

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FOURTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 15th MARCH, 2019
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

1. **Questions** entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

2. * **Resolutions**

S.R. ZOKHUMA
Commissioner & Secretary

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- * Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 29, dated the 13th March, 2019 for relative precedence of Private Members' Resolutions to be moved.

SPEAKER : He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6: 8

We will now start with Question Hour and Pu Lalchhuanthanga to ask his Starred Question No.18.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state –

- a) The amount of loan recovery from the NLUP fund loanees?
- b) What step has been taken so far by the government in this regard?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the questions.

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

- a) Recovery of loans is as shown below:-
 - i) HnamChhantu - ₹3,50,000/-
 - ii) LZ Bamboo Industry - nil
 - iii) Mizoram Broom India - nil
 - iv) CDAR - nil
 - v) Samuel Tea Factory - ₹3,40,000/-
- b) The government will take initiatives after carefully examined the circumstances and loan payments.

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana.

Dr. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, for what purpose the 68 Nos. staffs are being employed under NLUP cell? May the 10 staffs that were being deployed during MIP also be favoured with job?

SPEAKER : Pu L. Thangmawia.

PU L.THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I was informed by an employee under NLUP cell that there are more than 2,000 beneficiaries who could not withdraw their NLUP funds even after crediting the amount to their their respective Bank accounts. What initiative has been taken in this regard?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: With the condition that the said loan had to be cleared before the 10th September, 2017, do the beneficiaries have any mortgage?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer the question asked by the hon. Member Dr. Vanlalhlana, after carefully examined the case of employees under NLUP Implementing Board, initiative is taken so that the concerned staffs by fulfilling the exit may continue with their jobs.

On the question of Pu L.Thangmawia regarding the beneficiaries, I believe there are cases which need to be examined, and at the same time, exit protocol also is in process and further step as may be required.

Such loans are given with appropriate conditions which I could not give the detail at present; I will try to provide it later on in detail.

SPEAKER : Pu C.Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state –

- a) Total Nos. of beneficiary under “The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016”?
- b) The benefit enjoyed by physically challenged under the government?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister, Dr. K. Beichhua to answer the question.

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

- a) During 2017-2018, assistance is given to 1160 Nos. physically challenged persons.
- b) Survey is now being prevailed on disability with high support and necessary step will be taken after scrutinizing the data of the survey. There are two Homes for physically challenged for person below 18 years of age such as -
 - i) Bethsaida Home, Durtlang with 15 physically disabled children.
 - ii) Rephidim Home, Laipuitlang with 8 Nos. mentally challenged children.

SPEAKER : Pu LalrinsangaRalte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. What is the reason for cancellation of recruitment of the District Coordination and Block Coordinator?

SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Dr. Vanlalhlana.

Dr. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, after implementation of 3% jobs as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, how many times an advertisement has been

issued and how many have recruited?

SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Pu C.Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. What is the percentage of seats reserved for physically disabled persons in different departments and how many have been recruited within these 3 years?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer the question of Pu Lalrinsanga, advertisement for recruitment of District Coordinator, Block Coordinator and Block Project Assistant was issued on the 1st January. It is mentioned in the advertisement that local candidates are mandatory; the result was out in 9th February as common merit list. However, since I, as the concerned Minister had not been notified of the recruitment and as it was not followed the central guidelines, I have instructed the concerned department to examine the case and cancel the interview.

So, in order to have a fair recruitment, notice was given so that exam will again be conducted fairly and following the central guidelines. I, on behalf of the department express my sincere apology to the House and on behalf of the department.

Regarding 3% of jobs reservation, this Act was passed in 2016 and it is laid here in the House only yesterday. As we take up the ministry, 59 Nos. employees were recruited under this Act and 3% jobs being reserved for persons with disability in different departments. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Pu KT Rokhaw to ask Starred Question.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, will the concerned Minister of School Education be pleased to state –

Whether there is a plan in this ministry for reemployment of Hindi teachers under CSS under?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

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

This ministry approached the Central government for reemployment of Hindi teachers under CSS.

SPEAKER : Pu LalrinsangaRalte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. What progress has been made so far regarding the CSS Hindi Teachers and if the central government approved it? Will they be reemployed or a new recruitment will be made?

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. If there is any salary which has not been received by the SSA teachers? If so, what is the reason and for how many months their salary has not been drawn? Is there any plan to give their salary?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer the question of the hon. Member Pu LalrinsangaRalte, the hon. Chief Minister, the concerned Minister of Higher & Technical Department, Dr. R Lalthangliana and myself, tries our best so that such Hindi Teachers are re-employed. We have even sent DO letter to the central ministry.

There are 1305 Nos. CSS teachers, some have died and some engaged to other occupations as it's been already a year. With the implement of RTE Act, all teachers should be trained and qualified which many have not met such condition. I believe the government will take necessary step so that only qualified teachers are recruited for the post.

