

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FOURTEENTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 16th MARCH, 2021
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

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

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

**** DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS**

2. **PU K. LALRINLIANA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
3. **PU C. LALRINSANGA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

H. LALRINAWMA
Commissioner & Secretary

** Please see Bulletin Part-II Sl. No. 168 dated 9th March, 2021 for Demands to be moved by Ministers.

SPEAKER : *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*
- Romans 12:21

We will start with *Questions & Answers*. Before we move on, I would like to mention the credibility of politicians. Sometimes, we may have differences in our opinion and have a debated a lot in the House on some issues. But such atmosphere is gone as soon as we left the House which I think is a beautiful conduct of members of this House.

Let us now invite Pu L. Thangmawia to ask *Starred Question No. 205*.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. May the hon. Minister for Power & Electricity Department be pleased to state-

- a) Total nos. of Hydel Project we have so far, in Mizoram and the amount of energy produced by each project?
- b) If there is any project which is not unable to generate power? If so, which one?
- c) Total nos. of ongoing hydel projects, the expected amount of energy to be produced and date of completion respectively?
- d) If there is any ongoing and completed solar plant project? If so, their capacity and expected date of completion?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the questions.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you.

- a) Followings are completed hydel projects in Mizoram with their capacity respectively-

| Sl/Nos | Name of the Project | Capacity |
|--------|----------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Tuirial HEP (under NEEPCO) | 60 mW |
| 2 | Serlui 'B' SHP | 12 mW |
| 3 | Kau-Tlabung SHP | 3 mW |
| 4 | Tuipang Lui SHP | 3 mW |
| 5 | Teirei SHP | 3 mW |
| 6 | Tuipui MHP | 500 kW |
| 7 | Khawiva MHP | 1050 kW |
| 8 | Tuirivang MHP | 300 kW |
| 9 | Serlui 'A' MHP | 1000 kW |
| 10 | Maicham-I SHP | 2 mW |
| 11 | Maicham-II SHP | 3 mW |
| 12 | Lamsiam MHP | 500 kW |
| 13 | Tuila MHP | (2X15) kW |
| 14 | Lau MHP | (1X15) kW |
| 15 | Tuisumpui MHP | (3X150) kW |
| 16 | Tuidum MHP | (1X15) kW |
| 17 | Laililui MHP | (1X15) kW |
| 18 | Vawralui MHP | (1X50) kW |

| | | |
|----|--------------|------------|
| 19 | Ramrilui MHP | (2X150) kW |
| 20 | Leiva MHP | (1X150) kW |

b) Followings are the projects which are not functioning-

| SI/Nos. | Name of the Project | Capacity |
|---------|---------------------|------------|
| 1 | Tuila MHP | (2X15) kW |
| 2 | Lau MHP | (1X15) kW |
| 3 | Tuisumpui MHP | (3X150) kW |
| 4 | Tuidum MHP | (1X15) kW |
| 5 | Laililui MHP | (1X15) kW |
| 6 | Vawralui MHP | (1X50) kW |
| 7 | Ramrilui MHP | (2X150) kW |

c) Following are the ongoing hydel projects-

- i) Tlawva Small Hydel Project (5mW) with a capacity of 5 mW. This project is completed and will soon be functional as soon as there is enough water.
- ii) Kawlbem Small Hydel Project with a capacity of 4 mW. Expected date of completion is 2021.
- iii) Tuiching Micro Hydel Project with a capacity of 100 kW. This project is completed and is waiting for Grid synchronization.
- iv) Tuiriza Micro Hydel Project with a capacity of 100 kW. This project is completed and is waiting for Grid synchronization.

d) The following are Solar Power Plants which have already been completed –

- i) Tlungvel 2.0 mwp of Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA). Date of completion is 4.12.2018
- ii) 100 kwp at Melriat Sub-Station of Power & Electricity Department. Date of completion is 19.9.2018.
- iii) 100 kwp at Sihhmui Sub-Station of Power & Electricity Department. Date of completion is 25.10.2018.
- iv) 100 kwp at Khawiva Sub-Station of Power & Electricity Department. Date of completion is 29.7.2018.

Ongoing Solar Power Plant is 20 mwp Solar Park at Vankal of Power & Electricity Department. Expected date of completion is 2021.

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

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Power is one of the basic needs as we have learnt from primary school. If the government have any plan of setting aside 1% for area development? Is the same to be implemented for solar power plant at Vankal and Kawlbem? Is it possible to set up power sub-division at Kawlkulh to monitor these plants?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you.

- i) Do Power & Electricity Department have liability for purchase power supply?
- ii) Is there any debt against contractors and suppliers under the department?

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

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. My question is -

- i) If the three units of Serlui B Project produces energy simultaneously? If not, what is the reason?
- ii) Is there any transformer which is purchased during 2019-2020? If not, is there a proposal to buy one?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to give the answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you.

First, to answer the question of Pu L. Thangmawia, there is no plan for area development for any project as so for Vankal and Kawlbem Power Plant as of now.

Installation of power sub-division at Kawlkulh was supported even by the previous ministry. However, due to financial constraints, post creation and filling of vacant posts is not permitted.

In answer to the question of Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo, the department have huge amount of debt to contractors of ₹3.8 crores and ₹3.7 crores to suppliers totally ₹77-78 crore. The debt is not only of the present ministry but the previous ministries as well.

Reacting to the point of Pu C. Lalsawivunga, 2 machineries out of 3 installed at Serlui-B Hydel Project are functioning as 1 is under repair. Whereas 11 expert divers are being deployed in the process of the repair.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: May I repeat my question which has not been attended, Pu Speaker?

SPEAKER : Alright; but no other question is allowed.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Is there any purchase of transformer within 2019-2020 financial year? If so, what is the cost? If not, is there any proposal to purchase one?

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Due to the concern of the hon. Chief Minister for this problem, order had been placed for purchase of 10 nos. transformers. About 20 nos.

transformers were purchased during 2020 as some are being repaired and some were upgraded. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Er. H. Lalzirliana to ask *Starred Question No. 206*.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister of Social Welfare Department be pleased to state –

Is there any proposal to establish EMRS Residential School at Rawpuichhip?

SPEAKER : Let us call the hon. Minister Dr. K. Beichhua to answer.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there is no intention to establish EMRS Residential School at Rawpuichhip at this stage.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Er. Lalzirliana.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, I would like to take this chance to request the hon. Minister to kindly clarify whether Vety Dispensary is established at Lengte as stated in his reply earlier.

My constituency is the only one in Mizoram covered 4 RD Blocks but without any block headquarters. Is it possible to have one at Rawpuichhip?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Dr. K. Pachhunga.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My supplementary questions are –

- i) Anganwadi building at Tawipui N-I, Tawipui N-II and Tuipui South were damaged in the widening process of National Highway. Should the repairing work be done before or after completion of the said highway?
- ii) Proposal of a member from Lunglei South constituency has often been rejected. What are the criteria and priorities given for approval of development projects?

