

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR TWELFTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 12th 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 TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA**, Minister for Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department to make a Statement on the demise of Pu Khupsiansang S/o. Tualzachin, Ngaizawl, Khawzawl District due to the outbreak of forest fire on 10.3.2021.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

3. * **Resolutions**

H. LALRINAWMA
Commissioner & Secretary

* Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 166, dated the 3rd March, 2021 for relative precedence of Private Members' Resolutions to be moved.

SPEAKER : “It is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in man”

- Psalms 118:8

We will start with *Question Hour* and the hon. Member Pu ZR Thiamsanga to ask.

DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Education Department be pleased to State –

- a) Will the National Education Policy, 2020 be implemented soon in Mizoram?
- b) If measure being taken for promotion and preservation of Mizo language?
- c) Total nos. of IAS Coaching Centre in Mizoram; and, if there is a plan to open the same in Champhai?
- d) Total nos. of aspirant Mizos selected by MYC to undergo IAS Coaching? If those selected have all joined the coaching class and the amount utilized for one student thereof? Name of the Coaching Centre and if the selected are all admitted in the same Institute?
- e) May the problem of shortage of teacher in Govt. Gandhi Memorial Higher Secondary School be resolved?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister Pu Lalchhandama Ralte to answer the question.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows –

- a) Yes.
- b) Yes, initiative is made to establish Mizo Language Development Board.
- c) There are 4 nos. IAS coaching centers in Mizoram. As of now, there is no intention to open the same at Champhai.
- d) MYC had selected 20 nos. aspirants and they have all joined the class. ₹3,00,000/- is spent for one sponsorship. The selected coaching centers are - ALS Coaching Academy and Chanakya IAS Coaching Centre.
- e) We will look into the matter and measure will be taken as necessary.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

DR. Z.R. THIAM SANGA: Pu Speaker, the school in question accommodates 700 nos. students. So, I urge vertical extension of the building. Also, I request that Champhai Govt. High School be upgraded to Higher Secondary School, Hnahlan Higher Secondary to grant-in-aid status and Higher Secondary School be setup at Rabung.

In order to preserve and protect our language, I think it is crucial that we use Mizo in official matters as much as possible. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo is next.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, if teaching in Mizo language probable for the schools in Chakma area so as to strengthen our unity? It may be noted that Mizo language is not spoken nor understood by the majority of this area which further complicates our mutual communications.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu KT Rokhaw is next.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Speaker. May Tipa 'V' Centenary High School be upgraded to the status of Adhoc Grant-in-Aid?

SPEAKER : The concerned minister to answer the questions.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding shortage of teachers and extension of Govt. Higher Secondary School as stated by Pu ZR Thiamsanga, step will be taken as necessary. As of upgrading school, measure has already been taken but the process could not be expedited due to this pandemic. Regarding setting up of Higher Secondary School at Rabung, PPAB and other related information will be sent to Delhi.

Under Human Resources Development Board, measure has been taken for establishing Mizo Language Development Board and I hope the Bill regarding this matter will be ready for discussion in the winter session. To this connection, it may be noted that it is our wish to promote Mizo language among the Chakmas. As of Tipa 'V' Higher Secondary School as requested by the concerned MLA, we have to know that there are numbers of category of lumpsum grant school under which we have 9 schools which have already been running for 10 years. So, they have high expectation to the government for their upgradation to Adhoc status. Anyway, we will look in to the matter.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No.166 to be asked by the hon. Member Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Agriculture Department be pleased to state –

May the polythene pipe be provided to the farmers so they may have enough supply of water?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is –

Measure is taken to provide polythene pipe to the farmers. We have submitted the proposal for inclusion under CSS and NEC.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Lalchhuanthaga.

PU LALCHHUANTHAGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I opine we have a good chance to increase our production under horticulture if polythene is provided to the farmers. My question is - How much is utilized for procurement of polythene pipes within his year?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte to ask Supplementary Question.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Is there any intention to continue with the construction of Chemlui bridge for which sanction is already drawn by the contractor? Also, if there is a plan to renovate Agriculture Rest House at Bilkhawthlir?

