

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR SEVENTH SITTING ON THURSDAY, THE 4th MARCH, 2021
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

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

LAYING OF PAPERS

2. **DR. K. BEICHHUA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following :
- i) The Mizoram Drug Treatment cum Rehabilitation Centre Accreditation Rules, 2019.
 - ii) The Mizoram Drug Treatment cum Rehabilitation Centre Accreditation (Amendment) Rules, 2020.
3. **PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following :
- i) The Mizoram (River Rafting) Rules, 2021.
 - ii) The Mizoram (Aero Sports) Rules, 2021.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

**GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022**

4. General discussion on the budget for the year 2021-2022 (to commence).

H. LALRINAWMA
Commissioner & Secretary

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SPEAKER : *Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?*

- Lamentations 3:38

To Start with *Questions Hours*, Starred Question No. 81 to be asked by the hon. Member Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, will the Land Revenue & Settlement Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If the location for Mizoram University Southern Campus is set?
- b) What is the current status?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu Lalruatkima to answer the question.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is -

- a) No.
- b) Mausep of Pukpui VC area, Lunglei District is presently occupied as a campus by Higher & Technical Education Department as measure is being taken so as to acquire one. However, the notification of allotment issued on 26.06.2020 was revoked on 22.12.2020 since it was believed to be of a free land of the Govt. So, we are waiting for Higher & Education Department to apply for the said through proper channel.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question: Dr. Vanlaltanpuia

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My Supplementary question is - It has been a long time since MHRD gave University the *in-principle* approval and it seems we could avail loans through finance agency of Higher & Technical Institution as soon as the location is finalized. So, will it be possible to take expedite measure in this regard?

Secondly, as per Memorandum of Settlement of 1986 concluded between the MNF Ministry and the Govt. of India, the old Army inhabitant of Pukpui to be unavailable for resettlement and we need cadastral surveyor to that effect. So, will measure be taken in this regard?

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question: Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Has the Land Revenue & Settlement Department set the location for the Northern, Western & Eastern Campus?

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question: Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, will the Land Revenue & Settlement Minister be pleased to state-

- a) Area of the Assam Rifles settlement at Zokhawsang?
- b) If a land lease is issued to that purpose? If so, when?
- c) Measure taken to relocate the Assam Rifles from Aizawl to Zokhawsang?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister to answer the question.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. In response to Dr. Vanlaltanpuia, the Govt. takes extreme measures to have a University Southern Campus as a joint meeting was held with and the department regarding the location. Mausep of Pukpui area is selected and a regular land lease is under processed since there are no private lands. The surveying charge is ₹1,26,000/- and land lease certificate will soon be obtained.

In 2013, there was a proposal to allot 3 bigha (3.612 acre) to Indian Air-force 42 for wireless Experimental Unit, Sub-Unit C at Pukpui, Lunglei for which numbers of private land had also been acquired. As such, cadastral survey is necessary but could be completed instantly due to shortage of surveyor in the department to process land acquisition.

In response to Pu Zodintluanga Ralte regarding Northern Eastern & Western campus, if Higher & Technical Department asked the land to Revenue Department for such purposes, the Govt. will make arrangement as necessary. So, there is no such issue as of now.

In response to Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte regarding land lease of the Assam Rifles settlement at Zokhawsang, 524 hectares of land is provided as per land lease No.62 of 2006.

We received intimation from the Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs on 19th February, 2019 to relocate the Assam Rifles to Zokhawsang and take expedite measures. It is, therefore our responsibility to prepare good roads, water and power supply which is pursued immediately. However, expedite measure cannot be taken due to Covid-19 which delay the process of relocation of the Assam Rifles. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 82: Pu C. Lalsawivunga

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, will the Higher & Technical Education Minister be pleased to state-

- a) Total numbers of regular and non-regular Ph. D Degree holders recruited under Higher & Technical Education Department?
- b) If the technical students are provided with book grant and stipend?
- c) Measures being taken for upgradation of Govt. Colleges Library?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana to answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is-

- a) There are Ph.D. Degree holders of 154 nos. regular and 77 nos. non-regular recruited under Higher & Technical Education Department.
- b) As per the Cabinet Meeting agenda No.13 on 21/08/2012, book grant and stipend had not been given to the technical students since 2012-2013 session.
- c) Measures are taken to upgrade Govt. College libraries in the following ways -
 - i) To upgrade Govt. T. Romana College library, a building is constructed from NEDP at the cost of ₹320 lakh.
 - ii) Fund is allotted to all Govt. Colleges under RUSA for purchase of materials for upgradation of their libraries.
 - iii) ₹3.12 crore of SEDP fund is proposed to all Govt. College libraries infrastructures but the amount has not been received due to financial problem.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question: Pu C. Lalsawivunga

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, is it possible for the government to resume the provision of book grants and stipend to technical students?

