

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

**LIST OF BUSINESS**

(FOR SECOND SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 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.

**LAYING OF PAPERS**

2. **DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House correction of Answers regarding NHM hnuaiia Covid-19 dona atana bungrua/equipment lei leh a man zat (NEC) in connection with U.Q No. 96 of Seventh Session of Eighth Legislative Assembly.
3. **PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of “The Mizoram Legislative Assembly (Grant of Loans and Advances to Members) (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2020”.

**PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

4. **DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA** to present to the House Second Report on Action Taken by the Government against the recommendation contained in the First Report of Subject Committee-V.
5. **PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG** to present to the House Fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendation contained in the Third Report of Committee on Paper Laid on the Table.
6. **PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG** to present to the House Fifth Report on Committee on Paper Laid on the Table.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

***Bill for introduction, consideration and passing***

7. **PU C. LALRINSANGA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing 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** : *Do not quickly provoke in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.*

- Ecclesiastes 7:9

The hon. Minister Pu Lalchamlia, Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma and Pu BD Chakma could not attend today's session. Now, we will proceed to *Questions & Answers*. I request Pu Lalduhoma to ask *Starred Question No. 21*.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, will the hon. P&E Minister be pleased to state -

There are so much complains regarding electric bill which is excessively hiked nowadays. My Question is -

If the electric bill is hiked based on consumption or there is something wrong in the process?

**SPEAKER** : let us call the hon. Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the question.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer is-

There are claims that the electric bill is hiked due to processing without meter-reading base. The fact is, a new electricity tariff is implemented since the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 which is increased by 20.7% from the previous rate. So, it means it is basically increased than before. The bill counter could not be opened due to the pandemic and only few people made online payment. So, the total amount of some bills is supposed to hike for they are of accumulated consumption of the last three or four months. Whereas there are some who could not pay the bill within the stipulated time and the total amount so tends to high. However, there is no surcharge in the billing since it is not of consumers' fault. Since the government enforced strict SoP during the pandemic, even the meter readers could not perform their services on regular basis. So, a provisional bill is processed based on the average unit of one's consumption per month during the last 3 months. And, measure is taken to regularize false meter readings.

**SPEAKER** : I call upon Pu Lalduhoma followed by Pu Zodontluanga Ralte and Dr. K. Pachhunga for *Supplementary Question*.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, my Supplementary Question is-

- i) It is possible to exempt meter readers from SoP?
- ii) There is a fixed charge based on connected load. May I know the detail of the fixation?

iii) It is learned that the government has a plan to increase the electric consumption bill by 75% and to incur the distribution loss of 18% to the consumers. As such is the case, my party had expressed our objection in the meeting of JERC which culminated a heated debate with the officials of the concerned department. As a result of our objection, JERC had proposed the increased rate at 20.68% which is much lower than that of the proposed rate of the department. My Question is – On what condition that the government proposed such an exorbitant increased rate of 75% which is not affordable for the consumers? incur

iv) Allegedly there are bills for four consecutive months which is claimed to have been processed without meter-reading base. May such bills be adjusted on payment for the following months so as to relief the burden of consumers concerned?

**SPEAKER** : Pu Zodintluanga Ralte is next.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. The government should concern the problems with the poor especially during this pandemic. All Party - All NGOs meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 and we proposed the government to implement free electricity bills for BPL families. So, I ask if this could be implemented.

**SPEAKER** : Dr. K. Pachhunga is next.

**DR. K. PACHHUNGA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The excessive increase of electricity bill is not of a new thing and this seems to be due to lack of sincerity with the officials. I have opinion from my experience that it is inappropriate to maintain the electric consumption bill alterable and to be effective to any complains. So, my question is – Is it possible that the process of billing system is digitalized?

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the questions.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, we need to take some measures if the department has wrongly increased the electricity bills. Regarding the fixed charge as asked by Pu Lalduhoma, it is ₹50 per kilowatt. Before JETRC fixed our tariff, the government proposed that the Electric Department may be improved so that it provides the need of the department itself. The total amount of employee's salary plus other charges is about ₹670 crore which is hardly affordable to the department. Thus, increase of bill is proposed on that base. This is the only source of income for the department and we may use the revenue on power purchase as well.

Regarding increase of rate by 75% as pointed by Pu Duha, I believe he got wrong information as the government determines to increase by 41.92%. Pu Speaker, the reason for increase of the electric consumption bill is mainly for payment of employee's salaries and other charges. For the same purpose, we also use the revenue for power purchase.

