

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

**LIST OF BUSINESS**

FOR SIXTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020  
(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 PAPER**

2. **DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA**, to lay on the Table of the House Statement of Actions Taken by the Government against further recommendations contained in the Second Report, 2019 of Subject Committee-III Relating to National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm under Agriculture Department.

**PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

3. **PU LALDUHOMA**, to present to the House the Fourth Report of Public Accounts Committee on Actions Taken by the Government against the recommendations contained in its Third Report relating to Health and Family Welfare Department.
4. **PU RAMTHANMAWIA**, to present to the House the Third Report of Committee on Government Assurances on Action Taken by the Government against the recommendations contained in its Second Report of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of Mizoram.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

5. **GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021**  
General discussion on the budget for the year 2020-2021 (to be concluded).

S.R. ZOKHUMA  
Commissioner & Secretary

.....

**SPEAKER** : *“If it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”*

- Romans 12:8

To start with *Questions & Answers*, I invite Pu Lalrindika Ralte to ask starred Question No.56.

**PU LALRINDIKA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for Sports & Youth Services department be pleased to State-

- a) Is the current ministry continuing the framework for construction of Youth Centres under MYC at Aizawl, Lunglei and Serchhip?
- b) If not, what is the reason?

**SPEAKER** : Let us invite our hon. Minister Pu Robert Romawia Royte to answer the question.

**PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. In answer to Pu Lalrindika Ralte-

We have continued with the framework for construction of these youth centres.

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

**PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Has job appointment been given to our sportspersons who had won medals in the Mizoram State Games?

Will promotion be given to such sportspersons who are working under the government? If so, when will the process of their promotion be completed?

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

**PU L. THANGMAWIA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. May artificial grass turf be laid at Ngopa field during the next financial year?

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary question from Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

**PU LALRINDIKA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, it is learned that fund has already been obtained for construction of these centres. If so, when will the work be started?

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister Pu Robert Romawia to answer the questions.

**PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, Mizoram Youth Services Commission is not under Sports and Youth Services. Construction cannot

be started since the previous ministry has not decided the sites for construction of these youth centres.

To answer the question of Pu C. Lalsawivunga, as far as my knowledge is concerned, there is no official notification regarding this matter.

To answer the question of Pu L. Thangmawia, we will try our best if our proposal for externally aided projects is approved. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Hon. Member Pu KT. Rokhaw to ask starred Question No.57.

**PU K.T. ROKHAW** : Pu Speaker, thank you. May the hon. Minister of UD & PA be pleased to state whether the installation of artificial grass at Siaha playground is completed or not? If not, what is the reason and who is the contractor?

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Dy. Chief Minister Pu Tawnluia to answer it.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, to answer the question of Pu K.T. Rokhaw, installation of artificial grass at Siaha playground is in progress. We are unable to procure materials required due to heavy rainfall. Also, the process is delayed due to the ongoing court cases of landowners of the playground. Thus, we have to stop the installation work for the time being.

The name and address of the contractor is: -  
Great Sports Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad,  
101, Plot No.52, Chikoti Gardens, Begumpet,  
Hyderabad-50016.

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary question from Er. H. Lalzirliana.

**ER. H. LALZIRLIANA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. When will construction of the gallery of Mamit playground be started?

**PU K.T. ROKHAW** : Pu Speaker, my supplementary questions are as follows:  
i) Is it possible to expedite installation of water connection at this playground?  
ii) The pavilion lies uncompleted till date. May I know who is the contractor, the amount of the work and if it is paid in full?  
iii) Pu Speaker, will the the hon. Minister consider shifting of 33 kV line as it is too close to playground?  
iv) It is sometimes impossible to access this road approaching playground during monsoon since it is not a metal road. Will it be repaired as soon as possible?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Dy. Chief Minister.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the contractor is from Meisatlah, Siaha-III with a projected total cost of ₹650 crores. I believe the bill would not be paid in full as the work is not yet completed.

This project was initiated by the previous ministry and we will continue with this estimate. We were given permission to start this project from the District Council but we receive a stay order from the DC court as a lawsuit was filed by one individual. However, we submitted a request to the DC to allow us to continue the installation and permission was given to us on September 2019.

This project includes not only installation of artificial grass; it also includes fencing, construction of approach road, pavilion and drainage system. However, due to the court order, we were unable to continue this project at the moment.

Regarding construction of pavilion at Mamit playground, we have submitted the estimate and we are waiting for the expenditure sanction which is expected latest by first week of March.

**SPEAKER** : Let us now invite Pu Andrew Lalthangliana to ask Starred Question No. 58.

**PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA:** Pu Speaker, may the hon. Minister for Sports and Youth Services be pleased to state –

- a) Is there any plan or proposal to install artificial turf at Kawnpui and Thenzawl football ground?
- b) Where is the proposed location for installation of artificial grass turf?

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister Pu Robert Romawia to answer the question.

**PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the answer is-

- a) Due to insufficiency of funds, we do not have any plan to install artificial grass turf at Kawnpui and Thenzawl football ground.
- b) Following are the proposed location for installation of artificial grass turf -
  1. Muallungthu, Aizawl District
  2. Chite Veng, Aizawl District
  3. Tuivamit, Aizawl District
  4. Durtlang, Aizawl District
  5. Zemabawk, Aizawl District
  6. Hlimen, Aizawl District
  7. Armed Veng, 1<sup>st</sup> MAP Field, Aizawl District
  8. Edentharr Field, Aizawl District
  9. Mitlamual, Zemabawk, Aizawl District
  10. Lengpui, Aizawl District
  11. Saidan, Kolasib District
  12. Mualvawm Field, Khawzawl District

13. Saitual, Saitual District
14. Hnahthial, Hnahthial District
15. Siaha, Siaha District
16. Thingsen, Siaha District

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary Question from Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

**DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA:** Pu Speaker, we are all aware that Champhai and its surrounding are of potential area for games and sports. So, I would like to urge construction of SAI centre at Champhai so as to promote sports among the youths.

Also, I would like to request for the installation of artificial grass turf at Hnahlan to promote football so that we produce State level players.

