

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FOURTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 21st 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.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

2. * **Resolutions**

S.R. ZOKHUMA
Commissioner & Secretary

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* Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 105, dated the 18th February, 2020 and Bulletin No. 118 dated 19th February, 2020 for relative precedence of Private Members' Resolutions to be moved.

SPEAKER : *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

- Galatians 5:25 & 26.

Today, the hon. Member Pu B.D. Chakma could not attend the Session due to family problem. Now, I call upon Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo to ask Starred Question No. 16.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. Starred Question No.16 and the answer to be given by the Education Minister -

- a) Is there any plan for upgrading High School and Higher Secondary School which are functioning as private and lumpsum grant school?
- b) If so, which schools and when it will be upgraded?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Minister.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The answer is:

- a) The government is considering upgrading private and lump sum Adhoc Aided Secondary Schools.
- b) Since it is under consideration, no particular school is selected as yet.

SPEAKER : Next is, hon. Member, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: In the past Pu Speaker, there were 35 villages in this constituency but without a single Higher Secondary School. I made an approach to the Education Minister during the previous MNF ministry in 2007 and a lumpsum grant was eventually provided in 2008 but no further step has yet been taken since then. 10 years has passed since then and such schools, if properly attended could have produced number of Top 10 students of Higher Secondary examination during this period.

Now, there are 14 villages in this new constituency in which we opened a private school at Reiek and Bungthang and the teachers are paid from our own pocket. Mamit is quite a backward district compared to others particularly in the field of education. At the same time, I would like to request the concerned authority to include any development works within Mamit district while proposing work schedule. Likewise, our roads which happened to be the lifeline of the people are intensive and should be prioritized by the government. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana hon. Member from opposition bench.

DR. VANLALHLANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. My question are as follows –

Is there a plan to close down LM Primary School of Ramhlun Venglai? If so, what will be done for the replacement?

Secondly, regarding Ramhlun Sport Complex Primary School, we are waiting for the decision of the Minister in-charge. When will the work be started?

Lastly, on 5th October 2018, a notification regarding lumpsum grand-in-aid was issued by the School Education indicating disbursement of 2 lakh, 2.5 lakh and 3 lakh. I would like to know if it is disbursed already.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Dr. Thiamsanga is next.

DR. Z.R. THIAMSANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Due to efforts of the hon. Chief Minister, 800 teachers have been recruited. My question is - If the newly recruited teachers had joined their post.

Secondly, I request reconstruction of GM High School Champhai, the building which is now becoming old. We have only one Higher Secondary School at Champhai for at least 800 students whereas there are many being rejected for our lack of accommodation. So, I urge the government for immediate upgradation of this school. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we are planning to upgrade West Phaileng Higher Secondary School as soon as possible. The government issued GIA to 43 Higher Secondary Schools prioritizing the senior most schools in which West Phaileng Higher Secondary School is included. To establish High School through RMSA, we first need to survey of how many students we could accommodate and if there is any high school in the area nearby. Likewise, we determine setting up High School at Bawngthah.

Hon. MLA Dr. Vanlalhlana's has questioned regarding closing down LM Primary School of Ramhlun Venglai, it may be noted that some schools did not fulfil the requirement as of number of students and teachers and thus is placed in the list of schools to be reviewed. From the next financial year, we will evaluate the performance of such schools and if improvement is seen, then, it may not be closed. We have spot-visited Ramhlun Sport Complex Primary School and witnesses multiple cracks on the walls and floors caused by landslides. Priority will be given from SEDP and will be attended immediately. Regarding the question of lump sum grant-in-aid, it has already been disbursed on 5th February this year.

Pu Thiamsanga asked if all the newly recruited teachers had join their post; it may be noted that there are some appointed persons who chose other jobs and the recruited 800 nos. therefore doesn't fully join the post. Some had submitted a joining report in the beginning but resigned later; so we placed 3 or 4 persons on panel list to fill the vacated post.

Regarding GM High School Champhai, it is our first priority as soon as fund is received. As of upgrading High School to Higher Secondary School of Champhai, it is impossible as of now since there are other Higher Secondary Schools the nearby. Anyway, i think it is good to survey the case first.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 17, Dr. Vanlaltanpuia, hon. Member to ask the question.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Starred Question No.17, to be answered by hon. Agriculture Minister -

- a) Since the Mizoram Organic Bill, 2004 is passed, is it possible to declare Mizoram 'an organic State'?
- b) Is fertilizers and pesticides used by the farmers safe enough and if survey being done in this regard?

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalrinsanga, hon. Minister.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is:

- a) It is not possible to declare Mizoram as Organic State even after passing The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill, 2004.
- b) There are no specific studies for proving the fertilizers and pesticides used by the farmers are safe.

