

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

**LIST OF BUSINESS**

FOR NINTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023  
(Time 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM)

**QUESTIONS**

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

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS  
PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS**

2. (i) Private Member's Bill  
**DR. VANLALTHLANA** to move that The Mizoram (Land Revenue) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be taken into consideration

**AND**

***to move that the Bill be passed.***

- (ii) \*Private Members' Resolutions.

LALHMAHRUAIA ZOTE  
Commissioner & Secretary

\*\*\*

---

\* Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 287, dated the 15th February 2023 for relative precedence of Private Members' Resolutions to be moved.

**SPEAKER** : *Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.*

- *Romans 13:1*

Respected member Dr. K. Beichhua is absent from today's sitting due to family matters.

### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

We will start question and answer hour and call upon Pu Zodintluanga Ralte to ask *Starred question* no. 121.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister in charge of School Education Department be pleased to state-

- a) Are there any employees under Federation of Mizoram Samagra Employees (FEMSE) who are unable to receive their salaries?
- b) Were the employees under Federation of Mizoram Samagra Employees (FEMSE) able to receive their salaries on time?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister Pu Lalchhandam Ralte to answer.

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

- a) There are no employees under Federation of Mizoram Samagra Employees (FEMSE) who are unable to receive their salaries.
- b) There were times the employees under Federation of Mizoram Samagra Employees (FEMSE) were unable to receive their salaries on time.

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

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, as mentioned by the hon. Minister, there were no employees who were unable to receive their salaries. However, sometimes, they were unable to receive their salary for 2-3 months. And they were some who have not receive their salary for this year. Will the government be able to give them their salary as soon as they received it from central government?

Secondly, during this term 29 teachers have been transferred from my constituency. There are many schools without teachers. Recently, class-8 students from Lungchem are without teachers as their teacher has been transferred to another place. Would the hon. Minister be able to provide us with teachers where they are needed?

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

**PU LALRINSANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you.

- i) Were increment given to teachers under Samagra? If so, by how much?
- ii) Is there any plan for teachers under Samagra to be employed under better employment terms?

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary question* from Pu K.T. Rokhaw.

**PU K. T. ROKHAW** : Pu Speaker, thank you.

Tipah V Centenary Hr. Sec. School is the only higher secondary school within Palak constituency with over 200 students. The school is established by the community and their salary is provided from job card and MLA Fund. Our current status is lump sum grant-in-aid. Would the hon. Minister be able to upgrade us to adhoc-grant-in-aid status?

ECM Higher Secondary School at Siaha is a church school which is currently under lump sum grant-in-aid. Would the hon. Minister be able to upgrade us to adhoc-grant-in-aid status?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer the questions.

**PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, in the past, there were times they were unable to receive their salaries for about 4 to 6 months. Recently, they were unable to receive their salary for about two months. In the month of December, they were given their salary for the month of December as well as their due salaries. Salary for January and February will be given out next week as well. The reason why their salary was delayed was to calculate their arrears and increments. (**Pu Zodintluanga Ralte:** Pu Speaker, there is no excuse for not giving their much-needed salary. Please admit that the department was late.)

I agree with Pu Zodintluanga as several teachers were transferred out of Thorang constituency. There is shortage of teachers almost in every constituency and we are doing our best to address this issue.

In answer to Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte, increments were given to teachers under Samagra. 15% increase in DA were given to all employees. Medical allowance to the tune of ₹1000 was also given every month. 5% increase in DA was given to those working for 8 years and above, 10% increase in DA to those working for 16 years and above. Also, better employment terms are proposed for them and is currently under review.

School upgradation is currently reviewed by the department and finance ministry. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Dr. B.D. Chakma to ask *starred question* no.122.

**PU B.D. CHAKMA** : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department be pleased to state-

- a) Please furnish the number of AAY, BPL and APL family ration card holders (in district-wise) from the year 2018-2022.
- b) Is there any notification from the Central government on free distribution of food grains for the year 2023?
- c) If yes, please furnish a copy of such notification from Central government.
- d) How many families of Mizoram will get benefit out of this notification in category wise (AAY, BPL, APL)?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer the questions.

**PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the answer for the questions posed by Dr. B.D. Chakma is quite long. Shall I read it out loud? (**Dr. B.D. Chakma:** That will not be necessary since the information will be provided to us in the evening. We can move on to the next question.) Pu Speaker, shall I oblige?

**SPEAKER** : Since respected member agreed, we shall move on. Your answer will be enclosed later on.

**PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, my answers are-

- a) Answer in calendar year is attached.
- b) Yes
- c) A copy of Government of India Notification is attached.
- d) AAY families- 25511 Nos; PHH families (BPL) – 1,42,702 Nos; Non-NFSA is not applicable. Total – 1,68,213 Nos families.

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary question* from Pu B.D. Chakma.

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

- i) Pu Speaker, my constituency has several incidents where names from a ration card were deleted when upgrades were made, can these names be re-entered in the ration card?
- ii) Can stocks be made for monsoon at Parva godown since the village is quite far from Vaseikai?
- iii) Can you please provide a comparative number of BPL and AAY families between the previous ministry and current ministry?

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

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, is the hon. Minister aware that Supply Department has convened with NGO's to raise the rate of white ration cards?

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

**PU C. LALMUANPUIA :** Pu Speaker, we received free distribution of foodgrains from central government, what is the amount provided by Mizoram government?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer the questions.

**PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the following are my answers to the question posed by Pu B.D. Chakma.

Re-entry of names on ration card can be made by the concerned person by submitting a complain at DCSO.

Due to the condition of the roads, monsoon stock might be difficult. However, Parva and Damdep godown will be listed as selected godowns in the future. It is not possible to calculate the exact number of BPL and AAY card holders as the numbers are prone to fluctuate.

In answer to Pu Zodintluanga, we are aware of the proposed increased rate for rations. Committee for this issue is established under the leadership of the hon. Deputy Chief Minister. This is due to the fact that food grains for white ration card is purchased at a rate of ₹27.50/kg while the subsidy rate is ₹15. Increased rate is proposed to reduce the amount of loss suffered by the government.