SPEAKER : The hon. Member Pu C. Lalsawivunga to ask Supplementary Question.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Supplementary Question are –

- i) Is Farmer Society established in Mizoram to deal with the marketing system of local harvest so that it is sold at a more profitable price?
- ii) Do we have Land Leasing Act? If not, is there a plan to have one?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding marketing of local harvest, we do consider regarding the case as of mechanization, privatization and large-scale production but we have to establish a society or a forum to deal with its marketing as the Agriculture Board has reflected on this issue. During the pandemic, we have introduced a *Vegetable Supply Chain* with the department of Horticulture and MizoFed and I hope the system could be improved with better service and more profitable for the farmers concerns.

We have submitted the draft of Bill/Act of land leasing to Law Deptt. for vetting so that it is ready for laying on the table of the House.

As of provision for procurement of polythene pipes to the farmers, measure is taken to meet the requirements. Proposal for purchase of 3,434 rolls is being submitted to PMSY, 180 rolls to Rainfed Area Development and 1250 rolls to NEC.

Regarding Chemlui Bridge, we have plans to complete it within the stipulated time but could not be done due to the pandemic and our financial crisis and I regret the inconvenience, I have also visited Rest House at Bilkhawthlir and preparation for the upcoming YMA General Conference. We will try our best for renovation of this Rest House when our financial status is stabilized.

As of procurement of polythene pipes, ₹211.02 lakh is spent for the purchase through PMSY and ₹18.01 lakh through RAD. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu V.L Zaithanzama to ask Starred Question No. 167.

PU V.L. ZAITHANZAMA : Will the concerned Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department be pleased to state –

- a) Nos. of existing staff quarters under Forest Department?
- b) Nos. of reserved forest recognized by Revenue Department?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU T.J. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows –

- a) 569 Nos. staff quarters.
- b) 82 Nos. reserved forest.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu VL Zaithanzama to ask Supplementary Question.

PU V.L. ZAITHANZAMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My questions are –

- i) Whether the government have a plan to acquire land lease from department owned lands?
- ii) Total nos. of tigers within Dampa Tiger Reserve Area?

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlaltanpuia to ask Supplementary Question and Dr. Vanlalhlana will follow.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My Supplementary Questions are as follows –

- i) How does the government take care of the 2 nos. two National Park, 1 Tiger Reserve and 8 nos. Wildlife Sanctuary?
- ii) Is there a provision for recruitment of fire watchmen every year?
- iii) If there is any plan for reservation of Ramlai Tui, Bualsen Tui, Pau Dil and Khuai Sih of Haulawng as per Wetland Conservation Rules?

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Vanlalhlana to ask Supplementary Question.

DR. VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Is there a plan to appeal compensation case of Tuirial Hydel Project to the Supreme Court? If not, from which source of fund compensation claims will be met?

SPEAKER : The hon. concerned minister to answer the questions.

PU T.J. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding the questions of the hon. Member Pu Zaithanzama, the government is taking measure on acquirement of land

lease from the Govt. owned land. As of nos. of tiger in the National parks, I am unable to give the exact number as such animals are wandering far and wide, even across the borders. As the questions of Pu Laltanpuia, the National Parks we have in our state are maintained from funds obtained through CSS, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat Scheme. Regarding the recruitment of fire watchmen, it may be done once approval is obtained from the central. Due to our financial situation, only a few may be recruited to cover Aizawl and the nearby areas.

Regarding Wetland Reserve, it is first necessary for the department to survey the proposed land and then submit to the Wetland Committee. However, measure could not be taken as yet, due to the pandemic.

Regarding compensation case of Tuirial Hydel Project, the government is determining as to appeal the case to the Supreme Court. As of the funding source, I am unable to provide the answer as of now. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask Starred Question No.168.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of I & PR be pleased to state –

What are the provisions laid down by I&PR for the benefit of MJA during the year 2019-2020?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

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

- i) Organizing press tour for media personnel for 4 times.
- ii) Organizing Training Programme on Parliamentary Process & Procedures for Media Personnel at Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BSTP) at Lok Sabha, New Delhi held from 25th – 27th September, 2019.
- iii) Increase of Newspapers' advertisement rate with effect from 26.2.2020.
- iv) Ex-Gratia given to 6 nos. media personnel.
- v) Provision of medical assistance to 65 nos. media personnel.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask Supplementary Question.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, whether there is any positive outcome regarding proposal for journalist pension scheme as questioned by three hon. Members such as Pu Vanlalhlana, Pu VL Zaithanzama and Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte on the 21.6.2019.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu C. Lalsawivunga to ask Supplementary Question.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA : May the initiative be made by the hon. Minister so that the accredited journalists have access with their ID to important official functions?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Necessary steps have been taken in concern for the welfare of our journalists including Journalist Pension Scheme which is now in process. Regarding allotment of seats in the House for accredited journalists, as mentioned by hon. MLA Pu C. Lalsawivunga, it is within your authority, Pu Speaker, and I have nothing much to say in this connection.