SPEAKER : Next is, hon. Member Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, the central govt. supply fertilizer at factory rate so as to improve our production of rice through the agency who is supposed to supply to our farmers at govt. approved rate. But the agency, in the stead of supplying to the farmers smuggled the item to Burma. Even before the MNF ministry, no fertilizers were sold to the farmers and the same practice continues. So, i would like to ask if there a way to stop this practice so that the farmers get their fair shares.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu L. Thangmawia is next.

PU L. THANGMAWIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. This government is well-aware of improvement of Mizoram agriculture as so is a change in the distribution system to various districts.

My constituency lies under two districts such as Khawzawl and Saitual District and thus, we have a lot of agriculture potential areas such as river banks of Tuisakam, Tuilak and Tuivai. So, to make the best use of such banks, I urge upgradation of Agriculture Office at Ngopa and Kawlkulh. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, hon. Member Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Excessive use of insecticides, pesticides, etc. causes much concern to the people whereas cancer patient increases in Mizoram every year. So, may the government investigate if the practice of such pesticides etc causes cancer in our state?

Plus, in order to increase our agricultural product, is there any study on our soils as to the adaptability of plants according to the region. Is there any record on this matter?

SPEAKER : Some questions are off topic; anyway, let us request the hon. Minister to answer any as possible.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we do not have much knowledge of the practice with fertilizers supply in the previous ministry; 10 years has passed and we now come to learn the system as of the dealers. It is now imported from Guwahati for the farmers; yet, it is true that the farmers did not receive their share. I began to learn soon after we assumed this ministry that fertilizers supply for Mizoram being smuggled to Burma and allegedly for this reason, many had applied for dealership of fertilizers. Thus, our Chief Minister concentrates on organic farming and takes every possible step to fulfil this plan. While this is the case, setting up Mizoram as 'organic farming state' is a difficult task since the majority use fertilizers and pesticides.

To answer the question of hon. Member Pu L. Thangmawia, we plan to recognise Ngopa as an administrative centre as proposal has been made in this regard. West Phaileng and North Vanlaiphai are promoted to sub-division recently and let us take the question is asked out of enthusiasm.

As for Dr. Vanlaltanpuia's question, my answer is the same since we do not have any material to test the soil or fertilizers. Recently RIPAN had new machinery which may be used to analyse we have approached them and expect work can be implemented. And we will appoint workers to take samples for the departmental works.

The Chief Minister proposed for bio-pesticides laboratory unit, bio-fertilizer and the machine is not that costly so we hope to analyse all this things on our own as soon as possible. Soil testing is very important and we have the testing machine, but, our soil is mainly acidic. We request ICAR to help us to measure the longitude and latitude from which we can make decision what to plant. To me soil testing is the top most priority in Agriculture

SPEAKER : Now, I call upon the hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Agriculture and Horticulture are interlinked and the government is improving these foods producing departments at it best.

It is clear that chemical fertilizers and pesticides are harmful and means to evade the use of chemical fertilizers is thus a global concern. The government consider the replacement with cowdung but the amount available is less sufficient and thus we are compelled to continue with fertilizers so as to maintain our productions. I have made an approach to major companies of New Delhi in dealing with this matter and even had a meeting with experts on Agriculture and Horticulture. But the problem at present is shortage of enough supply of cowdung.

Pu Speaker, regarding Pu Lalduhoma's question, we are planning to deal with organic fertilizers since the cost price is the same with that of chemical fertilizers. In this connection, I request each member to inform if there is any compact area within their constituency for setting up laboratory for testing of organic fertilizers. Thank You.

SPEAKER : Let us invite Pu VL Zaithanzama to ask Starred Question No.8.

PU VL ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. My question to hon. Minister of Information & Public Relation Department is:

- a) When will the journalist pension scheme be implemented?
- b) Number of copy of Mizoram Calendar published for the year 2020?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Pu Lalruatkima, Minister

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer to the question of hon. Member Pu VL Zaithanzama is:

- a) The matter is underconsideration;
- b) 80,000 (Eighty Thousand) copies.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. Due to the efforts of the Assembly Secretariat and I&PR Department, a live telecast of the Assembly session can now be watched by thousands of people. In addition to a live telecast, Zonet Cable Network is giving out the same through Youtube channel which is quite a remarkable achievement; yet, the Director of I & PR informed Zonet Cable officials to not continue with it. May the hon. Minister determine means of webcasting the Assembly Session through Youtube channel so that it is also watched by the people in remote areas?

SPEAKER : Supplementary question from Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALHLANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state: -

- i) May I & PR Department set up a separate channel on Youtube for publicizing documentary films prepared by the department in such a way to maintain transparency in the government?
- ii) A sum of ₹50 lakh is usually allocated for Promotion of Visual Arts. For what purpose the allocated fund is utilized? How will the fund be used in this coming year?
- iii) There is fund allocated for Certificate of Cinematography. Whether such course is managed by I&PR itself or it is used for assisting the concerned students? If so, how many students are there in it and how it is processed?

