

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR SECOND SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 2nd SEPTEMBER, 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 PAPERS

2. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following :
- i) The Mizoram Goods & Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.
 - ii) Notifications issued under the Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. (w.e.f. 20-12.2019-16.7.2020)
3. **PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following :
- i) Samagra Shiksha An Integrated Scheme for School Education Annual Report 2018-19 Mizoram.
 - ii) Audit Report 2018-19 Audited Statement of Consolidated Accounts of Samagra Shiksha, Mizoram.
4. **PU LALDUHOMA**, to lay on the Table of the House a copy of Statement of Action taken on the Further Recommendation of Public Accounts Committee contained in the 4th Action Taken Report, 2020 relating to Health & Family Welfare Department.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

5. **PU LALDUHOMA**, to present to the House a copy each of the following :
- i) Fifth Report on Actions taken by the Government against the Recommendations contained in the Second Report of Public Accounts Committee for the years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 relating to Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.
 - ii) Sixth Report on Actions taken by the Government against the Recommendations contained in the First Report of Public Accounts Committee for the years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-2016 relating to Taxation Department.
 - iii) Seventh Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2014-15 relating to Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**Bill for introduction, consideration and passing**

6. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2020.”

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

7. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2020.”

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

8. **PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2020.”

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

9. **PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram State Sports Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020.”

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

H. LALRINAWMA
Commissioner & Secretary

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SPEAKER : *Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools.*

- Ecclesiastes 7:9

We will begin our question hour. The hon. Member Pu Vanlalhlana to ask Starred Question No. 21.

PU VANLALHLANA : Will the hon. Minister, Power & Electricity Department be pleased to state –

- a) Will Mizoram be able to generate sufficient supply of power?
- b) What step has been taken so far by the government to have a sufficient supply of power?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the question.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is –

- a) Yes, we are able to have sufficient supply of power.
- b) Several Hydro-Electric projects had been completed whereas some are ongoing projects; and, there are also several ongoing solar power projects.

SPEAKER : The hon. Member Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. If there is any additional fund given for power and, if so, how much? What is the amount submitted as the interest for late payment of charge during last year?

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon. Minister of Power & Electricity Department be pleased to state –

- i) If it is possible to do a major repair on Bukpui - North Hlimen 11 kV line?
- ii) If it is possible to connect powerline from Saiphai Sub-Station in the stead via Sentlang - North Hlimen?
- iii) What is the progress of Tuirini Hydel Project and what is capacity of the project?

SPEAKER : The hon. Member Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Apart from the party's manifesto and SEDP guidelines, it is clarified that the Ministry is prioritizing sufficiency in power supply but the supply which has been received so far does not meet our requirement. Is it possible for the government to take initiative on major hydel project with a capacity of 100 to 200 mW? At present, our total production is only 20 mW where as our requirement is not less than 120 mW. What step has been taken to enhance our power supply?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: In the previous year, Pu Speaker, payment had already been made on the interest for our late payment of power charge but it has now been delayed due to a slight change being made in the new system.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA : Pu Speaker, is there any additional fund being given for power supply?

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, our consumption during peak hour is 120 mW but it decreases past midnight. So, some amounts are sold by the department for income generation which happened to be of a good source of revenue for the department. Even in the last financial year, the department was able to submit ₹220 crore revenue to the government.

Answer to the question asked by the hon. member Pu Lalrinsanga, we will consider this issue but we have to keep in mind that we are now in short of funds due to Covid-19. As of Saiphai - Thingthelh, our engineers and technicians will have to study the matter before taking any initiatives. There is a proposal for Tuirini Hydel Project of 34 mW and Finance department have even approved ₹93 crores for this project as we have also applied for loans for this project. We are planning to take new major projects as questioned by Pu Hlana and we also have to keep in mind of the expenses required for these projects. Regarding the natural gas, I am uncertain whether it is possible to generate power by using natural gas during our ministry. Anyway, we now have generated 36 mW. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, the hon. House Leader.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I would like point out few things regarding hydel projects. It is important to know that even forest clearance takes time and huge amounts of compensation is also needed. (**Pu Vanlalhlana:** Pu Speaker, they have committed on ACDP and the party manifesto that Mizoram Hydel Project will be set up in Mizoram but they are now telling the obstacles. What are is the reason for that?) Pu Speaker, we are not saying that we will abandon the project but we are trying to find easier means.

We are giving attention on natural gas. We have discussed the matter with ONGC and we are informed that a natural gas is found in the areas Meidum and Hortoki. So, step is taken on excavating such areas. It may be noted that we need to obtain loan from NABARD to pursue this further. In pursuance of natural gas, we have plan of laying pipeline targeting Aizawl but due to Covid-19, initiative could not be made but it does not mean we will abandon the project. At the same time, we will also keep on pursuing solar energy. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : The hon. Member Pu Lalduhoma to ask Starred Question No. 22.

PU LALDUHOMA : Will the concern Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department be pleased to state –

- a) If there is a permission to export bamboo outside Mizoram? if so, to whom such permission is given?
- b) If it is illegally transported, will action be taken?

SPEAKER : The concern Minister Pu T.J. Lalnuntluanga to answer the question.

