

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR THIRD SITTING ON THURSDAY, THE 25th FEBRUARY, 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. **DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA**, Minister to make a Statement on the demise of a MBBS student at Zoram Medical College on 24.2.2021.

LAYING OF PAPERS

3. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, hon. Chief Minister & Finance Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
 - i) Finance Accounts 2018-2019 Volume-I relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - ii) Finance Accounts 2018-2019 Volume-II relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - iii) Appropriation Accounts 2018-2019 relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - iv) State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31 March 2019 relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - v) Economic Survey (2020-2021) Government of Mizoram.
4. **PU VANLALHLANA**, to lay on the Table of the House a copy of Statement of Action taken on the Further Recommendation of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 6th Action Taken Report, 2020 relating to Taxation Department.
5. **PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG**, to lay on the Table of the House a copy of Statement on Actions taken by the Government on Further Recommendations contained in the 2nd Action Taken Report of Committee on Papers Laid on the Table relating to Home Department, Finance Department, Higher and Technical Education Department, Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department and General Administration Department.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

6. **HON'BLE SPEAKER**, to present to the House the First Report of Rules Committee (2020-2021) of the Eighth Legislative Assembly of Mizoram.
7. **PU VANLALHLANA**, to present to the House the Eighth Report on Actions taken by the Government against the Recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of Public Accounts Committee for the year 2014-2015 relating to Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department.
8. **PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG**, to present to the House the Third Report on Committee on Paper Laid on the Table (2020-2021).

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bills for introduction, consideration and passing

9. **DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram State Higher Education Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021."

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

10. **DR. K. BEICHHUA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Licensing and Regulation of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinics Bill, 2021."

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

H. LALRINAWMA
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : *Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building.*

- Rom 14:19

We will move on to *Questions & Answers*. I call the hon. member Er. H. Lalzirliana to ask Starred Question No. 21.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for PHE Department be pleased to state –

Time for completion of Mamit Greater Water Supply Scheme Phase-II pumping Tut River?

SPEAKER : I call the hon. Dy. Chief Minister Pu Tawnluia to reply.

PU TAWNLUIA, DY. CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I think there is misinterpretation. It should be Phase – II, not the Phase – I as questioned. The answer is –

The work in question is not completed as yet.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Er. H. Lalzirliana, hon. Member.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, my Supplementary Question is –

Construction on Mamit Greater Water Supply Part – II is now in progress. As we all know, Mamit is a fast-growing district as the existing supply of water supply could no longer cover the whole population. Is there a way to expedite the work?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Hon. Member Pu B.D. Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. My supplementary Question is –

When will the construction of Chawngte Greater Water supply be implemented?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* The hon. Member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Speaker, will the concerned Minister of PHE Department be pleased to state –

- i) If Ground Water Operation project under PHE Department still in process?
- ii) If so, in which area the project is carried out?
- iii) Which department is in-charge of the operation? What are the designations of the assigned officials and how many are assigned to the work?

iv) Pu Speaker, the majority of villages within my constituency are located on the top of the hills. So, is it a possible to carry out such project within my constituency?

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

PU TAWNLUIA. DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer the supplementary question of hon. Member Pu BD Chakma – Chawngte Greater Water Supply Scheme is of NABARD Scheme and is expected to implement within this financial year.

Pu Speaker, to answer the question of hon. representative of Dampa Constituency, Ground Water Operation project is still in progress all over Mizoram and the following are the concerned officials for the project –

1. EE, Ground Water, Quality Control - 1 No.
2. SDO, Ground Water - 1 No.
3. SDO, Quality Control - 1 No.
4. Junior Engineer - 3 Nos.
5. Assistant Driller - 5 Nos.
6. Hand Pump Mechanic - 5 Nos.
7. Asst. Hand Pump Mechanic - 3 Nos.
8. Asst. Operator - 1 No.