SPEAKER : Pu VL Zaithanzama.

PU V.L. ZAITHANZAMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My Supplementary questions are as follows:

- i) Mizoram Calendar is usually sold out in December; but for this year, it was done in mid January. What is the reason?
- ii) Mizoram Calendar is valued by all. Thus, is it possible for the department to make more copies so that the demand is met?
- iii) It is learned that the Cabinet has raised rate of Newspaper Advertisement. When will notification be issued by the government?
- iv) In March, 2019, I was informed in this august House that the case of Journalist pension as being discussed immensely. Could this be completed within a year?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister to answer these questions.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding the point raised by Pu Zodintluanga of webcasting the Assembly proceedings on Youtube channel. Basically the Assembly Proceedings are property of the Assembly Secretariat and not I&PR. Since any speeches which may be made in the session need correction, it is not safe to upload it instantly. But if the Board accepts, then, there is no problem.

Regarding Promotional & Visual Arts as asked by Dr. Vanlalhlana, initiative is made in coordination with the Mizoram Film Society and various experts in Visual Arts by organizing exhibitions. As of Certificate of Cinematography, the problem is that the value of films is deteriorated in this generation; yet, initiative is taken as necessary.

Regarding Mizoram Calendar as asked by Pu VL Zaithanzama, it could not be sold out on time due to CAB related agitation in various parts of the country. It is interesting to hear about the rising demand of Mizoram Calendar and initiative will be made to meet the requirement. As of advertisement rate, Council of Ministers agrees to issue notification as soon as possible. The government takes initiative on Advertisement Rates and Retirement Scheme for Mizoram Journalists Association based on notification on 31st July, 2019. For this purpose, a sub-Committee is being setup in consultation with Finance Department and will soon be notified.

SPEAKER : To ask Starred Question No. 19, let us call Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister EF&CC be pleased to state -

- a) If the government monitor dumping ground on construction of railways under the project of North-eastern Frontier Railways and if a monitoring committee being set up to this concern?
- b) If sands and boulders used in the construction are of Mizoram? If so, whether it is approved and what is the amount of royalty submitted to the Govt. of Mizoram so far?

SPEAKER : I call upon hon. Minister Pu TJ Lalnuntluanga to reply.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is:

- a) Dumping ground on Construction of the North Eastern Frontier Railways is monitored by the Government through Monitoring Committee setup in January 1, 2014.
- b) As far as the knowledge of Forest Department, 90 cubic metres of sands from Hortoki is used in the construction of railways and as approved in which ₹4,500/- royalty is received.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question from Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. There are many complaints regarding poor quality of sands commonly used in Mizoram. If that is the case, may the government take initiative for testing of the quality of our sands?

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Andrew H. Thangliana is next.

PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Relating to the aforesaid topic, my question is about boulder stones. The Railway Ministry used stone boulders from local quarries for their construction. It is reported that the concerned contractors had recently declined using the local boulders claiming as not being hard enough for the construction which subsequently affects the business of many local suppliers. So, I request the Government to urge the contractor to reconsider using the local boulders.

SPEAKER : Next is, Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, I am happy to know about the existence of Monitoring Committee. At the same time, there many cultivations and lands being destroyed by dumping grounds which were washed down in rainy season as some covers river streams which happened to be the main source of water supply to some localities.

In reply to my previous question for the same, it is stated that the contract workers dumps the grounds on their own will which I believe to be the purview of Environment & Forest Department as it affects our climate and caused pollution. May initiative be made to resolve this problem?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister, Pu TJ Lalnuntluanga to reply.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu speaker. Pu Zothantluanga asked about testing the quality of sands but is not the purview of Forest Department.

Next, Pu Andrew H. Thangliana, hon. MLA poses his question of boulder stones to Forest Department which unfortunately is not the purview of this department and may thus be referred to the concerned department.

Regarding dumping grounds, it concern Forest Department only if the dumping materials affected Forest reserved areas which should be attended immediately or else, it should be of others. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, we will go to *Private Member's* business. As per rules 27(1), balloting is done on Monday, 17.2.2020 and is notified in Bulletin Part-II. We will take up a resolution from Pu Zodintluanga, hon. Member that, "Mizoram Govt. should urge the Central Govt. in writing, to protect the Rights and Freedom of religion in our country under BJP ministry". At the same time, Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng has submitted amendment of the resolution as per rules 129 and 130 which goes, "Central Govt. should take prompt action to protect freedom of religion in India." Now, I call Pu Zodintluanga Ralte, hon. Member to move his resolution.

