

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR SEVENTH SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 23rd MARCH, 2016
(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 LALSAWTA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House "The Mizoram State Public Sector Enterprises' Early Retirement Rules, (ERR) 2015".
3. **PU CHALROSANGA RALTE**, to lay on the Table of the House the following :
 - i) Statement of Action Taken on the further recommendations of Subject Committee-I contained in the Third Report relating to Transport Department.
 - ii) Statement of Action Taken on the further recommendations of Subject Committee-I contained in the Fourth Report relating to Disaster Management & Rehabilitation Department.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

4. **PU K. SANGTHUAMA** to present to the House the following Reports of Public Accounts Committee.
 - i) Seventeenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of C&AG of India for the year 2009-2010 relating to Industries Department (Geology & Mining Wing).

- ii) Eighteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of C&AG of India for the year 2009-2010 relating to Public Works Department.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS

5. **PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA**, Minister to submit to the Vote of the House various Demand0s under his charge.
6. **PU LALRINMAWIA RALTE**, Minister to submit to the Vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

NGURTHANZUALA
Secretary

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SPEAKER : “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”

Proverbs 15:22

Let us now call upon Er. Lalrinawma to ask Starred Question No. 79.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Hon’ble Minister for PWD be pleased to state: -

- a) The percent of the present Physical and Financial achievement of construction of bridge over River Tlawng at Bairabi – Zamuang Road;
- b) The height of the bridge from sea level;
- c) If construction of Bairabi Dam may entail floods.

SPEAKER : The Minister concerned, Leader of the House Pu Lal Thanhawla may answer the question.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is: -

- a) The physical achievement is 88% and financial achievement is ₹828.46 lakhs.
- b) According to Google Earth, it is 150 feet high from sea level.
- c) It will not be flooded even due to construction of Bairabi Dam.

SPEAKER : Is there supplementary question? Pu Rinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The physical achievement was given in percentage while the financial achievement was given in rupees. What I wanted to know is the proportion between the physical achievement and financial achievement. I will be very glad if the financial achievement is stated in percentage.

SPEAKER : Let us invite the hon’ble Chief Minister.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. 828.46 lakhs is about 68 percent and it would be great if our respected members would calculate the right amount for that.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, thank you, I wanted to ask that question because I thought they purposefully avoid it. And I want to know if there

would be any collapse if the Bairabi Dam were to be built and what kind of project do we have in the process right now.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, the Bridge in Bairabi – Zamuang will serve multipurpose as other roads are too damaged so I would like to know how we intend to finish the project.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the Government knows the importance of that bridge all too well as we need it for the supply of raw material and we will lost about 65 crores if it goes on like this and that is why we are doing the best we can to finish it as early as possible.

The Bairabi Dam is located at the head of the river but the railway is in the way therefore it is hard to say whether or not it would collapse.

And we are doing everything we can to fulfill the project without harming the environment and constantly make an examination.

The bridge in Bairabi Zamuang road had 612.50 lakhs sanction initially but the upgraded design needs more and 1221.04 lakhs revised estimate was submitted but sanction was made partially therefore state made 486.16 lakhs sanction and we are hoping to get it soon.

The bridge is double lane permanent bridge, it is 160 meters long with pillars between every 40 meter. Contract was made on 28th June, 2008 with ABCI Infrastructure Pvt, Ltd, due to the rainy season the project starts around December 2008 only and the estimated end would be around December 28, 2010. If the project is going as planned it will be completed in May 2016. Our economic life depended on it therefore we are doing everything we can to complete it.

SPEAKER : Let us invite Pu R.L.Pianmawia.

PU R.L.PIANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister for Rural Development Department be pleased to state -

- a) Contract period of VLA workers;
- b) Whether there is a way to terminate them.

PU R.LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is -

- a) VLA is recruited in a one year contract base and is extended according to their performance.
- b) At the same time, the guidelines of MGNREGA 2014 stated that the worker may be terminated at any time if he is found unfit in any way possible by the government.

SPEAKER : Is there any supplementary question? If not, let us invite the hon'ble member Dr. K.Beichhua to ask hi question.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, will the hon'ble Minister for Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department be pleased to state - is there any research done for the old and damage prone buildings during monsoon seasons.

Dr. B. D. CHAKMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer the question, Hazard Safety Cell from PWD had done a research on 173 buildings for safety measures and under National School of Safety Programme, 172 school buildings in Aizawl already went through detection.

SPEAKER : As the concern Minister is not present, there can be no supplementary question. We will go to Question No. 82 and invite Dr. K.Beichhua to ask his question.

Dr K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for PWD be pleased to state -

- a) If various bridges across the cities are safe and secure;
- b) Whether the department inspected to ensure the safety.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer starred question No. 82 from Dr. K Beichhua;

- a) The safety of the bridges depends upon the time taken to build them, some of them did not support the design load prepared.
- b) Inspection is made every week.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question for Dr. K.Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, if inspection is made every week,

how many unsafe bridges are found at the moment and how many needs reconstruction? And, lastly, is there any bridge which is left unattended that would still be useable if reconstructed?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, first of all, we do not have expert to inspect such bridges; it can only be done in theory but visual observation is definitely made every week.

All the bridges under PWD were informed on 10.12.2015 and 8.03.2016 to conduct load test and to hang a signboard and also to make a District Magistrate notification. All divisions were informed to keep a guard and we are in the process of recruiting an expert in this regard.

According to the report from different divisions of PWD these are with lower design load than expected therefore load restriction is made for them :-

1. Mamit Division - Bailey bridge of river Sazep on Tuipubari;
2. Kawrthah Division - Bailey bridge over Putara Lui, Bailey bridge over Luite Thiang, Bailey bridge over Peka Lui, Bailey bridge over Teirei Lui on Bairabi-Zamuang road.
3. Serchhip Division - Bailey bridge over river Mat on Serchhip-Thenzawl road, Bailey bridge over river Tlawng on Serchhip-Buarpuoi road, Bailey bridge over Tuichang on Keitum-Artahkawn road.
4. Tlabung division - Bailey bridge over river De on Phairuang-Bunghmun road, Bailey bridge over river Tuisen on Phairuang-Bunghmun road, Bailey bridge over river Zawlpui on Phairuang-Bunghmun road, Bailey bridge over river Sailingret on Phairuang-Bunghmun road, Bailey bridge over river Kau on Phairuang-Bunghmun road.
5. Saitual Division - Bailey bridge over river Tuivawl on Saitual-Phullen road.
6. Champhai Division - Bailey bridge over river Tiau on Indo-Myanmar border.
7. Khawzawl Division - Bailey bridge over river Tuichang on Khawzawl-Sihzawl road, Bailey bridge over river Phalte on Khawzawl-Sihzawl road.
8. National Highway Division I - Bailey bridge over river Daldawk
9. National Highway 44(A) - Bailey bridge over river Tut; Bailey bridge over river Tut; Bailey bridge over river Dap Lui; Bailey bridge over river Teirei;
10. Kolasib Division - Bailey bridge over river Kawnpuoi West at NH 154, Bailey bridge over river Tuichhuahen at NH 154, bailey bridge over river Serlui at Bikhawthlir-Saiphai, Matasura road, bailey bridge over river Chhimluang at

Buhchangphaisen road, bailey bridge over river Chite at Vairengte, Phainuam-Saiphai road.

11. National Highway Division II - Bailey bridge on NH 150 was ordered by SDO in 14.07.2015 not to pass any kind of vehicle. Sanction is already made for reconstruction.
12. The following are which can be used per the design load - Tuikual bridge on Chhimtuipui-Hmuntha road, Tuikum bridge on Chhingchhip-Thentlang road, Tuivawl bridge on Saitual-N.E.Bualpui road, Tuivai bridge on Phullen-Phuaibuang road, Chite bridge on Aizawl by-pass road, Tlawng bridge on Aizawl-Thenzawl-Lunglei road, Tuivai bridge on Khawzawl-Sinzawl-Thanjung road, Vanva bridge on Haulawng-Bualpui, five road, Ngengpui bridge on NAukawn-Chamdul valley road, Tuichang bridge on Hnahthial-Tumtu kawn road, Chawngte bridge on Chawngte Lui between Chawngte L and Chawngte P, Chawngte bridge between Chawngte P and Chawngte C, Chawngte Lui on Diltlang, Chawngte road. Suspension bridge on Aizawl-Reiek road, RCC Bridge over river Chite on Armed Veng-Zemabawk, RCC Bridge over river Chite on Bethlehem-Zemabawk.

