

## GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

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

Hon'ble Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I welcome all of you, the representatives of people of 5<sup>th</sup> Mizoram Legislative Assembly, to this august House, the temple of democracy. I am fully confident that all of you will be constantly active and dedicated for service of people through best creative works and thereby fulfill the aspiration of making Mizoram a strong, prosperous, safe and an ideal state of India.

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I take this opportunity to highlight the vision and achievements my Government has made in various spheres and areas. Various programmes and achievement are :

1. In democracy, Government keeps the continuity of development for which security of our State is essential. The job of maintenance of law and order, investigation and prosecution of crimes and internal security of the State are being made effectively in the State. No major incident of law and order has been reported. Crime rate has dipped by 6.83% in 2007 compared to the previous year. Recruitment of constables for the new 3<sup>rd</sup> IR Bn. has been completed and they are now undergoing basic training. Under Police Housing Scheme 2007-2008, construction of Barracks and other buildings at various places are being taken up 28 nos. of different types of buildings at Police Training Centre, Thenzawl are also being constructed. Vertical extension of Forensic Science Laboratory building at Mualpui is being carried out. The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has approved Rs. 479.00 lakh for procurement of vehicles and various equipments. Proposal for construction of 9 buildings, water supply, electrification at PTC Thenzawl and purchase of 4 (four) different training items and upgradation of Forensic Science Laboratory have been approved by the Government of India.

2. My Government is concerned with the menace of illicit drug trafficking and substance abuse and contravention of the Prohibition laws. 415 drug traffickers and abusers have been arrested during the 2007-2008 upto January, 2008. 2537 violators of the Prohibition laws have also been arrested during this period. Revenue amounting to Rs. 138.04 lakh was collected during 2007-2008 (upto January, 2008) against the target of Rs. 145.000 lakh.

3. Our State's economy is primarily agrarian and about 70% of the population are engaged in agriculture. An additional area of 100 ha has been developed for Wet Rice cultivation during 2007-2008. Under Potential Area Connectivity, 50 Kms of road has been newly constructed during 2007-2008. More emphasis is given on Organic Farming and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for which uses of bio-fertilizers, bio-agents and vermin composing are encouraged for sustainable agriculture. During 2007-2008, improved variety of Paddy, Maize, Oilseeds and Pulses have been distributed to the farmers. Agriculture Department has signed Memorandum of Understanding with private firms for cultivation and processing of Red Oil Palm at Kolasib, Mamit, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Serchhip, Aizawl and Saiha Districts. Under Minor Irrigation, 56 nos. of Minor Irrigation projects are scheduled to be completed during 2007-2008.

4. My Government continues to strive ahead in the field of Horticulture. More than 6.00 lakh of Anthurium cut flowers and 6.24 lakh of Rose cut

flowers were sold outside Mizoram State during 2007 – 2008. Turmeric seed rhizomes were distributed to the cultivators under Mizoram Intodelhna Programme to combat famine. Vast area is being covered under passion fruit cultivation under the Twelfth Finance Commission with an expenditure of Rs. 600.00 lakh. With the financial assistance of NEC, 20 acres have been covered for Kiwi fruit cultivation under Champhai Horticulture Sub-Division.

5. With a heavy heart I would like to say that our farmers especially in rural areas are under the grip of famine as a sequel to the periodic bamboo flowering. My Government is taking various steps to mitigate the suffering of the people. My Government has released to Rs. 12.93 crore from the States Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund for relief of the affected families. My Government has also submitted a Memorandum to the Central Government highlighting the plight of the Cultivators and for Central Assistance as about 90% rice harvest of 2007 has been lost. In order to have an in-depth knowledge of the famine situation and extent of paddy/crop destroyed by rodents and loss sustained by farmers, all the Deputy Commissioners have formed District level Committee at District headquarters. My Government has also constituted the Mizoram Famine Emergency Committee. I take this opportunity to applaud the sincere sacrifice of the people of Mizoram who have donated paddy as well as money to the famine stricken villagers and farmers. Their generosity and care for their brothers and sisters is appreciated by all. I am confident that within a short time, the plight of the rural farmers shall be greatly lessened due to active measures taken by the Government.