PU ZODINTLUANG RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

My resolution is not a difficult topic and I believe we do not need much discussion. The resolution reads, "Mizoram Govt. should urge the Central Govt. in writing, to protect the Rights and Freedom of religion in our country under BJP ministry". Last night, I was shocked to see in the bulletin, amendment of the resolution from Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, the Member whom I regarded to be strong in fighting for our religious rights had proposed for an amendment.

As known to us all, minorities are assimilated in the ministry of BJP and many has suffers the consequences in various parts of the country. Pu Speaker, if you would allow, let me quote the statement of Jhishwar Singh, Leader of RSS in December 14, 2014 at Press Conference that "RSS remake India free of Christian and Muslim by the 31st Dec, 2021" and of Mohan Bhagwata in December 25, 2019 at Hyderabad that "All Indians are Hindu". Pu Speaker, people in various parts of the world concern for our country as minority religions are assimilated. So, this resolution should be well-acknowledged and be passed.

In addition, minorities all over India are fighting for their religious rights as in Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telegana, Pondicherry by raising their of objection of CAA in the Parliament. While this is the case, Mizoram, a state made up of 100% Christianity should pass this resolution so as to preserve our religious rights. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Alright. The mover has moved his resolution. As we have heard earlier, there is a provision for amendment in rules of proceeding. Now, let us call hon. Member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng to move his resolution.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Speaker. A resolution move by hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte is quite motivated. But if we re-examine the context, there is slight change to be made.

- i) As we now in the regime of BJP, approach should be made by our government to the central so as to protect our rights and freedom of religion.
- ii) We have heard of various unfortunate incidents of extortion against Christianity within the country by an act as of arson, rape, destruction of cemetery and schools as some were burnt alive despite our rights to freedom of religion.

Pu Speaker, whether the Central or State government, the problem of Christian community is aggravated. Therefore, amentment should be made in the resolution to protect the rights of Christian community in our country. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The mover knows very well how to put into details and further pointed out things which should be known. 10 minutes will be given to each member and warning bell will ring at 9 minutes. Who will speak first? Let us invite hon. Member, Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. This resolution is of much important as it relate to religion. So far, we have known the system of Indian politics; if it goes on like this, we will soon witness the down fall of democracy. Thus, I support that we approach the central government of our grievances in writing.

Today, we should know whom to fear. A government cannot function without financial provision; however, we should fear God but not BJP. Our political ideology may be of divergent but we have to unite in this resolution for it concerns the rights and freedom of religion. Thus, I give my support to the resolution moved by hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Who will be the next? Let us call upon hon. Member Pu L. Thangmawia.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Pu Speaker,. This is of an interesting resolution and I am not going to repeat in detail. Politics and religion go side by side; whoever

rules the country, God is the foundation. Some dignify their religious belief even in their offices while some did not. Even in our country, each and every office has its own religious book to indicate their religious beliefs. The mover of this resolution claims what Hindu politicians have in mind is to build Hindu empire in our country and I believe that is true. It is notified in our political platform that even our house leader sends out thousands of missionaries outside which means we also are actively involved in our religious belief.

As mentioned earlier by the mover, we have heard a lot of criticisms against the government even before BJP such as of Anti-conversion Law implemented in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh; the majority finds this inappropriate and this resolution also comes into being for the same belief. In 1978 while Shri Morarji Desai was our Prime Minister and there was a bill locally known as 'Satan Bill' introduced by Shri Jyagi of Janata party. At the time, we had even held mass prayer for fear of that bill. In this connection, I opine whoever comes to rule India should protect freedom of religion and should be enforced accordingly.

Thus, in moving this resolution, I believe it will be effective more in writing than verbal approach.

SPEAKER : Let us invite hon. Member, Pu Andrew H. Thangliana.

PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA: Pu Speaker. I am very thankful for having the opportunity to participate in the discussion of these two resolutions.

Firstly, the outcome of BJP is actually RSS for BJP is just a part of RSS wing. The India Administration as well as Legislation is controlled by RSS in which there are various organized groups being affiliated for uplifting the RSS. Regardless of Nationalism, RSS were borne nationalists with a mind-set of Hinduism whereas religion is their first priority. Accordingly, it is their main purpose to uplift Hinduism in India.

RSS came into being since 1945 before India achieved Independence and their aims and objectives remain the same till today which is to convince the people in promoting India to a Hindu-land. To conclude my speech, I appeal to all the people of Mizoram to have a true sense of Mizo nationalism. Thank you. Thus, Pu Speaker, I support the resolution moved by hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga for I opine it is quite appropriate in the original form.

SPEAKER : Next is, hon. Member Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. Hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte is a resourceful person and I thank him for his resolution.

