

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FIFTEENTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 28th 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.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS

2. **PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
3. **PU C. LALRINSANGA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
4. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, Hon'ble Chief Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

**DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON SUPPLEMENTARY
DEMANDS FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023.**

5. Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demands for the year 2022-2023.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bills for introduction, consideration and passing

6. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, Hon'ble Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants 2022-2023) Bill, 2023".

Also

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

7. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, Hon'ble Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Appropriation (Demand for Grants 2023-2024) Bill, 2023".

Also

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed

LALHMAHRUAIA ZOTE
Commissioner & Secretary

* Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 288, dated the 15th February 2023 for Demands to be moved by Ministers.

SPEAKER : “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near”

- Phillipians 4:5

“A wise son heeds his father's instructions, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke”

-Proverbs 13:1

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.”

-Ephesians 6:10

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

We will start with the question hour. Hon. member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng to ask Starred Question No.214.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Health & Family Welfare Department be please to state –

If there are any intentions to revamp Mizoram State Cancer Super – Speciality Hospital?

SPEAKER : The concern Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana may answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker.

Detailed project report had been submitted for the establishment of Mizoram State Cancer Super – Speciality Hospital, and after carefully discussing on the matter by Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and Japan International Cooperation Agency, it has been approved by Japan International Cooperation Agency and delegates from India, where an amount of ₹70,000 Crores had been allocated for the purpose. This agreement was signed at the Ministry of Finance office North Block, New Delhi. Shri Rajnath Kumar Mishra, Addl. Secy. Deptt. Of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Chief Representative of JICA were the signatories while signing the approval. I am glad that we have so far achieve this which I believe is the biggest single project under Health Department.

SPEAKER : Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you Pu Speaker –

- i) Are there any intentions to modernise Zobawk PHC?
- ii) Are there any projects concerning Health Services in Lunglei area?

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, are there recruitments of dental surgeon under National Health Mission without any advertisement? If so, how many are recruited?

SPEAKER : Pu C.Lalmuanpuia to ask *supplementary questions*.

PU C.LALMUANPUIA : Thank you Pu Speaker. My questions are –

- i) Are there any initiatives taken with the project collaborated with Japan International Cooperation Agency?
- ii) When will work start?
- iii) How much is the amount of the project and what is the main purpose?

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary questions* are – Will the government regularise employees under NHM according to their seniority? What will be the next step taken by the government? Will the salaries of NHM be given soon?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I will start with the questions of the hon. member Pu C.Lalsawivunga.

So far, 2000 number of employees had been regularised and salaries till the month of January had also been given. Regarding NHM Dental, we must know that there are certain posts where employment duration is uncertain and cannot last long, so in such cases interviews are conducted.

Regarding PHC at Zobawk, doctor will be posted if regular doctors are available or after they are recruited under NHM and PHC will be able to function properly subsequently.

Regarding achievements at Lunglei, Integrated Lab at Lunglei was inaugurated yesterday and CMO office had also been established. Construction of PHC at Lungsen and Tawipui is ongoing and to refurbish Civil Hospital, an amount of Rs 300 lakhs had been allocated from World Bank and an amount of 190 lakhs had also been allocated to revamp Integrated Lab at Lunglei Civil Hospital.

On the questions raised by Pu Muanpuia, it is named Mizoram State Cancer Super Speciality Hospital and Researched Centre, since our aim is not only to treat cancer patients but also different other ailments and we hope to establish it to become the most prestigious hospital in India and as mentioned earlier the total cost of the project is Rs 70,000 crores where Rs 560 cores will be funded by JICA and Rs 140

crores will be funded by the government and the working duration of the project is 6 years and loan repayment period is 40 years. We hope to start the project very soon and after processing all the necessary documents, JICA hopes to complete the project in 2028. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask *Starred Question* No.242.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you Pu Speaker, my questions are for the concern Minister of Sports & Youth Services Department –

- a) Who will be the caretaker of Lawngtlai Residential Sports School which is under construction at Lawngtlai College Veng?
- b) Has the caretaker been appointed?
- c) If not, will there be no caretaker after utilizing such kind of funds?
- d) Is there a possibility of giving charge to YLA College Veng Branch?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. member questions are –

- a) Sports & Youth Services Department will take care of Lawngtlai Residential Sports School after its completion.
- b) Yes, caretaker has been appointed.
- c) Yes, there will be a caretaker.
- d) The government is planning to

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask *Supplementary questions*.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, Sports School needs coach, boys/girls warden, principal, teachers, staff and security and since we do not see any funds allocated for these purposes, when will they be recruited? Pu Speaker, as promised by the hon'ble Minister, is an amount of Rs 30 lakhs allocated for excavation of Lunglei Theiriath Mual? When will funds for the construction of Thingkah YLA office be given as mentioned on the 2nd March,2020? Are there any possibilities to increase the tempo of the construction work of Mampui Sports Complex? Will post be created from Sports & Youth Services, if so, when will it be implemented?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhuanthanga to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. How many Sports arena/ground are constructed within Hachhek Constituency and how much had been utilised for the purpose?

SPEAKER : Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Is Lawngtlai Residential Sports School which is under Sports & Youth Services, funded by District Council & Minority Affairs Department taken over Sport Department?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Thank you Pu Speaker. Athletes are very much enthusiastic about the establishment of Sports School and two Academy had been established for football at Kolasib- Saidan and SYS at Lunglei and we have achieved championship after my Ministership from these two academies which inspires us to propose for the school where the estimated funds amount to ₹3400 lakhs solely for the infrastructure. We have also been approached by different companies and societies which have run sport schools and they are all very enthusiastic about the establishment of the schools. We have also received letter of interest from them. Regarding Lawngtlai Sports school we hope to run the school efficiently under the leadership of our hon'ble Chief Minister. The ongoing construction of the building is estimated to be completed next year and YLA had placed the school in our hands and LSC had also been registered in our name.

Regarding Mampui District Sports Complex, we have applied for the gap funding scheme at PMJVK and we hope to have more fundings for District Sports Complex in different districts in our State. There are no intentions to create posts for Mampui since it is an infrastructure project, but caretaker will be posted.

Regarding the slow tempo of work, the work order issue had only been taken recently and hopefully their labour camp will also be constructed as expected.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, as we see in the proceedings page no – 417, the hon'ble Minister mentioned that he will try to allocate more funds for the purpose and he also assured me on the Dt.2.3.2022 and till now we have not receive any funds for the purpose. So, when will funds be allocated for this purpose?

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. We are all aware of the financial crisis we are facing and I am sure the hon'ble member, as a former Minister will be well aware of these facts. So, as stated by the hon'ble member, we will fulfil our promise.

Regarding Hachhek Constituency, an amount of ₹30 lakhs will be allotted for the excavation of their fields during this autumn season. As to the question by Pu Lalchhuanthanga and Pu Lalrindika, the constituency is an aspirational district and PMJVK covered area and we have also inaugurated Laldenga's Football Ground at Tuidam and another football ground at Kawrthah. We have also witnessed many

developments at different areas and I will try to provide the list to Pu Lalchhuanthanga today itself.

On the question by Pu Zodintluanga, DCMA is under PMJVK nodal department and since Sports school is not under the allocation rules of DCMA, I do not think it will be under its authorization.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, does the State government hand over the project to Sports Department? Or is it to be considered later on?

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, DCMA is a nodal department and it will conduct the implementation of the projects according to the rules and process. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. Vanlalhlana to ask *Starred Question* No.243.

