

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FIFTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 18th 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 ZORAMTHANGA**, hon. Chief Minister & Finance Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following :
 - i) Finance Accounts 2017-2018 Volume-I relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - ii) Finance Accounts 2017-2018 Volume-II relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - iii) Appropriation Accounts 2017-2018 relating to Government of Mizoram.
3. **Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of The Mizoram Khadi and Village Industries Board, Aizawl for the year ended 31 March 2016.
4. **PU L. THANGMAWIA**, to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Statement of Action taken by the Government against Committee on Local Fund Accounts (COLFA) Further Recommendation contained in the Sixth Report on Technical Inspection Report on Local Administration Department on Urban Local Body and Rural Local Bodies for the year 2013- 2014 relating to Local Administration Department.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

5. **Dr. ZR. THIAMSANGA** to present to the House a copy each of the following :
- i) First Report on Actions taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Subject Committee-III relating to Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) under Health & Family Welfare Department.
 - ii) Second Report of Subject Committee-III relating to National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm under Agriculture Department.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS***GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR
2019-2020.***

6. General Discussion on the Budget for the year 2019-2020
(to be concluded)

S.R. ZOKHUMA
Commissioner & Secretary

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SPEAKER : “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger”.

Proverbs 15:1

I regret to inform this House that our hon. Deputy Chief Minister, Pu Tawnluia will not be able to grace us with his presence today.

We will start with Q&A and invite Dr. ZR Thiamsanga to ask Question No.56.

Dr. ZR. THIAMSSANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for Tourism Department be pleased to state –

- a) When will the ropeway between Tourist Lodge, Chaltlang to Durtlang be completed?
- b) Is the construction of this ropeway in progress?
- c) If not, what is the reason?
- d) Will this ministry continue the construction work?
- e) What is the name of the company who is in charge of construction of this ropeway and what is the budget amount?

SPEAKER : Let us invite our Minister, Pu Robert Romawia Royte to answer the questions.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Following are the answers to the questions posed by our respected member Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

- a) It is not known when the ropeway will be completed.
- b) Construction work on this ropeway is stopped at the moment.
- c) There are some complications concerning its pathway and construction cannot proceed until this problem is resolved.
- d) This ministry will try to iron out the details so that work can continue.
- e) Ropeway and Resorts Private Ltd, Kolkata is in charge of the construction. The estimated figure for construction of this ropeway is ₹2,482.58 lakhs.

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Prof. F. Lalnunmawia to ask supplementary questions.

Prof. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. During the previous ministry, there were several uncompleted projects carried out by Tourism Department.

It seems like these projects were used as a shield to generate money instead of actually promoting tourism. Will it be possible for our hon. Minister to inspect these projects?

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalsawivunga

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. How many components of work have been completed under development of Eco-Tourism at Durtlang and when is the completion date under the guidelines?

SPEAKER : You can continue with your questions at No.63 and No.64. Let us now invite Dr. Thiamsanga.

Dr. ZR. THIAM SANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Champhai district will be the pilot district for Rural Home Stay Scheme, other areas selected includes Vangchhia, Dunglelang, Vaphai, Zokhawthar, Hnahlan, Chawngtlai and Khawbung. Has this scheme been implemented? If so, how many tourists have availed this service?

Also, what is the physical report for the construction of Zokhua at Reiek and under whose management will it be?

SPEAKER : Let us invite our Minister Pu Robert Romawia Royte to answer the questions.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The question posted by Prof. F. Lalnunmawia is an ongoing issue that Tourism Department has been dealing with since the start of our ministry.

At the start of our ministry, Tourism Department has a liability of ₹4,000 lakhs due to delinking of schemes from the central government. We are working to solve this problem and have received ₹237 lakhs from NEC.

In answer to the question asked by Pu C. Lalsawivunga, currently there is no completed component for tourism project at Chaltlang and Durtlang.

In answer to Dr. ZR Thiamsanga, 1,300 tourists have already experienced the Rural Home Stay Scheme.