Pu Speaker, the Hindu religious practice of *Sindur* and cracking a coconut which was allegedly applied by a congress leader happened to be of a hot topic during

the previous ministry. I do not think any of the congress party members would have the courage to submit this kind of resolution during the said ministry. Now, sitting in the opposition bench, I congratulate the mover for his courage to submit the same for any member has a freedom of speech particularly which concern religion. Under the guidance of the hon. Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga, I appeal to each member to not hesitate to express whatever is in mind.

Pu Speaker, this resolution is of a sensitive matter and we should thus be careful in what we have to say. Mizoram is Christian majority state and we have to put aside our political ideology. So, let us concentrate to our perspective and fight for Christianity. To have freedom of religion, we should all stand together and fight against whatever comes our way.

Pu Speaker, there are huge number of people in our country who defends Hinduism with a view to wipe out Christianity. We, the Mizo people should stand together for the gospel of God. The Mizos put God first and do everything in the name of God. Under the leadership of the hon. Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga, we can stand strong and take initiative. So, I give my support to the amendment resolution of Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

SPEAKER : Who will be next? Let us invite Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. After coming across a book written by the hon. Opposition Group Leader Pu Lalduhoma, I realized that this resolution should be amended for the context urges only BJP ministry for protection of our religious freedom which I opine is inappropriate; it should define in a wider sense as moved by Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

In a recent Parliamentary election, it was the Congress party that hurt the sentiment not only of our religion but our society and land. For instance, it was in the congress ministry of Arunachal Pradesh that a Christian pastor was murdered but we did not take it as a political advantage to defame Congress party for it was a heinous act of some criminals. Regarding one's party affiliation in NDA, we have all heard from the words of the hon. Leader of the opposition that it is better off to be a colleague of central ministry than not which I opine as comforting words. So, it must be noted that there is nothing wrong in passing the resolution in its amended form.

SPEAKER : Next is, hon. Member Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today's resolution goes in two forms, one from Pu Zodintluanga and the other from Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng the contexts which are of slightly different from one to another. Looking into foreign countries, religions have no parties. Normally they had the idea that party should not involved in religion.

In India constitution Article 15, clearly prohibit against discrimination on grounds of religion, this means that no discrimination should be based on religion. There is also right to freedom in the Fundamental rights. Indian law gives us religious freedom. But this time, there is resolution of freedom of religion .

BJP is set up by RSS worker in the year 1980. The worker are Vajpayee and other members, RSS stands for Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh it is NGO's and one of the largest NGO in the world. The main aim is to make India as a Hindu country grabbing all the parties and Government. Then, several wing wars created like for Students wing-Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarti parishad (ABVP) for Religious Wing- Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and also several wing such as Militant Wing, Bajrang Dal and for political wing BJP was created.

The rate of harassment met by Christians during this BJP Ministry is much higher than that of the Congress party reign which lasted for about 30-40 years. Though the Congress party does not favour Christianity the number of incidents has increased immensely during the BJP Ministry, so I propose that the government should take measures to the central government so that our freedom of religion may be protected and that our secularism should prevail in peace. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pu Thiamsanga, the concern MLA of Champhai of North Constituency.

DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. It is far from truth that the MNF party is trying to please the BJP ministry; even in the case of CAB, it was our hon. Chief Minister who took initiative against it by approaching the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. On the contrary, it was during congress ministry that most of the major incidents occurred such as passing of Anti-Conversion Law and Arunachal Indigenous Trade Bill in this house. So, it is wise to consider the wording of this Resolution carefully bearing in mind of the possible consequences. Even if our religion and the safety of our tribe are at stake, we will not run from it but stand against anything which could destroy us. I suggest it is wise to amend the wording of the resolution as proposed by the hon. Member Pu Lawmawma and at the same time, I request the hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga to withdraw his resolution. Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu K. Pachhunga.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. Studying this resolution makes me realize how fortunate we are that the MNF with a powerful motto "For God and our Land" holds the Ministry. We are all aware of harassment of Christians which frequented the former Ministry. I opine it is unbecoming to use religion as a political tactic. The people should also keep away from those who misuse religion to gain votes. We should rely on our hon. leader of a great vision who will start working on our development from the grass root level. So, Pu Speaker, I will conclude my stating

my support to the amendment of the resolution as proposed by Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have come to the end of our morning session; we will have a short recess and resume the discussion at 2:00 PM.

