

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR EIGHTH SITTING ON MONDAY, THE 8th 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.

STATEMENT BY A MINISTER

2. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to make a Statement on entry of Mizoram by refugees from Myanmar recently.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

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

3. General discussion on the Budget for the year 2021-2022 (to be concluded).

H. LALRINAWMA
Commissioner & Secretary

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SPEAKER : *Judgement shall return unto righteousness; and all the upright in heart shall follow it.*

- Psalm 94:15

We shall start with *Question Hour*. Let us call upon Pu Zodintluanga Ralte to ask *Starred Question* No. 96.

ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon. Minister for Horticulture Minister be pleased to state:

The amount spent for bamboo cultivation since 2019? How many are the beneficiaries?

SPEAKER : I call upon the hon. Minister concerned to give the answer.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is –
₹272,60,431. There are 213 nos. beneficiary.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, we have seen that there is a huge expenditure incurred on bamboo cultivation. Is there a way that local species of bamboo could be cultivated instead of importing expensive varieties from outside?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR THIAMSANGA : Pu Speaker, my questions are as follows: -

- i) Will greenhouse cultivation system be continued? If so, is there any development plan particularly for Champhai area?
- ii) What is the present status of rainwater harvesting initiatives? Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I had visited a bamboo nursery at Bairabi of Growmore supply. Did the Government approve this nursery? For what purpose police personnel are being deployed there? If the owner demand security to Home Deptt.?

Secondly, we have numbers of dragon fruit growers nowadays. Did the Govt. sign MoU with any marketing agency for its marketing?

SPEAKER : The hon. Chief Minister to answer as far as possible.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding Pu Zodintluanga's question, it is possible to cultivate local bamboo species but it is found not to be good enough at business level. It is true that the production cost is quite high.

As of Greenhouse cultivations, we will continue with the system yet, tracings need to be done. Besides, it needs to go hand in hand with rainwater harvesting as necessary step is being taken in this connection.

The government did not give official approval for bamboo nursery at Bairabi. In fact, no approval is required for private business.

As of dragon fruits marketing, No MoU is existed since the production is still very less to have one. Initiative will be made in future as necessary.

SPEAKER : Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma, hon. MLA to ask *Starred Question No. 97.*

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Thank you. Pu Speaker. *Starred Question No. 97.* Will the hon. Minister for Home Department be pleased to state:

If the construction agency of Indo-Bangla border fencing is authorized to settle their soil dumping ground themselves? If so, do the government supervise their functioning?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu Lalchamliana to answer.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the company has a soil dumping ground but the government did not supervise its functioning.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, the process creates a huge problem for the people in the areas around as vast area of their cultivation is destroyed. Is it possible to create a committee to this concern including MLAs as its member?

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, how do the government deal with Myanmar refugees? How many refugees are there at the moment? Do the government inform the matter to central Home Ministry?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: My Question is as follows:

- i) When will the IR camp at Thingkah be inaugurated?
- ii) Who is the contractor for construction of the said camp?

iii) Is plastering of its ceiling not included in the plan and estimate though it is supposed to be included?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Lalchamliana, hon. Minister to answer.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, border fencing is of the central govt. project but the state govt. involves only after problems arise. I believe inclusion of the MLA concern in State Level Co-Ordination Committee is possible; he may at least participate as a special invitee.

Regarding Thingkah IR Camp, I have no detail information. I think the ceiling should be plastered. I have no idea if poor quality materials are used as I have visited the place only once.

SPEAKER : Let us call Pu H. Biakzaua to ask *Starred Question* No. 98.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Pu Speaker, *Starred Question* No. 98. Will the hon. Minister for DM&R Department be pleased to state:

Is there any step being taken to prevent further damage of District Hospital, Lawngtlai from major landslide in the area?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned to answer.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows -

There are certain steps being taken as mitigation measure in July, 2020 as Plan and Estimate of PWD Department has also been received. The physical work could not yet be started since we are waiting for approval and guidelines from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu L. Thangmawia.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Is it possible to take mitigation measures for prevention of landslide at Ngopa and Mimbung as well through the aforesaid upcoming fund?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, what steps have been taken for prevention of landslide at Lunglei Zotlang? If scientific research being done in this matter? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchamliana, hon. Minister to give the answer.

SPEAKER : As stated earlier, ₹1,37,71,900 is granted as mitigation fund for Lawngtlai District Hospital. However, it could not be released for the central govt. does not provides the guidelines as yet. The matter will be pursued as necessary.