PU T.J. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is –

- a) The majority of those who export bamboos outside have permission; yet, there are some who try to do the same illegally. The following are holders of such permit -
 - 1) Pu Lalnunzira, Bawrai;
 - 2) Pi Lalkimi, Zawlnuam;
 - 3) Pu H. Lallungmuana, Bawrai;
 - 4) Pu Lalthanfawna, Bawrai;
 - 5) Pu Lalrawngbawla, Bawrai;
 - 6) Pu Hmunparvula, Bawrai;
 - 7) Pi Hmangaihi, Lengpui;
 - 8) M/s Zonun Mat-ply (Pvt.) Ltd., Lengpui;
 - 9) Pu Lalmuansanga, Khamrang;
 - 10) Pu Lalmuansanga, Khamrang;
 - 11) Pu Benjamin-a, Kawnpui;
 - 12) Pu.T. Rosangliana, Bilkhawthlir;
 - 13) Pu Ajmol Hussein, Notosora;
 - 14) Pu Rinzuala, Bairabi;
 - 15) Pu Ngurthansanga Sailo, Bairabi;
 - 16) Pu Lalnghakliana, Bairabi;
- b) If there is any illegal transportation being caught, necessary actions will be taken.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question to be asked by Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, may the address of non-Mizo permit holder be given? Pu Speaker, it is a deep concern that huge number of bamboos were cut down without leaving any bamboo shoots. So, if there is any procedure being made for cutting down the bamboos? If permission is necessary to those who want to cut down trees and bamboos from their own lands? Whether the government has laid down the procedure for processing the bamboos?

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. What is the amount of royalty received from these bamboos and if there is a plan to set up saw mills for processing bamboos?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister to answer the question.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, a single non-Mizo permit holder has given 'Notosora' as his address; and, regarding unresponsive cutting down of bamboos, we have a plan to inspect Langkaih riverine, Tlawng riverine and Khawthlang Tuipui area with our officers. As of trees or bamboo permit from private owned land as questioned by Pu Lalduhoma, it is not necessary to apply on such case. Illegal transportation of bamboos is occasionally seized in Assam and so is wise for the concerned authority to produce a transit pass for such purpose.

As of royalty questioned by Pu Ramthanmawia, since I am not preparing for that question and I will provide the answer later on. Regarding saw mill, initiative is taken by the government to provide such license.

SPEAKER : The hon. member Dr. K. Pachhunga to ask starred question No. 23.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Horticulture Department be pleased to state -

If there is any obstacle on vegetable-chain programme during this Covid-19 lockdown? Is it suggestive to continue with this chain?

SPEAKER : The concern minister and the hon. Chief Minister to answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, vegetable and fruits supply chain set for farmers and the people under the pandemic is worth-continuing. But since agriculture marketing subject is not concern with Horticulture Department, we have faced many obstacles as there is no regulated market but some cases have been cleared with the help of Commerce and Industries Department and MIZOFED.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question from Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. As per revised guidelines section 10, point No 2 of National Bamboo Mission, bamboos should be sown for plantation and the name of *Latiforus* and *Brandisi* are not a mention in particular but underlines that species which is deemed important for future use of industries may be added. I have inquired the concern department for the statement underlining *indigenous species* but in vain. Pu Speaker, may the concerned Minister clearly explain regarding this *indigenous species*?

SPEAKER : The hon. Member Pu Zothantluanga to ask supplementary question.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. During pandemic lockdown, supply chain of vegetables and fruits was carried out for the benefit of

both farmers and the people particularly of Aizawl city. So, is it be possible to improve the system and continue with this chain?

SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Is there any plan to open a new division of Horticulture? If so, will Champhai be included? Also, if there is a plan to upgrade Champhai and Hnahlan winery?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to start with the question of Pu Thlana, many species of bamboo are included under National Bamboo Mission whereas indigenous species may also be included. I have had discussion with them and it is known that indigenous species which may be included will be of good quality. So, it is added that indigenous species could also be planted. During 1998-99 and 2000, forest department had planted *Latiflorus* and *Brandisi*.... (**Pu Lalduhoma:** If such species are of good quality, it would have been recognized by the National Bamboo Commission. And, since such species bamboos could not be sold out, and I do not think it is suggestive for inclusion for it may not be accepted by the National Bamboo Commission)

DR. VANLALTHLANA : I have enquired about this issue in the University and PUC College in Botany Department and the definition does not concern with these two species.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, it is best that we leave this in the hands of the government since we know that the species are of good quality even if it is not included in the list; we are willing to take the risk.

Regarding supply-chain of the Vegetables and fruits, we hope to continue with this system. As of Dr. Thiamsanga's question, bearing in mind the status of our fund and with the hope that this pandemic will cease to spread, we are planning to establish more Divisions and sub-divisions.

Regarding winery, we need wines for sacrament with a low alcoholic content and with the implementation of MLPC Act, we are examining a margin with a low alcoholic content.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask Starred Question No. 24.

PU C. NUNGLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker will the concerned Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If hatchery plant at Mampui is in function?
- b) If so, how many chicks are produced from this hatchery plant?
- c) If it is not functioning, what is the reason?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER : Thank you Pu Speaker, the answer is –

- a) Yes.
- b) 2500 nos. chickens can be produced per month.
- c) Due to irregular supply of power, it cannot be put to function properly.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question to be ask by Pu H. Biakzaua.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Pu Speaker, if there is outbreak of PRRS and African swine fever in our state? What is the initiative of the government in this regard and how many of animal check gate being set up to check these diseases?

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu C. Ngunlianchungu.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I have been to the hatchery and it has not been functioning since this Ministry came into power. We bought a generator in the previous ministry for backing up power supply. I request our hon. Minister to look into this matter once again.