SPEAKER : We will go to Starred Question No. 83; I invite the hon. member, Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for PWD be pleased to state -

- a) Whether the collapsed bridge under NLCPR undergone reconstruction; if so, from which budget and how much is allotted for the project.
- b) What is the reason for the collapse? Who designed the bridge? What was the original estimate? How much was given to the contractor so far?
- c) Did the design change in the new construction; and, if so, who designed it?
- d) Is there an enquiry commission regarding the bridge and if so, whether action is taken against an action on the people in charge?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is: -

- a) The collapsed bridge is currently under reconstruction and sanction was made from the State and NLCPR with addition of ₹34.02 lakhs.
- b) The reason was not confirmed but it seems the anchor block of the main surrender cable was damaged. It was designed by M/S Guha Niyogi & Associates, Kolkata. The original sanction was ₹266.21 lakhs. Till the

collapsing date ₹243.59 lakhs was given to the contractor.

- c) The design was changed a bit in the new construction and the designer was the same M/S Guha Niyogi & Associates, Kolkata.
- d) FIR was filed when it collapsed but there is no enquiry commission and no action was taken.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, do we regard this kind of project as sub-standard work? And, why did not the PWD themselves design the bridge?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the reason might be the pressure put to the workers from the people, they desperately need the bridge so there must be a lot of pressure for the workers that might have hinder them to work properly. There can be many reasons if we are going to search for it.

Workers themselves are registered designers therefore the Department entrusted them with the design as well. Hnahthial-Darzo road is under the care of Border Roads Organization therefore the state PWD works with them because the people desperately need it. PWD merely helps the Border Road to finish the project as early as possible.

On March 2012, ₹16.21 lakhs was received from NLCPR. Tender was released on 27.7.2007 and work order was given on 19.11.2012. The estimated date to finish the project was 18.11.2013. State government made ₹50 lakhs addition with the total of ₹266.21 lakhs. Till now ₹27.09 lakhs was given to the contractor and we are working as hard as we could to finish it within March, 2016.

The work was slowed down partly due to the water dam being made in Kawlchaw with 460 megawatt because we have to measure everything before the construction and luckily the people did not suffer any damage.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, the contractors were given the same job instead of taking an action against them why is that?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we only help the Border Road because we know the people there desperately needs it we did not know things would turn out like this.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, why did the House say that no damaged was caused to the people though damage involved obviously?

PU VANLALZAWMA : Pu Speaker, this one is only temporary so I want to know if BRTF are planning to build better bridges in the future. If so, what is our condition?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, it is an important topic so I will call the engineer and ask them myself.

If we can predict the future we will never let anything like this happen to anyone but accident is accident and it happened while undergoing the construction and if we are going to blame someone it would be the workers and the contractors but we all know how desperately the people in the area need it and we let the same contractor continue the work because they already know the nature of the work so that we can continue to work in order to finish it as early as possible.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, my supplementary question is, we gave outsider the contract and let them design it as well, can PWD taken up the designing work?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we do have people who can design it but we took outsider's help so that there will be no complain in the future.

SPEAKER : We will go to Question No. 84 and invite Pu R.Vanlalvena.

PU R. VANLALVENA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Vigilance Department be pleased to state -

Among the government employees, is there any one who does not submit yearly property return? If there is, can action be taken against them?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer the hon. member's question, Yes, there is every year. Disciplinary proceedings can be drawn against Gazetted officer as it is against conduct rules. And according to Mizoram

State Government Employees Rules, 2010 vigilance clearance cannot be given if APR is not submitted.

SPEAKER : Is there any supplementary question? If not, we will go to Question No. 85 and invite Dr. Ngurdingliana.

Dr. NGURDINGLIANA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Transport Department be pleased to state -

When will the broad gauge line of Bairabi to Sairang road be finished?

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is: -

According to the Ministry of Railway, it will be completed around 2019 but the Ministry is not under the State government, so the exact date cannot be mentioned.

SPEAKER : Any supplementary question? Let us invite Dr. Ngurdingliana.

Dr. NGURDINGLIANA : Pu Speaker, is there any problem regarding the lands that will be on the railway?

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: Regarding the lands people come and ask for compensations in the court and the court permits them to take compensation. But demands were as high as ₹200 per sq. ft. that is why Railway courts them to Supreme Court and we are waiting for the result.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we are endlessly influenced by unfair means and most people do not hesitate to settle for unfit money. The said project was said to be done in the first place around 2015 but problems after problems arise every day so we must work together to eradicate problems that will hinder the development.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, if compensation is ₹200 per sq.ft, then, it will amount to ₹28 lakhs in 1 Bigha so is there any way to make it lower? If we go as planned we might not be able to compensate everyone in the future. Who made the rate in this compensation process?

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: We do not make the rate I do not know who does.

SPEAKER : Now, we will go to Starred Question No. 86 and invite the hon'ble member Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for PWD be pleased to state: -

What step has been taken so far by the Department regarding the Public Premises Act, 1971?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer the hon. member's question, the Department is thoroughly going through the act and planned on laying it down to the Government within a month with suggestions and comments. This is a central Act and amended on 1980, 1984 and 1993. The workers in the Central Government are equipped with residential or temporary accommodation and they should vacate those places once their terms are terminated. That was what the Act was basically about.

When we were UT, it was not known whether or not we include this in adoption of Law and Order. And, when we were a state in 1987, it was to be adopted again. We will clearly inform Law and Order Department and discuss this crucial topic. Another important thing regarding this is, 'The Road Side Land Control Act, 1975'; it is now under the revision of PWD. Proper revision has to be made by Revenue Department Law Department as soon as possible.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question for Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. What is the purpose of Estate officer in PWD then?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, if the Act we were talking about is not implemented yet then Estate Officer is not needed. But request were received for PWD land and district headquarters endlessly. Land possess by the Government are always crowded with people trying to occupy them.

SPEAKER : Now, we will go to Question No. 87 and I invite the hon. member, Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Rural

Development Department be pleased to state –

The amount allotted to MGNREGA during 2011-2016 and the amount of its matching share.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is: -

The total amount allotted under MGNREGA during 2011-2016 is ₹116177.2024 lakhs. The Matching shares are as follows:-

2011-2012	-	₹299.999 lakhs
2012-2013	-	₹2821.919 lakhs
2013-2014	-	₹1194.694 lakhs
2014-2015	-	₹225.483 lakhs
2015-2016	-	₹1373.853 lakhs
Total	-	₹8610.948 lakhs.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question for Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, during 2015-2016, how many days in total was daily labor recruitment made? Is minimum wages given? If not, why?

PU R.LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, average of 35 days of labor recruitment was made during 2015-2016; 35 days in Aizawl, 34 days in Lunglei, 36 days in Saiha, 35 days in Champhai, 37 days in Kolasib, 37 days in Serchhip, 34 days in Lawngtlai and Mamit. Wages were decided by NREGA. At first, the 100 days labor recruitment was narrowed down to 30 days. But with the budget increasing, it will increase to 72 days this year.

This is programmed for the benefit of the people and made during UPA Government but the new Government tried to squeeze out the project and a meeting thus is called for each Congress Party President.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, my questions were answered but the topic is not relevant. So, there is no need for further answer.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I just help him answer and this is my right. If you want, you can take disciplinary action. I merely lay out the project background.

SPEAKER : The House Leader has every right to intervene anytime he wants; you have to remember that.

Now let us call upon the hon. Minister, Pu Lalsawta to lay the paper on “The Mizoram Public Sector Enterprises’ Early Retirement Rules (ERR), 2015.”

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I hereby lay “The Mizoram Public Sector Enterprises’ Early Retirement Rules (ERR), 2015” with your permission and the consent of the House.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. Now, we will invite the hon’ble member Pu Chalrosanga Ralte, Chairman of Subject Committee-I, to lay on the table of the House two statements of Action Taken.

PU CHALROSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. The statement we are about to lay is how continuation was made from the main report and action taken report we had already made with recommendations in the Department of Transport and, Disaster Management & Rehabilitation. I would first like to thank all the workers in the project for their co-operation that made it possible for us to finish the project on time.