SPEAKER : Let us call Pu Andrew H. Thangliana to ask Starred Question No. 169.

PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Hon. Minister for Education Department be pleased to state:

Is there provision to give show cause notice to a temporary teacher working in purely private School receiving Lumpsum (Grants-in-Aid), became a Village Council Secretary?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned to answer.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the department does not interfere in such kind of appointment and thus could not be termed as 'dual post.'

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana to ask his Supplementary Questions.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, my question is as follows:

- i) Who prepared the concept notes of the School Education Department and DPR for PMJVK Scheme for 2019-20 and 2020-2021?
- ii) When will Transfer & Posting of Teachers Rules, 2020 be implemented? How many of teacher quarters being constructed during 2019-2020 and 2020-2021?
- iii) Whether there is any research being prevailed regarding inclination of the majority to admit their children in Pvt. schools than that in Govt. schools?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister Pu Lalchhandama Ralte to answer it.

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

- i) The concept notes and DPR of Education Deptt. are prepared by the District Council & Minority Affairs Department
- ii) Transfer & Posting of Teachers Rules, 2020 will be implemented with effect from 14.2.2020. Whereas 28 nos. staff quarter were constructed during the period in question.
- iii) There is no formal research being held for the said purpose.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Question Hour* is now over. Let us call upon Pu TJ Lalnuntluanga, hon. Minister for Environment, Forests & Climate Change Deptt. to make a *Statement* regarding wildfire at Khawzawl District.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is very unfortunate that a fire incident took place recently at Ngaizawl of Khawzawl District. There was a wildfire at the nearby forest. The VC immediately called for the villagers to put out the fire. In the process, Pu Khupsiansang, 39 years of age s/o Tualzachin faced an accident falling off a cliff and suffered a serious injury to his head.

He was immediately taken to Champhai Hospital. The Medical team made all possible efforts to save his life. However, he succumbed to his injuries. The MLA of Champhai North Constituency, Dr. Thiamsanga attended the last rites and handed over ₹10,000 to the bereaved family. The Forest Department staff also attended the rites and gave ₹10,000 to the family. Possible compensation is under process through Mizoram Fire Prevention Committee. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now move to *Private Member's Business*. The resolution balloted for today's business is "*That this House expresses its gratitude that Mizoram is among the best performing states in India in its fight against Covid 19 pandemic as a result of efforts made by the churches, civil societies and the general public. We look forward for better cooperation in the future also to fight this pandemic.*"

The resolution is submitted by Pu H. Biakzaua. Let us call upon Pu H. Biakzaua to move his Resolution.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. As we all aware, the Covid 19 pandemic had emerged from Wuhan in China last year. It had engulfed the whole world today. When the virus was detected in India and also in Mizoram, we looked anxiously towards the government for its action. Subsequently, the Govt. of Mizoram became one of the state governments which acted first in the fight against the pandemic. This is quite a notable performance.

The State Level Task Force on Covid-19 was established on 30.1.2020 under the leadership of the Hon. Health Minister. We are the first state to impose lockdown even before a nationwide lockdown was imposed. Lengpui Airport was also the first screening point among the airports. Besides, screening points were created in the state borders especially at international borders. The prompt action of the government in this regard is also commendable.

The creation of District Level Task Force as well as Village/Local Level Task Force plays an important role in the fight against the pandemic. As a result of the efforts made by Hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga, PPE and face masks were imported by airplane while there is a huge shortage among other states. The church, civil societies and the general

public were also consulted to know what is best for the people. All educational institutions were shut since 16.3.2020 and also religious institutions were also closed. The support and cooperation received from the public plays an important role in this connection.

There was no sample testing laboratory at the time when first positive cases were detected. The government took a very prompt action, for establishment of testing laboratories. It had also trained technicians and workers to combat the disease. As a result, testing laboratories were set up within a short period of time. Awareness campaigns and talk shows were organized through televisions. I&PR Department also gives reliable information to the people.