DR. VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker, Will the concern Minister, the Hon. Chief Minister be please to state –

- a) The number of beneficiaries before the sitting of SEDP Executive Board on Dt.8.2.2022?
- b) The amount of GSDP to Debt percentage from the year 2019 till today?
- c) Apart from Health & Family Welfare Department, are there any other departments which are audited?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: The answer to the hon. member questions are –

- a) Before the sitting of SEDP Executive Board Dt.8.2.2022, there are 7801 beneficiaries, they are:-
 1. Agriculture Department – 5563
 2. AH & VETY Department – 1022
 3. Commerce & Industries Department – 438
 4. Horticulture Department – 413
 5. Land Resources, Soil & WC Department – 360
 6. Sericulture Department – 4
 7. Science & Technology – 1
- b) The amount of Total Outstanding Debts and Liabilities (Percentage to GSDP) are –

<i>Item</i>	<i>2018-19 (Actuals)</i>	<i>2019-20 (Actuals)</i>	<i>2020-21 (Actuals)</i>	<i>2021- 22 (Actuals)</i>	<i>2022 – 23 (RE)</i>

Total outstanding debts & liabilities (₹ in crore)	7,315.55	8,671.79	9,881.09	10,570.93	12,479.25
As percentage to GSDP (in %)	32.89	32.72	33.98	40.98	41.29

c) NIL

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions* may be asked by Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Does SEDP Board study our pilot project (SEDP) and submit their reports? If so, can the copy be provided? I assume we have our SEDP guidelines and looking at the minutes of the committee, it has not been submitted. So, what is the reason and if it had been submitted, can the copy be provided? What are the plans made regarding the distribution of Urban Local Body Grant amounting to Rs 37 crores and what are the criteria?

SPEAKER : Pu Zothantluanga to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. What are the criteria to be an SEDP beneficiaries?

SPEAKER : Pu C.Ngunlianchunga to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Has ₹3 lakhs been distributed to 7000 families under pilot projects? Is the distribution of ₹3 lakhs had not been completed, will they be able to complete the distribution during this ministry?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, regarding the study of SEDP report, I am not aware since I am not a member of the executive committee, but due to Covid lockdown it was difficult to conduct any kind of studies and also to compile reports.

Regarding UNB grant, it will be conducted as per the guidelines. As to the question raised by Pu Zodintluanga, selection is conducted by an Executive Committee at the State Level, District Level Committee and Village Level Committee.

On the question by Pu Ngunlianchunga, due to the pandemic we are unable to distribute ₹3 lakhs on time.

SPEAKER : On behalf of Er. H. Lalzirliana, Dr. K Pachhunga may ask *Starred Question* No.244 since he has authorised the Hon. member.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Health & Family Welfare Department be please to state –
When will Tuipuibari PHC function since the construction of the building had already been completed?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer to the hon. member questions is – The functioning time of Tuipuibari PHC is still uncertain.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Pachhunga to ask *Supplementary question*.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. First, I express my gratitude regarding the installation of ICU bed and HDU bed at Lunglei and also for the inauguration of Urban Health Awareness at Sethlun and also for the installation of oxygen plant. Pu Speaker, do we have an ICU bed, if so, how many are there and if not, are there any intentions to install these beds?

SPEAKER : Pu K.T. Rokhaw to ask *Supplementary questions*.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Is there a possibility of posting a doctor at Tipa at the earliest and also to install an X-ray machine?

SPEAKER : Dr. B.D Chakma to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Does PPP mode still exist between CADC and the State Ministry? Is the hon'ble Minister aware that Borapansury Medical Officer (An Ayush Doctor) is in Chhawngte without any official acknowledgement? How are the salary of Borapansury hospital staff and other expenditure funded, is it from CADC or Mizoram State Government?

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu K. Laldawngliana.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Are there any initiatives taken for the establishment of Ayush Hospital? If so, what is the achievement so far on Hortoki Ayush Hospital? When will Bukpui PHC building be inaugurated?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we are considering the condition of Tipa PHC but we have to bear in mind that 51 Nos. of them have reached their superannuation pension and some continue to pursue their PG and some have also died. Hopefully there will be about 100 graduates by the end of this year and I hope they will meet our requirements.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, points of order – Our MBBS students will need to do their internship which will take a year, meaning that our need to fill up the vacant posts of doctors cannot be fulfilled anytime soon and since our Medical College is not yet recognised they will not be permitted to practice.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: We hope to acquire recognition very soon after inspection is conducted by National Medical Council of India, meaning that we will be able to meet our requirements of doctors in the near future. As for the X-Ray machine we hope to install in the required places soon and we will prioritise the repairing as well.

As to the questions raised by Dr.B.D.Chakma, it is a bit difficult to provide the answer at the moment but I will provide the drafts later on. Regarding the doctor posted at Borapansury, yes, we are aware and acknowledge the situation and hope he joins his post very soon after availing his leave.

On the question by Pu K.Laldawngliana, the Central Government give great importance to ‘Medical Plants’ and had allocated a large sum amounting to ₹15 crores for the establishment of Ayush Hospitals in different areas and an amount of ₹750 lakhs for smaller establishment of hospitals. I believe Hortoki will also be among the earmarked area for these projects. I am uncertain about the inauguration of Bukpui PHC but the progress of work is very rapid.

Regarding the hospital beds, we have installed 12 nos. of ICU beds for children at Lunglei Hospital and counting from the number of beds installed during this ministry, they now have about 40 nos of ICU beds. Pu Speaker they have the first Trauma Centre in Mizoram and the oxygen plant at Lunglei is working well and we have also installed oxygen plant in every district in Mizoram and I believe we need not worry on these matters at the moment. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We have come to the end of our *question hour*. May I now call upon the hon. member Pu R.Lalzirlianga to make a statement regarding the Autonomous District Council.

STATEMENT BY A MINISTER

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Based on the 125th Constitution 73rd and 74th Amendment, the ADC’s have appealed to the Central government for direct funding and the Home Ministry stated that it is against the

constitution scheme and could cause enmity between the state and ADC's. So, I will read the report given on these matter. "The Committee feels that direct funding of ADC's by the central will not only be against the existing constitution unnecessarily effect the relations of ADC vis-a vis state government adversely. The very amending Article 280 of the constitution is to make uninstitutional provision through state Finance Commission, the said provision is on the lines of Article 243(1) and 243(y) means for Panchayat and Municipalities and 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts." It concluded that "The Committee therefore, agree to the proposed Amendment to the Articles 280 and does not suggest any amendment." I may have said things to hurt the sentiments of the people of the South and I apologise for this. I have often asked the hon. Chief minister to change my constituency since I believe they require a more energetic person to represent them and I hope the hon'ble House Leader accept this as my appeal. Thank you.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

SPEAKER : We will now move on to Financial Business, I will now call upon the Hon. Minister Pu Robert Romawia Royte to submit the demands of the following departments – Demand No – 22, Sports & Youth Services Department, Demand No.43 – Tourism Department, Demand No.48 – Information & Communication Technology Department.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. With the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, I lay the following Demands on the table of the House – Demand No. 2,43 and 48 amounting to ₹41,78,77,000.00 for the year 2023-2024. The details are as under –

<i>Demand No</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
22	Sports & Youth Services	25,37,23,000.00
43	Tourism	11,34,16,000.00
48	Information & Communication Technology	5,07,38,000.00
TOTAL		41,78,77,000.00

SPEAKER : I will now call upon the hon'ble Minister Pu C. Lalrinsanga to submit his Demands – Demand No.3,37 and 47 on the table of the House.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. On the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission I lay the following Demands on the table of the House –

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
31	Agriculture	1,70,24,25,000.00
37	Cooperation Department	16,59,29,000.00
47	Irrigation & Water Resources	89,49,22,000.00

TOTAL	2,76,32,76,000.00
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SPEAKER : I will now call upon the hon'ble Chief Minister to lay his Demands on the table of the House.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with the recommendation of the Governor and with your permission I lay the following Demands on the table of the House –

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
1	Legislative Assembly	42,39,97,000.00
2	Governor	30,60,000.00
3	Council of Ministers	7,13,18,000.00
5	Vigilance	6,60,51,000.00
9	Finance	33,24,74,79,000.00
11	Secretariat Administration	1,25,49,29,000.00
14	Planning & Programme Implementation	93,17,21,000.00
15	General Administration	93,49,93,000.00
32	Horticulture	1,04,45,28,000.00
45	Public Works	5,91,17,92,000.00
TOTAL		43,88,98,68,000.000

SPEAKER : We will now start our discussion, each member will be allotted 10 minutes. I will now call upon Dr. B.D Chakma, Hon. member.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starting with Demand No.9, which directly reflects the administrative and financial position of the three Autonomous District Councils of Mizoram. We have experienced a serious procedural lapse in administration and financial management in CADC. Till now CADC have no recruitment rules and taking this as an advantage, the five Chief Executive Members have appointed more than 750 nos. of new employees within four and a half year and it still continues. So, unless financial grants under the first quarter of the new Financial Year, 2023 -24 is released by the Government of Mizoram, CADC employees will remain empty handed, without any salary whereas Biju, our main festival is drawing very near.

