

Respected Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

I am indeed happy to address this august House on the occasion of the Budget Session, 2006. I welcome all the Hon'ble Members of this august House to this Seventh Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly of Mizoram. I also take this opportunity to extend warm greetings on behalf of my Government and on my own behalf, to the people of Mizoram.

At the outset, the Government of Mizoram expresses its gratitude to Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, Hon'ble President of India, for honouring the State and the people of Mizoram by making a State visit on the 24th of September, 2005. This august House had the proud privilege of being addressed by His Excellency the President of India. This is the first time in the history of Mizoram Legislative Assembly that the Head of the country had addressed the people through this august House.

This Session will largely address issues concerning the Budget for the year 2006-2007, besides deliberating on other businesses of public concern. I believe the considered deliberations in the session will lead the State in its forward march to peace, progress and prosperity.

1. Since my Government has taken over the reins of the state, a perceptible change for the better has taken place in all spheres of governance. The law and order situation during the last one year has been largely peaceful and under control, barring a few Bru Liberation Front of Mizoram (BLFM) related incidents in the western-bell. The number of crimes registered in the year 2005 has considerably decreased by about 32% as compared to the previous year. During the year, several sophisticated weapons and ammunitions smuggled into the State from across our borders have been recovered and the culprits have been brought to book. This has been rendered possible largely through the efforts of an alert and effective law and order machinery in the State. I am glad to inform the august House that there are 146 villages in Mizoram where there had been no crime in the last five years, which is laudable. The role played by the people through various organizations and institutions in maintaining social and communal harmony throughout the year has been no less commendable. I call upon all the voluntary agencies to help the State and the people to make efforts in making the whole of Mizoram a crime free society. My Government has successfully

implemented a scheme for the improvement and modernization of our police forces during the current year. This modernization has given them better firepower, equipments, housing, communication facilities and mobility. The Home Guards have sent two Instructors to Nagpur for disaster management training in our continuing effort to anticipate and manage hazards. The CTI, Sesawng has conducted courses on treatment of drug addicts and has provided vocational training for youths. The Institute is also equipped to conduct trainings on disaster management for NGOs, students and other interested organizations. My Government has felt the necessity of improving the conditions prevailing in jails in various part of the State. During 2005-2006, 4(four) buildings have been constructed at District Jail, Serchhip and another 5(five) buildings at District Jail, Lawngtlai, for use as prison barracks and jail kitchens. Moreover, 6(six) staff quarters have also been constructed at Central Jail, Aizawl and at the district jails of Aizawl, Saiha and Kolasib. Repair and renovation of the existing buildings and improvement of sanitary system have been carried out at Central Jail, Aizawl and 5(five) district jails of Aizawl, Lunglei, Saiha, Champhai and Kolasib.

2. My Government has taken up development and improvement of 629 Ha. of agricultural land and construction of 15 kms of connectivity to agricultural potential area during this financial year. The Agriculture Department has procured 5,000 qtls. of potato seeds which have been distributed to the drought victims, free of cost. Besides these, the department has also procured considerable quantity of high yielding seeds and distributed them to the farmers. It has also chalked out various strategies to combat the anticipated famine due to bamboo flowering, which includes intensification and diversification of crops, connectivity for market linkage, rodent control and post harvest technology.

A novel and significant introduction in the field of agriculture in Mizoram is organic farming. Initial activities are being undertaken. Awareness campaign, training on bio-dynamic and effective micro-organism composting technology, selection of notified villages, areas and farmers are being done through District Agriculture Offices in their respective districts. The introduction of Oil Palm and Jatropha in Mizoram under Mizoram Intodelhna Project Scheme is another remarkable development. Cultivation of Oil Palm will be taken up in 2,500 Ha. of land and 10,000 families will be convered under jatropha cultivation.

3. During the year 2005-2006, the Horticulture Department has procured slaked lime for acid soil amendment, plant protection equipments like sprayers, horticulture tools and implements like secateur, good quality flower seeds like petunia, antirrhinum, calendula and phlox to the tune of Rs. 18.00 lakhs for 50% subsidy sale to the needy farmers. New offices and residential quarters were constructed at Lawngtlai, Kolasib, Lunglei, Serchhip and Tuidam to the tune of Rs. 29.00 lakhs. An area of 570 Ha. of land has been covered under mango, litchi, guava and vegetable cultivation with an expenditure of Rs. 20.00 lakhs. Departmental quarterly magazine "Huan Enkawitu" is being published regularly to disseminate latest technology and development in the field of horticulture. State level and district level exhibitions were organized in each Division with a total expenditure of Rs. 9.00 lakhs. Horticulture potential area connectivity link roads of 30 kms @ Rs.1.50 lakhs per km have been constructed with a total expenditure of Rs. 45.00 lakhs. Under BAFFACOS, Area Expansion Programme is being implemented, covering 616 Ha. of land with passion fruit, grapes, potato and turmeric with an expenditure of Rs. 240.00 lakhs. Under the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) Award, passion fruit and jatropha crops have been taken up, covering 294 Ha. of land with a total expenditure of Rs. 70.00 lakhs. During 2006-2007, the department targets construction of residential quarter at Serchhip, procurement of organic manures, plant protection materials, horticulture tools and

implements, area expansion of Assam lemon and vegetables and continuation of publication of the magazine "Huan Enkawlu". Under TFC Award, passion fruit cultivation will be taken up with a target of 1,025 acres, for which Rs. 400.00 lakhs is earmarked.

4. The Soil & Water Conservation Department has spent Rs. 233.50 lakhs for maintenance of 163 Ha. of coffee plantation, 4 Ha. of large cardamom, 17 Ha. of tea plantation, 40 Ha. of rubber plantation and 8 numbers of different species nurseries during the year 2005-2006.

5. The Fisheries Department has distributed 393.38 lakhs of fish seeds and 55 M.T. of fish feed to the fish farmers under North Eastern Council (NEC) funded scheme for boosting up fish production in the State. Cadres of 350 fish farmers have been trained in modern technology of fish farming at the district level. The department has supplied 130 M.T. of ice blocks to the fish farmers and fish sellers at 50% subsidized rate at Bawngkawn, Kolasib and Bilkhawthir. Under BAFFACOS, with an earmarked outlay of Rs. 120.00 lakhs, 50 Ha. of new ponds will be constructed in the private sector covering 220 families. Renovation of 67 Ha. of existing ponds and supply of inputs to the fish farmers for boosting up fish production in the State is also earmarked. During 2006-2007, with an outlay of Rs. 280.00 lakhs under Plan Scheme, the main thrust is to bring in construction of another 60 Ha. of new ponds covering around 240 families and renovation of 19.6 Ha. of existing ponds along with supply of inputs to the fish farmers under BAFFACOS augmenting fish production in the State. It also envisaged bringing in another 342 Ha. of water areas for fish culture under fresh water aquaculture programme. The cumulative effort would yield an additional estimated production of 820 M.T. of fish.