As of Pu Zodintluanga's question, BPL families are prioritized as usual in various dealings as we had once reduced their bill but is impossible to provide free of cost as we already have huge amount of debt. We also have given free connection to those BPL families. Likewise, MLAs too have paid for their rations. It may as well be noted that for maintenance of the department itself, ₹31 - ₹35 crore of purchase bill is utilized every month and it sometimes exceeds ₹37 crore. Such is our condition, Pu Speaker.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, none is allotted for development works in respect of all departments as most of the fund goes to Finance for the implementation of SEDP. Is it possible to allot the said provision at least to P&E department so that poorer section benefits from it in this time of crisis. And, I think I do understand the problem faced by the department.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, proposals made by the members are well-appreciated. I also suggest that MLA fund is increased so that we could help more of BPL families.

I agree with the point made by Pu Pachhunga regarding altering the electric bill which I also believe as for lack of sincerity. However, the concerned staffs often claim that processing a bill is not that simple as it is expected.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Pu Speaker, I need more explanations. If the electric consumption bill is increased for payment of staff salary, does it mean that the government is in short of fund to make provision for the salary and so imposed more charges to the public by increasing the electric bill?

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the government does not have fund as of now whereas even with the fund received from the central does meet the entire requirement for salaries. So, we need to generate some for ourselves which should be the practice of every department as well.

Pu Pachhunga has mentioned regarding technical error in processing the electric bill, it is true that wrong entry of data or figures is inevitable and thus should be regarded as a common mistake. Yet, we need to deal with due care and more efficiency. Regarding digitizing bill payment system, post-paid

is the main method and the central authority therefore suggested we implements pre-paid system. However, it could not be done as yet due to the pandemic.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : My question regarding the practice of random billing has not been reacted like consumers who have paid the bill in excess to their consumption and if such payment be adjusted by the following months; Also, if meter readers be exempted from SoP. I was informed that ₹50/- is the fixed charge from the connected load and it seems that the charge differs according to the connected load.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, most of us uses domestic with the charge of ₹4.81 per unit.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, it seems that the minister did not understand my question as that is their consumption rate. My question is of the connected load. There are high and low connected loads with a separate charge for each. He may give it so later if he is not furnished with the answer as of now.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** It is a bit difficult for me to understand all the details. I had the same experience once and the bills is adjusted by the next payment or so. Also, approach will be made for exemption of meter reader from SoP if we ever have to encounter this kind of crisis.

**SPEAKER** : Now, *Starred Question No. 22* to be asked by Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

**PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Home Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If ration supply is provided to the Police forces who are on duty at Assam-Mizoram border. If so, how?
- b) Whether the government has a plan to provide additional allowances to such forces. If so, by what means, and if not, why?
- c) The amount of monthly allowance received by the Armed Police forces. Also, the amount of monthly ration money received by the Mizoram Police.

**SPEAKER** : As we are aware, Pu Speaker, the hon. Home Minister is advised by the doctors not to attend today's session due to Covid-19 and he handed over the charge to our Chief Minister. So, I request the hon. CM to give the answer in his behalf.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** The answer is-

- a) Yes, ration supply is provided and each of the police receives 2 cups of rice per day.
- b) There is no intention to provide additional allowance since it can create inequality among the Police forces. Also, approval of Finance Department is necessary to do so.
- c) The Armed Police received Rifles allowance of ₹40/- per month and the Mizoram Police received ration allowance of ₹1,000/- per month.

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary Question* from Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

**PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA :** Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am informed of 2 cups of rice being provided to each police who are on duty at the border. However, they need to contribute ₹2,000/- every month from their salaries to buy groceries and drinking water. Their foods are prepared at Vairengte and the suppliers need to walk 8 kms to deliver foods for such police forces despite containers not being provided to deliver the foods. So, I am asking if additional allowance is made for their ration supply and drinking water.

Also, it may as well be important to provide them with power supply, if possible, solar inverter?

Also, our Police forces are sleeping on the floor while the Assam Police sleep on a bed under a fine tent just on the opposite side. So, may the government provide them with their comforts and other needs?

Lastly, it is learned that 70 nos. of our police at the border are affected by Covid-19. May the government provide them with free medical treatment and doctors and nurses to attend their health? Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Now, *Supplementary Question* from Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, my questions are as follows: -

- i) The Rifles allowance was ₹4 during the British Rule and is now ₹40. In view of the present economic condition, may the amount be increased at ₹250?
- ii) North Eastern Police Academy, Shillong contributes ₹4,000/- every month for Ration Allowance whereas the Mizoram Police contributes ₹2,500/- for the same but quality of the supply is still bad. It is possible to increase their ration allowance?