- i) If there is a regular Principal being appointed for Mizoram Law College? If not, why?
- ii) Has the academic session started in Mizoram Engineering College? If so, how many students are there? If not, why?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu BD Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, my Supplementary question is as follows:

1. May Lecture Hall be constructed for Kamalanagar College?
2. How many colleges remain without NAAC Accreditation?
3. What is the reason of Kamalanagar College for not receiving NAAC Accreditation?

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question: Dr. K. Pachhunga

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, my question are as follows: -

- i) If there is inter-seniority list for Professors and Associate teachers in Mizoram Colleges?
- ii) May the Director be appointed for H&TE?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana to answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we do not have Inter-state seniority list as of now and we will look into it. In response to Pu BD Chakma, to construct lecturer hall is a bit complicated in condition now.

As of NACC Accreditation, Kolasib will soon be qualified and Johnson College is not qualified as yet. The benefit of NACC Accreditation is any qualified colleges are able to receive funds from RUSA. Thus, it is suggestive to the remaining Private and Govt. colleges to achieve the qualification so as to improve the status of their respective colleges.

In response to Pu C. Lalsawivunga, provision for book grants and stipend of centrally sponsored schemes had now been stopped by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. However, certain provisions such as of incentive cash award given to any qualified student in UPSC examination is ongoing scheme. Also, there are ongoing provisions such as Mizoram Scholarship Fellowship, Research Fellowship, Post-Metric Scholarship and free reimbursement of school expenditures for children of war-widows etc.

Regarding the Principal at Govt. Law College, the qualification for a principal is quite selective and is difficult to make a regular appointment. However, we will do our best to have one.

Regarding Engineering College at Pukpui Lunglei, it is initiative of the previous ministry through RUSA but construction of the approach road, supply of power and water yet to be done. There is no provision for recruitment of the faculty as of now and measure is being taken to that concern. At least ₹11 core is needed to put it in function whereas pandemic is delaying the process. However, we will do our best to achieve it.

Regarding Mizoram Southern Campus, approval has been obtained from the Ministry of Human Resources Development in December, 2019 for functioning under MZU and the location will soon be decided.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, regarding RUSA that the Minister had stated, 2% of GSDP should be allotted for Higher Education as per RUSA guidelines. My question is –

- i) If the said amount for Higher Education is allotted in the budget?
- ii) RUSA guidelines stated that student:teacher ratio should be of 20:1. If this is applicable in Mizoram?
- iii) There are 92 vacant posts of Higher Secondary teachers which greatly affects the students. So, may such vacant posts be filled?

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am not certain as to allot 2% of GSDP to Higher Education. But, as of vacant post of the faculty, the total sanction post for Mizoram Govt. College is 876 nos. with 637 nos. regular and 147 nos. contract basis. Despite our financial problems, we recruited 100 teachers and 47 part-time teachers during last year out of which 11 are qualified. So, it is somewhat difficult to fix their salary. Besides, there are 36 nos. unqualified part-time teachers who already have served for many years.

Regarding filling of the vacant posts, it is difficult to so at the moment but we will do our best. As of teacher:student ratio, I cannot say as of now since we are only starting admissions and will soon be notified after the admission. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 83 from Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, will the hon. PHE Minister be pleased to state-

- a) Measures taken by the Govt. to have a sufficient supply of clean water?
- b) Measures taken by the Department for the said in Lunglei District?

SPEAKER : The hon. Dy. Chief Minister to answer the question.