It is learned that most of the pigs we had at Mapui farm were sold due to PRRS. So, how much is received from such pigs and if there is a plan to renovate this farm? It is further learned that some miscreants used explosive for killing fishes on the pond. If action taken against such miscreants? Whether the government have any knowledge of fishes from such pond being sold?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Regarding Mampui farm, I have visited the spot and found out that all the pigs were infected with PRRS. Thus, it is decided to exterminate all the pigs in there. As of hatchery plant, it can produce 2500 nos. chicks per month but cannot be functioned as desired due to shortage of power supply. There is a plan to obtain power supply from Lawngtlai Sub-Station and if it done, hatchery is expected to function properly.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, there is a separate powerline for Mampui Vety farm from RSBY Powerhouse, Lawngtlai.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER : In the present situation, we are taking measure for improvement of powerline from Lawngtlai Sub-Station as initiative made in the previous ministry is left incomplete.

SPEAKER : You have mentioned that the hatchery as in function but later you have concluded as not being able to function properly due to shortage of power supply. I think you need to explain it more.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the machine can function properly but we lack power supply.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA : Pu Speaker, 'functioning' means 2,500 nos. can be produced per month. Does it mean that not even one chicken is produced from this plant?

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the machine can be functioned, but cannot be started for lack of power supply.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA : Pu Speaker, there has been no development during the last two years; I have been to the spot and I have seen it.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the machine can function but we did not let the machine do the task due to lack of power supply.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA : Then, what does 'functioning' means if it does not complete the task? The farm had been provided with powerline from Lawngtlai Power House even in the previous MNF Ministry.

DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, from the beginning of this Ministry, the government had to deal with PRRS. As of Mampui farm, out of 700 eggs set for hatchery in the previous ministry, only 147 nos. eggs were hatched which is only 21%. Whereas on 15.12.2017, 240 nos. of eggs were hatched out of 580 eggs nos. set for hatchery; and, in 2019, 630 nos. were hatched out of 1050 nos. eggs.

Regarding the question of Pu Biakzaua, there is no outbreak of PRRS and Swine Fever; and so far, we have 8 nos. animal check gate in different areas.

SPEAKER : We have come to the end of *Question Hour*. (**Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Pu Speaker, my question on the amount collected from selling of pigs and of fishes killed by means of explosive are missed out?)

SPEAKER : We will now move on to *Laying of Papers*. The hon. Minister Pu Lalchamliana to lay, "The Mizoram Goods & Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020' and 'Notifications issued under the Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (w.e.f. 20.12.2019-16.7.2020)" on the table of the House.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER : Thank you. With your permission, Pu Speaker, I lay, "The Mizoram Goods & Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020' and 'Notifications issued under the Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (w.e.f. 20.12.2019-16.7.2020)" on the table of the House.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. Now, the hon. Minister Pu Lalchandama Ralte to lay, 'Samagra Shiksha, Integrated Scheme for School Education, Mizoram, Annual Report, 2018-19' and 'Audit Report, 2018-19, Audited

Statement of Consolidated Accounts of Samagra Shiksha, Mizoram' on the table of the House.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission, I lay 'the Samagra Shiksha, An Integrated Scheme for School Education Annual Report, 2018-19 Mizoram' and 'Audit Report, 2018-19, Audited Statement of Consolidated Accounts of Samagra Shiksha, Mizoram' on the table of the House.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. Now, the hon. member Pu Lalduhoma, Chairman of Public Accounts Committee to lay the 'Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendation of Public Accounts Committee Contained in the 4th Action Taken Report, 2020 relating to Health & Family Welfare Department' on the table of the House.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay, 'Statement of Action Taken on the Further Recommendation of Public Accounts Committee Contained in the 4th Action Taken Report, 2020 relating to Health & Family Welfare Department' in the table of the House.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. The Chairman of Public Accounts Committee is now to lay the following reports on the table of the House -

- i) Fifth Report on the Action Taken by the Government Against the Recommendations contained in the Second Report of Public Accounts Committee for the years 2014-2015 and 2015- 2016 relating to Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.
- ii) Sixth Report on Actions taken by the Government against the Recommendations contained in the First Report of Public Accounts Committee for the years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 relating to Taxation Department.
- iii) Seventh Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2014-2015 relating to Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay the following reports on the table of the House -

- i) Fifth Report on the Action Taken by the Government Against the Recommendations contained in the Second Report of Public Accounts Committee for the years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 relating to Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.
- ii) Sixth Report on Actions taken by the Government against the Recommendations contained in the First Report of Public Accounts Committee for the years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 relating to Taxation Department.
- iii) Seventh Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2014-2015 relating to Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department.

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, yesterday, I asked for the report on the survey of agricultural land in Serchhip Constituency and I was informed that the answer will be provided later after the session, but I have not received the survey report till now. Likewise, my question on highways undertaken by PWD. So, I urge immediate answer for that, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I will inform the departments to be more efficient. As of answer to the question regarding Revenue Department, it is 'Yes' (**Pu Lalruatkima, Minister:** Pu Speaker, the copy will soon be provided.) As the concerned Minister has said, the answer will soon be provided.

Next, the hon. Minister Pu Lalchamliana to move the House to introduce, "The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2020".

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I move that 'The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2020' be introduced in the House.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has moved the House to introduce the Bill. So, do we all agree to introduce? Alright; the hon. Minister may now introduce the Bill.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This Bill does not have an amendment number as of now, but after it is passed by the House, I assume it will have Act number for future references. Anyway, the Bill states that –

'Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the government may, on the recommendation of the Council by notification extend the time limit specified in or prescribed or notified under this Act in respect of action which cannot be completed or complied with due to force majeure' the words 'force majeure' means 'any other calamity caused by nature or otherwise affecting the implementation of any of the provision of this Act'. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has now introduced the Bill; we will start with our discussion; each member will have 5 minutes. First, hon. Member Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is necessary for us to pass this Bill considering the times we face at the moment, but which language is '*force majeure*'? May the hon. Minister state if the amount of the GST received had decreased?