6. My Government has made all out efforts to control menace of drug trafficking and drug abuse which has assumed alarming proportion. As a result of the untiring efforts of the Excise Department, 513 drug traffickers and abusers were nabbed. 3,254 persons were arrested for contravention of the State Prohibition Law during the year of 2005-2006. Revenue amounting to Rs. 117.30 lakhs has been collected against the target of Rs. 136.00 lakhs. The role of YMA in taking effective steps to reduce the menace of drugs is commendable. The Government and the YMA should be supported by every member of the social system to ensure that Mizoram becomes a drug free society. For strengthening and reinforcement of our State's capability for combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, a grant for material assistance amounting to Rs. 5.90 lakhs was received from the Central Government during 2004-2005 and Rs. 24.36 lakhs during 2005-2006.

7. With the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) in Mizoram, tax collection has recorded an increase of 45% as compared to last year. My Government has been able to make an unprecedented collection of Rs. 39.59 crores as compared to Rs. 27.34 crores collected during the corresponding period in the sales tax regime, which is an increase of over Rs. 12 crores. In order to make tax administration more efficient, step is being taken for complete computerization. New offices of Taxation Department have been opened at Mamit, Saiha and Lawngtlai and with this, there will be offices of Taxation Department in every district headquarter. New check-gates are also being opened at Melbuk, Kanhmun, Tlabung and at Lengpui Airport.

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8. Recognizing the immense potentialities of gainfully utilizing the vast bamboo resources for industrial ventures, my Government has taken several initiatives for processing Mizoram bamboo for paper industry, incense-making industry and also for floor boards and other applications. The Industries Department has already taken effective steps to commission its joint venture unit at Sairang with the help of the technical team from Taiwan. Trial production of bamboo chips for supply to Cachar Paper Mill has been completed and long term agreement for sale of the bamboo chips to the Mill is in an advanced stage of being executed. 50 (fifty) numbers of Agarbati Stick Making Machines have been distributed to Cottage Units and another 250 (two hundred and fifty) machineries for the same purpose are being distributed to rural families on hire-purchase basis. Several bamboo based industrial units are assisted under the SPINE scheme of the North Eastern Council. All these activities including activities relating to bamboo charcoal making and bamboo vinegar will be intensified. There is a programme of setting up of 7 (seven) bamboo-chip making units in different parts of Mizoram with a capacity ranging from 50 to 100 metric tonnes of bamboo chips per day.

Scientific and commercial development of tea industry under TRA norms is being continued covering 325 small tea growers at Biate and 142 at Ngopa. During the year 2005-2006, 10 lakhs tea seedlings have been distributed to small tea growers, and financial assistance of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been provided to 350 families of tea growers. During 2006-2007, an amount of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been earmarked for assistance to tea growers as grant-in-aid. For training in food processing, 20 persons had been sponsored to CFTRI, Mysore during 2003-2004 with the financial assistance from Government of India.

My Government has laid a strong emphasis on development of industrial infrastructure. An Industrial Growth Centre is being developed at Luangmual where water and power supply arrangements have been completed. 40 (forty) industrial plots have been developed for allotment to Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units. It is also proposed to upgrade Industrial Estate at Zuangtui under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 33.00 crores. Export Promotion Industrial Park Authority (EPIPA) has been actively engaged in development of an Export Promotion Industrial Park at Lengte under ASIR Scheme of Government of India.

The Mizoram Khadi and Village Industries (MKVI) Board have made a remarkable performance of financing 102 units, disbursing Rs. 188.44 lakhs of margin money, generating 1,545 numbers of employment and conducting exhibitions at state and district levels 5(five) times during the year.

9. Ideally suited to its varied climatic condition and fertility of the soil, Mizoram has immeasurable potential for the development of all the four varieties of silk namely Mulberry, Eri, Muga and Oak Tasar. More than 10,000 families have already planted mulberry cutting till the first part of Tenth-Plan. It is expected that more than 30,000 families will have mulberry plantation at the end of the Tenth-Plan period. During 2005-2006 alone, 1,630 acres of land have been covered under mulberry plantation and this acreage will increase during 2006-2007. The fund outlay during 2005-2006 was Rs. 363.50 lakhs including Rs. 100.00 lakhs under BAFFACOS. The plan outlay for 2006-2007 is Rs. 400.00 lakhs inclusive of Rs. 115.00 lakhs under BAFFACOS. Under BAFFACOS, 250 families were assisted during 2005-2006 and 350 more families are to be assisted during 2006-2007

10. My Government continues to give utmost importance to the sustainable use of forest resources of Mizoram while maintaining the ecological balance and preserving valuable flora and fauna. The Department of Environment & Forests is engaged in afforestation and reclamation of degraded land through the active participation and involvement of people at the grass-root level through the 19 Forest Development Agencies (FDA). During 2005-2006, my government had taken up the massive task of afforestation of 26,170 Ha. through these FDAs covering 272 villages. In order to improve and maintain the existing infrastructure, various works like demarcation of protected area/reserved forest, forest fire control and its management, training and awareness campaigns through NGOs, have been taken up under infrastructure development scheme.

To ensure co-operation of the people in the protection and conservation of wildlife, eco-development programmes have been implemented under which the villages in the fringe areas of 8 wildlife sanctuaries and national parks have been provided free LPG connection, water storage tanks, and piggery and poultry incentives besides rendering free medical aid and communication facilities in the villages.

My Government has framed a Bamboo Policy and constituted a Bamboo Development Agency to deal with the vast bamboo resources within the State. To tackle the gregarious flowering of bamboo during 2005-2007, the department has undertaken a viable programme of fast track harvesting and plantation of improved and more valuable species of bamboo within the State.

11. To cut down high expenditure on maintenance of its old fleet of buses and streamline its operation, the Transport Department is proposing to purchase 4(four) buses for an amount of Rs. 28.25 lakhs and upgrade its departmental workshop by purchasing machineries. MST booking offices have been constructed at Mimbung and Vaitin and Station Superintendent's Office at Kolasib is on the anvil. For better enforcement of motor vehicle acts and rules in different district headquarters, re-construction of district transport offices at Champhai and Kolasib with an estimated cost of Rs. 13.00 lakhs and Rs. 4.00 lakhs respectively, are being taken up. During 2006-2007, computerization of statistical data, construction of MST booking office at Kanmun, Station Superintendent's quarters at Saiha, Training-cum-lecture hall at Chaltlang, purchase of weighbridge for DTO office, Aizawl and reconstruction of the Directorate building, amongst many others, will be taken up.

12. My Government continues to give high priority to the development of animal husbandry and veterinary sector. The approved Annual Plan for the year 2005-2006 was Rs. 798.00 lakhs including Rs. 40.00 lakhs for dairy development, out of which Rs. 264.00 lakhs has been earmarked for implementation of BAFFACOS. The fund has been utilized for maintenance of existing farms, minor repairs of offices and residential quarters. A total number of 2,31,540 animals were treated at various veterinary hospitals, dispensaries and Rural Animal Health Centres during 2005-2006. Under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) fund, the Mobilisation and Development of Feed and Fodder Resources (MODAFER) Scheme has been implemented with approved project cost of Rs. 725.00 lakhs. The department has established Animal Feed Plant which manufactures animal feed from locally procured agricultural crops and sells them to farmers at low rates. Besides these, construction of the main building of animal slaughter house, has been completed and purchase of slaughter equipments is under process.