Pu Speaker, as questioned by the hon. member Pu Zira, Mamit Greater Water Supply Scheme is divided into Part I and Part II and is called ‘Augmentation of Mamit Water Supply Scheme’ which cover supply of the increasing demand of water supply to the people under which water will be pumped from Tut River to Phaizau. 40% of the work has already been completed and the total estimate amounts is ₹670 lakhs whereas the tender amount is 520 lakhs. However, the work could not be expedited due to pandemic but we hope to complete it as soon as possible. We are looking for a funding source for Part-II as the concept note has also been completed. We are now working on preparing the DPR. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question No. 22* and hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga to ask.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Taxation Department be pleased to state –

- a) If tax is collected from betel nut imported from the eastern region?
- b) If so, rate of tax per bag?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the Question.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: The answer to the question of Pu Zodintluanga Ralte is –

- a) The State Govt. collected GST from any registered traders. If the item is sold within Mizoram, GST will be collected by the State Govt. But if it is sold outside Mizoram, it will be collected by the state Govt. in which it is sold.
- b) The rate of GST per bag is 5%.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question: Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.*

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, the case of betelnut business in the eastern region is a burning topic nowadays as many claims this business as having a negative effect on our social life, our environment and even on our roads for engaging large number of vehicles in the business. There is also a claim of number of hidden tracks as being constructed from Tiau River to some villages within Mizoram which subsequently effecting our forest and environment. My question is –

- i) If the government legalized this betelnut business?
- ii) Did the Assam Rifles collect any tax from such traders? If so, how much is submitted to the Central Govt?
- iii) Will the hon. Minister clarify the allegation that forged certificate as being issued by MAMCO claiming the product as of Mizoram though it is actually from Malaysia and Indonesia?

SPEAKER : Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question is –
May necessary step be taken by the hon. Minister of Taxation Deptt. for construction of staff Quarter at Champhai? Thank you

SPEAKER : Pu Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Taxation Department be pleased to state –

The amount of GST received from Indo-Myanmar border trade during 2020-2021?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding betelnut trades at Zokhawthar as questioned by the hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga, we are of the opinion that betelnut is not of smuggled goods if it is not imported. So, 5% GST is charged per 1kg. Since the Assam Rifles are of direct control of Union Home Ministry, they may set up a check post within the area of 10 kms of its regime. So, we have often clashed with each other due to their check gates being set up at various points. We are therefore taking measure so as to stop betelnut trades in this region. Regarding the allegation of forged certificate as being issued from MAMCO, Taxation Department is not aware of issuing such certificate.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, if the statement of hon. Minister that 'the decision for discontinuation of betelnut trade being finalized by the government' is his final answer?

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: That is the case of its finalizing and we should take measure for it. As I have mentioned earlier, initiatives will be taken in this matter.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, if the government only determining the case but with no final decision being made as to whether legalizing or discontinuation of the said trade?

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Necessary step is being taken. As mentioned before, betelnut itself is not a smuggled goods, if not, it should be of illegal goods. I am saying that the item is of highly suspicious since betelnut is not cultivated in Champhai region. Thus, we are taking necessary steps to that effect.

SPEAKER : It is not appropriate to raise a question with the intention of spreading such topic on social media. Anyway, you may continue.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Moving on to our topic, we are not aware of tax being taken by Assam Rifles. Regarding staff quarter, there is no plan as of now.

Regarding the questions raised by Pu Lalsawivunga, GST is obtained through e-way bill, otherwise, it is illegal. It may as well be noted that tax collected from betelnut trade increases the total amount of our GTS collections. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhuanthanga to ask *Starred Question* No. 23.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Technical Education Department be pleased to state-

If there is a plan to establish a new College at Tuirial? If so, what is the progress made so far?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker the answer to the hon. Member's questions is –

There is no plan to establish a new college at Tuirial as of now. So, there is no initiatives being made.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu Lalchhuanthanga

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, setting up of a new college was often a mention before 2018 election. So, is that just a propaganda to win more votes? I regret that it is the same thing as 3 lakhs which had been assured for distribution.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu K.T. Rokhaw.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Speaker. When will Science stream study be re-opened at Siaha Govt. College?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, may the hon. Minister be pleased to mention regarding construction of parking lot and the approach road to Zirtiri Residential Science College, Durtlang? Will more attentions be given to the construction of Durtlang Women Polytechnic compound and its internal road?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister to answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Regarding establishing a new college at Tuirial, I believe it was just a rumor as usual in every election. Anyway, it may be noted that the New Education Policy which will soon be implemented have many criteria which cannot be ignored. Yet, there is a plan for shifting of colleges located in the heart of Aizawl to the outskirts.