Regarding the question of Pu C. Lalsawivunga, the ministry has cleared all the pending salaries of SSA teachers and hence we do not have any debt of their salary.

SPEAKER : The hon. Member Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

Dr. VANLALTANPUIA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of PWD be pleased to state –

Time scheduled for completion of black-topping work of Zote 'S' - Chhipphir road?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is –
Blacktopping of Zote 'S' - Chhipphir Road is estimated for completion in 5.12.2019.

SPEAKER : Pu LawmawmaTochhawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, is there a plan for

construction of Lunglei Bypass road? If so, when will the work be started and what is the estimate time for completion of the repairing work of Lunglei – Aizawl road? What is the amount allocated for this purpose?

SPEAKER : Pu Biakzaua.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker, my questions are as follows:

- i) When will tender be re-floated for BRFT road to Lungtian?
- ii) We need Marboat at Lungtian - Mamte Road on Kolodyne River. Is there any intention to place one here?
- iii) If there is any plan to renovate Hrangchalkawn - Lawngtlai road?

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

Dr. VANLALTANPUIA: Thank you, Pu Speaker, construction works of Zote - Chhipphir road is delayed due to the demise of the assigned contractor and is now taken up by another contractor with the estimate time of completion on 5.12.2019; it seems that the construction work will not be completed soon. So, can the government find alternative so that the work is expedited? Lunglei via Thenzawl is one of the most important ATL roads in Mizoram as it connects the western belt. May this road be renovated as the condition is intensive?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister may answer the question.

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

Construction of Zote - Chhipphir road is delayed due to monsoon and we will try to complete the work as soon as possible.

As of Aizawl - Lunglei road via Thenzawl, we are trying our best but unable to achieve due to financial problem. It will be continued during this working session.

Regarding Lunglei by-pass road, ₹10 crores is placed for this purpose. As of resurfacing of Aizawl – Lunglei road, effort is made so that the work is completed within the stipulated time. Regarding retendering of Lungtian BRTF road, I am unable to provide the answer for now but will be given later.

Regarding Lungtian – Mamte road, we will try to place marboat as it is impossible to move around during the monsoon.

As of repairing Hrangchalkawn – Lawngtlai road, ₹470 lakhs is allotted and we will try to speed up the process of work. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, will the concerned Minister of LAD be pleased to state –

Is there any intention to approve the demand of the Autonomous Village Council by SerchhipDarnam?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister, Pu K. Lalrinliana to answer the question.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Verification is underway for the demand of Autonomous Village Council by SerchhipDarnam.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question to be asked by Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, verification had already been made during the previous ministry and there are more than 200 households in the village; the residents have had given their consent and there are no issues relating to boundary. So, may the demand be fulfilled so that they are able to elect their own VC in the next election?

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I opine the Village Council should conduct verification and NOC should also be approved. I believe autonomous VC could be set up before the coming election. I would like to add that the ruling party will not take any steps which will breach the rules and procedures. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concerned Minister of PWD be pleased to state –

- a) Is there a proposal to take up Dungtlang – Thekte road under PWD?
- b) If so, when will the work be completed?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

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

- a) Mizoram PWD handed over Dungtlang - Thekte road to BRO on 10.12.2012 and PWD has no plan to take it back at the moment.
- b) Since it is under BRO, the government is not involved as to when or how this road will be renovated.

SPEAKER : Pu L. Thangmawia

PUL THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Under PMGSY Khawzawl - Vankal road is package No.MZ01-103 and Tuiphal - Lamzawl is MZ02-106 which is as per survey is shorter by more than 2 kms. So, may the concerned Minister take note of this and that the shorter route is opted?

It is obvious that the hon. Chief Minister gives importance to roads. So, it will be much appreciated if a shorter route is opted in the process so as to save more time and money.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, the route to Zote could also be shortened with by-pass road from TualvungiVeng, Thenzawl to Lunglei road by 1 to ½ kms. So, may this route be opted for the benefit of the people?

SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA: Pu Speaker, I was informed by the EE PWD that this road will be taken up by PWD and estimate had also been made. Since internal road of this village and the surrounding need a repair, I request our hon. Minister to take note of this as well.

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, surveys on Vankal and Tuiphal road are examined carefully and we will try our best so that construction will reach such villages. Regarding construction of by-pass roads, I also have a thought on this issue and we will try our best.

As to the question by Pu Lalduhoma, we will look into the matter; and, renovation of Dungtlang and other mentioned roads will also be noted.

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Will the concerned Minister of School Education be pleased to state -

Is there any plan for recruitment or filling up the vacant post of teachers in different schools? If so, what is the initiative in this regard?

SPEAKER : The concerned Minister to answer the question.

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

Yes, the government is taking necessary steps to fill up the vacant post of teachers and many posts had also been filled up with the approval of the hon. Chief Minister. Plan for recruitment of MR has also been made.

SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, most of teachers posted in rural areas have a problem of house for renting. So, is it possibility to construct staff quarters for such teachers? I am sure this will also reduce the practice of hiring a substitute teacher in many schools. It may also be noted that Neihloh Middle School remain functioning without headmaster.

SPEAKER : Er. H. Lalzirliana.

Er. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, many schools within my constituency which are functioning without enough teachers and in some cases only 1 or 2 teachers to look after the whole students. So, may the concerned Minister give priority to this case?

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana, hon. Member.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, I am not aware of the plan for recruitment of MR employees and contractual teachers. May such recruitments be made by the department on merit basis? May only the qualified candidates be recruited?

SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : I have raised my hand first and you did not notice, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Question hour is over and so we may call the concerned Minister to answer the questions.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am glad that my fellow members take active interest on School Education. On the question raised by Pu Lalduhoma, steps are taken to fill up the post of the headmaster and they now have one regular teacher and 3 UPS teachers. At present, we have no intention of posting a Hindi teacher. As of Teachers quarters, some are constructed under available schemes as some are in progress.

As to the questions raised by other members, we are trying our best to meet the needs of our schools; teachers are recruited fairly and will be selected based on merit list. Contractual and MR teachers will also be selected as per merit list. There

are about 2300 vacant posts and since the demand for teacher is high, MR teachers will be conducted soon.

SPEAKER : Question Hour has come to an end and we will now move on to Private Member Business. We will start with Resolution No. 1, submitted by Pu Vanlalhlana that “The Central government should be urged so that United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous People, 2007 is implemented”.

PU VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. In 2007, this declaration had already been adopted but so far, no initiative has been made to implement the Act. So, it is important that we urge the central government on this matter.

Similar resolution on UN declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, 2007 was submitted by Pu Vanlalzawma in 2015. It is an important topic and I believe we are united in passing of this Resolution as this topic was number one in the election manifesto of our current ministry.

As published by UNO, the Mizos are included in the list of indigenous people and India voted its support on this UN declaration at the United Nations General Assembly of 2007. However, it had not been actually adopted for twelve years and so is our rightful claim to do so.

So, I move this House to pass this resolution and process our rights as an indigenous state at the central level. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The resolution has now been moved and we will start with our discussion. Today, leave of absent is granted to Pu Tawnluia, Pu C. Ngunlian Chunga, Pu VL Zaithanzama, Pu Zodintluanga and Dr. BD Chakma.

We will start our discussion with five minutes allocated to each member. Pu Lalruatkima will start the discussion.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am thankful that this resolution regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, 2007 is moved by Pu Vanlalhlana.

This resolution opened up the gateway for an independent Mizoram. The only clear boundary we had was proposed during 1873 BEFR (Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation). We were divided and placed under the province of Assam, Bengal and Burma due to ‘the divide and rule’ policy adopted by the British and we were settled under the Assam province since 1947 when India gained independence.

We fought for freedom in 1966 and a peace accord was signed in 1986. This is

our journey towards freedom and we have suffered and lost many lives during the course of this journey.

We were then included in the list of indigenous people published by the UN in 2007 and this UN Declaration was accepted by the Indian government in 2010. According to this declaration, we have the right to freedom, self-determination and protection of our land.

It is our duty and responsibility to fight for these rights we gained through the UN declaration. As stated by the mover of this resolution, we must be united in our stand and move for the adoption of this UN declaration with the Indian government. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalsawivunga

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, I am thankful that I could take part in the discussion of this important resolution and I thank the mover of this resolution.

As mentioned before, our journey towards freedom was long and arduous and we have endured and lost many lives along the way. After the Indian independence in 1947, the Mizos were divided between Burma, Bangladesh and India. Those who are under the Indian government were considered to be blessed than others. However, we are now denied both our rights and resources to some extents; and as such, we are not self-sufficient and lack infrastructure.

In order to enjoy our rights and enjoy what belongs to us, we need to take more efforts at the highest level and adopt this UN declaration. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pu Lawmawma

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. I am thankful that this resolution is submitted at this House. Similar resolution was submitted and passed by this House before.

This UN declaration opened the gates for reunification of the Mizos, the chance to be under one rule and preserves our traditions, values and religion. We will have full rights and ownership of our resources. It is up to us to push for the adoption and endorsement of this declaration by the Indian government.

We need to educate and enlighten the people of Mizoram regarding this declaration and fight as a nation to gain our independence. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

Dr. VANLALTANPUIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am grateful that this resolution was submitted as it has been a priority for this ministry since its inception and still occupy number one on its party election manifesto.

The United Nation has provided us a great opportunity which the Indian government accepted and voted for. However, after 12 years since this declaration was introduced, the government has still not adopted this declaration.

Our main aim is self-determination for the State of Mizoram and greater steps must be taken at the highest level so that this declaration is implemented. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga

Dr. ZR. THIAM SANGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. I am thankful that I am a part of this discussion.