In regards to construction of ropeway between Chaltlang and Durtlang, since there was no pre-feasibility study beforehand, we have encountered a problem. There is a high-tension line between Chaltlang to Durtlang and since this line cannot be moved, we are looking into an alternative route between AR Ground to Zemabawk and technical survey will be started in a short time.

SPEAKER : Let us invite Dr. K. Pachhunga to ask starred Question No.57.

Dr. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for Power & Electricity be pleased to state when Sailen, Mautlang, Vairokai and Ngiautlang be provided with power supply?

SPEAKER : Let us invite Power & Electricity Minister, Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we are planning to provide power supply to these villages within this year i.e. 2019.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question from Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, thank you. When will the installation of 132 kV alternate line at Lunglei be completed and how long has it been since this installation started?

SPEAKER : Pu BD Chakma

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Out of 83 villages in my constituency, only 4 villages from Thega area have power supply. Especially in Ugulsuri, power is on for only 5 minutes at a time. When will Ugulsuri and Thega be provided with power supply?

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Pachhunga

Dr. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, as i recall power lines were installed in 2012 at Vairawkai. However, due to non-payment of bills, these lines were then uninstalled. The VCP at Mautlang, which is about 60 houses, reported that there are not enough electric poles. I believe this can be completed if a few poles were installed.

Also, Sainen has been without power supply for 10 years during congress ministry. I would like to beg for these villages to be provided with power supply.

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

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Regarding the question asked by Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, the expected time for completion of the construction work of 132 kV Line was extended for three years already. However, it could not be completed still due to some unforeseen reasons. We deeply regretted for this also. Immense efforts have been made to complete as soon as possible. Besides, there is also an ongoing work for the construction of alternate line through Melriat and Khawiva. Construction of poles is completed in this work.

Pu B.D. Chakma has asked several questions which I may not remember them all. Anyways, it is said that only four villages of his constituency have power supply. It is our aim to provide all the villages with electricity. Besides, there are some villages which their current lines are destroyed by storms and other things. Necessary steps are taken to provide proper electricity to these villages also.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrindika Ralte may now ask starred Question No. 58.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon. Minister for P&E Department be pleased to state:-

- a) The amount spent for purchase of power during three months, i.e. January-March, 2019 by P&E Department?
- b) The amount collected from electric bill during three months, i.e. January-March, 2019 by P&E Department?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned may now answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answers are as follows:

- a) The amount spent during the period in question was ₹8,273.74 lakhs.
- b) The amount collected from electric bill during the period in question was ₹7,601.73.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu H. Biakzaua.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Firstly, I would like to request concerned Minister to take measure on excessive amount of electric bill allegedly due to incorrect meter reading. Secondly, I urge the government to continue with bill payment outlet placed in each locality of rural areas so that concerned people are not wasting their time approaching the office far from their locality.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana to ask Supplementary Question.

Dr. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Power Purchase Agreement has been made with ZEDA for rooftop solar PV plants. What is the present status of this agreement and how is it expected to be continued? Secondly, it is agreed that 70/100 should be paid by the coming June. I ask if this is notified to the public.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrindika Ralte may now ask his supplementary question.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is seen that the amount loss is not that much. May the government take measure to reduce the loss or if possible, to avail the principle amount?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned may answer.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding the question of Pu H. Biakzaua, the present system is used due to shortage of staff. It is my opinion that we may continue as the previous system. Anyway, instruction will be given for the same. Regarding Dr. Vanlalhlana's question, this agreement is about to end. I suggest the public to apply for this in a large scale as it will greatly reduce their electric power consumption as it is given on 70% subsidy.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma may ask Starred Question No. 59.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare Department be pleased to state:

- a) Time for completion of Nursing School and Hostel building at Serchhip?
- b) The reason of not appointing the maintenance staffs such chowkidar therein?
- c) When it will put to function?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned, Dr. R. Lalthangliana to answer it.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is:

- a) It was completed in May, 2018.
- b) Because the building is not yet commissioned.
- c) After the teaching staff and non-teaching staff are recruited. It is expected to be started soon since everything is ready and approval of the Indian Nursing Council has also been obtained.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from hon. Member Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, we have x-ray machine at Bilkhawthlir PHC with the technician but no building to run the machine. May a building be constructed for that purpose?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma may ask Supplementary Question.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, I understand any point raised by the hon. Members. It is possible that the building is utilized without the knowledge of the department for other purposes for it's been years since it was completed and some windows were also broken. This is a common case with buildings constructed by PWD and yet to be handed over to the concerned department. Will it be possible to appoint at least a caretaker in co-ordination of the two responsible departments?