With your permission and the consent of the House, I now lay:-

- (i) Statement of Action Taken on the further recommendations of Subject Committee-I contained in the Third Report relating to Transport Department.
- (ii) Statement of Action Taken on the further recommendations of subject Committee-I contained in the Fourth Report relating to Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. Now, let us invite the hon’ble member PU K.Sangthuama, Chairman PAC, to present two Reports in the House.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, the 2 reports that we are going to give are Action Taken Reports and they are the continuation of the report from the previous Assembly Session.

First, Seventeenth PAC Report is currently under Geology & Mining Wing, Industries Department. It is basically about the main report given on the doubts on how the Government handle financial intake. We are currently drawing a

departmental proceeding on one of the pensioned officers. It is the duty of the Assembly Committee to take action if the situation calls for it and it would be ideal if all departments would comply obediently with this further recommendation made.

Second, Eighteenth PAC report concerned PWD. It is a request on all the workers to be more careful when making agreement signature while handling contracts.

With your permission and consent of the House I present the following:-

- (i) Seventeenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of C&AG of India for the year 2009-2010 relating Industries Department (Geology & Mining Wing).
- (ii) Eighteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of C&AG of India for the year 2009-2010 relating to Public Works Department.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. Now, we will go to our financial business and invite Pu John Rotluangliana.

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, I move Demand Nos. 17, 42 and 43 for ₹3,17,54,40,000 only for meeting expenses during 2016-2017 in respect of the following Departments:

Demand No.	Name of Departmnet	Amount in ₹
17	Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs	2,47,47,64,000
42	Transport	53,31,74,000
43	Tourism	16,75,02,000
Total		3,17,54,40,000

SPEAKER : Now, let us invite the hon. Minister, Pu Lalrinmawia Ralte to submit to the house various demands under his charge.

PU LALRINMAWIA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, I move Demand Nos. 28, 33, 36 and 37 for ₹1,40,76,45,,000 only for meeting expenses

during 2016-2017 in respect of the following Departments:-

Demand No.	Name of Department	Amount in ₹
28	Labour & Employment	25,88,27,000
33	Soil & Water Conservation	16,48,59,000
36	Environment & Forest	73,14,55,000
37	Co-Operation	25,25,04,000
	Total	1.40.76.45.000

SPEAKER : Now, our hon. Ministers submitted their demands for discussion and voting of the House. Let us be quick and discuss the Demands mentioned. I invite Dr. Ngurdingliana.

Dr. NGURDINGLIANA : Pu Speaker, let me address four Demands, Demand Nos. 17, 42, 43 and 36. Most of the expenditures were of salaries and medical expenditure.

Regarding Demand No. 17, Food & Civil Supplies, co-operation of the workers from IV Grade to Minister and Parliamentary Secretary is really good and with their integration, there never were a shortage of food supplies and I therefore would like to convey my thanks.

Central Government gave out the order to every State and UT to use Food Security Act and problem immediately arises in our State but the Supply Minister himself ensure us not to worry and that he would take care of the problem within the month of April so I suggest that we wait for him patiently for now.

I would like to thank all the Supply Department on a personal note also because with their help and consideration under NABARD scheme we have built three successful storage quarters and they even put three more area under the list of work progress.

Regarding Demand No. 42, it is understandable that most expense came from salary and medical expenditure and the Department desperately needs to complete the Directorate building and fortunately the government sanctions almost ₹200 lakhs.

Other grateful things worth mentioning are funds sanctioned for computers, transport buses and other light vehicles which is more than ₹200 lakhs.

Regarding Infrastructure building the department of Transport did a good job with low expenditure and I am very grateful for that.

Regarding Life Time Tax, Road Tax, Passenger Goods Tax, Route Permit and All Mizoram Permit, I would appreciate it if our Minister and the Officers in the Department discuss them once they wind them up.

If I am not mistaken, we currently have 261 city buses and 3,525 taxis in service and our roads are too crowded. So, it would be the best interest of the people if we can adopt the vehicle system used by Delhi separated into two categories - even and odd number plates for all kinds of vehicle with the exception of VVIPs like Governor, Chief Minister, Speaker, Home Minister, Chief Secretary, DGP and Fire Services.

Regarding Tourism Department, the work progress is always moving forward and I am grateful for that. But one thing I would like to suggest is that we have too many of Tourist Lodge and we already privatized nine of them; but it would be great if we continue the privatization plan and pay more attention on our ancestral and traditional huts in the stead. I request our respected Minister to privatized Vanzau as well.

Lastly, Demand No. 36, Environment & Forest Department. The works it had been put up are quite admirable and I would like to request the concerned department to keep up the good work and to concentrate on trees plantation for the comfort of our future. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Who will be next? Pu K. Sangthuama.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs. There are so many mistakes in data entry of Ration card and is difficult to pin point the one responsible for the mistake. But it might be carelessness or it can be any other reason but it would be great if the workers can pay more attention to the details.

And the Food Security Selection has another problem regarding the selection. As previously planned by the central government the selection should be made according to the standard without personal opinion therefore I would like to request our respected Minister to boldly correct the selection according to the need of the people fairly.

Demand No. 42, Transport Department. Regarding lifetime tax, 6% of lifetime tax is too long for a duration, ₹lakhs car would have to pay ₹60,000 for the tax but most people never use the same vehicle for that long; so, paying lifetime tax do not make a proper sense. I would therefore request the hon. Minister to reconsider the case.

Regarding taxi taking turns on their servicing, we cannot put the blame on them alone because a lot of private vehicles were purchased every year even more than that of taxi. Therefore, if we want to solve traffic problems, it would be better if we follow plans like taking turns everyday according to the alphabet order of our license plate so that we can all participate to make a better condition. I simply would like to point out my humble idea.

Another concern is regarding replacement of vehicles like buses, taxis and maxi cab; something must be done to make a replacement.

Falkawn Referral Hospital needs servicing town bus or line bus and I heard that the bus drivers refused to make a service and I do not know why or how they refused. If they refused, the Government can always hire another bus plying to this route. Therefore, I would like to remind the Department that fact and that it would not be a problem if 5 or 10 buses were hired separately for the convenience of the people.

On Demand no.43 Tourism regarding privatization and tender, most privatized lodge were not as expected. There seems to be something wrong on the tender answered so I would like to request our respected Minister to keep an eye on the matter.

Regarding Demand no.28, Labor and Employment Department, the exact number of unregistered job offer but the Department can make an enquiry from their own register so it would be great if they do so.

On Demand No. 36 Environment & Forests, I would like to know why the budget decreases to over 5 crore from last year. And till today Teak trees cannot make profit, many people have 20-40 crore worth of Teak so I would like to make a request to pay attention in the situation.

About forest reserve it should be mandatory for every city to have one, LAD

should make a forest reserve in every city because if each city have even 2/3 sq. km. we could create abundant forest in no time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, let us invite Pu K. Lalrinthanga.

PU K. LALRINTHANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. On Demand No.17, regarding food security, the Mizoram Food Security Act Ration Card covers only 7 lakhs people and if we are doing according to the Act, most people will be cut off; but till date most of us still received ration and that decrease the subsidy tremendously. The Minister himself still approves for the majority to have Ration card. So, I personally think that he has a good heart. MLAs, Secretaries, Directors and other officials should surrender their Ration and people will naturally follow from the example. Many Ration card holders never use their card and we can save a lot of budget if a more careful plan were to be made.

Regarding Demand No. 42, I convey my thanks to the Minister for giving us bus service plying to Vairengte for twice a week. This will further prevent other transportations to overcharge their fares.

Regarding Auto-Rickshaw permit, there are still many towns in which the service is needed. So, it would be great if those kinds of towns still receive permits; and at the same time, some towns were overflowing with the vehicle and it would not be a problem if permits were withdrawn in those towns.

Regarding bus service plying to Falkawn Referral, I support the request made; and from what I observed, drivers will go where there is sufficient passengers so that private service should be used first, then the bus owner association will have no choice but to go where the passengers are.

Regarding Tourism Department, I request the Minister that there is no Tourist lodge on Serlui area as there is nowhere to sleep when we visit till now. It would be great if the Department provide us a place to sleep.

Under Soil & Water Conservation Department, project was given to Phaisen to make conservation but it was later found out that they did not succeed. I would like to request our present Minister to continue the project and help them.