**SPEAKER** : Pu H. Biakzaua.

**PU H. BIAKZAU A** : Pu Speaker, thank you. How many District Sports Offices do we have and in which districts? Is there any plan to continue with the Mizoram State Games? Lastly, may the gallery be constructed at Lawngtlai playground? Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Andrew H. Thangliana.

**PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA:** Pu Speaker, installation of grass turf at Thenzawl and Kawnpui field was committed during the election campaign. I strongly hope it will become a reality.

My question is, whether the government has a plan to promote futsal in Mizoram? Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Hon. Minister to answer the question.

**PU ROBERT ROMAWIA RALTE, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, to answer the question of Dr. Thiamsanga, measure has been taken to construct another SAI centre at Kolasib and then Champhai. We are aware that SAI is producing many talented sports personal and in the process, artificial turf will be projected through externally aided projects and proposal for Champhai also is on the table depending on fund availability; yet, I cannot give assurance.

To answer Pu H. Biakzaua's question, we have only one District Office under Sports & Youth Services which is in Lunglei District. We do have plans to open more in various districts. Also, we are planning to improve Lawngtlai football ground; and, we plan to continue with State Games in the coming years.

To answer Pu Andrew Thangliana's question, I do not recall any commitment made regarding laying of turf at Kawnpui and Thenzawl. Yet, we do have plan for artificial turf for several playgrounds.

**SPEAKER** : Now, Pu Lalduhoma, the hon. member to ask starred Question No.59.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, may the hon. Minister for UD&PA be pleased to state -

If the Aizawl Municipal Corporation considers the plan for promoting Aizawl to *plastic free city* a successful?

**SPEAKER** : Now, hon. Dy. Chief Minister Pu Tawnluia to answer the question.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, we are beginning to see the result of initiative made on turning Aizawl into *plastic free city* and hope it will be a successful.

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary question from Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, will it be more appropriate to carry out the project covering the entire Mizoram in the stead of concentrating only in Aizawl?

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary question from Dr. Vanlalhlana.

**DR. VANLALHLANA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. There are several projects under UD&PA such as Smart City Mission. Is it possible to improve our drainages with cover so that they last longer? I suggest Aizawl North-II for the experimental site of this project. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary question from Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

**DR. VANLALTANPUIA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. As mentioned in the previous session, the field and race track of Lena Stadium, Serkawn Melte is not up to mark and is in need of renovation. Is improvement of the stadium being started?

The ownership of this stadium is Sports and Youth Department; however, it maintenance is minimal due to shortage of staff. I request the hon. Minister to consider co-ownership of this stadium to Serkawn locality who had even donated 17 lakh for it maintenance.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Deputy Chief Minister to answer the question.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, in regards to plastic free city, we have organized rallies and awareness campaigns in colleges,

schools and business offices. We did not expect it to be successful in the beginning but we are slowly getting there.

Regarding the question of Dr. Vanlalhlana, we have a huge centrally sponsored project for new drainage system for Aizawl city which will be initiated in coordination with PHE.

As of the point raised by Dr. Vanlaltanpuia, I have no information regarding Lena Stadium and will look into the matter. Regarding the ownership, construction of this stadium is under UD&PA and ownership was handed over to Sports Department. We are aware of the donation made by Serkawn locality and co-ownership of the stadium will be considered with Sports Department.

**SPEAKER** : Let us now call upon Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma to ask starred Question No. 60.

**PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. May the hon. Minister for Social Welfare Department be pleased to state -

- a) Number of Eklavya Model Residential School in Mizoram?
- b) How many are functional?
- c) What are the criteria for setting of Eklavya Model Residential School?
- d) May this school be set up within 35<sup>th</sup> West Tuipui Constituency as well?

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister Dr. K. Beichhua to answer the question.

**DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Answer to the question of Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma is -

- a) There are 11 Nos. Eklavya Model Residential Schools established under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- b) We have 2 functional EMRS at Pukpui Lunglei and Kawlritlang of Serchhip.
- c) In order to establish EMRS, there should be a population of 20,000 in one RD Block in which 50% of the population is of ST. The site for the school of at least 20 acres should be given by the State Government.
- d) We have identified the next EMRS at Lungsen RD Block which is under West Tuipui Constituency. Establishment of EMRS is decided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs on RD blockwise. Thus, we have no immediate plan to establish EMRS at 35<sup>th</sup> West Tuipui Constituency.

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary question from Pu BD Chakma.

**PU B.D. CHAKMA** : Pu Speaker, thank you.

- i) Who is the contractor for EMRS, Kamalanagar?
- ii) What is the estimate time for completion?
- iii) I think advertisement for recruitment of EMRS teachers have been notified. Will priority be given to local qualified candidates?

iv) When will classes be started at EMRS of Kamanalagar?

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

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Construction of EMRS building at Lawngtlai was started during the previous term. When will this be completed? May the physical and financial achievement of this constructed be clarified?

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary question from Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

**PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA:** Pu Speaker, my constituency 35<sup>th</sup> West Tuipui falls within the jurisdiction of Lungsen RD Block which is severely backward in terms of education. May EMRS be allotted for Tlabung?

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister to answer the questions.

**DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, to answer the question of Pu BD Chakma, the contractor of EMRS Kamalanagar is NECS and the estimate time for completion date is 18.10.2019. Though the construction remains uncompleted, we are planning to start the first session this year and the exact date and month is yet to be fixed. There is no provision for prioritizing the local qualified candidates. Since the school will be of CBSE base, only those qualified candidates will be considered.

As of the question of Pu Ngunlianchunga, the estimate time for completion of ESMR of Lawngtlai and Tuipang is 18.10.2019. Physical achievement varies due to communication problem; Chawngte is the lowest and is followed by Tuipang. Lawngtlai has the highest physical achievement with 90%.

In terms of financial achievement, Lawngtlai has a sanction of 16 crores out of which 1266 lakh already been issued as 334 lakh remains. Chawngte received 1268 lakh with 332 lakh remains. Tuipang received 1266 lakh with a balance of 334 lakh. Ngopa received 1400 lakh with a balance of 200 lakh.

As of the point raised by Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma, establishment of ESMR is within the jurisdiction of Ministry of Tribal Affairs with several criteria as mentioned before. If these criteria are not met, it is not possible to establish one.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalduhoma to ask Starred Question No. 61.

