

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR SEVENTH SITTING ON THURSDAY, THE 20th JUNE, 2019
(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.

LAYING OF PAPERS

2. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a statement of correction on the reply given on the 17th June, 2019 to Starred Question No. 51, Ballot No.42 asked by Pu Lalduhoma regarding "ILP chungchang".
3. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a statement of correction on the reply given on the 20th March, 2019 to Starred Question No. 12, which was transferred to Unstarred Question Ballot No.82 asked by Pu Vanlalhlana and Pu VL. Zaithanzamaregarding "Ramri chungchang".
4. **PU LALRUATKIMA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a statement of correction on the reply given on the 20th March, 2019 to Starred Question No. 123 which was transferred to Unstarred Question Ballot No. 78 asked by Pu Lalchhuanthanga regarding "Brigade ram Bawngkawn".

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS

5. **PU C. LALRINSANGA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
6. **Dr. K. BEICHHUA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

S.R. ZOKHUMA
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : “ *In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty*”

Proverbs 14:23.

We will now take up Question Hour, Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma will start.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Public Health Engineering Department be please to state –If there is initiative under Rural Water Supply Scheme for Puankhai and Hmundo village of 35th West Tuipui Constituency?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. member question is –

There is no initiative being taken under Rural Water Supply Scheme for Puankhai except PHE construction of pond under IVSS during 2008-2009. Laying of pipe for Water Supply(Gravity) at Hmundo also is completed during 2010-2011.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Pu B.D. Chakma.

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

i) If there is any step being taken under NEC for Chawngte Composite Greater Water Supply Scheme?

ii) Is there any plan to implement Greater Water Supply Scheme at Lawngpuighat?

SPEAKER : The hon. member, Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, I ask -

i) When Greater Water Supply Scheme Phase-II of Lunglei will be put to function?

ii) If there is a plan to install new pipes and water pumping generator at Lunglei since the existing ones becomes old and rusty.

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, instruction is given to concerned EE for taking upwater harvesting scheme at Puankhai since gravitational water supply is inapplicable in this area.

As of water supply for Chawngte, scarcity of water is intensive in this area and immediate attention is thus given by the department as well. We will enquire about the work progress of Lungpuinghat water supply scheme and necessary action will be taken.

Regarding the question by Pu Lawmawma, we will try our best for improvement and if necessary, we may approach the central for funding.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Land Revenue & Settlement be pleased to state –

- a) Total number of vacant posts of Surveyor?
- b) If there is any intention to fill up such posts for strengthening the department?
- c) Is there a plan for setting up Training Institute building at Hualngohmun?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister, Pu Lalruatkima may answer it.

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

- a) 45 posts.
- b) 10 Nos. were filled last year and there is no plan to fill up the rest.
- c) The PWD, Project Division-III drafted a proposal for construction of Surveyor Training Institute at Hualngohmunin 2006. We are now waiting for funding from NEC and the 15th Finance Commission.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrindika Ralte, hon. member.

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

If the quality of rice purchased by FCS&CA Deptt. through MIZOFED the desired quality of Supply Deptt.?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Supply Department is not satisfied with the quality of the rice, notice is thus given so that the desired quality may be purchased.

SPEAKER : Pu KT Rokhaw, hon. Member.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I request the hon. Minister to prioritize reconstruction of Chakhang supply godown which no longer fit for storage for supply.

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, initiative is made for reconstruction Chakhang godown.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma, hon. Minister.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, will the concerned Minister of Land & Revenue Department be pleased to state –

- a) Is there any provision that restricted the mizos or non-chakmas to have land settlement within the area of Chakma Autonomous District Council?
- b) If the Chakma Autonomous Council has the power to make such rules? If so, in what rule and which section?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

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

- a) There is no provision that restricted the mizos or non-chakmas from having land settlement within the area of Chakma Autonomous District Council.
- b) Land Revenue & Settlement does not know if CADC is authorized to make such rules.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. There is prevailing rumor that mizos are not allowed to settle with CADC area except for a few who settles therein since many years back. Is this a fact? May the hon. Minister look into the matter? Does CADC has its own rules for new settlers which is against the rules of settlement in our state?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there are numbers of mizo and Bru settlements within CADC area and residential pass and garden pass has also been issued to such people as necessary. Pu Speaker, it may be noted that the Sixth Scheduled of the Indian Constitution, para 3 has provided a special provision to such District Councils to lay down any rule to preserve their autonomy but approval of the Governor of Mizoram should be obtained to put such rule into effect. Anyway, I will look into the matter.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Pachhunga, hon. Member.

Dr. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, will the concerned Minister of Excise & Narcotics Department be pleased to state –

- a) The amount of liquor sold with effect from the previous Ministry, 2014 uptill the termination of the Act under the MNF ministry?
- b) The number of alcohol related death during that period?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is –

- a) An amount of 3,70,30,041 litres of wine/beer/IMFL are sold with effect from Dt.16.3.2015 till date.
- b) Excise & Narcotics Deptt. does not maintain such record in question.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, may Excise Outpost be placed at Thenzawl to check circulation of illegal drugs from North to South vice versa.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, the hon. House Leader, on 20.3.2019 had mentioned in the House and also in a public meeting at Serchhip that there are 5,000 Nos. alcohol related death. So, what is the source of information for the hon. House Leader in mentioning this?

SPEAKER : Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga.

Dr. ZR. THIAMSSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Champhai, which is at the international border is known as a haven for drug trades. While this is the case, our

Excise Deptt. at Champhai is manned only with 35 constables and 2 clerical staff. I am hesitant to mention this, but the need for more manpower's is intensive for smooth operation of the department.

Being served once under Health Deptt., I want to mention that death rate is increasing after legalization of liquor and it is learned that the reason was mostly alcohol related which even affected church community.

SPEAKER : If the reason is recorded in written?

Dr. ZR. THIAMSANGA : No, the reason is not put in written but alcohol related death rate had become very high.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minsiter Dr. K. Beichhua may answer the question.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, it is the desire of the government as well to place Excise outpost at Thenzawl but we are unable to do so at the moment. We will take initiative in this regard.

Pu Speaker, I could not give the answer to Pu C. Ngunlianchunga's question since I am not the concerned with Health Department.

Regarding the point raised by Dr. ZR Thiamsanga, Champhai is an international border and the main doorway for any trades. So, we are now taking necessary steps to establish Excise Outpost there.

SPEAKER : The hon. House Leader.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the number alcohol related death may not be recorded in written but the cause of their death confirms it. So, during these four years, in my calculations, the number of alcohol related death was at least 5,000.

SPEAKER : It may even be more that this.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, the speech may be corrected since Health Department claims they do not have the record of deaths due to alcohol in specific.

SPEAKER : We will now move on to Question No.101 and Dr. Vanlaltanpuia to ask.