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now continue with our discussion. May I now call upon the hon. Member Pu Lalmuanpuia, MLA of Aizawl North-III.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I am glad that the hon. Member moves a resolution which particularly concerns the Northeast states where percentage of Christianity is very low. Not only under the BJP Ministry, harassment of Christians occurred during other party ministries as well and this resolution is very important for protection of our religious rights. Harassment of Christians occurred in various parts of the country and it is very important that we make an appeal to the Central Government that India maintains its secularism so that Christianity may also prevail freely. So, I support the resolution in its amended form moved by the hon. member Pu Lawmawma. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinliana, the hon. Minister.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the resolution submitted by the hon. Member is very important as it concerns the Mizos as a scheduled tribe and as Christian. We have to think about how CAA was enacted. Since India is a secular State, it is the duty of whichever party holding the ministry in the Central Government to safeguard secularism in the country. My party has been falsely accused of voting for CAA but it is proven wrong from the approach made by our hon. CM to the hon. Prime Minister for not to implement the same in our state. So, I express my support in passing the resolution as moved by the hon. Member Pu Lawmawma. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, I do not see much difference in the purpose of the resolution moved by Pu Zodintluanga and amendment of the same moved by Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng. It is obvious that we need to safeguard secularism since the rate of harassment of Christianity is increasing in India. With the rising power of RSS a party that treated Christians as foreigners, it is crucial that the freedom of religion in India is maintained. We must be aware that their main goal is to turn India into Hindu nationalism and tribals into Hindus by means of Uniform Civil Code, saffronisation despite our right to freedom. So, it is important that our state government take initiatives at the Central Government to maintain secularism in our country. So, I express my support in passing the resolution without amending since both targeted the same. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Dy. Speaker, I was expecting Pu Zodintluanga would ask Pu Lawmawma Tochhawng to come to term with his resolution but in the stead alleged MNF as being partner of BJP which I opine inappropriate. It was Congress Party who had worked with the BJP in order to hold power at CADC. Many a time, we have been accused of working with BJP but the hon. Leader clarified that we are working with them only on development basis and we are ready to cut-off our relationship with NEDA or NDA if our religion is destabilized. We have to know that regional party is the best in order to protect our religion. So, I will conclude by saying that I support the amended form of this resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu H. Lalzirliana, the hon. Member is next.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Out of the total population of India which is 132.6 crores, only 2.3% are Christians. In January, 1999, a Christian missionary, Graham Staines and his sons were burnt to death in Odhisa and they were highly condemned by the world and Christian communities in various parts of the world. Shortly in October, 1999, the entire state was hit by a cyclone killing 15,000 persons. Again in October, 2013 the same state was hit by cyclone 'Phani' and then by cyclone 'Hud-hud' in which more than 100 people lost their lives. All such incidents could be assumed as the result of their violent activities against Christianity. We, the mizos will fight with all efforts against any proposal for implementing UCC in our State. I will conclude my speech by stating my support in passing the resolution in the amended form moved by Pu Lawmawma. Thank you.

(Chairman takes the Chair)

PU V.L. ZAITHANZAMA: Thank you, Pu Chairman. I believe these two resolutions are of the same objective. Since India is a secular state in which different religions are living in harmony. But with the wave of Hindutva in India, there have been so much harassment of Christians across the country during 2013 to 2017. So, we also need to voice out our opinion on the implementation of UCC.

To extend Hindutva in Mizoram, it is learned that many of our children are given free education and establish Mizo Janajati Vikas Samiti after completing their studies which seems to be of their secret objective. So, in order to keep our state safe, I support the resolution of the hon. Member, Pu Zodintluanga. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Pu TJ Lalnuntluanga, hon. Minister.

PU T.J. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The resolution we discuss today is of very important initiative for protecting our culture, tradition, society and religion. As the hon. member mentioned earlier, it is important that we should be united as a nation and stand our ground in pursuing this

resolution. Harassments of Christians had occurred in different Ministries and Anti-Conversion Law had been passed before; and today, we are fortunate that among the 29 states in India we are among the 7 states to enjoy the right to freedom of religion.

I want to point out about the ban on slaughter of cattle in India in many states and we are still not included among such states and that reservation quota for SC & ST will not be amended. Regarding Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, the hon. house had passed against this Bill and our hon. House Leader had also voice this issue before the Prime Minister and also at the NEDA meeting and initiatives are also taken in this regard. As a result to our protest against CAA, a notice of exemption of Mizoram from CAA was received later on. So I would like to conclude that I support the amended form of the resolution from Pu Lawmawma. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana, hon. Member.

DR. VANLALTHLANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I express my support on the resolution by the hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga and I will highlight four points in support of the resolution.

No sooner the BJP holds the ministry in 2014, atrocity against Muslims occurred; likewise, it is learned from various sources such as the *New York Times* and *Time Magazine* that this newly formed BJP ministry ensues activities against religious minorities in India. As known to us all, the Congress Ministry implemented Anti-Conversion Law in the state of Orissa in 1967, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh in 2000 and the same proposal for Tamil Nadu in 2004. Accordingly, the same was passed by Gujarat in 2003, Himachal in 2006, Maharashtra in 2009 and Jharkhand in 2017. Today, the main objective of RSS is to implement the said throughout the country.