PU TAWNLUIA, Dy. CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, my answer is-

- a) Clean water connection under JJM is now in full swing with various centrally funded sources of pumping scheme. A laboratory is established in every district so as to prove that clean water is supplied.
- b) The following are measures taken within Lunglei District: -
 - i) Water connection to every household in rural areas through JJM Scheme;
 - ii) Proposal for drainage and sewage system for Lunglei is submitted to NLCPR;
 - iii) Proposal for augmentation and renovation of Greater Lunglei Water Supply Scheme is submitted to NLCPR. Water Supply Scheme (Solar) is currently being carried out in Mualthuam North and Ralvawng.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question: Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, prior to my supplementary question, I would like to share the problem faced in Lunglei on water supply.

Pialthleng water pump which was inaugurated in 1995 has now becomes 29 years old. It was supposed to supply 11,000 households comprising 66,000 people. However, the population has now increased to 1 lakh and the supply thus becomes insufficient. Besides, the pipeline is now old and rusty which often brings leakage and uncleaned water. The approach road to water pump and staff quarter at West Phaileng have now becoming dilapidated. So, may step be taken for improvement of Pialthleng water pump? It may as well be appreciated if more of Public Hydro Center is set up to supplement the existing center at 2 or 3 places.

SPEAKER : Next is, Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon. Minister for PHE be pleased to state –

1. If there is any fund allocated particularly for drainage?

2. If there is a proposal to construct drain slopes and coverage for the drains?
3. The tanky at Ramhlun 'N' is quite small and could no longer serve the purpose. And, we usually receive water supply for 10 to 14 days while other localities received every week. So, is there any intension to improve the supply?
4. Water supply to Ramthar Veng is quite irregular and Galilee Welfare thus built a tanky with their own fund and distribute the supply to the needy with flexible pipe. So, may the department attend to this problem?

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question: Dr. F. Lalnunmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My Supplementary question is- Scarcity of water is intensive in the areas such as - Hlimen, Samtlang Vengthar, Lamchhip and Saikhamakawn. Is there a proposal to provide a tanky to the said areas? Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Dy. Chief Minister to answer the questions.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in reply to the questions of a member from Aizawl South-III, there is a proposal but no initiative could be taken due to financial issues.

Lamchhip has now 2 large tankies with a capacity of 6 lakhs liters of water and 1 tanky of 3 lakhs liters. So, it seems that there is no need to put more. As of tanky for Saikhamakawn, Aizawl Water Distribution System is becoming old as the pipeline need to be changed with bigger one. We now have a plan for major scheme for better water supply and we are currently looking for the funding source. This will cover the entire Aizawl district.

Regarding the drainage mentioned by a member from North-II constituency regarding the drain, there is no scheme as of now except proposal for stoned drainage covering the entire Aizawl city and other major towns and we are now looking for the funding source.

Pu Speaker, we have learned that Pialthleng road is in needs of repair as so is staff quarters. Though it is of our priority to do so, we have no fund for now but will be pursued as per availability of fund.

Regarding the additional Hydrants for Lunglei, it will be included in the augmentation of Greater Lunglei Water Supply Scheme. Pu Speaker, as for Mat Lui pumping under Greater Lunglei Water Supply Scheme, proposal for augmentation of Greater Lunglei Water Supply Scheme is submitted to NLCPR as it is one of our priorities.

Pu Speaker, JJM Scheme which was implemented in 2019 covers all villages and the work is now in progress. Due to our great performance, the central released the 3rd and last

installment of the provision. I believe we will also receive ₹35 crore as incentive under JJM Scheme by the end of March. We have 692 villages in Mizoram with 1,26,827 households out of which 15,941 are given house-tap connection during 2019-2020. We are currently working on 31963 households which may be completed within this Financial Year.

We received ₹147 crore under JJM and is much appreciating that our Chief Minister is ready to provide us the matching share. We are also currently working on pumping scheme in some major towns through several funding sources. (*interruption*)

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, regarding the issue of refugees from Myanmar, it is believed that many will soon enter our state particularly the remote districts as refugees. So, I opine it is important to improve water supply through JJM Scheme to border areas like Siaha, Lawngtlai and Champhai District in which scarcity of water is intensive.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, our Chief Minister has given us a provision of ₹800 lakh of Urban Water Supply Scheme through which improvement of water supply to Siaha is being carried out. The department is giving priority to implementation of water supply schemes to other district headquarters as well.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 84 to be asked by Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, will the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If there is a proposal for LPG Home Delivery in all the districts?
- b) If gas agencies are authorized to demand photo copy of consumer's card from consumers?
- c) Is it permissible for a household to have more than one LPG connection?
- d) The cost of a new LPG connection (single & double connections)?
- e) Is it mandatory for a consumer to buy a gas stove from the agency on the delivery of LPG connection?
- f) The total amount of Mizoram State Consumers' Welfare Fund?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana to answer the question.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is-