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

Is there any arrangement being made for renovation of Serchhip District Hospital?

**SPEAKER** : Let us now invite the hon. Minister to answer the question.

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, we are planning to renovate Serchhip District Hospital with the concept paper and DPR being submitted in last February to the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. It might take a while due to transition from the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.

**SPEAKER** : Supplementary question from Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, despite the fact that Serchhip had been lying under the constituency of Chief Minister for the past 3 decades, it is unfortunate that it does not have any functioning hospital till today and the only hospital it has is in need of immediate improvement. While this is the case, it is regretted that a resident surgeon we had at Serchhip hospital is snatched away by the hon. Minister Rintea for Kolasib hospital where as Dr. James, a surgeon attached to this hospital from ZMC too has left the hoispital last November on promotion. I therefore urge the government for immediate replacement of this post.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister to answer the question.

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I do agree with Pu Duhoma as I have seen it many times and feel that it is one of the most dilapitaed district hospitals. (**SPEAKER:** Our time is up; shall we let him finish? Alright; you may continue.) Thank you, Pu Speaker. We have several plans for renovation of Serchhip District Hospital and i do hope it will soon be initiated.

As for the three new districts such as Khawzawl, Saitual and Hnahthial, notification for setting up of hospital is issued on 14<sup>th</sup> February which will entail creation of new posts.

As mentioned by Pu Duhoma, shortage of doctors is the main issue. Permission for recruitment of more doctors is obtained from the government and initiative will be made through MPSC shortly. Hopefully our problems will then be solved to some extents.

**SPEAKER** : We shall now move on to *Laying of Papers*. I call upon the Chairman of Subject Committee-III, Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga to lay on the table of the House “Statement of action taken by the Government against further recommendations contained in the Second Report, 2019 of Subject Committee-III relating to National Mission on oilseeds and oil palm under Agriculture Department”.

**DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. With your permission and of this House, I lay on the table of this House, “Statement of action taken by the Government against further recommendations contained in the Second Report, 2019 of Subject

Committee-III relating to National Mission on oilseeds and oil palm under Agriculture Department”.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed. We shall now move on to *Presentation of Reports* and call upon Pu Lalduhoma to present on the table of this House, “Fourth Report of actions taken by the Government against the recommendations contained in the Third Report of PAC relating to Health and Family Welfare Department”.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of this House, I present “the Fourth Report of actions taken by the Government against the recommendations contained in the Third Report of PAC relating to Health & Family Welfare Department”.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. Let us now call the Chairman of Committee on Government Assurances, Pu Ramthanmawia to lay “the Third Report action taken by the Government against the recommendations of Committee on Government Assurances contained in its Second Report of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of Mizoram”.

**PU RAMTHANMAWIA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. With your permission and of this House, I lay on the table of this House “Third Report action taken by the Government against the recommendations of Committee on Government Assurances contained in its Second Report of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of Mizoram”.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. Let me remind you that our hon. Chief Minister is absent today as he is attending an important meeting.

I would also like to remind the hon. members that through the initiative of the hon. Health Minister, health checkups can be done during this Session.

HIV/AIDS Legislators Forum will have a meeting today at 1:00 PM and I invite all the members to attend this meeting where issues regarding cancer and corona virus will be discussed.

We will now move on to *Financial Business*, we will have a general discussion on the “Annual Budget for the year 2020-2021” presented by the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister Pu Zoramthanga on 19.2.2020.

Let us now call upon the Opposition Group Leader, Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. It is regretted that we have to pass a budget presented by the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister that does not embody any economic, financial or social growth for the people of Mizoram. I believe for this reason that the hon. Chief Minister has reiterated our budget he is presenting is not satisfactory.

I also find it hard to understand that allocation of our budget ended up in January, 2020. If that is the case, what will become of funds coming from the Central government through schemes such as Central Scheme, Finance Commission? Will it be allocated in next financial year?

Our budget has decreases year after year indicating the need for us to increase our revenue through tax and non-tax which will have an impact on the people of Mizoram. 84.2% of our budget will go to revenue expenditure which indicates that only 15.8% is available for development. The hon. Finance Minister emphasizes on increasing our revenue income through tax and non-tax. This clearly indicates commitment made to the people by the hon. Chief Minister during the election campaign for distribution 3 lakh rupees to each household will not become a reality. The ministry has now backtracked the statement to be of project base.

Lastly, I would like to request the government to make the best use of our budget despite the amount unsatisfactory. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

**PU LALRINSANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I am grateful that we were able to call the Session in the month of February thanks to exceptional planning of our hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister which will hopefully enhance the quality of our financial management.

Reflecting on the speeches made by the hon. members before me, revenue expenditure takes more than 80% of our entire budget which truly is remarkable. However, it is imperative to understand that expenditures for education, sports, road infrastructure, power and water supply are all covered by revenue expenditures. It means that 15.80% for the capital expenditure is not a trivial sum.

We are fortunate that provision for revenue account surplus has been set aside which amounts to ₹763.11 crores. Also, State debt decreases considerably and provisions for farmers through SEDP is seen. Plus, ₹8,000 lakh is set aside for road maintenance and infrastructure as well as healthcare scheme through SEDP.

Other notable developments are of ₹9,300 lakh for Rural Local Body Grant, ₹5,200 lakh for State Disaster Response Fund, ₹1,040 for mitigation purpose being provided. (**Speaker:** Your time is almost up.) ..... ₹785 lakh for Sinlung Hills Council and Sialkal Range Development Council.

Lastly, our budget may not be of expectations; yet, it is our duty to utilize what we have for the development of Mizoram. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

**PU C. LALMUANPUIA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I appreciate the fact that our hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister has presented us with this budget. Even though our expectations from the central government have not been realized, we somehow see increase of ₹22.70 crores.

Our government has come through with their promise with ₹51,300 lakh allocated for SEDP and ₹20,000 lakh to counter funding; ₹8,000 lakh for road maintenance under SEDP as well as ₹4,000 lakh for Road Fund Board under PWD. Setting up SEDP Healthcare Scheme is a tremendous achievement under which ₹2,000 lakh is set aside.