Dr. VANLALTANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The hon. Minister of Higher & Technical Department be pleased to state –

- a) The estimate time for starting the class of Mizoram Engineering College its building which is now under construction at Pukpui Arsi?
- b) If the government is ready to start the engineering classes?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. member questions are –

- a) It is not possible to mention as of when Classes of Mizoram Engineering College will be started.
- b) In condition, the Government is not ready as yet to start the classes.

As per RUSA official, there are many things which need to be done before starting like the approach road, electric and water connection, recruitment of staffs, faculty etc. So, it is not possible to start the classes at the moment.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, the answer I receive regarding Horticulture College at Thenzawl is not unsatisfactory as the question like name of contractures could not be furnished. Pu Speaker, it is learned that 1st year class has already been started, so, the people would like to know whom to approach for admission since the horticulture officials posted there could not give a specific answer. What is the physical and financial achievement?

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

Dr. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, our status on technical education is still very low and we need to give more efforts in this field. RUSA had also calculated the amount of recurring funds and this has been submitted to the hon. Chief Minister. Since technical education is a much-needed institution for our State, I request the hon. Chief Minister and the Finance department to prioritize this issue; and, if there is a time speculated for starting the classes of the next session.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana.

Dr. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, I would like to ask as a supplementary that if the Mizoram Hindi Training College, as per the GFR, 2017 or 2005, has opened bank account; and, if fines for absence collected ₹300-₹500/day are credited to such account? Secondly, it is learned that funds sanctioned for Agra Enrichment Course amounting to ₹2,650/- per head had been received and that the Principal disbursed the amount of ₹1,500/-. On hearing grievances of the concerned students, the principal then again disbursing the remaining i.e. ₹1,100/- per head but none except 5 students of closed relatives willing to sign their names for such payment. My question is – If the government is aware of such incident?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in reply to the question of Pu Laldhoma, it is not under my portfolio but all the points he had mentioned are of much important and quite informative for me to know the details.

Pu Speaker, it wise to look into this matter with the consultative committee. As of the Mizoram Hindi Training College, an account is maintained as per the General Financial Rules. Regarding funds for Agra Enrichment Course, preliminary enquiry is underway and the report is not received as yet and it may be informed as soon as the report is received.

Regarding Mizoram Engineering College, the government is trying its best in expediting the process, but there are so many works to be done such as the approach roads, electrification, water supply, post creation and recruitment of staffs and faculty; so, it may take time. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. House Leader.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would also like to react to some points which I think as necessary. First, regarding setting up Excise Outpost at Thenzawl, the department too has applied for recruitment of staff but I am regretted to mention that all the vacant posts could not be filled at a time but necessary action will be taken for some posts but only after our financial status is examined.

Regarding Horticulture College at Thenzawl, I have also returned the file stating that the name of the contractor should be known and the department is now working on it.

Regarding NIT, I was informed that the process could not be expedited due to objection from Forest Deptt. in connection with forest clearance. On the contrary, it is important for Forest Deptt. as well to consider immediate clearance of the case even by demanding forest compensatory to that effect. Thus, expedite measure will be taken as we need NIT to function immediately. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, will the concerned Minister of Printing & Stationery Department be pleased to state –

- a) How many departments are acquiring stationery materials from the Printing & Stationery Department?
- b) If it is mandatory for any department to acquire stationery materials only from Printing & Stationery Department?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

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

- a) During 2018 – 2019, 44 Nos. department obtained their stationery requirements from Printing & Stationery Department.
- b) Stationery & Allied items are classified into Centralized and Decentralized item in which any requirements of centralized items should be collected from Printing & Stationery Department on need base.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. If the government insists on any department to purchase requirement of stationery items only from Printing & Stationery Department? Is there any plan to upgrade the Printing & Stationery Department?

SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, despite the Govt. order for purchase of stationery items from Stationery Department, most of the departments purchased only a few but the major requirement is purchased from other suppliers. Thus, the department lost huge amount due to expire of its collection. Relating to this, I would like to ask the total value of stationery and allied items which are currently stocked at the depot of Printing & Stationery Department.

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana is next.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, according to the the hon. Minister, 44 out of 49 departments in Mizoram obtained their stationery requirements from Printing & Stationery Department which means the remaining 5 departments are excluded. May the hon. minister give the name of such 5 departments?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in reply to Pu Lalsawivunga's question, under the chairmanship of Finance Secretary, notice had been given to all departments concern. Apart from this, the Cabinet sub-Committee has taken necessary steps and a reasonable amount is thus profited; we hope it will be improving.

Regarding Pu Lalchhuanthanga's question, there are ₹3 crore worths of stationery and allied materials being stocked in the depot at Aizawl, ₹80 lakh worth at Lunglei and ₹50 lakh worth at Siaha. We have to know that our depots are not always in good condition as some are destroyed by mites.

The departments that does not obtain stationery requirements from P & S department are as follows: -

- 1) AH& Veterinary Department
- 2) Land Resources & Water Conservation Department
- 3) Art & Culture Department
- 4) I & PR Department
- 5) Tourism Department
- 6) Sericulture Department
- 7) GAD
- 8) ICT
- 9) Minor Irrigation
- 10) PAD

- 11) Political & Cabinet Department,
- 12) Soil & Water Conservation Department,
- 13) Vigilance,
- 14) SAD.

SPEAKER : Officials of the aforesaid departments are supposed to present here today. So, it will be much appreciated if the stationery requirements are obtained from P & S from now on. Moving on to the next, starred Question No. 103 and Er. H. Lalzirliana to ask.

Er. H. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Irrigation & Water Resources Department be pleased to state –

If there is a plan for setting up Irrigation Office at Mamit District; if so, what is the estimate time for functioning of the office?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINSITER: Pu Speaker, the answer is –Yes, there is a plan to establish Irrigation office at Mamit. It is now under process and so is not possible to say the time for it functioning.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Pachhunga.

Dr. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, the Irrigation Deptt. has the office building constructed at the land purchased at Hrangchalkawn; however, the office is functioning in a rented building of another locality. May the office be functioning at its own building?

SPEAKER : Pu F. Lalnunmawia is next.

Prof. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Pu Speaker, is there a plan to establish Irrigation sub-Division at Sialsuk? I believe initiative has also been made in this regard.

SPEAKER : We have come to the end of Question Hour but the concerned Minister have questions to answer.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Irrigation Department office located at Hrangchalkawn is very far for the public; and, since the Agriculture

Department has a vacant building at Rahsi Veng, we occupy it for the convenience of the people. There is a proposal to exchange the building with that of Education Department and so is inconvenient to move back to Hrangchalkawn.