- iii) Our police receive kits maintenance allowance which is quite less to mention. Also, they have dresses separately for day and night, ceremonial dress, inspection dresses etc. and is difficult for them to maintain from their salary alone. So, may the allowance for kits maintenance be raised?
- iv) Also, they received ₹90/- for washing allowance while nurses and health workers who have lesser uniforms received ₹450/- every month. So, is it possible to provide the police with the same amount?
- v) Lastly, a special training for armorer take one year but without additional allowance. So, may the allowance be made for such training?

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalchhuanthanga is next.

**PU LALCHHUANTHANGA:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. I have 3 supplementary questions: -

- i) If there is a proposal to equip the new duty posts at the border?
- ii) Is there any plan to fill the vacant posts under Police Department?
- iii) There is a statement released by the Assam Chief Minister declaring that 4000 commandos would be deployed at the border. What is the plan of our government to counter this decision?

**SPEAKER** : As mentioned before, the hon. Chief Minister will now give the answer on behalf of the concerned minister.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, you have mentioned that any other supplementary questions will not be entertained. However, there are about 14 additional points.

Anyway, to answer the question of Pu Lalsawivunga, we will look into the matter and provide additional amount of rice to the frontline fighters.

**PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA :** Pu Speaker, it will be appreciative if it is done. At the same time, I urge that measure is taken by the government so that the police are not contributes from their own salary for purchase of foods etc.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Chief Minister is courteous to answer your questions as much as possible. So, we should stop disturbing while he is standing.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, we are aware of scarcity of water in the areas around and takes necessary step to provide them with drinking water. As of power supply, we will provide them with solar panel which is available at Power Department. As instructed, we have been

informed with their needs on various occasions. So, we will provide them with their essential needs as being given. Regarding covid treatment, we will absolutely provide free treatment.

Pu Lalduhoma has suggested increase of Rifles allowance to ₹250/-and we will examine the case. It was recommended that overall allowances such as ration supply, clothing etc. be increased. As I have stated before, their salary itself is increased enough yet, the case may be examined as necessary. As of washing and kits maintenance allowance, it will be considered in due course.

Regarding filling up of the vacant posts under Home Deptt., as asked by Pu Lalchhuanthanga, there was a plan but we could not proceed with it due to the pandemic. Yet, it will be done as soon as our situation is improved.

As of the decision of the Assam Chief Minister on border issue, I cannot make a comment. However, it is our intention to prepare our forces for any possible incident in the border areas. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us now call upon Pu Zodintluanga Ralte to ask Starred Question No. 23.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for Commerce & Industries Department be pleased to state-

If the government has any plan to re-open the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade which was closed due to the pandemic?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana to answer.

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, international trade is the jurisdiction of the Central Govt and authority of the State Govt. is limited to this concern.

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Pu Speaker, thank you. My questions are: -

1. Is there any intention to open the Indo-Bangla Border Trade at Tlabung - Kawrpuichhuah? And,



2. If there is any plan to construct a new building for Lunglei Super Market? If so, what is the progress?

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

**PU L. THANGMAWIA** : Pu Speaker, harvest season is coming up. So, if the government has any plan for regulating imported rice and vegetables so as to promote our own productions?

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. The process of importing goods and various commodities is continuing despite closing of border trade due to the pandemic whereas the Department of Taxation too is imposing GST from imported areca nuts. My question is - If the government is aware of this ongoing business of areca nut? Also, may the government make an approach to the central for the immediate functioning of our border-trade?

**SPEAKER** : May I now call upon the hon. Minister, Dr. R. Lalthangliana to answer the questions.

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. First, I would like to inform the House that I have no knowledge if the Taxation Deptt. is imposing GST from imported areca nut.

Due to the political condition of Myanmar, expedite measure could not be taken on border-trade. We will approach the central to facilitate border-trade with Myanmar.

Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng's question is of an important matter. Construction of Lunglei Super Market will soon be started with NEC funding. Also, development is seen with the initiative for immediate functioning of Indo-Bangladesh border trade at Tlabung - Kawrpuichhuah. We do have a plan for a joint meeting with the govt. of Bangladesh as soon as the pandemic issue cease to exist.

I regret myself for having a little time for the dealing of Trade & Commerce Deptt. during the pandemic. At the same time, I appreciate that the Commissioners and Directors are working hard to provide regular supply of vegetables and other products throughout Mizoram.