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA : Pu Speaker, due to this pandemic, we are facing many problems. During 2019-2020, Taxation Department have crossed its target by a margin of ₹145 crores and even after the pandemic, the revenue earned is ₹166 crores which further indicate the importance of this department. Besides, the Department need GST appellate authority and so does the businessmen and contractors of Mizoram. In order to earn more revenues, I suggest extending Taxation Department in each district headquarters with the officers having GST appellate authority posted therein. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Since no other member have raised their hand, the concerned Minister may answer the question.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. First, the word '*force majeure*' is of French. In April, our GST collection has decreased immensely at ₹1,248,30,154/- and in May, ₹1968,15,586/- and in June, ₹3,58,876,586/-, in July, ₹4,67,862,857 and in August, ₹3,63,395,836/-. So, the total during the past five months amounting to ₹15,11,784,019/- and, including professional and sales tax, the total amounting to ₹22,04,582,150/-.

Regarding the GST appellate authority, we have discussed this with the hon. Chief Minister but due this pandemic, it is not possible to make much progress but we to proceed after this pandemic is over. Pu Speaker, as we are aware, that this Bill is of much important and therefore is moved to the House for pass.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has moved that 'The Mizoram Goods & Services Tax Amendment Bill, 2020' be passed in the House. Those in favor to pass may say, 'Aye' and those who oppose may say, 'No'. (*The 'ayes' have it*). "The Mizoram Goods & Services Tax Amendment Bill, 2020' is unanimously passed by the House.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister Pu Lalchamliaana may now to introduce, 'The Mizoram Goods & Services Tax (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2020' in the House.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I introduce, 'The Mizoram Goods & Services Tax (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2020' in the House.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has introduced the Bill. Do we all agree? If so, the hon. Minister may now introduce the Bill.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. As we are all aware, GST is implemented in the Central and the State Government from the month of July, 2017.

The Finance Act, 2020 was passed on the 27th March this year eventually amending 'The Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017'. This was followed by the States and UT's where GST of each state has to be amended. Eleven sections were amended with one schedule added for Ladakh as it was not included in 2017. The period for claiming input tax credit was also amended under Section 16.

Conditions for cancellation of registration is amended under section 29 of GST Act which empowered the executing officials to cancel or revoke GST registration.

Specific rule is provided under Section 31 for issue of invoice whereas Section 51 is tax reduction. Late fee is scrapped for failure to issue deduction certificate. Section 122 is penal provision against those claiming ITC unfairly. Time limit for claiming transitional credit is now adhered to Section 140. Its retrospective effective date is 1st July, 2017. Issue of removal of difficulty order used to be 2 years is now 5 years under Section 172.

The provision 'Retrospective exemption' from or levy or collection of state tax in certain cases will not mean refunding. These are the main provisions attached to the amendment bill.

SPEAKER : Our hon. Minister has clarified and moved the bill for discussion. 5 minutes will be allotted to each member. Let us now invite Dr. Vanlalhlana to start the discussion.

DR. VANLALHLANA : It is truly satisfactory to have an amendment that will protect the people, the largest consumer.

There is an aberration in Section 172 in which period under the Act is 3-5 years and not 2 years.

Taxation, as stated by Pu Zaithanzama is crucial as it is an investment and an economy booster. The allocation of funds for this department is miniscule and needs to be strengthened with more manpower and financial as well.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma, hon. Member is next.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, it is an improvement that we are entering GST regime. The system alone is effective. However, online system makes our State more accessible for non-tribals as a whole and our special provision 371G cannot safeguard our interests anymore. GST has become the main source of income for the Centre and the States as well. On the other hand, we have to think about the future impact this system will have and whether there will be economic assimilation. I support this amendment and would like to request our hon. Minister to react to my question earlier regarding goods coming to Mizoram with GST being applied elsewhere outside.

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

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. It seems that our budget is mainly based on funds from the Centre. Hence, the amendment bill presented today is crucial. The hon. Minister in charge have clarified the points which is of our concerns while introducing the bill. At the same time, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the government will continue to have collection centre at Assam and not on Burma border. I believe it is important for the public to be aware of cash circulation and cash flow has increased considerably during lockdown period within the State itself. Lastly, I support the bill as it will open a channel for increase in our revenue.

SPEAKER : Let us now invite our hon. Minister to windup the discussion and to move the House to pass his bill.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. As mentioned by Dr. Tanpuia, check-gates were terminated since the introduction of GST. Taxation department officials were aware of tax evasion and thoughtfully set up data collection centre at Vairengte which helped immensely in tax collection. Another such centre is to be set up at Champhai for which approval is already there. However, no initiative cannot be taken as of now.

In regards to the question posed by Pu Lalduhoma, it is above my ability to explain everything clearly and with specifics as I am not a technical expert. The previous government has provision that prevents registration of non-permit holders as provided under Section 22 of Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1837. Due to this, non-inner line permit holders are rejected which makes registration is quite limited.

In conclusion, I would like to request this House to pass “The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (4th Amendment) Bill, 2020”.

SPEAKER : Our hon. Minister has asked the permission of this House to pass “The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (4th Amendment) Bill, 2020”. All those in agreement say, ‘Agree’. (**Members: Agree**).