I would like to point out that under the department of Soil and Water Conservation rubber plantation becomes very famous lately and many towns successfully plant it and it would be very beneficial in the future.

Under Forest Department I would like to point out that one of the most serious problems we face is having Mizoram Forest taken under the care of Cachar. Cachar Forest made an order when Mizoram was an U.T but that was way back in 1972 and we are already in 2016 so it would be better if it is under the care of the Government of Mizoram.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu John Siamkunga.

PU JOHN SIAMKUNGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to start from Demand No. 28, Labour & Employment.

We have seen from the answer to starred question that there are 21,170 male and 15,759 female totally 36,929 unemployed youth registered under the department; I found this very high. However, my further research tells me that we are not the states with highest unemployment problem where as Chhatishgarh is the state with the least unemployed youth where and Mizoram ranked the fifth in having the least unemployment problem. This is the result of the systematic efforts made by the department of Labour & Employment as well as Youth Commission. I really appreciated their efforts in this regard.

We have often seen job advertisements to works in Singapore and other foreign countries with a high salary. I opined we need to be more vigilant towards this because it may cause us problems in the future. In this regard, we must know that Singapore and Malaysia are facing unemployment problems as well. We need to pay more attention if it is safe or not.

The hon. Minister has stated that the rate of wages for unskilled, semi skilled and skilled-II workers is set to be increased. The government's effort in this regard is notable.

Regarding Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, it is appreciative that the government has implemented Food Security Act despite many difficulties.

The government is trying to provide 3 kgs of rice per head at subsidized rate of ₹15 per kg in addition to that provided under food security. It means that ₹60 will be sufficient for a person to buy necessary amount of rice within a month. It is obvious from this bold move that this government do cares about its subjects and wanted to provide their needs.

I am thankful that repairing work of Thingsai godown is set to be started. Meanwhile, Tarphe godown is in a very poor condition, nothing can be stored because of its condition. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to kindly take note of this.

Regarding Transport Department, public transport systems were meant to provide convenience to the people. If it created problem in reverse, i opined that it is the duty of the government to find a way to solve such problem. We also need to fix the hiring rate of vehicles. It needs to be regulated so as not to be a burden for the public.

The arrival of rail road at Bairabi is a great success of the government. In connection to this, I would like to speak about compensation problem. We have faced several problems about compensation. Those who deserve should receive compensation definitely. However, it is incorrect that many people claimed compensation incorrectly. It seems inappropriate that they have claimed in a very high rate.

We have seen much development regarding tourism infrastructure. Eco tourism seems to be the best prospect for our state. We need to improve our sense of hospitality also in which we have developed to great extent. We also need to provide healthier and the method of serving in our hotels also needs to be improved.

I am supporting these two demands which we discussed today. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pi Vanlalawmpuii.

PI VANLALAWMPUII CHAWNGTHU: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. Regarding Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, the increased quota of rice under food security reminds me of the time when we, the Congress youth distributed rice at our office during the time of bamboo flowering,

and the misuse of funds under BAFFACOS.

I am happy to hear that the Minister concerned is ready to correct those mistakes made regarding ration cards. The price of rice is immensely decreased and I am very grateful for this also. I would also like to mention how we cope with the problems which may arise due to mega block recently. We also have an abundant supply of rice and cooking gas nowadays; all these are the result of the efficiency and tireless efforts of the Minister concerned.

On Demand No. 42, Transport Department, it is true that the rate of taxi fare is often fixed by the owners and not only by the authority. While praising the departments bold moves for the welfare of the general public in the past, I would like to request to take necessary steps in this regard also.

I also appreciated the government's efforts like introducing service of taxis on shifts and allotment of maxi cab service in a definite route. I would also like to recommend the introduction of two wheeler taxi in order to resolve the problem of traffic jam.

Regarding Tourism Department, Demand No. 43, I support the idea of privatization of tourist lodge. Meanwhile, I would like to ask why the lodging cost is excessively high in tourist lodges. Will it be possible to lower the cost?

On Demand No. 28, Labour & Employment Department, I am glad to learn that many employment opportunities are being generated not only within the country but also abroad. The effort of Youth Commission and the Department to this concern is notable.

Regarding Demand No. 36, Environment & Forest Department, I appreciate their cooperation with NGOs and I also suggest that other departments may follow suit. Moreover, the Department has constructed rest houses within my constituency and we are very thankful for this also.

Meanwhile, as mentioned by Pu K. Sangthuama, it is disappointing that the owners of teak plantation are having problem with its marketing. I suggest that necessary steps should be taken so that they could harvest from their own plantation. I also appreciated the awareness programme carried out by the departments.

Pu Deputy Speaker, I conclude my speech by saying my support to the Demands of the two Hon. Ministers. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Hmingdailova Khiangte.

PU HMINGDAILOVA KHIANGTE: Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to start from Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department. I appreciate the efforts of the government to provide basic necessities during the mega block that we have faced recently. I am also overwhelmed by the government's efforts to provide rice at a lower rate despite the increasing cost from Food Corporation of India. It is really great to hear that one can buy 30 Kgs of rice for ₹90. All these achievement are the result of the efforts made by not only the Minister concerned but also the Hon. House Leader for the welfare of the people.

On Demand No. 42, as mentioned by Pu John Siamkunga, it is the responsibility of the government if the public transport system imposes problems to the public. I have also read that an air conditioned bus is set plying between Aizawl and Lunglei. In this connection, I would like to ask if it is possible to make the bus service plying Aizawl - Silchar - Shillong - Guwahati more comfortable and more appealing for the people.

On Demand No. 34, Tourism Department, I suggest that the ongoing initiative for privatization should be continued. Besides, proper food is not provided in the tourist lodges on Sundays and holidays. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to look into the matter also.

On Demand No. 28, the public may not be very familiar with Labour & Employment Department. However, we have learned that they are doing a great job. The department had done many things through Mizoram Youth Commission also like providing job opportunity to uneducated people also. Besides, coaching centre has also been opened for the youth so that one could face central civil services.

On Demand No. 36, Environment & Forest Department, I would like to mention particularly about their initiative for conservation of water in cooperation with PHE Department in villages. I also appreciate the forest expansion project and awareness campaigns being given in this regard. It is regretted that we have a high percentage of wild fire in comparison to other states and at the same time, I am glad to

learn that there is no wild fire in a large scale this year. This may be the result of the awareness speech made by the Hon. House Leader on the 10th February and other awareness programme organized in each district headquarters.

Lastly, regarding Demand No. 37, I would like to state that we should change our mindset so as to run societies effectively. I request that the Minister may formulate a way to motive and encourage the people to run Cooperative Societies effectively.

Then, Pu Deputy Speaker, I support Demand Nos. 17, 42, 43, 28, 36 and 37 to be passed in this House. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now have a break and we will start again at 2:00 PM.

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will continue with discussion of Demands. Let us now give time to Pu Lalrobiaka.

PU LALROBIAKA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I opined that the demands of two Ministers we are discussing today are good enough. Starting from Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, I would like to appreciate the efforts made by the Hon. Minister for the mega block we are about to face. He even visited Myanmar to find a way so that there will be no problems for the people. It is great to have this kind of dedicated Minister for the state.

Meanwhile, it is apparent that there is a chance for the inception of Food Security Act; it is unfortunate that some people turn criticizing the government but is better to remain silent if we are not in a position to help. As mentioned earlier, due to the mega block, the government purchased 80,000 kg of rice at ₹25.75 per kg from local agencies since 2015 till today as we also purchase at the rate of ₹32 per kg from FCI. From this issue, it think that it is better to buy it from local agencies in the future also as it will be a profit for our farmers in villages.

Regarding Transport Department, I would like to ask the hon. Minister

number of taxi permit being issued so far. I also appreciate the commitment of Transport Department for the welfare of the people as they travel to far off and very remote places. The drivers and conductors of MST buses are truly praiseworthy; they have also improved a lot in their service.

I am glad that a good godown building has been constructed at West Phaileng, Silsuri and Kanghmun. Moreover, fund for reconstruction of staff quarters at Khawrihnim, Darlung, Phuldungsei and Pukzing has been kept; I thank the Hon. Minister concerned for all these.

Regarding Demand No. 43, Tourism Department, I am also supporting the ongoing trends of privatizing tourist lodges. Besides, the Anthurium Festival used to be organized at Reiek was held at Lengpui last year. I hope it will be continued at Reiek as it is a suitable eco-tourism destination. I am also very thankful that fund for construction of tourist resorts and Eco Tourism Park at Reiek have been included in the budget.