SPEAKER : We will now move on to another business which is laying of papers. The hon. Minister may now lay the Statement of correction on the reply given on the 17th June, 2019 to Starred Question No. 51, Ballot No. 42 asked by Pu Lalduhoma regarding ILP; and, the Statement of correction on the reply given on the 20th March, 2019 to Starred Question No.12, which was converted to unstarred Question, Ballot No. 82, asked by Pu Vanlalhlana and Pu VL Zaithanzama regarding the boundary.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay the Statement of correction on the reply given on the 17th June, 2019 to Starred Question No. 51, Ballot No. 42 asked by Pu Lalduhoma regarding ILP and the Statement of correction on the reply given on the 20th March, 2019 to Starred Question No. 12, which was converted to unstarred Question Ballot No. 82, asked by Pu Vanlalhlana and Pu VL Zaithanzama regarding boundary.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. Now, the hon. Minister, Pu Lalruatkima to lay the Statement of correction on the reply given on the 20th March, 2019 to Starred Question No. 123 which was converted to unstarred Question Ballot No. 78 asked by Pu Lalchhuanthanga regarding Brigade land of Bawngkawn area. Since the hon. Minister is not here today due to the demise of the former Member, Dr. R. Lalthangliana will lay the papers on his behalf.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay the Statement of Correction on the reply given on the 20th March, 2019 to Starred Question No. 123 which was converted to unstarred Question Ballot No. 78 asked by Pu Lalchhuanthanga regarding Brigade land of Bawngkawn area.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. We will now move on to financial business; today, we are going to discuss the demands of Pu C. Lalrinsanga and Dr. K. Beichhua. I will now call upon Pu C. Lalrinsanga, the hon. Minister to submit the following Demands No. 31, 37 and 47 on the table of the House.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with the recommendation of the Governor and with your permission, Sir, I lay the following Demands –

Demand Nos.	Department	Amount (in ₹)
31	Agriculture	1,73,68,03,000.00
37	Cooperation	17,09,18,000.00
47	Irrigation & Water Resources	39,68,22,000.00
TOTAL		2,30,45,43,000.00

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister Dr. K. Beichhua to lay his Demands such as Demand No. 7, 29, 34 and 41 on the table of the House.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA, MIINISTER: Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, Sir, I move the Demand No. 7, 29, 34 and 41 for ₹2,84,81,77,000/- only for meeting expenses during 2019-2020 in respect of the following departments –

Demand Nos.	Department	Amount (in ₹)
7	Excise & Narcotics	43,78,29,000.00
29	Social Welfare	1,50,60,50,000.00
34	AH & Veterinary	69,33,31,000.00
41	Sericulture	21,09,67,000.00
TOTAL		2,84,81,77,000.00

SPEAKER : The two hon. Ministers have submitted their demands on the table of the House; now, we will start our discussion and each member will be allotted 10 minutes each. Pu L. Thangmawia will start.

PU L. THANGMAWIA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I will start with Agriculture which is an important department for the economic development of our State. I believe there are many potential areas like Tuisaphai, Tuivai, Tuiphal etc for vegetation and I believe Tuisaphai alone will be able to feed the demands of my constituency. So, I suggest we give more attention to the potential area for vegetation and has a study on crops which are adaptable to the soil and climatic condition of this area. It is also important that co-operative movement is monitored carefully so that it may go hand-in-hand with agriculture. I believe this will bring a positive change to our system.

Irrigation & Water Resources is an important department which could be a

great factor for our development in Agriculture and Horticulture. I request our Minister to give more attentions in this regard and strengthen the cooperative bond among the departments concern for they are elements for our development.

Pu Speaker, we have inter-states and international borders which needs special vigilance for they are the doorways of illegal trades. Though the local NGO's like YMA and others keep a close watch on these areas all hours and difficult at times. So, I request that inter-state and international border vigilance could be more attended.

Under Social Welfare Department, a good co-ordination with other department there can be many opportunities in tribal areas like ours. I thank the hon. Minister for giving us Tribal Hostel at Luangmual for Paite students in SRDC area which amounts to ₹200 lakh and also for Youth Development Centre at Ngopa which will amount to ₹100 lakh. We will also need aids for different skill developments and I request Social Welfare Department keep on open mind and make suggestions in such matters.

With restriction of selling liquor, it is wise of the concerned Minister and the hon. House Leader to give attention towards improvement of rehabilitation centres since the effects of alcohol is unavoidable and is not easily cured.

Under AH & Veterinary Department, it is important that we should try to be self-sufficient in the supply of pork, beef and other meats. I suggest we learn the techniques of animal farming of Myanmar since we usually import our pigs from Myanmar. I express my gratitude towards our officials and Ministers for their initiatives within this short period of time. I believe we see some positive changes in the near future. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I strongly believe that our food production will increase through the step taken on agriculture. Initiative of the hon. Minister for procurement of rice grains from local producers is truly commendable. This will certainly encourage many farmers to put more efforts on their cultivations. I am glad that the concerned Minister is also prioritizing the mechanized system to increase our production which I believe will no doubt bring about a change.

Under Excise Department, it is important that we increase man-power to attain more efficiency in work. The department should be equipped with more vehicles so that inter-states and international boundaries are watched regularly.

Pu Speaker, I believe there are many works to be done under Veterinary Department. The supply of pork had never been sufficient despite pig feeds manufacturing industries at Tanhril and pig farm at Selesih. So, is it possible that we put more efforts in this regard? It is also wise to encourage farmers to cultivate more corns since it is the best feed for pigs? We should also give attention to rearing goats considering the demands of mutton in the country.

SPEAKER : Pu B.D. Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, it is unfortunate for the concerned Ministers that budget allocation to their departments respectively is falling. Particularly of agriculture, I wonder how economic development could be achieved with less sufficient budget fund allocation to the department in which the government the major people relies upon. Even more, we also have a decrease with Crop Husbandry, Research & Education.

On Demand No. 37, budget allocation to Cooperative department too decreases despite the fact that economic development could not be achieved without cooperative sectors. So, I suggest we consider more carefully.

Despite its importance for development of our food productions, budget allocation to Irrigation & Water Resources is increased. In the previous term, when I was a member of DISHA under the chairmanship of the hon. MP, many funds were coming form the central for development of irrigation. While that is the case, a specific answer could not be made to my question relating to utilization of funds being received under IWMP, AIBP and PMKSY in respect to Lawngtlai area. I am afraid the same may be practiced under this ministry.

On Excise & Narcotics Department, I wonder how the revenue of the department will be increased with prohibition of liquors. May the hon. Minister explain what the government has in mind to collect the revenue?

Under Social Welfare Department, Budget Estimate decreases immensely where as allocation under salary head is only ₹3,039.99 lakh against ₹2,674.68 lakh last year. May the hon. Chief Minister make a clear explanation in this regard?