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

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. My Supplementary Questions are-

- i) What is the timeframe for completion of EMRS buildings at Lawngtlai, Tuipang and Chawngte?
- ii) Who are the contractors?
- iii) When will classes begin in the new school building?

- iv) Who is in charge of installation of these electric poles? I have some pictures to prove that the installation is substandard and without proper cement work.
- v) What is the proposed material for construction of walls, brick or RCC blocks?

Construction of the walls is substandard and I have pictures to prove it. It is not my intention to slander the department or the contractors, but it is my opinion that truth should prevail in our State. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon the hon. Minister to answer the questions.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you.

EMRS is the flagship programme for tribal education under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, having proper guidelines. Under the current ministry, 11 EMRS schools had been setup. Since the proposal which had been submitted are not granted at one time, there is a chance for Rawpuichhip to have EMRS if the requirement is met as per the guidelines.

Pu Speaker, I ask for your understanding on my statement yesterday as I was confused between Lengte and Lengpui. Lengte is a Rural Health Centre whereas Lengpui is upgraded to dispensary. I appreciate that the concerned member has a thorough knowledge of his constituency.

In line with other places, damaged buildings will be repaired after widening of highway is completed.

Proposal for development project is not directly submitted from my office. Under the chairmanship of the concerned DC, proposal which may be made is forwarded to the State Level Evaluation Committee through which it is submitted to the central government. There is no preference of a particular district.

Work order for EMRS Chawngte, Lawngtlai and Tuipang were issued on 18.10.2016 and be completed within 36 months from issue of order. Due to the problem of transportation as to remote places, timeframe could not be followed completely. Expected date of completion is within 2021-22 financial year. As for Lawngtlai, the contractor is expected to complete the work by April. The contractor is North East Consultancy.

Online classes have already been started despite lack of necessary equipment whereas regular power supply is a must. As per the new guidelines, installation of the electric poles and wiring will be done by the contractor. For the current undertaking, I am not certain as to whether the department or the contractor to bear the cost of materials.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte to ask *Starred Question No. 207*.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare Department be pleased to state –

Is there any proposal to open Health Clinic Centre in various places?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is –
Yes, there is proposal to open Health Clinic Centre in various places.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is a relief to receive the answer. My question is -

- i) Last year, health clinic centre at some places was closed due to the pandemic. Will such centres be reopened?
- ii) May Thingthelh be declared as health centre officially?
- iii) May the building constructed with MLA fund be officially declared as clinic centre and if health worker be provided at Saihapui V, North Chhimluang and Rengtekawn?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu BD Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My questions are –

- i) PPP mode is ended for Borapansuri PHC. May CADC or the State Govt. bear the cost of salaries of staffs?
- ii) Construction of Primary Health Centre at Lawngpuighat is completed. Will it be functional within this financial year? Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Will it be possible to have a functional dental operation theatre at Civil Hospital in which all the necessary equipment and doctors were placed since 2015? It seems that this Dental OT remain non-functional due to unavailability of staffs like nurses and IV grade staffs.

So far, Mizoram has 27 nos. dental surgeon who remains without promotion channel almost for 30 years and I opine their problem needs to be addressed. May the hon. Health Minister consider the case? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer the questions.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, clinics closed which were closed due to the pandemic will soon be reopened.

Knowing the need of health centre at Rengtekawn, Chhimluang, Saihapui-V and Thingthelh, there is a plan for opening at the completed buildings. Whereas since PPP mode for Borapansuri has ended, we are doing our best to find the solution. We are aware of the issue at Lawngpuighat and our main problem is non-availability of doctors to be posted there. We are facing many problems due to the pandemic as recruitment for any governmental posts is not permitted.

Dr. Thiamsanga and I have visited the proposed site for Dental OT twice. As mentioned before, plans for recruitment could not be proceed due to the pandemic.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, my questions are as follows: -

- i) Will replacement be made for the Medical Officer at Tipa PHC who is on maternity leave?
- ii) Is construction of Siaha nursing school building completed?
- iii) Whether construction of Siaha college hostel has already been started? If so, who is the contractor?
- iv) Is there any plan to upgrade PHC to Community Health Center?

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, replacement is quite an issue with doctors who are not under a permanent government pay roll as they are reluctant to go to remote places. If the hon. Member himself could find one, the department is willing to provide a salary of up to ₹5,000/- per month.

At the same time, there are problems that need to be addressed regarding construction of nursing school. We expect all the 374 nos. Sub-Centre we have in Mizoram would be upgraded to Health & Wellness Centre under the head of Health & Wellness Officer before the end of 2023.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu Vanlalhlana to ask *Starred Question No. 208*.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department be pleased to state –
What additional authority will be given to AMC?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Dy. CM Pu Tawnluia to answer.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, according to “The Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007” there are 18 subjects which are under the authority of

AMC. Presently, except for roads and bridges, other subjects such as water supply for domestic, industrial & commercial purposes and fire services are under the authority of AMC.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you.

During the previous ministry, the aforementioned subjects were under the authority of AMC. The present ministry has included the statement in their election manifesto that additional authority would be given to AMC whereas in the previous ministry, the aforementioned subjects were already within under the jurisdiction of AMC. My Supplementary Questions are: -

- i) Is there any intention to establish Municipal Council at Lunglei?
- ii) Is there any plan to revise the rules regarding Local Council and Village Council and enhance with more authorities?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu L. Thangmawia and Dr. Vanlalhlana will follow.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Pu Speaker, is there any plan to declare more of notified town in Mizoram?

DR. VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My Questions are: -

- i) What is the opinion of the government regarding dumping ground at Tuirial which has reached its capacity?
- ii) Garbage of home-separated into different wises are dumped at the same dumping ground. If so, do we need to separate our garbage?
- iii) I have visited the dumping ground at Tuirial and came to learn that the JCB stationed there was not in function. However, the dumping bill still includes expense on JCB. What is the opinion of the government regarding this issue?
- iv) Lastly, how will wooden wastes be discarded?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Dy. Chief Minister to answer the questions.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we are ready to hand over more authorities to AMC as shown in our manifesto. It may be done as soon as the cabinet approved the Aizawl Urban Street Design Regulation, 2021 drafted by the department.

Proposal for Lunglei Municipal Council had already been submitted prior to the pandemic and we expect the approval during 2021-2022 financial year.

Village Council is under the jurisdiction of LAD whereas rules and authority regarding Local Council will be revised as per requirement.

Dumping ground at Tuirial is no longer in use as solid waste management centre has already been completed.