- a) Yes, there is a proposal for every district capital. For Kolasib, initiative will soon be taken by Joint VC and Consumers' Union under MIZOFED.
- b) There is no notification as to whether it is permissive or not.
- c) It is not permissive, but it is, in certain cases. As per the Marketing discipline guidelines 2018, chapter 2.1.4, if there is more than 1 connection in one household, it is an ineligible. However, according to LPG Regulation of Supply & Distribution, 2000 chapter 3 (1)(a), a household can have more than 1 connection with the

approval of the Central Govt. or Oil Company if they have extreme irregular supply under the Public Distribution System.

- d) A new LPG single connection cost ₹4,775 and double connection cost ₹6,850. The cost may differ as per LPG filled cylinder rate.
- e) It is not mandatory to buy a gas stove, but is consumer's choice.
- f) The amount of consumers welfare fund (Corpus) is ₹2,04,16,906/-

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question: Dr. Vanlalhlana*

DR. VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, many a time, some gas agencies give instruction to their consumers on some petty issues. I was once charged ₹8,000/ for a new double connection without cash memo being provided. Likewise, some consumers had also been forced to buy a gas stove on the delivery of a new connection. So, my question is as follows: -

- a) Is it possible to stop such practices by means of strict notification?
- b) Is LPG online booking available now?
- c) Is it possible to install camera and GPS in any trucks assigned to carry supply of POL, rice, gas etc. so that we are able to track down their whereabouts and activities on the road? Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister to answer the questions.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is quite necessary to issue strict notification as the general people often face problems. So, we will pursue as suggested.

Online booking is currently carried out for home delivery but still there are convenient points available for delivery, online booking is not implemented fully. Regarding GPS and camera, it is quite necessary as the oil company too consider to introduce the system. So, we will take initiative in this regard. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will proceed to *Laying of Papers*. I request the hon. Minister Dr. K. Beichhua to lay on the Table of the House, 'The Mizoram Drug Treatment-cum- Rehabilitation Center Accreditation Rules, 2019' and 'The Mizoram Drug Treatment cum Rehabilitation Center Accreditation (Amendment) Rules, 2020'.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay on the Table of the House, 'The Mizoram Drug Treatment-cum- Rehabilitation Center Accreditation Rules, 2019' and 'The Mizoram Drug Treatment cum Rehabilitation Center Accreditation (Amendment) Rules, 2020'.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed. I request the hon. Minister, Pu Robert Romawia Royte to lay on the Table of the House, 'The Mizoram (River Rafting) Rules, 2021' and 'The Mizoram (Aero-Sports) Rules, 2021'

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay on the Table of the House, 'The Mizoram (River Rafting) Rules, 2021' and 'The Mizoram (Aero-Sports) Rules, 2021'.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed. We will proceed to *Financial Business*. The hon. Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga laid the Budget on 1.3.2021. We will have now a discussion on the Annual Budget for the Year 2021-2022 with allied papers. Each member will be given 10 minutes and I call upon Pu C. Lalsawivunga to start the discussion.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, it is appreciative that we are able to have *General Discussion* on our Budget, 2021-2022. Our budget estimate is ₹10,366.32 crore and the Revenue Expenditure is ₹9,216.39 crore which comprises Govt. employees' salary, pension salary, payment of debts etc. for which 82.67% of the total budget will be utilized. The amount of fund received from the central Govt. is also decreasing and there is no hope for a new development this year.

₹1,932.50 crore is allotted for Capital Expenditure which is 17.33% of the total budget and only 12.71% left for developmental works which is due to huge amount involves for payment of our debts. Mizoram is the poorest state in India with no resources and productions. It is unfortunate that no provision is made to alleviate the economic condition of the poor as so for power and agricultural link-road etc. except 12.71% allotted for developmental works. Our capital expenditure may increase to 17.33% but we have a lot of debts to pay.