This House has unanimously passed “The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (4th Amendment) Bill, 2020”.

We will move on with our business and invite our hon. Minister Pu Lalchhandama to ask the permission of this House to introduce “The Mizoram Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2020”.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission, I would like to ask for the introduction of “The Mizoram Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2020”.

SPEAKER : Our hon. Minister have asked permission for the introduction of his bill. Are we all in agreement? (*Members: Agree*) Let us invite the hon. Minister to introduce and move his bill.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The main objective of this bill is to safeguard workers in their services.

Of the 44 Labour Laws in India, 18 are being enforced in Mizoram and “The Mizoram Shops and Establishments Act, 2010” is the only act legally passed unanimously by the Mizoram Assembly. But it could be only be enforced in the district headquarters as of now mainly due to shortage of staff in the department. Under this act, there are 3000 registered shops with registered 3380 workers.

As it is a State Act, it is enforced by each states according to their conveniences which to some extent creates problem after improved technology in communication and transport. Hence, ‘Model Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2016’ was contrived by the Central Union Cabinet which can be amended by the States as and when necessary. As a result, the Amendment Bill that we discussed today emerged.

Provisions are there in the bill such as exemption, number of workers to be employed by big shop owners, welfare schemes provided to workers and penalty code for breach of the law etc. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Our hon. Minister has moved and introduced his bill. We will now start with the discussion of this bill with 5 minutes allotted to each member. Let us invite Pu Vanlalhlana to start the discussion.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, we appreciate that the copy of this bill was given to us well in advance which gives us time to study its contents. The bill has covered well for the welfare of shop owners.

I would like to highlight one point regarding this bill where the ‘extent’ is not provided. Secondly, in the statement of object and reason, there is a quote ‘improving the working condition of workers’ which does not seem to imply ‘creating more jobs’.

SPEAKER : Let us now invite our hon. Deputy Chief Minister Pu Tawnluia.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am gratified to have a well-thought amendment bill aiming to improve the service conditions and well-beings of our workers being moved by our hon. Minister in charge of Labour and Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department. I wholly support its passing by the House. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga

DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I do really appreciate the amendment bill introduced today. Besides many others, provisions aiming to provide first aid facilities and proper toiletry facilities to workers are highly commended. I support the passing of the bill.

SPEAKER : Prof. F. Lalnunmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA : Pu Speaker, the hon. Minister in charge of Labour Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department have introduced “The Mizoram Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2020”. It is gratifying to have such a commendable bill being introduced today. I too have personally given much thought about this.

In view of our current situation with the pandemic and its impacts along with an increasing unemployment problem, we will have to work more towards providing employment to those stricken with hardships in earning a living.

We have provision under our flagship programme, SEDP for generating employment for educated unemployed as well as for weaker section of the people and this amendment bill also targeted towards this section of the society. I, therefore support this bill for passing. Thank you.

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

2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER : Let us invite the hon. Member Pu Duhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. We are all aware of how this amendment bill emerged. Notification was made on 28.10.2010 and rules were also notified on January, 2012. However, the public do not seem to be much aware of this. Hence, the department would do well in giving awareness to the public.

The bill does not clearly specify fixation of salary though definition of Minimum Wages Act is there. This may also be studied more.

There is a provision for registration but registration can also be done through AMC Licensing Regulation, 2012. It is also crucial to clarify how the two acts/bills were incorporated.

Recently, our NGOs identified several irregularities and dealings by non-mizo using mizo names. It is a serious matter, a step towards economic assimilation. In truth, it is the responsibility of the government and not the NGOs

to identify such cases for action. Immediate action towards this end is a must before it is too late.

I have highlighted all those points while supporting the amendment bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I appreciate the Bill introduced today. The rules and regulations we have are basically well and good whereas implementation seems to be the most challenging part.

Provisions in the bill, if thoroughly implemented will definitely help improve working conditions. However, as stated by Pu Duhoma, we need to have more awareness. Workers Compensation Act, Factory Act, Maternity Benefit Act, Privilege Leave etc. are there, but the public as well as the workers need to be aware of all these though some of these may not be there in this Amendment Bill.

Whatever may be, it is fortunate that we have a well-thought Amendment Bill today and I support the passing of this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Er. Lalzirliana is next.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I changed my mind and I decide to say a few words as it is an important bill.

Mizoram, as we know, is not yet much advanced in professionalism and 70% of the populations are depending on private sector and manual labour. There are many acts under Labour Law. I would like to know whether factory inspectors are there in Mizoram. As inspectors are important for the well-functioning of factories, implementing authority is important for effective implementation of acts and rules.

As stated earlier, awareness of rules and acts needs to prevail. Will it be possible to establish Labour & Employment office in each district?

As for our amendment bill, it is inspiring to have such a well thought out Amendment Bill and I support the passing of this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Biakzaua.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I appreciate to have such an amendment bill being moved. It is a relief to have a provision that would bring security and inspiration to workers in varied fields of work. I, therefore support the unanimous passing of this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is inspiring to have an amendment bill that will promote workers to better conditions.

Several members mentioned about licensing regulation which i believe could be confusing. I believe licensing regulation aims at registration of shops whereas the aim of this bill is to improve the conditions of the workers. Now we are only at the initial stage, when implemented fully, the bill will be of great help to our workers.