Our previous leaders, Pu Laldenga and Pu R. Thangmawia come to mind during this discussion as they were the forerunners for the success of this resolution.

In order to achieve independence and self-determination, it is necessary to achieve economic independence. I believe this is possible with the help of God and with honest governance and administration.

I strongly put my trust in this ministry to achieve the success of this resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pu Duhoma

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. I believe that this resolution will be passed by this House today and that it determines the future of Mizoram to a certain extent.

Mizoram has gone through several changes due to conflicts and after a failed bid for independence in 1966, we were put under the democratic rule of India.

The UN declaration was introduced in 2007 and Mizoram was included under this declaration due to the effort of ZORO. An official resolution concerning this declaration was first submitted on March 26th, 2012 during MNF ministry. (DEPUTY

SPEAKER : You have 1 minute left under the House' rules, however, I will give you 10 more minutes.) Thank you. To continue with my speech, no action was taken during this term. Another resolution was submitted on 8th October, 2015 by Pu Vanlalzawma, which also ended up with no action taken.

Today's resolution is the third one concerning the UN declaration. We, the government of Mizoram need to act first for the successful adoption of this declaration in order to have it adopted at National level.

There are several provisions within this declaration that we can utilize. I would like to suggest the fabrication of a commission to determine and identify the origin of our tribe.

Lastly, I would like this House to take action for the adoption of this declaration as we cannot be certain till when our constitution can safeguard the people of Mizoram.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us now invite our House Leader.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. It seems that this resolution is in the heart of every member in this House. Every political party has tried its best for the successful adoption of this declaration.

From what I can recall from the document maintained by Pu Laldenga which was dictated to me, Mizoram was never a part of India; even during the British invasion, we were in the excluded area. We were never officially recognized as Indians. It was only after the Indian independence in 1947 that we were under the administration of the Indian government to fill the political vacuum left by the British.

Approach had been made to the Indian government to meet our conditions if we are to be a part of India. This demand was made to the Indian Prime Minister and Home Minister and the answer provided to us was that further research and studies will be made. This is what we are still fighting for till date.

What I am most concerned about is construction and reinforcement of border fencing around Mizoram as we are surrounded by foreign countries on all sides.

Lastly, I pledge my support to this resolution and would like to mention that this ministry is willing to use its power for the successful adoption of this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will have recess and we will continue continue with our discussion in the afternoon session.

2:00 PM.

SPEAKER : To continue with our discussion, I invite our hon. Home Minister to have his say.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. As mentioned by the other members before me, a similar resolution was submitted previously with no response till date.

We are all aware that this declaration is not binding and should not be adopted as per the State's legislature. Even though it was accepted by India, it has not been adopted till date on the pretext that all Indians are indigenous people.

It is our right and duty to do everything in our power so that this declaration is adopted. With this, I pledge my support for this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Discussion for this resolution has ended. We shall now invite the owner of this resolution to windup and to ask the permission of this House to adopt this resolution.

PU VANLALHLANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am grateful that this resolution is met with such enthusiasm from the members of this House.

I expect this resolution to be accepted with a few amendments and I am touched that it is accepted as it is and without any amendment. I thank the members of this House for their participation and their advice.

Pu Speaker, I would like to beg this House to pass my resolution "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, 2007".

SPEAKER : The mover has moved the House for adoption of this declaration. All in favor may say, agree. (MEMBERS: *Agree*) This House has unanimously passed the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, 2007" moved by Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA: Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : I would like to mention that we are grateful for the funding provided by the Central government for the development of RIPANS.

We will move on to the second resolution and invite Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo to move his resolution.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am pleased that my resolution "We are grateful that under the leadership of Pu Zoramthanga, Assam Rifles will be relocated from Aizawl" is given a chance to be moved in this House.

The current holding has been occupied by Assam Rifles since 1890 which equates 129 years. After several unfortunate incidents, an agreement was signed by the then Aizawl DC, Pu Dengchhuana and Assam Rifles Commandant for their relocation.

One of the first steps for relocation of Assam Rifles was taken by Pu Laldenga which was continued by Pu Zoramthanga during their previous ministries. ₹145.173 crore was sanctioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 12.3.2008 for the relocation of Assam Rifles from Aizawl to Zokhawsang.

After several failed attempts, an order was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the Assam Rifles to complete their relocation by 31st May, 2019.

Special assembly session was held during previous MNF ministry so that no private LSC was issued for the lands. I believe that it is my duty to publicize this great feat achieved by Pu Zoramthanga and would like to present my private resolution before this House and beg for the passing of this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will start our discussion for this resolution with a time of 5 minutes for each member. Let us invite Dr. F. Lalnunmawia to start the discussion.

Dr. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. As mentioned by Pu Rintluanga, Assam Rifles will finally be relocated after several failed attempts and I applaud our hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga and the MNF ministry for their efforts. This action displayed the weight that our hon. Chief Minister has at central level.