In regards to the amount spent by Mizoram government for free ration, it is ₹19,766,312 per month. Retailer margin is ₹1772329.50 per month and total loss carried by Mizoram government per month is ₹21478641.50.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Dr. Vanlalhlana to ask *starred question* no. 123.

**DR. VANLALHLANA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for School Education Department be pleased to state-

- a) Is there any plan to increase the maintenance amount given to schools per year which currently stands at ₹25,000?
- b) Will the newly constructed MICE building be actually habitable?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer the question.

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

- a) ₹25,000 for school maintenance was received through Samagra Shiksha from the central government. Since the amount is received from central government, it is not possible for us to answer the question.
- b) Newly constructed MICE building is expected to be habitable.

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

**DR. VANLALTHLANA** : Pu Speaker, ₹25,000 is inadequate, would it be possible to increase the amount?

The hon. Minister answered my question at this House on 25.2.2022 regarding construction of Ramhlun Vengthar High School. What is the current situation regarding this?

Also, will it be possible to provide additional teacher at Ramhlun Vengthar Primary School-I for ECCE nursery teacher?

There is shortage of seats at Buchhawna Memorial School with chairs borrowed from YMA. Would it be possible to provide them with additional seats? Also, the state of the building is unsafe especially for the teacher's room. We would be grateful if the hon. Minister could address this issue.

Lastly, I would like to request the renovation of Republic High School. Thank you.

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

**PU LALCHHUANTHANGA:** Pu Speaker, renovation of government schools in rural areas were done last year through NABARD loan, would this be possible for government schools in urban areas?

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

**PU C. LALMUANPUIA** : Pu Speaker, is there any issue originating from staffs at Education Department since it is such a large department? If there is, do they plan to restructure?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer.

**PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I would like to mention that Dr. Vanlalhlana is very passionate about education and his questions are carefully noted.

Composite School Grant is given on the basis of enrollment and as such funds are given based on the number of students they have. In regards to Ramhlun Vengthar High School and the question posed by Pu Lalchhuanthanga, we are currently pursuing several schemes to cover the construction and renovation of schools within urban areas.

In answer to Pu C. Lalmuanpuia, there are currently 3000 vacant posts in the whole department. Restructuring of the whole department is at an early stage. We have submitted DP&AR for this and are awaiting the outcome. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu K. Laldawngliana to ask *starred question* number. 124.

**PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA:** Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department be pleased to state-

- a) Does distribution of NSFA food grain comes with a price or is it free?
- b) How many storekeepers and PE are there? Is there any plan to recruit more?
- c) How many stocks of rice do we currently have?
- d) Who are the members and Chairman of Food Commission?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer the questions.

**PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you.

- a) NFSA food grains was distributed for free since January 2023.
- b) 9 storekeepers were recruited in 2019-2020 and 2 PE in 2020-2023. Plan for recruiting more is in progress.
- d) Food Commission Chairman is Pu H.L. Rochungnunga, members are Pi Remliani, Pu C. Zasanga, Pu Vanlalrawna and Pi Vanlalchhuangi. Member Secretary post is always held by the ongoing Joint Secretary of FCS&CA.

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary question* from Pu K. Laldawngliana.

**PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. My *Supplementary questions* are-

- i) How many kgs per rice does the government suffered a loss for NFSA, AAY and PHC?
- ii) How many kgs per rice does the government suffered a loss for Non-NFSA 'white card'?
- iii) What is the reason for the increase of cooking gas? What does the government do to achieve this?

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

**PU LALRINDIKA RALTE:** Is the government aware that rations given out to the public does not reach the actual kgs that they are supposed to receive? If they are aware, can they end this?

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

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, regarding the DPR draft, it was mentioned that the answers will be uploaded in e-Neva, but it is still not done yet.

**SPEAKER** : They were not well received and as such they will be uploaded after question hour.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : That will defeat the purpose.

**SPEAKER** : It was done according to the choice of the members...

**PU LALDUHOMA** : *My Supplementary questions are-*

- i) How do they nominate rice suppliers?
- ii) How do they penalize rice carriers if there is shortage?
- iii) It seems like fortified contains more chemical than the usual rice that we used to consume. Does the government conduct research on its effect on our health?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer the questions.

**PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the following are the answers to the questions posed by Pu K. Laldawngliana.

- i) The government carried a loss of 0.45 paise/kg.
- ii) The government carried a loss of ₹12.50 per kg.
- iii) This is due to the coordination and cooperation between staffs, department and distributors. We also appealed to the union minister to supply us with more cooking gas. During the previous ministry, 15 truck trips of cooking gas were received daily which increased to 23 truck trips during the current ministry.
- iv) In answer to Pu Lalrindika Ralte, if there is report of underhanded dealings, we always take action to stop the issue.

In 2016, the previous government issued contract for supply of rice in an open tender. However, the response rate is low and not reasonable which creates huge problems. Therefore, as provided by Chapter-2 (2.3) of the Supply Manual, "Government Agencies may supply" MIZOFED was selected and supplied at ₹27.50 (SPAB rate fix). Afterwards ZIDCO has replaced MIZOFED for some time now at the same rate of ₹27.50 according to our supply manual. Thank you.



**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Dr. F. Lalnunmawia to ask *Starred Question* No. 125.

**DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA** : Pu Speaker, *Starred Question* No. 125. Will the hon. Minister for Food, Civil Supply & Consumer Affairs Department be pleased to state -  
“Is the Hill State Transport Subsidy Bill still pending? How many have been sanctioned?”

**SPEAKER** : Hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana may reply.

**PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, Hill State Transport Subsidy bill is still pending. ₹25,53,69,563/- has been already sanctioned.