SPEAKER : Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga to ask his supplementary question.

Dr. ZR. THIAMSSANGA : Pu Speaker, my first question is - When will the recruitment of Staff Nurse and Doctor be conducted? Secondly, the central government proposed extension of retirement of doctors to 65 years of age and is already been implemented in some states. In view of the current shortage of doctors, I would like to ask when the Govt. of Mizoram will follow suit.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister may answer it.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding building for x-ray machine will be pursued.

As of recruitment of Nurse and Doctor as pointed out by Dr. Thiamsanga, it is matter which needs approval of DP&AR as well as Finance Deptt. It is set to be

discussed in the Cabinet Meeting.

Extension of retirement age for doctors is an important issue. However, it seems necessary to be discussed in the Cabinet Meeting as it is a big issue.

Regarding Nursing School and Hostel building at Serchhip, what Pu Lalduhoma has said is true, I have seen for myself also. There are two reasons for the delay of handing over the building to H&FW Deptt. which I hope to be resolved soon. Posting a caretaker type staff there also seems to be a good idea.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo may now ask Starred Question No. 60.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Sports & Youth Services be pleased to state -

Is there a proposal for construction of a new football stadium within AMC area? If so, where is it?

SPEAKER : Pu Robert Romawia Royte, the hon. Minister concerned may answer it.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer is –

Yes, there is a proposal and the place will be decided later by the government.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am grateful that there is proposal for a new football stadium. What I would like to add is that it is my opinion that we need sport facilities in lower altitude areas. This is necessary to compete in competitions and tournaments held in areas with higher temperature. For this purpose, it seems that the areas near to river Tlawng is quite appropriate. I would like to ask if it is possible to build the proposed stadium in this area.

SPEAKER : Another Supplementary Question from Dr. Vanlalhlana.

Dr. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker. My Supplementary Questions are:

i) When will construction of Lena Stadium at Serkawn Melte be completed?

- ii) How many of the Mizos have signed a contract in different I-League Clubs?
How much is the total amount of their present contracts annually?
- iii) What is the vision and objectives of the department regarding adventure sports?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo may now take his time.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Speaker. We have several stadiums and sport facilities within Aizawl west but none to mention within Aizawl west. Will it be possible to construct the proposed football stadium within Aizawl West-I constituency as we have a convenient spot for the purpose?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned, Pu Robert Romawia Royte may answer it.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, it seems quite reasonable regarding the idea of building sport stadium in the area of lower altitude. I cannot make any commitment at the moment instantly, yet, it will be noted.

Regarding Lena Stadium as stated by Dr. Vanlalhlana, I had visited the ongoing work myself recently. There are a lot being done by the previous ministry and there are some works to be corrected as of the running tracks and the football ground. If such works are completed, it is expected for commission provided that there is no difficulty on the part of payment.

Regarding the number of Mizo football players in I-League, I could not give the exact numbers and the total value of their contract. However, it seems that we are one of the states with most players in I-League. It is also true that they are having a huge income from their contract.

Regarding Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo's question, I could not assure anything at the moment. However, I would say there is a very high probability that a professional grade football stadium may be constructed within Aizawl west area. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlaltanpuia may now ask Starred Question No. 61.