In order to increase wholesome milk availability for the consumer at remunerative price, additional dairy plants are being set up at Thuampui, Aizawl and Lunglei under Integrated Dairy Project. These are the only places in Mizoram that produce pasteurized milk. A new dairy plant of 5,000 litres capacity has been installed at Kolasib as the third dairy plant for the State and was commissioned on July, 2005. Dairy plant projects for Champhai, Serchhip and Saiha of the same capacity are also being processed. These dairy plants will provide ready markets for the milk producers namely local farmers and transform milk supply in Mizoram into a systematized system of production.

Besides on-going projects, in the year 2006-2007, the department proposes a sum of Rs. 200.00 lakhs under BAFFACOS, an amount of Rs. 28.00 lakhs for construction of district veterinary office, sub-office at Kolasib, quarter at Khawruhlian and sub-centre at Republic Veng. In order to give extended support to farmers, a sum of Rs. 2.00 lakhs is earmarked for grant-in-aid to PIGFED and cooperative societies and 50% boar subsidy to 40 families and a sum of Rs. 2.00 lakhs is earmarked for grant-in-aid to farmers on 50% chicks subsidy to 400 families. The department has initiated installation of 100(hundred) numbers of biogas plants for dairy farmers.

13. My Government is committed to uplift the rural economy and to provide gainful employment to the rural poor. The Rural Development Department has initiated construction of 1,459 houses under IAY during this year. A total of Rs. 7.59 lakhs mandays were generated and 1,794 number of community infrastructures such as roads, steps, playgrounds, water points, community halls etc. were constructed during the current year. Under SGRY, a total number of 49 Self Help Groups were formed and 418 members were assisted in economic activities. Under this scheme, expansion of play ground has been an on-going project where we are committed to make a standard size football ground of 100x70 meter in every village of the State. I would like to compliment the community for having given voluntary labour in all SGRY schemes where funds were utilized as contribution from the State to take a major project of expansion of the existing play grounds. It is expected that within the next three years, almost every village of Mizoram will have a standard size football ground. The Department is also implementing Border Area Development Programme (BADP) in remote and inaccessible areas situated near international borders by constructing 36 Kms of truckable road, 38 Kms. of jeepable road, 14 community halls, 20 playgrounds, 30 office/public buildings, 27 bridge/retaining wall/culvert and 18 urinal sheds/water points/steps. 4(four) new Rural Development blocks have been set up at Champhai, Saiha, Bilkhawthlir and Bunglang 'S'. In order to ensure more and more percolation of the benefits of rural development programmes. Under BAFFACOS, the department has completed construction of 23.55 kms of bamboo link roads at Reiek, Thingdawl, Bilkhawthlir and Thenzawl R.D. Blocks. Assistance to 1,298 families for construction of dwelling houses has also been provided under PMGY(GA).

14. The Local Administration Department gives loans to both the public and to Government employees. Housing loan to the public was granted to 160 families under Low Income Group and 85 families under Middle Income Group during the year 2005-2006. Composite Cash Loan (IBA) to Government employees were granted to 1,952 employees during the same year. The department has also imparted training in various trades to Below Poverty Line (BPL) youths. Under BAFFACOS, Rs. 50.00 lakhs was allocated to be spent in the districts of Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib and Serchhip for generation of employment and creation of public assets. The department has also prepared an Action Plan to utilize the fund from the grant recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission

which has allocated Rs. 400.00 lakhs for panchayati raj institution and Rs. 200.00 lakhs for urban local bodies for the year 2005-2006. The Ministry of Urban Development and Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India has allocated grants to the department amounting to 12,400.60 lakhs during the year 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 for development of urban infrastructure and poverty alleviation. During 2006-2007, the department has a target under its schemes for housing, to build staff quarter amounting to Rs. 135.00 lakhs and construction of DLAO office, Serchhip amounting to Rs. 65.00 lakhs. It targets to give housing loan to 160 families under Low Income Group and 150 families under Middle Income Group, and Composite Cash Loan (IIBA) to 2,032 employees during 2006-2007. Project schemes such as construction of housing at Lunglei and Saiha, drainage at Champhai, New Market Complex at Aizawl, Aizawl South Market at Thakthing, Housing Phase-II at Aizawl, roads within Kolasib Town, linkage between Tuithiang and Chhinga Vengthar at Aizawl, are in the pipeline.

The Cabinet in principle has given the approval to form a new department called the "Urban Development and Poverty alleviation Department" to cope with the rapidly progressing urban development works. The department plans to take up major initiatives for city development of Aizawl and other towns under the newly launched "Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission" (JN-NURM). The general election to the Village Council Court within 6 districts has been successfully held on 24th February, 2006. Besides this, the remuneration to members of Village Council has been increased substantially which will take effect from 1st April, 2006.

15. My Government has made continued effort towards improvement of power supply in the State. The power and Electricity Department have taken up 4(four) project schemes under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), such as the improvement of Sub-Station and distribution network within Aizawl at a cost of Rs. 3,233.00 lakhs with 85% physical achievement, the construction of 132 KV line from Bairabi to Bawktlang (Kolasib) at a cost of Rs. 456.00 lakhs of which 80% of the works is completed, 33 KV Double Circuit transmission lines from Kolasib to Serlui 'B' SHP at a cost of Rs 315.00 lakhs and 132 KV Double Circuit transmission line from Kolasib to Melriat Sub-Station at a cost of Rs. 2,151.00 lakhs.

The department has also taken up three hydel projects, namely Maicham SHP Stage-II (3MW), Serlui B (12 MW) Hydel Project and Lamsial SHP (500 KW) of which Serlui B Hydel Project has been awarded to BHEL-MECON in December, 2003. The department has also taken up construction of 132 KV lines from Saitual to Darlawn, from Khawzawl to Lungdar 'E' and from Khawzawl to Ngopa. Under NEC Scheme, the department has taken up construction of three power sub-stations at Darlawn, Inahlan and Luangmual.

16. The Public Health Engineering Department continues its endeavour to provide safe drinking water. In its rural water supply programme, 58 habitations have been commissioned and major schemes like S. Tawipui, Borapansuri, Zamuang, Rengdil and Zawnuam will be completed soon. About 450 rural schools have been covered and 5 schemes covering five habitations such as Khopai, Keitum, Bawngthah, Khawrihnim and Phaizau have been completed during 2005-2006. Under its Urban Water Supply programme, water supply for New Capital Complex, Khalla amounting to Rs. 22.83 lakhs, Water Supply Schemes for Lengpui, Saitual and Thenzawl and Greater Mamit Water Supply Scheme costing Rs. 576.81 lakhs are to be completed during 2005-2006.