I believe and hope that this land will be functional and profitable for the people of Mizoram.

Lastly, I would like to pledge my support for this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalsawivunga

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am grateful and excited that we are discussing this resolution. It is doubly exciting for me as it is under my constituency. I believe I speak for everyone when I say that it is like a weight lifting off our back.

Lastly, I would like to pledge my support to this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Biakzaau

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I am certain that it will not be an easy feat relocating Assam Rifles who have been residing at the heart of the city for 129 years. I would like to give credit where it is due and I would like to thank our hon. Chief Minister and the MNF ministry for their tremendous effort.

Besides, it is welcoming news that AR Ground which is the most important playground will no longer be in the hands of the Assam Rifles and we can have free access. It is truly the effort of the hon. Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga who gives a top priority as soon as his party came into power. The land itself would be very expensive on market value but I have heard that there is a proposal to transform the area for the best interest of the people. So, I support this Resolution, thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is the hon. Minister, Pu Robert Romawia as he raised his hand first.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I think it is necessary for me to say a few words as AR ground is located within my constituency. And, I am thankful for the opportunity.

First, I want to point out that there is always possibility if the hon. Chief Minister, our House Leader Pu Zoramthanga has laid his confidence upon. When the new ministry was formed, I accompanied him to Delhi to approach the central leaders on our State's demand. I have witnesses with my own eye how he is highly regarded by the central leaders.

It is known by all that relocating the Assam Rifles from the heart of Aizawl is not an easy task; I cannot believe how thing turns out so fast; may be because our counterparts have the same opinion. It is unbelievable that the hon. Chief Minister knows well how to approach the central authority as he urged them by using strong language at the exact time. I, therefore, would like to stress the ability of the hon. Chief Minister for the cause of our state and the people. And, for the record of this august House, I have to emphasize the initiative of the hon. Chief Minister in presenting the case to the central with confident about our demands which ultimately results for the Assam Rifles to move out. I am thankful that the hon. member Pu RintluangaSailo moves this Resolution.

We know how the previous Chief Minister prefers non-Mizo for our Chief Secretary. However, the present Chief Minister approaches the Central to arrange for our Chief Secretary only of mizo background who knows our traditions and language. It is known in the official level how complicate to replace the existing Chief Secretary having many years of services. However, we have seen how influential our Chief Minister despite the aforesaid complicity and the same in other projects submitted to the Central and in pursuing other development projects. Today also, as we are

discussing this resolution, we should know to whom the credit should be given for the achievement of evacuation the Assam Rifles.

As a Minister of Sports, I would like to express the appreciation of the sports fraternity and the youth are for the achievement of evacuation of Assam Rifles. Again, as a Sports Minister, i suggest AR Ground be named Pu Laldenga Centre and equip with all possible sports infrastructures and tourists' attractions. I support this resolution and hope it is passed unanimously. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I support Pu Lalrintluanga's Resolution that "We are thankful that the effort to relocate the Assam Rifles who reside in the heart of Aizawl city is achieved under this new government headed by Pu Zoramthanga". The Assam Rifles occupies this place over 129 years and it is our dreams that one day they would be moving out of the city. During their stay, they have even experienced a lot of disturbances caused by the civilians; their boundary had even encroached and some areas takenover by the civilians such as the Mizo High School, New Market and the New Secretariat Complex at Khatla.

There are claims of the reason of their moving in to Zokhawsang; it may be noted that initiative had aslo been made during the time of District Council, under the leadrship of Pu Ch. Chhunga and Brig. T. Sailo. Therefore, all such initiatives will also be taken into account. According to the Assam Rifles, they cannot reside far away from the civil as they also depend on the civil facilities. As we have seen, many buildings are constructed for their settlement and we are now awaiting for their moving in. So, I give my support to this Resolution.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

Dr. ZR. THIAMSONGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I give my thanks to hon. Member, Pu Lalrintluanga for moving an important Resolution regarding shifting of the Assam Rifles from the heart of Aizawl City.

The Assam Rifles resides here for many decades and the people also benefitting their stays in many ways. As time passes, their settlement now become a stumbling block for development of Aizawl city. For this reason, there was a conflict between them and the civilians and our relationship cannot be fixed till date. While this is the case, the service they rendered to the people of Mizoram will never be forgotten. I do hope they would continue to serve for us even after moving to Zokhawsang.

The people of Mizoram as whole deeply appreciates their decision to evacuate their longtime settlement. At the same time, it is worth-mentioning the ability of the Hon. Chief in achieving this plan within a short span of time. This will be a red letter day for Mizos. In this connection, I suggest the soon to be evacuated place be renamed and I give my support to pass this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrindika Ralte is next.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. We all seem to agree with this resolution for it is the main concern of the people of Mizoram for years. There are many who made their contribution for the success and I convey my thanks to all of them.