**PU L. THANGMAWIA** : Pu Speaker, my question concern more of regulation on imported commodities than that of local productions.

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, measure is taken for maintaining the balance between imported products and of local productions. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : *Question Hours* has ended. Let us now call upon Pu Zodintluanga Ralte for a *Special Mention*.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. My topic today is an important issue regarding the problem faced by the Mizos when travelling to Assam.

As we are all aware, Pu F. Lalrotluanga of Bilkhawthlir was arrested by the Assam Police on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 for allegedly keeping heroin drug in his bus and has now been jailed at Silchar. According to some sources, Pu F. Lalrotluanga had never been involved in any illegal business but caught in a trap of some unknown miscreants who might have been placed such illegal drug in the bus. The same happened to 4 Mizos at Phainuam and, that being the cases, the Assam Government released a statement following the incident on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 by issuing search warrant to every vehicle entering from Mizoram.

In fact, every State Police have the right to enforce search warrant to any suspected person or private vehicle but to do so in random is violation of the fundamental rights of the travelers which should be taken seriously by Govt. of Mizoram. Thus, this issue should be taken up to Supreme Court to safeguard the dignity of the Mizo people. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister to make a *Statement*.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Regarding the incident, A bus owned by Pu Lalrotluanga hired by Rev. Malsawmtluanga for carrying household items to Shillong plus, 20 bags of areca nuts owned by Mr. Monan Chanigat for payment of 4,500/-. Since there was a problem with the clutch system, the bus was taken to Bagha Bazar for repairing. Knowing the owner of the bus as honest person, the police did not make a proper search on his bus.

The vehicle was stopped at the patrolling outpost of Lailapur for search as 24 gms heroin inside the bag of areca nuts. Subsequently on 29.7.2021,

the Assam Government issued search warrant to all vehicle entering their state from Mizoram claiming the majority of illegal drugs being captured coming from this side. This order and the travel advisory order that the Assam Govt. has issued are severely opposed by the Govt. of Mizoram. So, this was communicated to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India on 30.7.2021 with a request to intervene to have the Assam Govt. withdrawn its orders.

As a result, the travel advisory was withdrawn but the search warrant to all vehicle remains officially enforced. Since the said order was issued immediately after the border clash, tension was high at that time. The political condition has dies down to some extents and we will continue to safeguard our borders with all our might. However, we will take the high road and will not resort to devious schemes. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : We will now move on to *Laying of Papers*; the hon. Minister, Dr. R. Lalthangliana to lay on the table of the House, “Correction of Answers regarding NHM, (NEC) (equipment purchased and their prices due to Covid-19) in connection with U.Q. No. 96 of Seventh Session of Eighth Legislative Assembly”.

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay on the table of this House, “Correction of Answers regarding NHM, (NEC) (equipment bought and their prices due to covid-19) in connection with U.Q. No.96 of Seventh Session of Eighth Legislative Assembly”.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. Let us now call upon the hon. Minister Pu TJ Lalnuntluanga to lay before the House, “The Mizoram Legislative Assembly (Grant of Loans and Advances to members) (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2020”.

**PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay before this House, “The Mizoram Legislative Assembly (Grant of Loans and Advances to Members) (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2020”.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. We will move on to *Presentation of Reports* and invite Dr. ZR Thiamsanga, Chairman of Subject committee V to present “Second Report on Action Taken by the Government against the recommendation contained in the First Report of Subject Committee V”.

**DR. Z.R. THIAMSSANGA:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I present the “Second Report on Action Taken by the Government

against the recommendation contained in the First Report of Subject Committee V” relating to Mizoram Engineering College under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Higher & Technical Education Department”. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. Move on to the next laying of papers, Let us call upon Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, Chairman, Committee on Paper Laid on the Table to lay the following papers before the House.

“Fourth Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Recommendation contained in the Third Report of Committee on Paper Laid on the Table”

“Fifth Report on the Committee on Paper Laid on the Table”

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I present “Fourth Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Recommendation contained in the Third Report of Committee on Paper Laid on the Table”.

Pu Speaker, “The Mizoram Liquor Prohibition Act” was passed by this House on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 with rules making provisions contained in Chapter 6, Section 53. However, even after two years has passed, we were unable to construct rules for this. The Committee would like to urge the Government to speed up the process of making rules for this Act as it affects the livelihood of several business owners.

Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I present “Fifth Report on the Committee on Paper Laid on the Table”. This paper contained a list of departments who are unable to make rules till now for Bills passed by this House. This paper is presented to encourage departments to accelerate the making of rules. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. We will now move on to Legislative Business Bill. Let us call upon the hon. Minister, Pu C. Lalrinsanga to ask the permission of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021”.