We have 23 notified town currently and Kawrthah, West Phaileng and Ngopa will soon be declared as notified town as the cabinet has approved it already. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will now move on to *Financial Business*. Let us now call upon the hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana to move his demands.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. On the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, Sir, I move the Demand No.17, 19 and 35 amounting to ₹3,87,33,44,000 for meeting expenses during 2021-2022 in respect of the following departments-

| Demand No. | Department | Amount (in ₹) |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| 17 | Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Affairs | 2,77,00,50,000 |
| 19 | Local Administration | 1,00,44,79,000 |
| 35 | Fisheries | 9,88,25,000 |
| | TOTAL | 3,87,33,44,000 |

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon the hon. Minister Pu C. Lalrinsanga to move his demands.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, I move the Demand Nos. 31,37 and 47 for Rs. 2,57,63,94,000 for meeting expenses during 2021-2022 in respect of the following Departments:

| Demand No. | Department | Amount (in ₹) |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| 17 | Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Affairs | 2,77,00,50,000 |
| 19 | Local Administration | 1,00,44,79,000 |
| 35 | Fisheries | 9,88,25,000 |
| | TOTAL | 3,87,33,44,000 |

SPEAKER : We shall start with discussion on the demands presented by the hon. Ministers with 10 minutes allotted for each member. Let us now call upon Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte to start the discussion.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to start with Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Demand No.17.

Since the department is our lifeline especially since the advent of the pandemic. We are fortunate to have an able Minister to walk us through these trying times and I personally would like to thank the hon. Minister for his acuity.

On another note, there are several storehouses in need of repair. I would like to request for the repair of 2 storehouses at Vairengte. Saipum storehouse has not been in use for a few years now. Does the department intend to utilize this storehouse in the near future?

Under LAD, Demand No.19, several villages are functioning with VC House. I would like to request the hon. Minister to construct VC houses at Saihapui-V, Saipum and North Hlimen.

Under Fisheries Department, Demand No. 35, my constituency has potential in fisheries and require more pisciculture at Tuirial, Serlui and North Hlimen.

Irrigation & Water Resources (Demand No. 47) might be of a small department, it is one of the most important. The ministry has taken up projects abandoned by the previous ministry and the efforts made by the department itself are laudable.

Under Demand No. 31, my constituency has potential in Agriculture and there are several developments and undertakings from the department on which I express my gratitude. In the meantime, I would like to request for construction of warehouse at Serlui and link roads for all weather. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, Hon. Member Prof. F. Lalnunmawia, to be followed by Pu L. Thangmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Pu Speaker, thank you.

Starting with Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Demand No. 17, I am grateful that fund allocation for supply materials has increased. I am hopeful that these funds will be used as intended to increase production.

There are several developments under the department such as home delivery for domestic gas. I believe better system needs to be established to tackle misplacement of rice supply.

Under Demand No. 19, development of rural and urban areas depends on Local Administration Department and as such, I would like to urge the government to allocate more funds to this department.

Also, solar water pump is required at Lalsavunga Park of Hlimen and I kindly request the hon. Minister for installation of this pump.

Under Fisheries Department, Demand No. 35, I am glad that several projects were introduced under PMMSY and RKVY.

Under Demand No. 31, Agriculture Department has several undertakings and development projects such as land development, custom hiring centre and construction of link road. I am optimistic that these undertakings will assist farmers and workers in their production. At the same time, I kindly request transport subsidy for red oil palm farmers at Phulpui.

Under Demand No. 47, my constituency is the receiver of development projects undertaken by Irrigation & Water Resources Department such as construction of irrigation channel and construction of water reservoir.

Lastly, more attention should be given to Co-operation Department which Demand No. 37. It should also be the receiver of most of the funds under SEDP. Thank you.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : To my knowledge, Pu Speaker, digital weighing machine and other form of weighing machine is not in use. Instead, empty plastic cans are used as a form of measurement which hardly measures the actual weight. I would also like to request the hon. Minister to install CCTV at godowns to deter malpractice.

Currently, there is no godown at Parva and the nearest stock point is at Damdep which is inaccessible during monsoon. So, I would like to request for construction of godown at Parva or at least a stock point during monsoon season.

Under Demand No. 35, Fisheries, may the government give accreditation certificate to successful fish-farmers and growers or the same given by CADC is enough?

Under Demand No. 31, Agriculture and Irrigation Department cannot be separated as the two are most effective when working together. My constituency has several potential areas for agriculture and I would like to request for the supply of mini-power tiller and power tillers at a subsidized rate. Also, I request for supply of diesel and electric water pumps for vegetable growers and farmers. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu VL. Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. First of all, I would like to mention that Co-operation Department is the only department whose budget has decreased yearly since the start of this ministry. The budget for the three departments under the hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana has also decreased.

Pu Speaker, under Demand No.37, Co-operation Department is rarely mentioned at this House and the budget has decreased yearly since the start of this ministry. I regret that priority is not given to this department which played such an important role in the economy of our State.

The Mizoram Co-operative Development Council was established in June 2020 under the counsel of a minister and several MLAs on the board. However, no meeting or committee of any kind has been organized under this council. So, I urge this ministry to utilize this council and give priority to the department as a whole.

I am confused as to the reason that the budget for LAD which is Demand No.19 has been fluctuating for a number of years. I would like to request the hon. Minister to clarify this fluctuation.

Moving on to Demand No. 31, Agriculture Department, as mentioned before me, Agriculture and Irrigation cannot be separated and their success depends on one another. Having better roads and link roads will pave the way for achieving sustenance. So far, we do not have notable improvement in our production and I would like to urge the government to do better with its plan to achieve sustenance. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu ZR. Thiamsanga is next and will be followed by Pu Biakzaua.

DR. Z.R. THIAM SANGA: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. First of all, I thank the hon. members from Lengteng constituency and HPC area for a gift in the form of ground apple and eggs.

Starting with Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, the performance of this department is exceptional despite the pandemic and border clashes and I applaud them for their attentiveness.

Several developments are in the works such as construction of double-lane road to Champhai and construction and renovation of godown in several areas. We are also expecting weigh bridge to be installed at Champhai godown in the near future.

Under LAD, plan for construction of VC house is underway and we expect that it will include VC house at Selam, Ngur and Pamchung. I would also like to mention that SEDP played an important role in rural areas and that the hon. Minister may acknowledge the fact.

The performance of Fisheries Department in Champhai is exceptional as of Champhai has even received 'Best fish farmer award, Northeast'. Several fisheries related has been introduced by the department such as pudding cum fish farming, hatchery and rearing pond in which 91 families from Champhai are being selected. While this

is the condition, there is no office building or vehicle under this department which may be considered.

Moving on to Agriculture Department, the hon. Chief Minister has prioritized this department and thus introduced mechanization in which tractors, power tillers and other equipment were provided. Several developments and plans are in place under this department such as expansion of rice fields through NABARD, upgradation of School of Agriculture at Hnahthial to degree course and construction of building for bio-fertilizer plant.