6. My Government is focusing on Rural Development Programmes Under IAY, 800 houses have been constructed during 2007 – 2008 upto January, 2008. Undedr SGRY which is being implemented in the four districts of Aizawl, Mamit, Serchhip and Kolasib, the Government of India has released a sum of Rs. 232.12 lakh during the current year. The employment generated so far during the year 2007 – 2008 till January, 2008 is 3.441 lakh mandays. Under IWDP/Hariyali, Rs. 24.72 crore for Mizoram have been released by the Government of India for 19 projects during 2007 – 2008. 126 number of Self-Help Groups were formed during the current year under SGSY. Under BAFFACOS which aims at enhancing purchasing power of the famine-affected rural population by giving them wage-employment, an amount of Rs. 1000.00 lakh was distributed to all the 8(eight) districts during 2007 – 2008 and utilized at the village level by the Village Level Baffacos Committee against approved items of works.

7. Major Works implemented by Soil & Water Conservation Department include construction of 150 nos. of Water Harvesting tank and ponds.

bunding of 633 Ha of log wood in Jhum lands, construction of 200 Ha of terraces and 83 nos. of Soil Conservation Engineering structures. With the proposed outlay of Rs. 350.0 lakhs during 2008 – 2009, hillside terracing, rubber and coffee cash crops are proposed to be taken up extensively.

8. My Government is striving hard to ensure food security in the State. While our State is facing the menace of famine popularly known as 'Mautam' the Central Government had reduced the monthly allotment of rice from the existing 6810 MT to 2446 MT with effect from April, 2006. Due to the earnest effort of my Government, the Government of India has allocated 5000 MT rice per month at economic cost from November, 2007 to March, 2008. The rice purchased at economic cost is distributed to the people at normal PDS price of Rs. 9.30p per Kg. and the State Government bears the additional cost. Sugar allocation of 666 MT is lifted and distributed to the public.

9. My Government has taken an all out effort to check and combat entry of the dreaded Bird Flu disease which broke out in our neighbouring foreign countries and states. Grants-in-aid to deserving dairy farmers, piggery, poultry, sheep and goat breeding is being given during 2007 – 2008. Biogas plant and barbed wire fencing for grazing ground have also been procured.

10. Under Fisheries Department, 712 Ha of existing fish pond have been supplied with fish seeds and feed. New pond construction, integrated fish farming and supply of inputs to additional water area have been taken up. Renovation of 294 Ha of existing ponds is being taken up during 2007 – 2008 with fund released by the Government of India under the National Fisheries Development Board. Under NEC programme, one Fish Seed Hatchery cum Fish Farming Unit at Darlak has been completed with an outlay of Rs. 12.39 lakh and has started partial production..

11. My Government has concentrated on the development of Silk Industry as it can play a crucial role for replacement of the devastating jhum cultivation in the State. Amongst the 4(four) varieties of silk, Mulberry Silk Industry is given priority for our State as it has better market potential During 2007 -2008. the area covered under Mulberry Plantation is 3010 crores. There are more than 10,000 families who are directly and indirectly involved with Sericulture activities. Two cluster projects, one at Khamrang Village and the other covering Keifang, Dilkhan and Sihfa Villages will continue during 2007 – 2008 for the development of Bivoltine Mulberry silkworm industry. The productions of Seeds and Cocoons during 2007 – 2008 are of the order of 3.5 lakh and 50,000 Kgs. respectively.

12. My Government is concentrating on industrial development. 1110 local artisans and several industrial units have been assisted during this year. More

than 100 educated unemployed youths are being sent to Kolkata and New Delhi for job training course. The Central Government has been requested to set up Call Centres in Aizawl to solve un-employment problem to some extent. High quality paper and pulp industry is proposed to be set up in Mizoram during the next Five-Year Plan. Clusters for primary processing of bamboo at various places are also proposed to be set up.

13. My Government lays emphasis on improvement of power supply. To generate power, three hydel projects namely Serlui 'B' Hydro Electricity Project, Maicham II Small Hydel Project and Lamsial Small Hydel Project are being undertaken and these projects are scheduled to be completed within 2008. Renovation and modernization of other Mini Hydel Stations like Serlui 'A' and Khawiva are also going on smoothly. There are as many as 11(eleven) on going constructions of transmission lines at various places and construction of LT overhead lines with Aerial Bunched Cables is being undertaken. Under the Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutkaran Yojana (RGGVY), REC Ltd. has approved Detailed Project Report for electrification on all villages and provisions of electricity to all households in five years. The approved amount for this work is Rs. 102.44 crore for the 8(eight) districts of Mizoram.