The problem mentioned by Pu L. Thangmawia regarding Ngopa and Mimbung could not be taken up due to our financial limitations at the moment. Concept papers regarding the subject mentioned by Dr. Vanlaltanpuia has already been submitted to the central govt.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana to ask *Starred Question* No. 99.

DR. VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, Starred Question No. 99. Will the hon. Minister for Home Department be pleased to state -

- a) If the Govt. of Mizoram send its reply against the letter received from the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding border disputes?
- b) If 1st IR Police camp at Zophai reconstructed?
- c) The percentage of SEDP fund allocated to Home Deptt. during 2019-2020 and 2021-2022?
- d) If boundary map of Mizoram being processed?
- e) Nos. of persons arrested by Special Task Force Committee for Detection, Detention and Deportation of illegal Bangladeshi Immigrants during 2019 and 2020?

SPEAKER : The hon. Home Minister to give the answer.

PU LALCHAMLIANA : Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows:

- a) The Government of Mizoram had sent its reply to the Ministry of Home Affairs on 16th October, last year.
- b) The work is still in progress.
- c) 0.40%.
- d) There is a map prepared by Survey of India based on Inner Line of the Lushai Hills Notification No. 2106 AP, Dated 9th March, 1933. There is no other boundary map as such. There is no map made on the agreement of both states as of now.
- e) There was no arrest made by the Special Force during this period.

SPEAKER : *Question Hour* is now over. As provided in Rule 60, I shall now call upon Pu Lalchamliaana, hon. Home Minister to make a *Statement* regarding recent entry of Myanmar refugees.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. As we are aware, there was a military coup in Myanmar on 1.2.2021 followed by national emergency being imposed. Civil disobedience was then launched against the new military government in which large number of civilians were killed as many were injured. The incident was really unfortunate and we hope that peace will prevail soon.

As a result of the incident, large number of refugees are entering Mizoram. Even though the issue is of central subject, they are provided with shelters on humanitarian ground. Myanmar is sharing border with three states of India. Therefore, we believe that the central government will take up the matter immediately not only for the security of our state but other states as well. At the same time, the Govt. of Mizoram deals with the matter at its level best as far as possible. Thank you.

SPEAKER : This kind of statement needs no further discussion. So, we shall now continue with discussion of Budget 2021-2022. I call upon Pu L. Thangmawia to take his time.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to thank the hon. Chief Minister and officials of Finance for providing this budget despite our financial crisis amidst pandemic.

Keeping in view of the current situation, it is a challenge to meet the priority sector listed in the budget alone. Besides, it is opined that the 14th Finance Commission is better than the prevailing 15th Finance Commission in providing funds to the states. The government's income on liquor tax has also now been stopped as several practical austerity measures were implemented under this ministry.

Pu Speaker, as we do not rely too much on industries, we face less problem of migrant workers which affects our income as well. Also, with the hope that the pandemic will also die down in the coming year, I believe the budget will be a success. As stated earlier, the expected fund provision of ₹1,185.03 crore had not been released last year. Besides, a special grant of ₹546 crore recommended by 15th Finance Commission is also withheld. With all these difficulties, any of the ongoing development works and domestic supplies are maintained normally which is a remarkable achievement at the part of the government.

Pu Speaker, even though the expected growth of 8.75% is quite high, I believe it could be achieved through hard work and sincerity. I would also like to invite the people as well as my fellow legislators to provide necessary support for its success. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu H. Biakzaau.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I first of all would like to express my gratitude for being able to participate in the budget discussion of 2021-2022. It is notable that our budget allocation increases despite the decrease in the central. It is also quite an achievement that all the government employees received their salary in time. Even though the expected fund of ₹1185 crore and special grant of ₹540 crore were not received last year, the state finance could function smoothly which shows the financial expertise of the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister.

The GSDP growth this year is estimated as 19.97% whereas the state's revenue receipt is expected to rise by 16.05% this year and the Revenue Surplus is expected to be ₹579.42 crore. All these expectations and projections show the commitment and sincerity of the government in financial management.

In addition, the increase of public debt by 0.90% this year is lesser than other years and Revenue Receipt is expected to increase by 26.27%. Likewise, Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant also is expected to increase.

Capital Expenditure is also estimated to be increased by 17.33% from BE and will increase by 239.35 crores. Other notable measures are Sectoral Allocation in which allotment of ₹400 crores for SEDP and ₹5 crores for assistance to MNF returnees. Increase will also be witnessed in the budget allocation of the three Autonomous Councils by 12.47%.