Our government has given priority to State Disaster Response Fund by allocating ₹5,200 lakh with 20% mitigation fund of ₹1040 lakh. I am positive that Parking House Support Scheme (PAHOSS) will have a positive impact with allocation of ₹1000 lakh.

Lastly, I am grateful for the allocation of funds for the 3 new districts as well as for Sinlung Hills Council and Sialkal Range Development Council. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

**PU LALCHHUANTHANGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. It is unusual that the hon. Finance Minister is not here with us for discussion of our budget and I believe this speak volumes in terms of the quality of our budget.

We are all aware that the whole budget is ₹10,725 crores with an increase of ₹22.70 crores from the previous year. Taking into consideration the rate of inflation at 7.12%, our budget actually decreases by ₹738.59 crores. On top of that, our main source of which is tax devolution will be shared by 28 states which will be miniscule. We cannot expect much from the Union Budget either. Funds to be received from post devolution receipt deficit grant will be divided among 14 states which will again result in less funds.

I find it hard to comprehend that SEDP is involved in every aspect of our budget. ₹40 crores have been allocated for Road Fund Board under SEDP and it is possible that this could be a part of SEDP component or if it is to be distributed as 3 lakhs. ₹200 crore was allocated for counterpart funding under SEDP with no allocation for State Matching Share. Is our government not planning to invest in any notable infrastructure or for development?

One very disheartening measure taken by our government is the allocation of only ₹10 crores for medical reimbursement for government employees and the omission of HBA for this year. HBA provide important revenue for the government with an interest of 8.50%. While the housing loan for MLA's increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh, it seems to indicate that we are increasing our spending at the expense of government workers.

₹546 crores were allocated for special grant under Grant-in-aid which is a lie\*. How will we repay this as it is not included in the union budget?

*(\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.)*

Pu Speaker, the Tax and Non-Tax revenue amounting to ₹1,244.76 crores which see an increase of ₹20.50 crores from last year. This may be seen as a good sign, but we must remember the fact that we were able to have this revenue due to collecting taxes from the public. We have joined hands with NDA at the central level so as to be in their good books, our government even gives it consent for CAB/CAA Bill thereby hurting the sentiment of the people of Mizoram. However, our budget clearly indicates we are not in the good books of the Central government.

To conclude my speech, I would like to add that this has been the darkest day for Mizoram budget. Thank you.

**PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO:** Pu Speaker, thank you. This is my first time sitting at the discussion of Budget and I am grateful that our hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister wisely fixed this sitting in February so as to adapt the best for the administration and management of our government.

It has been consistently mentioned by members before especially from opposition members that our budget is disappointing. I cannot argue that our budget is not up to par and is not what we have expected. However, our hon. Finance Minister clearly states the reason that our budget has decreased is due to less deficit grant from the Central Government. We have to remember that to make up for this decrease in our budget, Finance Commission has set aside ₹15,000 crores provision for Special Assistance to all States.

It is quite apparent from the budget speech that the revenue expenditure exceeds 80% of the entire budget, but we have to keep in mind that it also includes salary of government servants, pension salaries, expenditure for sports, education, road maintenance and infrastructure, power and water supply, district administration and police administration. It should also be noted that due to lack of maintenance by the previous government, provisions have to be made to improve road communication which led to increase of revenue expenditure.

I applaud our hon. Finance Minister for his foresight in allocation of priorities sector, for introduction of Healthcare Scheme and the allocation of ₹1,000 lakh for the improvement of Zoram Medical College. Other notable development includes allocation of ₹300 lakh for youth development, ₹500 lakh for sports development, certain amounts of provision for autonomous district councils, ₹785.83 lakh for Sinlung Hills council and Sialkal Range Development Council.

Lastly, I would like to mention that the budget presented by our hon. Finance Minister is satisfactory and I hope this will benefit the people of Mizoram.

**PU L. THANGMAWIA:** Pu Speaker, we have less than 10 minutes left but we still have presentation regarding AIDS and Corona during break time. Will it be possible to have a 5 minutes break before that?

**SPEAKER** : We will have a short break and continue with our sitting at 2:00 PM.

### **2:00 PM**

**SPEAKER** : Pu L. Thangmawia to start the discussion.

**PU L. THANGMAWIA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. This year, our Budget Session is unexpectedly scheduled in alignment with the Union Budget. We are all aware and even expect that our Budget allocation for this year should not be compared to last year's budget due to reduction of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants from the Central government. It is admirable that our hon. Finance Minister is able to present a reasonable budget in such a situation. I applaud our hon. Finance Minister for his skills. *(Deputy Speaker at the chair)*

One outstanding aspect of our budget is that the budget allocation for General Education increased to ₹1,81,313,13 from last year's budget of ₹1,65,923.30 indicating priority given by this ministry towards education.

Also, in the economic service sector, budget allocation has increased to ₹16107.72 lakh for agriculture and allied sector indicating this ministry is priritizing the agriculture sector and concerned labourers.

Other notable developments include allocation of ₹113.47 lakh for Inland Water Transport, ₹435.51 lakh for Saitual District, ₹280.24 lakh for Khawzawl District, ₹ 330.30 lakh for Hnahthial District, ₹585.45 lakh for Sinlung Hills Council, ₹513 crores for SEDP, ₹93 crores for Rural Local Body Grant and ₹52 crores for Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). **(Deputy Speaker: Your time is up.)**

Lastly, I would like to mention that regarding the decrease of our budget allocation from the Central government, it may be noted that it is not the actual amount but only of interim allocation. Let us hope that other grants will be given to us after revision. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The hon. Member, Pu Vanlahlana.

**PU VANLALHLANA :** Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. I feel fortunate to have a budget discussion under the guidance of you and the hon. Speaker. I regret that our hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister could not be here today.

First and foremost, we have ₹2,926 crores for Supplementary Demand which was passed last year; this indicates the general public from our budget will be miniscule.

From my lucid understanding, the increasing rate of our budget is only 21% which is extremely low. We are aware that the reason for this decrease is due to the decline of Indian economy. Thus, the general public will be of most affected.