We are all aware of how BJP is formed and that RSS is using BJP as their stronghold to achieve their main purpose of turning the whole country into Hindustan. The hon. Union Minister had even pointed out their purpose in his speech as so UCC is initiated.

As per the latest report, the percentage of religious harassments faced by the Christians under this BJP ministry during the period of 2016-2019 increases by 60%. Since this is the situation, I support the resolution moved by the hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I call upon Pu Lalruatkima, hon. Minister and a member from Aizawl West-II constituency.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. If we study carefully, it is inappropriate to add the wording 'under the BJP Ministry' as the ministry is formed by NDA. Secondly, we already enjoy our freedom of religion, so it is not necessary to state, 'to continue to safeguard the right to freedom of religion'.

So, the amendment as proposed by the hon. Member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng is more appropriate. Besides, the other mover is one who cooperates with CADC so that the Congress party would form the Council which further indicates his party's willingness to form an ally with NDA.

Regarding the reservation quota, the hon. Union Law Minister moved to extend SC and ST reservation quota as so is extended upto 2030. In the previous Ministry formed by the Congress Party, we have even heard of a controversial issue of cracking coconuts, the Hindu religious practice; and judging from such practice of our legislators in the previous ministry, I believe we enjoys enough freedom of religion. So, I opine the proposed amendment of the resolution as moved by Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng is more appropriate and safe. It may as well be noted that the Central Ministry had even approved of the demand made by various NGO's to the visiting Shri Amit Shah for exemption of Mizoram from CAB. So, I will conclude by stating my support to the amended form of the resolution moved by Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, Pu K.T. Rokhaw, hon. Member.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I, at the outset express my support to the resolution of the hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga. We have lone BJP MLA who sits at the rear end of the opposition bench.

SPEAKER : The seat of hon. BJP MLA was arranged by me since I do not see any confederation between the MNF Party and the BJP in Mizoram. So, I arrange the seat in such a way that he takes his seat in the opposition bench.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, if MNF aligned with the Central government, it is only fair that BJP MLA sits in the ruling party bench.

Pu Speaker, India is a secular nation but after the NDA holds the Ministry, rate of harassments of the Christians increases immensely. The BJP ministry uses CAA to override secularism and we thus have a futile ILP with the implementation of CAA. Pu Speaker, Uniform Civil Code is moved in the winter session of Rajya Sabha and if it is implemented, our marriage ceremonies will be conducted following the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and accordingly we will then be compelled to follow Hindu practices. So, I support the resolution moved by the hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte. Thank you.

SPEAKER : It is now 5 minutes to four; shall we continue with our discussion? (**Some Members:** Yes)

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, it may be best that we continue since the mover of this resoultion have not yet concluded; Likewise, the hon. Home Minister, Group Leader and myself, the House Leader have not yet express our views. So, it is best that we take less time if possible.

SPEAKER : I will now call upon the hon. Member Pu Ngunlianchunga since our time is not over yet.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am glad that we are actively participating in the discussion.

I have read the resolution many times and understood its objective of preservation of secularism in the entire country. Considering Christianity with a population of barely 2.3%, harassment is comparatively increasing during the past few years till today. While this is the case, amendment of CAA and UCC is being approved by the Central Government with a plan to weaken Christianity.

Regarding these two resolutions of the same objective, I am afraid the amended form will be less effective in minimizing harassment of Christianity where as the main resolution urges the Central government to take initiatives so that secularism is maintained in our country and thus is more appropriate for passing.

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

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, we maintain an ally with the BJP but after finding out their true motive, we seem to withdraw from our collaboration. Soon after BJP ministry was formed, the two most important holidays for the Christians, *Good Friday* is being declared as *Digital India Day* and *Christmas Day* as *Good Governance Day* and that *Yoga* being declared compulsory in schools. However, it was unsuccessful due to strong objection from various NGO's. It is unbecoming that they even tried to portray our famous Mizo Patriot who does not even know the existence of India as one of India freedom fighters which was again strongly opposed by many of our youths. Not only this, they further banned contribution which our churches and NGO's used to received from foreign countries. In 1999, a Christian missionary Graham Steines and his two children were burnt to death in which the main suspect of this horrible crime was a Sadhu named Pratap Sarangi who is the current MP from Odhisa. They have restored NRC in which anyone failing to register themselves should be put in a detention camp. In order to save many Hindus from NRC, they have even implemented CAA and CAA which is against the constitution of India which clearly states that we have liberty of thought, expression, believe, faith and worship, equality before law regardless of faith. We may be exempted from this law but this kind of law is not good for the whole nation.