The Finance Commission recommended that the 41% of the country's tax should be divided among 28 states in which our state's share is 0.500% which is ₹3,327.82 crore. ₹1,790 crore is also allotted for post-devolution revenue deficit and it will be released during 2021-2022. It is increased by 25.88% compared to last year's RE.

Our finance minister had even stated in his budget speech that our budget is so poor as we have a lot of debts to pay. Our debt is estimated to be ₹10,491.20 crore by next year. This is our current situation and our budget will only supplement the burden to the people.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the amount we have to receive as state-own tax revenue and non-tax revenue is shown in the Budget Speech. ₹400 crore from the state budget is allotted under SEDP and ₹5 crore for assistance to MNF Returnees. However, ₹3 lakh which had been assured to the people before the election is not seen in the budget speech and so is regretted. Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma is next.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. We are having a budget discussion today and, as seen on the budget speech para-3, our Chief Minister mentioned

that we are facing major crisis on our finances and the pandemic also compels us to borrow money and without choice. However, para 7 mentions that the Govt. will look for ways to acquire more funds.

Pu Speaker, the total budget for 2021-2022 is ₹11,148.89 crore and is increased by ₹433.89 crore compared to last year. While this is the case, our revenue expenditure is ₹9,216.39 crore which is 83.67% of the total budget. The capital expenditure is ₹1,932.50 crore which is 17.33% of the total budget estimate and there is hardly any share for the people.

Pu Dy. Speaker, according to the economic survey, Mizoram is not independent on rice production till today. The amount of rice we need in a year is 1,80,000 metric tons while our production is only 26,239 metric tons and the gap is 1,19,761 metric tons. Therefore, Agriculture Department needs to make extreme effort but is unfortunate not to include agriculture among the priority sector.

With your permission, Pu Dy. Speaker, let me read out the economic survey which stated that 'Despite the challenges, agriculture has been a way of life and would continue to be of the most important livelihood of the rural masses in Mizoram'. However, it is sad that there is no fund for manual laborers. Pu Dy. Speaker, our state will never be developed unless we are independent on food grains production.

As seen in the budget Speech, para 18, ₹719.56 crore is the state-owned tax revenue for the year 2021-22 and it has increased by 8.70% compared to 2020-21. How is this possible when new tax is said not to be collected? The non-tax revenue is ₹852.26 crore and it increased by ₹269.19 crore.

However, it is impressive that ₹400 crore is allotted under SEDP. Yet, there is no hope for the government to distribute ₹3 lakhs to each household as assured by MNF prior to the election. **(Dy. Speaker: You have 1 minute remain.)**

Pu Dy. Speaker, Fiscal deficit highlights our economic status and we will be facing a severe consequence if our debt is increasing as it is. **(Dy. speaker: Your time is up)** Liability will increase if there are more debts and it will increase more with the interests. It is sad that the up-coming generations are left with huge debt and there is nothing to appreciate in this budget. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu BD Chakma is next.

PU BD. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I must say, this is a dry budget. Our budget has increased by ₹433.089 crores but the budget figure for the 3 ADCs is exactly the same as last year. Around 80% of our budget is for Revenue Expenditure and 20% is for the Capital Expenditure. I am afraid there is problem if financial control & administration is not fixed.

How could we achieve development unless Health, Education, PWD and PHE are departments are prioritized? How is our state supposed to develop when Agriculture is not included among the priority sectors? What is the use of having large golf course if we do not have food to eat? In the stead, self-sufficiency in rice production is a must. It is seen from CAG Report that diversion often occurs in implementing re-appropriation. If agriculture is not prioritized, obvious we will never achieve self-sufficiency.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I would like to make a special request regarding MLA Fund. Only a few portions had been released last year which consequently affects many developmental works. I request at least 50% is released for dry and winter season. Most importantly, Pu Deputy Speaker, it is necessary to utilize available resources in the best possible manner. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAMSSANGA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. I am thankful to take part in the discussion of this Budget Estimate 2021-2022.

Covid pandemic affect the economy of various countries as so India. As a result, any grants released from the central government decreases whereas allotment for our state decreases by ₹1,185 crore compared to the Budget Estimate 2020-2021 which is 29.86%.