Now that they are moving out and we need to think of how the place will be transformed. Allegedly there are some private lands in the premise of the Assam Rifles settlement and I hope our leaders will be able to resolve the case without any unpleasant incident. Putting aside our self-interest and the practice of nepotism, I hope the place will be transformed for the interest of the people.

Pu Speaker, some members suggest renaming the place on which I would like to suggest any name may be given but without hurting the sentiment of anyone or group and that it is accepted by the majority. And, I give my support to pass this resolution, thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Dr. Vanlalhlana.

Dr. VANLALHLANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I, at the outset express my support to this resolution. Since the Assam Rifles settlement is 129 years already, it is very hard to achieve their evacuation as much efforts thus given to that effect. Now, we are about to see the reality as a letter from Ministry of Home Affairs has been received to this concern.

The Assembly Session of March, 2018 cannot resolved the case for the demand area of the Assam Rifles increases which cannot be settled in the Revenue Department. Apart from this, there are 133 private LSC holders within this area which need to be resolved with the help of NGO's. The best is if such private land holders withdrawn their LSC. Thus, it is necessary to survey geological stability of the site whereas some have built their houses on ground deposited following landslide. I am thankful that it is not necessary to seek prior approval of the Assam Rifles Authority in the process.

It would be of quite a problem for the planner also to setup an ideal plan as we are expecting the best possible outcome with tourist attraction and recreational place

in it. Anyway, I think the people are contented with evacuation of the Assam Rifles alone. Therefore, I give my support to the resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am thankful that we have a resolution regarding evacuation of the Assam Rifles. We seem to have peace of mind whenever we pass through this place.

To get into the point, I convey my thanks to all who took part in the negotiation and had given their efforts and time for the achievement; I am glad that they can now rest in peace. While this is the case, there is not a mention as yet as to how the place will be transformed but one thing for sure with the evacuation is alleviating traffic problems of Aizawl city.

Obviously it will be the sports enthusiast youth who would appreciate this achievement most. Now that the maintenance of this ground will be in our hands and we will be in access whenever we wish without ado of getting permission. A wide dark space we used to see from the opposite side at night time will soon be replaced by citylights enriching the beauty of Aizawl City.

The people are now convinced that anything is possible if unbending effort is given. As the Bible says 'hardwork brings success', we are now witnessing the result. This is truly a blessing and we all must be thankful to God. So, I give my support to this resolution.

SPEAKER : Next is, Pu KT Rokhaw. A few minutes remains to be 4:00 PM and we have to continue with this topic otherwise another business needs to be taken.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, the resolution moved by Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo is appreciative as any party in the ruling had given efforts for the achievement of the Assam Rifles evacuation. As already pointed out, the ministry of PC and Congress party too determined the same and even allotted Zokhawsang for their relocation. As this new government comes into being, the hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga again urges the Central and we are now about to see the outcome. I am very thankful and I give my support to pass this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I welcome this resolution of relocating the Assam Rifles moved by hon. member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo. I thank you, Pu Speaker for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

We used to call it 'Lammual', the largest field we have in our state. As the saying goes, 'the largest lake in Mizoram is in Burma', our largest field is under the authority of the Assam Rifles. To hold some festivals at Lammual, we have to obtain prior permission of the Assam Rifles authority. Thanks to the initiative of our hon. Chief Minister, those days come to an end.

In 1998, under the leadership of Pu Zoramthanga, ₹14,517 lakhs was allocated for relocation of the Assam Rifles not later than 2003.

Pu Speaker, we will now have a place to build a place for public gathering or a decent park for the upcoming generations. So, I give my support to pass this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us invite the hon. Minister Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am happy that Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo has moved this resolution. Let the praise and honour that we give to some leaders indicate our blessings at the same time.

I am happy to see that none members take a side in passing what is good for our state. Pu Speaker, as we have experienced in the previous ministry, it is an obligation to criticize any resolution which may be moved from the opposition bench. Thus, we used to make a negative reaction. Today, we are going to pass a resolution from the opposition bench unanimously. In the previous term, a resolution regarding UN declaration on the right of indigenous people, 2007 was passed only after amending the context but not as it original form. I am happy to see that no such atmosphere prevails in our mind for it concern the welfare of our future. I believe the initiative of the hon Chief Minister is praised not only by the members here but the people as a whole.

Next is, as to how and for what purpose the place will transformed. It is suggestive that we transform it into a place that everyone has a feeling of ownership. Instead of filling the place with some large buildings, I suggest that we make enough space so that the major people enjoys the surrounding views. Pu Speaker, I support this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Next is, the hon. Opposition Group Leader, Pu Lalduhoma; he will have more minutes than others.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, it is truly anticipating that the Assam Rifles are moving out. The present and of previous ministry had given effort for this achievement and I convey my thanks to all of them.