On Demand No. 28, Labour & Employment Department, I am glad to learn that the Hon. Minister has chalked out a new minimum wages to be implemented from April. It means that the government is aware of the difficulties faced by the needy and downtrodden due to inflation. The works done by the department to provide job opportunities for everyone through Youth Commission is also very notable.

On Demand No. 33, Soil & Water Conservation Department, I express my gratitude for undertaking rubber plantation in my constituency through NABARD. It is obvious that this government is ready to help those who are sincere and hardworking.

Regarding Demand No. 36, Environment & Forest Department, I think that we need to pay more attentions for the preservation of Dampa Tiger Reserve for it may be destroyed easily if we continue as present. I Request the Hon. Minister to kindly look into the matter.

On FCS & CA Department, I recommend the strengthening of Legal Metrology Wing. There are many cases of dilution of oils which damages our vehicles thereby creating huge expenditure. It is necessary to strengthen this wing to check this

kind of problems.

I conclude my speech by expressing my support to the two demands we are discussing today. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. We have seen in this budget statement that Demand Nos. 17, 42 and 43 have been decreased by around 18.42%. Likewise, the demand of Pu Lalrinmawia Ralte had also been decreased by around 58 crore i.e. 3.98%. Thus, the reason for the decrease with a couple of demands is questionable.

Demand No. 17, FCS & CA Department, I am grateful for reconstructing godown buildings at Lungpho and Chhingchhip where as repairing work of Chhiahtlang Godown Building has also been included in work programme. In this regard, I think that we should be more careful in implementing Food Security so that no beneficiary is being left out.

On Demand No. 43, Tourism Department, there are some questions arising out of privatization of tourist lodges. A tender was floated on 13.8.2013 for privatization of 15 Nos. tourist lodges. However, 4 tourist lodges were left out for which another expression of interest was floated on 7.10.2015. Besides, an upper ceiling was fixed for such expression of interest which is very unlikely in view of the financial difficulties the government has been facing; it is said to be revised after three years. The amount offered by the bidder for for the Travellers' Inn, Vairengte is ₹70,100 but the upper ceiling fixed is ₹15,000. The difference is ₹55,100 and the loss for the government within the said three years is ₹19,83,000. The same kind of loss amounting to ₹12,78,000 will be made for Tourist Resort, Hmuifang and ₹13,21,200 for Highway Restaurant. The loss incurred only from these three tourist lodges amounts to ₹45,82,800 within this three years. Pu Deputy Speaker, it is doubtful that upper ceiling has been fixed in view of the loss to be incurred.

Regarding Transport Department, AC Bus service between Aizawl and Lunglei is set to be started. Meanwhile, I questioned myself why the state transport vehicles incur so much expenditure without reasonable profit. I suggest that travelling without tickets in these vehicles should be stopped so as to increase the revenue of the

government.

Regarding Demand No. 28, the increase minimum wages is an important subject. Meanwhile, it is important to look into the situations of those workers under private firms also. Such workers have faced many problems in their work. It is desirable that we could pay more attentions towards their problems.

On Demand No. 37, Cooperation Department, it is essential to learn the importance and functioning of cooperative societies for our state. It must be noted that the share of producer will is bound to increase by functioning through cooperative societies.

Regarding Environment & Forest Department, most of the villages have reserve forest of their own; they often claim that they could look after those reserved forests better if funds are available. Thus, I opine it will be more effective if we provide funds for that purpose even if it less to encourage them for more efforts. Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Chalrosanga Ralte.

PU CHALROSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. To start with FCS & CS Department, I am overwhelmed to hear that we have save ₹ 2 crore within a year through Food Security. I would also like to thank the Minister for construction of godown and staff quarters at Buarpui.

On Demand No. 42, Transport Department, I am grateful to hear about the AC Bus Service plying to Lunglei. I would also like to ask the Hon. Minister if it is possible to provide ambulance service plying to rural areas.

Regarding Demand No. 36, Environment & Forest Department, it is unfortunate to hear about the practice of poaching particularly in villages. It is therefore necessary for concerned authority to control such practice more strictly. Regarding the problem with teak plantation, I support the opinions of my fellow members, Pu K. Sangthuama and Pi Vanlalawmpuii, I also think the problems regarding teak plantation is important. I would like as to whether from the central or state this problem is originated.

Lastly, regarding Tourism Department, it is obvious that we have a good potential for eco-tourism industry. However, it seems we need to give more advertisements through social and electronic media so that people may know about our state. I hope that we could attract more and more tourists in the future by means of natural beauty God has put in our state. So, I am supporting Demands No. 17, 42, 43, 28, 33, 36 and 37. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu K.S. Thanga.

PU K.S. THANGA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. We have heard of several members achievements made by the government. Yet, I would like to talk about some negative sides as well. Regarding Tourism Department, we all seems to know that performance of the department is quite well. At the same time, I would like to stress about the importance of cleanliness and sanitation for the development of tourism industry. If we travel from Lengpui to Aizawl, we can see what sorts of improvement that we still need to make; this should be the first priority.

On Demand No. 42, Transport Department, regarding AC Bus service to Lunglei as stated by several members, I would like to advocate AC Maxi cab service as well as we have seen in many other countries. Since we the mizos are advance in lifestyle and mindset, I opine it is suitable in our state.

We have also heard of the performance of FCS & CS Department. At the same time, I have little doubt about the amount of rice purchased a year is in proportion to our population; I believe it is too much. The Govt. expenditure on rice as shown in the statement is too much and it is estimated that 5 kgs or rice as being consumed by a person in a day. I think that there is other means to control the system to some extents.

Regarding Demand No. 28, Labour & Employment, I opine we need to be more careful on sending our youth to work abroad otherwise it may turn out to be a big problem for us in the future. I think it is necessary to chalk out how they could be given better security.

The performance budget of Soil & Water Conservation Department and Environment & Forest Department stated that 'no provision was made for this scheme, but are taken up under RKVY'. It means that no separate fund is allotted to the department. If so, how will the department proceed if RKVY is terminated? In this

connection, I suggest that projects should be made for our own state through our empanelled consultancy firms so that we may be able to avail more funds from the central government solely for our own state. Thank you. *(Pu Chalrosanga Ralte at the Speaker chair)*

CHAIRMAN : Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Pu Chairman, I would like to start with Food Security. After the implementation of Food Security, several Ration Cards are being held and as a result, some families could not deliver their ration quota. In this regard, an order was issued stating that those ration cards being held even after processing end to end computerization should registered themselves and their ration will then be issued. However, it does not affect in my constituency as yet and it may be the same in other constituency too, I am not sure of. I am deeply concerned for the problems faced by our people in this regard. So, I request the Hon. Minister concerned to look into this case. While this is the case with ration supply, I would like to thank the department for the construction of godown at Sakawrdai and I hope it will soon be completed.

Regarding Transport department, we have bus service plying to Zohmun and Vaitin once a week. So, I request the Minister concerned to kindly find a way to make it at least twice a week. Regarding maxi cab permit, it will be much appreciated if applicants from rural areas are prioritized by the authority. At the same time, I am glad to see the POL in the budget head of the department. As of taxi permit, none had yet been given in this ministry; I believe it is now possible for the concerned authority to issue a new permit.

On Soil & Water Conservation Department, we are overwhelmed that ₹32 lakh is kept for Ruangva coffee project, which is within my constituency. This is a huge leap in regard to this project. Meanwhile, staff quarters are very old and decapitated; I request that it may be renovated as necessary with immediate effect.

Regarding Broom's mahal system, it seems that my constituency deserves special attention especially with regards to free transit pass. I hope necessary steps would be taken in the coming years so that we may not face the problems we are facing today.

I think that the main problem about teak plantation is the absence of working plan. I think that it is very easy now at places where working plan is available. The working plan has not been done at Darlawn area also. I, therefore, beg that it will be done as soon as possible.

We have made an immense improvement in terms of subsidy others yet progress is hardly seen in the cooperative societies. Thus, we need to be more aware of the aim and objectives of cooperative society and awareness programme also need to be chalked out in this regard.

Lastly, I would also like to support the demands that we have discussed today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you. I would like to point out first which I think are the immediate needs of the state.