Such being the case, it is obvious that this Budget Estimate is not the one we all wanted. However, it is good enough in spite of the ongoing crisis. In fact, the government's target to have ₹579.42 revenue surplus is quite challenging.

There is also improvement regarding debt sustainability. The debt-GSDP ratio is expected to be 27.63% as its decrease is crucial. The revenue expenditure which decreases by 2% compared to last year is significant as it in turn increases the capital expenditure. All these analyses the functioning of this ministry for the state.

Moreover, amidst grave financial difficulties, the government manages to allot ₹400 crore for its flagship programme SEDP. This is planned to be implemented through project base and solely for the welfare of the people. The allotment of ₹10 crore for Cooperative Society is also an important indicator that this ministry pays attention towards manual laborers. Thus, I support this Budget Estimate to be passed. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu Andrew H. Thangliana.

PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Among many important points, I would like to stress my disappointment due to the fact that no capital expenditure is allotted for agriculture and allied sector. We all may be aware that the backbone to sustain our state economy amid COVID 19 pandemic is improvement in this

sector. There are many schemes and programmes under the central government from which different assistances could be availed. We need to dig deeper for such resources.

Regarding Supplementary Demand, we can see from the annual financial statement that salary, wages and pension were decreased from 54% allotment to 52%. Does this mean that the wages of government employees are to be cut or employees are to be sacked? I also opined that it may be questioned how exactly was the allotment under other charges was utilized.

Regarding repayment of loan, it appears that more than ₹500 crores have been spent each year for repayment of loan. If it keeps on increasing and the borrowing limit keeps raising, it will soon become a burden for our state. I believe this should be reconsidered. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Member Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. I am glad that the Budget for 2021-2022 is presented earlier than other years. This will help the smooth functioning of government's financial management at the end of financial year.

The Covid pandemic has a serious negative impact on the government's functioning as lockdown was imposed from time to time. Besides, the expected allotment of funds for the states from central government were also slashed considerably. Election Model Code of Conduct was imposed hindering several developmental works. The works and efforts made by the government in spite of all these difficulties were really notable.

A remarkable point about this budget is that more allocation is made for development work. 15.80% of the budget was kept for development work which is increased to 17.33% this year. In addition, there is no proposal for new tax or tax hike which may impose burden for the people.

To conclude, we also see the fulfillment of the commitment made by this ministry during election which is implementation of SEDP. ₹400 crore has been allotted for this. ₹5 crore is also allotted for rehabilitation of MNF returnees. Besides, allotment of 160 crore for MLA LAD fund. while the LAD fund of MPs is halted for two years shows clearly how this ministry cared for the development of the people. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now call hon. Member Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. I am glad that the Budget for financial year 2021-2022 has been presented before the end of this financial year. This will create better financial management. I will try my best to explain how the state budget has been formulated.

The Budget estimate consists mainly of receipt and expenditure, receipt being the expected income and expenditure consists of all the foreseen expenditure. Receipt includes share of taxes or tax devolution which implies the 41% of the accumulated tax distributed for the states of India. Besides this, State Own Tax revenue, state own tax non-revenue and some other sources are also included in the receipt side.

As stated earlier, the amount of our state's share from consolidated tax collection is ₹3327.82 crore which is ₹640.14 crore less than last year. The main reason for this decrease is that the post devolution deficit grant is agreed to be distributed among 17 states while it is used to be distributed to seven states only during the 14th Finance Commission. This change brought by the inception of 15th Finance Commission imposes a real challenge for the state government.

Another important feature of BE 2021-2022 is the amount of capital expenditure. This is regarded to be meant for developmental work and is fixed at 17.33% of the budget. It is alleged to be too little. However, it has to be noted that the economy and affairs of the state as a whole is still greatly dependent on the state government. It could not be compared with another system of economy where the government play a small role and a huge contribution is made by private enterprises. It is likely that, it will not be advisable for the people minimizing the role of the government which will in turn decrease the revenue expenditure. Besides, several employees recruited under CSS needs to be continued through the state fund after the scheme is scrubbed. This also increases the Revenue Expenditure.

As mentioned by my fellow members also, the allocation of fund for SEDP is notable. It is even more impressive to learn that the allocation is done without affecting all the conventional practices of the government. Therefore, I consider this budget as a great budget for the state. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now have a break. We will continue at 2:00 PM.