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I beg to introduce “The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021”.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister has asked the permission of the House to introduce his bill. Do we all in agree? (**Members:** Agree) Let us call upon the hon. Minister, Pu C. Lalrinsanga to introduce and move the bill.

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I introduce “The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021”.

Pu Speaker, this bill is created with help Revenue Department to alleviate the farmers and their working conditions. Due to unavailability of proper rules, there are several landowners who dare not lease out their land for farming and vice versa.

Pu Speaker, according to concrete proposal submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission for the year 2021-2022, State implementing Agriculture Land Leasing Act are to be given financial incentive to enhance improvement on agriculture and farmers.

There are 4 chapters, 22 sections with a number of clause and sub-clause within this Bill. This Bill is to be implemented within Mizoram excluding Autonomous Council Area.

Section 2, clause (g) contains the word ‘scheduled tribe’ which includes different liability groups such as self-help group, Farmers Producers Organization (FPO), Farmers Producers Company.

Section 2 of sub-section (h) requires slight modification for welfare of farmers. I therefore, request to approve my Bill as in the amended form.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister has asked for amendment on chapter one under definition page 1 (h).

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Section -II (h), Land or...

**SPEAKER** : What will come after “means a person who owns agriculture lands outside the defined area on the strength of LSC issued by Land Revenue & Settlement Department, Government of Mizoram”? So that I can have a written record.

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, our focus is not only LSC holders but also periodic patta and VC pass holders. It is for better convenience of land holders.

**SPEAKER** : You have requested for an amendment while the rules state that written application for amendment must be cleared in two days. However, 84 states that “Nevertheless the Speaker may allow a verbal amendment being proposed at the time of consideration of the Bill clause by clause, provided such amendments is, in his opinion essential to carrying out the objects of the Bill”. The sentence stating that ‘for upliftment of farmers and cultivators’ has grab my attention. Would you please repeat the part where an amendment is requested?

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, (h) states that ‘Land owner means a person who owns agricultural land outside notified town area on the strength of LSC’, we felt that LSC will not cover all aspect of farmers and would like to insert ‘or document of land ownership issued by the competent authority’ right after ‘LSC issued by the Land Revenue & Settlement Department, Govt. of Mizoram’ and just before ‘has’.

**SPEAKER** : I agree to your request. You can continue.

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has created financial incentive for agriculture reform and will grant incentives to States adopting this Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister has made the necessary clarifications, reasons and objectives of the Bill.

We will now start discussion of the Bill. Five minutes will be allotted to each member with extra time for group leaders.

**DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. I am pleased that an important bill is moved for discussion today. It is going to be an important factor for successful implementation of our flagship programme, SEDP.

Cadastral Survey is conducted widely, database is collected and landowners and landless are also recorded.

Pu Speaker, it is noted that there are a few unclaimed lands whereas we are stated to have a vast land. It is expected that the Bill, when enforced will solve many of our problems in land system, agriculture, horticulture and farming.

I, therefore fully support the Bill in the full amended form.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte followed by Pu VL. Zaithanzama.

**PU LALRINSANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. The Bill presented by the hon. Minister will solve many problems faced by farmers and cultivators when implemented.

It is evident that the Minister concerned is actively involved in the move to finding a solution to problem acutely faced by farmers and cultivators.

Low lying potential areas we have for wet rice cultivation at the border are largely owned by well to do families who employed non-mizo residents to cultivate their land. All these will be settled when the present bill is implemented. This Bill is going to be a prelude for improvement in agriculture particularly for generations to come.

Pu Speaker, it is necessary for Agriculture and Revenue Department to actively work together and coordinate together. In 2010, 12 lands owned by Mizo people at Aitlang, Vairengte was seized by Assam. Had proper documentation/patta been issued to them by the department earlier, such case could be avoided.

I strongly support the passing of this Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu VL. Zaithanzama followed by Pu H. Biakzaua.

**PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA :** Pu Speaker, while I do expect this Bill to be benefitted by farmers and cultivators, “details, terms and conditions of lease agreement” and “registration and recording of lease agreement” under pages 4 and 5 do not transcend my expectations.

Under ‘terms and conditions of lease agreement’ it states that the government will not intervene in regards to the duration and rate of the lease. Under ‘registration and recording of lease agreement’ it also states that the lease agreement may or may not be registered. It is my belief that the government will not intervene on the important matters. (Dy. Speaker at the chair)

I would like to request that the government should intervene regarding these matters as they are the most important issues. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Pu H. Biakzaua.