Pu Speaker, I request the hon. Minister to make some arrangements so that persons with disability and old aged may receive financial assistance from the government on time. Relating to this, I request the hon. Minister to clarify as to which

authority issues disability certificate as we have a problem in my constituency in this regard.

Budget estimates for AH & Veterinary i.e. ₹6,933.31 lakh has also decreases compared to last year of ₹8,048.49 lakh. Apart form this, none is allocated under the head of major works and thus should be reviewed. There are areas in which VFS are not posted which immensely affect the health of many domestic animals. So, I request the concerned Minister to take note of this. Lastly, Since SEDP is not highlighted in this budget, I suggest the name should be changed to SDP. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu H. Biakzaua.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I must say that Agriculture is one of the most important departments in our state since the major population of rural areas is engaged in cultivation. There are many potential areas for cultivation but our main problem is unavailability of link roads. So, it is important to give priority to link roads across our state. In the Southern area, we have Chamdur which is said to have a good prospect, thus, WRC may be introduced in this area. I suggest major projects for this area is moved to the Central government.

I suggest we should utilize funds under Co-operation wisely and take necessary measure to improve the work of Cooperative Society. It is pleasing to know that our hon. Minister assured to provide better access for water supplies for famers for this will have a positive impact on our production.

In order to implement law and order in our State, it is important that we have enough manpower in Excise Department covering the entire State and international borders. With the upcoming plan of border trade at Saisihchhuah, it is obvious that the service of Excise Deptt. will be much important. Knowing that, a vast area of land in Lawngtlai has been given to Excise Department. So, I request the hon. Minister to take initiative for recruitment for 104 vacant posts and place them in the aforementioned area.

On Demand No. 34, AH & Veterinary Department, I believe it is not difficult to get self sufficiency in the supply of meats if more efforts are given. At the same time, it is doubly important to establish RAH centre in order to maintain the health of our domestic animals. I am glad that there are plans to establish one at Lungtian and I hope it will also be set up in other rural areas.

Among the 49 departments in Mizoram, there are only a few which cannot be linked to Social Welfare Department and it could be a doorway to extract funds from the Central Government. Pu Speaker, I also request our hon. Minister to consider disbursing old age pension on time as I have often received a call informing the delay. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Thank you Pu Speaker. Under Demand No.7, Excise & Narcotics, I believe it is important to have more manpower in the department to be more efficient in their work. Pu Speaker, is there a probability of posting the Asst. Commissioner at Siaha since the post is lying vacant for some time now. We are at the inter-states border and there is no check gate in this area. So, I request our hon. Minister to set up Excise check gate here. Pu Speaker, we are all aware that liquors are occasionally seized by the department and I have no idea how it is disposed. So, I suggest if it is sold to generate more incomes for the department.

Pu Speaker, Agriculture is very important as it is the main element for the economic independence in our state. I think we should try to find more effective measures to develop ourselves in this field. I believe it is wise to let our farmers deal directly with the buyers and the only part the government should involve is to find good buyers for the farmers. Pu Speaker, my constituency is a potential area, so, I request that attention be given in the western belt. I also request the hon. Minister to post SDAO within my constituency. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

Dr. ZR. THIAMSSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Agriculture is an important department which concern rural people as it is the main source of their livelihood. Champhai is a potential area where there are about 8,000 hectares of land to be developed; I think it is important that we establish a static short testing laboratory. It is also important that we have a good godown and a cold chain to prevent the harvests from decaying. Apart from this we have a vast area of cultivable land for potatoes like Lengteng Tlang, Ngopa, Sialkal and the nearby areas, and if we give attention in these areas, I believe we will be able to supply the demands of our state. We are fortunate that irrigation is good in our area but we need more manpower to efficiently carry out the work. Unfortunately, one JE died a few days back and we are in need of more

manpower. Pu Speaker, I am positive that improvement will be made if AEO is posted at Hnahlan.

As mentioned earlier by the hon. Member, link road are very important to increase the surplus production of our agricultural goods.

We, the Mizos are not yet well versed in running a society and I would like to request our hon. Minister to observe and investigate the running of these societies.

Moving on, we need to provide more manpower to excise department if we are to be successful in implementing MLTP Act.

If bifurcation of SWD and Women Welfare Department goes ahead, there will be no office for CDPO's in villages such as Champhai. I would like our ministry to look into this matter so that an office for CDPO can be establish there.

We need more support at Veterinary Department, Champhai such as VFA, renovation of buildings, vehicles and maintenance of machineries. We are also in dire need of quarantine station building at Zokhawthar. Thank you.

SPEAKER : It is now 1:00 PM and we will have recess till 2:00 PM.

2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER : Let us now invite Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma to start the discussion.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to start off by mentioning the need to be self-sufficient. In order to achieve that, we need to strengthen and enhance Agriculture Department.

We have several potential areas and we need to develop these areas so that we can turn them into agricultural area.

We have been having issues with fencing in my constituency which affects rice harvesting due to water logging. We are in serious need of water pipes and I would like to request our hon. Minister to provide us water pipes.

We are very short staffed at Tlabung sub-divisional office and it would be a huge service if we could have at least one field officer.

We have only one higher secondary school at my constituency and no college. It will be a huge boost to education if we could have an Eklavya Model Residential School.

Lastly, we are all aware that Mizoram has many international boundaries which serve as the pathway for drugs trade and it is a necessity to provide more manpower to Excise & Narcotics Department so that they can tackle this problem. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Pachhunga

Dr. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Our budget for this year is not favorable compared to last year and I believe this is due to the fact that this year's budget is election oriented especially in Agriculture Department.

I have faith in our Minister and hope that he will pave the way for self-sufficiency. We have several potential areas especially in my constituency. If these areas are properly developed, we will be a step closer to self-sufficiency. In order to develop these areas, we require link roads and tillers.

Under Demand No.47, Irrigation, we must give priority to rainwater harvest so that we are not dependent on rainy season.

Excise & Narcotics Department (Demand No.7) is understaffed and requires more manpower. We are aware that they are doing the difficult task of checking and maintaining the drugs and smuggling trade at our international border. I believe we should invest in sniffer dogs to help with their task.

Under Veterinary Department (Demand No.34), we need to promote animal breeding and production, especially breeding and production of cows so that we are not reliant on import.

Also, there is high potential for the breeding of muga trees which will raise the prospect of silk production. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchung

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to start off with Agriculture Department. We have a new ministry on top of a very efficient Minister and we have great expectations for this department.

However, there is no provision in the budget for development of agriculture or SEDP. This is very disappointing considering how important it is for our State to be able to produce our own intake. There are several schemes from central government and we must utilize these schemes.

In order to achieve effective farming and production of food, I believe we must adopt a project system and choose one district as a whole and choose another district the next year for farming and production. If we adopt a systematic approach to farming and production, I believe we can succeed.