14. My Government has made significant achievement in building infrastructure in respect of roads, bridges and buildings. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highway has entrusted development and maintenance of three National Highways, namely, NH-44 'A', NH-150 and NH - 154 having a total length of 328.9 km to Mizoram PWD. Renewal and re-surfacing of the NH-44'A' and NH-150 has been done in most of the stretches. Widening to two-lane standard of 14.0 Km out of 58.00 Km length of NH-154 is in progress and is expected to be completed within this year. Upgradation on Bilkhawthlir - Natasura via Saiphai is being undertaken under Inter-State Connectivity and it will provide alternate Inter State Connectivity between Assam and Mizoram. Under NEC, 10(ten) different roads have been constructed with a total length of 256.500 Kms. Upgradation of Lengpui Airport and improvement of Kolodyne river for navigation are also undertaken with the approved cost of Rs. 10.74 crore. 5(five) bridges are also constructed under NLCPR and three bridges have been completed so far. Major improvement of 184 Kms of State Road under World Bank is being taken up and the whole project is expected to be completed by May, 2009. Construction of bridge over Tlawng River on Aibawk - Darlung road is also being taken up and work is in Progress.

15. My Government has accorded priority to provide adequate, safe, potable water supply and appropriate sanitation facilities to all the habitations throughout Mizoram. All the 2926 rural schools recorded in 2003 - 2004 have been provided with safe drinking water. Proposal for coverage of Anganwadis has also been submitted to the Government of India. Under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) 55,258

units of Individual household latrines for BPL families have been constructed. 17 units of Community Sanitary Complex, 238 units of Women Sanitary Complex, 2121 units of School Toilets and 762 Anganwadi Toilets have been completed so far. Under Urban Water Supply Programme, 5(five) major Pumping Schemes have been commissioned during 206-207 and 2007 – 2008. The Greater Aizawl Water Supply Scheme Phase – II was commissioned on 19.5.2007. Implementation of Greater Champhai Water Supply Scheme is in good progress and is expected to be commissioned shortly.

16. My Government has completed construction of 20 bedded Civil Hospital at Lunglei with an approved estimate of Rs. 9.69 crore with fund received from DONER. NEC funded construction of Accidents & Trauma Centres at Kolasib and Serchhip with an approved cost of Rs. 141.05 lakh respectively is also expected to be completed within this current financial year. Kolasib, Mamit, Lawngtlai, Saiha, Serchhip and Champhai Hospitals have been declared as District Hospitals in addition to the existing District Hospitals at Aizawl and Lunglei. A sum of Rs. 1.0 crore each has been released for each District Hospital under National Rural Health Mission (NHRM) for up-gradation of District Hospitals. Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of College of Nursing building has been submitted to Government of India. Site selection and fencing work of the compound has been completed. My Government has also submitted DPR for upgradation of Civil Hospital Aizawl and Champhai to 500 bedded and 100 bedded respectively to the Central Government. Sanction amounting to Rs. 10.0 crore for Aizawl Civil Hospital and Rs. 1.50 crore for Champhai Hospital respectively has been received as first installment. DPR amounting to Rs. 19.45 crore for upgradation of Saiha Civil Hospital has also been submitted to the Ministry of Health, Government of India. Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) building is being constructed at Zemabawk and will be completed within the year, 2008.

17. My Government has also taken up construction of staff quarters. Sub-Centre buildings, X-ray building at various places. Upgradation of Health Workers' Training School at Kulikawn has also been completed. Renovation works at Aizawl Civil Hospital have been completed. Under Malaria Control Programme, the entire State is targeted for surveillance. 22 new leprosy cases have been detected under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. 16 leprosy cases have been discharged as cured and 19 cases are undergoing MDT treatment. 9(nine) Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) for conduct of free health clinics in all the districts has been procured. State Drug Testing Laboratory and AYUSH Wing have been established under the sponsorship of the Central Government which will be extremely beneficial for testing medicinal plants of Mizoram. Under BAFFACOS, 50 (fifty) remote villages have been selected for conduct of sensitization camps to make the farmers aware about rodent-borne diseases during Mautam famine.