This is not an isolated incident as budget of the neighboring states are taking a dip as well. However, it will depend on how the amounts were spent where as this issue differs with states like Manipur and Nagaland reverting to deficit budget while in Mizoram, we limit our expenditure revenue.

I would like to pitch a proposal for PAMRA members to receive pension from the government. They are our living martyr and they deserved to be rewarded for their efforts.

One humiliating incident for Mizoram is that we are at the bottom of the list on Sustainable Development Goal India, Index and Dashboard 2019 published by NITI Aayog in terms of economic sector, infrastructure sector and health and sanitation sector. There must be the reason for our low status where as MNF and Congress Party have ruled for 30 years and they equally share the blame.

₹513 crore is allotted for SEDP while allocation for the same last year was ₹750 crores. This indicates that 3 lakhs will not be given to every household as committed by MNF party during the election campaign. I earnestly demand to rectify the commitment being made.

I do not agree with PAHOSS Scheme to be disparaging for I support this scheme for the benefit of the general public. However, careful planning and research needs to be made to be of optimum value. **(DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up; you may wind up your speech.)**

**PU VANLALHLANA :** Lastly, there are 26 restricted tenders issued by PWD Department out of which 16 are for construction of buildings and the rest for development of roads. However, the way we are adopting these tenders seems more like a work order. I want to present one application written to the hon. Chief Minister for construction of a building under one department. Our Chief Minister made a comment on the application to look for ways to realize this application. For a government servant, this can be interpreted as a work order. I would like to suggest and hope that this kind of work order should not be repeated in the future. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please do remember that we have to ask for permission of the House if we have to read from the text or if we are quoting of someone else's statement.

**DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER:** Pu Dy. Speaker, what he had read out is of a document; shouldn't it be submitted to the House property?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is the rule. If we have read it, then we have to submit to House property. Let us now invite Pu Lalzirliana.

**ER. H. LALZIRLIANA:** Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I am grateful that I am able to take part in the discussion of Mizoram Budget. It is a consensus among the members that we are not satisfied with the amount of our budget. I look forward to the day we can discuss our own Union Budget as Republic of Mizoram.

Currently, it is safe to say that India economic is declining and we experience slow growth in our economy which inadvertently affects our State budget. In spite of this, there are several developments in my constituency which we are very grateful for. We will be having a new PHC at Tuipuibari, a new District hospital, a new football field and multipurpose indoor stadium. We are also grateful that our roads have been developed and the new establishment of higher secondary school for science at Mamit as well as the resettlement of Brus.

We have also seen an increase in State Own Tax and non-tax revenue and a comparative decrease in State debt. In this connection, I suggest increase of tax on petroleum products to avoid adulteration and pilferage. (*Speaker: Your time is up.*)

Even if our budget is not satisfactory, there are many positive aspects to be seen such as introduction of PAHOSS Scheme, budget increase for Autonomous District Councils, allocation of budget for Sinlung Hills and Sialkal Range, allocation of funds for Rural, Local and Urban body grants. Other notable developments are allocation of funds for the development of education system, sports and healthcare, inland water transport system and for returnees.

Lastly, I would like to mention that our budget is manageable and I pledge my support. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Next is, hon. member Pu BD Chakma.

**PU B.D. CHAKMA :** Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I wasn't planning on having a voice on this discussion; however, at the insistence of our hon. Speaker and members, I will say a few words.

The content of our budget is such that it is almost enough to make a grown man cry with frustration as there are not enough funds for the development of

Mizoram. On top of that, our hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister is not present to hear our grievances; and as such, I feel that there is no point in discussing further.

I would like to make a reference to para 34 as I observe that there is no provision for ₹3 lakh to be given to every household under SEDP. On the other hand, there is a provision for ₹2 lakh billable under Mizoram Healthcare Scheme. I would like to suggest our hon. Chief Minister to clarify that distributing 3 lakh is impossible and ask for forgiveness to the people of Mizoram.

One important point is that there is provision under Central Healthcare Scheme of Ayushman Bharat in which a maximum amount of ₹5 lakh can be reimbursed.

Pu Deputy Speaker, unfortunately we have to pass this budget. I hope and pray that there will be an additional fund later on to make up with it. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Next is, Dr. Thiamsanga, hon. Member.

**DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA:** Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Our budget for this year is an inclusive budget that will benefit the whole populace. Due to the foresight of our hon. Finance Minister, we were able to conduct a budget session in this February.

We are aware that State Owned Revenue will increase by ₹27.97 crores this year. (**Deputy Speaker:** Please bear with us while we change our seats.) We cannot argue that our revenue expenditure has increased. However, this increase in revenue is for the love of Mizoram by our hon. Chief Minister.

Almost every opposition member has mentioned ₹3 lakh of SEDP and in response, I would like to mention that this will be realized.

We need to consider sources of fund beyond our state budget. Additional fund approximately of ₹1,851 crore from CSS, NLCPR, EAP and NABARD is obtained. SEDP is planned to be implemented with the help of these kinds of funds.

Pu Chairman, the statement indicating our state as one of the most backward states regarding healthcare is incorrect. Mizoram stood first according to Niti Aayog in health index and we are the best performing state in this regard. Likewise, we are also the best performing state in development of forest environment and of the most improved state in Tourism and Healthcare.

Pu Chairman, it is also worth-mentioning that ₹5 crore was spent for renovation of Lengpui Airport last year. Besides, Obstacle Limitation Surface Survey which we have been waiting for 10 years was also completed during 24<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May last year. Air service which used to be available 7 times a week is also now increased to 24. It is also planned for further increase to 38 with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. The cost of transport of Aizawl to Kolkata has also drastically

decreased from ₹17,900 to ₹2,700 and ₹4,000 approximately. This shows the efforts made by this government.

This budget is oriented for the poor. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the works regarding Sialkal Range Development Council as it is within my constituency. With these words, I express my support to this budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** : Let us now call upon Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, hon. member.

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Thank you, Pu Chairman. I am also personally indebted to take part in this budget discussion.

Even though there are some shortcomings in this budget, it has to be accepted that it is a good budget as a whole. Increase in the budget is notable and so is inappropriate to brand this budget as a pathetic budget. Pu Chairman, it is my opinion that budget should not be viewed only from the amount. Which is more important is the expenditure and management of the budget.