We are all aware that rules are important for proper functioning of the State. Outside the present bill, it is highly necessary to have Rent Control Act too. Lastly, i support the passing of this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now invite our hon. Minister to wind up and beg this House to pass his bill.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. I am grateful that there is a cordial discussion from both sides of the benches on the bill I moved. I have noted down important points raised by the hon. Members; some are yet to be shown in the body of the bill whereas there can also be important points omitted which can be amended later. I would also like to react to some of the points raised by the members.

Our Opposition leader Pu Duhoma mentioned Licensing Regulations of AMC which deals with shop owners and workers whereas Licensing Regulation deals with registration for opening shops with workers and is not within our purview.

In regards to the question posed by Er. Lalzirliana, we have had factory inspectors since last year with proper procedure for inspecting guidelines. So far, there are 5 registered factories in Mizoram under Factory Act. For implementation of our bill, authorised order was issued in 2010 to labour officers of our districts.

Dr. Vanlalhlana mentioned daycare centre/creche for workers. To set up such centre there has to be at least 100 workers with 30 female workers, hence we cannot yet comply with provision of the rule.

Our Dy. Chief Minister has taken deep interest in this amendment for which I am very grateful. His question on the extent of the Bill is that this bill does not cover hospital workers, street hawkers, vegetable and meat sellers. Also, the private security firms we have are not covered either. They may be under the purview of Home Department. (**Er. H. Lalzirliana:** Pu Speaker, our hon. Minister have not reacted to my question about opening of office in our district headquarters.)

Pu Speaker, it is our vision to establish offices in every district with implementing staffs. Let us expect that we will have more funds available after this pandemic so that our vision will be materialized in each district.

As mentioned before, awareness is very important and the public need to be aware of rules and regulations that concerns their welfare. Not only the department but we, the members of this House who have better platforms need to impart awareness to the public and to workers in varied categories.

In answer to Pu Duhoma, penalty for not complying with the rule when effective is provided under Section 24 of the Bill, up to five lakhs could be fined which is not clearly defined in the bill before amended.

Registration fee varied according to the number of workers employed. Sections to be amended are discussed earlier.

Lastly, I would like to ask this august House to pass “The Mizoram Shops and Establishments (Regulations of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2020”.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has asked permission of this House for passing of his Bill. All those in agreement say, ‘Agree’. (**Members:** Agree). Those who are not in agreement, say ‘Not Agree’. This House has unanimously agreed to pass “The Mizoram Shops and Establishments (Regulations of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2020”.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : We will move on to our fourth bill and invite Pu Robert Romawia to ask this House to introduce his Bill.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of this House, I ask to introduce “The Mizoram State Sports Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020”.

SPEAKER : Our hon. Minister has asked to introduce his bill. Are we all in agreement? Let us now invite our hon. Minister to introduce and move his bill.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The main objective of this bill is not to remove the existence of this Act, it is to insert one sentence which is “It shall act as technical authority for all kinds of designs of sports infrastructure” under Section 11 at page 7 of the existing act.

As we are all aware, State Sports Council is an autonomous body and there could easily be misuse of power. A wide range of meetings with various Sports Council, Central Ministry, Law Department and other referral department were held and a wide study was conducted. After much thought and critical study on all aspects, this one sentence is proposed to be inserted. As such, this amendment bill

emerged. The objective of this bill is to strengthen and well equip our sports council.

The Mizoram Sports Policy was laid in this House in the year 2019 and in pursuance of this policy, sport is declared as one industry. If the amendment is passed, it will assist the government in its attempt to promote sports with better infrastructure. Not only government, but private firms/companies will also get involved in promoting sports with better facilities and infrastructure.

Good infrastructure is acutely missed here in Mizoram. There are still many disciplines to be introduced due to non-availability of infrastructure. If technical authority is given to Sports Council, it will significantly help in achieving our ongoing projects.

I, therefore, request to insert the sentence states earlier in the Mizoram State Sports Council Act, 2002 as an amendment.

SPEAKER : Our hon. Minister has introduced and moved his bill. We will start with the discussion of this bill with 5 minutes allotted for each member and opposition leader will be given additional time. Let us now invite Pu Zodintluanga Ralte to start the discussion.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE : Pu Speaker, thank you. I acknowledge that it is necessary to have this amendment. However, giving technical authority will affect the existing general financial rule. If we are to give technical authority, then it is better to enhance and upgrade the council. If the council is not upgraded at least to the level of AE, SE and CE in financial sanctioning, we may face a problem even for our ongoing projects. I, therefore propose the amendment motion for reconsideration.

SPEAKER : Let us invite Pu Duhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, Sports Department was declared as an industry by the cabinet on the 22th May. I believe sports policy is to be incorporated side by side with industrial policy with high expectation for foreign funding or from the central government and private companies.

Our hon. Minister has moved for the insertion of only one sentence in the provision which leads to the emergence of this amendment. I believe it is not a minor issue considering the prevailing situation. I am not discouraging our youths from sport activities, but the extent to which sports department is showered financially and technically with all the limelight can be perceived as being the favourite child of the Mizoram government. This is in serious contrast to the dealings made by the Union Finance Minister where funds are all withheld unless approved by the department of expenditure due to the pandemic. The central government are doing everything they can to overcome this crisis while our

government is still giving out contract works and distributing funds from SEDP instead of singlehandedly tackling this pandemic.

Our sports department will have a large amount of funds to use towards their projects and will be a major department with technical authority attached. I, therefore support this amendment bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga, hon. Member is next

DR. ZR. THIAMSANGA : Pu Speaker, this amendment bill will have greater impact in the field of sports and will be supported by our youths.