**PU H. BIAKZAUA** : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I am pleased that the hon. Minister has submitted 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021'. It is evident that the Minister concerned is actively involved in the move to finding a solution to problem acutely faced by farmers and cultivators.

Glancing through the objectives and reasons of the Bill, it is evident that this Bill benefits both the landowners and lessee and will undoubtedly increase agriculture and allied products. If this Bill is passed, it will not only benefit farmers and cultivators, but will benefit the States as well.

It will also safeguard our land as well as the rights of landowners and lessees. On this note, i would like to give my support for this Bill. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Dr. Vanlalhlana.

**DR. VANLALTHLANA** : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. The Bill presented by the hon. Minister will solve many problems faced by farmers and cultivators when implemented. The government needs to follow up on this Bill so that, it can be a success.

I do have some suggestions regarding the rules. I belief it will be more practical if they set the limit to VC pass that one family can hold. Also, fair rates should be introduced so that there will be no exploitation on either side.

Lastly, the Kaladan Multi Modal Transport Project is almost completed. They will require lands to operate and will be able to do so using land lease. They will be able to lease our agriculture land even though they might be used for other purposes. We should be able to safeguard our land in such events. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : We will now have lunch break and will continue with our discussion at 2:00 PM.

*(Recess)*

**2:00 PM**

**SPEAKER** : Let us now call upon Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo to start the discussion.

**PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I am glad to be able to take part in the discussion of 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill,



2021'. It is evident that the Minister concerned and the departments actively involved in the move to finding a solution to problem acutely faced by farmers and cultivators.

Undoubtedly, this Bill is not faultless. However, I do hope that it will benefit both the landowners and farmers thereby, increasing agriculture and allied products.

I am grateful and appreciate the owner of this Bill for its nationalism as we have to safeguard our own lands.

I would like to provide two important points that is missing in this Bill. Firstly, I believe it is important to cement and introduce land ceiling system within this Bill to provide equality.

Secondly, in order to safeguard our land, the government should prepare for settlement along border villages. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Vanlalhlana is next.

**PU VANLALHLANA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. I appreciate that I could be able to be a part of the discussion for 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021'.

This Bill does not fit the image and culture of Mizoram and might not be practical at this point. We do not have enough lands for rice cultivation to implement the Bill. However, we do have several potential agricultural lands where implementation of this Bill will be crucial.

I do appreciate the fact that this Bill was presented even though the duration of this Session is only three days. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Zothantluanga

**PU ZOTHANTLUANGA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. I am glad to be able to take part in the discussion of 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021'. I applaud the hon. Minister and department concerned for presenting this kind of Bill in spite of the pandemic.

'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021' will pave the way for increased agriculture production. It will also safeguard our lands against illegal settlement by other states.

Lastly, I would like to give my support for this important Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

**PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021' is the first of its kind and firstly, I would like to give my support for this Bill. I also support the amendment proposed by the hon. Minister regarding the inclusion of the owner's name in VC pass and other form of land pass.

I would also like to suggest that a minimum period is set in the lease agreement to better benefit lessees. Under page 5, I would like to suggest that registration be made a priority for land lease agreement to avoid exploitation on both sides. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalrindika Ralte followed by Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

**PU LALRINDIKA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to convey my support for this Bill as I feel that it is an important Bill for the upliftment of farmers and cultivators. I thank the hon. Minister for presenting this Bill.

The hon. Minister has mentioned that this Bill was produced to address the problems acutely faced by farmers and cultivators. It is my desire that this Bill is utilized the way it was intended to be. We are fortunate that God has blessed us with this land and it is our responsibility to use this land as God intended.

Lastly, I do hope that this Bill will be used in the way it was intended which is for the upliftment of farmers and cultivators. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Dr. ZR Thiamsanga, the hon. member is next.

**DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. I thank the concerned Minister and department for 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021. This Bill is one of the many steps taken by the ministry to uplift the condition of farmers and cultivators.

Even though the pandemic has hampered the efforts made the government, the hon. Minister was able to present this important Bill and I commend the hon. Minister for his effort.

Through this Bill, farmers and cultivators will be able to form cooperative society, have crop insurance, disaster relief and several other functions. This Bill will also enable the State to safeguard its boundaries and surrounding areas.

Although, this Bill might not be flawless, it will pave the way for farmers, cultivators and landowners. Lastly, I pledge my support for this Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Next is, Er. H. Lalzirliana.