Pu Chairman, some members criticize this budget as not giving importance to the people and as mostly for salary of government servants. It has to be noted that even the government servants are part of the public. Besides, the government servants are consumers for traders and other service providers. Thus, even the salary components are also for the public one way or another.

Pu Chairman, experts emphasize Indian economy remains a backward for the increase is only 5%. Meanwhile, the expected growth of Mizoram economy is 9% which happened to be the result of the efforts made by the present ministry. It is noteworthy how the Hon. Chief Minister could chalk out a good budget despite poor condition of Indian economy. It should also be considered that the year 2020-2021 is a transition period from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. It is a massive achievement at the part of the Hon. Chief Minister to present this budget amidst difficulties.

Declining the amount of grants under Post-Devolution Deficit Grant is a reiterated issue. However, this could be considered as positive effects of the state finance. It may be due to conception of the central government that our state as more improving in compare to last year for having excessive budget with huge amount lapsed at the end of the year from time to time. This budget, on the other hand seems to be a handy one with appropriate amount. Besides, I am sure that the ministry is capable of availing additional funds from different schemes outside this budget also. It is worth-mentioning that ₹200 crore is allotted for SEDP. I would also like to emphasize that the Hon. Chief Minister is trustworthy in making necessary arrangement for available additional funds outside this budget. Last of all, it is my utmost desire that this state may attain self-sufficiency without depending on grants from central government. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Hon. Member Dr. Vanlalhlana is next.

**DR. VANLALHLANA:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. I was requested earlier to produce evidence for my speech. Therefore, I hereby submit my evidence as a House property.

First of all, the Finance Commission has visited Mizoram. We also learned that the share of Mizoram from divisible pool has been increased from 0.46% to 0.506% under the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. The central government could not receive its expected revenue; it could be seen from this budget document that it is the same in our state also.

Regarding Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant, we were expecting the amount would be increased but is decreasing to ₹1,422 crore. This is quite unfortunate. Besides, ₹15,000 crore is available under GBS and we need to try very hard to avail it as it has to be shared with other states like Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur.

I am happy to learn that the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has given ₹93 crores towards Rural Local Bodies. We are facing Local Council and Village Council elections in the near future. In this regard, I express my concern about taking advantage as a political party claiming that funds will be withheld if the ruling party at state government does not win in one's locality. The available amount of ₹93 crores from the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission is already enough to be distributed among all Village Councils at ₹12 lakh each. I hope the government will take necessary steps for reasonable distribution of available funds among Local Councils.

The increase in States Own Revenue at 20.50% is a great sign for the state and I therefore would like to give credit to Taxation Department in this regard.

It is estimated that ₹763.11 crore revenue surplus will be available at the end of this year. In the present budget of 2019-2020, revenue surplus is expected at ₹1,443.47 crore. However, after a revised estimate, we are having a deficit of ₹594.73 crore in reality. We need to improve a lot regarding Revenue Expenditure as it seems to bring a surplus in the budget but deficit in reality.

For my next point, I am happy that our GSDP to debt decreased by 27.85% and I express my gratitude to the ministry in this regard.

On the other hand, the amount of funds available from devolution decreases drastically. Thus, necessary steps should be taken to increase at least to reach last year's budget.

As per RBI findings, Mizoram is a state with the highest non-development expenditure during 2019-2020; this needs to be attended immediately. The ruling

party claims this budget as a good one and urges the ministry to continue its practice. In view of this finding, it is questionable to continue with the same trend of expenditure.

There is a huge spike in the amount availed for *Ways and Means* advance which obviously implies that our financial condition is deteriorating. The fiscal deficit rises from 2.40% to 8.34% after the revised estimate came out. Serious austerity measures thus need to be taken in this regard. It is good to see our confidence to decrease the amount to 1.66% in the coming year on which the hon. minister concerned should be credited.

According to the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Report 2014, Mizoram topped the list in terms of funds avail from the central govt. during 2004 to 2015. 51% of our expenditure is avail from the central government. In this regard, I implore the ministry to spend our budget so that we become a producing state instead of consumer state.

Pu Speaker, page No. 12 and 13 of the Budget Speech speaks about Economic services sector and social sector. Social services include education, sports, art & culture, health, family welfare, water supply, urban development, etc. Economic services include agriculture, rural development, industry, special area programme, irrigation, energy, etc. As per the Issue of Budget, 2019-2020 of RBI, our state has the least amount allotted for development work and also the most deteriorating for the same purpose. In this budget also, the amount allotted for development declines by 18%. This is lamentable in view of development for the state. I urge the ministry to take significant initiative for upliftment of the people. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

**DR. VANLALTANPUIA:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am glad to take part in budget discussion of 2020-2021. I would also like to give credit to the Minister and officials of Finance Department for being able to present a budget by the month of February for the first time in Mizoram.

As we are aware, Pu Speaker, the states need to adapt itself as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission. Huge changes were introduced under 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission since its inception in 2015. Further changes are again made with the newly created 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. Our state also needs to make several changes in accordance with the new Commission. As experts said 'Budget is not just financing, budget is management,' we need to keep in mind that management of available fund is equally important as generating more resources. There is no real significance in getting more amounts without proper management.

Pu Speaker, the public needs to know the reality about this budget. It does not mean that the amount contained in this budget is all we have to avail during the coming year. This is only the guidance for financial management of the government.

It is expected that another huge amount would be availed from other sources. This budget estimate is mere of known main sources like Share of Taxes, Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant, Urban Local Bodies Grant, Rural Local Body Grant, State Disaster Respond Fund, State Own Tax Revenue, Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources, North-Eastern Area Fund, OMB (Open Market Borrowing), NABARD, NCDC Block Loan, REC and EAP (Externally Aided Project).

One of the main resources of our state, Revenue Deficit Grant is now given to 14 states instead of seven states last year under 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. It means that the amount we receive from this source will decrease. However, as already stated, what is more important is management of the available fund. Besides, there are several unforeseen sources which could be availed. Even in the previous ministry also, the government flagship programme NLUP was given under Additional Central Assistance which is not included in the budget. We need to look at how the government took necessary steps to have growth-oriented policies.