Lastly, co-operative movement is playing a prominent role especially among the younger citizens and I deeply appreciate their efforts. I do hope that priority is given to this department and I hope that more achievements will be put in place. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next is, hon. Member Pu H. Biakzaua.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. The two demands up for discussion today are related and plays an important role in our economy.

The performance of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Demand No.17 is laudable during the pandemic and border clashes. I thank the hon. Chief Minister and Supply Minister for their efforts.

I am also grateful for the construction of godowns at Lawngtlai, Lungtian, Vawmbuk and Lungpher. Plans are in place for the establishment of Legal Metrology Department Office at Lawngtlai which will play an important role especially during monsoon season when supplies are often hampered.

Under Demand No. 35, the hon. Minister as well as this ministry has several schemes and projects under Fisheries Department. One complaint of the beneficiaries is that the quality of several fish seeds is not satisfactory.

We are aware of the importance of agriculture as priority is given by the government by introducing several projects and schemes. I would like to emphasize on one such scheme which is Fostering Climate Resilient Upland Farming System (FOCUS). The objective of this scheme is to develop farming in hilly area and reduce shifting cultivation. Several developments have been made for construction of agriculture link roads which will be indispensable for farming and cultivation when completed. Thank you.

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

2:00 PM

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

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to start with Local Administration Department as it is the key player in the expansion of our border. This comes in the form of granting VC's to villages near Mizoram borders such as Bilkhawthlir, Saihapui-V and Tripura Phuldungsei.

Under Demand No. 35, my constituency was recently introduced to fisheries through to the efforts of the hon. Minister. The department recognized the potential of this area and developments are in place whereas several projects are introduced to provide fresh fish to the whole of Mizoram.

As mentioned before me, we saw exceptional performance and admirable efforts from Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department during the pandemic and border clashes. The department establish valuable connection with Myanmar and Manipur and pave the way for our future relationship.

On acknowledging the intensive need of my constituency, I am glad that construction of storehouse is in progress at Reiek, Darlung and Pukzing with the same to be done shortly for Phuldungsei and Khawrihnim.

Under Demand No. 37, I thank the hon. Minister for Co-operation Department for introducing *Van Dhan Mission* and for establishing Co-operative Bank at Luangmual.

On Irrigation & Water Resources Department, Demand No. 47, we were neglected by the previous ministry and the current ministry thus taken initiative to revive this department. It is appreciative that several projects and schemes were introduced and ₹284 lakh of Special Assistance Scheme is granted.

Under Agriculture Department, Demand No. 31, agriculture has taken a hit due to the pandemic and the hon. Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture Deptt. thus, provided us with tools and machines to cope with shortage of land workers. Construction of link roads are in progress and Block Agriculture Officer will be attached shortly in my constituency. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Starting with Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, College Veng has started home delivery system of domestic gas. I recommend this system and I believe that it should reach every locality.

Considering the amount allocated to this department, I am not optimistic and would like to stress that more efforts must be taken to utilize whatever the amount made available.

Local Administration Department, Demand No. 19 is the provider and custodian of rural areas but the budget decreased by 19.76%. It comes to mind that priority is not given to rural areas. ₹93 crore is allocated by the 15th Finance Commission for Rural Local Body. However, no allocation is made in the capital and major works section of this budget.

Under Fisheries Department (Demand No. 35), 52.7% of our fish supply is of local production. So, we need to manage and take better care of our rivers to provide a clean and stable environment for fish breeding.

Pilot project for crabs farming at a cost of ₹45 lakh is underway with ₹16 lakh already being spent. More research should be carried out in order for this project to be successful since we have already spent so much.

Agriculture plays an important role in our economy. However, we are still dependent on other states for our agricultural needs. This needs to change, and the first step is development of agricultural lands and construction of agriculture link roads. We also need to introduce mechanization for better results.

Cooperative Movement is at the forefront of every developed country. It is imperative that priority be given to Co-operation Department and the amount allocated to this department from our budget is not satisfactory. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Ramthanmawia is next.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. As mentioned by other members before me, I would also like to commend on the tremendous efforts and performance of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs during the pandemic and border clashes.

On behalf of my constituency, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for construction of storehouse at Khuangleng, Khawbung, Farkawn and Dunglelang.

Under the Demand No. 35, Fisheries Department, several projects are in progress under Blue Revolution Scheme and PMMSY.

Under Local Administration Department, Demand No. 19, I request for construction of VC house in several villages within my constituency.

As we know, Irrigation and Water Resources are interlinked. Though the two are of small department, they play an important role. I would like to request for the upgradation of

water canal of WRC in the areas such as Saikhumphai, Hmawngpuizau, Tuikhurhlu to concrete canal. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma, hon. Member is next.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Following the trend in every Session, I will speak about the needs and issues within my constituency.

Under LAD, Demand No. 19, as per the Lushai Hills Village Council Act, 1953, Section 3, Khojoisuri is now qualified to have 7 nos. VC member. This has been followed till the last election when the size of several VCs was reduced to 5 members. I would like the government to revise this Act and reinstate the previous system which consists of 7 members.

There have been several issues at Thanzamasora and Sedailui due to delimitation. They are within my constituency under Lungrang Village Council of Lunglei South constituency. This used to be an issue for Pu Zodintluanga as well. So, I would like the hon. Minister to look into this matter.

I applaud the hon. Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department for his remarkable performances during the pandemic. I do have one complaint regarding the the system of distribution of rice within my constituency as most of the retailers are allegedly unfair in their dealings as the amount of rice distributed is always less than the allotment. We had intimated the concerned authority several times but no action has yet been taken.

Under Agriculture Department, Demand No. 31, despite the potential, it is regretted that we still are dependent on agricultural productions of other states. Thus, I opine more efforts should be taken to rectify the problem. My constituency has been suffering from the disruption since construction of Indo-Bangladesh border fencing in which vast area of our agricultural lands has been destroyed. I have mentioned this issue several times in this House but no approach has been made to resolve the issue.

At the same time, I would like to suggest the department that more research may be prevailed before we introduce new plantation of oil palm so as to evade failure.

Lastly, I would like to mention that tractors and power tillers which were distributed in other areas is not done in my constituency. We are hopeful that this would no longer the case in the next financial year. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalmuanpuia, hon. Member is next.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. First, I praise the hon. Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs for his efforts and performance especially

during the pandemic and border clashes. At the same time, I would also like to request for the establishment of consumers' forum in every district.

Under Demand No. 19, LAD, we all are aware of the important roles of Village Council especially in rural areas. However, fund provision for their remuneration is not reflected in the budget allocation and I recommend increase of the amount as soon as possible.

Next is, Fisheries Department, Demand No. 35. have been working non-stop on experimenting the kind of fish suitable for breeding in fresh water. I believe this is a practical project which will benefit us in the future.