**ER. H. LALZIRLIANA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021' incorporates several areas which will benefit farmers and cultivators. It encompasses the current Mizo society and practices and will continue to do so in the future.

It might not be perfect and there might be areas that need improvement. However, the principle itself is satisfactory and will encompass the future generation of farmers and cultivators. I thank the hon. Minister and department for their efforts in creating this Bill.

I would like to suggest the revision of arbitration clause and fixation of rates to avoid exploitation. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

**PU C. LALMUANPUIA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. I am grateful to the hon. Minister for presenting 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021' today. We are entering a new era in the field of development and I am grateful to be a part of this era.

We are fortunate that this kind of Bill had been presented at this House. This Bill include not only agriculture, but also allied activities such as animal husbandry, diary livestock and products, poultry farming, stock breeding, fisheries and sericulture. This will pave the way for implementation of our flagship programme, SEDP and in turn provide livelihood for the people.

Lastly, I pledge my support to 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021'. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu K.T. Rokhaw followed by Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

**PU K.T. ROKHAW** : Pu Speaker, thank you. 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021' has been explained by the concerned Minister and is evident that it is a practical and achievable Bill.

This Bill mostly concerns landowners and lessees and would provide livelihood for them. It will also provide protection to both the landowners and lessee. It will also provide financial incentive and grants to lessees as well as several other form of financial rewards.

The Bill is straightforward and simple and I thank the hon. Minister and department for their efforts in creating this Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021' has already been created by the Central Government with its intention to uplift the condition of farmers and cultivators across India. It was recommended and proposed by the Finance Commission for the States to adopt the Bill.

I have one reservation regarding the passing of this Bill. I am concerned that this Bill is presented and will be passed due to the financial incentive that comes with the passing of this Bill. On that note, I would like to urge the hon. Minister and this ministry to utilize this Bill as intended by the bill. That is to improve and promote the livelihood of farmers and cultivators. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

**DR. VANLALTANPUIA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. I am grateful that the hon. Minister has presented us with 'The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021'. We are fortunate to have an agriculture minister who is deeply interested and absorbed in agriculture. I feel privileged to be a part of this and I deeply appreciate the Bill presented by the hon. Minister.

Today, we are wearing our Legislators hat and discussing an important Bill which will pave the way for agriculture for years to come. As mentioned by members before me, this Bill has several merits although it might not be perfect. The execution falls upon us legislators and the success if this Bill depends on how we implement and utilize the Bill.

I strongly believe that this Bill marked the beginning of a new era in agriculture and I firmly support the passing of this Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu L. Thangmawia.

**PU L. THANGMAWIA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. I believe that this Bill marks the beginning of a new era for agriculture in Mizoram and I do hope that it will be a success.

This Bill will pave the way for agricultural development and will benefit landowners, lessees, farmers and cultivators. The Bill itself is satisfactory although it might not be perfect.

Looking at our system in Mizoram, this Bill will be applicable immediately to some extent.

Pu Speaker, our legislators will make amendments as required in the future but for the moment we need to implement this and since we do not have a desirable area for wet rice cultivation, I believe this will aid in the irrigational system.

**SPEAKER** : Hon. member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Thank you Pu Speaker. As we have listened and read before, the Bill contains the guide to achieve more production for farmers and an agreement between landowners and leasee cultivators. This will definitely help in attaining self-sufficiency in our state and in order to achieve the goal there are many duties which had to be carried out by the ministry and the people. Like the country of Israel, it will be wise to utilize the border area for cultivation as this will also help in protecting our border areas. I am positive this Bill will bring about a change and development for our society, so, I express my support in passing this Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana.

**PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER:** Thank you Pu Speaker. I have been anxiously waiting for the implementation of such Bills since I have been very conscious of the land leasing system in our State where the leasee cultivators are mostly non-tribals and have most the profits. So, this Bill will surely create a balance between the land owners and the lease cultivators.

Though we are aiming to increase our harvest of rice, I believe we can also apply this method in the domestication of animals and fish farming. I hope this Bill will result in the economic development of our state and also

act as a factor to inspire our youths. So, I express my support in passing “The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021” Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Hon. member Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, the Central Government has already implemented “Model Land Leasing Act” and a notice was given that every state should follow the same. Even before, the Mizo society had already practiced the system of land leasing. But to practice with proper rules and regulations may be better but, I hope it does not clash with Land Revenue Act. I heard that an amount of ₹ 40 crores will be allocated if this Bill is passed, so I request our hon. Minister to clear this for us and I think it will be wise to add that the land owner should also be from a tribal community for our own safety.