Pu Speaker, the state finance will be seen as critical if the fiscal deficit is more than 3% of the state's GSDP. The current fiscal deficit of our state is only 1.66% of GSDP. This shows the efforts of the hon. Chief Minister in his financial management.

To sum up, Pu Speaker, we often branded our state as *backward and inferior* to other states. However, we have travelled to different states and see their conditions first hand. Other states may be a little advance regarding infrastructures and some other sphere but we have other spheres in which we are more advanced. It is my opinion that we are not that backward or inferior to other states in overall condition. I support this budget to be passed in this august House. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us now give time to Pu Lalrindika Ralte, Hon. Member.

**PU LALRINDIKA RALTE:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is important to remember that this budget is for the people and is not for the benefit of some political party or organization. We are also aware of the importance of financial management besides the amount yet difficult to decide if this budget is a good or bad. We are still unaware of how well it will be managed also as we shall clearly see the result in the coming year.

We may be well-advanced comparing 10 years back. However, what is important is to determine our condition in the next 10 or 15 years. It is my desire that the leaders also work with that vision. Taking Myanmar as example, we can see that resource is not the only thing important for development. Even though it had a huge potential, there can be no real development without proper government administration or leadership. We, the representatives of the people should ask ourselves to which way we are leading our people. We have seen several examples in India who leads their people to advancement. I hope this budget may be spent in the best possible way to bring development in the state. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Hon. Minister Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

**PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am happy to take part in the budget discussion today. Budget is of a serious and important matter for the state. Therefore, I kindly request my fellow members to take part without the influence of our political affiliation but to give utmost importance to the development of the state.

First of all, I would like to talk about the importance of the timing of presentation of this budget. As we know, this budget is presented earlier than it is generally presented. This prevents the departments to apply for allocation at the eleventh hour of financial year. This greatly helps in better financial management for the next financial year also. I would like to thank the Hon. Finance Minister and Chief Minister for this unusual arrangement.

Secondly, I would like to talk about Bru repatriation. This has been a very serious issue for a long time and I am very happy that their permanent settlement in Tripura had been unanimously decided. This obviously shows the relentless and sincere efforts made by the hon. Chief Minister and the Hon. Home Minister for the state. This really is an epoch-making achievement. I would also like to thank all the people who took part in the process.

Thirdly, I express my gratitude to learn that ₹5,00,000/- is allotted for rehabilitation of MNF returnees. This government has done immense job in management of state finance and managing its level best to generate resources for the state. This matter has also been discussed in the Council of Ministers meeting. In this regard, I would like to mention that establishment of Mizoram Government Construction Corporation has been decided for generation of revenue for the state in addition to better access for construction and other development activities in Mizoram.

I found unfortunate that Revenue Expenditure is branded as non-developmental expenditure. In this regard, I would like to mention that there are two kinds of infrastructures viz. Capital and Social infrastructure. Social infrastructure is more important as Capital infrastructure for the development of the youth and the public as a whole. It has to be noted that our social infrastructure which means the people is declining in our state. This has to be checked through proper management of Revenue Expenditure.

It is also remarkable that the estimate State Own Revenue which is ₹807.71 crore could be achieved in the present financial year. The estimate is quite a challenge with total prohibition being imposed. I do hope the estimated amount this year will also be achieved. I thank the Hon. Taxation Minister as well as the officials of Taxation Deptt. in this regard.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, we are facing huge problem due to massive landslide in my constituency which affected 150 families. In this situation, it is really good to hear about increase of SDRP from ₹18crore to ₹47 crore. We also hope that rehabilitation for the victim families within my constituency will be carried out through this fund. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : We shall now have a break for 20 minutes and will resume the discussion at 4:30 PM.

**4:30 P.M.**

**SPEAKER** : We shall now continue with our business. Let us call upon Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. We all know that we cannot get our expected amount of fund from the central government with the inception of 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. Meanwhile, the increase in the budget this year is ₹22.70 crore which is satisfactory.

We are all aware that the previous Congress Ministry had done a great job regarding austerity measures.

The budget estimate of last year was ₹19,062 crore out of which around 21% was allotted for capital expenditure. This decrease in Capital Expenditure is exactly as I predicted last year. This is the result of filling up of many posts without proper planning. I found the decrease in budget allocated for development work is very unfortunate.

Sub-No(c) Regarding allocation on priority sector of No. 33 stated about allocation of ₹51,300 for project base development job which comprises agriculture, horticulture, AH & Vety, Commerce & Industry, water, tourism and road infrastructure. However, it is quite doubtful how these projects should be implemented.

Massive amount has also been allotted for preparation of DPR and for hiring of consultancy firms. What stuck my mind is the government plan of hiring consultancy firms despite many of our engineers and officers to deal with this work. Does this mean that the government have no confident in its officials or if there are some underlying reasons behind? There may be a need for consultancy firm to pursue some project applications to central government. However, I opined that outsourcing of preparation of DPR itself is inappropriate.

Besides, we found in point (h) that only ₹13,500 lakh available for each department for development projects. At the same time, I am grateful that ₹9,300 lakh is made available for Rural Local Body Grant

Pu Speaker, I think it is necessary to explain the claim about favoring the District Councils amidst financial limitations. The increase in grants for them in the Revised Estimate is only to meet the financial shortage as 7<sup>th</sup> pay is not introduced in the District Councils.

Pu Speaker, formation of Sialkal Range Development Council is found at point No. 42. It should be noted that this is nothing more than fulfilling the peace agreement between the government and the underground.

Regarding road, it is the same as stated by Pu Thiamsanga in our constituency also. We were badly in need of better roads. Pu Speaker, it is our utmost desire to have a good budget accommodating plan for upliftment of the poor. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I call upon the Opposition Group Leader, Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I thank the hon. Chief Minister for presenting a simple yet vivid budget speech. I am not convinced by the claim that Budget Session this year is held earlier to prevent problems at the end of financial year. In fact, this budget could only be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April even if it is passed early.

It is commendable that the Finance Commission had given ₹93 crores for the Village Council. The Chairman of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has consulted me and I had given some recommendations in which allocation of funds for Village Council also is included.