18. My Government has concentrated on improving the quality of education. Training Centres have been set up in 6(six) Districts of Mizoram namely, Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Kolasib, Serchhip and Mamit to impart training under University of Cambridge International Examination (UCIE). It is my great pleasure to point out that Mizoram achieved 1<sup>st</sup> position in literacy with 89.42% as reported by India Today Magazine September, 2007. Mid-day-Meal Scheme continues to be actively implemented. During the year 2007 – 2008, Pre-Matric Merit Scholarship was disbursed to 5144 High School Students and 13105 Middle School Students. My Government has achieved great laurels in Primary Education. Our State was awarded the best State Award in Primary Education in India during 2007. In the field of games and sports for school children, it is worth mentioning that Mizoram stood second position in the 53<sup>rd</sup> National School Games, 2007 which was held at Aizawl during 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 and we won 21 medals. The Mizoram Board of School Education (MBSE) has introduced seven streams of vocational course in 13 (thirteen) Higher Secondary Schools from 2007-2008 academic Session. The MBSE has been working in full swing to implement the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 to be effective from 2009-2010 academic session and syllabi of all classes are revised in the light of NCF 2005 and new textbooks are being developed. Environmental Education has been introduced as compulsory subject from classes I to XII

19. My Government continues to strive for excellence in Higher and Technical Education. During 2007 – 2008, National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) accorded accreditation to Govt. Lunglei College (B), T.Romana College (C++) respectively. During 2007 – 2008, Post Matric Scholarship has been disbursed to 31380 students out of fund received from Government of India. A Scheme of Post Matric Merit Scholarship continues to be implemented for meritorious students in Mizoram. The Department has introduced a new scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Minority Community with effect from November, 2007 and our State is allotted with a quota of 341 Nos. of students.

20. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project envisaged to link the North Eastern States with Sittwe Port in Myanmar and the “Triangular Road Connectivity with Myanmar” through Zokhawthar is being pursued vigorously by my Government to bring accelerated economic vibrancy in Mizoram. A sum of Rs.209.0 lakh has been allocated during 2007-2008 for creating export-import infrastructure at Zokhawthar and Melbuk. A project for construction of a multi-storeyed “Trade Facilitation Centre” at Tlabung, Lunglei District has been approved to be taken up during the current financial year. Construction work of the Centre shall commence shortly and will be an excellent centre for promoting trade with Bangladesh through the traditional trade route over Khawthlangtuipui river.

21. Government is concentrating on promotion of Tourism in Mizoram and as a step towards exposing our tourist attraction, Anthurium Festival, 2007 was held at Reiek Resort during April, 2007 and the first Bamboo Festival was held at Berawtlang Tourist Resort in October, 2007. Thalfavang Kut was also held at Lawngtlai. Tourism Department participated at the World Tourism March, 2007 held in London during November, 2007 and in the India International Trade Fair, New Delhi the same month. In its drive to improve services to tourists, Orientation programmes for hotel and restaurant owners as well as taxi and public carrier drivers were organized. Tourist Lodge at Tlabung, Sakawrdai, Kanhmun and Zokhawthar have been inaugurated and are now functional. Tourist Lodges at Saichho, Khamrang and Hmuifang Tourist Resort have been completed and will be inaugurated shortly. During 2007-2008, Tourism Department has some important on-going projects. These are Tourist Destination, Champhai and its surrounding, Tourist Circuit House, Aizawl - Lunglei, Tourist Destination, Chalfilh Eco-Tourism, Reiek and Northern Tourist Circuit. The Government of India has accorded financial sanction for 7 (seven) projects to be implemented by PWD, 25,798 and 66 Domestic and Foreign tourists respectively visited Mizoram during 2007 upto August, 2007 and total revenue collected from the tourists was Rs.62 lakhs.