Under Cooperation Department (Demand No. 37), it is imperative that a change in our mindset towards society is required in order to succeed.

Minor Irrigation Department (Demand No. 47) should be treated as equivalent to Agriculture Department as they are the backbone of Agriculture Department and development should be carried out by project wise to be effective.

Several members have mentioned the issues regarding Excise & Narcotics Department and I support these issues mentioned before, especially enlargement of manpower to tackle drugs and smuggling trade at international border.

I would also like to request for an extension of SP Office at Lawngtlai to safeguard the border and its surrounding areas.

Moving on to Social Welfare Department (Demand No.29), additional fund is required for establishment of rehabilitation and de-addiction centre.

Lastly, under AH & Veterinary Department, privatization and outsourcing of our farms will generate more income for the government. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Er. H. Lalzirliana

Er. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. At a glance, it seems like a reasonable budget was presented and as such the advice of the ministry will be greatly appreciated.

Starting with Agriculture department, i will be focusing on fostering climate resilient upland farming systems. This is a 6 years project in which Mizoram is one of the states selected and I hope and believe that this will lead to Green Revolution. Also, we have several potential areas which can be developed for agricultural land.

Veterinary department has underperformed for a long time and are currently planning to change that. They will undertake several projects under SEDP and I would like to suggest the adoption of cluster areas for specific farms.

This ministry has reinstated MLTP Act and in order to succeed, we need to combat the supply chain. And in order to do that, we have to strengthen our excise force.

Moving on to Irrigation department, I am grateful that our hon. Minister recognize the importance of irrigation department and have taken steps to enhance the department. It is an important department and is the backbone of agriculture department and cannot be separated. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhuanthanga

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to start with Demand No.37, Co-operation Department. This department has been going on for a long time since the time of District Council and has considerable potential. It has the potential to boost our economy but has been neglected by the government for a long time.

The department will be a favorable partner for SEDP and have the tools to build our economy. As such, more effort must be taken to bring up this department.

Under Excise & Narcotics Department (Demand No.7), it is fortunate that the budget has increased by 39.87%. With the reintroduction of MLTP Act, the department will require support and resources to successfully implement this act.

I am a bit confused regarding the function of ‘State Prohibition Council’ and i would like to request our hon. Minister to clarify the functions and powers held by this council. Otherwise, i feel that it will be an unnecessary use of resources.

Pu Chairman, i am very disappointed that the budget estimate for Agriculture Department (Demand No.31) has reduced drastically by 23.38%. This department is

the true holder of our economy and about 60-70% of the public is dependent on this department. I believe that this department alone should be carried by one Minister without any other portfolio.

Another important point regarding this department is the current plight of link roads. Majority of our link roads are decrepit and in need of repair. If we want to be self-sufficient and succeed in agriculture, more provision should be made for maintenance of link roads. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. Since we are pressed for time, I will dive straight to the point and start with Social Welfare Department (Demand No.29).

Social Welfare Department is a very expansive department with countless projects with its function ranging from birth till old age. They played a comprehensive role in the development of youths in Mizoram. I would like to express my gratitude to our hon. Minister for his effort and performance for this department.

There are detention and de-addiction centres operated by NGO's at Vairengte and I would like to advocate for these centres so that they can receive financial aid from the government.

Also, I would like to petition for financial aid from Social Welfare Department for those areas in my constituency which are in HPC demand area.

Bilkhawthlir ICDS is short staffed and requires at the very least a computer operator. The Anganwadi centre at Vairengte is managed by the Village Council and they would be gratified if they could handover the management of this centre to the government.

Moving on to Excise Department (Demand No.7), it is imperative to strengthen the excise force especially at Vairengte and establish a check gate at Phaisen and Saiphai.

We are reliant on the import of food and animal products since we are not self-sufficient. I have faith in our hon. Minister for veterinary department. The

department's quarters and buildings at Saiphai are in dire need of repair and there are currently no staff posted at the office and as such we require at least one staff.

VFA is required at North Hlimen and renovation of quarters is also required at North Hlimen and Buhchangphai. Also, since the coverage area for Bilkhawthlir Veterinary Department is extensive, it would be more practical if the RAH Centre is converted into dispensary.

Moving on to Agriculture and Irrigation Department (Demand No. 31 & 37), we need to transform our system to benefit the public and should not be election oriented.

There are several buildings, quarters and godowns that are in need of repair such as Bilkhawthlir IB and I would like to request our hon. Minister to inquire about this. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Andrew H. Thangliana

PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. As mentioned by members before me, it is disappointing that the budget estimate for this year is less than last year.

Agriculture department (Demand No.31) is an extensive department where horticulture, fisheries and animal husbandry can be included in its broad definition. Currently, only 22% of potential area is utilized and the amount of capital invested for procurement of rice is astronomical.

I would like to suggest in focusing on Research and Extension as they played an important role in the road to self-sufficiency. It is deeply disappointing that there is no provision for research and extension on our budget. We have KVK centres in every district which is funded by ICAR. However, there is no contribution from the state budget and it is necessary to utilize these KVK centres as they are valuable to farmers.

Also, we must adjust and change our mindset and focus on quality control in the purchase and supply of machinery, tools and equipment as well as when floating tenders. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now invite Dr. Vanlaltanpuia

Dr. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. First of all, I am grateful that our hon. Minister presented our budget for the financial year.

Even though, our budget estimate is less than last year, we have autonomy in share of taxes, post devolution and revenue deficit grant.

I would like to start with Agriculture Department (Demand No.31) and would like to mention that agriculture is the regulator of economy, and in Mizoram, it contributes only 125 to our GSDP. More effort should be taken to endorse agriculture. I feel that our budget is substantial and should be sufficient if they are used for its intended purpose.

We should focus on sustainable development, promote organic farming and use less chemical fertilizer. We must aspire to attain green revolution. Crop selection should be introduced so that high yielding variety of crops can be selected to achieve optimum productivity.

We must make use of machinery and technology to support our agricultural industry.

Moving on to Irrigation and Water Resources (Demand No.47), we must start adopting Sloping Agriculture Land Technologies (SALT) and should be innovative in our approach.

Under Animal Husbandry and Veterinary (Demand No.34), we should utilize and promote the use of research centre and biotechnology to be self-sufficient in the production of meat and meat products.

We have tremendous potential in ari plantation and this should be utilized for silk production.

I am hopeful and optimistic that our budget will lead to extensive economic growth for Mizoram. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us invite our representative from Aizawl North-II constituency, Dr. Vanlalhlana.

Dr. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. There was some misunderstanding from my side regarding the speech made by our hon. Chief Minister yesterday and I would like to apologize for my lapse in judgment.