I am especially grateful that our budget is on the rise without the MLPC Act.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte is next.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. Our budget may not be satisfactory at a glance; however, it is acceptable.

Amidst the pandemic, Our GSDP will increase by 19.97% which is a notable achievement. I regret that we will not be receiving ₹1731 crores from the Central Govt. due to this pandemic. And, I applaud our hon. Chief Minister for his financial skills which result in increase of our budget in spite of this unfortunate act.

MNF ministry has made several headways in the border region and have developed border villages and roads. Construction and provision for 79 families is in process at the border villages. I am especially thankful for the installation of fire sub-station at Vairengte and establishment of health clinic center at Saihapui 'V'.

I have seen ₹400 crores being set aside for SEDP and ₹5 crores for assistance to MNF returnees which indicates a special concern of the ministry to their welfare.

Pu Speaker, our budget may not be a satisfactory, I suggest that this be taken with a positive mindset and utilize with the best for the people. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu K.T. Rokhaw is next.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, thank you. I, at the outset express my appreciation to you, Hon. Speaker for a provision to MLAs of vehicle for travelling to their respective constituency. (**Speaker:** It is due to the efforts of our hon. Chief Minister and

Dy. Chief Minister.) I am also thankful to the hon. Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

It is apparent from the budget speech given by the hon. Finance Minister that we are in dire financial situation. I would like our hon. Finance Minister to explain how tax will be collected given that the amount expected from tax and non-tax revenue is particularly high.

(The hon. Dy. Speaker at the Chair)

Our fiscal deficit is 6.87% which is 3% more than the recommended deficit. Considering the increase in revenue expenditure, I would like our hon. Finance Minister to clarify how to deal with this difference in the deficit.

While this is the case, I find it hard to accept that reservation for PAHOSS is non-existent this year despite the policy of the hon. Chief Minister to convert Aizawl into a city of traffic jam free.

Only ₹400 crore is reserved for SEDP and the amount has decreased year after year despite the flagship programme. I believe this decrease in the budget indicates failure of the ministry with SEDP.

Due to the pandemic, VAT has also been increased on petrol and diesel by 5% and 2.5% respectively since last June. Other States in which the same problem prevail has now reducing such charges and I therefore request the government to follow suit.

Lastly, I would like to request our government to attend to our border by locating and strengthening the 46 nos. boundary pillars so as to safeguard our boundaries. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. It is a pleasure to be a part of this discussion of our budget which reflects the management and financial skills of the hon. Chief Minister.

We are all aware of the situation we are in with the pandemic creating havoc all over the world. On top of this pandemic, we have several confrontations like boundary issues as well as highway blockade. In spite of all the complications, our hon. Chief Minister is able to furnish us with a notable budget and I applaud him for his vision and austerity.

The hon. Chief Minister is a notable leadership who practices decentralization of powers and trust his cabinet to deal with the pandemic. Under his leadership, it is remarkable that our police forces have now occupied their post in the State boundary which had never been occupied before.

There have been many instances which highlight the excellent leadership qualities of our hon. Chief Minister but we hardly have a time mention in detail. So, will proceed straight to our budget. Notable achievements within this budget are - reservation of ₹400 crores for SEDP, ₹5 crores for MNF returnees, ₹47 crores for disaster, ₹60 crores for MLA Area Development Fund and ₹103 crores for Local Body Grant.

The economic measures taken by the hon. Chief Minister indicate his leadership, management and financial skills and I urge all the members to support and accept this budget. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Coming up is, hon. Member Pu Lalmuanpuia.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. The hon. Chief Minister has surpassed my expectations in presenting this budget despite the internal problems that Mizoram is facing. Thus, I applaud him for the same.

Due to pandemic, there is less economic activity and several constraints. The budget estimate took a hit and we were unable to receive the estimated amount from our budget allocation. The horizontal share for Mizoram under Union Budget will be 0.500% and I believe that this will be utilized for the best benefit of our State the most.

The objective of this ministry is to have a revenue surplus of ₹579.42 crores without collecting additional tax from the people. Disaster management and mitigation is the priority of this ministry and thus allotted ₹47 crores. I am especially grateful for the reservation of ₹400 crores for SEDP and ₹5 crores for returnees.

Lastly, my desire is that our budget will be utilized in a manner that will be best benefitted by the people of Mizoram. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Lalrindika Ralte is next.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Glancing at this budget, it can be construed that the welfare of the people is not the priority of this ministry. After 35 years of being an independent State, this is the level we are at. Are we satisfied?