First of all, on Demand No. 17, FCS & CA, the main subject is about Food Security Act. Yet, there are some incorrect statistics and I beg the Hon. Minister to take necessary steps so that those who are not included in ration cards could avail their ration as well.

On Demand No. 42, Transport Department, it is apparent that the department can contribute much to our state revenue. Therefore, I beg the Hon. Minister to take initiatives to generate more revenue from transport sector. However, the ways we generate revenue from transport amaze me a little. For example, collecting life time tax for 15 years from vehicles seems inappropriate. Vehicles like auto-rickshaw would likely not to last 15 years. Besides, 6% increase in tax has not been implemented in many states while it is claimed should be done as per the decision of a meeting of All India Transport Ministers. It is desirable that such hiking of taxes to 6% could be avoided.

On Demand No. 43, Tourism Department, it seems that we have paid all our attention towards tourist lodge alone. I suggest that it is as well important to have a tourism policy for our state.

Regarding Demand No. 37, Cooperation Department, ARCS Office of Siaha is under the State Government; however, two inspectors and an LDC were transferred. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to kindly take necessary steps so that this office could function smoothly as it is highly beneficial for the people.

We have seen considerable amount under Demand No. 36, Environment & Forest Department under which we used to plant new trees but lacks proper maintenance. I suggest that, on the contrary, we should spend more funds for the preservation of the existing forest coverage than spending lots of money on organizing programmes like Green Mizoram. I would also like to mention about population control as it is under this department. The wastes from hospitals and slaughter houses are becoming problems nowadays. So, it is necessary to pay more attentions towards this problem. I would also like to point out at the same time that all the Districts are covered in the projects of 2015-2016 except Siaha District. I beg the Hon. Minister to kindly look into this matter.

Regarding Labour & Employment Department, it is unfortunate to hear that there were recruitments which had been done without the knowledge of this department which may be checked immediately. Also, we need to keep a close watch on those we sponsored through Youth Commission; we need to know the rate of their success and where they work also. I request that more attention should be paid towards them. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Zoram Sangliana.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA: The Minister which concerned Demand Nos. 17, 42 and 43 had called a consultative committees numbers of time and I truly appreciate that. As a result, we the MLAs came to learn many issues relating to various departments.

On Demand No. 42, I am glad to hear about the AC Bus Service and hope this could be an example for private owners. I also appreciate the efforts of the department in controlling public transport and also in their cooperation with NGOs as well as the public as a whole.

On Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, it is a great achievement of this department that they could provide ration supply not

only to beneficiaries of Food Security Act but also to all ration card holders. Their efforts during mega block are also notable as they are now able to provide sufficient supply for all the people. They have done a great job in this regard.

Regarding Tourism Department, I suggest development of ethnic Mizo dishes to our tourists as many prefer local dishes. I think that their efforts on privatization of tourist lodges is also notable even though there may be some problems arising out of it.

I would also like to support as mentioned earlier, the introduction of two wheeler taxis as practices in cities like Bangkok and in Goa. I also suggest improvements of public transport system for it is an important measure for development of tourism industry.

On Demand No. 33, Soil & Water Conservation Department, I think that their works are not widely known by the public. Thus, I suggest that more awareness should be given through advertisements so that we may realize the importance of this department. I am also glad to see many great works taken up by the department.

The Labor & Employment Department has changed a lot over the years and it is impressive that it focuses on training people successfully for better employment around the world.

In regard to the Demand No. 37, Co-operation Department, it would be of great advantage if we follow the system of our fellow mizos in the neighboring country who are making the best use of Co-operative society and we should put more efforts in this regard.

Regarding Demand No. 36, Environment & Forest Department, we are fortunate to have numbers of efficient officers in the department; and, to encourage the staffs for more progress, I opine it is important to promote the senior IFS Central Services to the Addl. Chief Secretary for it would be a blessing for the department as well. While this is the case, I believe this department is not made enough efforts on resource mobilization despite our timbers, bamboos and brooms which could become a profitable source for our high non-tax revenues. And, it would be impressive if measures are taken for Bamboo industry and its marketing so that the Govt. may be able to acquire more sources of revenues through this department.

Since most of our forests are being destroyed, Teak plantations of the Govt. and of privates are our only source of timber. Hence, we need to put more efforts on planting trees and restrict exporting our teaks. Likewise, we also need to take steps on saw-mill and plywood industry.

It seems that we benefit only around 10% from our broom productions and it is therefore wise if we take the royalty and not by the Assam Forest Department. At the same time, it would also be a good idea if the red sandalwoods that were seized by the department and the central excise are generated for our state's revenue.

Pu Speaker, I support the demands of our two Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to discuss the demands of our 2 Ministers and I would like to start with Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs. It is quite unfortunate that the details of the family members and occupations are not printed correctly on our ration cards and I hope that our new ration cards will be correctly printed.

The Supply Department has stopped sugar rations due to financial issues and it would be appreciated if it is continued as the Central Govt. can also subsidize us. The Consumer Affairs Department is not yet separated till today and it is necessary that the department teaches consumer rights to their consumers. At the same time, the Legal Metrology department is short on staffs to inspect weights, measuring instruments and Oils on each delivery. So, it is quite important to reinforce the staffs.

As mentioned by the representative of Aizawl South-III, there is a difference on rice production under the Agriculture Department and the rice that we purchase every month. So, we need to analyze which is incorrect.

In regard to Demand No. 42, Transport, a lifetime tax of 6% is collected from Feb. 8 and I feel that it is improper to collect 6% without VAT on vehicle. It would be more suitable if it is collected on installment with interests so that the people will not face the consequences that they are facing today. It is learned that 1051 taxi permits had been issued during these last 5 years and only 209 taxis were in service during

2009-2010 and 3804 during 2013-2014. Since the Department is responsible for giving training to drivers, it should also be careful on issuing license permits. We now have purchased several buses from JNNURM fund and it would be appreciated if green line buses are introduced accordingly so that the taxi service routine is no longer enforced so as to alleviate traffic problem. Besides, we have ISVP but there is no toilet facility for the people and it would be appreciated if it is provided.

Moving to Demand No. 43, Tourism, our revenue collection during 2015-2016 was only ₹1.83 crore and I hope we make a progress this year. Tourism industry has a great potential but no extra measures are taken to earn revenue. Our Mizoram Houses are under the maintenance of mostly of inexperienced staffs while we have numbers of experienced hotel management workers who may be posted on deputation. As of the project of trekking routes, I hope that this will attract tourists and will become a great source of revenue for us.

In regard to building and other construction welfare fund of Labor & Employment, I opine we can achieve membership drive in the constituencies by working together. At the same time, it would also be appreciated if the issue of IT certificates does not take time since it causes problem to those who apply for jobs. It is also impressive that Coaching Academy of the Mizoram Youth Commission is established in my constituency and I believe that this will help us to reach further goals in the Central Govt.

The Planning Department takes several measures on skill development. In this relation, it is necessary to give a thought on man power development as in big industries while we are developing our skills.

In regard to Demand No. 36, Forest, it is unavoidable while processing the budget to issue land pass within the riverine reserve and where compensations are claimed. The problem may continue the 2 concerned departments are cooperated. I heard that Serhmun village falls within Dampa Tiger Reserve and the villagers wish to abandon their habitats since the animals often destroy their crops. So, I request the concerned Minister to look into matter.

In dealing of Broom royalty, it is regretted that we are in control of the Bagha businessmen and so is important for concerned authority to determine the case so that our own laborers may earn more profits. While this is the case, it is regretted that

Bamboo Day could not be celebrated this year due to shortage of staffs in Forest Service. So, it is necessary to give concern to this matter.

In regard to Demand No. 33, this department undertakes broom cultivation but Forest Department takes the royalty. We have 1,000 hectares of rubber plantation and we need to put more efforts to upgrade our economy.

In regard to Co-operation, It seems that our Co-operative societies are lack co-operation though they all are making progress. Thus, concerned Banks and all the Govt. departments should also give instructions on cooperation. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We have a strict rule to follow that any staffs on duty should not walk in between the chair and the spokesperson. Next is, Pu T. Sangkunga.

PU T. SANGKUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is a pleasure to have a discussion on the demands of our 2 Ministers. Despite the favors we received from Pu John Rotluangliana, on Tourist Lodges, we have only a few godowns in my constituency; it will be much appreciated if we are provided with more godowns.