Regarding re-opening of science stream at Siaha College, we cannot expedite the process due to the pandemic. Yet, we are very much aware of the need and will be discussed in the Consultative Committee.

I have informed PWD officials regarding the approach road to Zirtiri Residential College and we will pursue the matter as necessary.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, there are many students in Siaha District who are compelled by their financial conditions to pursue their study at the nearest college at Siaha. I am sure that we will have a lot of science students if it is re-opened.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: If so, I think it is wise to have a quick survey.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, may I have a few words in this regard? (**Speaker:** Yes, you may)

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we had never mentioned regarding setting up of a new college at Tuirial but Anganwadi.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, we have heard it, but I am unsure of the source.

SPEAKER : To move on to the next question, Pu Lalrintlunaga Sailo to ask *Starred Question* No. 24.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister, Printing & Stationery be pleased to state –

- a) Nos. of operating level/working group of staff?
- b) Nos. of mini-offset in the department, and, if they are in function?
- c) Nos. of color digital printer in the department, and, if they are in function? If not, is there a plan to purchase new ones?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the questions.

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

- a) There are 110 nos. of working staff in Mizoram Printing & Stationery Department.
- b) We have 3 nos. of mini-offset and one, under-repaired.
- c) Printing & Stationery Department does not own any color digital printer. The Government does not have any intention to purchase a new one.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, if Mizoram Printing & Stationery Department has only 110 nos. staff as stated by the hon. Minister himself, I opine more staff is needed. If there is any proposal for recruitment of more staffs? Also, we have a stationery depot at Luangmual which has not been renovated for a long time. If there is any intention to renovate the depot

Regarding mini-offset, information I receive is not the same with the statement of the hon. Minister. From what I gather, there are three mini-offset printers and one is not working, one under repair which means only one is in function.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question is: -

- i) Do all the departments under the State Govt. refer their printing materials to Printing & Stationery Department as regulated by the government?
- ii) If the department able to achieve its revenue target?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer to the hon. member Pu Lalrintluanga's questions is as follows: –

- i) There is no plan to recruit more employees under Printing & Stationery Department and so is renovation of depot at Luangmual.
- ii) Regarding the questions raised by the hon. member Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte, Guidelines on Execution of Printing Works in Mizoram Government Press, 2008 is more or less followed by the departments; yet, a reminder is needed occasionally.
- iii) Due to the pandemic, it is not certain if our target will be achieved. As of now, it is barely ₹180 lakhs and we still need ₹60 lakhs more to achieve it. I hope we would achieve this within these two months.

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana to ask *Starred Question* No. 25.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department be pleased to state-

If the department procured rice during the year 2019-2020? If so, how many and at what rate?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer is – Yes. It is purchased from the following sources: -

The amount purchased is:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| i) FCI | - | 9,11,975.50 qtls. |
| ii) MIZOFED | - | 5,14,105.32 qtls. |
| Total | - | 14,26,078.82 qtls. |

It was purchased at the following rates (NFSA Rate 9 FCI)

- i) AAY - @₹300/- per qtl.
- ii) Priority - @₹300/- per qtl.
- iii) Tide-over rice - @₹830/- per qtl.
- iv) MIZOFRED (Open Market Procurement) - ₹2,750/- per qtls.

OMSS (D) (FCI):

- i) ₹2,785/- per qtls.
- ii) ₹2,250/per qtls.
- iii) ₹2,260/-per qtls.

These rates may be changed according to the bid offered.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question:* Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : May the hon. Minister explain regarding 'tide-over rice' as the rate is higher? And, if the government purchase any from the local suppliers? If the government purchase from the local suppliers, I believe it will be of great encouragement to farmers to increase their production. If the government consider such policy.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question: Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.*

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

- i) During border dispute, if the government take any precautionary measure for regular supply of essential commodities?
- ii) What is the present status of our foods stockade? Will it last through this coming monsoon?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question: Again, Dr. Vanlalhlana.*

DR. VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department be pleased to state –