During 2006-2007, the department proposes to complete water supply to 28 remaining partially covered habitation including a number of slipped back non-covered habitation, water supply to A.R. Complex at Zokhawsang amounting to Rs. 100.00 lakhs, water supply scheme for N.Kawnpui and improvement of distribution line and zonal tanks at various localities of Aizawl with an amount of Rs. 112.91 lakhs.

As for sanitation, the entire State is proposed to be brought under Total Sanitation Campaign(TSC) in the near future. Low cost pour flush sanitary latrines have also been provided to selected rural habitation under Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) and State Minimum Need Programme.

17. The Public Works Department has made significant achievement in building infrastructure in respect of roads, bridges and buildings. Though it may not be possible to mention all the achievements, a few important and notable ones may however be highlighted.

For roads and bridges under State Plan, a total allocation of Rs. 1190.65 lakhs was provided under this sector since 2000. The department has improved and widened 54.75 Kms of roads, resurfaced 212.19 Kms of roads, 606 Nos of culverts and 9538.00 Rm of retaining walls.

From NABARD Loan, Rawpuichhip-Duarpui road has been taken up and completed at a cost of Rs. 3759.00 lakhs. Reiek-West Lungdar road of 40.00 km has also been completed fully under this funding at a cost of Rs. 1265.00 lakhs. Two more roads namely, Inahthial to Tumtukawn and Lawipu to Tlawng are proposed to be taken up during 2005-2006.

Under the Mizoram State Road Project, which is a World Bank aided project, major maintenance of selected rural roads like Kawikuh-Ngopa-Tuivai road, Khawzawl-Biate and N. Vanalaiphai-Chekkawn road, Lungsen-Chawngte road, Haulawng-Dawn road and Thuampui-Selesih road will be completed during the current working season. Substantial progress has been made in widening of Buangpui-Lunglei section of Aizawl-Thenzawl Lunglei road and construction of Aizawl bypass, and this section of major improvement of state highway is planned for completion in the middle of 2007. Following termination of contract for Phase-I of Aizawl-Thenzawl-Lunglei road due to default of the contractor, the State Government has successfully encashed bank guarantees of the Contractor amounting to Rs. 10.8 crores against Performance Security and Rs. 12.089 crores against mobilization and machinery advances from three Banks at Kochin, Kerala. Though the progress of works has been hampered due to termination of Phase-I contract, my government has not incurred any financial loss. Three new contractors have been appointed through open competitive bidding to take up the balance works of Aizawl-Buangpui via Imuifang section of Aizawl-Thenzawl-Lunglei road and the new contractors have started th initial works. This project is scheduled for completion in the middle of 2008.

A satisfactory achievement has been made in the 'Institutional Strengthening' component of the project. State Highway Act, 2004 has been notified and the supporting Rules under the Act is being notified. Re-organisation of the department on functional lines has been completed. Maintenance Management System, Code of Ethics for workers, Road Development Policy and Network Strategy, Quality Management System, Private Sector Participation Strategy, Procurement Manual, Road Safety Strategy, road Network Inventory, Environmental and Social Management Plan and Road Fund Act for ensuring sustainable maintenance fund as required by the World Bank are in the final stage. The Road Fund is to take care of maintenance and repair need of the roads constructed under various schemes.

Under Roads of Economic and Inter-State Importance (E&I Scheme), bridges such as construction of single lane built-up girder bridge of 100 Rm over River Tuichang on Hnahthial-Thingsai Road at an estimated cost of Rs. 282.99 lakhs was started on September 2002 and has been completed on March 2004. construction of single lane built up girder bridge of 67.00 Rms over River Tlawng on Aibawk-Darlung Road at an estimated cost of Rs. 208.50 lakhs was also started on September 2002 and the work is expected to be completed by September 2006. Improvement of roads from Rengtekawn to NH-154 road and Reiek to West Lungdar road are being executed, and the works are expected to be completed by this month.

Under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme, the department is executing the works of constructing four bridges over River Vanva on Haulawng-Chhipphir Road, River Tuisih on Zawngling-Chapui Road, River Chawngtelui on Diltlang-Chawngte Road and river Chawngte on Chawngte 'P' to Chawngte 'C' at an estimated cost of Rs. 718.75 lakhs. Rs. 484.00 Lakhs have been utilised till date and 73% of the project has been completed. Moreover, there are 5(five) roads taken up under this funding. One of the completed roads is Bawngkawn-Durtlang road at an estimated amount of Rs. 681.00 lakhs. The other roads being executed are Chawngte-Borapansuri, Lungtian-Mamte, bamboo link road from Durlui to Mualkhang and bamboo link road from W.Serzawl to Saiphai at an approved cost of Rs. 4,908.50 lakhs.

There are eight roads which are being executed under NEC fund since the year 2000 under Tenth Plan which are Zamuang-Hriphaw road-Bairabi-Zamuang road, Mamit-Bairabi road, Keitum-Artahkawn road, Saitual-Phullen road, Silchar-Dwarbon-Phaisen-Buhchang road, Saitual-Saichal N.E. Bualpui road and approach road to Chalfih (Vanzau). Zamuang-Hriphaw road is a spill over from the Ninth Plan and the work has been completed. The remaining 7(seven) roads are Tenth Plan Schemes for which total length of the above roads is 215.13 kms and the total sanctioned amount is Rs. 194.83 crores. The upto date expenditure under the above scheme is Rs. 21.35 crores and 193.20 Kms of formation cutting with 32 kms pavement have been completed. In addition to the above road projects, construction of bailey bridge over River Khawchhaktupui on Champhai-N.Vanlaiphai road and construction of BUG Bridge on Nalkawn-Chamdur road are in progress and are expected to be completed within this working season. The work improvement of Kolodyne River for navigation is in progress and out of the sanctioned amount of Rs. 389.52 lakhs, the expenditure incurred has been Rs. 150.00 lakhs.

Under PMGSY, Phase I to III have been completed and Phase IV is in progress. The total sanctioned cost upto Phase IV is Rs. 204.42 crores for a total number of 59 roads with a total length of 844.24 Kms. 70 Nos. of villages have been covered, out of which 18 villages have been connected by on all-weather roads.

On the three National Highways under the department namely, NH-44A, NH-150 and NH-154, periodical and special renewal of 52.00 kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 1090.59 lakhs, improvement of riding quality for 156.50 kms amounting to Rs. 3664.59 lakhs, strengthening/widening of 63.50 kms at a cost of Rs. 4311.96 lakhs construction of 53 Nos. of culverts at Rs. 597.84 lakhs, bridges over River Chiahpui on NH-44A and River Sesih and River Tuichhuahen on NH-154 at an estimated cost of Rs. 398.28 lakhs, have been completed. The works still in progress are periodical and special renewal of 38.00 kms at an estimated

cost of Rs. 328.10 lakhs, strengthening/widening of 41.50 kms at a cost of Rs. 2568.76 lakhs and construction of 19 culverts at Rs. 237.23 lakhs. Construction of bridges over River Tlawng and River Tuirini have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 468.38 lakhs and Rs. 685.04 lakhs respectively. Survey for improvement of road gradient between Tut and Mamit is in progress and the survey work is entrusted to the renowned consultant, M/s Holtec.