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

**DR. VANLALHLANA** : Thank you, Speaker Sir.

The BPL and AAY card holders, when shifted to another localities, are forced to avail APL Card. It seems this is because base-land survey is not done regularly. Is there any proposal to solve this problem. Thank you.

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

**PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA:** Thank you, Pu Speaker.

- i) Is there any Mizoram State Consumer Welfare Fund for 2021-2023? How much money is in the Mizoram State Consumer Welfare Fund?
- ii) How many places are Digital Scales and Manual Scales used?

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana may reply.

**PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER:** Regarding Dr. Vanlalhlana’s question, even though the matter is a possibility, The central government has already introduced a scheme called 'One Nation, One Ration Card'. Therefore, no matter where they move, they can still buy rice with their card once they reported to the DCSSO where they are located.

Besides, regarding Pu C. Lalsawivunga’s question, Pu Speaker, In 2020, State-matching share of ₹20 crore and Central-share of ₹180 crore were received. In 2022, State-matching share of ₹180 crore and Central-share of ₹200 crore is already received which means a total of ₹580 crore has been received. The balance which is expected to be received from central government is ₹14.20 crore. As on 12.22.2023, the interest amount of ₹19,35,039/- on that is what we have for what we call the Consumers Welfare Fund (CORPUS).

Manual scale is not allowed to be used anymore. We don't know if any retailers are using it right now, unless something goes wrong. There are 31 damage reports, which are being prepared by the company and are expected to be completed soon. Electronics Weighing Scale is expected to be used by all; according to the report we received.

**SPEAKER** : Hon. Member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo may now ask *Starred Question* No. 126.

**PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon. Minister for General Administration Department be pleased to state –

- a) Has the Government taken any steps to change the name of Mizoram MLA Constituency?
- b) If so, when can it be implemented?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga to give his reply.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the answers to Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo's Question are –

- a) There is no such step taken.
- b) The date cannot be given as there is n proposal for it.

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary questions from Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.*

**PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO:** Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Pu Speaker, it seems the names of the Assembly Constituencies area bit confusing as they are from name of rivers in its respective area. Can the government do something to rename them?

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary questions from Pu Vanlalhlana.*

**PU VANLALHLANA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question is –  
Is proposal for delimitation of constituencies submitted to Election Commission?

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary question from hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.*

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, what is the present status of the All-Party Meeting on constituency delimitation under the leadership of the Hon. Dy. Chief minister? Is that still going on; is there any hope?

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga may now answer.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, there is consultation on changing the names of constituencies. However, it is not yet pursued officially. It is the same regarding Pu Vanlalhlana's question also. It seems this will also answer Pu Zodintluanga's question also. There is a problem to pursue the matter as election is just around the corner.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS**

**SPEAKER** : The *Question Hour* is now over and thus, we shall move to *Private Members Business*.

Today we have two Private Members Businesses, a Bill and a Resolution. As always, we will take the Private Members Bill first. Private Members Bill - "The Mizoram (Land Revenue) (Amendment) Bill, 2023" was presented by Vanlalhlana. A copy of the bill has been distributed to the members.

Let us now call upon Hon. Member Dr. Vanlalhlana to beg leave of the House for the introduction of his bill.

**DR. VANLALHLANA** : Pu Speaker, I hereby beg leave of the House for the introduction of '*The Mizoram Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2023.*'

**SPEAKER** : Does the House agree? (**Members** : '*Aye*') If so, let us call upon Dr. Vanlalhlana to introduce the Bill for discussion.

**DR. VANLALHLANA** : Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank my fellow members. I don't want to spend too much time introducing this bill. I think we are ready to speak on the *Private Members Resolution*. I submitted this Bill in a short time and the Speaker approved it. I would like to thank him in particular. It is not my intention to stir up contentions and debate. I think it is good to talk about how land reforms can be done. We are Legislators, Law-makers, and that is where we can stand together.

*The Mizoram Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2023* is the name of the bill. I think this is the fourth time we have discussed Land Revenue. Recently, we passed a Bill on Land Revenue. This bill is meant to insert Section 48(a) just after Section 48. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read with your permission -

"Progressive rates on Land Revenue Taxes and fees (increasing tax rates with gradual increasing numbers and or area of land holding possess by a family) will be used to determine the total land revenues taxes and fees payable by land holders". Section 48 was amended in 2019. It was ammend in 2022 and Proviso is added. It seems there can be conflict with the proviso also which i have to explain later on. The bill is a

bill that will change the amount of tax collected according to the amount of land owned and the size of the land.

‘Family’ in this Amendment Bill is the same as Clause 17 of the Principal Act which is also amended in 2019. The intent of this amendment act is clearly stated in the ‘Statement of objects and reasons’. Many states have Land Tax Acts. I believe, that not only in India but also outside India, we all know the laws in this regard. Land Reforms have been implemented in other states of India also. Some states repealed such laws while others introduced. Likewise, there are many differences.

Land reforms are a matter of courage for the government. Therefore, members should pay attention to the issue. The population is growing and the gap between rich and poor is widening. It seems that the rich buy land even when they cannot manage it. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the poor to buy land. Many people bought land with their savings and with loans. People who indulge in illegal trade buy lands for the purpose of money laundering at very high price. This made very difficult for the poor to avail lands. It is in this connection that this progressive tax system is introduced. The financial memorandum also states that the bill does not require any additional funds for the department.

I am not that timid to introduce this bill because this kind of initiatives is already included in the SEDP framed by MNF Party. Let me read out with your permission, Sir-

“Mizoram's land holding system will be reformed and land reform will be implemented. Many of the land owned by private individuals that are not managed will be reclaimed according to the law. Progressive tax collection system will be considered. Land reserve for rice cultivation viz. Land Utilization Plan will be drawn up,”

With your permission Sir, ‘SEDP Book – 2029’ also on page 15 stated –

“A 2.4 clause 8: Land Reforms – “The land holding system in Mizoram will be reviewed and systematic land reforms will be given priority which will include reclamation of unused land by the state government. Progressive taxation system will be introduced for land revenue”

It is apparent that this Bill is in accordance with the government’s policy also. It will serve as fulfillment of such policy. Therefore, I introduce my *Private Member’s Bill* for discussion. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : We shall now take the Bill for discussion and debate. Each member will be allotted 10 minutes time. Let us call upon Hon. Member Pu L. Thangmawia.