Quite a lot of progress is made under Transport department, which is Demand No. 42 such as increase of tax on vehicle. Regarding Tourism, another department concerned by the same minister, I believe privatization of some Tourist Lodges will entail new development for the department. We are also making a lot of progress under the leadership of the hon. Minister, Pu Lalrinmawia Ralte as he is always showing his interest on any measure which may be taken by the Youth Commission

Regarding Demand No. 37, Co-operation, it is appreciated that quite a remarkable progress is seen in the Societies such as Milk Union and Apex Bank. While this is the case, nothing much is seen under Soil & Water Conservation, which is Demand No. 33. So, it would be appreciated if the department put more efforts on rice fields which were destroyed by rains.

Moving to Demand No. 36, Environment & Forest, it is depressing to see our forests being devastated and the department needs to have better working relationship with YMA to preserve our forests. The first teak plantation in Mizoram was at Tlabung in 1959 and the department then extended the plantation in many places. It

would be impressive if more efforts are put on teak and bamboos to save our forests and to improve our economy as well.

Regarding Demand No. 28, according to the report of the National Skill Development, 2015, South Korea has 96% skill, Germany 75%, USA 52% and India has only 4.6%. So, this indicates skill development is prioritized globally as its Ministry had even established in our country as well. Mizoram also received ₹2.5 crore to organize training for 400 people as a project amounting to ₹8 crore has also been submitted to the Central Govt. for next year. The Central has a plan for setting up 1500 training institutes and we may also send our youths when achieved.

With the increasing population of educated, I opine we need to encourage our youths at the same time. The Youth Commission will advertise every available exam with the specific name of post and scale and so our support is needed to achieve it like other Demands. Thus, I give my support to all the Demands of the Ministers which had been discussed today.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Before we start the discussion, there is hardly any sitting of the Consultative Committee though it has been 2 years. It is an important committee and I believe it is also your concern, Pu Speaker.

I would like to start with the Demands of Pu Lalrinmawia Ralte, hon. Minister. Labor & Employment Department has always been a small department and I was wondering if there is a way to improve it. While this is the case, it is impressive that the Labor welfare has provided compensation scheme and we need to give more awareness to the laborers to register themselves under this. Besides, I opine it is wise if employment registration is necessitated not for the unemployed. The main objective of the Youth Commission is to pave the way for our youths, job opportunity within the country and abroad. I believe it would be impressive to encourage them to work within Mizoram so that numbers of job seeking non-tribals entering our state are receded.

In regard to Environment & Forest, we are very concern about selling teaks because of the Supreme Court Ruling. The Supreme Court Ruling should not be violated but there is a way to avoid. Even if exporting teaks is prohibited, it can be widely used within Mizoram if it available at a lower cost which will further alleviates

our economy.

Regarding Supply Deptt., it is questionable that how much wrong data entry on ration card will cost the department for the department itself is responsible and not the computers.

It is appreciated that the Govt. has given much importance to development of Tourism. At the same time, we need to determine how many tourists we are able to accommodate with the present condition by taking Sikkim etc. as an example and we need to increase the value of our own productions as of MIFCO and ZOHANCO etc. So, I support the demands of our Ministers in the hope of achieving the aforementioned points. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I now request Pu John Rotluangliana, hon. Minister to wind up the discussion and beg the House to pass his Demands.

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. 16 members had discussed about the Supply Department and I thank the members for their participations.

The Selection Committee on Food Security Act as mentioned by Pu K. Sangthuama has given a deep consideration on the food security which should be enjoyed by the rightful beneficiaries and without any partiality being involved. As mentioned before, the Food Security covers only 7,06,296 Nos. beneficiaries while the remaining 5 lakhs people are excluded. In other states, ration supply is enjoyed only by the beneficiaries and we are fortunate that the said is made available to every family; I opine the hon. Chief Minister truly deserve credit for this opportunity.

In the midst of economic crisis, the Govt., under the efficient leadership of the hon. Chief Minister is trying the best to provide adequate foods to all families with the decision that any beneficiary under Food Security may be allotted 5 kgs @ ₹3 per kg and 3 kgs @ ₹15 per kg and for the rest 8 kgs every month. The beneficiaries are selected by the concerned V/C on behalf of the parties.

Mizoram is among the last to enjoy food security and we had been urged by the Delhi Govt. to implement it by March. There is an instruction from the Central Govt. not to issue ration supply without ration cards being produced; so, we prepared

in haste and I apologize for the error being made.

Pu R.L. Pianmawia and Dr. Beichhua had mentioned about new ration card not being issued in their respective constituencies as the people could not deliver their ration quota till today, I assure it will soon be provided. I, again apologize for the erroneous data entry for it is the reason for the delay and correction will be completed within this April.

As we were urged by the central to immediately implement Food Security programme, a new ration card was published in haste and then we found the error. Pu Speaker, ration quota of rice which was once 4 kgs for children and 8 kgs for adults has now been increased to 8 kgs for all concerns under the Food Security. Errors being made are on age and relationships and it does not affect the amount of ration quota; we will try to supply rations to anyone who have not yet received.

Some members criticized the difference in our population records and of the rice we purchased. Before the Food Security, our monthly allocation on rice from FCI used to be 52,210 quintals and we were short on 80,000 quintals. These 80,000 quintals were purchased separately from FCI on economic cost where it was ₹31.34/kg. However, we found the cost a bit high and so we took measures by tendering quotation and we decided to purchase it from the local agency at the rate of ₹25.75/kg. Thus, we managed to save ₹53,66,40,000 in a year even before implementing Food Security Act. A surplus exists after closing VIP quota and special permit. We then bought 40,000 quintals of rice within 5 months and sometimes 60,000 quintals when there are no stocks.

After completing digitization of ration card, the number of ration card is expected to fall and so with requirement of rice by 3,000 metric tons; and, hopefully ₹57,38,40,000 will then be saved every month.

Some members criticized increasing number of the existing ration card, the main reason is that some people who are moving from district to district due to their postings or on other purposes applied a new a ration card and were issued to them without deleting the original ones. That is all I can say about Food & Civil Supplies.

The Legal Metrology is concern with an important job of inspecting Petrol/Diesel, records of ration cards, weighing gas and many other important issues.

The officers and staff are working hard as we even plan to extend our office at various Districts such as Lawngtlai, Mamit and Siaha where as construction of Serchhip branch office had also been completed.

Pu Speaker, roster of Taxi service it is in the hand of Traffic Management Committee. On the matter of Life Time Tax as mentioned by the hon. members, we had discussed the procedure of this tax in the previous session held on July, 2015. The Mizoram Motor Vehicle Taxation Act, 1996 was then passed and being implemented on the 8th of February the following year. I think it is relevant to know that this Life Time Tax has been implemented in 17 States in the country.

Regarding replacements of taxi permit, many questions had arise relating to law which permits the renewal of Taxi but this law cannot be executed since the STA does not give it permission; and, if the renewal is permitted, others will not stand a chance of having new permits for taxi. As questioned by several members, the following are taxi permits being issued: –

Period	Nos. of permit issued
1998	177 Nos.
1999	574 Nos.
2000	1,172 Nos.
2001	304 Nos.
2002	158 Nos.
2003	726 Nos.
2004	3,621 Nos.
2005	437 Nos.
2006 - 2007	Nil
2008	30 Nos.

From 2009 till date, no permit has been issued. As to the Nos. of 1500 permits being given, we have no such record and I have no comment on it.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Chairman, as per the record of Assembly Subject-I Committee, 1051 Nos. of taxi permits are being issued and the report had also been laid on the table of the House on 24.3.2005 but without specifically mentioning whether it is of Aizawl or other districts.

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, so far, we have not issued any permit for Aizawl but for other districts. At present, there are 3,525 Nos. taxis in service within Aizawl. We have not given any permits within this term or in the previous.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, as per the report of Subject Committee-I, there were 209 Nos. taxis within Aizawl during 2009-2010 and 3,804 Nos. during 2013-2014. What is the reason for this immense increase?

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the MNF had issued 3621 Nos. permits during their Ministry which seem to be the main reason. Pu Speaker, it has also been recommended that we should introduce two-wheeler taxis and Auto-Rickhsaw for Aizawl also.