As intimated by the Under Secretary of Home Ministry to our Chief Secretary, the final decision was made in the meeting on 7th February. Now, after waiting for a long time and some people had even given up hope, we are finally going to see the reality. Therefore, I give my support to pass this resolution. I hope that all private land holdings are cancelled. The government should also take a strongly decision in this regard and we will back it up.

We may have another plans but should be reexamined so that it is used only for public purpose and put my faith in our leaders to act accordingly. I support the resolution moved by the hon. member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

SPEAKER : Let us invite the hon. House Leader if he has any clarification to be made.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I have no knowledge of this resolution before nor it was going to be moved. I only know the resolution of Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo and others members from the Buletin. Therefore, I want to make amendment on this resolution as it appears as if it is the initiative of my party only. So, if we have to mention an individual name, let us put it as “Plan made under the leadership of Pu Laldenga for relocation of the Assam Rifles from the heart of Aizawl city...”. Though it is appreciative to receive the final order during my party’s ministry, I do not think it is appropriate to put an individual name in it. So, let us amend this resolution, if the mover agree as “We are thankful that the Assam Rifles are moving out from the heart of Aizawl city”. As already mentioned, this was also negotiated during the District Council as well as under the leadership of Pu Ch. Chhunga and Pu Thena. However, the real motivation to relocate the Assam Rifles was triggered and was followed by unrest between the civil and the Assam Rifles which was during the reign of Pu Laldenga. The final plan has also been laid at the same time and was countersigned by the then DC cum Secretary, Pu Dengchhuana and the Commandant/Colonel of the Assam Rifles. The Cabinet Meeting then passed a resolution not to name any of the infrastructure in there after the name of any living individual. So, it is inappropriate to put my individual name in the resolution.

It is true that we all had given our best effort for the achievement. However, the decision of exchange of land was done under the ministry of Pu Laldenga and he was the one who took the initiative. Since then, the case remain stayed until my party came into power from 1990 to 2000. As a leader, it is my responsibility to take initiative and I have a long meeting with Assam Rifles Director General at Shillong, approached the Home Ministry and the Prime Minister through talk and letters. As such, we are giving a lot of our efforts in this case as we even rejected their demand of holding the quarter guard as a historical site.

The place in exchange was in Zemabawk; and since no action is made to implement their relocation, it was temporarily utilized by the local farmers as wet rice fields and the Assam Rifles had not made any objection at that time. However, as my party returned to power in 1998, the said farmers were instructed to abandon their fields as the Assam Rifles had started to make an objection. Then, I urged the Central and Assam Rifles Director for the fund and they give us 145 crore. With this fund, they started the work and after much negotiation, we forced them out from Khatla where Capital Complex is now located.

Another thing I would like to mention is as to how to utilize the place. In our previous ministry, we made rule that the area to be vacated should be utilized for only public purpose or should be amended if it had to be used otherwise. So, if we want to use for other purposes, we will have to amend it. However, we will not intend to move for amendment to the bill we already have legislated. After this session and the hassle of election is over, I intend to form a committee which will include members from the opposition as well. We will carefully consider later as to how the place be utilized.

In the case of the name to be given, it may be suggestive to name after some renowned persons such as Pu Rokunga to commemorate their contributions to our society. Likewise, we may name after some persons as well in the future. In short, we will utilize the the place for the benefit of the public. So, if the mover agree, I suggest that we pass the resolution by amending some portions as suggested.

SPEAKER : Now we will invite the hon. Home Minister to a take the time as he wishes.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. This resolution is so important that four others members, in addition to Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo have submitted the same.

At the outset, I would like to relate the words of a senior politician that we would have achieved this 14 years ago when Shri Shivraj Patil, Union Home Minister visited Mizoram with a plan to announce relocation of the Assam Rifles along with approval of the revised estimate for Tuirial Hydel Project. However, some leaders advised him not to do so for the credit may go to the ruling MNF and so was delayed. Today, I am happy to have the opportunity to deliver our thanks through this resolution.

As per record of the government, the Assam Rifles occupied 5 different places. The one being vacated is of the battalion headquarters and sector office will be evacuated by the 2nd phase. For information of the House, the area occupied by the Assam Rifles at Zodin Square is 16 hectares (i.e 39.54 acre), the family lane also

known as Kacha Lane at Khatla is 81.8 hectares, DIG/Commandant Complex is 1.20 hectares, Nursing Staff quarters at McDonald Hill is 0.20 hectares and Firing Lane at Chite is 25.08 hectares. So, the total area occupied by the Assam Rifles is 124.28 hectares (307.1 acres).

As already stated, relocation of the Assam Rifles is regarded a necessary since the beginning of UT government. A convenient place to that effect had been searched in the area of Luangmual, Chawlhmun and Tanhril but was not continued during the period of 1980 to 1984. The searching was then resumed and the suggestion to evacuate the battalion headquarter at Khatla was rejected by claiming the land being offered as too small to accommodate them. So, Zokhawsang was then suggested by allotting 1305 acres of land under Pass No.DPL 8 of 1987, 14th July, 1987.