I would like to start by mentioning that our budget estimate for agriculture department has decreased considerably compared to last year. We are behind other states in almost every aspect and hence it is imperative that more investment must be allocated to research to increase our productivity.

The budget estimate for Cooperation Department (Demand No.37) has also decreased by 3.17% with MIZOFED being the main player. I deeply regret that a society was not setup for the beneficiaries of NLUP using funds from their own NLUP funds as this could be much more advantageous and productive.

There is an increase in the budget for Excise and Narcotics by 39.82% and I am hopeful that this will be used to establish better administration and management for the department.

MLTP Act have been reintroduced and I believe systematic planning is required if we are to successfully implement this Act. I have heard from a very reliable source that employees at the department pose a challenge that majority of them are alcohol drinkers and as such measures should be taken so that this does not affect their ability to perform.

After reviewing the budget for Social Welfare Department, I would like to ask this House if there are any provision for providing support to NGO's this year.

Under AH & Veterinary, there is no provision for screening of hospital and dispensary as well as in any major works. It is deeply disappointing as hospital development is fundamental for the people of Mizoram.

Budget estimate for Sericulture increased by 9.9% where as 98.96% will be diverted to salaries of employees and only 1.04% for development. I hope that more provision will be provided for developmental works in the future. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu VL Zaithanzama

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. Since we are pressed for time, I will be focusing and emphasizing on agriculture.

I regret that the 3 departments under our hon. Minister Pu Lalrinsanga have all decreased in budget. This is a cause for concern as they are all related to agriculture and I am worried that this will have adverse effect on farmers.

Under Cooperation Department, I do not agree with the musing that the people of Mizoram do not know how to run a society. Rather, I firmly believe that the government is not interested and did not pay enough attention to realize its potential and to achieve success. I squarely put the blame on the government. This department requires better administration and management and more importantly, they require stability.

Looking at the budget for this department, it is disappointing to see the estimate. I would like to mention that there are about 1300 societies under this department and it is high time that priority should be given to this department.

Secondly, under Agriculture Department, rice production has consistently decreased for the past 3 years which indicates that this is an area where we need to put more effort into. However, this does not seem to be the case as the budget estimate for this department has decreased significantly.

We have extensive potential area for rice cultivation and yet we have utilized only one fourth of our potential area. I would like to mention that they deserve higher budget for the next financial year.

Lastly, under Social Welfare Department, I would like to advocate for increment in old age pension and salaries for Anganwadi workers. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will have a recess and resume our Session at 4:15 PM.

4:15 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now invite our representative from Aizawl South-III constituency, Prof. F. Lalnunmawia.

Prof. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. The demand for today's discussion is doubly important as these departments affect and regulate the economic growth of Mizoram.

Touching on Agriculture, Cooperation and Irrigation & Water Resources Deptt., I would like to mention that the budget amount is not the number one criterion, rather it is the method of planning and management that will determine the success of these departments.

In order to succeed in Agriculture, we need to focus on research and technology. Especially, in terms of rice cultivation, there are several potential areas at Sialsuk, Sailam and Samlukhai. The numbers of rice cultivators have also increased and as such we must develop these areas in order to increase productivity.

Bank and financial institutions should collaborate with farmers by providing them with a loan system.

We need to reform our irrigation system and the most important is the market for their products which in turn requires efficient marketing system.

Under AH & Veterinary Department, it is necessary to introduce and implement more hygienic measures for our animal farms.

Social Welfare and Excise & Narcotics Departments are the holders of our economic development policy and as such priority should be given to these departments. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now invite our representative from Aizawl South-I constituency, Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. I would like to start with Agriculture Department and emphasize that we are far from being self-sufficient with our imports surpassing our production.

Other states and developed countries prioritize agriculture and this reflects on their budget. We also need to follow their lead and revise our budget and increase the estimate for Agriculture Department.

We should focus on horticulture-based farming system, livestock-based system, water harvesting structure and other agriculture related projects to become self-sufficient.

Under AH & Veterinary Department, quarantine station at our borders is a must for checking imports of livestock and an efficient checking system.

Moving on to Demand No. 41, silk production can be a source of revenue for our State. After all this time experimenting with several projects and schemes from the central government, there is no headway in the production of silk. We should ask ourselves the reason for this stunt in growth. Also, we should utilize RKVY and Integrated Sericulture Development.

Under Excise and Narcotics which is Demand No.7, better check gates and checking systems are necessary especially at borders; more female staffs are also required in the force at check gates.

Under Social Welfare Department, systematic arrangement and more provisions for the physically challenged persons is required. We must increase the amount for old age pension scheme using state matching share and increase the wages of Anganwadi workers.

Lastly, I would like to request a timeline for completion of Tribal Girls' hostel at Govt. T. Romana College and PUC. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next is, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. First of all, I would like to thank our hon. Minister for measures being taken to drive off fall army worm onslaught.

Starting with Agriculture Department, my constituency is holder of the leading potential areas of agricultural production in Mizoram with 5 rivers running through it. In spite of this, our produce is rather less as there are several areas that need to be developed. Thus, we are lagging in terms of agricultural administration and management. So, if possible, establishing SDAO office would be the first step in moving towards development.

We have large production of turmeric and oil palm and if the government creates its marketing, it will be of tremendous service to the growers.

Moving on to Cooperation Department, I am grateful that this ministry recognizes the role played by this department in our economy by arranging NCDC loan specifically to be taken for the development of this department.

Irrigation Department under my constituency is seldom staffed and as such proper staffing is required to supervise the works.

Under Excise & Narcotics Department, the budget has increased and recruitment will commence shortly. I applaud our hon. Minister for his work within this department. I would also like to request for the establishment of check gate/outpost at Phaileng.

Under Social Welfare Department, I believe it is high time for increasing old age pension.

Moving to Demand No. 34, AH & Veterinary Department, Pu Deputy Speaker, I would like to ask about the said imported breed of pig during the previous ministry. What is the present status of that programme? I request the Hon. Minister to give us the success or failure of that programme. Besides, I would like to add that this department needs huge strengthening in the district as they are situated in different places and international boundaries. Import of animals through the boundary makes such districts prone to disease outbreak and other problems. Thus, strengthening of AH & Veterinary Department is necessary to check such problems in district level.

Lastly, regarding Demand No. 41, Sericulture Department, I would like to state that my constituency has done very well in sericulture. Darlung Centre has even received an award at the national level. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon Minister to favour us in any possible way so that we achieve yet further development. Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I will start with Demand No. 47 and No. 31, Agriculture Department and Irrigation & Water Resources Department respectively.

It is a fact that increase of agriculture production is a must so that our state may become self-sufficient. In order to achieve this, it is necessary that these two departments work together very well. There are many cultivable lands in our state but not yet cultivated in our state. Speaking about my constituency, there are 190 families who make a living through rice cultivation. However, we have a vast area of land which needs land development for cultivation in 18 villages.