**PU L. THANGMAWIA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am happy that this Bill has been introduced today as it is one of the focuses of our party.

All members, those on your left and right, need to think carefully. This will have a huge effect on the future generations, not only in urban areas, but also in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I personally support this progressive tax bill. As already read out, Section 48(a) stated – “Progressive rate on land revenue taxes and fees (increasing tax rates with gradually increasing number and/or area of land holdings possessed by a family) will be used to determine the total land revenues, taxes and fees payable by land holders” tih a ni a. However, the description seems to be 'urban-oriented'. There is a question if it is applicable in rural areas also.

The main act is called “*The Mizoram Land Revenue Act, 2013, Act No. 5 of 2013*” The description of ‘household’ is a bit vague. It is not explained if two or more LSCs should be termed as a single one if it is owned from the same household. This may create problems if progressive tax has to be implemented.

On the other hand, it will increase the government revenue which will be a positive change. Meanwhile it poses a question if the bill will serve the purpose of more equal distribution of land.

Besides, Section 36 of the present act states about ‘Allotment of house site in urban and notified town area’ as ‘The area of house site per household to be allotted will not exceed 1337.80 sq.m or bigha’. There is no explanation of household in this act. The explanation will become more important if it has to be progressive.

Pu Speaker, it seems that the present act, if enforced properly already serve the purpose of this bill. Moreover, I cannot see how this will be more effective than the present act especially in urban area. In addition, this bill is for increasing tax collection. It should be noted that more taxation may impose problem to the people.

Land revenue tax and fees are fixed by the Government and can be revised by the Government at any time. Land revenue tax and fees are revised regularly by the Government. Progressive tax may also be notified through the present act. Therefore, the researchers should also look into whether it is necessary to include the law in this particular way.

One of the reasons for the bill is that “a person buys land as an investment and leaves it unused as an investment he doesn’t have any products.” However, according to the present law also, there is a provision that if a person does not use his land properly (as I mentioned today), social audit can be conducted and the allotment can be cancelled.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. However, the way I support it is - not to remove it, but to look into it again. If there is a provision in our legislation, a committee should do the review and research how it may affects the people. Thus, I support it with conditions. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Hon. Member Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, this resolution is a long-standing priority of the Government and the ruling party. Therefore, I think we should all be happy. Even if we are hesitate to pass for some reasons, I propose that it should be refered to *Select Committee*.

During the NLUP period, many lands were distributed to private individuals, but many of them were sold due to poverty. I think the people near the city have already sold out. Such is the situation in our state. If this continues, most of our state will be in the hands of in no time. That will influence our politics, our society, our NGOs, even the church.

In addition, the rich people who we do not know the reason for their wealth are buying land, especially in Aizawl. There are many landless people in the city, and it is very difficult for them to buy a house, not to mention a garden. We are responsible to attend this problem.

Regarding difference between urban and rural areas, urban area and rural area are not the same in the present act also. In rural areas, the rate is lower and the land ownership can be expanded as required. The bill's purpose is not to impose difficulties to the poor, but to protect them. In fact, the present act does not clearly mention progressive taxation. Therefore, this amendment bills is the answer if it want progressive taxation.

Therefore, we do not think this is to be denied. The Mizoram Land Revenue Act, 2013 (section-iv) provides that, Pu Speaker, I would like to quote with your permission—

“The Government may, at any time, and for sufficient reasons, change existing rate of taxes and fees in such a manner or to such an extent as the government may deem it necessary”. Something can be done through this act also. However, if this bill is passed. Progressive taxation can be introduced without further amendment of other acts.

Pu Speaker, I hope that the Ruling Parties will support this Bill. It will be the fulfillment of their manifesto. Therefore, I support the unanimous passage of this bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Hon. Member Dr. K. Pachhunga.

**DR. K. PACHHUNGA** : Thank you, Mr. Speaker sir. *The Mizoram (Land Revenue) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*, a private bill by Hon'ble Member Pu Mathlantea, is very important. Mizoram is a small state compared to other states. However, I think we are too small to occupy, the villages are too far apart. I think we still have a good portion of community land.

Aizawl context kan ngaihtuah chuan he bill hi thil awm tak pawh a ni a. We gathered at District capitals in hope of better living conditions. Many people, their income being very suspicious, buys any plot at a very high price. It mekes very difficult for the poor to have their land due to such condition.

I have mentioned the '*Robin-hood tax*' in this House. I thought that if a person owns twenty houses then the land is not taxed progressively. If they can pay it, the government tax will increase; but I think they have a limit that they cannot pay. I think it's a good idea to levy low taxes to the farmers and progressively to excessive land owners.

Regarding the Riverine Reserve also, the problems we are facing today are the result of forest degradation. From an environmental point of view, experts believe that the riverine and potential areas should be given to the people. We also need to consider which is better; will it be sustainable and which will be more environment-friendly.

According to the existing rules 'The Mizoram Land Revenue Act and Rules, 2013', there are various types of land allocation. The prescribed land is one bigha per family. However, we all have more than one bigha. That is contained in Clause 2 of Section 36. Section 41 (2) of the Act provides for the allocation of garden land which is 60 bigha per family. Periodic patta is essentially a '5 years duration term'; There are also sections on how to cancel if you don't use it or don't use it. Because we don't have a land ceiling, it is difficult to punish a person who buys land according to the law. People sold their land to the rich because they were in trouble due to medical issue issue, divorce, bankruptcy, family matters, etc. Therefore, the rich cannot be blamed for having a lot of land.

Our SEDP book also supports land reforms. Therefore, I am cent percent in favor of implementation of this Act. Everyone born and raised in this state has the birth-right to own land. I want the rich to even give their land to the poor free of charge. We know that real estate is also a form of employment.