It is imperative to mention the role of Local/Village Level Task Force in the fight against Covid 19. Their contribution in their respective locality and village is remarkable. Besides, all the Civil Societies in the state rendered immense cooperation to the government. There are also many people who volunteered to work in different field against the pandemic. It is recorded that there are 870 volunteers till today.

Several crores was donated to CM Relief Fund. SOPs issued by the Government were well-observed by the public. Prayers from the churches and the people were invaluable. The cooperation we have seen in this House even from the opposition parties is also worth mentioning. We still have a long way to go to defeat this pandemic. I do implore the support and cooperation from the churches, civil societies and the general public to be continued. I also beg the House to pass this Resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now discuss the Resolution. Each member will be allotted 10 minutes. Let us first call upon Dr. F. Lalnunmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to speak in favor of the resolution. The pandemic had affected more than 26.4 lakh people in the whole world. The impact of this disease will become a history to the new generations. It is notable how the Govt. of Mizoram, especially the Hon. Health Minister and Health Department worked to combat the disease as they have made Mizoram one of the best performing states in India. It is also great to see how our society work together to fight the disease.

The disease gripped the nation as well as our state with fear in the early stage. State Core Committee was formed to make a plan for establishment of testing laboratory for the state and to submit their report within a month. Notably, they submitted their report only after a week and Covid Testing Laboratory was established very soon. I would like to mention the names of our hon. MLAs Dr. K. Pachhunga and Dr. Vanlaltanpuia in appreciation of their contributions as a member of the Core Committee.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of VLTF and LLTF for their dedication. The efforts of Medical Operation Team as well as the frontline workers have yielded a good result for the state. Cooperation from the church, NGOs and civil societies

also played an important role in the fight against Covid-19. However, the pandemic is not over yet, it is necessary to work united to win this fight. For this purpose, I am supporting the resolution to be passed. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Hon. Member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am very happy to take part in the discussion of this relevant resolution.

(Dr. Vanlalhlana in the Speaker's Chair.)

To begin with, I would like to express my gratitude that the Lord has given us an able leader during this time of crisis like he had given Moses to the Israelites. The LLTF/VLTF had done a great job in their respective villages and localities. Their dedication and efforts are invaluable.

The church acts as an important agent in spreading awareness among the people as they had also prayed fervently for the state. All the political parties had also work together with one accord. All these co-operations from different angles prove fruitful in the fight against Covid-19.

The government left no stone unturned for the welfare and protection of the people. Imposition of state lockdown right at the beginning shows the vigilance of the government. It had also made PPE and face masks even when it is very difficult to meet the demand. Screening of people at the entry points and formation of vegetable supply chain are quite notable. The government had also made testing available within a very short period of time. This helped the state in prevention of the spread of the disease in the state.

Considering all these efforts from different angles, I will be very pleased to pass this Resolution. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Let us call upon Pu KT Rokhaw.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Speaker. To begin with, I opined that the efforts made by the people, the level of obedience and discipline they have showed contributed more in our success in the fight against Covid-19 than the work of the government. Moreover, we had witnessed different inappropriate decisions taken by the government. Village Council and Local Council Elections were held at the midst of the pandemic putting the life of the people at risk. Schools were reopened as a result of which we have seen spread of the disease among students. Majority of the tests were conducted using RagT while ICMR suggest that RTPCR should be used as far as possible. All these are the results of the negligence shown by this government. I also have the opinion that the prayers of the churches were answered.

I would also like to mention that Falkawn Referral Hospital has played a massive role in the Covid 19 scenario. It is overwhelming that the previous ministry under Pu Lal Thanhawla had constructed this hospital. Moreover, the broad-gauge railway to Bairabi, which is the main route to import carry provisions, is also constructed under the Congress ministry. Therefore, it is my opinion that the previous ministry should also be given credit. It seems appropriate to add “We are also grateful to the previous Congress Ministry for providing necessary infrastructure for the fight of Covid 19”. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Let us now call upon hon. Opposition Group Leader, Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Than you, Pu Speaker. What I would like to state regarding this resolution is how the Ministers used Covid 19 as their excuses for every incapability and failure they made. Besides, while the ruling party cited about financial problems all the time, they have returned part of the donation given by their MLAs which they dearly published in newspapers and media. It is obvious from this that there is no financial problem in reality.