On the 30th January this year, Martyr Day was observed at Aligarh where Puja Sakun Pandey, a National Secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha shot the figurine of Mahatma Gandhi and they adorned the figurine of the killer of Mahatma Gandhi with flowers. They are trying to rewrite history and even interfere in our educational system. They have amended the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act which means any individuals can be asserted as terrorist; this results in the imprisonment of many

politicians of Kashmir. Likewise, UCC Bill which has been submitted will no doubt affect Christianity. They will amend article 47 which are opposed by majority of the civil society and the educated and youths.

Pu Speaker, India is not aware of the fact that during the 2nd world war, the mizo patriots obstructed the Japanese soldiers from entering the mainland of India. In short, all the aforesaid acts and laws are not acceptable to our churches, NGO's or the students. So, I support the resolution in which the name of BJP is a mention. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchamliana, hon. Minister.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we have two resolutions which both are quite impressive. It is known to us that *Secularism* means equality of all religions and that *the Right to Freedom* is one of our fundamental rights. It seems many of us are trying to find something to fear despite CAA which is not implemented in our state yet we deliberately trying to find some loopholes.

Anyway, *the India citizenship* covers not only the Hindus but also Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis etc. Since there is no question of implementing CAA in our State, I do not think we have to fear of any thing for the central ministry is officially formed by NDA and not by BJP alone.

So, Pu Speaker, we have two resolutions today; and being on the treasury bench, I think the amended form of the resolution will be more appropriate. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. House Leader, Pu Zoramthanga.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: As we see, Pu Speaker, the wording of these two resolutions has a different meaning but I believe the amended form is much more appropriate. Secondly, we strongly oppose Hindutva and we will continue to do so. Today, Anti-Conversion Bill which was passed by the Congress Ministry is much more obstructive for the Christians than CAA for it obstructs the activities of our missioneries and pastors in other states; if it is imposed, we absolutely could do nothing. But we stand for God and our people will always oppose such law or acts.

It is a fact that the Central Ministry is formed by different parties but inclusion of 'BJP' in the wording may not be appropriate for future references. We have voiced out our opinion against CAA even in the meeting of Chief Ministers of the North East states in the presence of the Union Home Minister and our request for exemption of the north-east states was fulfilled. So, I opine we should pass our resolution which will not target only the BJP ministry but every ministry of the central government for the coming future. Thus, I support the resolution as moved by Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I will now call upon the hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga to wind up the discussion of his resolution and then appeal to the House for passing.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you Pu Speaker. I am glad that 24 numbers of my fellow members have participated in the discussion of my resolution.

Pu Speaker it seems the word 'BJP' is hard to utter to those who sits on your right whereas some members emphasize brutality of Muslims instead of Hindus. Pu Speaker, I believe we should move another resolution in any upcoming central ministry if the safety of our religion is threatened. The majority of ruling members criticizes the wording 'BJP' in my resolution. Pu Speaker, I am afraid the majority prefers the amended form out of fear of the BJP Ministry though there is nothing to fear in passing it in its original form. Whereas, the hon. House Leader too has makes a remark that they do not fear of the BJP Ministry; if so, I do not think it will be necessary to make any amendment with my resolution. So, I appeal to this august House to pass my resolution that "*The State Government should take initiatives and submit a petition to the Central Government so that the Right to freedom of religion may continue to be observed under the BJP Ministry*". Thank you.

SPEAKER : The mover of the resolution has made an appeal to pass his resolution whereas there is another resolution from Pu Lawmawma Tochhawng to pass in the amended form. I will call upon the mover Pu Lawmawma Tochhawng to make an appeal to the House for passing it in the amended form.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Our resolution today is of much important and I thank all my fellow members for reacting to my resolution.

Pu Speaker, if we consider many things, our right to freedom of religion has been threatened in the ministry of Congress, BJP and even in Janata party's ministry. So, in order to safeguard our religion, we need to change the wording with a broader sense for future references. I request my fellow members to support to pass the resolution in the amended form that "*The government should approach the Central Government so that secularism is maintained in our country*". Thank you.

SPEAKER : We have two resolutions which need to be weighed. So, those in favor to pass the resolution of Pu Zodintluanga, "*The State Government should take initiatives and submit a petition to the Central Government so that the Right to freedom of religion may continue to be observed under the BJP Ministry*" may say, 'Aye' and those who oppose may say, 'No'. The sound of 'No' is louder than the 'Ayes'

Those in favour to pass the resolution of Pu Lawmawma Tochhawng that "*The government should approach the Central Government so that secularism is maintained in our Country*" may say 'Aye' and those who oppose may say, 'No'. Since the resolution of Pu Lawmawma Tochhawng have more supporters, the amended form of the resolution is passed by the House.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : We have come to the end of our business for today and we will continue with our session on Dt. 24.2.2020 at 10:00 AM.

(Sitting is adjourned at 5:03 PM.)