Dr. VANLALTANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 61- Will the hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare be pleased to state:

- a) What are the food safety measures taken by the Government of Mizoram?
- b) Where do we have Food Testing Laboratories?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned Dr. R. Lalthangliana may answer.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows:

- a) The Government of Mizoram, like other states of India, takes necessary measures based on Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 Rules 7 and Regulations, 2011. Some of the measures are as follows:
 - i) Awareness campaigns were held in collaboration with NGOs.
 - ii) Awareness campaigns through radio and televisions.
 - iii) Trainings being given to food business owners.
 - iv) Inspection and sampling.
- b) The Govt. of Mizoram deploys the Assam State Food Analyst, State Public Health Laboratory, Guwahati, Assam and samples are sent there for examination. Besides, necessary equipments for food testing laboratory are bought for Central Medical Store, Zemabawk, Aizawl by Commerce & Industries Department. However, it could not be commissioned as yet because there is no suitable staff at the moment.

SPEAKER : The Question hour is now over. We will move on to our next business which is Laying of Papers. Let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister to lay the following papers on the table of the House:

- i) Finance Accounts 2017-2018 (Vol-I) relating to Government of Mizoram.
- ii) Finance Accounts 2017-2018 (Vol-II) relating to Government of Mizoram.
- iii) Appropriation Accounts 2017-2018 relating to Government of Mizoram

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. With your kind permission, Sir, I hereby lay the following papers on the table of the House:

- i) Finance Accounts, 2017-2018 (Vol-I) relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - ii) Finance Accounts, 2017-2018 (Vol-II) relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - iii) Appropriation Accounts, 2017-2018 relating to Government of Mizoram
- Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed. Let us now call upon Dr. R. Lalthangliana, hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare Department to lay “The Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of The Mizoram Khadi and Village Industries Board, Aizawl for the year ended 31st March, 2016” on the table of the House.

Dr. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. With your permission, Sir, I hereby lay “The Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of The Mizoram Khadi and Village Industries Board, Aizawl for the year ended 31st March, 2016” on the table of the House. Thank you, Sir.

SPEAKER : We shall now call upon Pu L. Thangmawia, Chairman, Committee on Local Fund Accounts to lay the “Statement of Action Taken by the Government against Committee on Local Fund Accounts (COLFA)’s Further Recommendation contained in the Sixth Report on Technical Inspection Report on Local Administration Department on Urban Local Bodies for the year 2013-2014 relating to Local Administration Department” on the table of the House.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. With your kind permission, Sir, I hereby lay the “Statement of Action Taken by the Government against Committee on Local Fund Accounts (COLFA)’s Further Recommendation contained in the Sixth Report on Technical Inspection Report on Local Administration Department on Urban Local Bodies for the year 2013-2014 relating to Local Administration Department” on the table of the House. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. Let us call upon Dr. ZR Thiamsanga, Chairman of Subject Committee-III to lay the followings on the table of the House:

- i) First Report on Actions Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Subject Committee-III relating to Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) under Health & Family Welfare Department.
- ii) Second Report of Subject Committee-III relating to National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm under Agriculture Department.

Dr. ZR. THIAMSANGA : Pu Speaker, with your kind permission, Sir, I hereby lay the followings on the Table of this House:

- i) First Report on Actions Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Subject Committee-III relating to Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) under Health & Family Welfare Department.
- ii) Second Report of Subject Committee-III relating to National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm under Agriculture Department.

SPEAKER : We shall now continue with the budget discussion. Let us call upon Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Firstly, I would like to thank the hon. Chief Minister for preparing a simple yet vivid and detail budget which is very easy to understand even for a layman like us. Secondly, I am thankful that we can discuss a full budget while deficit budget is presented in our neighbouring states.

We can see from the budget that the total amount of this budget estimate is ₹10,692.30 crore which is ₹254.78 crore less than last year's budget. There is a little doubtful about this budget. It is regretted that our budget decreases while we are looking forward for development in the future.

It is apparent from the budget that taxes are set to be hiked. This could be seen from the expected increase in state owned resources. While the state's income like vehicle lifetime tax, taxes from alcohol, etc. are set to be stopped, the state-owned revenue is yet projected to be increased. This could only be done by increasing and collecting more taxes.