Therefore, I think this Act is good for the development of our country and for everyone - poor, rich and any group. There is also a provision for progressive tax. Therefore, Pu Speaker, I would like to see the bill referred to the *Select Committee* for further consideration. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

**PU C. LALMUANPUIA :** Thank you, Pu Speaker. We have heard about the importance of the Bill - “*The Mizoram (Land Revenue) (Amendment) Bill, 2023.*” It is apparent that it is an important one. Meanwhile, it may possibly imply that the rich or the land owners are in the wrong. It should be noted that this is not what it means. The main purpose is more rational distribution of land and prevention of excessive land ownership by the rich.

However, it is my opinion that this may possibly cause a problem for the people living in rural areas. In order to succeed in farming, a huge plot of land is needed. If the Bill imposes progressive tax to the farmers for owning such huge plots of lands, they will need to pay a huge amount as tax. Besides, it takes time for commercial crops to become mature. It means that the farmers will need to pay taxes from their farm even before they harvest the product of their land. It may become a problem for the poor themselves. Thus, careful consideration is required.

The Bill may be quite suitable for urban or city areas. However, we cannot take that only into consideration. The people living in rural areas should also be kept in mind. Therefore, even though it is an important and much needed Bill, deeper research and consideration is needed. It may create some problems if it is passed and implemented immediately. So, I suggest that it should be referred to *Select Committee*.

On the other hand, our state is still very large and we have not occupied a huge area yet. There is still a large area of unoccupied land in the western, for instance. We need to consider what is best for our state. It may be better that the people having the capacity to hold lands acquire larger areas and develop our land so that we can have more production for our state. Thus, this Bill is a very good bill but may not be suitable for the time being. I suggest it to be referred to *Select Committee* for further consideration. Thank you.

**SPEAKER :** You managed your allotted time very well. Let us now call upon Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

**DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA :** Thank you, Mr. Speaker sir. Hon'ble Member Dr. Vanlalhlana's private members' bill, “*The Mizoram (Land Revenue) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*” on progressive tax is a good one. However, we need to think carefully, including the rural artisans. We have large tracts of land for gardens. If progressive tax is implemented, the poor will suffer a lot. Therefore, if the law is not properly considered, the rural people will again turn out to be the victims in reality.

In addition, even in urban areas also, NGOs, churches and communities in the city have large tracts of land. We have large tracts of land for parks, cemeteries and other purposes. If progressive taxation is introduced, we will be taxed more on all these things. We can create problems for ourselves. Therefore, further consideration is needed.



(Dy. Speaker in the Chair)

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : You may continue.

**DR. ZR. THIAMSANGA** : Thank you. And as mentioned, the poor often sell their lands to the rich because of illness, financial difficulties, or need. Therefore, they often buy more land than they need because they want to help others. It is also wrong to levy taxes on these people. Therefore, this Bill is a matter of serious consideration.

Further, there is a way to benefit those who can afford to have more land. If they have more land and use it properly, it will be an important source of income for the state also. Thanks to them, the poor will have jobs and their situation will improve. There is a better way to use the land than to have a lot of unused land.

There are other ways of looking at good things. We want to develop livestock breeding and agriculture. In addition, each person will have to own large tracts of land. In this regard, this Bill may create difficulties. Therefore, I think it is better to refer it to *Select Committee*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us call upon hon. Minister Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga.

**PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

The purpose of the Bill is to include Section 48A progressive tax. As I understand it, if Progressive Tax is introduced, taxes will be increased if an individual owns more than one property. The more land he owned, the more taxes he would pay. The Statement of Object and Reasons for the bill states that it is to ensure that the poor have access to land at a lower price and equitable distribution of land holding. It is an important thing that is good to accomplish.

Meanwhile, on the other hand, there are many issues that need to be considered regarding Benami Transaction. Benami Transaction is a transaction in which a person buys land without his own name to evade taxes for holding excessive land. The central government itself has passed a Prohibition Act of such transaction.

Control on private land ownership is a huge topic and the addition on the act is going to be brief, but influential. The Land Ceiling Act is also a matter of concern. Some other states also had this kind of act and some had already repealed. Benami Transaction Act and Land Ceiling Act in other States should be considered and research should be done thoroughly.

The world is facing a pandemic, and the people and the government are facing difficulties. It is also worth considering whether the tax increase is the right time in this

time of crisis. Article 371G of constitution which protects the state, may cause problems in the implementation of these Ceiling Acts. I think we should consider these too.

Therefore, progressive tax is a matter that affects the people. Therefore, it is better not to pass it immediately. Therefore, I suggest that the amendment regarding Section 48(a) be carefully studied before the bill is passed.

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

*(Recess till 2:00 PM)*

**2:00 PM**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : We shall now resume our discussion on Private Member's Bill. Let us call upon Prof. F. Lalnunmawia.

**DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA** : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

The Mizoram Land Revenue Amendment Bill, 2023, introduced by the Hon'ble Member today, is very important. It is a very important and serious bill which I am also personally interested to. Besides, we have already included it in the SEDP and we are trying to implement it after forming the Ministry. However, it is due to the pandemic that everything has become difficult.

The bill seems to be more focused on the city. The bill's most prominent feature is the 'progressive taxation system.' The tax rate was increased to enable large land owners to pay higher bills. Mizoram Land Revenue Act, 2013, Section 48(a) should be inserted through this bill. Mr. Dy. Speaker, in the current Allotment of Land Act, the land ceiling for a household is 1337 sq. mt. in case of house pass and 60 bigha in periodic patta. However, I believe there will be many who owned bigger allotment than that. Therefore, it is very important that we reform our land ownership system.