The main problem in these areas is scarcity of water. It is desirable to take more serious measures so that these areas could be provided with better canal and irrigation system. We are very hopeful to achieve a great success provided a sufficient amount of water supply. In order to do that, we need the assistance of Irrigation & Water Resources Department a lot. However, this department needs a huge boost in terms of manpower. They cannot function as par necessities because they have no enough staff. Therefore, I requested that this department to be strengthened.

On Demand No. 34, we practice cattle rearing especially Mithun in a large scale in our area. It seems we are one of the areas which have the highest potential in this regard. However, we have a very limited veterinary service in the area. Besides, we are located in international boundary with Myanmar. Therefore, we are pretty prone to disease outbreak also. I beg the Hon. Minister to look into the matter so that better veterinary service may be made available within my constituency.

Lastly, regarding Demand No. 29, Social Welfare Department, I really appreciated the work done by this department. Especially regarding Anganwadi Centres in different villages, they are providing a very good development institution for the children mentally as well as physically. It is very desirable to strengthen this unpopular, but very important department. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu K.T. Rokhaw, Hon. Member from Palak Constituency.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I will start from Demand No. 7, Excise & Narcotics Department. One of the main points of MNF Party in the manifesto during election campaign was imposition of liquor prohibition. As such, they did it as soon as they came into power. However, I am amazed by the fact that not a single penny was allotted for Excise & Narcotics Department under their flagship programme SEDP. Besides, it is stated that only 33 constables were recruited under this department during the ministry of 7 months. This is too little in view of the need to strengthen the department to implement prohibition effectively.

On Demand No. 34, Tipa village within my constituency is a station for Sub-Divisional Veterinary Officer. However, there is no SDVO posted in this station for a long time. I request the Hon. Minister to post one considering the need of the people.

Regarding Demand No. 29, Social Welfare Department, I recently visited the Office of District Social Welfare Officer. I learned that there is only one Social

Welfare Officer, one LDC and one Grade IV staff. I think that this is the only district level office with only three staff. I beg the Hon. Minister to strengthen the office as soon as possible. Besides, regarding this department, the amount of old age pension is too small. I request the Hon. Minister to find a way to increase the amount.

On Demand No. 37, Co-Operation Department, I am very grateful that MIZOFED petrol pump has now render 24 hours service. This is very convenient especially for us who are from remote areas in case of emergency.

Moving to Demand No. 31, Agriculture Department, we have four AEO sanction posts for Saiha District Agriculture Office out of which only one post is filled. Besides, we have Subject Matter Specialist while it is considered compulsory to have at least one SMS in every district. Further, the DAO has no driver and no computer operator. Thus, I beg the Hon. Minister to take necessary steps to fill the vacant posts as possible. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we shall call upon Opposition Group Leader Pu Lalduhoma. He will be allowed 15 minutes.

PU LALDUHOMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The Departments which their demands are discussed today are very important departments. They are the departments which have direct influence on the common people. They are the departments which we must give priority if we are trying to achieve real development.

However, only Co-operation Department is included in the government flagship programme. Moreover, their budgets are also generally decreased. I consider this very unfortunate. There is no point on saying big things while there is no real commitment to make what we said a success.

Regarding Irrigation Department, Mat riverbank area within my constituency is a major area where rice and other vegetables are produced. However, there is a very little irrigation system available. Even if there are some projects available, there are many corruptions involved in such project work. As a result, the available projects also could not become a success. The main reason for this is the practice of giving contract work to party workers. I urge that even if there are project works available, it should be given to the real stakeholders.

Moving to Sericulture Department, we have had a plot of land for District Office at Serchhip. However, the building is not yet constructed. I beg the Hon. Minister to look into the matter so that it may be constructed as soon as possible.

It is also very desirable to upgrade Thenzawl Sericulture farm and make it a Muga farm. They are also facing a huge shortage of staff. Besides, it is said that Sericulture Cluster is set to be made. However, I do not find it anywhere in the budget for this purpose. I beg the Hon. Minister to mention the present status of this initiative.

Regarding Excise Department, I beg the Hon. Minister to take necessary steps for establishment of an outpost at Thenzawl. This is an immediate need of the people.

Regarding Social Welfare Department, there was a fund sanctioned for the construction of one stop centre at Serchhip. However, there is no job done in this regard as yet. I hope it will be started soon. Besides, the need for a big community healing centre for drug users is very necessary in view of the menace of drug abuse we are facing. Even if it is not possible to do so from this budget, we need to keep this in mind for the future.

In Agriculture Department, seedling of lemongrass is supplied by AMFU last year. What I like to say in this regard is that let the government does not introduce any crop without prospect. We had introduced several crops in the past. However we all faced problems in its marketing level. Let the government take a careful consideration as to introduce a new crop to the farmers.

Pu Speaker, the Nationalized Livestock Mission Scheme is a scheme under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Even though it is launched in 2015-2016, our state does not enjoy the scheme in no way at all. I urge the government to take necessary steps so that we may enjoy the scheme in our state.

In Veterinary Department, I would like to state that Serchhip District is anxiously waiting for the time to have District Veterinary Hospital as most of other districts have had their own District Hospital. Lastly, I would like to add that the shifting cultivators in villages are neglected for too long. It is the duty of the government to work more and more for them. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon the Hon. Minister, Pu C. Lalrinsanga to wind up our discussion and also to beg the House to pass his demands.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I thank all the Hon. Members who sincerely participated in the discussion of my demands. It may not be possible reacting to each of the point but will try to go through the discussion as far as possible.

Firstly, regarding the matter of RCS post, this is a very complex issue. Even though it is an IAS Cadre post, it seems considered a hard posting. However, this post is a very important post for the effective functioning of Cooperation Department.

Regarding the decrease of budget amount which has been often highlighted, we are not much concerned by this. I have firm believe that the Hon. Chief Minister is fully aware of the importance of cooperation movement for the development of the state. I also trust him to find a way for financing the department apart from the main budget. Besides, in Agriculture Department also, we are having several CSS from which huge grants are set to be availed. Therefore, we are not much worried by the budget decrease at the moment.

We are facing different problems regarding damaged irrigation canals. The only fund we can avail for this is through NABARD and PMKSY. It is very desirable that it may be funded from DM&R Department also. The matter will be looked into. Besides, the agriculture link roads we had constructed are without rigid pavement and side drains. This makes it last for only a very short time. It seems this system also needs better consideration.

Regarding staff shortage mentioned by Pu K.T. Rokhaw, this is the common problem in other departments also. While we are planning to fill up some posts, several posts used to lie vacant again due to retirements. However, I would like to state that the government is trying its level best to fill the vacant posts as far as possible. Steps have already been taken in view of the organizational chart in various districts.