May the department carry out inspection on consumer goods like iron rod, cements etc. by acquiring cooperation of YMA/YLA/Civil Societies etc. as there is shortage of staff in Legal Metrology Deptt. to do so? May the department take expedite measure on incorrect weighing of rice as I had mentioned in the previous session as well?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer it.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, purchase rate of tide-over rice is usually higher so as to provide security to AAY and priority household. And, we are very much willing to purchase rice from the local suppliers but none has approached us to do so. We purchase 23 qtls. only from Bilkhawthlir last year.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, what is rate offers by the department for local supply of rice? I believe this factor will decide whether farmers should approach the government for selling their products.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we purchase rice at the rate of ₹2,750/- per quintal from other states and, we are willing to offer the same price to the local suppliers.

Pu Speaker, regarding safeguard measures during the border issues, our main supply entrance was blocked, we have tried our best to store up the supplies specially rice which will last for at least 3 months. Thus, we arranged alternate route for oils through Tripura and Manipur. We have constructed 10 nos. go-down and 21 nos. under construction. Initiative had also made for extension of Mualkhang Gas Bottling Plant and for oil depot at Bairabi.

Regarding the question raised by Dr. Vanlalhlana, Legal Metrology Department had not availed cooperation of NGO's as asked. And, suggestion made by the hon. Member is well-appreciated and will be ensued. Likewise, immediate action will be taken to regularize the department's weighing system as suggested.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Pu Speaker, the weight of sack is included while weighing of rice on unloading at Zuangtui go-down. Will it be more appropriate not to include the weight of rice sack when delivered by the retailers?

PU K. LALRINLIANA MINISTER: Pu Speaker, e-post machine is provided to every retailer in order to avoid miscalculations.

SPEAKER : We have now come to the end of *Question Hour*. Now, we will take up *Statement* from hon. Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana regarding the sudden death of a student of Zoram Medical College.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. On the 24th February, 2021 at 12: 00 AM, a student of Zoram Medical College named Nazar Chakma, age 21 was found death in his hostel room.

Nazar Chakma s/o Santi Frilde Chakma from Chawngte was admitted at ZMC Falkawn on Dt. 31.7.2019 through Mizoram State quota to pursue his MBBS. On Dt 23.2.2021, 1st professional MBBS Result was published and he did not get through his exams. On the day of the incident as stated by his roommate, he stayed in his room without having breakfast. His roommate was out to play badminton at around 10: 00 AM. As he returned at 12:00 AM, the door of his room was locked. Then, with the help of others, it was opened and his roommate was found dead. It was immediately reported to Kulikawn Police Station as his family was also informed. From the statement made by his roommate, his family accepted that there is nothing suspicious about his death and hence, no postmortem was conducted. A beautiful coffin was made by Falkawn YMA and the death body was sent to Chawngte at around 4:45 PM. Many of his fellow students accompanied their friend's body to his hometown and they reached at around 3:00 AM in the morning. Thank you.

LAYING OF PAPERS

SPEAKER : We will now move on to *Laying of Papers*. I call upon the hon. House Leader who is in-charge of Minister of Finance to lay the following papers on the table of the House-

- i) Finance Accounts 2018-2019, Volume – I relating to Govt. of Mizoram.
- ii) Finance Accounts 2018-2019, Volume – II relating to Govt. of Mizoram.
- iii) Appropriation Accounts 2018-2019, relating to Govt. of Mizoram.
- iv) State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2019 relating to the Govt. of Mizoram.
- v) Economic Survey (2020- 2021) Govt. of Mizoram.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay the following papers on the table of the House –

- i) Finance Accounts 2018-2019, Volume – I relating to Govt. of Mizoram.

- ii) Finance Accounts 2018-2019, Volume – II relating to Govt. of Mizoram.
- iii) Appropriation Accounts 2018-2019, relating to Govt. of Mizoram.
- iv) State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2019 relating to the Govt. of Mizoram.
- v) Economic survey (2020- 2021) Govt. of Mizoram.

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed. The Chairman of Public Accounts Committee may now lay ‘Statement of Action taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 6th Action Taken Report, 2020 relating to Taxation Department’ on the table of the House.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay the ‘Statement of Action taken on the Further Recommendations of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 6th Action Taken Report, 2020 relating to Taxation Department’ on the table of the House.