Pu Speaker, on 25th February, the Governor of Mizoram declared the Socio-Economic Development Programme as the flagship programme of the Government of Mizoram. At the same date, it also issued an order indicating policies which are formerly known as New Economic Development Policy and New Land Use Policy are to be changed as Socio-Economic Development Programme in all documents. However, we can learn from the Finance Minister's Budget Speech that it has not been changed as it is still stated as New Economic Development policy of NEDP. It seems the hon. Chief Minister is the first to breach the previous Governor order. It is also stated in the Budget Speech that ₹110 crore has been kept for implementation of NEDP. Does this mean that the government clashed its own order or we have two flagship programmes?

Pu Speaker, the Hon. House Leader said that ₹750 crore is kept for implementation of SEDP. However, this is also against the statement made by their party during election campaign that not less than ₹1,000 crore will be kept for NEDP and each household will be given financial assistance of ₹30,000. It is because of this claim that they were voted for the ministry. However, it is very unfortunate that they could not stand on their promise through this budget estimate.

The Budget estimate highlighted the projected expenditure and to which priority is given. We can see that priority is not given towards Agriculture, Horticulture and power production. This also is very disappointing in view of the need of our state and our potential.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, the Central Young Lai Association recently conducted a population census within their area which is opposed by Young Chakma Association. This is very suspicious because the increase in population is 60.14% within ten years. It is apparent that this is due to illegal foreign migrants. We should be safe in our land; we should be happy in our land. The Government should also take all necessary measures to that effect. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu L. Thangmawia.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This budget contains a huge fund for development of education infrastructure especially in elementary level. Besides, ₹1,000 lakh is kept for Sports and ₹500 lakh for skill developments. All these clearly show that this budget prioritizes development of the youth.

This budget also gives a great importance towards healthcare as ₹5,000 lakh is kept for development of healthcare infrastructure and for recruitment of health staff. It is hopeful that this will suffice the immediate need regarding healthcare. Besides, another ₹5,000 is allocated as corpus fund for healthcare.

Another important aspect of this budget is development of road. We used to face so many problems due to poor condition of our roads. Therefore, this government tries its level best since this ministry came into being. I am grateful that this budget estimate gives priority to development of roads.

The fund allotted for implementation of PAHOSS is huge. This is because it is solely meant for the welfare of the people. Also, it needs a lot of cooperation from the people. It is believed that this will solve the traffic jam problem to a great extent.

Lastly, another remarkable point in this budget is that ₹150 lakh being allotted for the implementation and development of three DC offices. This clearly shows that this budget is a good one which aims at the sole development of the people. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. B.D. Chakma may take his time.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I will highlight only the most important points as the time is quite limited. I would like to point out that there are a number of mistakes in this budget estimate. I would like to urge the department to maintain more sincerity in the future.

I am thankful for the increase of MLA/LAD Fund. This is the only source of fund we have especially for opposition MLAs that we can use in our own discretion. We used to spend the amount judiciously for establishment of assets in our constituencies. Therefore, I am very grateful that it has been increased from ₹100 lakh to ₹150 lakh.

I would like to add that the need for increase in remuneration of village council members. They used to get only a few hundred per month. Meanwhile, they are embodied with a huge task and responsibility which needs financial expenditure as well. Yet, they have no extra source of income for that. This seems to be a good hotbed for certain kinds of corruption. Therefore, I opined increase in their remuneration is very important.

Pu Speaker, I think that more attention has to be paid towards autonomous councils. Speaking particularly about CADC, there are many illegal appointments being made within the area. This is likely to create huge problems in the future and is against the standing order also. Therefore, this matter needs immediate attention.

I support the allocation of fund for three new districts. Meanwhile, I would like to state that the existing districts, sub-Divisions and Blocks also need huge strengthening. Besides, I am amazed by the fact that the government aims at functioning project based in rather than policy based. It is questionable from where the funding will come if this is the case. Therefore, I could not consider this budget as a good one. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon hon. Member, Pu Lawmawma Tochwang.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am glad to hear many acknowledgements from my fellow MLAs regarding the budget. Even though there are some mistakes and shortcomings, the majority of our discussions are positive ones.

It is apparent that this budget is a reasonable budget for development for our state. It is notable that the hon. Chief Minister with the department officials, within a very short period of time, could successfully prepare a full budget. Besides it is a simple yet vivid and apprehensive one.