.....(Recess).....

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Dr. F. Lalnunmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I would like to first thank the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister to provide us a vivid yet very simple budget speech. Besides, his achievement to present a great budget in spite of different difficulties imposed by Covid 19 is worth mentioning.

Pu Speaker, as mentioned in the budget speech, the amount received last year is ₹1183.3 crore less than expected which is 29.86% of the budget. The efforts made by the hon. CM to function smoothly with this budget cut are quite notable.

The decrease in revenue expenditure this year stands at 1.5%. The decrease percentage may not be as much as expected. However, it is quite reasonable keeping in mind the crisis the world is facing. I hope this could be continued in the future. Another remarkable feature of this budget is expectation of ₹579.42 revenue surplus. This is quite a challenging task. It indicates the sincerity and commitment made by the hon. Chief Minister.

I am overwhelmed by the allotment of ₹400 crore for SEDP. I also believe that further investment will be made. Besides, I do hope that more resources will be availed through several projects so as to bring economic development for the state. Pu Dy. Speaker, we saw an allotment of ₹5 crore for rehabilitation of MNF returnees. It should be kept in mind that this is only the beginning. The projected GSDP growth rate of 19.97% is also quite satisfactory.

Lastly, allotment of ₹47 crores for disaster risk and relief fund is a wise move made by the government. I believe that the people of Mizoram will also be grateful for this budget. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, the hon. Member.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker, it is a known fact that last year and this year is hindered drastically by Covid 19 crisis. It is overwhelmed to have a great budget amid this crisis.

What should be kept in mind is that it is better to have proper financial management and reasonable expenditure instead of having huge amount only on papers. In the light of this statement, it is apparent that it is possible that the hon. CM could have estimated more than this in this budget only to gain support. However, the more important matter is its practicality and feasibility. It is good to have this practical and a well-planned budget. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu VL Zaithanzama is next.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. We have learned that the financial condition of the state is heavily impacted by pandemic last year. We had also borrowed through ways and means advance more than 30 times. Several hon. Members also mentioned how this budget is affected by the pandemic. Meanwhile, the expected GSDP growth is estimated to be 19.44% against 17.88% last year. This poses some questions if it is a correct estimation.

Speaking about allocation of priority sector, the first point is about SEDP. The allotted amount is only enough for 13333 families. It is apparent this is not enough in view of the promised ₹3 lakh to every family during election campaign. It seems this flagship programme withered a lot as time goes by. It is now a huge question if this programme will be a success.

The second point of priority sector is rehabilitation of MNF Returnees. I am glad that ₹5 crore is allotted for this purpose. I hope it will be given priority in the future also.

The third priority is MLA LAD Fund. This is quite an important matter. However, this seems a normal practice to make allotment for this instead of priority. The fourth priority includes Cooperative society. I am happy to see cooperative society in the priority sector. However, it seems no importance is given to this department in reality. The budget allocation for this department keeps decreasing since I became a member of this House. I urge that real priority should be given to this Department. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu R. Lalzirliana, the hon. Minister

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Firstly, I would like to thank the hon. Chief Minister for his able leadership, he is giving us freedom to speak freely in and outside the House. Regarding the budget also, it is obvious that there is nothing much to criticize from the speeches of the opposition members. There is no tax levied on the people even though the state is facing a financial crisis.

Moreover, a huge amount which is more than ₹1100 crore expected to be received from central government was cut last year. It is amazing how the hon. Chief Minister led the state to function smoothly. He even directed different departments to report any difficulties in financial matters. It is due to his efforts that the Health Department could work remarkable well in the fight of Covid-19 pandemic also.

I would like to express my gratitude for the pro-active actions taken by the hon. Chief Minister regarding the border disputes. Armed forces were deployed in the area. They were immediately power supply and water supply. They were given drinking water in cooler machines. Many new roads were constructed in the area also. All these could be done with the approval and guidance of the CM. I believe that cultivable lands within the area will also be developed in the near future.

I am happy with all the actions and decisions taken by this Ministry. I do believe that the people will also be happy with this budget. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Our Business for today is now over. The House will stand adjourned until the next sitting which will be commenced on 8.3.2021 at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned. (2:54 PM)