Pu Speaker, I strongly demand for grant of sufficient fund out of State consolidated fund. I am not against providing employment to unemployed youth but it should be given depending upon the availability of the funds. So, I urge that all these unnecessary appointments be cancelled immediately to reduce our financial burden.

Moving on to Demand No.45, PWD, I express my gratitude towards the Hon. Minister for granting ₹48.81 crores under Rural Infrastructure Development Funds,

NABARD for blacktopping work of Chawngte – Chhotapansury road which is a lifeline for Tuichhawng and its surrounding villages. I expect the quality of the road will also be durable unlike PMGSY Roads.

Moving on to Demand No.22, Sports & Youth Services, it is sad to know that this department is hauling the majority for funds received from PMJVK. Pu Speaker, you have granted us many PHEs, Ph.Cs. and even Sub- Centres but all these buildings remain vacant without any health supervisors and healthcare staffs and I request these to be considered and to take necessary steps in this regard. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starting with Demand No.22, Sports & Youth Department, the hon'ble Minister had mentioned in the previous year that Upper Republic Hall will be constructed and that he was hoping to construct Bethlehem Vengthlang gym and Republic Veng volleyball court and futsal ground. There is a resident in the futsal ground area who had reached his pension age last year in December, they built an Assam type house and after his pension they were given an NOC by Thlanmual Committee, so, can they authorize such notice? Pu Speaker what is the progress made regarding plans to construct Aizawl Indoor Stadium at Republic Vengthlang. An amount of ₹450 lakhs had also been allocated for this purpose but it was rumoured that Republic Vengthlang YMA does not permit construction in their area, so what are the initiatives taken in this regard?

Pu Speaker, different works had been done and among these, there 28 works which have the same amount which is done by Junior Consultancy Firm. I find this very disturbing since this kind of work are much needed by blocks, groups and units all over Mizoram.

Under Sports Department there are 48 nos of work under restricted tender and 60 nos of departmental works and 84 nos under PMJVK where only 3 nos of works are completed and as for the rest, only 10 % to 20 % are completed. Pu Speaker, if funds for these works are already allocated, why is the achievement percent so less? The budget for Agriculture is reduced by -2.74 % and Irrigation & Water Resources is also reduced by -3.28 %. If we plan to be independent in our rice production, why are budgets for these departments decreasing?

On Demand No.45 PWD, budget demand had also decreased, Pu Speaker, I urge that we should prioritize to achieve progress in Agriculture, Irrigation and PWD. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. member Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. Starting with Demand No.22, Sports & Youth Services, our first step in progress was the Mizoram Sports Policy, 2019 which makes a reservation for sports persons meaning that we need to amend our recruitment rules. Placing Sports under Industry department will generate a revenue which will result in achieving progress in sports in different disciplines.

On Tourism Department, Demand No.43, tourist lodges we have now needs to be renovated and with the upcoming G20 we need to prioritize this matter. I suggest we utilize the external aided project where an amount of Rs 1000 crores is earmarked under Tourism. We have received 7 nos of computer full set in three schools under Information & Communication Technology and we hope we could receive more since it will definitely help to achieve progress in our educational system. Under Co-operation, Demand No.37, I express my gratitude towards the hon. Minister and the Board of Apex Bank for installing two ATMs at Luangmual and Rangvamual Truck Terminal.

Regarding Demand No.47, in order to have a bounty harvest in both Agriculture and Horticulture we need to upgrade and develop our Irrigation & Water Resources. On Demand No.1 Legislative Assembly, our commissioner, officers & staffs are all working tenaciously, I express my heartfelt gratitude for their efficiency. I am also glad that we have achieved progress in the quality of our roads and I thank the hon'ble Chief Minister for giving attention to the development and refurbishing of roads. Lastly, I want to point out that the previous ministry had allotted Kamrul an amount of ₹4,400 lakhs of work, this is mainly because of his quality of work. There are many class – I and II contractors who does not even work for 10 years. So, judging from the quality of his work, I believe Kamrul deserves to be favored. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. K.Pachhunga.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I feel pity for Finance Department for carrying the blame on our financial status without considering the efforts they made to maintain financial stability. The issue of Kamrul have been mentioned, we should know that the previous ministry had given him work amounting to more than ₹4000 lakhs. It was the previous ministry that provide him with the tribal certificate and MNF Ministry who cancelled the certificate. We should not feed the people with unreliable information.

Regarding Healthcare, we should be aware that the liabilities we have were utilized for the need and development of the people. This Ministry had allotted an amount of ₹38.6 crores for the less fortunate.

Sports Department had contributed a great deal and the efforts made by the hon. Minister, he works very hard and had generated revenue for our state and he paved a great path for our sports persons in different disciplines. We also have great potentials

in Tourisms and I request our Hon. Minister to react regarding tourist project – circuit house. Moving on to PWD, even with the torrential rain our roads had been refurbished, at the same time I would request the department to give attention to Lunglei – Aizawl ATL Road as it is in dire need of refurbishing. The Ministry had taken steps in order to be self-sufficient, SEDP had been introduced and plans are also made to refurbish our airport. With that, I will conclude by stating my support in passing the demands of our two hon. Ministers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. As an elected representative, I want to state that we should give all our efforts and energy to achieve development for our State. Starting with Demand No.31, Agriculture, I suggest we should concentrate in giving our best efforts to utilize our agricultural system in order to produce the best harvest. Under PWD, I request our hon'ble Minister to give attention to the road between Zamuang and Hriphaw which is in dire need of refurbishing and also the bridges of Teirei and Langkhaih. Furthermore, I want to state that we should prioritize education and healthcare more than we do in sports as these are the main factors which decides the advancement level of a State. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga

DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA : Thank you, Pu Dy Speaker. Today marks the last day of the 8th Legislative Assembly Session, I express my gratitude towards my fellow members, as a first timer, I may have said things which may hurt the sentiments of my fellow and also the people of Mizoram, so, I want to apologize to them and thank them, specially the people of Champhai North.

I will start with the concern department of our hon'ble Finance Minister, as we are all aware that during the short period when the MNF form the government, an amount of ₹1,38,43,36,500/- was paid for the healthcare bill and a bill for ten years amounting to ₹82,82,44,013 was also paid. At the same time it is important to find an approach to pay the remaining debt amounting to ₹65 cores.

Under PWD, after the pandemic the ministry give priority to the construction and refurbishing of roads and highways. I express my gratitude towards the staff of Mizoram Legislative Assembly for their dedication and efficiency.

Moving on to Sports, we have seen immense improvements in the field of sports among the youths in our state and I request our hon'ble Minister to give priority to the plans on Sports Complex at New Champhai and also to establish Science Centre and a Volleyball ground where they can play at night. I also request that Zotlang Sports Stadium be converted to football coaching centre and also to provide us with artificial grass at Hnahlan field. I request to give priority to the appeal made by Champhai District

Badminton group to establish Khello India Centre and also to give official recognition to Rabung Karate trainer.