It is also obvious that there is administration lapse in this Ministry. The Hon. Health Minister had done a great job within his department. However, it is unfortunate that he could not function at his full capacity. Decisions made within the ministry were changed after few hours from time to time. This proves that there is a severe problem at the decision-making level.

It is quite lamentable that even a single new Bio-Safety Level 3 laboratory is not constructed during this pandemic. The drivers who carry passengers from Bairabi were not given remunerations. Falkawn Referral Hospital and Bairabi Railway gauge serve a remarkable role in fighting against this pandemic. Congress Party should be given credit in this regard. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : We shall now take a break and resume the discussion at 2:00 PM.

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAMSSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am happy to discuss Pu H. Biakzaua’s Resolution today. The mover has spoken about the contribution of the hon. CM in this time of crisis. I support all the points and thank the hon. Chief Minister for his leadership.

The level of cooperation we have witnessed during this time is remarkable. The contribution of VLTF and LLTF plays an important role in our fight against the disease.

The MLAs had also contributed their funds for this purpose and providing necessary equipments in their respective constituency. The dedication of health volunteers will not pass unnoticed.

We have faced border dispute with Assam amidst this pandemic. In spite of all these difficulties, the government succeeded in providing essential commodities to the people. It has also created vegetable supply chain for rational distribution of vegetable.

I would like to clarify about some doubts regarding Covid 19 testing. There is some allegation that RAgT is not reliable for testing. In fact, there is no 100% accurate testing in its detection. However, I want affirm that it is approved and reliable testing at the moment. Thank you, Pu speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call Upon Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am happy to discuss the resolution moved by Pu H. Biakzaua – *“That this House expresses its gratitude that Mizoram is among the best performing states in India in its fight against Covid 19 pandemic as a result of efforts made by the church, Civil Societies and the public. We look forward for better cooperation in the future also to fight this pandemic.”* It is nothing new about this resolution. It is the fact we are witnessing every day during this pandemic.

God gives suitable leaders to Mizoram as per the need of the time looking back at the past also. The past leaders or ministries had done immense jobs for the development of the state. It will be incorrect to deny all the contribution of previous ministries. It is the same with regard to ZMC, Falkawn also. It is the result of efforts made through different ministries.

This ministry is also given for this difficult time and in fact, it had done a great job. The cooperation and efforts made for from different angles of the society also plays an important role. Contributions were made by different people to CM Relief Fund. All these efforts yielded desirable results which we are witnessing today. Thus, I support this resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Than you, Pu Speaker. It is great to learn that our state is among the best performing states of India in the fight against Covid 19. It is simply the result of able leadership and decisions made by the hon. Chief Minister and the Hon. Health Ministers and the efforts made under their guidance. Besides, I am happy that the resolution is moved because it creates an opportunity how the Zoram Medical College was established. It is now clear that the foundation is laid during MNF Ministry and several works are also completed within that ministry. The remaining work was continued by the

Congress Ministry. Therefore, it has to be accepted that it is the result of cooperation rather than attempting to give all the credit to a single ministry.

In addition, the government is also very alert even before there is an active case in the state. Mitigation measures were taken at all possible angles. The hon. Chief Minister had made firm dedication since the very beginning. It is undeniable that God had given us this CM for this difficult time. His decision to look after our brothers in war ridden Myanmar also deserves credit. Therefore, this resolution is quite suitable to be discussed and passed in this assembly. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now call upon Dr. K. Pachhunga after which Dr. Vanlalhlana will be called upon.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This Covid-19 disease is a novel virus. It means it was not ever discovered before. The main reason why our state performed well against the pandemic is the grace of God. It is also remarkable how the MNF Ministry serve as an agent to work for the state.

I would like to mention that the expertise of our doctors is quite remarkable. The work rendered by the nurses and other healthcare workers is also at another level. The government took all possible efforts so that we may have our own self testing facility right from the beginning. As a result, we have performed very well today.

The dedication and hard work of healthcare worker is unquestionable. The Police, LLTF and VLTF, the Church, Civil Societies and the public as a whole all played an important role in the fight against Covid 19 at their respective level. I would like to add that it is desirable to work unanimously in other matters like boundary issue also keeping aside all our political affiliations. There is nothing but appreciation regarding the cooperation and work regarding this pandemic.