Important on-going works such as construction of Assembly annexe building, Excise Commissioner's Office at Aizawl, Speaker's Bungalow at Tuikhuahtlang, multi-storied staff quarters for Assembly staffs at Aizawl are in good progress and total amount of Rs. 1,847.51 lakhs has been incurred for these buildings.

Construction of New Capital Complex awarded by the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) for an amount of Rs. 40.00 crores is in progress and the overall upto date expenditure for the works is Rs. 3717.27 lakhs. The EFC has also awarded Rs. 5.00 crores for construction of Raj Bhavan at Khatla and the upto date expenditure for the Complex is Rs. 393.52 lakhs.

During 2006-2007, Rs. 112.32 crores is intended to be utilized for maintenance of core state road network of 1000 kms, improvement of Aizawl city road, district and town roads, for roads under NABARD namely Hnahthial-Tarpho, Tarpho-Tumtukawn and Lawipui-Tlawng roads and spill-over works of Mizoram State Road Project under World Bank Loan for externally aided project and Counterpart funding. Further, Rs. 243.00 lakhs for construction of Mizoram Legislative Assembly annexe Building, Rs. 46.00 lakhs for construction of Excise Commissioner's Office Building at Aizawl, Rs. 239.00 lakhs for re-construction of Mizoram House at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Rs. 80.00 lakhs for construction of Treasury Office buildings at the 5 (five) new districts and Rs. 4.00 lakhs for construction of Deputy Commissioner's office building at Lunglei are proposed during 2006-2007.

My Government continues to ensure the food security of the State. The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has satisfactorily achieved its target of advance stocking of sufficient foodstuff in the identified supply centres for the current year. Under BAFFACOS, Rs. 208.00 lakhs have been allocated during 2005-2006. Three items of works were undertaken, namely, the reconstruction of 34 supply godowns with an amount of Rs. 102.00 lakhs to enhance the existing storage capacity, the construction of 37 staff quarters at a total cost of Rs. 74.00 lakhs in the remote areas and construction of approach roads at 25 different places with an amount of Rs. 32.00 lakhs for improvement of the existing conditions of the godown approach roads.

The subject of consumer affairs has been transferred from the Law and Judicial Department to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs thus requiring the change of nomenclature. Hon'ble Justice HKK Singh was appointed as President of Consumer Redressal Commission (State Commission). District Consumer Courts are now actively functioning in all the eight district headquarters in the State. Under central grant, District Consumer Court buildings will be constructed at Champhai, Kolasib, Serchhip, Mamit and Lawngtlai at a cost of Rs. 10.00 lakhs each.

The Legal Metrology Wing of the department relentlessly renders service for the protection of the interests of the consumers by conducting regular verification and checking of petrol and LPG cylinders. Recently, the State Level Co-ordination Committee on quality control of cement and iron rods was constituted under the chairmanship of the concerned minister. This has led to improvement in the quality of cement and iron rods in the market. The scarcity of LPG is expected to be solved once the LPG bottling plant at Mualkhang is commissioned.

19. Due importance has been given to the development of tourism in Mizoram. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the department has completed construction of tourist lodges at Ngopa, Hrangchawkawn, Marnit, Vawmbuk, W. Phaileng and new Tourist Lodge at Chaltlang at the total cost of Rs. 404.22 lakhs during 2005-2006. During this financial year 2006-2007, new tourist lodges at Zokhawthar, Sakawrdai, Khamrang, Tlabung, Kanmun and Saichho. Eco-tourism facilities at Reiek, tourist resort at Hmuifang and tourist reception centre at Beraw Tlang will be constructed at total cost of Rs. 667.85 lakhs. During 2006-2007, the Department in collaboration with the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), is creating a tourist destination at Champhai with an amount of Rs. 442.35 lakhs, tourist circuit at Aizawl-Lunglei (Phase I) with an amount of Rs. 634.00 lakhs, tourist destination at Reiek and Beraw Tlang with an amount of Rs. 479.49 lakhs and tourist circuit in northern Mizoram with an amount of Rs. 783.92 lakhs.

With a view to attract tourists, my Government has successfully organized Thalfavang Kut in the month of November, 2005. the celebration of Chapchar Kut is to take place in two days time and Anthurium Festival is slated to be held during March, 2006. During the year, 29,893 domestic tourists and 230 foreign tourists have visited the State. The department has collected revenue income of Rs. 52.80 lakhs. Towards developing manpower and human resources, the Department is presently sponsoring 10 (ten) trainees in food craft level and hotel management courses.

20. I take this opportunity to reflect back the year 2005-2006 as a golden year of sports for Mizoram as it is in this year that we had witnessed sportsperson from the State achieve laurels and shining in the pinnacle of glory. For the second year after establishment of special Hockey Training Centre at Thenzawl, the women hockey team was the runners up in the Nehru Hockey (Women) Tournament in New Delhi. Besides, 6 (six) players from Mizoram were called for special coaching in preparation of Indian Under - 18 women hockey team to participate in U - 18 Asia Cup Women Hockey Tournament to be held at Karachi this month. In the North-East Sports Festival held at Kohima in January, 2006, Mizoram women hockey team was the champion. Miss Jenny R. Lalremliani had also won the gold medal in Third Asian Women Boxing Championship held at Taiwan in August, 2005 and at the same time, Miss Lalremkimi had won the Bronze Medal in the Third Asia Junior Taekwondo Championship held at Almaty, Khazakstan in the month of August, 2005. Samuel Lalrozarna, an aircraft maintenance engineer, excelled his performance in kick boxing by winning the bronze medal in the Third World Kick Boxing Championship held at Teheran, Iran in 2005. H. Laldinsanga was appointed as vice-captain of the Indian junior basketball team participating in Guangzhou, China in 2005 who is the first ever Mizo player to occupy this coveted position in basketball at the international level. Miss Lalrampari, hockey coach was also appointed as Coach-cum-Manager in the coaching camp held at Bhopal during November, 2005 to February, 2006 which is to participate in the Championships to be held at Karachi during this month. At the national level, as many as 45 gold, 55 silver and 77 bronze medals were won in the field of boxing, hockey, judo, football, karate, wrestling and weightlifting. For the above ventures, as many as Rs. 26.00 lakhs were spent.

The Department of Sports and Youth Services is engaged in 7 (seven) projects at Aizawl, Lunglei, Saiha, Lawngtlai, Kolasib, Mamit and Champhai. 75% of the construction work at these places has been completed.