It is worth-praising of the efforts of YMA and other NGO's in protecting the aquatic life in our rivers. However, I would like to suggest that fishing season should be organized to promote healthy meats and for entertainment.

I appreciate the efforts of Agriculture Department during the pandemic such as development of agricultural lands, distribution of pipes, tractors and power tillers and disposal of local produced rice to the Supply Department.

Lastly, it gives me great pleasure that Irrigation & Water Resources is prioritized by this ministry and I appreciate the efforts made in support of the farmers and labourers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, thank you.

First, I praise the performance of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Deptt. particularly during the pandemic and I thank the hon. Chief Minister and Supply Minister for their efforts. On top of this, there are several developments under this department such as LPG gas home delivery, construction of store houses in several villages and distribution of one LPG gas cylinder for lower income households.

The Fisheries Department may be regarded as minor department, we have been able to generate a revenue of ₹83 lakh to the government. Apart from that, plan for establishment of hatchery and breeder bank is in progress.

On Demand No. 37, I believe that we have not yet realize the importance of Cooperation Department and its potential. So, priority should be given to this department and better planning is necessary to improve our economy.

I place great trust in the hon. Minister for Agriculture Department and his ability. I believe that he will achieve what we were unable to achieve before which is improvement of our agricultural production to meet at least our own demands.

Lastly, under the Demand No. 47, Irrigation Department, fund provisions through Special Assistance fund and NABARD are expected to produce better outcome. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Zothantluanga, and he will be followed by Pu KT Rokhaw.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to start from the demand of the hon. Minister, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs.

I am overwhelmed by the effort and performance of the hon. Minister during the pandemic and border clashes. Several developments are in process such as construction of double lane road of Champhai and construction and renovation of godowns in several areas.

Under Fisheries Department, I believe we can increase the production if better planning and effort are made. The most prominent issue of this department seems to be distribution of low-quality fish seeds which are imported from the neighboring states. So, I would like to urge the department and the hon. Minister to be cautious and vigilant in this area. Also, I would like to advocate for reduction of the rate of fish food so that it is affordable to everyone.

I am grateful that several projects have been introduced by Irrigation & Water Resources Department such as *Har Khet Kaw Pani* scheme under which 36 projects are taken up with Central Assistance of ₹675.35 lakhs.

Lastly, under Agriculture Department, more efforts and planning should be given so that we produce our own agricultural needs. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu KT Rokhaw is next.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, thank you.

Starting with Agriculture Department, Demand No. 31, I appreciate the efforts and sacrifice made by the hon. Minister particularly for the distribution of tractors, construction of harvesting structure and secondary storage.

Siaha District Food Security Consultative Committee was established two years ago and its main objective is achieving self-sufficiency on foods. Every village within Siaha District were visited and were given awareness of this objective as we are gradually seeing the results. At the same time, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Irrigation Department to provide irrigation to rice plantations at Phura, Sala and Siasih.

Also, I once again request the hon. Minister of Cooperation Department to establish Apex Bank at Zero Point, Siaha. It may as well be much appreciated if construction of DCSO quarter and store houses at Phura, Tokalo, Lopu, Siata and Chapi are considered. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Pachhunga is next.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I feel fortunate that I could be a part of this Budget Session. To start with, Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Deptt.

It is reiterated by the members of their appreciation to the efforts made by the hon. Minister during the pandemic and border clashes in providing regular supply of food stuffs and I truly support the opinion. I also thank him for renovating storehouses at Chawngte and Tawipui South. At the same time, I request him to kindly consider renovation of Luangmual storehouse of Lunglei District.

Under Demand No. 19, LAD, I am delighted for having several faces of new VC members in my constituency who are sincere and honest about their work and for the development of their areas. At the same time, I propose outsourcing the maintenance of our parks.

On Fisheries Department which is Demand No. 35, I am thrilled with the efforts and progresses made so far; yet, I request for additional assistance from the government.

On Agriculture Department, Demand No. 31, it is one of the most important departments as it plays the most effective role in developing our State. It is notable that through this department, the government has introduced several schemes and projects such as construction of link roads, installation of food technology preservation and packing, construction of warehouse for production storage and upgradation of School of Agriculture Science to degree course. At the same time, I earnestly request for construction of WRC at Thingfal, Mualcheng, Mamte and Chhimituipui.

Moving on to Irrigation & Water resources, Demand No. 47, it is notable that the government is able to continue with the project of irrigation channel which was abandoned by the previous ministry. Solar pump technology has also been introduced which gives us hope for increase of our production. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you.

First of all, I suggest appropriate survey and research if we have to undertake fish farming. Also, proper market research is suggested.

On Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Demand No. 17, I believe it is of a serious issue regarding ration supply of ration which is claimed to be of underweight. So, I urge the government to take measure on the issue with immediate effect.

On Agriculture Department, Demand No. 31, I opine the department should be of our priority for it concern with the economic condition of our state. God gave us this land and it is our responsibility to utilize it for the best. Whatever we do, we must practice honesty and sincerity. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Andrew H. Thangliana.

PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you.

Starting with Agriculture Department, Demand No. 31, our government have introduced several schemes and projects such as green revolution, modern methods of farming which include introduction of technology and mechanization. I do hope that this will pave the way for increase of our agricultural productions.

As we introduced oil palm project, numbers of families are engaged on oil palm plantation. However, price support has not been provided till today and I urge the government to take immediate measure so as to support the farmers on time.

Under Fisheries Department, I urge the government for providing financial support to fish farmers especially of large-scale farmers so as to increase the productions. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana is next.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to start with Agriculture Department as I am also interested in this area.

Pu Speaker, 60% of the population in Mizoram are engaged on agriculture for their livelihood. For that reason, the hon. Chief Minister too has prioritized agriculture so as to bring about self-reliant on food.

I have the urge to mention regarding SEDP as its purpose is not realized till today. It is sad that budget allocation for Agriculture Department for implementing SEDP does not even reached 1%. It is the lower income groups who suffered the most and the trend remain unchanged for the last few years. So, I urge the government for allocation of more funds in respect to this department as only ₹400 crore is available for SEDP.

At the same time, I opine we have to avail the schemes available from the central for crop insurance and utilize it for the best. It is regretted that our farmers have suffered the

attack of fall army worm on their crops as their production has immensely decreased. At the same time, I suggest for the establishment of a systematic structure for our crops.

Co-operation Department enjoys the same status as agriculture and occupy an important role in the economy of our State. Other States have made provision for Co-operative Society and we must aim to provide this kind of support to them as well. Co-operative movement in other states are able to generate revenue with the help of the government and this should be our main objective.

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs extend to every household and also occupy an important place in our economy. So, I would like to suggest setting up a committee to tackle the issue we are having due to shortfall on rice supply.