Different departments of the government had also done a great work in their respective responsibility to help the people. The formulation of vegetable supply chain is quite remarkable. With these words, I am supporting this resolution, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will now give time to hon. MLA, Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. To begin with, it is unfortunate to learn how several contract works were given to party workers as if it is meant for Village Council and Local Council election while we are facing financial difficulties and salaries government employees could barely be given.

(Speaker in the Chair.)

I would like to mention some developments within my constituency during this pandemic. The first lockdown began on 22nd March, 2020. There is a huge demand for hand

sanitizer. MN Enterprise gave us ₹16 lakh worth hand sanitizer on debit. Department of Chemistry at Zirtiri Residential Science College and RIPANS started to prepare hand sanitizer. I thank them for their work.

Face masks was manufactured by the industry owned by Pi Vanramchhuangi. Several agents their names which I could not mention at the moment also provide us with face masks. I am really grateful for their contribution. We have taken necessary to help the poor in collaboration with Open Doors (NGO). Self Hep Groups also played an important role in this regard. We have also prepared a phone application with the help of an expert within my constituency. My constituency had also donated air purifying machine to ZMC.

I appreciated that a testing laboratory was established within ten days while the Core Committee is expected to give report within a month. Several villages had given my constituency with vegetables and other food materials. I thank all of them on behalf of the people of Aizawl North II Constituency. Pu Speaker, with knowledge of some loopholes in the fight against Covid 19, I support the resolution with the desire for better cooperation in the future. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I support this resolution except on one point. I opined that it will be more completed if the previous ministry is given credit for establishment of MIMER.

The difference and the real Mizo society seems to be revealed with this pandemic. I would like to express my gratitude to different civil societies within my constituency. We have a long inter-state boundary which they guard from outsiders to enter our state. They deserve huge credit for this.

I believe that there may be many individuals who contributed much in the fight against this pandemic. I thank them all through this august House for their efforts. I also hope this disease may act a blessing in disguise for the future. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker, I consider this Private Member's Resolution to be a great one in view of the present scenario. It is a fact that the government as well as other organisations had done a great job to fight the pandemic for our state.

The efforts of the Government under the leadership of the hon. Chief Minister deserve praises. The Contribution of NGOs and the Church as well as VLTF and LLTF also plays vital role in the process. The Medical Operational Team under Dr. ZR Thiamsanga has done a great work in formulating the framework for every step.

Meanwhile our neighbouring state Assam created different problems in the border imposing immense hardship to the people. I appreciated the actions taken by the government to deal with this problem also. There are many forefront workers guarding the border from outsiders. The contribution of health care workers and volunteers at different levels will not be forgotten.

Pu Speaker, I believe that we, the members of this House are also trying our best as a legislator to fight this disease. It is great to see the cooperation of each and every one in the state at our respective level, at our respective angle. Therefore, I support this resolution to be passed unanimously in this House. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker, I think there is nothing much to say about the resolution. It is nothing new or amazing that the government works for its people in time of crisis. If we are going to thank the government, it will also be necessary to thank the central government also in providing our needs. I would also like to give credit to the Chief Secretary for his tireless efforts. Our police personnel also deserve praise for their work in maintaining law and order in this difficult time. Most of all, it is the grace of God that our state is among the least affected state among the states of India.

I would like to thank every person who work for donation of PPE, face mask and other equipments to institutions like ZMC, Cancer hospital, Civil Hospital, etc. There are people who immensely contributed for the need and the poor during this difficult time. I pray that they may be blessed abundantly. It is remarkable that the church prays fervently that our state may be saved from worse scenario. I do believe that it is the result of their prayer that we are still among the least affected states. I would also like to thank all the members of VLTF and LLTF. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to support the resolution moved by Pu H. Biakzaua. The Covid-19 pandemic took the world by storm. It is good to witness the collective efforts made by the government as well as the cooperation rendered by the civil societies, NGOs, the Church and also the public as a whole. The church even offered their halls to be used as quarantine facilities and Covid Care Centres.

The NGOs and civil societies contributed actively in the LLTF and VLTF. They contributed a lot in administration and maintaining good discipline among the people. They are also an important agent to make the people aware about the disease and preventive measures.