Under Agriculture Department, I am glad that we could hold the Best Performing State in Agriculture and we have also achieved the top most position under Good Governance index in Agriculture in 2021. Apart from these initiatives had been taken in order to magnify the production by tilling 484.67 hectares of land. I would like to add that Hnahlan which is under my constituency is a great potential area for cultivation and we have also flourish in the cultivation of grapes. There have been many progresses achieved under Irrigation & Water Deptt. From the present status I believe we will be able to harvest enough to be self-sufficient in the production of rice. With that, I will conclude by stating my support in passing the demands of our three Ministers. Thank you.

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

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will continue our session, I will now call upon the hon'ble member Pu VL. Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Thank you Pu Deputy Speaker. Starting with Demand No. 45, PWD, the budget had decreased by 44.66, I hope this does not have an impact on plans for development in different areas. Construction of bridges between Dampa constituency and Aizawl West – III constructed by Sath Guru Engineering & Allied Services Private Limited were given a show cause notice twice. I am of the opinion that the contractor does not have any respect for the Mizo community. Actions should be taken so that the construction work could be completed as soon as possible. Pu Speaker, there is a connecting road between Lawipu and Secretariat Complex which could be completed with a few more funds. So, I request this should be given a priority, since it will serve a very convenient purpose for the people living in Dampa area.

On Demand No.11, since Sinlung Hill Council had been established, I believe it will be wise to constitute it into a working department. I also suggest that Mizoram Houses in other states should be maintained in such a way which would suit the lifestyle of Mizo Community and that Mizo's should be hired as employees as far as possible. Under Horticulture Department, instead of cultivating more bamboo, it will be wise to find ways to market the ones we have, as the hon'ble Chief Minister had mentioned, we have more than 250 metric tons of bamboo here in Mizoram. I am also glad that the amount of tomato harvest in Thenzawl District had increased to a great quantity and Sialhawk had also increase the production of pineapple.

Under Demand No.31, initiatives are taken to increase the production of corn but in my opinion, it will be more profiting to take measures so we may be self-sufficient in the production of rice. On Demand No.47, Irrigation, it is gratifying to know that an amount of Rs 89 crores is allocated for this department. In order to achieve success in Agriculture, Irrigation and transportation are an important factor which in my opinion should be under the same administration.

Moving on to Demand No.22, Sports Department, artificial turf had been laid in 20 nos of football ground and 2 nos hockey fields. I suggest Hockey ground should be constructed in Aizawl and also to establish a hall for combat sports since we, the Mizo's have high potential in these disciplines.

Under Cooperation department, I believe our society possess a great potential to create a good cooperative movement and why not pursue it in our society? Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. Starting with Demand No.22, Sports & Youth Services Department, I am glad that infrastructures are established in Lunglei Zobawk but unfortunately 'Stay Order' had been received, so, I urge the hon'ble to look into this matter for us. Under Tourism Department, Demand No. 43, it is heartening to know that the department could provide money generation by rendering training to youths for Registered Tour Guide'89 and Tour Guide '26 under SEDP which open doors for employment even outside our State. So, I believe we should prioritize generating funds through Tourism Department.

On PWD, Demand No.45, we are grateful that resurfacing work had been completed at Lunglei AOC-Kikawn road, I also request the hon. Minister to provide information regarding the plans made on Lunglei by-pass road and also the reason for the slow progress of work on Haulawng – Dawn road which is under PMGSY. I also want to point out that Lunglei Circuit House needs to be renovated and Lunglei by-pass road, Eastern-side Road, I request our hon. Minister to give priority in this matter and also LTL road which serves as the backbone of the Southern area.

On Demand No.9 and No.14 Finance and Planning, I compliment the concern minister for their dedication and hard work they put into their concern department during the pandemic which could provide sufficient supplies throughout the state. The cooperation between the local churches and the NGO's along with the government were admirable. We have also witnessed many progresses under Agriculture and since we do not have time to discuss this further, I will conclude by stating my support in passing the three Demands of our hon'ble Ministers. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Thank you Pu Deputy Speaker. We have reached the end of our budget session and we are all aware of the financial crisis we are facing and it is disheartening that we are unable to provide salaries for service sectors. As mentioned by the hon'ble member Pu Lawmawma Tochwng, our Circuit House is in dire need of reconstruction or renovation as we do not have any place to rest during the tour within our constituency.

On Demand No. 22, Sports & Youth Services Department, the Ministry of Minorities has approved an amount of Rs 80,858.48 lakhs under PMKVY scheme for the implementation of project in the minority concentrated area in the State, 18 nos. of work had been disposed and not even one is assigned for Tlabung. We too need sports infrastructure and there are many competent athletes in Tlabung area.

Moving on to Agriculture, the amount of rice required annually from the economic survey amounts to 1,80,000 metric tonnes and our harvest amounts to 62,182 metric tonnes only and the gap is very wide. Our area is a potential zone and if we give more attention, I believe we could have a harvest sufficient to supply our annual requirement. Pu Deputy Speaker, I also want to inquire when Agriculture Block office be established at Tlabung?

Moving on to PWD, there has been many ongoing works under my constituency and I believe it is crucial to give priority to the quality of work and I request the hon'ble Chief Minister to take note that we are also in dire need to construct West Tuipui Bridge. I want to thank all the officers and staff of the Assembly Secretariat for their hard work and friendly disposition. Under Demand No.43, I want to appeal for the renovation of Tourist Lodge at Tlabung since we have good potential to promote tourism in the area. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you Pu Deputy Speaker. Starting with Demand No.1 Legislative Assembly Secretariat, they have been working diligently specially before and during the legislative assembly sessions and I express my heartfelt thanks to them for their tenacious work. I was informed that they lack manpower and I suggest it will be wise to give attention to these matters and I thank the hon'ble Speaker and the staff of the secretariat for their dedication and hard work during the celebration of the Golden Jubilee.

On Demand No.9, Finance Department, we encounter financial crisis due to the pandemic and even during these trying times, I believe there could not be any better financial management as we are all aware that we cannot obtain the amount of funds required through the Central Government. I am glad that an amount of ₹60 crores could be allocated for healthcare and that an amount of ₹595 crores had been placed for SEDP, Rs 300 crores under family oriented head and ₹25 crores for Untied-Fund. An amount

of ₹38.27 crores is also allocated to increase the salary of teachers under Samagra for the state matching share.

Under Demand No.45, PWD, I am not saying that this Ministry works the best, but I want to state that so far this ministry had executed their work better than the former ministries. Work done by NHIDCL is not satisfactory, so I suggest Mizoram government should interfere in the inspection process. Under my constituency, maintenance of border roads at Buarhep, Aitlang are done by PWD and I am glad that PCC flooring along with culvert and bridge construction had been done and an IB construction is ongoing at Bilkhawthlir. Roads between Phainuam – Serlui – Zero point is also under construction. I request the concern minister to give attention to resurfacing of Rengtekawn Zero – point to Bawktlang sub-station which is only about 1 km.

I perceived that PMJVK have covered the whole state and I hope this could bring forth progress in sports under my constituency. We are grateful to the Hon.Minister for providing us an artificial turf at Vairengte – Joint YMA Field. I believe Tourism Department had received a certain amount from EAP and from what I perceived DPR had been made for remodelling Serlui which will no doubt open opportunities for conducting different water sports and adventure sports.