We are all aware of economic state that Mizoram is in and it is our duty to elevate the level. Financial management is much more important than having a substantial amount of capital. It is reiterated that we are in debt but is worth-mentioning that several individuals have benefitted from the government which needs to be stopped.

We have mentioned the need of austerity measures which may be applied in our dealing with supply of rice. From where I stand, transportation rate is much higher than the rice itself and measures have to be taken to reduce the cost.

I would like to urge our ministers and lawmakers to take note of any suggestions and advice being received for the love of our land and the people.

Lastly, I would like everyone in this House to remember that the actual owner of our capital city is the people of this State and it is not ours to spend development fund as we wish. It is our duty to practice honesty and not utilize the fund for our personal benefits. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Robert Romawia Royte, hon. Minister is next.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. The financial budget presented by the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister surpassed my expectations considering the predicament we are in. Our budget is flexible with great mobility.

Allocation of Union Budget is flawless and we have to trust that there is a reason for these allocations. There has been constant criticism of revenue expenditure and we have to take into account that our economy is driven by the salaries of government servants as revenue from industries is next to nothing. As for Capital expenditure, we should be satisfied with what we get and remember that the capital expenditure for other states is not as high as we expected.

One last important point that I would like to mention is that Supplementary demand comes from the central govt. which effect expenditure of any departments. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now break for lunch and our discussion will be resumed at 2:00 PM

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will continue with our discussion and I call upon Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. The size of our budget is more substantial than last year yet, what is important is of how it will be utilized.

Our Revenue Expenditure is reduced when it is apparent that our expenditure will be increased and I asked myself how the government will handle this deficit. It is our duty to maintain transparency in dealing with the public. For example, on paper, our Capital Expenditure increased by 15-17%. However, taking into account and reducing the amount from our debts, our capital expenditure is reduced by 12%.

I regret that there is no provision for farmers and manual labourers which accounts for more than 60% of the people of Mizoram. Also, there is no provision for our

educated youths as for generating employment. Our budget should aim at generating income for the people.

Lastly, the amount reserved for SEDP has decreased year after year for the last three years of our budget presentation. So, what about the policy of this ministry in fulfilling their promise to the people of Mizoram? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. K. Pachhunga is next.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. We have come this far today despite the pandemic and other obstacles due to the skilled fiscal management by our hon. Chief Minister and his cabinet ministers.

It is a challenging time for us all with less economic activities and we have all felt the constraints brought about by the pandemic. Our plan has to be revised and we receive considerably less from the central govt. due to pandemic.

The whole of Mizoram and so is the government have to learn to sustain ourselves and not blame others. During these trying times, we were able to receive supply of rice, gas, power supply and other essential commodities at a subsidized rate and we should be thankful for that.

We should be aware that our economy is driven by the salaries of the govt. servants and as such revenue expenditure should be taken as development of the people. If we do our research, we will know that SEDP will be a stepping stone in our quest for sustenance. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALHLANA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Due to the pandemic, we have seen and experience considerable hardships which has a direct impact on our finances.

We are aware of the financial constraints our government is facing and yet on the other hand, it seems like this is not the case at all. For example, Ramhlun North Community Hall was renovated in 2019 at a cost of ₹20 lakhs and ₹200 lakhs was sanctioned but we have not received any for 2019-20 for reconstruction of this hall which had already been sanctioned. As of an oversized footpath which was constructed at the cost of ₹6 lakhs, I opine it is extravagance. Also, road which had been destroyed in the process of SIPMIU work has not been repaired till today. I believe it would not have happened if there was better plan and communications in between the two concerned departments.

Pu Speaker, we have heard of the increased in our GSDP and the reason which in my opinion is increase of rate in the service sector.

Regarding wood-based industry, it is regretted that selling of round log is prohibited and I suggest it is reconsidered by the authority as wood business can now be improved as income generator in Mizoram. So, I request the government to give a serious thought in this business.

Pu Dy. Speaker, we have learned that the 15th Finance Commission allocated ₹700 crore to our State for specific needs out of which 75% being allotted to Horticulture Deptt. and Tourism Deptt. I opine it indicate preferential treatment among the ministers.

Considering SEDP allocation of ₹400 crore, the amount being reserved and will be received by the farmers is insignificant. It is also mention that SEDP will be implemented as grants, loans, price support and subsidy which is yet to be implemented except for grants. It is time for us to allocate SEDP fund provision from the state's budget and not from supplementary demand.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I opine transparency is necessity in the administrative reforms and we are eagerly waiting for this to happen.