As mentioned by Pu Chalrosanga Ralte, the hon. member, Transport department may introduce ambulance service in rural areas if the Finance Department gives financial provision for the purpose. Regarding the taxi fare as pointed out by my fellow members, STA has published a booklet of taxi rates which will be distributed to the members later on. We also have introduced online payment system of taxes and application for special permits also is accessible which may be applied online. The amount of revenue collected between 2015 to February, 2016 is ₹16,88,04,000; plans are also made to establish a new DTO office and the State Government had sanctioned an amount of ₹17,30,000 for this purpose. Cargo train had also with a capacity of 26,000 qtls. of rice had also entered our state for the first we are now able to save so much time and energy. As planned by the officials, Board gauge will also reach Sairang by the month of March, 2019. Apart from this, we have placed a booking for A/C Bus plying to Lunglei and it is my desire to do the same to other routes as well and may be done as soon as we are financially stable.

Pu Speaker, regarding Tourism Department, 14 members had participated in the discussion and many have pointed out regarding catering foods at the roadside tourist lodges. Unfortunately, the management on these roadside hotels is under the authority of Industries Department. As mentioned by my fellow members, I too opine the room rents of Tourist Lodge are excessive and so may be reviewed. As to the point mentioned by Pu Robiaka, it was due to bad condition of road, but since it has already been refurbished, we may continue to organize once again at Reiek.

Regarding the management of Tourist Lodge in different areas we are planning to privatize our Lodges. The majority of the applicants are interested only on Lodges in the District Headquarters while only the rest are being proposed for privatization; so, we are facing some problems in this regard. We have also set a based price so each applicant may have an equal opportunity. With the efforts of our hon. Chief Minister, we receive a sanction of ₹94.90 crores from the Integrated Development of New Eco-tourism of Swadesh Darshan North-East Circuit as 1st Installments had already been received. Under this programme, we have proposals for construction of Golf Course at Thenzawl, Eco-Lodges at Reiek as Zote and Wellness Spa to be extended in other areas. The sanctioned we used to receive from the Products Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits had now been de-linked after we received the 1st Installments; so, we ended up with mounting debts. However, the hon. Chief Minister made an approach to the Prime Minister and we are hoping to get a positive outcome. Construction of State Institute of Hotel Management building at Bung Bunglow has also been completed and we have also applied for post creation of teachers and staff for this institution.

Pu Speaker, it may be noted by the House that expenditure for organizing the Anthurium Festival and Thalfvang Kut are directly funded by the Central Government and not by the State Government. With that I will conclude by I appealing the hon. House to pass the following Demands: -

Demand No.	Department	Amount in ₹
17	Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs	2,47,47,64,000.00
47	Transport	53,31,74,000.00
43	Tourism	16,75,02,00.00
TOTAL		3,17,54,40,000.00

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has made an appeal to pass Demand Nos.17, 47 and 43 amounting to ₹3,17,54,40,000.00. Those who are in favour to pass his Demands may say, “Aye” and those who oppose may say, “No”. Since there is no objection, the Demand Nos. 17, 42 and 43 are unanimously passed by the House.

PU JOHN ROTLUANGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : We will now move on to the Demands of the

hon. Minister, Pu Lalrinmawia Ralte. He may react to questions relating to his Demands and also move the House to pass it.

PU LALRINMAWIA RALTE, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. First, I will stress on Labour & Employment regarding the recruitment of employee. It is necessary for any department to inform any vacant post to Labour & Employment as per the Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act, 1959 but the recruitment process is under the authorization of the concerned department. We have even put forward this case to the Supreme Court; we are expecting a positive outcome.

Considering the prevailing human trafficking problems around the globe, we do not encourage much to the job opportunity provided by certain agency like Fly by Night Operator as many of such agencies are found unreliable. The Govt. thus, felt the need to give it concern as steps were being taken in cooperation with the Youth Commission to resolve the problems. 1148 Nos. youths who were trained under the Skill Development Initiative Scheme have now being employed in different parts of the country. We have even claimed reimbursement for such trainees as an amount of ₹3.2 crores covering up to July had already been received. Regarding sending of our youths abroad for job, we do encourage much; yet, help will be rendered if deem necessary. Apart from this, we are planning to delve into the welfare of labors under private enterprises as well like minimum wage of employment. It is true that we should respect their rate but the schedule of employment rate should be maintained. As per schedule of private enterprises, at least 1000 Nos. employees should be placed under one section of the schedule of employment and the rate may be fixed in agreement with the employers. So, I suggest that both the government and the public should study this matter more carefully.

On Demand No. 33, Soil & Water Conservation Department, it is true that a sustainable agriculture cannot be achieved without this department. Our main funding source is RKVY; our consultancy firms are instructed to submit the projects but regretted not to receive any till date. Hopefully, Mat Valley project will become successful. In order to stop soil erosion, we have submitted a project to Brahmaputra Board for anti-erosion control works scheme and we are still searching for the funding source. Regarding rubber plantation, loans are given from NABARD and arrangements are also made under NLUP for this purpose and are put under the surveillance of the government.

Under Demand No. 36, Environment & Forest Department, we are fortunate for being the highest percentage of forest reserve in the country. Despite dense forest areas which are worth mentioning, we still hold the record of the highest green forest reserve. In order to maintain the record, we have applied for other schemes through which funds may be availed; so far, we have made a great progress. To preserve our forest and its natural habitats, we have also constructed watch house for local NGO in order to protect fishes in mating season. Initiatives had been taken to relocate Serhmun village since they have often been disturbed by wildlife living in the nearby forest; we are in the final stage of the enumeration process and the whole village had given gave their support in this matter as well.

Initiative has also been made for setting up Saw Mill industry as necessary documents have also been sent to the Central government for Sairang, Bairabi, Serchhip, Hmunhmeltha and Pukpui to be declared as an Industrial Estate. Likewise, approach has been made to the central authority to declare the Industrial growth centre at Luangmual, industrial estates at Mamit, Lawngtlai and Kawlchaw. Regarding worck schedule, we have 4 divisions such Kawrthah, N. Vanlaiphai, Lunglei, Lawngtlai and for Chakma Autonomous District Council area. As of Aizawl, Mamit, Kolasib, Thenzawl and Tlabung it is in the process; Champai and Mara District along with Darlawn and LEDC area are also included.

Regarding Arms restriction, Air gun is not included under Arms Act but we have made an appeal to the DC to prohibit it as well; more efforts may be given unless or until the demand is fulfilled.

On Co-operation, as questioned by the hon. member Er. Lalrinawma, no development will be seen unless we do not give more attention to Co-operation. We all should aware of the importance of Co-operative Society for social and economic development of our State. So, as suggested by the hon. Member, awareness campaign should be conducted more often in this regard.

Regarding ICDP, questions were raised as to why it was not established in LADC area. Funds which may be received for Co-operation should be given through the State Govt. Before 1990, any ICDP project covered the 3 Autonomous District Councils but they are not now. Apart from this, we have a problem relating to relocation of ARCS office to the aforementioned areas; we are awaiting the opinion of the hon. Chief Minister in this regard and necessary steps will be taken after we receive a direction from our senior officers.

We have seen an immense development on MIZOFED, APEX Bank, Zofishfed and with the remaining 10 Nos. State Level Co-operative Society. An amount of ₹ 44.99 crores will be received from ICDP for four years and we hope to utilize this in the best possible way for the economic development of our State. Pu Speaker, with that, I will conclude by appealing to the hon. House to pass the following Demands: –

Demand No.	Department	Amount in ₹
28	Labour & Employment	25,88,27,000.00
33	Soil & Water Conservation	6,48,59,000.00
36	Environment & Forest	73,14,55,000.00
37	Co-Operation	25,25,04,000.00
TOTAL		1,40,76,45,000.00

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has made an appeal to pass Demand Nos.28, 33, 36 and 37 amounting to ₹1,40,76,45,000/-. All in favour to pass the Demands may say, ‘Aye’ and those who oppose may say, ‘No’. Since there are no objection, the ‘Ayes’ have it. I declare that Demand Nos.28, 33, 36 and 37 are unanimously passed by the House.

PU LALRINMAWIA RALTE, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : We have come to the end of today’s session and we will resume our meeting tomorrow, the 24th march, 2015 at 10:30 AM. The Sitting is adjourned.

(Sitting adjourned at 5:32 PM.)