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed. The hon. Member Pu Lawmawm Tochwawng may now lay, ‘Statement on Action taken by the Government on Further Recommendations contained in the 2nd Action Taken Report of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table relating to Home Department, Finance Department, Higher & Technical, Education Department, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department and General Administration Department on the table of the House.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay, ‘The Statement on Action taken by the Government on Further Recommendations contained in the 2nd Action Taken Report of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table relating to Home Department, Finance Department, Higher & Technical, Education Department, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department and General Administration Department’ on the table of the House.

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed. We will now move on to *Presentation of Reports.*

First Report of Rules Committee (2020-2021) of the Eight Mizoram Legislative Assembly had been submitted on Dt 9.10.2020 to the Speaker; and, according to the Rules 229, rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly, I present this report in this august House. The copy may be distributed.

Now, the hon. Chairman on Public Accounts Committee Pu Vanlalhlana may present to the House, ‘The Eighth Report on Actions taken by the Government against the Recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of Public Accounts Committee for the year 2014-2015 relating to Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department’.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I present “The Eighth Report on Actions taken by the Government against the Recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of Public Accounts Committee for the year 2014-2015 relating to Labor, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department” in this august House.

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed. Now, Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, Chairman on Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, may present, “The Third Report on Committee on Paper Laid on the Table (2020-2021)” in the House.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, with your permission, I present “The Third Report on Committee on Paper Laid on the Table (2020-2021)” in the House.

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed. We will now move on to *Legislative Business*.

The hon. Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana may introduce, ‘The Mizoram State Higher Education Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021’.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission, I introduce, ‘The Mizoram State Higher Education Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021’ in the House.

SPEAKER : You may appeal for further discussions.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission, I appeal ‘The Mizoram State Higher Education Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021,’ for discussion in the House.

SPEAKER : The hon. member has appeal to introduce the bill. Do we all agree to his appeal? (*Members: Agree*) Since we all agree, he may now proceed to move the Bill.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, there is a centrally sponsored scheme named Rashtriya, Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which is implemented in every state. State Higher Education Council should be established. So, we need to have a Legislative Act in this regard as early as possible.

Though ‘Mizoram State Higher Education Council Act’ was passed in 2017, it needs to be amended. Apart from many other points, it does not give a clear definition on the difference of the Advisory Council and the Executive Council. The appointment of the Chairman of Advisory Council and the Executive Council should also be clarified as the terms of member should also be amended along with the *Terms and Conditions* of

termination of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Clause 13, Sub-section 2 describes the salary of the Vice Chairman, Vice Chancellor of the University and Member Secretary. It will also stress on the repetition of the preamble. As we know, RUSA-I had ended, and with the beginning of the RUSA-II, funds will be sanctioned. It is a good funding source for the development of our educational institutions. So, I request all my fellow members to give their support in passing this Bill.

SPEAKER : We will now move on to discussion of the Bill. Each member will be allotted 5 minutes and, the hon. member Dr. F. Lalnunmawia will start.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Thank you, Pu Speaker, Subject Committee had often conducted spot-visit to different areas and I am very happy with the progress in various educational institutions under RUSA. I express my support in passing this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. member Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, there are 24 sections under the Amendment Original Act and 12 are proposed to be amended. So, why not make a new draft instead of proposing for amendments? Other States also have Higher Education Councils and it is mandatory for them to conduct at least once sitting in three months while in Mizoram, we do not have any Act of such kind. It is only fair that we support this Bill as these amendments are intended for the betterment of our educational system. Anyway, I hope it will be implemented in the best possible manner. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I have gone through the Act and also of other States and I am glad that the proposed sections for amendments are truly imperative. I also suggest that section 3, sub-section 4 needs to be carefully examined and be corrected along with section 16. I suggest that sitting/meeting is conducted more often. And, I express my support in passing this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu BD Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I asked myself if the amendment of section 3, sub-section 6 original clause (xiii) means there will be no industry, vocational education and skilled development in Higher Education.

In the amendment section 4, clause (ii), page no. 5, I suggest replacing the wording “the Search cum-Selection Committee will be three members’ by ‘will be of three members of eminent academic/public etc.’. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : The hon. member Pu Andrew H. Thangliana.

PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, RUSA may have many benefits, I believe to some extent, it only brings disgrace to the state government in many areas such as the inauguration of Pukpui Engineering College by the Prime Minister which remains without functioning. It will be important to conduct surveys on those institutions funded through RUSA. Anyway, I express my support in passing of this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Biakzaua is next.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Since there are no financial implications and only the 'Principal Act' is proposed to be amended, I express my support in passing this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, RUSA had achieved many progresses in our education institutions and all the proposed amendments are truly imperative as the Principal Act and the Rules does not correspond with each other. It is important that we receive funds in our institutions for development. So, I request all my fellow members to give their support in passing this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I will now call upon the hon. Minister to wind up the discussion and then beg the House to pass the Bill.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I thank all my fellow members for their ideas and suggestions on this issue. It was not established as per statutory order for is done in a haste for the executive order should be legislated within 2-5 weeks. This ministry was formed in December 2018 and then came the pandemic and were unable to make anything till 2020. Regarding the points highlighted by Dr. Vanlalthlana and Pu BD Chakma, it will be provided while drafting the rules.

Pu Speaker, we are fortunate to have 72 nos. sponsored faculty under RUSA. New Education Policy is now implemented all over the country with the criteria which is a bit difficult for us to follow. So, we need to concentrate on academic excellence. Anyway, I thank my fellow members for their suggestions and ideas. I appeal this august House to pass, 'The Mizoram State Higher Education Council Amendment Bill, 2020'. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister ha now appeal to pass "The Mizoram State Higher Education Council Amendment Bill, 2020". Now, all in favor to pass the Bill may say, 'Aye' and, those who oppose may say, 'No'. (*Members: Aye*)

The 'Ayes' have it since there is no objections. 'The Mizoram State Higher Education Council Amendment Bill, 2020' is unanimously passed by the House.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : We will now move on to the next business. The hon. Minister Dr. K. Beichhua may now introduce “The Mizoram Licensing and Regulations of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinic Bill,” in the House.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission, I introduce, ‘The Mizoram Licensing and Regulations of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinic Bill,’ in the House.

SPEAKER : Do we all agree? Alright. the hon. Minister may now introduce his Bill in the House.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINSITER: Pu Speaker, I introduce, ‘The Mizoram Licensing and Regulations of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinic Bill,’ in the House. Also, I appeal to move the Bill.

SPEAKER : You may now move the Bill.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with the growing of Veterinary Science and Medical Science, we too have achieved progress by establishing Veterinary College and Medical College. This Bill is divided into 7 parts and its contents are: –

- i) Chapter I - Preliminary, Short Titles, Extent and Commencement and Definition:
- ii) Chapter II - Licensing Authority Granting or Renewal of License, Licensing Authority and Application of License, Renewal to Issue etc. Renew License and Appeal from Refusal to Issue to License.
- iii) Chapter III - Condition for Granting License.
- iv) Chapter IV - License Cancellation.
- v) Chapter V - License Application by Veterinary Hospitals/Clinics already established, Provision for granting of license to already established hospitals and clinics.
- vi) Chapter VI - Appellate authority in case of refusal to grant license and cancellations.
- vii) Chapter VII - Miscellaneous, Power to make Rules. I request all my fellow members to give their support in passing this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will now move on to discussion. Each member will have 5 minutes and, hon. member Pu C. Lalsawivunga will start the discussion.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA : Pu Speaker, I, first of all express my support in passing this Bill as this will be very beneficial for private veterinary hospitals and their upkeep conditions. Pu Speaker, I would like to suggest that in Chapter III, more precautionary measures should be added in the term of minimum structural requirement as to ‘outside or far off residential area’. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu BD Chakma is next.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. As we are not sufficiently independent in supply of meat whereas 70% of meat supply is imported from outside. So, drafting the *Rules & Regulations* seems too early. I also believe that point given at chapter 3, sub-number (1) is too severe. Anyway, if this Bill should be implemented, we have to know that there is huge financial implication. So, I suggest we should review this Bill carefully. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Dr. F. Lalnunmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA : Pu Speaker, I am glad that the hon. Minister introduce this Bill as we are quite aware of the rising need of doctors and VFA's in our State. Establishing private hospital will be of much beneficial as it will also generate self-employment for many. In the process of implementing SEDP, our flagship programme, many will then choose animal farming as their trade. So, this Bill will be an important factor for the success of SEDP for it will also help in improving our health condition to a great extends. So, I will conclude by expressing my support in passing this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will now have a short recess and we will resume our session at 2: 00 PM.