22. My Government has achieved laurels in Sports activities at the national and regional levels. The Mizoram NC Team represented the North Eastern region in the under - 17 Boys Subroto Mukherjee Football Tournament at New Delhi during September-October, 2007 and won the championship beating West Bengal by 1-0 Goals in final and thereby created NCC history in the North-East. State Hockey Academy for girls at Thenzawl was handed over to sports Authority of India on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2007 for development into international standard centre by laying Astroturf at a cost of Rs.3.00 crore and work is to be started soon. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India has selected two Mizo youths to attend General Information on Training Programme for Young Leaders (Asian Countries) at Japan. Sub-Junior National Championship (Judo) was held at Shillong during August, 2007 in which Mizoram Judo players made our State proud. The Girls' team brought home the team Championship Trophy while the Boys' team was declared 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up.

23. Under the matching scheme of Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) Kolkata, a Rs. 1.25 crore project of Mizoram State Central Library at New Capital Complex, Khatla has been taken up and construction is in progress. District Library building at Kolasib was inaugurated on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2007. The Art & Culture Auditorium at Multi-Purpose Cultural Complex, Berawtlang constructed with the financial assistance from Ministry of Culture, Government of India was inaugurated on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 by Shri Mani Shanker Ayer, Hon'ble Minister of DoNER, Government of India and has been opened for public. The traditional dance of Mizoram, Cheraw Dance was selected for participation at the celebration of India @ 60 New York during 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and their performance was greatly applauded.



24. My Government is implementing various welfare activities for poor and destitute women, children, orphanages, physically handicapped, aged and disabled persons. Assistance is given to them both in kind as well as in cash. Old age Pension to the aged persons above 60 years having no supporters is given at the rate of Rs. 250/- p.m. to 10525 persons. Apart from this, 4991 beneficiaries will be given financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 200/- pm under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. Under the National Family Benefit Scheme, cash assistance at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- in case of death of family bread – winner due to natural or accidental causes is given to bereaved families. 614 families will be given assistance under this Scheme during 2007 – 2008.

25. 22 (twenty two) Census Towns of Mizoram are being covered under the Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department. Under Jawarharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNURM), City Development Plan for Aizawl City submitted to the Government of India has been approved. Tripartite Agreement between Central Government, Urban local bodies and the State Government was signed on 20.6.2007. Detailed Project Report amounting to Rs. 16.81 crore for Renewal of Pumping machineries etc. in respect of Greater Aizawl Water Supply Phase – I has already been sanctioned by Central Sanctioning Committee.

26. My Government has concentrated on making revenue administration more effective, transparent and rendering its services rapidly through satellite technology. The land survey and preparation of land records have been done with the aid of modern equipments for generation of land information system. Land records and Cadastral maps are also computerized for land resource management and land revenue/tax administration. The Department has so far completed survey, settlement and preparation of land records with computerization works for 3,29,384 nos. of land parcels. An area measuring 7267.00 Sq.Km has already been covered under Aerial Survey/Satellite Imagery of undivided Aizawl District. A sum of Rs. 171.0 lakh has been collected as land revenue and taxes during 206 – 2007.

27. My Government has witnessed substantial revenue receipt during 2007 – 2008 from road tax, fees & fines, passengers & goods tax. A sum of Rs. 575.47 lakh has been realized during 2007 which includes Road transport, Supplies & Disposal (Consumer Petrol Pump) and commission from Railway Out Agency. Under NEC Plan Scheme construction of Lalsawia Bus terminal (Inter- State) Building has been taken up with an approved estimated cost of Rs. 90.40 lakh and is nearing completion. New District Transport Offices at Mamit and Lawngtlai have been opened during 2007 and made functional. New Railway Out Agency will be opened at Lunglei in the near future.

28. To deal with gregarious flowering of Bamboo, my Government has taken up viable programmes such as Bamboo Flowering and Famine Combat Scheme (BAFFACOS) with fund provision from the Planning Commission and the Twelfth Finance Commission. The Project period is 2004 – 2005 to 2007 – 2008. 24,056 Ha of land has been covered under bamboo plantation and fire lines cover an area of 10,000 Ha of land including establishment of 30 Nos. of bamboo collection centre. Construction of 11 nos. of Bamboo boom, 4 Nos. of Mechanized ropeway, 20 of permanent Central nursery, 5 nos. of Check-gate-cum-Site Office, 2 nos. of Digital Weigh Bridge and engagement of fire watchers over an area of 10,000 Ha. of land are some notable achievements made till date. By way of incidentals and sales of forest produces, the Environment & Forest Department has received revenue amounting to Rs. 24.34 crore upto January, 2008 against an anticipated revenue of Rs. 32.00 crore.