Lastly, our hon. Chief Minister has reiterated the availability of ₹100 crore for Northeastern States. I, therefore request the hon. Chief Minister to ensure that our state also receive its fair-share. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga, hon. Member is next.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. It is evident from the size of our budget that the hon. Chief Minister will not be able to keep his promise of providing our own needs without help from the centre and is proved by the House from presentation of the budget.

First of all, I would like to make it clear that funds for State Disaster Management and Local Body grants are allocated from the central and not by the State Govt. and certainly not from the State budget.

Looking back at the last three budget presentations of this ministry, allocation for SEDP decreases every year which may be stated as the roadmap for failure.

(Pu H. Biakzaua, hon. Chairman at the Chair)

It is also apparent from the Annual Financial Statement of 2020-21 that water bill, power bill and vehicle tax will be increased considerably and will affect lower income groups the most.

While this is the case, I appreciate ₹400 crore being allocated for ACDP and ₹5 crores for assistance to MNF returnees. At the same time, I would like to request the hon.

Finance Minister to give his reason for reduction funds for pensioners as there are several pensioners who are unable to draw their pension salary since the last couple of years.

I would also like to suggest the government to refrain from recruiting a new job in this financial crisis.

Lastly, Pu Chairman, I opine this ministry has failed financial management of our government which consequently affected developmental works initiated in the previous ministry. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Pu Zodintluanga Ralte, hon. Member is next.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: To be honest, Pu Chairman, there is nothing new to discuss on this budget as compared to last year. It seems like a copy/paste version of last year's budget. So, it is sad not to see any provision for development as expected.

It is my opinion that this ministry has no vision as priority sectors does not indicate any growth or progress for Mizoram. ₹400 crore is allocated for SEDP without giving any specific projects and so is confusing as to how the fund will be utilized and we can't even figure out the priorities of the government from this budget.

I was supportive and elated for introduction of PAHOSS. However, it seems irrelevant to the government not to have any fund provision for this scheme which led me to conclude that this scheme is meant only for favoring party workers.

We have high expectations for this ministry's flagship programme i.e. SEDP but fund provision for this programme decreases each year and the share of farmers and manual laborer could hardly be expected from this programme.

State debt also is a mention and I would like to state that our government has huge amount of debt to contractors and suppliers amounting to ₹74,455 lakhs. It is sad for the ministry to run the government with heavy debts. However, I do feel that they have only themselves to blame.

I must say that this ministry has no skills in fiscal management which led us to financial crisis and the only way out for them is incurring the people with heavy taxes on POL, vehicle, power and water supply in which low-income groups suffered the most.

Lastly, Pu Dy. Speaker, I would like to advocate strengthening of Excise Deptt. for the success of total prohibition. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon Pu Vanlalhlana, he will have 10 mins as a group leader.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I, at the outset would like to emphasize on the need for the legislators to continue with our practice of togetherness that we enjoyed in the House. We have just received a gift of several eggs from Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng as so from our ministers from time to time. I have never heard of this kind of practice in other States assembly and I am proud to be a part of this friendship.

Pu Dy. Speaker, ‘*New India by 2022*’ is the vision of the hon. Prime Minister of India which focuses on clean-India, poverty-free India, corruption-free India, communalism-free India and caste-free India. In order to realize this dream, several schemes and projects are introduced by the central government with specific guidelines. For example, the objective of PMJVKY is to elevate minority sections in terms of education, health and skill development under which the following districts such as Mamit, Lawngtlai and Lunglei are declared as minority areas. My question is - why do the concerned departments such as Health, Education and Skill Development does not benefit any while Sports Department received huge amount of funds from the scheme? It is doubtful that there is proper communication between the ministers.

Secondly, Thangrang community of Assam State expresses their desire to be a part of Mizoram and to settle under the Govt. of Mizoram. I believe this ministry needs to work on reunification of Zo people such as from Myanmar, Assam, Bangladesh and Manipur so that we all live under the same government.

Pu Dy. Speaker, we are under democracy rule and we should be cautious and meticulous in conducting elections to avoid grave mistakes. There have been 240 complaints during the recently concluded Village Council elections. There are several instances where the election result changes after recounting or re-poll which should never happen again.

Our Governor has mentioned in his speech that he placed significant importance to maintenance and development of roads may be due to the fact that the quality of most of our roads are substandard. ₹500 crore is allocated to Road Fund Board and the result is yet to be seen. We need to change our system as most of the contractors who have the upper hand can hardly be relied upon to perform good work. This further raised a question as whether the government have it share from such contractors. Pu Dy. Speaker, I think it is important for the government to supervise the work performance meticulously so as to achieve good works.