On Demand No.31, Agriculture, link roads had been constructed and land levelling are also done in different areas. Serlui is a potential area for agricultural purpose and I hope the government could supply farming goods like power tillers, grass cutter etc to increase our harvest percentage. Another important point is the restructuring of Agriculture department resulting in many complications. Vairengte had been an AEO station but the vast agricultural land is now barren without any overseer. So, I suggest staff should be posted along with AEO for the convenience of the people. With that I will conclude by stating my support in passing the Demands of our two Ministers. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu C.Lalmuanpuia.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. Starting with Demand No.1 Legislative Assembly, their dedication to their work is admirable but at the same time they lack manpower, so I request our hon'ble Chief Minister to take note of this. Under Finance Department, we are all aware that due to the pandemic we are facing financial crisis but the amount of our budget comparing to last year does not decrease. It is gratifying to know that an amount of ₹595 crores is allocated for SEDP and ₹300 crores are allocated for family-oriented projects and another ₹50 crores for rural areas. To add all these, we have a revenue surplus of ₹417.87 crores and another ₹220 crores under CSS, EAP and NCDC schemes etc. An amount of ₹52 crores is also allocated for SDRMF. On Demand No.45, PWD, construction and renovation of roads had been given priority and construction of bridges had also been initiated in different

areas. Building projects like District Court building High Court Buildings are also ongoing and Lengpui Airport Terminal building is also renovated.

Under Horticulture Department, the amount of harvest in different areas have increased which is the result of family-oriented project under SEDP. Initiatives had been taken under Sports Department for the construction of fields and Sport Policy, 2019 had been put into effect.

FOCUS under Agriculture had been implemented in different areas like Champhai, Mamit, Serchhip, Kolasib, Khawzawl and Saitual covering 300 villages and 55,000 nos of families. Land Development Scheme District had been implemented in 11 districts under IRDF NABARD where farmers are provided with water pipes and funds to construct water tankies.

I once again express my gratitude to PWD for taking initiatives to Hunthar landslide area since this is the lifeline for Aizawl city. With that I will conclude by stating my support in passing the Demands of our two hon'ble Ministers. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. Starting with Agriculture, Demand No.31, why is the budget for this demand decrease? What are the benefits acquired under Horticulture after dispensing more than 2 lakhs of bamboo sprouts? Under Demand No.9 – Finance Department, is there a more rapid way of funds and bills withdrawal since it causes complications in our developmental work. On PWD, it is odd that the condition of our roads has not improved and I believe many engineering officers are unable to execute their work as per desire due to the fact that they are fearful to disappoint the concern Minister.

Under Sports & Youth Services Department, funds have been utilized to promote sports all over the state but in reality, there are about only 1% of youths who are actually interested in sports. I am not insisting that we should not promote it but I am merely mentioning the facts that we need to concentrate more on skill developments which could provide a stable income for the future youths and I believe we should be more cautious and frugal on how we spend our funds, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Firstly, I express my support in the Demands of the hon'ble Chief Minister and our two other hon'ble Ministers. We have encountered many obstacles in the beginning of this Ministry which was followed by the pandemic but even through all these complications the ministry was able to led us to this stage. We are all aware that in extreme monsoon state like

ours, resurfacing and renovation of roads and highways are to be prioritise and it is clear that this ministry give attention in these issues seriously.

Moving on to GAD, we are grateful for the service of helicopters in Farkawn and Khawbung which had saved many lives in case of emergencies. So, we request our hon'ble House Leader to provide service at Vaphai and Bungzung area. Under Sports department, I want to express our gratitude since our constituency will be included under PMJVK. It is heartening to know that our hon'ble Sports Minister give efforts bearing in mind the need to shape and promote youth in the field of sports.

Under Tourism Department, I request our hon'ble Minister to develop our lodges and guest house at Farkawn, Khawbung, Vaphai and Khuangleng under PMJVK scheme. On Demand No.31, Agriculture, we have 541 hectares of potential area and 399 hectares had been utilized for land development and I request for further utilization of the remaining 295 hectares. We do not have guest house at Vaphai, so I request our hon'ble Minister to give attention in this regard. Lastly, I want to request for further progress in MI- Project as we have benefitted a great deal from it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu K.Laldawngliana.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANGA: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. First, I thank God and the people of my constituency for giving me the opportunity to be where I am today. Starting with Demand No.32, Horticulture Department, it is gratifying to know that production had increased immensely like the production of tomatoes, cabbage, dragon fruit and watermelon at Tualte. Under PWD, works like formation cutting, flexible pavement, rigid pavement, construction of bridges and construction of district court and High Courts had been done and some are an going projects. I thank the hon. Chief Minister for the progress made regarding Thingdawl Polytechnic, at the same time I request the concern minister to fill up the vacant post of SDO and PWD who were transferred earlier. I request the concern Minister to take note of Mualkhang – Khamrang road under PMGSY- III and resurfacing of Hortoki, Kawnpui and Thingdawl internal road.

Under Demand No.31, Agriculture Department, among the many projects and initiatives taken to achieve progress, projects to produce premium quality potato seeds at Thingdawl Agriculture Department farm and construction of agriculture link roads and providing pipes and tanky to farmers are indeed very gratifying. Apart from these an area of 484.7 hectares of land are utilise for land development under WRC.

Moving on to Demand No.37, Cooperation Department had proved to be a good source of income generator for the government and there are many registered federations under this cooperation. It controls the market rate and uplifts the under privilege, at the same time they lack manpower. So, I suggest they should be given more attention to achieve better progress.

It is gratifying that our Sports Minister took immense steps to promote sports in our state and I hope and wish we could witness more and more success in the future. I request for more rapid tempo of work at Kawnpui field and we are grateful for the initiatives taken to construct football and futsal playground within my constituency.

On Demand No.43, Tourism Department, I am glad that regular source of income generation is provided and that Tourism Policy 2020 is implemented. We are also glad for eco- tourism project at Khamrang. We must be all aware on how difficult it is to manage finance in our state, I cannot help but admire the how the Hon. Finance Minister had efficiently taken care of Finance Department. Lastly, I express my gratitude towards the staff of Legislative Assembly for taking care of us efficiently. With that I will conclude by stating my support on passing these three Demands. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Hon. member Dr. Vanlalthlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you Pu Chairman. Starting with the Demand of Pu C.Lalrinsanga, I believe it is crucial to give more attention to ‘Farm to Table’ policy in order to be self-sufficient in agriculture products. I have mentioned about fertilizers before, the cost price is ₹260/- at Bairabi, so, I suggest this should be made easily available at an affordable price.

Moving on to the Demand of Pu Robert Romawia, we gave too much attention to infrastructure but neglect promotional funds, so I suggest we should give more attention and act with precautions. I also suggest more attention should be given to health, skill development, entrepreneurship etc. We need to concentrate on careful managements of funds received. At the same time, I support the initiatives taken on Tourism.

Moving on to the Demand of Pu Zoramthanga, it is strange that reports are not provided under different projects under SEDP, so, how are funds received managed?

Pu Chairman, I am not pointing out that this ministry is a total failure, they are not, but I am merely saying that administration could be conducted more proficiently. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Hon. member Er. Lalzirliana.

ER.H. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you Pu Chairman. I am glad that by God’s grace I can attend the last 8th Legislative Assembly Budget Session. Starting with Information & Communication technology, I express my gratitude towards all the staff of the department for launching 5G service. Areas under my constituency like North Sabual, Bualzau etc where we face complication in our signals. So, I request the concern minister and the staff to take note of this.

Mamit is an aspirational district and we are glad that initiatives are taken for many infrastructures within our constituency.

The central government emphasize on the development of tourism, not only on foreign tourism but also in domestic tourism, so, in order to promote tourism, the central in collaborating with the state government create a PPP mode, establish an infrastructures and work on tourism circuits etc, so I suggest we also give our attention in these matters.

On the demand of Pu C. Lalrinsanga, we have submitted a project at Jal Shakti Mission and Irrigation Department of Mizoram is now implementing the necessary steps for the success of this project. He has worked tremendously for us knowing that we belong to the potential areas and so we are thankful for that.

Also, on our respected Chief Minister's demand, let me make a greeting again on the 50th year of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly. We are fortunate that our time has come on this year of 50th anniversary celebration. Our Assembly is very efficient and dedicated. Person like us without experience and less awareness are treated saying, 'this is our MLA' and it is my first time entering this campus. Besides all these they have shown their patience, showed us what all is required and those which we have no knowledge about, my gratitude goes to them.