The pace of development may be measured for now due to pandemic; we must have thought of the future and our vision needs to be pursued in any way possible. We now have several rising stars in different disciplines of sports at State, National and International level. There will also come a time when we need to host and organize games at these levels in our State. Considering all these and other achievements we have had, this department needs to be upgraded with technical authority as proposed. I, therefore support the amendment bill for this House to pass. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, Pu BD Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. "The Mizoram State Sports Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020" when passed, will give sports council high authority.

I would like to mention on behalf of the three district councils that till now, none of the councils have authority in the field of sports. I would like to propose for the appointment of the 3 district Sports Promotion Officers be appointed as ex-officio members. I would also like to advocate for the construction of artificial grass at Chawngte 'C' football ground and for the construction of indoor stadium. Sports persons even among the Chakma community should be well taken care of for further improvement in this field.

Lastly, I pledge my support to this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Biakzaua to be followed by Pu Rindika Ralte.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I am grateful and appreciate that we have an amendment bill of this magnitude.

We are all aware of the prevailing situation of the pandemic and the rising case of HIV/AIDS and drug addiction. It is absolutely essential to focus on physical activities of sport for our young generation besides imparting awareness and counselling. The central government has proper sports authority and SAI engaged in the field while Mizoram has Sports Council with limited authority. I believe if

there are proper rules and regulations, there will be significant change in our approach to sports activities of various kinds. I, therefore support this bill for passing. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Rindika Ralte is next.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE : Pu Speaker, thank you. I believe this bill will be passed by this House whether we want to or not. On this note, I also give my support for this bill.

Our monologue regarding the issues faced by our society always centres around development, infrastructure and projects. In truth, it is our mindset that brings about all these issues. Mizoram, as a State has never had adequate funds, but we have to be prudent in our spending. We are a government for the people and as such, our first actions and thoughts should always be for the people. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng is next.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG : Pu Speaker, thank you. I believe the amendment bill today will be easily accepted and supported by the youths.

I agree with our hon. Member, Pu Rindika and believe that our mindset is what drives us to our state today. However, it is the duty of the government to pave the way for the materialization of what is there in our mind.

Sports department/council may not have contributed much financially but we must consider how many lives are saved by sports activities from straying towards the wrong path. Many of our talented youths are prevented from making headway due to non-availability of proper infrastructure for the discipline they chose.

Though we still have a long way to go, this bill when implemented will be a step in the right direction towards our goal. On that note, I support the passing of this bill by this august House. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now invite our hon. Deputy Chief Minister, Pu Tawnluia.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. As mentioned before, the section to be amended is concise but it covers a wide range of aspects.

UD&PA have funded many projects in coordination with smart city project and sports department. This amendment bill will only give technical and design authority to sports council while work execution will not be included. Possessing

this authority will enable them to have better coordination with other concerning departments. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. The inclusion of this bill signifies that our hon. Minister is committed to reform and promote his department. As highlighted before, many issues that arises during the execution of ongoing projects will be solved.

What I wanted to highlight at this juncture is to set right our priority in the selection of sports discipline that would boost us to national or international level not bending on pressure from some groups or association. I believe this amendment will lead us into the right direction.

If we study the topography of Mizoram, adventure sports need to be introduced and promoted heavily besides conventional sport items. We do not have a racing circuit while our streets are full of motorbikes and two wheelers. Hence, priority has to be set when our bill comes into force.

Being a tennis player myself, holding the post of vice president in the Mizoram Tennis Association, I look forward to having more tennis court other than the only court we have in Aizawl. I would like to suggest that constituency wise be taken into consideration in building infrastructure and implementing projects. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. The bill itself is mainly for providing technical authority to Sports Council. I, too am a sportsperson just like Pu Tanpuia and I look forward to having better infrastructure to promote sport activities in Mizoram.

I have experienced several issues regarding infrastructure due to technical issues which were eventually settled by Sports Council. I believe the wording 'technical guidance' will be more appropriate for insertion in the amendment bill. The bill when passed may be a relief for some consultancy firms engaged in ongoing projects and also a channel through which our government gets funding.

The commitment of our hon. Minister is praiseworthy. We now have a sports policy and sports itself is now declared as an industry where 91% of this year's funding from SEDP was allocated to sports and its related sports projects. In the meantime, salaries of government workers were borrowed. It has come to mind that we might have to pull a brake towards our strong and dynamic Minister so that funds could be channelled to other areas such as agriculture, education, entrepreneurship etc.

It is often stated that the percentage of state contribution in the counterpart funding under EAP is not used for implementing sports projects. I would like our hon. Minister to state whether this is true or we do contribute to these projects. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now invite our hon. Chief Minister and House Leader Pu Zoramthanga.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. Our hon. Minister has moved for an amendment today with only a sentence but which is very important.

Members have emphasized the importance for Sports Council to have technical authority over sports projects and infrastructure. It is not to be measured on the basis of amount to be spent, technical point of view has to be taken into consideration. Different types of works required experts in their respective fields. For sports infrastructure, Sports Department is an expert in the field technically. As we have had problems earlier, we hope to have a better functional department with the provision of technical authority.

I cannot argue that Sports Department does not contribute financially at this stage, but they do have indirect contribution to the State by promoting sports. The better infrastructure we have, the better indirect contribution will be there. This is the reason why Sports Council is declared as an industry status and the reason why we intended to strengthen it with technical authority. Financial sanctions often come through sports and eco-tourism which is the reason why UD&PA also could receive funding.

It is alleged that Sports department is shown favour which is not true. Financial sanction made before the prevalence of covid-19 is diverted to agriculture, horticulture, electricity, water etc., required in our fight against the pandemic. Particularly in the current financial year, no sanction is made for this department.