(Hon. Speaker at the Chair)

SPEAKER : You may continue.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Our population growth is on a downward trend as noticed by the Church organizations and I therefore urge the government to take measure regarding population growth.

Pu Speaker, it is unfortunate that the priority of our Governor and hon. Chief Minister are in contrast. During his address, the Governor has listed out his priority such as of food production, road maintenance and power generation which are not included in the priority list of the hon. Chief Minister on his budget speech.

Lastly, a leader holds an important role in governing his State and I choose Pu Lalduhoma to lead our state due to the fact that he genuinely cares about Mizoram and its people. He was unfairly and without reasonable excuse dismissed from his role as an MLA which can only be construed as political attack. Unethical practices have been prominent in the current and previous ministries and this must come to an end. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, I call upon the hon. Chief Minister to make his wound-up speech

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. We are all aware of the turmoil we are facing not only in Mizoram, but the whole world due to the pandemic and I accept wholeheartedly that this has deeply affected the financial situation of the State. However, I do not agree that the ministry has failed in financial management. In fact, we are surviving and has continued to do so, due to the prayers of various churches. Pu Speaker, it is also due to the fact we received a good co-operation from the people for an efficient financial management of the government.

In regards to increase of tax on POL, this is due to the fact that rates were raised in the whole country which directly affects our State as well.

Since the financial constraint of the central government due to the pandemic, we have not received considerable amount of funds from the central which were due to us. Our objective is to increase tax and non-tax revenue by improving our resources mobilization and not by incurring more tax on the people.

We do not provide the specific for SEDP due to the fact that it is our main untied fund. Using these funds as leverage, projects and schemes will be submitted to the central government and the amount allocated for SEDP in our budget will be used as matching share.

We have allocated ₹7,002 crores for PAHOSS during 2019-2020 and have exhausted about half of the total allocation. Allocation of funds for PAHOSS is not necessary for this year as we still have more than half of the funds from the previous year which amounts to more than ₹4,000 lakh.

In regards to the amount of our Govt's debt, it should be noted that the central Govt. compels the State Govt. to avail loan in which Mizoram ranked second to Sikkim in having the least size of debts. However, we do take our debts from suppliers and contractors with plan to repay it as soon as possible.

We expect to receive at least ₹5,000 crore through projects under Supplementary demand which will be utilized under SEDP. There are several budgeting systems laid down by the central and we also have to follow the guidelines issued by the Central government. **(Pu Zodintluanga Ralte:** Pu Speaker, as you are on this subject, '200 crores in US dollar' which had been a mention in the budget under UD&PA is not found under the Supplementary Demand. May the hon. Chief Minister explain about it?) It will be in *crore* and not in *dollar* which also is covered by the budget system of Mizoram and India.

We are advised by the central to manage ourselves and that the rest will be provided from the central govt. I have to reiterate that this will be of the opening and the rest will follow. **(Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Pu Speaker, will ₹3 lakh of SEDP be distributed as promised by MNF party during the election campaign?)

Pu Speaker, we already have distributed more than one lakh to 230 households under the bamboo project. **(Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Pu Speaker, that was of the Bamboo Mission which was provided as Supplementary Demand for Grant under Bamboo Mission.) It was of Bamboo Mission but the major portion is funded from SEDP. **(Dr. Vanlalhlana:** Pu Speaker, if SEDP is meant to be implied only as the seeds? I believe about ₹63 crore was distributed under SEDP with no indication that state matching share was used. Will the allocation for this year actually be used for the seeds?) We will absolutely utilize these funds. However, I would like to repeat that SEDP is development oriented and development connected.

Pu Speaker, this is the extent of my wound-up speech. I admit that our budget is not satisfactory but I assure you that it will be utilized in the best manner possible so that it is benefitted by the people of Mizoram. **(Pu Lalchhuanthanga:** Pu Speaker, is it true that the concerned MLAs will reward the winner of LPS Fight Night with ₹1 lakh as stated by the hon. Sports Minister? That should be a matter which may be resolved between themselves. **(Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Pu Speaker, let me ask once again that if ₹3 lakh of SEDP will be distributed as promised?). It will be distributed in terms of development oriented.

With that, Pu Speaker, I conclude my wound-up speech. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *General Discussion* on our budget is over. We now have concluded our business for today and be continued tomorrow, the 9th March, 2021 (Tuesday) at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned. (3:55 PM)