I am grateful that the MLA/LAD Fund is increased from ₹100 lakh to ₹150 lakh. This is a fund which we will get regardless of our sides in the House. This shows the unbiased nature of this government. The allocation made for development of education, sports and skill development is also an important aspect especially for the youth.

It is remarkable that the budget allocation for Lok Ayukta is increased three-fold. This is a clear indication that this government is not going to indulge in any kind of corruption.

Also, this budget is prepared in accordance with the regulation made by the Fiscal Responsibilities & Budget Management Act, 2006. It is great to learn that it is estimated for making revenue surplus of ₹1143.47 crore and the fiscal deficit only at 2.06% of the GSDP. This also is quite notable.

The allocation of ₹11,000 lakh for the continuation of the ongoing project from the previous ministry is also very remarkable. I firmly believe that this budget may lead us to achieve our sustainable development goals. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Firstly, I would like to thank the hon. Chief Minister and the department for the simplicity and clarity of this budget.

This is the first budget after the introduction of the government's flagship programme Socio-Economic Development Programme. However, only ₹7,500 lakh has been allotted for this programme. If this is really meant for the sustainable development of the people, it seems to be very less.

The allotment of more funds towards elementary education is a notable one as there is a huge shortage of teachers in elementary schools. It is hopeful that this problem could be resolved through this new budget.

It is unfortunate that Agriculture is not given priority while production of food is a basic necessity and is the most important aspect in life. Thus, this exclusion is very disappointing.

Besides, the government has implemented prohibition but Excise & Narcotic Department which is the implementing department is not included in this budget. It is very lame to introduce prohibition without strengthening the implementing agency. What is important than just saying is the implementation and the actions taken in every aspect. I hope this government will function well in that matter.

Lastly, it is a fact that our state has very limited revenue. In view of this, it is likely that this budget may turn out to be a burden for the commoners in the near future. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu LalrindikaRalte.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is great to learn that the gross amount of the budget increased from the previous budget. Increase in the sum is a good sign and is desirable. Meanwhile, what is more important is the implementation of the budget. If there is no proper management, increase alone does not bring about development. I also opined that the responsibility of the ruling MLAs and the present ministry is particularly high in this regard.

Pu Deputy Speaker, the fact that the construction of flyover bridges and bamboo cultivation is excluded from this budget made me very happy for it will incur a huge expenditure. However, we learned from the past that bamboo is not a source of revenue for our state. It seems to turn out to be a liability for the state if it is included in this budget. That is why I am grateful it is not included in the budget.

We are all aware that we have very little revenue. Meanwhile, what I consider important is the introduction of austerity measures. Especially regarding transportation of rice from outside the state, it is desirable to find a way to decrease our expenditure in this regard.

Pu Deputy Speaker, we have learned that ₹75,000 lakh is allotted for SEDP with nine points in which it will be used. The expected expenditure given is ₹68,355 lakh yet, the amount which estimate expenditure is not known is ₹6645 lakh. Even though the exact expenditure could not be shown, this amount seems to be too much.

The PAHOSS seems to extract the revenue merely from the salary of govt. servants and will not be the result of development of the people as a whole. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. I would like to start with imposition of no new tax for it will not impose more burdens for the people.

The priority of the hon. House Leader and his ministry is good road. This could be seen from the fact that ₹15,000 lakh is estimated for road construction and maintenance and another ₹5,000 lakh is allotted for Road Fund Board. This shows that the government is giving utmost importance for the welfare of the people.

The allotment of ₹2,000 lakh for Mizoram Healthcare Scheme and ₹5,000 lakh for Healthcare Corpus Fund is also quite notable. This is very important for those 70% of the population who are not eligible for medical reimbursement.

This government also gives importance towards education. This could be seen from the fact that an enormous amount of ₹3,000 lakh for development of education and educational infrastructures. It is the same regarding sports also.

The allotment of ₹371.06 for Lok Ayukta is also a notable one. This shows that the government is working its best to fight against corruption. To sum up, even though this budget may not be big enough, I believe that it is enough to bring about development if it is well managed. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now take a break and resume at 2:00 PM.