If I were to be given a portfolio under this government, I would be hesitant to take up Finance Department. We had difficulties in various ways, there was Covid-19, there were border disputes, refugee crises and spread of ASF. In between all those, not only India, but the whole world had faced serious issues and what has been the talk even at Central was the 'Covid-19 effect'. According to researchers, they cannot even predict how long will the after- effects of Covid-19 last. GST collection has decreased, industries and factories were shut down, many families lost their source of income. In those ways, we had faced enormous problems.

Last year, when we attended the PRS meeting, we visited Agra along with a few MLAs, by that time, like in other years, there would be a crowd of tourists in Agra; they would be pushing each other making no way to walk; but by that time, it was the opposite. Star Hotel, located in the heart of Agra city rents rooms for 20,000- 30,000 per night and did not find customers to occupy half of their rooms even after discount. The source of income for other hotels and restaurants, crop owners on the sides, tourists' guides, and monument sellers were all gone. As those were the conditions, I wonder how difficult it must have been to hold the position of Finance Minister. While we only expect the flagship programme to go without its full potential, it is great that we can run at this pace. It is not up to the mark and did not reach expectations; with all these situations, our Finance Minister is praiseworthy since he led us out of this situation, I cannot help but say it. (Pu Chairman, just a minute, please?)

The importance of Horticulture was realized when we experienced Covid-19. Just like the saying, ‘Necessity is the mother of invention’, we saw the work and efficiency of the Horticulture Department. I praise the department for bringing in seeds of fruits and vegetables that are not yet seen in Mizoram. The seeds were quite adaptable to Mizoram’s soil, and it has been a source of income in many villages and places. It serves as a provider when the people of Mizoram face shortages. **(Chairman:** Are you almost done?) Pu Chairman, even though I do have more points let me just end it here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Now I invite respected member Dr. F. Lalnunmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA : Pu Chairman, thank you.

From the demands made by our respected Chief Minister and two Ministers, let me first extend my support towards respected member Pu Robert Romawia Royte’s department. To save time, I shall talk about his three departments concerned all together at once.

As we all know, under the guidance of our Sports Minister, SEDP- Sports, ICT, and Tourism Development Board were established and under his guidance funds were carved out from Central as well. Pu Chairman, I think it is very great that these huge amounts of funds were obtained from Central which we never used to be aware of previously. Initiatives for developing IT in Mizoram and for the development of tourism, NABARD and EAP funds have been planned.

Pu Chairman, at the end of last year, I followed our Sports Minister in Delhi where we met the Central Ministry in North Block and the Finance Ministry. I saw his professionalism in dealing with the Central Government. Since he utilizes his experience in his concerned department, he has brought in real money for Mizoram. He has been utilizing his knowledge in Sports and, since it is his interest, we have seen progress in many ways. He then became the hope maker for many youths of Mizoram. A need of the hour for the Mizo youths is internet connectivity and sports infrastructure. Knowing these, there have been initiatives, and now we have a better internet connection, which we are extremely grateful for.

Also, Pu Chairman, in my constituency Muallungthu, artificial turfs were successfully installed in our playground/ football ground and are ready for inauguration. We expect this by the coming month. Pu Chairman, I invite those sitting on your left to see how happy the youths and sportspeople are on the inauguration day. They may grace the occasion and see in reality how happy the youths are instead of frowning over it here.

Our Sports Minister has been working hard for the Sports department. Maybe a favour was not given to him by our brothers from Opposition which has been under

constant attack. My thought was, as the saying goes, “If the banana tree bears good fruit, it means there are plenty of banana supports”, he too bears fruits and I assume he also has people after him. I advise him to move forward strong and bravely. I am afraid that if the ones on the left constantly bother him, the young sportspersons in Mizoram would be let down.

Meanwhile, Pu Chairman, as we talk about Sports, their performances were quite good based on the demands made by other departments. Regarding health and education, supply of drinking water and ‘100 days labour’, I believe there are no setbacks and that we tried to cover up with Sports too much. I wanted to say that even those departments performed well.

Let me move towards our respected Chief Minister’s department. Pu Chairman, I think that the Horticulture department did not earn much mention. I think it is very interesting. I’ll talk about it briefly.

During our tenure, we have greatly improved in the Horticulture Department, such as vegetables like tomatoes, cabbages and fruits like dragon fruits, grapes, pineapples, oranges and watermelon, wherein harvests of these have increased. Pu Chairman, Ngopa, your constituency and its areas also produced the highest quantity of watermelons. It is great to know that last year, they sold watermelons that amounted to 100 lakhs. With the help of the Horticulture Department, Mizoram has seen improvements in fruits and vegetables.

These days, some people refuse to talk about that and some people often talk about bamboo, an initiative that has not yet succeeded. It is just like the saying, “You only talk about me drinking wine, but not about me drinking milk”. So, we expect them to talk about the ‘drinking the milk’ part as well.

Pu Chairman, as per the initiatives taken by Horticulture, water storage facilities and greenhouses were provided.... (**Chairman:** Just hold on. It’s 4:00 P.M. now and just like yesterday, shall we extend it till 5 P.M.? Do members have a say in this? If so, let’s resume.) Pu Chairman, at Tualte, Dy, CM’s constituency, the youths have learnt how to make tomato ketchup just like how other states manufacture it. Now that they have started making it, I think it’s a great move. Also, under this government headed by our CM, Mizoram has received the ‘Best Horticulture Award’. Last year, at the Agriculture & Horticulture Expo, Delhi, Mizoram also received second prize for the Best Display Award. Pu Chairman, I am afraid it will go in vain, so I had to talk about how we have improved a lot in horticulture.

Talking about PWD, our government has passed its fourth year, despite difficulties in finance, the process of renovating roads is ongoing and is added as well. Pu Chairman, in this process our CM went to Delhi, went the extra mile and came back with money. Our government, during its initial days, went to Delhi and, in those days,

some people mocked us, terming it ‘vuak dup’ (means-swelling after getting beaten). But as time went by, after Covid passed, it has succeeded to a great extent. With the initiatives taken by the CM, ₹600 crores were allocated under the PM – DeVINE scheme which other states didn’t get to receive, which is great. Among all those, paving the roads on Aizawl’s southern and northern sides, making a by-pass road, a bamboo link project road and a connecting road for neighbouring states have been accepted. It is great that with the initiative of our respected CM, various initiatives are to be taken.

Pu Chairman, what I wanted to say is- when we think that the government is not saving money, I believe that, especially regarding roads, we need to take more initiative. Better roads would mean that even the rich and poor, as well as the ruling, and the opposition get to utilize them together. So, I believe this is everyone’s prize and our respected CM, sees these. I wanted to assure you that all our spending is for the people. With the initiative from our CM, Lengpui Airport has been revamped. Even though work was not completed at the recent G2O meeting, we were able to welcome the guests honourably. Because of his efforts, we even received the ‘*Most Proactive State Award, 2022*’, as a part of a regional connectivity scheme. I think these are great achievements. Pu Chairman, let me assure you that instead of focusing on the cracks in some nooks and corners, let us talk more about these improvements.

For the last part, I wanted to make out the demands made by the respected Agriculture Minister. He has been making great efforts, especially in land development; many people in our constituency make use of it and their rice production has increased. We are also thankful that we have been given tanks and pipes for water storage under the PMKSY scheme. It is great to know that efforts have been made to pump out water from rivers and valleys. The government has taken great steps for the improvement of the Agriculture Department. and now we are planning to level up SEDP crop owners and artisans. What I wanted to add is that SEDP is not simply distributed. An example is that apart from money given out corn seeds, soya seeds, areca nut saplings and bamboo saplings were also distributed. It shows that we drive the artisans to work hard and help them financially as well as in giving out seeds/saplings.