29. My Government is committed to its constitutional obligation towards the people living in the Autonomous Districts. The grant in aid was raised for the three Autonomous Districts to Rs. 76.04 lakh during 2007-2008. Commendable achievements have been made by the three Autonomous Districts in their own resource mobilization. During the current financial year, they have exceeded their revenue collection by Rs. 6.35 lakh. A number of fiscal laws made by District Councils have been approved by my Government to boost up their revenues. During 2007 – 2008, the Mara Autonomous District Council (CCB etc.) Rules 2002 has been amended. Chakma Autonomous District Council (Constitution, Conduct of Business etc.) Rules, 2002 has been amended and Delimitation of the Chakma Autonomous District has been approved raising the number of MDC Constituency from 13 to 17 Constituencies and readjustment of the villages made accordingly. General Election to the 9<sup>th</sup> Mara Autonomous District Council was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007 and Election to the Village Councils under Lai Autonomous District Council were held and completed within October, 2007. General Election to Chakma Autonomous District Council has been held on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2008.

30. Election Department has undertaken Intensive EPIC (Elector's Photo Identity Card) campaign in all districts and a coverage of 87.78 % has been achieved as on 31.1.2008 as qualifying date as directed by the Election Commission of India. The electoral roll with photograph of electors was published on 10.1.2008, according to which the total electorate is 6,0,115 in the State comprising of 40 (forty) Assembly Constituencies.

31. My Government has attained a unique threshold in Printing Technology. The Mizoram Government Press in Aizawl has now been equipped with Advanced Printing Technology such as Computer Interfaced Machine like Image Setter (Colour Separator) and Four Colour Offset Machine. The Department is now in a position to cater to all kinds of print requisition of all Departments. The Department has already achieved 74.39% of the targeted revenue as on 13.2.2008.

32. My Government has awarded gratuity of Rs. 500.00 per month each to 1509 World War-II Veterans. A sum of Rs. 15,60.0 has been disbursed as stipend/scholarship to 20 dependants of Ex-Servicemen who are undergoing specialized training in various courses. The Armed Forces Flag Day was solemnly held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 and donation to the tune of Rs. 41,350.00 was collected on this occasion from the public. The amount has been utilized for the assistance of the poor and needy Ex-Servicemen and their families. During 2007 – 2008, 43 Mizo boys were recruited to the Army and 1 (one) Mizo boy to the Navy and 8(eight) Mizo boys were recruited to the Coast Guard. 728 Ex-Servicemen and widows have joined Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme so far.

33. My Government has made use of the latest Information Technology in the form of electronics and print media and is disseminating development news and information to the public. All India Editors' Conference with the theme "Focus on the North East" was jointly organized with PIB, Government of India during 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 at Aizawl. Press Tour and Aizawl Darshan/Lengpui Darshan Tour were conducted at regular intervals during 2007 – 2008 for 49 Villages. 50,000 copies of Mizoram State Calendar, 2008 and 30,000 copies of folders for distribution during Trade Fair, 2007 at New Delhi were also published.

34. With the introduction of Value Added Tax in Mizoram from 2005, over-all revenue collection has increased considerably. During the year 2007 – 2008 upto the month of January, 2008, Rs. 55.43 crore has been collected against the annual target of Rs. 60.0 crore. There is every likelihood of fully achieving the target. My Government has also conveyed approval for erection of two new check gates at Bairabi and Kanhmun which would be opened shortly.

35. My Government has opened a new District Office at Serchhip District during 2007 – 2008 to boost up cooperative movement in the District. The Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. has been earning a net profit of Rs. 604.36 lakh during 2006 – 2007. Mizoram State Cooperative Marketing & Consumers Federation Ltd. (MIZOFED) registered a growth of 8.97% compared to the previous year. The Mizoram Apex Handloom & Handicraft Cooperative Society Ltd. (MAHCO) has been appointed as Yarn Depot Operator by National Handloom Development Corporation. Mizoram Pig producers Cooperative Federation Ltd. (PIGFED) has a paid up share capital of Rs. 5.44 lakh and has installed Base Pig Breeding Farm at Thenzawl with NEC funds. In collaboration with National Cooperative Union of India, Mizoram State Cooperative Union (MSCU) has conducted as many as 10 nos. of Training Programme during 2007 – 2008.