It is written that ‘Land owner/leaser means a person who owns agricultural land outside notified town area’ but this may need to be amended soon and so does the ‘model form of agreement’ in the annexure 3.5. I think corrections are also needed in clause 5 annexure (a). If this Bill has to be amended, I suggest ‘Special Land Tribunal’ should be established.

As mentioned by the CLP leader, the rules should be drafted so that we may be able to implement it as soon as possible. Is it not enough that the model agreement 3.4 is highlighted once, since the same sentence is written five times in a row. I also request that detail explanation be given regarding 6.3. I think it will also be wise to add the local VC or the concern BDO or SDO among the signatory witness. It is also important that the people are provided awareness in this matter and I will conclude by express my support in passing this Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Hon. Deputy Chief Minister Pu Tawnluia.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I express my gratitude towards my fellow members for expressing their support in passing this Bill. Many families under my constituency have cultivated tomatoes and this Bill will provide a great advantage for them.

This Bill contains many facilities and I am glad that under this Bill farmers will be able to take loans from different financial institutions; they will also be able to claim minimum support prize and subsidies. All these provide security for them and VC pass will also be accepted by the government in order to uplift farmers. So, I request all my fellow members to agree in passing this Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Zoramthanga, the hon. House Leader.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Thank you Pu Speaker, I am glad that we are expressing our support in this Bill and it is important that rules are drafted so that it may be implemented soon. I am glad that it is written that the lessee should only be from scheduled tribe as this indicates protection of the land and Mizo tribe. I do not think we will face problems regarding the leaser of land being a non-tribal since Assam Rifles and BRO's cannot lease out land in our State.

Regarding the signatory under 7(b) it is written that, "A written lease agreement may be attested by Village Council/Local Council or any local bank officer or a notary with two witnesses' and they should also be witnessed by the VC, LC and a bank officer but the registration should be done at the DC headquarter which may be complicated for remote rural areas. So, I suppose it will be wise to accept the witness of the concern VC.

Since there can be no cultivated land within the town area, I assume 'Notified town' is included in the Bill. I also want to state that implementing Land Ceiling Act may be tough but, we can change our method by increasing the amount of taxes. This Bill may not be perfect but when rules are drafted it will be more ideal and I convey my support in passing this Bill.

**SPEAKER** : Let us now call the hon'ble Minister to wind up and appeal to pass the Bill.

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Thank you Pu Speaker. I express my gratitude towards my fellow members for their thoughts, provoking ideas, and their suggestions.

This Bill is mainly about the role of the Lease and the Leaser where there is a provision that both should be from a 'scheduled tribe' and this will result in organized farming, and also result in better farm mechanization. We hope to establish Farmers Producer Association like CO-operative Movement. we hope this will bring a great change in the future. If we can pursue as planned, I believe we will be able to attain self-sufficiency very soon. This pandemic had awakened the spirit of many youths who are driven to agricultural farming and I hope this Bill will be able to bring a new chapter in the economic development of our State.

Under Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCD) North East Region 3 new projects had been started in phase - 3 and we have sent 5

tonnes of chili pepper to Germany during the lockdown and demand of turmeric had also been received from our service provider.

Regarding the points stated by Pu Sawivunga, I believe it is best that the agreement should be between the Lessor and the Lessee and if required, necessary steps will be taken later on, but for the moment it will be best that we proceed as the Bill specify as it is, we have “Registration Act’ if they are not registered under this Act, the VC will be their witness in the process.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, I am afraid that the leaser will sell the land during the period of their agreement which will cause difficulty for the lease.

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the lease can continue to utilize the land as per the agreement but we will look into the matter again. Regarding the suggestion made by Pu Zirliana we will once again go through this from the beginning and try our best to compile the rules as soon as possible. On question raised by Pu L. Thangmawia, it is not very appropriate to put the lease agreement under the Registration Act, anyway this matter will be between the leaser and the lease. We will also ponder on the question raised by Dr. Vanlalhlana as required. With that I will conclude by requesting all my fellow members to give their support in passing “The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021” Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister had appeal to pass “The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021” those in favor to pass the Bill may say ‘Aye’ and those who oppose may say ‘No’. Since there are no objections, “The Mizoram Agricultural Land Leasing Bill, 2021” is unanimously passed by the House.

We have now come to the end of today’s business meeting will resume on Dt.9.9.2021 at 10:30 AM.

*Sitting is adjourned (4:10 PM)*