During 2006-2007, the department will be engaged in establishing an air wing under the NCC, by using Lengpui Airport as a training centre. The Defence Ministry will provide a two-seater aircraft costing Rs. 25.00 lakhs as well as a pilot to train the Mizoram NCC air cadets. My Government will provide civilian establishment as well as hangar for the safety of the aircraft and initially, Rs. 5.00 lakhs is earmarked for this programme. Moreover, the department has earmarked Rs. 22.00 lakhs for the State Hockey Academy at Thenzawl to improve hockey training. The department also proposes to establish sports museum to encourage the sport persons and the public in general to remember the past glories and for which Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been earmarked. The Mizoram Olympic Association has been revamped and to take care of the different sports associations, Rs. 20.00 lakhs has been earmarked. Further, Rs. 2500.00 lakhs has been allocated by the Twelfth Finance Commission for the development of 8 Assam Rifles ground into a public playground and Rs. 625.00 lakhs has been earmarked for 2006-2007 at the initial stage.

21. My Government continues to strive for excellence in higher and technical education. The State Level Quality Assurance Co-ordination Committee and Quality Assurance Cell (QAC) was established in the directorate of Higher & Technical Education towards this end. The Quality Assurance Cell aims at college assessment and accreditation and as per National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) recommendations. During 2005-2006, 110 students are selected to study various medical and allied courses and another 121 students to study in various engineering courses outside the State. The department is undertaking the Third Technician Education Project at the cost of Rs. 34.94 crores. For post-matric scholarship under CSS, a sum of Rs. 327.02 lakhs has been disbursed to 8,185 students. Under NEC scheme, a sum of Rs. 7.96 lakhs has been distributed to 66 students as stipend/book grant for higher studies. The Mizoram Hindi Training College has been shifted to its permanent complex at Durtlang Vengthar and has been functioning smoothly.

22. To give emphasis to schools under School Education Department, my Government has decided to train teachers in the English language and methods of teaching in collaboration with Cambridge University with an outlay of Rs. 350.00 lakhs. This will be an on-going programme for the next five years where we intend to train all 16,000 teachers of the State at the school level to ensure that the State of Mizoram becomes a better performer to gain competitive edge not only to perform in India but at the international level also. We have received funds from the Government of India for 141 fresh posts of Hindi teachers, in addition to the existing 350 posts during the year 2005-2006. Since the last five years, the department has established 400 Continuing Adult Education Centres to facilitate eradication of adult illiteracy. Mid-day meal programme continues to be implemented. To enhance professional capacity of teachers, 6 (six) Mini-District Institute of Education of Training (DIET) have been established. The Government of India had sanction Rs. 450.00 lakhs for construction of the buildings and Rs. 75.00 lakhs for procurement of equipments, and construction has been completed during 2005-2006. The department continues to disburse pre-matric merit and special scholarship to high school and middle school students. It also continues to provide scholarship to students studying in Sainik School at Imphal, RIMC at Dehradun and Banasthali in Rajasthan. Under

PMGY Scheme 2005-2006, Rs. 145.00 lakhs has been earmarked for supply of 260 typewriters and 272 duplicating machines. An amount of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been allocated for holding a state level school games for high schools and higher secondary schools during the year, and for participation in national school games. During this year, the Mizoram Board of School Education (MBSE) has conducted various training programmes for teachers, and in collaboration with some publishing houses, has held workshops for discussions on selected subjects. The board has published a new curriculum, scheme of examination and question design for high schools, higher secondary schools, middle schools and primary schools. Translation of NCERT materials on skill development in Mizo has been carried out. The MBSE accorded affiliations to 25 higher secondary schools, 3 high schools, 3 middle schools, 9 middle english schools and 2 primary schools, while provisional affiliation was accorded to 3 higher secondary schools, and extension of provisional affiliation for two years was accorded to 18 higher secondary schools. The board has also de-affiliated 5 higher Secondary Schools due to non-conformity with rules. In compliance with the Supreme Court's order, the subject of environmental education has been introduced as a compulsory subject at the school level and a cell has been set up to monitor the smooth transaction of the syllabi.

23. The Social Welfare Department continues to give assistance to uplift of women and children, the aged, the disabled and the handicapped and in the field of social defence. With the objective of providing a wider scope of rehabilitation in the State, the existing De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centre at Sethawn has been converted into a full-fledged 'After-care Centre'. In order to provide skills to the recovering addicts, trades like Mechanic in motor vehicle/electronics, poultry and piggery have been started in the Centre.

The department implements the ICDS scheme and Special Nutrition Programme. Under the ICDS scheme, Rs. 471.24 lakhs has been released for supplementary nutrition. As per sanction conveyed by the Government of India, 2 additional ICDS projects at Khawbung and Phullen with 13 additional Anganwadi Centres and 218 Anganwadi Centres in the existing projects, are being set up. Under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution for development of tribal region, Rs. 264.00 lakhs was sanctioned by the Central Government for execution of infrastructural development of rural areas in Mizoram.

24. My Government is committed to provide better healthcare facilities to the people of the State. Construction of 10 Doctors' quarters, 6 Sub-Centre buildings, 2 Health Workers' quarters and Primary Health Centre (PHC) kitchens at different places were completed. Construction and upgradation of 10 bedded PHCs into 30 bedded Community Health Centre (CHC) at Thingsulthiah and Lengpui will be completed during the year. Out of Rs 40.53 crores approved by the Ministry of DONER for construction of State Referral Hospital at Falkawn, Rs. 35.39 crores has been released and the physical achievement in 96% till date. Out of the approved cost of Rs. 3.71 crores for construction of OPD Block at Civil Hospital, Aizawl, Rs. 3.47 crores has been released and 50% of the project has been completed. With an outlay of Rs. 150.00 lakhs funded by Government of India, bio-medical waste management at Kolasib and Saiha has been taken up during 2005-2006 and 15% have been completed respectively. The North Eastern Council (NEC) has funded Rs. 51.80 lakhs each for construction of Accident and Trauma Centres at Serchhip and Kolasib. The selection of the centres had been completed and the work will also be taken up soon. Setting up of tele-medicine at Civil Hospital, Aizawl has been completed with an amount of Rs. 5.30 lakhs with funds from NEC. To augment Regional Cancer Centre (RCC), the Government of India has funded Rs. 72.88 lakhs to M/s Mizoram RCC Society,

Civil Hospital, Aizawl which was utilized for procurement of various instruments. Construction of nursing school and hostel at Lunglei to accommodate 20 students has been started with the estimate cost of Rs. 323.56 lakhs under European Commission supported Sector Investment Programme and is expected to be completed by 2006.

The department has been processing for recruitment of regular post of 46 staff nurses and pharmacists. In order to control malaria epidemic in the State, utmost effort is being taken by spraying DDT and bed-nets have been impregnated with insecticides to the extent of 85% of household in the State. Anti-malaria drugs have been distributed free of cost within the state. The National Leprosy Eradication Programme has been carried out throughout the State to detect all the 'hidden' cases and Mizoram is expected to be a 'Leprosy free State' in the near future. T.B. Control Programme is being carried out and at present, out of 663 Smear Positive TB patients, 563 (84.9%) were cured. As envisaged by the National Rural Health Mission, State Health Mission have been constituted at the state, district and village levels. Hospital management committee called "Rogi Kalyan Samities" have been formed in each and every hospital, CHCs and PHCs. This will increase people's participation in managing health centres/institutions in every level.