Regarding agricultural marketing, we have had discussion with Mizoram Agricultural & Horticulture Federation (MAHFED) for better system. We are looking for a way how the farmers may directly sell their production with more value without bargaining at the part of some middlemen in the transactions.

Regarding irrigation of Serchhip as mentioned by Pu Duhoma, this is very appropriate as steps are also taken for this purpose. However, it is not yet approved by the Finance Department.

Pu Rinsanga expressed his desire and need for the establishment of SDO office at Bilkhawthlir. This has been processed for some time. However, it is now agreed to make it a success as a result of stop gap agreement from Kolasib.

The farmers are these days disturbed by worms called 'Fall Army Worm' which attacked their corns. The Agriculture Department left no stone unturned to tackle this problem. Meanwhile, this problem somehow turned out to be a blessing in disguise also. We introduced new scientific approach in studying worms and other insects. We have now discovered an effective form of biological control of different worms. We have also introduced Pheromone Trap to catch the worms which is distributed to the farmers.

Regarding crop insurance mentioned by Hon. Member Pu Lalduhoma, several attempts has been made to introduce reliable crop insurance for the farmers. Recently also, it is tried to be introduced and tender is also floated and bids were received from two parties. However, the amount of their bidding was too high. We consider it inappropriate for the farmers and none of the parties were selected. That is the reason why it is not introduced till today.

Moving to another point, one of the main objectives of the government is self sufficiency in rice and food grains production. Our expenditure for purchase of rice and its transportation is too much. We tried very hard to increase our rice production. Machines were distributed to our farmers to help increase their production.

The hon. Chief Minister has mentioned his desire for promoting organic manure instead of chemical fertilizers. I have had discussed the matter with the Research and Extension Directorate. They have already taken several steps to promote bio fertilizer. However, there are yet some procedures in order to take effect.

Pu Speaker, regarding Co-operation Department, we need to aware more and more about Cooperation concept. It seems there are some wrong perceptions about the spirit of cooperation. We need to realize the real meaning of society movement and society concept in order to have greater achievements.

Pu Speaker, I beg the august House to past the following demands under my portfolio:

Demand Nos.	Department	Amount (in ₹)
31	Agriculture	1,73,68,03,000.00
37	Cooperation	17,09,18,000.00
47	Irrigation & Water Resources	39,68,22,000.00
TOTAL		2,30,45,43,000.00

Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has now begged the House to pass his Demands such as:

Demand Nos.	Department	Amount (in ₹)
31	Agriculture	1,73,68,03,000.00
37	Cooperation	17,09,18,000.00
47	Irrigation & Water Resources	39,68,22,000.00
TOTAL		2,30,45,43,000.00

All in favour may say, 'Aye' and all in oppose may say, 'Nay'. If we all agree, I declare the following Demands passed unanimously.

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

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Dr. K. Beichhua to wind up the discussion of his demands and to beg the House to pass them.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. First of all I would like to thank the Hon members for their suggestions during discussion of my demands.

Starting from Demand No. 7, Excise & Narcotics Department, we are all aware of how we are suffering from alcohol abuse. It disturbs personal as well as family lives. Its ill effects on the society and the church communities are also enormous. Therefore, our ministry takes necessary steps to introduce prohibition as soon as it came to power. As a result, The Mizoram Liquor Prohibition Bill, 2019 was passed in this House on 20th March, 2019.

It is correct that the enforcement needs immense reinforcement. The Hon. Chief Minister is also quite concerned about this. However, it is not possible to do everything immediately. The government is taking necessary steps for strengthening of the enforcement department which we will soon witness. Besides, State Prohibition Council is also set to be established. This council will work in collaboration of available government functionaries as well as voluntary organizations.

On Demand No. 29, Social Welfare Department, this is important as it deals with everyone in the society. Its functioning has a close link with other departments like Health Department, Education Department, Art & Culture Department, etc. Besides, huge amount of funds is available from different central ministries through this Department.

The EKLAVYA Model Residential School is run by Ministry of Tribal Affairs since the previous ministry. The SWD is the nodal department of this scheme. The central government had also approved Special Central Assistance to Tribal sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) which is 100% CSS scheme for the year 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. This assistance is distributed to 19 projects. The implementation through this fund is under process at the moment.

Speaking about Child Welfare, upgradation of 600 Anganwadi Centres is approved by the central government this year. There are currently 12145 pregnant women beneficiaries under Pradhanmantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). Besides, we are awarded the best implementing state among North Eastern States of POSHAN Abhiyan. This scheme aims at providing sufficient nutrition for pregnant women and children by the year 2022 all over India.

Another important scheme under this Department is the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). This is a scheme for providing protection to needy and downtrodden children. Besides, Observation Homes for juveniles committing crimes are established at various places. Social Rehabilitation Board is created with a view to find a way to help drug users to quit their drug addiction. They will also work with other organizations as far as possible.

Regarding Demand No. 34, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, this department is very important especially for those people living in villages. It is a good source of income for them. However, even though it is as important as that, there is a huge shortage of staff within the department. The government is taking all possible efforts to fill the vacant posts within the department. As such, it is hoped that we will

see improvement in the near future. Besides, this department tries its level best to prevent disease outbreak in our state.

Lastly, moving to Demand No. 41, Sericulture Department, the Central Government is fully aware that we have a good potential area for silk production. We have North Eastern Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTP), Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP), Intensive Bio-Sericulture Development Project (IBSDP) and Integrated Muga Silk Development Project under this department.

The Department is working fervently through these projects in every district except Sialha. ₹12 crore worth project has been submitted and being processed at the moment for Sialha District. It is apparent that we have a great potential for silk production at a very large scale. I request the cooperation of my fellow colleagues for this purpose also.

Pu Speaker, I would like to thank all the members who take part in the discussion of my Demands today. I beg this august House to pass the following Demands under my portfolio:

Demand Nos.	Department	Amount (in ₹)
7	Excise & Narcotics	43,78,29,000.00
29	Social Welfare	1,50,60,50,000.00
34	AH & Veterinary	69,33,31,000.00
41	Sericulture	21,09,67,000.00
TOTAL		2,84,81,77,000.00

Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has now begged the House to pass his Demands which are as follows:

Demand Nos.	Department	Amount (in ₹)
7	Excise & Narcotics	43,78,29,000.00
29	Social Welfare	1,50,60,50,000.00
34	AH & Veterinary	69,33,31,000.00
41	Sericulture	21,09,67,000.00
TOTAL		2,84,81,77,000.00

All in favour may say, 'Aye' and those in oppose may say, 'Nay'. If we all agree, I declare the Demands passed.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : We have finished our business for today. The next sitting will commence at 10:30 AM tomorrow.

Sitting is adjourned. (7:21 P.M.)