Pu Speaker, what I have to say next is the whole truth; the first consideration is if a budget is good or not and if it is about to increase. There is a normal increase in every budget which is about 10%. The Grant in Aid this year is decreased by ₹748 crores from last year. Besides, the amount of total revenue receipt also decreased by ₹62 crores. This is just lamentable. Moreover, the expected revenue receipt for this year is yet not received in full. The amount of revenue receipt received this year is only 67.71% of what is expected. In the light of this, it seems we will not receive what we expect next year also. The government really needs to find a way to avail more funds outside this budget estimate to meet the need of our state. It also means that we need to generate over ₹211 crore from our own revenue. I seem that this will increase all kinds of revenue sources like water bills, electric bills, Guest House rent, royalty, hospital user charges, etc. which will be a burden for the public.

Speaking about fiscal deficit, this is also a parameter for good budget. The fiscal deficit during 2018-2019 of the Congress Ministry which stood at 1.59%. After one year of this ministry, it goes all the way up to 8.34%. There is no doubt that it is the result of obvious mismanagement. The claim that Revenue Surplus stands at ₹763 crore also is misleading because all the funds and grants availed from central government are considered as revenue. The actual revenue of our state is only 12% of this budget estimate.

Another parameter of the budget is GSDP. The growth of GSDP during 2018-2019 was 25.38%. It is deplorable that the growth rate decreases to 19.4% during one year of this ministry. This cannot be good governance. Administrative costs drastically increases while capital expenditure is cut down. What I would like to suggest is investing more on capital expenditure and we should even increase our debt if it is for building assets for the state for it will be a profit in the long run.

To sum up, Pu Speaker, let us try to explain parameters that I have stated. First of all, does the budget increase? No, it decreases. Does fiscal deficit fall? No, it increases. Does GSDP increases? No, it declines. Can Revenue Expenditure be decreased? No, it is increased. Meanwhile, Capital Expenditure is decreased while it is desired to be increased. Moreover, tax is set to be increased also. All these are found in the budget and are all facts and figures. Therefore, it is obvious how badly Mizoram need an able Finance Minister.

It is further lamentable how important subject like Education policies are not included in the priority list. Likewise, negligence on building assets and lack of positive approach in the government are the responsibility of Congress and MNF party who had ruled over our state for 3 decades. Therefore, it is my opinion that this budget will be passed with a heavy heart. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us now call upon Hon. House Leader Pu Zoramthanga to wind up our discussion.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. We generally had a separate budget head for plan and non-plan in the past. However, the two are now merged under one head in this new system. Budget increases higher in some years while it sometimes decreases which is mostly affected by the amount of grants received from the central government.

The central government is functioning through taxes and revenue collected from the states and Union Territories. What we desire and what is used for measuring state's economic condition is the amount of state own tax revenue. However, if the economic condition of the people is not uplifted, it is not possible for the concerned people to contribute higher taxes. Therefore, it is necessary to bring development to the people first in order to have higher revenue. All these are co-related one way or the other.

Various austerity measures are introduced by the previous ministry. Despite excessive number of vacant posts, the process of recruitment is on halt. However, it has now gone to the extent that administration and development works are hindered by such austerity measures. Therefore, it is inevitable to undertake recruitments for certain government jobs.

As stated by hon. members, the increase in the budget is not that much. There are also opinions that allocation of budget for various departments are not up to the

mark which are correct from their views. However, the idea of framing the budget should be considered. So, I implore the Hon. Members to understand the idea behind the budget in analyzing the budget estimate.

I will not go too deep about changes in GSDP as we may discuss in the demand discussion. As we could see, the total amount of this budget is around ₹10,000 crore. I instructed the officials to chalk out the essential expenditure. After that, the remaining fund available was distributed for development works and other projects as deemed necessary. The Hon. Members had rightly said that the rate of increase in budget is not as expected. The main reason for this is that the central government also did not get as much revenue as they expected and the grant allotted for states thus declined. Besides, the amount which 7 states used to share was now meant to be shared by 14 states and thus drastically decreased the fund available. It is inevitable that the state budget growth is hindered. Meanwhile, an amount of ₹15,000 crore has been kept in reserve for those states with commendable works.

Regarding allotment of fund for preparation of DPR, it is correct that the government officials could manage themselves to some extents. However, the central government accepted only designated consultancy firms for big projects. Besides, the fees charged are also high as the projects are also huge.

The available funds for Village Councils will be distributed based on population. It will also be done through recommendation of our state Finance Commission and will be distributed as per the guideline.

Speaking of the government's flagship programme SEDP, I would like to reiterate that this project will be carried out in project-based. Assistance will be given to beneficiaries as per their works performances. They will be first given the necessary assistance to start their project after which they will be further assisted according to their needs.

Speaking about state debt, ours seems to be of a huge amount but is quite less comparing with other states. For instance, the state debt of Maharashtra is around ₹90,000 crore which is much higher than our state debt.

There is an opinion that the assistance availed from central government is very less. However, they are about to unveil. The amount received during these three days includes ₹107 crore for Social Welfare & Tribals, ₹1000 crore for Tourism Department, ₹1250 crore for Sports, 248 million USD for UD&PA. It should be noted that more funds are also on the way. The total project-based fund expected is over ₹5,000 crore at the least.

Pu Speaker, I will not take too long as we could further discuss in the demand-wise discussion. This budget estimate may seem unsatisfactory comparing to last year budget due to the fact that we have surplus from last years budget in some departments.

Regarding budget allocation for District Councils, what has been said by Pu C. Ngunlianchunga is correct. It is very difficult to cut down the budget allotted for wages. One of the main problems regarding District Council is 90% of their budget which is spent on wages. We are trying very hard to solve the problem but is difficult as of now. It is our policy not only for District Councils, but also for other areas to create more and more available funds for development work.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, we do hope that this ministry may function smoothly with the cooperation of the people and guidance of God so that our state attains the best development. I will end my wound-up speech with these words. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

**SPEAKER** : We have finished our business for today. The House will stand adjourned till commencement of next sitting on 26.2.2020 (Wednesday) at 10:30 AM.

*Sitting is Adjourned (5:40 PM)*