Mr. Dy. Speaker, if you pass this bill now, it will have a lot of impact. The purpose of this bill is to cover Aizawl city and District city area. The bill is expected to have an impact on rural and remote areas of the country. I think the government is studying these issues. If this bill is passed, we will have to pay progressive tax in all rural areas. Therefore, while this is a good bill, I think it is very important that we have awareness among the people. Otherwise, if we pass it and implement it immediately, I am afraid that this bill will have a negative impact and problems.

Mr. Dy. Speaker, as mentioned, tax increases can have a negative impact on rural areas, especially in the SEDP-Flagship Programme, which is land-based employment and agriculture and horticulture - farming system. This Bill can create problems for the

beneficiaries. That needs to be considered. And Mr. Dy. Speaker, tax increases can have a negative impact especially on rural areas. I think we should look at the land base activities in rural areas as we set our eyes on the urban areas. It is the same for start-ups who need time for making profits. Restriction on ownership of land may also hinder the development of wetland cultivation and the increase in production.

Therefore, Pu Dy. Speaker, I suggest that more considerations is needed before passing this Bill. Thank you.

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

**DR. VANLALTANPUIA** : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

I would like to mention the points where I support the Private Members Bill “*The Mizoram Land Revenue Amendment Bill, 2023*” as well as where I do not. First of all, I would like to give credit to Dr. Mathlana for his performance as a legislator.

The MNF Manifesto has already included this Bill. The SEDP can be divided into three components. Firstly, *Administrative Policy*. Secondly: *Land-Based Policy* and *pathumna* lastly *Manpower Development Policy*. This bill is in connection with the second one. Even though this bill targets the rich owning excessive lands, it may have negative impact on the poor farmers as well. That is why careful consideration is imperative.

It is the same in many other laws also. Say it may be the impending UCC or IPC for instance, it always have a ‘side-effect’ at different levels. A law which is effective at one place may be futile at another place. Therefore, enactment and amendment of laws requires careful consideration.

This amendment Bill also is targeting mainly on uneven distribution of land in urban areas. It seems to be aiming for the welfare of people who move to urban areas from rural areas. However, it should be bear in mind that people living in rural areas own many excessive lands for their livelihood. Therefore, it may have immense effect on them if it is passed.

Therefore, I suggest that it may be better not to pass at the moment. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Dy. Speaker, Thank you.

Our hon. MLA Dr. Mathlantea I think is commendable. He had introduced two private bills this term. I would like to say that our Legislature Party supports this bill. It is cunfusing that the ruling party suggests for further research ang considerations. It is

already included in their manifesto. It seems they added without any serious consideration. I reckon the bill is the need of e time. There is no point of wasting time discussing as it is already supported by the ruling party also through their election manifesto.

It should also be kept in mind that there are rather important subjects in our business. Our legislature party is of the opinion that it should be passed unanimously if it is for the betterment of the state. Thank you.

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

**PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER:** Thank you, Mr. Dy. Speaker. Aizawl North-II MLA Dr. Vanlalhlana’s has introduced an important bill for Mizoram today. However, it should be noted that there is a lengthy procedure for introducing the Bill.

I am not expert in this kind of bill but I can observe it as a well great work as a legislator. The spirit of this private member bill is supported by the MNF party also. In this connection, i would like to mention what I think is our need. Houses were owned floor wise nowadays. Howeever it cannot be registered separately. It is desirable that separate foors can be given separate LSC. I request the Revenue Department to look into this matter. Act in this regard may also be passed accordingly.

Secondly, there is a long procedure for a Bill to pass in this House. Approval and vett from Law Department and Finance Department is also required. Therefore, it seems this bill could not be passed at this moment as it lacks all those process. I agree that the intent of this bill is quite good. It may be introduced later with better preparation and amendments.

Lastly, this bill may impose problems in economic development works in the state. It will hinders our land use policies for agriculture, industries and other land-base business ike contract farming, large scale cultivation, etc. Thus, I suggest that the ongoing research and consideration by the department should be waited. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

**PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO:** Pu Dy. Speaker, ka lawm e. I would also like to commend Hon. Member Dr. Vanlalhlana from Aizawl North-II Constituency for introducing “*The Mizoram (Land Revenue) Bill, 2023*”. However, in my past experiences, I witness that all the people who have excessive do not have negative intentions. There are times when some people beg them to buy their land. It should be also considered if the timing of its introduction is right.

It is obvious from the Bill itself and from the discussion also that this bill targets the land owners or in other words, the rich. It should be kept in mind that the government is for all the people irrespective of their wealth. I think it is inappropriate to pass this kind of bill which directly targets a particular section of the society. Besides, applying uniform laws all over rural and urban areas may not be best for the state. All these need to be taken into consideration. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us now call upon Hon. Member Pu Vanlalhlana.

**PU VANLALHLANA** : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

I really appreciate this Private Member's Bill as it requires a huge dedication and hardwork. However, what i do not understand is that the ruling party, while supporting progressive taxation even in their manifesto, are still opposing this Bill aiming for the same. I do hope they have the courage to stand for what they believe.

One of the arguments from the ruling party is that it will affect the people in rural areas, which is not valid. In fact, there are many rich and wealthy people in rural areas also. There is no point all those people, if they have excessive land, should be exempted from paying progressive tax even if they are from rural areas. Besides, it is irrational to claim that it is too early to pass the bill as it is already the last year of this ministry.

Therefore, i urge this bill to be passed unanimously. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us call upon hon. Minister Pu Lalchamliana.

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. This bill is a short one which states "*progressive rates on land revenues, taxes and fees (increasing tax rate with gradually increasing number and/or area of land holdings possessed by a family) will be used to determine the total land revenues, taxes and fees payable by land holders.*"

*Ceiling on landholdings and land reforms* are a matter we used to discuss in our years as a student. I also support the bill in principle. I am of the opinion that it should be passed unanimously. However, the Opposition Group Leader suggests it to be refered to Subject Committee. I am now a bit confused if even their party is unanimous.