Under Fisheries Department, we have several local species in our rivers and example should be taken from other countries and be cautious of foreign species mixing with local species. So, proper research should be conducted before releasing such species. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlaltanpuia is next.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. The demands we are discussing today can be described as '*parent departments*' considering the significant role they play in our economy.

Under the strong leadership of the hon. Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, we were able to have a steady supply of basic amenities during the pandemic and during border clashes. I would like to commend the two hon. Ministers and I truly appreciate their efforts.

I do agree with the statement made by Dr. Mathlantea, but we should remember that Rome was not built in a day and we are on the road to becoming self-reliant. We have to be patient and never cease to work hard to reap the benefits.

I would like to request the hon. Minister for construction of storehouse at Haulawng and for the renovation of several storehouses within my constituency.

Moving on to Demand No. 19, Local Administration Department, I would like to suggest that better maintenance be provided to Pu Laldenga Park.

I would also like to request for revision of population of Pangzawl North and South for accurate allocation of grants.

Under Fisheries Department, Demand No. 35, local production of fish amounts to 52% of total production which this is quite an achievement. I hope for maintaining this success.

Under Agriculture Department, Demand No. 31, our agriculture system should be structured with proper research to maximize our local production. Crop zone and WRC should be introduced and identification of potential areas should be carried out.

On Demand No. 37, Co-Operation, I would like to know the criteria for setting up Apex Bank in a place and if there is a chance to establish one within my constituency. I also request the CSR fund be made available for Serkawn YMA and Serkawn hospital.

Under Demand No. 47, I suggest we should try to make the most of our rivers since we have faced scarcity of water in many areas as we have a good model like the Nile River for Egypt and Jordan for Israel. With that, I will conclude by stating my support in passing these Demands. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I will start with Demand No.17.

Under my constituency, there are areas like Vathuampui and Tuithumhnar godown where the roads are clear during the dry season only. So, I request that godowns be stocked up which will last for the monsoon.

Under Fisheries Department, I suggest that District Officers are authorized to deal with receiving and disbursing financial aids to the farmers since they are well acquainted with the farmers and their condition. My constituency and of the hon. Member Pu BD Chakma are potential areas for fish farming and I suggest that selection of the beneficiaries should be done by the concerned DC only after the concerned farm is inspected. I also suggest that link road be maintained so that we may be able to utilize it at all times. And, regarding selecting beneficiaries under different projects and schemes, I suggest the concerned officers should be given a free hand and authority.

Under Co-operation, I believe we will attain better progress if we utilize the function of society under different schemes like in Gujarat where the cultivation of potatoes is taken care by the society. They are also provided with a cold storage under PMEGP. So, I suppose it is wise to make use of our SEDP and take initiatives in different projects as practiced by other states as this will contribute a great deal in economic stability of our State. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte is next.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Let me start with Demand No. 31, Agriculture Department.

Considering the amount of funds utilized for WRC and relatively the quantity of harvest, I do not think it is very profitable. So, I believe we should also give attention to

Terrace Rice Cultivation since the harvest is almost the same and so deserved attention. I am proud to mention that my constituency reaped favorable result especially from Zawlpui area out of financial assistance from the government.

Under Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, I request the hon. Minister to give attention to the measuring instrument of ration supply especially in rural areas.

On Fisheries Department, I request the concerned minister to give a report on the crab farm which was initiated last year and if it is profitable. My constituency is a great potential area for fish farming and contestants from Zawlnuam had even won a prize in the competition. So, I suggest that fish nursery is set up in my constituency and I am sure it will be a success.

Funds allocated for Local Administration is very less considering the responsibility of developing our city, towns and rural areas. So, I suggest the department should be allocated with more funds and better equipment in order to achieve progress. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Er. Lalzirliana is next.

ER. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I will start with Demand No.17.

Due to the efficiency of the hon. Minister, we do not face much hardships even during the pandemic. But with the application of e-PoS, particularly in remote areas, we are facing problems as the people are unable to deliver their ration supply as usual. So, I request that attention is given in this regard. Also, I request that new go-down be constructed since we need to have monsoon stock in order to maintain regular supply.

Under LAD, I express my gratitude for fund provision being made for repairing VC houses and others within my constituency. I am also glad that even during the pandemic, the department is able to provide fish seeds at a subsidized rate of 50%.

In order to achieve success in agriculture, I too believe it is crucial that we establish R&D Centre in our State. I am glad that irrigational system under PMKSY-HKKP, '*Har Khet Ko Pani*' is initiated so that our farmers could have water supply for their fields even in dry season. I also request the hon. minister to give more attentions on agriculture link roads in my constituency and its maintenance. I am glad on the initiatives taken by Irrigation and Agriculture Department and for the 14 projects under PMKSY and 22 cluster projects. I am positive that it all will be much beneficial. So, I will conclude by expressing my support in passing the Demands of our two hon. Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I will now call upon the opposition group leader.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, I am glad that even during the pandemic, the two hon. ministers are able to carry out their duties efficiently. It is notable that we do not face much problems in distribution of food supply through Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs whereas our minister for Agriculture too had made a success fight against Fall Army Worm.

We spent more than ₹204 crore on procurement of rice out of which ₹125 crore only is received back which means the government loss ₹78 crore annually. so, it is important that we put our best to attain self-sufficiency on production of rice. It is also important that we conduct the research on our cultivation process and introduce fast harvesting rice in order to increase our production. As mentioned by the hon. House Leader, we need a mechanized the process of our farming and we should try our best to increase our production with the aids which may be received.

Under LAD, we are all aware that Rural Village Council is functioning under the LAD and ballot system is used for voting; yet, many complains arises in this regard. So, is it possible to use voting machines in rural areas as in other major townships. Also, I believe it is high time that we revise the rules and conduct of our village council in parallel with the changing of our society.

Under Fisheries Department, it is important that we should give more attention to it. I believe the entire Mizoram is potential for fish farming and I suggest subsidy should be provided even for fish feeds.

Moving on to Co-operation, it seems that we do not have much progress in setting up more of a society particularly in the urban areas whereas in rural areas, many have successfully operated a society attaining good benefits. So, I suggest awareness and benefits of running a society should be initiated. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will have a short recess now and resume our discussion at 5:30 PM.

(Recess)

5:30 PM

SPEAKER : We have finished our discussion. Now, I will call upon the hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana to wind up the discussion and appeal to the House to pass his Demands.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am glad that 20 nos. of my fellow members have their speech on Fisheries Deptt., 16 members on LAD and 23 members on Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Deptt.

Starting with Fisheries Department, I would like to mention that we have established the office in almost all the districts but there are offices where only two or three staff are posted and we cannot provide vehicles for every office which makes it difficult for us to conduct inspecting work in some remote rural areas. So, I request our finance minister too to take note of our shortfalls as I also want all my fellow members to understand our situation.