The Annual Plan for 2006-2007 has been prepared to the tune of Rs. 4,000.00 lakhs i.e. Rs. 2400.00 lakhs for Health Services and Rs. 1600.00 lakhs for Hospital and Medical Education. The department intends to renovate and improve the existing Hospitals, Community and Primary Health Centres, Sub-Centres and to construct residential quarters at various places as continuing schemes, for which Rs. 120.21 lakhs has been provided in the Annual Plan. More improvement with innovative schemes under various health programmes at national and state level and strengthening of health services in term of manpower and supply of better equipments with medicines will be the objectives of the department during 2006-2007.

25. In our continued endeavour towards capacity building, construction of a new administrative Training Institute (ATI) complex at a cost of Rs. 8.90 crores at New Capital Complex at Khatla is nearing completion. The ATI has successfully conducted 2 (two) training programmes on Right to Information Act during January-February, 2006 and is also intending to conduct a series of training programmes on the subject during 2006-2007. The institution has also taken up an elaborate exercise of conducting various training courses for the government employees of different categories and NGOs on disaster management.

26. I am happy to inform the hon'ble members that the long-awaited Mizoram House at Mumbai has been formally inaugurated on 30th July, 2005 and is functional now under the aegis of Liaison Officer and necessary staff. My Government is also happy to announce that the Air Deccan (ATR-42) service between Kolkata and Aizawl was inaugurated on the 25th July, 2005. Further, an airbus-319 service was introduced between Kolkata and Aizawl with effect from 1st January, 2006 thus augmenting the air connectivity in this sector. To rehabilitate the recent influx of Hmar refugees from Manipur, Rs. 4.00 lakhs was expended for construction of refugee camp at Sakawrdai. Under MPLADS Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Rs. 157.90 lakhs and Rs. 163.15 lakhs have been disbursed respectively during 2005-2006. A sum of Rs. 25.12 lakhs have been collected towards Inner Lines Permits fees.

27. My Government has been looking after 1,419 primary cooperative societies, 10 state level societies and 5 district level societies. The department through the MIZOFED lifts petroleum products from outside the State and to strengthen it, Rs. 50 lakhs is provided under Plan fund to control market and consumer movement in the State. The department has disbursed Rs. 164.43 lakhs to the State level societies in the form of Grant-in-Aid. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Rs. 75.00 lakhs has also been given to 96 primary cooperative societies to increase their production capacity.

The department through the MC Apex Bank Limited, has disbursed normal loan to the tune of Rs. 1,925.88 lakhs to the needy people and the Centrally Financing Institutional Loan to the tune of Rs. 1142.15 lakhs to the Below Poverty Line family members.

28. I, on behalf of the people of Mizoram, express my deep sympathy to the Tsunami struck victims. Relief and Rehabilitation Department collected Rs. 1,35,82,723/- (Rupees one hundred thirty five lakhs, eighty two thousand seven hundred and twenty three) and sent them to Government of India to help the Tsunami victims. My Government has constituted the Relief and Rehabilitation Advisory Board to ensure ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of those who lost their lives during the insurgency of Mizoram, and Rs. 311.00 lakhs received from Government of India has been distributed. The Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 1068.00 lakhs to relieve and restore monsoon damages of houses, roads, firms etc. and this has been distributed through Public Works Department, Social Welfare Department and the Deputy Commissioners. The department has also procured and distributed 31,093 silpacilins for protection of houses from landslide during the year.

29. During 2005-2006, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Establishment of ITIs in NE States and Sikkim', 2 (two) new Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), one at Lunglei with an expenditure of Rs. 68.75 lakhs and another at Saiha with an expenditure Rs. 68.28 lakhs have been completed. The existing Industrial Training Institute, Aizawl has also been modernized with an expenditure of Rs. 98.02 lakhs.

The Department of Labour and Employment has made proposal for setting up of new ITI at Champhai to the tune of Rs. 183.50 lakhs, proposal for setting up of women ITI at Aizawl with financial outlay of Rs. 183.32 lakhs and minority ITI at Lawngtlai to the tune of Rs. 108.20 lakhs which have already been submitted to the Ministry of Labour, Government of India for consideration.

30. The Information and Public Relations Department continues its work of dissemination of government developmental activities and various programmes through 'Newsletter' at Aizawl, 'Khawvel' at Lunglei and 'Kaladan' at Saiha. It also continues to issue day to day government activities in both printed and electronic media. A documentary film on BAFFACOS entitled 'Chhiatna aiah Malsawmna' was produced. The Department also conducted various Darshans for certain groups as well as individuals to enable them to visit important historical places within and outside Mizoram. It also conducted public awareness campaign on the impending bamboo flowering, media workshop and one-day workshop on 'Right to Information Act, 2005' during the year. The department printed and published 50,000 folders for distribution in the IITF, 2005 at New Delhi, and 50,000 Mizoram State Calendar 2006 and 7,000 copies of folders for distribution alongwith Mizoram Tableau presentation at Republic Day Celebration 2006 at New Delhi.

31. The Law and Judicial Department is taking active steps to create its infrastructural facilities. Construction of district court buildings, judicial officers' quarters in various district headquarters as well as in the Autonomous District Councils were undertaken during the year. My Government has implemented Separation of Judiciary with effect from 16th June, 2005. The Mizoram Civil Courts Act, 2005 has been notified to facilitate setting up of civil courts at district level. Computerization of high court and district courts have also been started. The Mizoram Customary Law have been annaied, codified and published. With a view to impart quality training on administration of justice to judicial officers, my Government has contributed Rs. 3.00 lakhs to the North Eastern Judicial Officer Training Institute (NEJOTI) at Guwahati.

To strengthen the administration of justice at the village level, my Government is seriously considering upgradation of the Village Court system and for adaptation of the Gram Nayalayas Bill, 2006 once enacted by the Parliament, so as to have administration of civil and criminal justice by village Council Courts according to Mizo customary laws and according to the central Act as soon as it is enacted.

32. My Government is fully aware of its constitutional responsibilities towards the people residing in the autonomous districts. In its continued support for all round development in these areas, my Government has increased the fund allocation to a total of Rs. 64.27 crores in 2005-2006. Emphasis has been given to self sufficiency in agriculture, horticulture and fisheries. To maintain parity in respect of the proportionate composition of the three district councils, and as a matter of response to the prolonged demand of the people of the Mara Autonomous District Council, the MDC-constituencies were delimited and the number of MDCs to be elected was increased from 19 to 22. The general elections to the Mara Autonomous District Council was held peacefully on 19th April, 2005. During 2005-2006, the total revenue collected by the councils upto December, 2005 came to Rs. 64.42 lakhs. General elections to the Lai Autonomous District Council were held on 27th October, 2005. A coalition government of independent MDCs and MNF was formed in the said Council. Autonomy attains meaning to the people when it is based on a platform of political and economic stability and peace, and my Government will untiringly endeavour to achieve the same for the people of the autonomous districts in Mizoram. For the first time, a model code of conduct for the candidates to the elections to the autonomous district councils has been promulgated to regulate the conduct of the parties and their candidates during such elections.