Recently our Chief Minister approached the Union Home Minister at Delhi for relocation of the Assam Rifles. Consequently the Union Home Minister under his chair summoned a meeting on 7.2.2019 as the Addl. Secretary, Home Deptt. represents the Govt. of Mizoram. Our proposal was then submitted in the meeting which was followed by order of the relocation. The Ministry of Home Affairs further intimated the Govt. of Mizoram to clear up the site before April, 2019 and the Assam Rifles to inform the Engineer Project India Limited (EPIL) to complete the work before the 31st May. At present, the PWD and PHE have done their parts of work but EPIL has the Administrative building, officer mess and army quarters yet to be done. Efforts are made so that the work is completed in March and the internal road of the complex in April. As of demarcation and boundary pillar of the allotted site at Zokhawsang, the work will be started this month and will be completed in a short time as it is done with GPS application.

The government carefully examined the case and found out that 54 Nos. LSC and other Pass are existed in the area including 35 LSC holders and 15 House Pass holders. PHE, Bethlehem Primary School, NGO and V/C are also included among land lease holders totalling 54 Nos. LSC.

The Cabinet Meeting held on 8th March decided to cancel these LSCs and assigned the Revenue Department to take measure. Pu Rochhunga Ralte of Electric Veng surrendered his House Pass to Revenue & Settlement Department which is much appreciated. The Revenue Department is expecting if any others may willing to follow the example. The government will deliberately cancel any pass whether or not the holders are willing surrender the pass. I hope the NGOs and other parties would support this decision.

Pu Speaker, since the Cabinet passed not to name any place or building within the premise after any of the living individuals, I believe suggestion of the House Leader regarding the wording of the resolution is acceptable. So, As suggested, I think

it is more appropriate to pass the resolution in its amended form. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us invite Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo to windup the discussion of his resolution and move the House for adoption.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. 15 members participated in the discussion including 3 Ministers, our House Leader and 6 from the opposition bench. It is seen that we give important enough and I am very thankful for that.

I support the House Leader's suggestion regarding amendment. As the Home Minister mentioned about him, he is humble but stands in the principle of praising the enemy and that criticism is our friend. Therefore, Pu Speaker, I request this august House to adopt my resolution that "the Assam Rifles who are living in the heart of Aizawl city are relocating following plan initiated way back".

PU VANLALHLANA: Pu Speaker, I do not know whether it is the right procedure for amendment. May we verify how it is written in the Rules?

SPEAKER : According to our Rules, one clear day is needed to make amendment. However, Rules 131 underlines that the Speaker may so decide with the discretionary power vested in him. So, it will be drafted and have a discussion on it. "We are thankful that initiative under the leadership of Pu Laldenga for relocation of the Assam Rifles is now come to reality as the Central Government issued an order for their moving to Zokhawsang".

I am glad that the atmosphere of the discussion is light and merry. The hon. House Leader suggested replacement of his name in the context of the resolution with a more appropriate term and it now becomes quite agreeable to all concerns. So, I ask the hon. House Leader if he has anything to say.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, what you said is right. Let us adopt it by omitting the words 'the government under Pu Zoramthanga....'.

SPEAKER : I respect the opinion; it does not make much differences if the name of Pu Laldenga or his Vice President Zoramthanga appears in the context.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we see in Rules of Procedure 130 (1) that it is under your discretionary. We still have 10 minutes which will be lapsed unless you give more chance to speak. I agree with the suggestion made by the House Leader that it may be adopted if the mover agreed.

SPEAKER : We may proceed as permitted by the rules. Our Secretary will put up the draft in its definite form and we will adopt it. Our time will be incomplete unless we reach 5 pm.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: If so, Pu Speaker, give us 5 minutes to fill in the remaining 10 minutes and our recess will then follows otherwise we need to tak up the next resolution.

SPEAKER : It is correct. We should go to the next resolution unless we reached 4:00 pm. So, we may now take a recess and then be resumed at 4:10 pm.

4:10 P.M.

SPEAKER : I am deeply grateful that today the House witnesses an act of modesty. It is great that we all bears patriotic mind on the matter being discussed. Next is, how to amend this resolution. Let us listen the opinion of the mover, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. As the hon. House Leader suggested, the resolution may be amended as “We are thankful that the Assam Rifles who are living in the heart of Aizawl city are moving out after a long negotiation”. I move this august House to adopt the resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : As the mover has agreed with the suggestion made by the House Leader, I approve the amendment as per Rule 130 page 7. Our resolution now reads, We are thankful that the Assam Rifles who are living in the heart of Aizawl city are moving out after a long negotiation”. Those who agree to pass the resolution may say, ‘agree’ (MEMBERS: ‘*Agree*’) Since none oppose, the resolution is unanimously passed by the House.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : We finished our business for today. The session will be resumed on Monday, the 18th March, 2019.

(Sitting is adjourned.)