Last year, because of the pandemic, we were unable to produce enough fish seeds from the hatchery as we were unable to receive the same from outside. Hence, we could not meet our demand on supply of fish. Knowing this need, the hon. Chief Minister provides us an with ₹420 lakh for procurement of fish seeds and feeds and we are now able to provide to the farmers at a subsidized rate.

We have placed crab-farming as a pilot project in which ₹54 lakh is allocated through SEDP. The farm is setup at Dumlui Zau of Kolasib and one completed and another two are in progress. I also have visited a private crab farm at Thenzawl. Knowing the need to have self- sufficiency on fish supply, initiative is made for the process of hatchery. As per the request of the department, we have even acquired some seeds from my farm. So far, only a few lakhs were successful and some have also been acquired from Tam Dil. We are at the moment planning to rear different species and for this purpose, Zobawk Fish Farm is renovated. We have also received ₹83.84597 lakh from selling of our fishes and we provide the feeds at a subsidized rate. We also have launched the official website 'www.fishinfo.mizoram' a few days ago for fish farmers, NGOs etc. Mobile app also is made available for use which will help in providing information and online application as registration could also be submitted from the given website and apps.

Under *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana*, ₹1,172 crore is allocated for a period of 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 with matching share of 90:10. Under this project, there will be a state level and district level committee. We also have a plan for construction new ponds in various districts and fish seed breeding unit to 98 beneficiaries. And, experiment will be taken at paddy fields of Champhai. Apart from that, 1,101 nos. beneficiaries will be selected to set up an ice plant on the basis of central-state sharing. ₹100 lakh is allocated to CADC for setting up private firm which will be initiated through the state department. We are also planning to put the office in function in every district.

Regarding complaint in the process of election, we have received from 200 nos. village council and so wise to inform the matter to the State Election Commission. Also, we a committee is setup to determine amendment of VC rules and regulations. Last year, under the 15th Finance Commission, we received ₹23.25 crore as local body grant tied fund and ₹23.25 crores for untied fund and we have given ₹4.83 crore to District Council as tied fund. The department kept ₹18.41 crore for tied fund and another ₹18.41 crore for untied fund.

LAD plays an important role in maintaining our borderlines. I opine handing over ownership of the area to the sons of the soil may be effective in maintaining our border areas to a great extent. We have 11 parks under the maintenance of LAD and, in order to earn more revenues, we decided to out-source such parks for a period of 2015-2020. Lalsavunga Park has generated a revenue of ₹19,22,125/- and Muthi Park, Brig. T. Sailo Park at Lengpui and others generated ₹41,94,215/-. Construction of LAD Directorate building is in progress but could not be expedited due to the pandemic.

Under the 15th Finance Commission, funds will be allocated to the village councils in respect of their population and the fund may be withdrawn by means of digital signature certificate so as to promote e-governance even in remote rural areas. Grants and other projects initiated by the VCs will be forwarded to *Gram Swaraj Portal* in order to prevent misuse of funds. We have applied for an amount of ₹186 lakh for POL and administrative posts. JE is posted most in every district to cover the entire district effectively. Yet, at least 2-wheeler vehicle may be given to such JEs for field works.

Under *Rashtrya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan*, training course has been provided to 22,464 persons. *State Panchayat Resource Centre* has also been established in 5 districts such as: Champhai, Serchhip, Mamit, Kolasib and Siaha and they are under the administration of SIRD and Panchayati Raj. ₹20 lakh has also been given to 5 VCs for construction of VC house and we are hoping to have more funds for such purposes in future. 50% of the funds under Annual Action Plan 2020-2021 has also been released. Since we do not receive the excluded area fund under 14th Finance Commission, we approached the central to sanction ₹25 crore out of which ₹16.24 crore is approved. From these, ₹8.64 crore is allocated to the District Councils.

Moving on to Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, I would like to mention that shortage of staff is intensive under Legal Metrology and we need more of it to run the department more effectively. Measure has been taken by the department to rectify the system of our measurement by randomly checking the devices used in some places. So far, 5,64,965 nos. cases have been submitted and enforcement of packaged commodities and contravention have also been initiated. In order to maintain quality control and to protect consumers right, inspection is conducted on petrol, diesel, cement, LPG, iron rod etc. out of which 29 cases have been registered.

Many problems arise out of poor condition of our go-downs. So, acknowledging the fact, the hon. Chief Minister gives importance to that concern and so far, construction of 10 nos. being completed and 21 nos. in progress. We determine to acquire loan for construction of more buildings.

Regarding Consumers Welfare, Corpus fund has also been approved by the government. Consumers Forum of different districts will now be called '*Commission*'. And, in order to make people aware of their rights, magazine will now be published. We

observed *World Consumer Rights Day* yesterday by giving awareness to the public for using less polythene products.

As of monsoon stock of rice, the process could not be started due to widening the approach road of central godown as DCSO is instructed to give the latest report so that step measure will be taken as necessary. Step has also been taken to simplify the process of ration card so that consumers are able to deliver their ration supply on time.

I express my gratitude to the hon. Chief Minister, the Dy. Chief Minister and my fellow members for their support and initiatives. It may as well be noted that the central govt. is providing ration supply to AAY and PHH families at free of cost. I am also very grateful to the Education Deptt. for their contribution through LESDE so that ration supply is given to the people free of cost for one month. Step has also taken to those who are not included under National Food Security so they may able to deliver their rations at a lower cost. I also thank all the officials and staff who are all truly dedicated to their work. By God's grace, we are able to stand where we are today.

Regarding LPG home delivery, initiative is made for free delivery charge in 28 localities. It is also assured by the hon. Minister of Petroleum, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan that we will be able to receive 23 trips of gas supply every day. Kolasib DC is now taking measure to resolve the problem of oil depot at Bairabi so that we are able to receive a regular supply since then. At the same time, there is a plan to upgrade Mualkhang gas bottling plant to increase our stock.

So, Pu Speaker, with your permission, I move that the following demands are passed the House-

| Demand No. | Department | Amount in (₹) |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 17 | Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs | 2,77,00,50,000 |
| 19 | Local Administration | 1,00,44,79,000 |
| 35 | Fisheries | 9,88,25,000 |
| | TOTAL | 3,87,33,54,000 |

Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana appeals to the House to pass his Demands. Those in favour to pass may say. 'aye' and those who oppose may say, 'nay'. (*The 'Ayes' have it.*)

Now, the House has unanimously passed the Demands of the hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana, such as:

| Demand No. | Department | Amount in (₹) |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 17 | Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs | 2,77,00,50,000 |
| 19 | Local Administration | 1,00,44,79,000 |
| 35 | Fisheries | 9,88,25,000 |
| | TOTAL | 3,87,33,54,000 |

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I will now call upon Pu C. Lalrinsanga, hon. Minister to wind up the discussion on demands under his concern and move the House to pass it.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I express my gratitude towards my fellow members for their support and encouragement.