The government, as a result of its alertness and vigilance, imposed lockdown and airport screening immediately at the initial stage. It is believed that the condition we are

today is the result of such actions. Different departments tried their level to render the best service to the people at their respective purview. I would like to mention that the localities of my constituency had also helped smaller villages as far as possible. The villages also gave their vegetables to the people living in Aizawl. I really appreciated the efforts made by Dr. ZR Thiamsanga and the Medical Operational Team. The MLAs also contributed a lot in their respective constituency.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, I thank the almighty God for his guidance and protection. He had given wisdom to the hon. Chief Minister and the Hon. Health Minister to make correct decisions in this time of crisis. With these words, I support the resolution moved by Pu H. Biakzaua. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Hon. Member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, I will not take a long time. I opined that the resolution is a good one. However, it is rather inappropriate to use it as an opportunity to praise the Chief Minister or the MNF party. The resolution clearly stated that credit should be given to the NGOs, the church and the public. We all have contributed in the fight against the disease.

In fact, the infrastructures created by the previous ministry also deserve credit in this connection. If loopholes and drawbacks regarding the actions taken by the government have to be found, there are many drawbacks in the implementation of government orders.

The success we achieve today is the result of cooperation from everyone in their respective level. The LLTF and the VLTF are working hard to prevent the spread of the virus. I believe that the people should stay alert with obedience and cooperation to the government. The government should also take decisions carefully on matters affecting the public. I support the resolution especially the part which calls for the cooperation of everyone. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Vanlalhlana, Opposition Group Leader.

PU VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The question that struck my mind after seeing this resolution is that what evaluation has been used while claiming to be the best performing state in India. I am not sure what are the criteria used for such evaluation. Anyways, it is great to be the best in India.

Secondly, I ask myself how much did I contributed in the fight against Covid 19. We all participated in this fight including the government, the church, NGOs and the public. It is the result of such cooperation that we could become one of the best performing states.

This difficult time reveals how we are not yet self-sufficient. If this crisis opens our mind to work harder to have more production, it may become a blessing in disguise. Besides, we have also witness certain level of innovation as the time compels us. We produce certain equipment like PPE, face mask, etc. which we never did before. This is also a positive result for the state.

Huge amount of donations was received for Chief Minister Relief Fund. I believe that it will be more appropriate to give separate name for these donations as they are solely meant for the pandemic. Expenditures were published from the CMO. I am happy for this also.

What I found overwhelming is the level of obedience and discipline of the public. I believe there will not be any other place to find this kind of obedience. It shows the cooperation at every level. Pu Speaker, you had also tried your best calling consultation meeting among the MLS irrespective of political parties.

Lastly, on the negative side, Pu Speaker, it is unfortunate that we have heard the Hon. House Leader and Hon. Sports Minister had violated the SoP laid down by the government themselves. I hope this kind of action will not be repeated. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu L. Thangmawia.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is important to read the resolution carefully. It does not say that Mizoram is the best performing state. What it stated is that it is among the best performing states. What I would like to stress is, Pu Speaker, the preparation of the government for the fight of this disease is remarkable. Moreover, it is with the support of all other organizations that such preparation and efforts become a success. The church has done a great job. They willfully allow us to use their halls and buildings for quarantine facility and other needs.

Pu Speaker, I would like to add that this crisis should not be used as political gain. No step taken should also be manipulated for our own advantage as it is the real problem of the people. Therefore, I do implore each and every one to be united against the disease and to render better cooperation in the future. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now end our discussion. Let us call upon Dr. Lalthangliana, the hon. Minister concerned.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA. MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am very happy that this resolution concerning my department has been balloted for discussion today. The resolution had broadly spoken about the subject. It should also be noted that it does not claim to be the best but among the best.

The Covid Pandemic struck very hard, not only in India but also other nations also. Amidst the pandemic, our state is facing numerous series of earthquakes at the eastern areas. Besides, there is a military coup at Myanmar, resulting to immense suffering for our brothers and sisters there. It is remarkable how the hon. Chief Minister made a firm conviction to help them. I would also like to thank him for allowing all the necessary funding for combating the disease.

Regarding ZMC, we do not claim all the credit for this institution. I do accept that it is the result of efforts made by previous ministries. It is possible to set up RTPCT laboratory as there is a building and manpower there. However, the same could not be done at Lunglei as there is no laboratory building and necessary manpower for which we are much regretted.