It is also accurate that while our contribution to EAP increased, Sports Department received large share in the budget allocation. In a modern world however, it is inevitably necessary to prioritise our youths and sport is one of the most important channels through which our youths are taken care of from straying in the wrong path. With this aim in view, this amendment was moved to strengthen the department. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now invite our hon. Minister to wind up this discussion.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today, we have a discussion on an amendment eagerly awaited by the youths and

sports lovers of Mizoram. I appreciate and thank the members of both sides for their participation in the discussion.

Firstly, the previous Sports Minister Pu Zodintluanga stressed the need to strengthen Sports Council and its related issues and I am thankful for that. His apprehension regarding the implementation of the bill is also already been discussed in the cabinet meeting and in the official meeting with Law Department. Strengthening Sports Council with a provision of technical authority will not affect normal function and fund allocation of other departments.

Pu Duhoma has raised important points which I am thankful for. He also mentioned about Sports Policy and Industrial Policy with foreign funding and how they are corelated. I would like to assure you that all these concerns were raised, discussed and studied together with Industry Department in our meeting at ministerial level. It is in fact, expected that the implementation of this bill will eventually strengthen Industry department and increase their earnings.

Allegation against the Council/department receiving the largest fund from SEDP is a complete *lie.

SPEAKER : The word 'lie' will be expunged.

*(*Expunged as ordered by the Speaker'.)*

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I apologize for that.

Dr. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, I have verified from the department of Finance and it is a fact that 91%, 90.99% went to Sports & Youth Services. I have the copy with me.

SPEAKER : You have said earlier that it is of SEDP. **(Dr. Vanlalthlana:** Pu Speaker, I said SEDP and the fund already been sanctioned under SEDP. Of the fund sanctioned, Sports and Youth received 91%.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, the fund sanctioned under SEDP was laid at this House yesterday and the amount mentioned was correct to the best of my knowledge. Pu Speaker, allow me to go into detail.

During Congress ministry in 2018-2019, 462 lakhs was allocated under SPP for construction of Mamit Indoor Stadium and the fund that was piled up in the course of time is now being released by Finance Department at the beginning of this year. The name of the project has now been changed from SPP to SEDP. It is not a matter of favoritism as alleged.

Mamit District, as we know, have not had a standard hall within the district. With commitment from our hon. Chief Minister, this will soon be realized and the

people are eagerly waiting for it and they may feel bad and blindsided for the wrong allegations.

The statement made by Pu Lalduhoma that the central ministry as not being enable to spend on its own is not fully correct. There are provisions so that the state government may use some specific portions of its budget whereas some are allowed to spend 5% while for some 100% of their budget. This means that the funds available for the states are not fully restricted.

I would like to mention the importance of Sports Department as an industry. The footballers from our state alone had already amassed crores of income from outside the state. These players do not need any subsidy or loans from the government. It seems Sport Department is one of the most worth promoting regarding income for the state.

In connection to the amendment as suggested by Dr. ZR Thiamsanga, I would like to add more on the success of our prevailing sport policy. Jeremy Lalrinnunga was the First Youth Olympics Champion from India. He was awarded ₹15 lakhs as an incentive as per the prevailing norms of our Sport Policy. Similarly, Lalremsiami was also awarded ₹20 lakh for becoming silver medalist at Asian Games.

Regarding Dr. BD Chakma's speech, his suggestion for the inclusion of member from ADC in the Sports Council will be noted. However, it should also be remembered that the members of the Sports Council are elected by different Sport Associations as their respective representatives.

Regarding construction of football ground within ADC area, I would like to inform that a sanction order of ₹532.5 lakh had already been availed for the construction of artificial-turfed football ground at Chawngte.

Pu H. Biakzaua has spoken about the importance of proper rules regarding Sports Department. It is due to this fact that new laws and regulations were introduced. We hoped that having proper authority in the state will simplify the procedures of submitting projecting to central ministry also. Besides, it is hoped that further trainings could be availed under SAI and other international sport organisations.

I fully agreed with Pu Lalrindika on the importance of mindset to succeed in any sport discipline. However, it is also imperative to have better infrastructure to materialise such mindsets.

I would personally thank the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister on behalf Sports Department. We have submitted several suggestions under Smart City Projects which were approved by him in view of the need of the youth. We are now looking forward to start nine big sport-related projects through the Smart City Projects under his department.

Dr. Vanlaltanpuia has spoken about prioritization of sport disciplines which is very important. However, this is still very difficult due to huge gaps between sport disciplines. The matter will be taken into consideration in the future.

Regarding Dr. Vanlalhlana's question, we have a meager resources from SEDP for Sports Department. However, we are searching for other resources as necessary. The sharing system he had mentioned under EAP Funding is also correct at the present system. However, we do hope our share will be increased with new terms and conditions after the agreement was signed.

To wind up, Pu Speaker, there is no negative impact caused by this amendment on other departments. Meanwhile, it will bring about a huge development in sport industry of our state. Thus, I beg this august House to pass "The Mizoram State Sports Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020." Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall vote on the Bill. Anyone who agreed to pass the bill may say, "Aye". (**Members: Aye**). Anyone who oppose may say, "Nay". Therefore, I hereby declare "The Mizoram State Sports Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020." passed.

Now, we have finished our business for today. The House will stay adjourned till the next sitting commence at 10:30 AM tomorrow, the 3rd September, 2020.

Sitting is adjourned (4:14 PM)