2:00 PM.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now start the afternoon session. Let us call upon Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Even though many of my fellow members claim this budget a good one, I could not consider the same in view of the budget. The capital expenditure comprises only ₹2,288.78 out of the total budget of ₹16,092.30 which is ₹254.9 crore less than last year. Besides, the cumulative state debt at the end of this year is estimated as ₹8,447.92 crore.

The revenue collected through GST is ₹5,000 lakh last year and the estimated income this year is ₹35,003 lakh. It is estimated to increase by ₹30,050 lakh. I do not understand from which source this increase amount will come. It is likely to be made up through hiking of taxes towards the people. Similarly, the amount expected to be collected from electric bill is increased to ₹30,000 lakh from ₹19,817. The revenue expected from forest products also is increased from ₹249 lakh to ₹350 lakh. All these are very questionable. I hope the hon. Chief Minister may clarify from which source and how these increases are expected to be made.

Moving to Demand for Grant, the advertising and publicity head of MPSC has been decreased drastically as only ₹5 lakh is allotted while it was ₹25.55 lakh last year. This needs explanation. Nearly most of the heads are decreased regarding medical treatment. All the budget allotment for minor works, major works, other charges, office expense, vehicle expenses, supply and machinery are decreased. It is doubtful how the government departments would do their work through this budget. Last of all, the most important is the implementation of the budget. The government should take utmost consideration on how the available budget is spent. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now call upon Pu Lalduhoma, hon. Opposition Group Leader. He will have 15 minutes.

PU LALDUHOMA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Starting from SEDP, ZPM party has a very good policy which we called Hands holding policy. The SEDP is also the replica of that policy as stated by the MNF delegate at the talk show organized by MZU. However, even though the principle and policies are good, it could not be a success if its implementation is poor.

Budget tends to increase every year and that is a common practice but the allocation of 11 departments decreases drastically in this budget. This is because funds are collected from the department budget to meet the need of fund for SEDP. SEDP is formulated without having any idea of how to avail the necessary funding. This is very unfortunate.

In the budget allocation to Council of Ministers, we can see that it is increased by 40.20%. It seems we are having the most ludicrous government we have ever had. The budget estimate of Taxation Department shows increased of 50.84%. This is a clear indication that this government is aiming at collecting more and more from the people's pocket.

The SEDP contains a delivery system which provides that the government will act as a guarantor so that entrepreneurs may avail loans more easily. This is a good system which my party ZPM is also willing of. However, there is an act called the Mizoram Ceiling on Government Guarantees Rules, 2013 which prohibited the government to act as a guarantor for private firms. Thus, I opposed the bill vehemently but it was passed anyway. It is necessary to amend this act if the SEDP has to be implemented.

The party in power today is the same party who is in power in 1998-2008. During that time, financial management was failed. As a result, the central government compels to sign a MoU to improve the financial condition of our state. Pu Deputy Speaker, those who present this budget are still the same as that time. We are trying to pay a very vigil regarding their financial management.

This government used to claim itself having a huge revenue surplus. This is not correct. We can see that the revenue we collected from Own Tax and Non-Tax Revenue is only 10.5% of our Revenue Receipt. However, it is impossible to have a revenue surplus. Which is claimed as a revenue surplus are only those we get from the central government.

The hon. Finance Minister often claimed that our fiscal deficit is lower than that of Maharashtra. However, this should not be considered merely on the amount of fiscal deficit. It should be measured by percentage with GSDP of the state. Maharashtra has 16% fiscal deficit while ours is 32% of our GSDP. This means that our fiscal deficit is a double of Maharashtra. Therefore, I urge that only truth to be spoken in this august House.

In addition, it is often said that our GSDP increases. However, closer study clearly shows that this is only caused by the increased salary of government employees. This is not the result of actual development in other sectors. Other sectors like primary sector, industrial sector and service sector contributed only 29.93% of while the contributions of these sectors are what we mostly expected to increase.

Thus, Pu Dy. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed by this budget. There is a very few prospect for the youth to make their future. It is apparent that even though the ministry changes, there is no real change in the system and vision of the ministry. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will end our discussion. Let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister, Pu Zoramthanga to wind up the discussion.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. I would like to thank all the hon. Members who takes part in the budget discussion. I am very pleased with their sincerity and particularity.