Land Reform or land tax revenue is an important matter. It is due to their achievement in this connection that Left Front parties remain in power for a long time in West Bengal. However, it cannot last forever and they were defeated and remain very weak since then. Therefore, it is necessary to consider carefully the measures that will create a burden for the public. Otherwise, I would like to say that 'we can cause harm to the people'. Even through the present act, the government can impose higher tax. However, the main problem is how much taxation is appropriate keeping in view the

condition of the people. It is imperative on the part of the public also that we need to pay taxes for our own development. The government alone has no finance for development. All the money sanctioned by the government is contributed by the public.

Speaking solely on the Bill, I am not well versed with the bill or the principle act. However, in the light of our discussion, I support it to be further researched and scrutinized. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Er. Lalrinawma.

**ER. LALRINAWMA, MINISTER:** Thank you Mr. Dy. Speaker Sir.

The Mizoram (Land Revenue) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 is a very good bill. Land reform is one of the most important issues in the state. If this issue is not attended properly, it will inevitably lead to further problems in the near future. If we look into the long standing problems faced by other states of the country also, the crux of such problems and violences are based on land issue.

We should learn from the history of other states in our way to development. We should seriously consider how we can prevent this kind of problems in the future. I hope this bill - "*The Mizoram Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2023*" to be an eye opener in this regard. I support referring to *Select Committee* if it could not be passed as it is. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us now call upon Hon. Member Er. H. Lalzirliana.

**ER. H. LALZIRLIANA** : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. This Bill "*The Mizoram Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2023*" introduced by Dr. Vanlathlana is an important one.

The Bill is about progressive rates on land revenues. It states "Progressive rates on land revenues, taxes and fees, increasing tax rates with gradually increasing number or area of land holding possessed by a family shall be used to determine the total land revenues, taxes and fees payable by land holders". 'Progressive tax' should also be briefly explained. Progressive tax is a tax paid by high income earners, whether from their land, business or government jobs, according to their income.

When the Chief Minister presented the State Budget, the first thing I looked at when I saw the budget was the revenue receipt. The first thing I looked at in the Central Budget was capital investment/capital outlay. Revenue receipts are important in the state.

Let's use today's Private Members' Bill as an eye-opener; MNF party has also included progressive tax in its SEDP programme. I personally give 100% support to the revenue that the people should contribute to the government. The Taxation Minister said yesterday that Mizote are the ones who want everything good. However, our tax and revenue collection is very low comparing to other states. The Mizo people should also be aware of this.

In-principle, I would like to say that today's bill is 'very good' The Principle Bill "Mizoram Land Revenue Act and Rules, 2013" also provides for the collection of taxes and the recovery of unmanaged land.

*(Hon. Speaker in the Chair.)*

Rule 25 Clause 4 even stated "*Automatic cancellation of land allotment after 10 years during which the land remains uncultivated or developed*". I reckon this kind of provisions should be imposed properly.

In-principle, this progressive tax is the responsibility of the Land Revenue Department. As we said, whether it is property tax or wealth tax, this progressive rate is supportive. However, more specifically, as other members have said, it should involve many people, not only the rich in the city, but also the poor in the countryside. Therefore, it is my opinion that, even though it is a much needed bill, it requires further research and scrutiny. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Dr. Mathlantea has done a great job introducing this Bill and i think he is performing really well as a legislator. It is true that we need to manage our land well and use it properly. We need to protect them from deforestation, wildfire and soil erosion.

For this to happen, laws and regulations must be established, restricted and guided. Therefore, the government has drafted laws and regulations to protect our land and property under the law even though it may not yet be perfect. It is imperative to pay land taxes for every land we owed.

The main concern of this bill is whether it will bring proportionate ownership of land. It can also be questioned if it will help increase state revenue. In fact, even if progressive tax is imposed, the rich may pay it at ease while the lower section may find it more difficult. Thus, it may not help the poor to own their own land.

While it is a good Bill, it is also important to consider the importance of better Land Ceiling Act and proper land reforms. I am positive regarding Progressive tax. However, better understanding of its impact towards urban and rural areas is imperative. It could be understood that farmers owning huge agricultural lands are going to be affected by this Bill if passed. We need to have better understanding of the negative affects in this connection.

Thus, keeping in view all the effects this bill will bring, i opined that it will be refered for further scrutiny as the Leader of Opposition proposed. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. I will speak in brief regarding our stance in this Bill. Our party, after a serious deliberation, resolved to support the passage of this bill - “*The Mizoram Land & Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”.

As mentioned earlier, the Bill is mainly for prevention of excessive land holdings. It is important to have control and regulation in this regard. The same system may be applied in other public services also.

Meanwhile, what i would like to add is that it seems we are delaying our time so that the next resolution may not be taken for debates. It is unfortunate that this kind of public importance is evaded by the ruling party. I do hope the time will come when the matter is taken for consideration. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us now call upon hon. Minister for revenue Department Pu Lalruatkima.

**PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker.

The *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly* provided for introduction of *Private Mmber’s Bill*. Accordingly, this Bill introduced by Dr. Vanlalhlana aims at addition of Section 48(a) to Section 48 of “Mizoram Land Revenue Act,” which runs “progressive rates on land revenue taxes and fees increasing rate with gradually increasing number and or area of land holding process by a family will be used to determine the total land revenue taxes and fees payable by land holders.” The *Statements of Objects and Reasons* clearly mentioned the purpose for the amendment also. The main purpose of the bill is to have *Equitable Distribution of Land* among different sections of the society.

As we have heard, there are different regarding the Bill. Keeping in view of the existing law, it seems to have connecting with *Land Ceiling Act* also. The purpose of this Bill is already covered by the existing Land Ceiling Act which prevents the rich to



have excessive lands. The existing law has prescribed the area of land which can be possessed by a single household also. Besides, as mentioned by the Hon. Members, we have to keep in mind that there are many people who owned excessive lands due to the need of the poor who in distress sell their lands to the rich.