2:00 PM

SPEAKER : To continue with our discussion, the hon. member Pu Lalmuanpuia may have his time.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. First, I express my support in passing, "The Mizoram Licensing and Regulations of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinic Bill". In today's world, domesticating pet animal is very popular apart from animal farming. So, it is wise to introduce this Bill for the overall progress of veterinary department. I am glad that proper rules and regulations will be implemented in private hospitals and as the hon. member said, it will also generate self-employment for many. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Dr. Vanlalhlana is next.

DR. VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. on page 13, under the administrative requirement (d), it is written that, 'The clinic shall provide or be a part of 24-hour emergency service'. I think this should be re-considered as it may create complications for our doctors and staff as we also do not expect allopathic doctors to be on call 24-hours. Apart from this point, I believe the rest are all very good and I express my support in passing this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Member Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Domesticating as well as farming animals is part of our lives in Mizo society since early days. So, it is important that we give attention to the health of our domestic animals and I am glad that the hon. Minister came up with this Bill. With shortage of staff in our govt. hospitals, establishing private ones under proper rules and regulations is a smart move for it will also help us in keeping our pet animals at home and in the farms. It is also wise that this Bill contains the authority to cancel license if hospitals are established only for profits for it should also be helpful in preventing various diseases like PRRS, African Swine flu etc. So, I conclude my speech by supporting the Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, I appreciate initiatives of the hon. Minister in having this Bill. As mentioned before, the objective is to control animal disease and its probable spread and also sanitation in and around the establishment in the interest of the public. As my constituency is of border area, this Bill will enable us to establish hospitals for attending sick animals checking their health which may be imported. So, I express my support in passing the Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu L. Thangmawia is next.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Apart from having quality meat products, it is appreciative as the health of domestic and farm animals will also improve accordingly. Particularly to those who take care of their pet so dearly will find this Bill very appreciative. I also believe this will be of much helpful to pet animals related associations like ASEP etc. So, I conclude my speech by stating my support to this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, I express my support in passing “The Mizoram Licensing and Regulations of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinic Bill,” as it is expected to improve overall health of farm and domestic animals. As in some advanced countries, privatization is quite important to achieve progress. So, passing this Bill will contribute a great deal for development of veterinary. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Dr. ZR Thiamsanga is next.

DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA : I am glad that the hon. Minister moves ‘The Mizoram Licensing and Regulations of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinic Bill,’ in the House as this will be of great significance in the future and as many of us have a deep affection for our pet animals. It is important that we will be able to enjoy the service of private clinics as their health is very vital. Routine checkup can now be conducted regularly as it generates employment to many. And, it will also help us improving our farm animals and the quality of the meat we consume. So, I support in passing the Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Biakzaua.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Pu Speaker, it is appreciative that the hon. Minister moves this Bill which is expected to have a great significance in our society and overall health of our pets and commercial animals. It is important that we give attention in such matters.

This Bill will also help us in preventing zoonotic disease to a great extent and also in generating employment for many. The *Objects and Reasons* clearly states all the benefits we will have if this Bill is passed. So, I state my support to the Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Andrew H. Thangliana.

PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I suggest as in many other places, it will be wise to regulate license to settle or exhibit animals in the clinics. This Bill will also help in improving overall health and for prevention of zoonotic disease. So, I support the Bill.

SPEAKER : Pu K.T. Rokhaw is next.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Going through the Bill, Pu Speaker, it is obvious that it is drafted carefully and it does not need any more suggestions or implications. As we are very familiar with domesticating as maintenance of their health a must, this Bill will enable us to improve the health of our pet animals especially to those people in my constituency. Besides, this will also generate employment for many and that regular health checkups of animals can be availed easily. So, I give my support to the Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Coming up is, hon. Member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is learned that Lawngtlai dispensary being arranged for hospital and buildings constructed at Mamit and Serchhip. I believe Chawngte is of dispensary with one doctor.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, for your information, the clinic at Chawngte which was once RAH is now functions as a dispensary with doctors and SDVO appointed. It upgraded recently.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, whatever it is, we should not blame the previous government as our needs and requirements changes with time.