Even though we have not yet achieved the desired growth in different ways, Mizoram will attain meaningful progress under the guidance of this government. Our first term might not be satisfactory, but I hope to see better progress in the next term. Therefore, I gladly support the demands of our respected Chief Minister and our two ministers - Pu C. Lalrinsanga and Pu Robert Romawia Royte. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : I gave you 11 seconds extra since you talked about the watermelons from my constituency. Let me invite respected member, Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Chairman.

We have hosted the G20, and the government and people have been preparing a lot. We hope and pray that these will bring good results. In the meantime, this kind of preparation also causes problems for some people. I heard that the roadside vendors were requested to close their business for three days. They are poor, seeking daily bread and requesting them to close for three days makes them pitiful and, at the same time, we are expecting to get good turnouts from this G20. These, I want to mention first.

Let me start with demand no. 31- Agriculture. Self-sufficiency in terms of the economy is the chief aim of the government. We often preach and hear, “If we form a government, we shall depend only on Mizo rice grains”. But our reality is, that I believe we are heading towards a decline in the area of agriculture. When we look at last year’s budget estimate, it was ₹ 175 crores, this year’s budget estimate is ₹ 170 and here itself we did not cross the previous year. Apart from this, when our rice production was the highest, which was between 2015 to 2016, it was 62,089 metric tons. After that, we did not exceed 62,000 metric tons anymore. It was followed by 59,000 metric tons; 60,000 metric tons and we were not able to surpass our production during the year 2015-2016. Maybe we need to take more steps ahead. Mizo people require 2,00,000 metric tons while our production amounts to 60,000 metric tons. That is why we need to improve the state of agriculture.

What I wanted to mention from demand no. 22- Sports & Youth Services is where we often talk about PMJKV. This morning, I wished to inquire more but didn’t get time. I wanted to assure you that with the help of PMJVK, our sports infrastructure has really improved. I believe there is no maintenance under this scheme. We are supposed to maintain everything we have received as a part of the sports infrastructure under the PMJVK scheme. Thinking about what we already have, I think it’s going to be tough. Maybe there is more to come too. If maintenance is not done well, it means it won’t be durable. So, it is already clear about the maintenance in-charge of Lawngtlai Residential Sports School. I request the Minister to provide a clear explanation as to who is doing all the maintenance of the rest.

We have plenty of basketball courts and volleyball courts. In the meantime, I wanted to insist again on the promise made by the Sports Minister before the Local Council elections in Durtlang North. Whenever there is time, I usually talk about it because he made promises and asked for our votes, and we did; till today, I believe he has not yet done what he is supposed to do.

From demand no. 43 – Tourism, skywalk and ropeway seem popular. Along with Sikkim, we have been given sanctions together. But nothing is seen here yet. I heard it has been circulating Lokayukta still. I hope that we can explain why, when other states already have it, why can’t we have the same too.

Let me move towards our House Leader’s demand. I believe he is praiseworthy; he is such a unique leader, and he is incredibly eloquent as well. He made us feel proud

to be a Mizo. Pu Chairman if you listen to his words, “Our state is capable of feeding the Mizo people; it has good rainfall, is peaceful, has a lot of literature, uses one common language, worships one religion and is a disciplined society”. So, poverty can't exist with all these descriptions. Apart from the above-mentioned, “...there is plenty of oil and gas”; poverty can't exist. He even said, “All families can be millionaires” and that was interesting.

(Hon. Dy. Speaker takes the Chair....)

DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may continue.

PU VANLALHLANA : It is interesting to hear, “I will transform Aizawl into a traffic jam-free capital among the states of India”. We doubt it. But after their first term, maybe it was harder than they thought. However, I think this does not make his speech less interesting.

Under Demand No- 14, Planning and Implementation is supposed to plan out whenever the government has big initiatives and how to effectively go with it. MNF’s flagship programme- SEDP is in their hands and has become the government’s flagship programme. It includes various programmes that give hope to the people and the youths who stand on their feet. But I feel that they lack seriousness in the way they are handling this. This government was formed on December 8, 2018, and on February 8, 2022, three years after forming the government, the SEDP Executive Board had a meeting for the first time. This shows that they did not give much importance.

Let me move on to demand no. 5- Vigilance. In the Centre, there exists Lokpal, whereas in other states we have Lokayukta which is an independent statutory body. Mizoram passed the Mizoram Lokayukta Act in 2014 at this House. The main aim of this body is to find out and mete out punishment to corrupt politicians. Without much difficulty, we have it now in Mizoram. Learning about this Act, I believe it’s one of the best among the other states. Some acts allow punishment for the Chief Minister, Speaker, Ministers and other political authorities.

Chapter 3 of Mizoram Lokayukta mentions, - “*Constitution of Directorate of Inquiry and Investigation and Constitution of Directorate of Prosecution*”. It means – “At this Ayukta office, there will be a separate wing for inquiry and prosecution”. But till today, these wings are not yet formed. That is why, whenever they write a report, the Chairman used to exclaim with sorrow, “Now we have to depend on the services of the Anti-Corruption Bureau controlled by the State Government and the CBI, which has been denied permission by the State Government”.

People charged political authorities for corruption cases and filed complaints. Then, these people examined it and if accepted, they registered the case. To conduct a preliminary examination, they refer to ACB or CBI. Most of these cases are referred to

the Anti-Corruption Bureau. However, since they are under the control of the government, they usually have multiple pending, so they are unable to work efficiently and cannot perform properly what they are supposed to do.

One thing I would like to mention from Demand No. 32- Horticulture is that, for the installation of drip irrigation for tomato growers from Chawngtlai, ₹30,000/- each was given to each family. This is for making tanks. The MNF block snatched this work from them. I am not sure if this is reliable or not. I request our Minister to take note of this.

Also, in Demand No. 1- Legislative Assembly, we heard that our Assembly staff are working tirelessly and are pitiable, which is also true. Till late at night, they are still active after we leave work for home. The whole of February is packed with sessions. They came with an empty stomach in the morning and left for home only late at night and I believe they deserve a day off. Pu Chairman, I was thinking about if you could give them a 'chhutti' and I'm also asking for it on their behalf.

For the next part, I want to talk about the MLA fund. I want to thank our Chief Minister. It looks like within this year, during this term, we are going to receive full funds. What I wanted to say is that there is an upcoming election in November. If the election is to be announced in October, the Model Code of Conduct won't be enforced and there won't be room for any activity. So, if we were given an MLA fund before this period, it would reach the people properly, we would be able to work and the election would also be better. So, I request the respected Minister to give us full funds in October.

Let me end it here. Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I invite respected member, Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I believe we are vigilant about House records. As per our guidelines, excessive use of language and use of profane words are not permitted. If such a kind occurs, we tell ourselves that that part may be deleted.

The Starred Question No. 243- from this morning regarding the question on GDSP to Debt per cent presented by my friend Dr. Mathlantea needs to be erased a bit. The reason is about GDSP to Debt per cent, he said that our Chief Minister, who is in charge of Finance, 'also came to know about it', and I heard those exaggerated words. Pu Deputy Speaker, I think that part needs to be erased. I believe that someone who has experience in heading Finance knew about debts, so I wanted to make sure that it must be erased.

Let me head towards Demand No. 456- Public Works. Apart from Vairengte-Aizawl Road, Aizawl- Thenzawl- Lunglei Road is the most important one. So, we must

give importance to these roads. We heard that our Chief Minister's constituency makes use of these and that, 'it is more than ATL's road maintenance'. But I wanted to mention that once we started this government from 2019 onwards, we started and finished repairing pot-holes and did patch repairs. Also in 2019, a re-surfacing was done between Haulawng to Pukpui Road. It means that one should not count only the financial year, but also the following series. Once we started the formation of our government, there were a series of repairs done. A portion was covered in 2019 and another portion was covered in the following year. Let me just mention that since the government is unable to provide financially at once, we did give importance to these roads.