The term 'household' is defined in Section 2(17) of 'Revenue Acts, 2013' as "*Family* means person such as parent, children and dependence including servant who live in one house and used common kitchen." Meanwhile, amendment was made in 2019 changing the definition of family as, "*family* in relation to person includes person such as grandparent, parent spouse, sibling, decedent, all the person including adopted children". Subsequently, the definition of 'household' is defined as "*Household* means a member of a family loving alone or together as separate social unit using the same kitchen."

This 'Revenue Act' has been amended multiple times. The Government had also created 'Expert Committee on Land Reforms', the recommendations of which is considered by *Land Survey Board*. The said progressive tax in this bill is already recommended in a form of 'progressive taxing of land-holding.' It is not yet introduced into a Bill because the COVID crisis hinders the process.

It is also a huge question if it is appropriate to increase taxation for the poor farmers in villages. If this Bill is passed, it means that higher tax will be levied in their agricultural lands as well which seems inappropriate. Besides, Land Revenue is a Department which affects all the families. Amendments in this regard should also be done in a way that has least affect against the poor.

The hon. Opposition Group Leader suggested the bill to be referred to *Select Committee* which means that there are some shortcomings within the bill, Therefore, with all due respect, Pu Speaker, I also suggested it to be referred to Subject Committee. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Hon. House Leader Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I will try not to take a long time. I've been thinking about this for a long time, as much as I can. We also carefully considered the potential problems. "What can we do to get proper utilization of our available land" was also in my mind.

Secondly, we need to consider how we can increase the taxes paid by the people of our country. I have thought about two things a lot viz. 'good land distribution' and 'good tax collection'. The Land Ceiling Act was a difficult law to divide the land. Fixing a rigid land ceiling will mean that many land owners will be strip off their land. Therefore, i gave up trying to distribute land through Land Ceiling Act and consider

progressive taxation system as the best solution. For that purpose, grading of land is necessary which I am trying to bring forward. It is obvious that we will need many more Surveyors for that. As we are trying to recruit more Surveyors even in MR service, the outbreak of COVID pandemic hinders all our efforts. This Bill, introduced by Dr. Mathlantea is what we keep in mind for a long time. It is also my suggestion that necessary steps should be taken for its implementation. However, it seems there are some shortcomings and some amendments needed. Thus, I support the Bill to be referred to *Select Committee*.

**SPEAKER** : Now we shall end our discussion by calling upon the owner of the Bill to wind-up our discussion. There is a suggestion for *Select Committee* also which can also be considered. Let us first call upon hon. Member Dr. Vanlalhlana.

**DR. VANLALTHLANA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. First of all, I also thank the hon. Members for actively participating in the discussion of my *Private member's Bill*.

I would like to make it very clear that this Bill is not about Land Ceiling but about Progressive taxation. It does not try aim at prohibiting one from owning lands but progressive taxation for excessive lands. The need for demarcation of land seems not a problem. Zoning of land is already done by AMC also according to which property tax is collected. It is evident that it is possible.

Regarding the matter of 'utility of land, it does not mean for restriction for agriculture sectors. Provisions can be made to exclude from progressive taxation if their lands are properly utilized for agricultural purposes.

We can learn from the discussion that the Hon. CM is much aware of the matter. It is also included in the flagship programme of the Ministry. However, many of the ruling MLAs mentioned that they never aware of this subject. We need to be well versed with our own policy at the least. We need to be aware if our own party strives towards its policy.

This Private Member's Bill does not aim at any person nor is being submitted targeting any leader. I am just enjoying my right as a legislator to submit a Bill which I feel necessary for our beloved State. It is clear from the *objects and reasons* itself also that it is not to restrict others or acquisition of land from its owners. It is merely aims at better administration and better management of land besides more revenue for the government.

We have heard that the Hon. Chief minister as well as the Hon. Revenue minister is much interested in Land Reforms through their speech. This act will also serve as an important means for Land Reforms. Progressive taxation may, though it is not the main purpose, leads to better distribution of land ownership also. People may tends to sell their excessive lands to those who do not have land if progressive taxation is introduced.

We also learned that we are having huge staff shortage also. It will be better if this Bill is passed and act accordingly with strengthening the department concerned also.

There may be some questions regarding the number of land and areas of land also. However, this could also be easily solved through proper Rules after passing the Bill.

Summing up, Pu Speaker, I am, one again really happy to discuss this bill in this august house. I beg the hon. Members to pass the Bill unanimously or at least refer the bill to *Select Committee* if the ruling Party feel a little hesitant to pass the Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Now we shall move to voting of the bill. We have to options today there are proposals to pass the bill or to refer it to *Select Committee*. Members who are in favour of passing the Bill as it is may now say “*Aye*” (**Members** : ‘*Aye*’)

Now any Member who are in favour of referring the bill to *Select Committee* may say “*Aye*” (**Members**: ‘*Aye*’). It is apparent that the majority are in favour of referring the bill to be referred to *Select Committee*.

Therefore, the *Select Committee* needs to be formed for which we will take a short break for ten minutes after which the sitting will be continued.

(*Recess at 4:36 PM*)

#### **4:48 PM**

**SPEAKER** : We shall now continue our sitting. Let us call upon hon. Revenue minister to submit the proposal for *Select Committee*.

**PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission, I hereby the proposal for formation of *Select Committee* consisting the Minister concerned and the owner of the Bill.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be submitted.

The proposed *Select Committee* is as follows -

- 1) Pu Lalruatkima, Minister in-charge Land Revenue & Settlement;
- 2) Dr. Vanlathlana
- 3) Pu Lalrindika Ralte
- 4) Dr. B.D. Chakma
- 5) Pu L. Thangmawia

The Members proposed for Chairmen are -

- 1) Dr. K. Pachhunga, MLA, and
- 2) Pu K. Laldawngliana, MLA.

Can the House accept the proposal? (*The House agree*) If so, the *Select Committee* thus formed, under the guidance of the Chairmen shall pursue the Bill.

We have now finished the Business for today. The Session shall continue on Tuesday at 10:30 AM.

*Sitting is adjourned. (4:53 P.M.)*