Pu Speaker, I would like to propose a change in the text 'It shall extend to the whole state of Mizoram' as the Autonomous Councils should be excluded for having their own legislature on certain subjects. Other than that, I wholly support passing the Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana, hon. Member is next.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. As the hon. Member who speaks before have stated, we also received a gift of ground apple from Pu L. Thangmawia and Vitamin C from Dr. Thiamsanga. We are much thankful for it.

‘The Mizoram Licensing and Regulation of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinics Bill, 2021’ is a historic bill and the first of its kind not only in Mizoram, but the entire India. As such, it is suggestive that certain relaxations and understanding should be given to such clinics as they may not be able to meet all the provisions prescribed in the bill.

I applaud the hon. Minister for the formulation of this bill, and, I pledge my support for this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call the hon. Minister to wind up the discussion and ask permission of the House to pass the bill.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am deeply moved by the support and participation of the members. This bill will be the first of its kind not only in Mizoram, but the whole of India.

I do agree with Pu Lalsawivunga on establishing veterinary hospitals and clinics outside the residential areas and will be taken into consideration.

I do not feel the need for beauty parlor as mentioned by Pu BD Chakma and I would like to request for his understanding. At the moment, we hope and expect not to involve any financial implication.

In regards to page 16, chapter 3 (b) proposed by Dr. Vanlalhlana, 24-hours emergency service in a must in any kind of hospital.

Reacting to Pu Andrew, as proposed by the Animal Welfare Board selling of puppies by clinics is illegal and unwarranted.

Lawngtlai hospital as mentioned by Pu Ngunlianchung is previously a dispensary which is now functioning as a hospital with doctors and SDVO being appointed. However, they will be replaced by AH & Vety officers.

In regard to the text, ‘It shall extent to the whole State of Mizoram’, it concerns veterinarian ethics and etiquette observation and I do not feel the need to give exemption to Autonomous Councils.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, I believe we should respect their legislature and leave it to them as to adopt or reject this bill themselves.

SPEAKER : Pu BD Chakma has something to say.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, I opine inclusion of Autonomous Councils could be of a dilution of power. So, it is wise if we exempt the three Autonomous Councils from this bill.

SPEAKER : I believe the hon. Minister was speaking in good faith.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I do appreciate and understand their concerns as I am from the same area. In the meantime, the aforementioned text is the prevailing order in several bills and acts. Also, this bill is vetted by Law Department and approved by the Council of Ministers. As such, I believe this bill is acceptable as it is.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, even though it has passed through Law Department and Council of Ministers, there can be an oversight from their part which is the reason for my proposition.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I appreciate and respect the proposition of our member. If this issue had been brought up in the past, several bills would have exempted Autonomous Councils from these laws. I urge them to continue in the future.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, there are several laws undermining the legislature of Autonomous Councils and I would like the government to differentiate between them.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: We will do our utmost in the future. On that note, I would like to request this House to pass “The Mizoram Licensing & Regulation of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinics, 2021”. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has begged this House to pass “The Mizoram Licensing & Regulation of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinics, 2021”. All those in favor may say, “Agree” and those who do not, say, “Not Agree”.

The hon. Member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga has voted against passing of this bill.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, all in all, I commend the hon. Minister for this bill. However, I cannot accept the fact that this bill will extend to Autonomous Councils.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, this is not a permanent bill and there will come a time when amendment of this bill will be made.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Now is the time to make instead of waiting for the amendment. I regret that I cannot speak out in support of this bill.

SPEAKER : As explained by the hon. Minister, this bill is formatted for the whole of Mizoram for better administration and management in the veterinarian field.

40 members have voted in support of this bill while one member is against this bill. Since majority of this House has supported the bill, I declare “The Mizoram Licensing & Regulation of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinics, 2021” is passed by the House.

We have concluded our business for today and will continue tomorrow at 10:30 AM.

The sitting is adjourned. (3:11 PM)