It is due to the grace of God that the predicted number of positive cases in December proved incorrect. The present active cases stood only at 9 cases. This is the work of God. It is quite necessary to give thanks in this House as the resolution included. It is also correct from the present statistics that we are among the best performing states.

I would also like to thank all my fellow Ministers for their tireless efforts during this crisis. They left no stone unturned to provide best service possible to the people. In addition, the sincerity and dedication of the Chief Secretary should not be left unnoticed. The contribution of different NGOs and the VLTF/LLTF serve as the backbone of the fight against the disease. The church allows us to use their buildings as necessary. There are many healthcare workers who volunteered for the fight of the pandemic. Their efforts are invaluable. They are also still ready to continue their work as the pandemic is not over yet.

It is also worth mentioning that the Dy. Bureau Chief, South East Asia division had visited Mizoram to study how we work against the pandemic. It is great to learn that other people from other places are also aware of our efforts.

In fact, it is a mammoth task to protect the state from the spread of the disease from outside the state as we have a very long international border. The support and cooperation received from the public in this regard is phenomenal. The people are also showing a great deal of obedience and discipline. The work done by the police in maintaining law and order is also worth mentioning.

The MLAs had also done a great job in their respective angle. The efforts made by I&PR Department in giving reliable information to the people is remarkable. The awareness programmes and talk shows through electronic media are an important material in the fight against the disease.

We are also thankful to the central government for their assistance for the states. Funds were received through NEC and Health Ministry. Several equipment was also

received for which we are very thankful. I would like to thank the Finance Department for their prompt action also.

It seems that this crisis will bring about economic revival in the state. There is a huge realization of the need for increase in production. To sum up, Pu Speaker, during this pandemic scenario, I believe I had made several mistakes one way or another. I do apologize for such actions and decisions. Meanwhile, I implore better cooperation from each and everyone in the future and I am also supporting this resolution to be adopted. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu Zoramthanga, Hon. Chief Minister.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I will try to take only a few minutes. It is pleasing to hear about all the praises and acknowledgement from the Hon. Members. However, I do have many flaws and weaknesses. The real credit is due to the Hon. Health Minister as well as Dr. Thiamsanga, hon. Member & Chairman of Medical Operational Team and all the frontline workers. The cooperation and efforts of the people, NGOs and volunteers are quite notable. Regarding Referral Hospital, I completely agree that it is the joint effort of different ministries.

All the things that had taken place happen as the will of God. We should thank him for his guidance and protection. The number of positive cases answers the question if we are the best performing state. It is right to claim to be the best as we have the least number of positive cases with only a single digit number.

Regarding audit of the expenditure of Health Department, in fact, it is done without my knowledge. It is felt necessary that audit should be held as there is a huge expenditure due to the Covid-19 crisis. The said remaining liabilities will surely be paid off.

Lastly Pu Speaker, Regarding CM Relief Fund, it is correct that the CM Relief Fund is not solely meant for Covid-19. However, all of the donations received are meant for combating Covid-19. This is why the CM Relief Fund at the moment is mainly used for Covid-19 related matters. Lastly, I thank all the people who work unanimously in combating the pandemic and I do support the resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu H. Biakzaua, the Mover to wind up the discussion and to beg the House to adopt the resolution.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. 18 members had taken part in the discussion of my resolution. I thank them for their valuable time. There is nothing much to add as the Hon. Members had already discussed the matter in details. Therefore, I beg the august House to adopt my resolution – *“That this House expresses its gratitude that Mizoram is among the best performing states in India in its fight against Covid 19*

pandemic as a result of efforts made by the church, Civil Societies and the public. We look forward for better cooperation in the future also to fight this pandemic.” Thank you.

SPEAKER : The mover has now begged the House to adopt his resolution. We shall now take our votes. Whoever support the resolution may say “Aye” (*Members: Aye*). Whoever oppose the resolution may say “Nay”.

Thus, I declare the resolution “*That this House expresses its gratitude that Mizoram is among the best performing states in India in its fight against Covid 19 pandemic as a result of efforts made by the church, Civil Societies and the public. We look forward for better cooperation in the future also to fight this pandemic.*” moved by Pu H. Biakzaua is adopted by the House.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Thank you.

SPEAKER : Our business for today is now over. The House will stand adjourned till the next sitting commence on 15.3.2021 (Monday) at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned. (4:57 PM)