36. My Government has maintained and update the General Provident Fund accounts of all subscribers 838 cases of GPF for final payment and 322 cases of DLI have been settled. Also 219 cases of missing credits of GPF have been settled and adjusted. 704 cases of pension have been finalized. The Department has also conducted audits on accounts of 133 nos. of Government and Non-Government Offices.

37. The Economics and Statistics Department has completed processing and tabulation of all data pertaining to Agriculture Census 2000-01 and the final publication is expected to be brought out shortly. Compilation of rainfall record based on daily report collected from 22 (twenty two) Centres throughout Mizoram is being conducted. Report on annual rainfall, temperature and humidity of Mizoram – 2006 has been brought out in November, 2007 is under way and final publication is expected to be completed within 2008.

38. The Law and Judicial Department has during 2007 – 2008 notified creation of two Judicial Districts in Mizoram, namely, Aizawl Judicial District comprising of the areas covered by the existing administrative and revenue districts of Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib, Mamit, Serchhip and Lunglei Judicial District. Various Civil Courts in the Districts have ben set up under the Civil Courts Act, 2005. The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages Rules, 2007 have been notified. Proposal for setting up of Criminal Courts under the Code of Criminal Procedure has been sent to the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court for approval. Re-structuring of the Court Building at Aizawl has been started through PWD so as to provide separate Court room/Chamber for each Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infra-structural development of District Judiciary, the Judicial Officers Quarters at Aizawl and Court Buildings at Kolasib have been completed.

39. Parliamentary Affairs Department continues to coordinate legislative business, summoning and proroguing the Assembly Session. The Department also disbursed pensions to 26 Ex-MDC'S and Ex-MRC's of the erstwhile District Council and Pawi – Lakher Regional Council. The First Youth Parliament Competition was organized during April – May, 2007 at Aizawl in which numerous schools participated.

40. My Government has implemented Sanitation Schemes including Community bath and public water points in 711 villages including Swajaldhara in 5 villages with grants received under Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC). A sum of Rs. 14.30 lakh is being utilized for creation of village data and maintenance of accounts of village councils and the exercise is being undertaken. For giving housing loans to the public, Rs. 396.0 lakh is being utilized. My Government intends to give grants to the families of MNF returnees as a result of Peace Accord in 1986 for construction of their

dwelling houses for which the Mizoram Special Grants-in-Aid Rules, 2007 has already been approved. A sum of Rs. 300.000 lakh is being provided for this special purpose.

41. The Institutional Finance and State Lottery Department has collected revenue to the tune of Rs. 113.24 lakh during the year 2007 – 2008 and the net amount collected so far under Pay Roll Savings during 2007 – 2008 is Rs. 34.00 lakh.

42. The construction of the new Administrative Training Institute (ATI) building at the cost of Rs. 8.90 crore, sanctioned by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India at New Capital Complex, Khatla has been completed. The Institute has successfully conducted 59(fifty nine) Trainings on foundation and refresher courses upto February, 2008.

43. My Government has undertaken improvement and upgradation of Lengpui Airport. Installation of an Instrumental Landing System (ILS) is proposed to be undertaken shortly which will enable operation of flights even under adverse weather condition. An expert team from Airports Authority of India (AAAI) has conducted a detailed feasibility survey for installation of this system. A sum of Rs. 50.0 crore has been earmarked under NLCPR by the DONER Ministry for ground preparation and installation of Instrumental Landing System and installation of additional DVOR. In addition, NEC is expected to sanction Rs. 15.0 crore for re-surfacing of the Lengpui Airport Runway.

My Government has attained these achievements by focusing on popular interest only, bringing qualitative change in the administration and adopting new mode of development by peoples' contribution. The peoples' of Mizoram have entrusted you all to create their future in such a way that each and every Mizo living anywhere in the world can take pride and feel honoured to be a Mizo. I hope, you will give your best as peoples' representatives drawing on Your experiences in public life and keeping peoples' aspiration in view.

I wish your deliberations success.

JAI HIND.

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