It is impressive that our budget speech has been prepared in mizo language for a much better understanding and we even makes the most of our discussion.

The Central Govt. has a responsibility to provide us with preferential treatments in the form of financial assistance, tax breaks, etc. while we also need to make contributions from our taxes. The more we contribute, the more we can spend. The Central Govt. also directs us to borrow loans from NABARD and we need to make management on where to use all these amounts put together. Earlier, plan fund was set aside for development while non-plan fund was for other purposes, however, we are now able to combine and use them.

Our loans borrowed from different sources are increasing every year. Mizoram has a debt of ₹6407 crore in 2015-2016, ₹6725 crore in 2016-2017, ₹7300 crore in 2017-2018 and ₹7992 crore in 2018-2019 and since this is the pattern of any Ministry, no particular Ministry can be held accountable. *(PU LALDUHOMA: Pu Speaker, it should not be only termed as debt but as percentage to GSDP as it is very misleading. The annual increment of debt as stated should also be put in percentage, which decreased every year after the MNF did not form the Ministry)* Pu Speaker, the interest in debt in the previous year 2018-2019 was ₹692 crore which is presumed to increase to an amount of ₹555 crore this year, but this is still an assumption.

Therefore, this is the pattern in Pu Hawla's Ministry, ours and any other Ministry including other states since this is the pattern in the Indian Financial system. The main objective is to improve GSDP and that SEDP increases the people's income and their products every year.

Regarding the increasing of state-owned resources for imposition of more taxes, there are times when taxes increased that are beyond our powers. For example, we shared electricity with Manipur and the authorities increased the bills in a reasonable manner.

The important thing is that, even if we do not increase our taxes, it can still increase if we improve the system of our taxation and collection efficiently.

There are many patent errors and typing mistakes on this budget since we are all in a hurry due to election code of conduct, Christmas festivals and a limited time, I beg you all to take for granted. Last year's budget was prepared by the previous Ministry and this year, we prepared them in a hurry with a different view, and that is why it cannot be similar.

Our funds are drawn at Finance Department for use when required but ₹750 crore has been sanctioned for SEDP, our flagship programme and it is implemented so that we can be independent. We are also in need of funds for infrastructure and departments and it is necessary to increase the fund for Education Department since there are some schools with only one teacher in which MR teachers are needed.

Works cannot be carried out on roads as expected due to election code of conduct and limited road-rollers. However, we hope to carry out the works and that is why we have increased the budget for roads.

There is a balance of more than ₹150 crore on Healthcare which is the interest from the Asian Development and we are planning to deposit ₹50 crore more from Corpus Bank budget and another ₹20 crore. We allocated ₹60 crore for Education, roads, Healthcare, Nurses & Doctors as needed by the officials and will be make arranged accordingly.

Our budget may not be excellent but we will do our best. It is impressive that we can combine the plan and non-plan funds for utilization. (***PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:**There is no saying of bamboo policy and it will be appreciated if we are informed.*)

We have faced scarcity of water this year and the main objective of Niti Aayog thus is providing safe drinking water. I took up this bamboo policy in the Niti Aayog meeting and I informed the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and the Chairman that our bamboo will transform our economy. We have enough rice fields, enough

rainfalls, rivers and oils to provide our needs and SEDP aims to be independent on economy and not fully rely on Delhi. We will provide sufficient salary to all Govt. employees. However, recruitment of more employees seems impossible since it is prohibited (***PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** I would like to show my gratitude on behalf of the District Councils for willing to pay us a sufficient salary.*) However, we are concerned about the entire funds spent on salary and no funds left for development. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Regarding the Healthcare, the previous MNF Ministry borrowed \$100 million from Asia Development Bank in 2008 and the Health Department also had a share of \$25 million which is ₹117.82 crore. It remains untouched for many years causing the profit really high.

We have finished our budget discussion and we will continue tomorrow at 10:30 AM.

(Sitting is adjourned. 3:20 P.M.)