On 1st October, 2002, Agriculture is bifurcated into two departments such as: Crop Husbandry and Research Extension. And, coincidentally after 18 years exactly on the same date, the Council of Ministers decided restructuring as one department. As a consequence, the department received special favor of the Council of Ministers of upgrading the service of its director of level 13 to 13(A) and the no. post of Addl. Director and Jt. Director which was once 2 nos. each had also been upgraded to 6 nos. each. At the same time, the post of SDAO of Level 10(A) is upgraded to a Senior Grade of Dy. Director's level. And, in accordance with RD Block, BAO is posted at every block as per Delegation of Financial Power, schedule 3.

To emphasize on steps taken under Agriculture Deptt., we are expecting 10 nos. of centrally sponsored scheme which all required state matching share. Apart from that, we also have another centrally sponsored schemes such as KVK and OECD and in addition, EAP through which the programme such as FOCUS and Green Act are undertaken.

Thanks to the effort of the hon. Chief Minister for self-sufficiency on food production, the project known as "Sub-Mission Agriculture Mechanization" (SMAM) has now been implemented where as a private firm known as "Om Om Rice Mills" too has completed installation of machineries and is now in the process. We are also watching the progress so that any other requirements are provided through SEDP.

Collective farming system will also be initiated to increase our food productions and a regular data entry will also be maintained on potential areas of Wet Rice Cultivation (WRC). Under IFAD (International Funding for Agriculture Development), FOCUS is implemented in 3 districts such as: Serchhip, Kolasib, Mamit and we have a plan to open the same at the newly districts such as Saitual and Khawzawl.

Intensive measure has also been taken under FOCUS through various sectors such as – Agriculture, Horticulture, Vety and Soil. Particluarly under Vety, we have breeding

house, Boar semen station, pig and chicken farming and a plan for *all weather roads* in 6 districts. From the externally aided project, we have Green Agriculture and Green Act which will focus on preservation of the environment and bio-diversity in which step is taken in 23 nos. village near Dampa Tiger Reserve and 13 nos. village under Thorang Wildlife Sanctuary.

From centrally sponsored sector, we also have MOVCD (Mission Organic Value Chain Development) for north-eastern region and is started from Nagaland and Mizoram by considering virgin land. Phase I and II are being completed and phase III will cover about 8,000 hectares. Under this project, Service Providers (SPO) has also been selected and Farmers' Interest Groups being set up for cultivating various kinds of organic crops. So far, 9 nos. Farmers Producers Organization are established as MOVCD, ECOSAT are being deployed for 3 years period to inspect our FPC. If no chemical trace is found, FPO will be certified under FPC which will be very important for the future.

Moving on to P&E, ITC at Hnahthial is upgraded by including a study of diploma courses with new syllabus being introduced. It will further include bridge course to enable the students pursuing their study at higher institutions. Whereas fund for reconstruction of its building has also been received from RIDF NABARD.

Measure has also been taken for obtaining variety of corn seeds from the Institute of Maize Research. After completion of OP-12 bio-fertilizer laboratory at Neihbawih, organic fertilizers will be produced at a large scale whereas construction of Biological Control Laboratory at Lengpui has also been started. As for setting up *Seed Village*, the agriculture training agency under various DAOs are working hard and different variety of crops are cultivated and multiplied. Plan has also been made for potatoes cultivation so as to attain self-sufficiency in the production and is submitted to NEC.

According to the 15th Finance Commission Report, there are agriculture reforms which needs to be legislated as per the environment of a particular state and subsequently will be vetted by Law, such as: The Mizoram Land Leasing Bill, Contract Farming Bill, ATLM Bill, The Mizoram State Agriculture and Livestock Marketing, Promotion and Facilitation Bill. We hope to lay them in the next session.

Irrigation Department is working tenaciously with funding sources of PMKSY and NABARD. Under PMKSY, 36 nos. projects are in progress and we expected to avail central assistance fund of ₹765 lakh to continue these projects. Under Ground Water Irrigation Project, ₹866 crore is allocated. We have proposal for drilling at 209 places whereas 184 points to be ran by solar energy and 25 nos. by electrical energy. We hope this project will be able to feed 553 hectares of 468 farmers. We have also received ₹353 lakh from RIDF NABARD for completion of six projects and for Chawmzai Ground Water Irrigation Project of Serchhip and ₹227 is allocated for 52 hectares of land.

Under PM-Kusum Yojana, central approval is obtained for 200 units of solar pump, 50% to be funded by the Central and 30% by the State Govt. whereas the remaining 20% by the beneficiaries. So, we have a slight problem regarding the funding pattern and we hope to resolve this soon after this session. Pu Speaker, National Hydrology Project is the ongoing proposal and of a centrally Sponsored scheme. It is estimated to take at least 8 years for its completion. There are two types of research in this regard - Spring Rejuvenation Studies and Sediment Studies. To encourage rain-water harvesting, we have submitted a project to GBS and hopefully it will soon be approved.

Moving on to Cooperation, we have had the problem with internal service in the department but after obtaining approval of the cabinet, restructuring of JICS and SICS was initiated. Since Mamit is an aspirational district, initiative is made for ICDP as the 2nd phase is now in progress. Pu Speaker, under PMVDY farming, co-operative society was established in every district for the purpose of which ₹581 lakh is utilized. ₹17 crore is allocated for the second phase including various activities under RD Department. It is implemented in a convergent mode in which buyers and sellers meet will also be organized.

MCAB was once on the verge of closing down during the previous ministry and thus is appreciative that it has now functioning normally. Also, Mobile ATM van has now been introduced and measure has also been taken for the same in various districts. MIZOFED is now established at Aizawl, Kawnpui, Keifang and Tlabung.

Pu Speaker, with that, I will conclude my wound-up speech and I move this august House to pass the following Demands under my concerned departments, such as: –

| Demand No. | Department | Amount in (₹) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 31 | Agriculture | 1,84,22,75,000 |
| 37 | Co-Operation | 14,94,60,000 |
| 47 | Irrigation & Water Resources | 58,46,59,000 |
| | TOTAL | 2,57,63,94,000 |

Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has appeal to the House to pass his Demands, such as –

| Demand No. | Department | Amount in (₹) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 31 | Agriculture | 1,84,22,75,000 |
| 37 | Co-Operation | 14,94,60,000 |
| 47 | Irrigation & Water Resources | 58,46,59,000 |
| | TOTAL | 2,57,63,94,000 |

Those in favour to pass may say, 'Aye' and those who don't may say, 'Nay'. (*The 'Ayes' have it*).

The Demands under the concerned departments of Pu C. Lalrinsanga is unanimously passed by the House.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : We have now finished our business for today; the meeting will be resumed tomorrow, the 17th March, 2021 at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned. (7:31 PM)