well enough. However, this is due to the climate change we suffered nowadays. There is a huge rainfall which hinders the maintenance work.

Regarding the Fourteenth Finance Commission, even though there are some changes in our favour, it should be remembered that there are also some changes which barred our welfare. Meanwhile, I would like to state that there are some states which could not achieve this kind of budget.

Corpus Fund of Health Care has been mentioned from time to time. There is a committee under the leadership of the Secretary, Finance Department. The selection of Banks is done keeping in view of the interest offered as well as the capacity of the bank.

We have also received some appreciations regarding our budget as a result of the hard work and guidance rendered by the Hon. Chief Minister. Besides, the officials of Finance Department and the officials of Planning Department work very hard to have this budget prepared.

I would like to urge the cooperation of the general public for the better functioning of the government. We are looking forward for the maintenance for our roads also.

Regarding State Planning Board, some have opinion that it would also be disbanded as the Planning Commission had been discontinued in the centre. However, keeping in view of its contribution for Mizoram Government, it is decided that it should continue as before for their work is phenomenal for the state and they played an important role in preparing this very budget estimate.

Pu Speaker, the government exists only because of the people. In turn, it is the desire of the government to work for the welfare of the people which is the reason for introduction of NEDP also. We want the people to love this government. Meanwhile, some central schemes have been scrubbed-off due to which certain ongoing works have to be stopped and the government therefore considers continuing with its own resources. JNNURM should be continued in this manner and other schemes will also be considered later. It has to be noted that the central government have many lapses in its administration; such is the case in this situation also.

Going back to NEDP again, ₹490 lakh had been kept last year for education Department. For 2017-2018, the amount is increased to ₹1000 lakh. It is a fact that every good thing could not be fulfilled immediately and the government will consider it step by step for development in every field. Education Department has a great contribution for the development of our state and they could never be neglected.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Hon. Members for taking part in the Budget discussion today. I do appreciate their suggestions and ideas for the

betterment of our state and the people. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon the House Leader.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am grateful that we are having a very well prepared budget estimate as a result of tireless effort rendered by the Hon. Finance Minister as well as the Officials of Finance Department. All of the members taking part in its discussion also supported it. However, it is a fact that it will not be perfect.

The Hon. Finance Minister has mentioned the importance Planning Commission. Even though the Planning Commission had scrubbed-off, the like body of it is still functioning in the centre also.

This government works for the people. We are very grateful to fulfill our programme of NLUP as planned. We hope that we shall soon witness its success in the future. After being a disturbed area for a long time, there came peace in our state. The Congress ministry introduced NLUP scheme in spite of many criticisms. The scheme had done a great work for the poor and the needy. During this ministry also, the scheme is continues and still it is a blessing for those in need.

It is really pleasing to hear praises from even the opposition members today. This is very rare in other states in India. Even though we may have differences, it is great that we can unite in matters important for the state.

Lastly, it is our aim to make a corruption-free government. It is very unfortunate that action has been taken against many officials relating to corruption cases for it is necessary to establish clean and effective administration. Once again, I would like to appreciate the works done by the Hon. Finance Minister and his colleagues in preparing this budget. I request my fellow members to consider that we are equally important for its success. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : We have now finish today's business. The House will stand adjourned till our next meeting commenced at 10:30 AM tomorrow, the 22.3.2017.

The sitting is adjourned. (3:50 PM)