33. The Department of Parliamentary Affairs intends to introduce 'Youth Parliament Scheme' at school level throughout the State. The district councils are also being approached to introduce the scheme in the schools under their management so as to create awareness amongst the students about the legislative procedures and practices.

34. During 2005-2006, the Land Revenue and Settlement Department has covered 16 villages under Cadastral Survey, 1,000 sq.kms under Aerial Cadastral Survey with an expenditure of Rs. 167.00 lakhs and 23,439.99 hectares are being covered for survey of bamboo plantation under BAFFACOS. As many as 5,078 LSCs and house passes to individuals and 202 land leases were issued to government departments and NGOs.

35. My Government is pursuing vigorously the on-going construction of 4 (four) Wholesale Markets and 32 (thirty two) Rural Primary Markets at various locations under MM-III of Technology Mission. The Department of Trade and Commerce is also taking up construction of market shed at Bethlehem Vengthlang at the cost of Rs. 6.56 lakhs and at Serchhip at the cost of Rs. 3.91 lakhs under plan fund. Besides these, construction of market, retaining wall, brick wall, repair and renovation of quarters and market have been taken up at various places. Construction of Composite Land Custom Station building at Zokhawthar on the Indo-Myanmar border is being completed with the fund Rs. 422.08 lakhs which has been released to Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Two district offices at Lunglei and Champhai have been functioning with limited strength and initiative is on to open another at Kolasih. The revenue collected by the department from various sources upto 7th February, 2006 is Rs. 50,98,278/- against a target of Rs. 48.00 lakhs set for 2005-2006.

36. The Department of Printing and Stationery continues to upgrade its standard by inducting new equipments and machineries. Image setter for colour printing had been installed and is functioning smoothly. The Department has realized a revenue amounting to Rs. 51.60 lakhs till 10th February, 2006 against a target of Rs. 55.00 lakhs set for 2005-2006. For the Annual Plan 2006-2007, an outlay of Rs. 80.00 lakhs has been proposed. To modernize its printing infrastructure and creation of earning resources, the department intends to install four colour offset machines in the coming year.

37. The Economic and Statistics Department has conducted various survey such as Economic Census Survey, Farm Harvest Price Survey and Annual Survey of Industry, 2004-2005. Besides these, information have been collected for publication of Village Level Statistics of Mizoram and Statistical Handbook, 2006. Ten new Registration Units were opened and inclusive of this, the department has a total of 698 Registration of Birth and Deaths units. The department has an annual plan outlay of Rs. 135.00 lakhs for the year 2006-2007.

38. During the year 2005-2006, special summary revision of electoral rolls with reference to 1st January, 2006 has been taken up smoothly as per the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. The final electoral roll was published on 13th February, 2006 in respect of 40 Assembly Constituencies. In the final Electoral Rolls, there are 5,65,134 general voters in Mizoram.

The by-elections to the Legislative Assembly from 26-Kawrthah (ST) Assembly and 28-Phuldungsei (ST) Assembly Constituencies were successfully held on 10th December, 2005 as per schedule drawn up by the Election Commission of India.

39. Time constraints me from highlighting all the achievements of each and every department of my Government. However, constitution of the Mizoram Pay Commission, 2005 cannot go unnoticed. The Commission has been constituted to formulate new pay scale for the employees of the Government. The Commission is assigned to redress possible anomalies and grievances of various groups of the government employees on wide and comprehensive dimensions and is actively at work and the report is expected soon.

The Department of Accounts and Treasuries had settled 1,122 cases of General Provident Fund (GPF) for final payment amounting to Rs. 1,560.00 lakhs and 377 cases of Deposit Link Insurance amounting to Rs. 200.20 lakhs. 529 cases of missing credits amounting to Rs. 33.89 lakhs have been adjusted. The GPF is now partially computerized since two years back and steps have been taken for full computerization of the whole department. The department has finalised 947 cases of pensions amounting to Rs. 2,995.00 lakhs with 923 cases of Group Insurance Scheme (G.I.S.) amounting to Rs. 200.00 lakhs. The department is constructing Treasury Offices at Champhai and Lawngtlai with funds of Rs. 20.00 lakhs and Rs. 25.00 lakhs respectively. 1,276 cases of revision of pay fixation had been done and the department had also conducted audit of 56 numbers of government and non-government accounts during this year.

The Department of Institutional Finance and State Lotteries has collected Rs. 38.00 crores against the target of Rs. 30.00 crores during 2005-2006 upto December, 2005 from more than 28,000 government employees who have subscribed to pay-roll savings. The Department has also collected total revenue of Rs. 6.05 crores against the target of Rs. 7.00 crores upto December, 2005 and the department is confident to achieve its target within the remaining three months of the current financial year.

40. The concept of good governance are becoming quite topical across the globe and have been a pre-requisite for the orderly functioning of society and IT is now widely recognized as the tool by which good governance can be delivered. My Government is aware of the role e-governance can play in improving public service delivery. The on-going projects for the development of information and communication technology in Mizoram are secretariat e-governance which is funded by NEC, Shillong with a total cost of Rs. 375.00 lakhs. The construction of e-governance centre and Network Operating Centre (NOC) has been completed. The secretariat buildings, Raj Bhavan, Assembly House and Chief Minister's office are interconnected with 500 nodes and 360 personal computer systems have been deployed for their office use. 26 Community Information Centres (CIC) have been set up in all Rural Development blocks headquarters and district headquarters, thereby extending the benefits of IT to the remotest corners of the State. My Government intends to utilize these CICs as important vehicles for application of e-governance as government to citizen interface. Price Water House Coopers Limited, New Delhi are being engaged as the consultant for preparation of Mizoram e-governance road map, capacity road map and for preparation of Detailed Project Report from the additional central assistance (ACA) of Rs. 25.00 lakhs provided by the Planning Commission, Govt. of India for capacity building under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The Central Government has approved the project proposal for financial support to carry out feasibility study for establishing Mizoram State Wide Area Network(MSWAN) Project and we are in the process of preparing tender document for its implementation. The Department of Information Technology, government of India has sanctioned the project for establishment of video conference centre and internet backbone connectivity in the office chamber of Chief Minister and all the Deputy Commissioners. The entire set up of video conference centre in all the district headquarters and Chief Minister's office is expected to be completed during the next year. The sub-divisional network project is to be carried out in all the sub-divisions level and three autonomous district council level in the State by extending the internet connectivity through NICNET services. This project is to be funded by Department of Information Technology, Government of India and is also to be implemented during the next financial year.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to reaffirm the deep commitments of my Government towards fulfillment of all our objectives through various programmes and policy initiatives. With your unflinching support and with the blessings of the Almighty, I am confident that we shall continue to march ahead towards achievement of our ultimate objective. I trust that your deliberations during this Session will bear eloquent testimony to these commitments.

I wish you deliberations all success.

Jai Hind.