Honestly speaking, when we issue that much money, it is believed to be durable. I hope that our technical people and officials take note of this. I want to say that our roads, which are made with our limited financial ability, are expected to be sturdy and able to withstand a long duration. Also, Pu Dy. Speaker, let me just assure you again that as an MLA who administers these areas having bad roads, in every session I have been saying, "The MLAs in charge of the Southern region are not keeping quiet at all".

As of now, we haven't faced any problems with ATL Road. Last year, the roads were damaged in areas lacking proper side drains and culverts. The puddles were just like ponds and several pictures went viral. I even talked about that issue. So, let our technical staff take note of this - the quality of stones, and right now at this moment, pothole repair is underway and with patch repair, the holes are filled with stones. Because of that, I think there is a hot-mix plant at Lunglei and I think it is malfunctioning. I request our Chief Minister, who heads the PWD, to inquire about this.

I think that we have not yet utilized 'manpower mobilization' to our full potential. The ATL roads must be prepared conscientiously before the monsoon season arrives. Special attention must be given to damage-prone areas like- Tlawng- Pukpui, Horticulture- Centre of Excellence, Saichhoh areas and Sekhum- Mualthuam. I want to let the officials know that while people are having the issue of poor roads, I went there recently (let me repeat what I already mentioned), we have done a lot of reparation of retaining walls, but what we need is good quality roads. Just like my friend earlier said, 'setting priorities' is important.

I also want to repeat that, as our respected Chief Minister already assured us regarding Bualpui V- Chhipphir, which is around 7 kms away, it is my request that this road be repaired. In the past, Thenzawl- Zote road was repaired. I guess we are still entitled to use defect liability; all these must be utilized properly than ever. That's all I can say about the Public Works part.

(Hon. Speaker took the chair)

Pu Speaker, we shall head onto Demand No. 15- GAD. In our new government, we have given three new districts. There, seven villages in our constituency have been

merged into Hnahthial District. Pu Speaker, may our Minister in charge of GAD take note for us, that the shifting of Chhipphir and Bualpui V in Hnahthial District is problematic for us. The reason is that, due to the unavailability of roads, Lunglei, the same district, is used to reach Hnahthial and access to the district capital is very difficult. May he kindly take note of this.

Last year, around October, I went to Mumbai. Even our respected member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga used to speak about Mumbai Mizoram House and I found out that whatever he said was reasonable. It is a place where cancer patients usually get accommodation. It was SIDCO, Mumbai Municipal Authority that had given us a place to set up Mizoram House. However, we are unable to construct properly, and we are facing a problem now.

The current condition of Mizoram House is not good at all. Mizos are such big smokers, they face issues since they settle with other people as well. Also, since Mizos loves to prepare strong and smelling foods, there used to be lots of complaints from others as well. So, I hope that the matter regarding Mizoram House is discussed soon. Similarly, in Bangalore, the Karnataka government gave us a good place to set up Mizoram House. The place is well adorned, and I wanted to assure you in this House that the concerned Minister noted this as well.

Let me move towards Demand No. 43- Tourism. There is Zotlang Tourist Lodge in my constituency where the area is a sinking area, meaning it is prone to subsidence. So, I request the concerned Minister to consider these. Besides, maybe there were a bit of unsettled claims or measurements before construction began. I came across two people who complained about this to me. I request the concerned Minister to pay heed to this since there are people who personally claimed their land. Kindly rectify this matter.

Pu Speaker, I used to emphasize how Mizoram needs the promotion of tourism, just like how important it is for earning revenue, just like in other states. Because of that, I believe 'local tourism' is very important. When we talk about tourism, we often picture outsiders coming into the state and that revenue will be raised. I kindly request the department to look into these matters.

Pu Speaker, even though I have been preparing for today's speech I won't be able to finish my speech. Anyway, I support the demands that came from our three Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Who will be the next? Dr. Vanlaltanpuia requested to expunge respected member Dr. Vanlalhlana's line from his reply to the Chief Minister this morning.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Pu Speaker, can I just talk about that part for just half a minute?

That part can be seen at 42:36 minutes from Zonet records. Regarding debts, when our respected Chief Minister talked about the GSDP to Debt ratio percentage, he said, "...our Chief Minister * knows.". As a Mizo, when we talk this way, it seems that we are undermining the other person, especially who is younger than us and that we think we know better than them; but that might not be his intention. Pu Speaker, our respected member, Dr. Mathlantea talked about our Chief Minister who has been handling Finance since 1987, who has been handling it for around 5 months now, and who has been in charge in their previous government for 10 years charge. I assume he is familiar with GSDP to debt percentage rather than Dr. Mathlantea.

(expunged by order of the Chair)*

SPEAKER : Our respected members have requested to expunge for Pu Mathlantea's good. Maybe Pu Mathlantea had a slip of the tongue. I even wish that would not be maintained in the records.

Alright, then we shall expunge that. He said like this, - "Regarding GSDP to debt percentage, our Chief Minister ...knows... It is great to hear." Let it not be in the records. I won't allow the first-timer to look down on the sixth-timer. We shall expunge that out of goodwill; let our officials know this.

(expunged by order of the Chair).*

SPEAKER : I invite respected member Pu KT Rokhaw.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Speaker. First, today is the day for our Chief Minister's demand. For a long time, this kind of day is a time to express topics not just concerning our subjects.

Pu Speaker and Assembly staff are working hard. We have been having Sessions for almost a month now, and we owe them gratitude for their hard work and diligence. I also think that their suits are good-looking, and they make the House look more honourable. Regarding this also, I think our Speaker's thoughtfulness is praiseworthy.

Pu Speaker, what I wanted to say regarding Finance is that, till today, the pay of MDC has not yet increased. For MLAs, our salary was increased for us at the commencement of the term. We have been receiving increments for 4 to 5 years. Meanwhile, the salary has not yet increased for MDC till today. Their salary is almost the same level as the UDC. Since MDC was born and grew up in the Council, people do share their salary along with them, and they all lack sufficiency. They have requested to increase their salary multiple times. If this could be successfully resolved as soon as possible, it would be great.

Pu Speaker, one of our policies in the southern region, 'Direct funding', is that it is not about the Central government giving funds directly to the District Council, rather, it is not pleasing to know how funds are received by the District Council. As per Grant-in-Aid given by Central to State Governments, the State gives as per the decisions. The current government usually tells the District Councils, "Make your budget the same size". So, along with Grant-in-Aid given by the Central to Mizoram, they must be allocated separately to District Councils, and the same amount may be given to District Councils through the government of Mizoram. It means that without cutting off funds that are to be received by the state, under Article 280, let there be a separate plan for District Councils to get their funds. If there was a separate allocation, there wouldn't be any debits from the Central's Grant-in-Aid towards the State government. I was wondering if this would be better for the government of Mizoram as well.

Besides this, Pu Speaker, we talked about the Parliamentary Standing Committee. At the Consultative Meeting when they asked the opinions of states, while Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura were able to give 'positive comments', this current MNF government unfortunately gave us 'negative comments'. It is not the state government that can give comments but the central government. They should have just given us positive comments instead of just getting negative comments. If it was for the Congress party today, we would have received positive comments. A government headed by Pu Lal Thanhawla used to show their love towards the smaller sections of tribes. When we asked for Direct funding, the meeting of the Council of Ministers recommended direct funding. Besides, the Chief Minister had written a DO letter of recommendation to the UPA Chairperson of that time, Pi Sonia Gandhi. Pu CL Ruala, the then MP, had also written a recommendation letter for us to the Prime Minister. In this government, even though I have asked them to do a favour for us, they still gave us negative comments which is depressive.

Pu Speaker, I would like to mention the PWD demands about the Laki-Vahia road that was excavated is muddy during the monsoon. Last year during the Budget Session, I asked the Chief Minister and he replied that they would try their best to do blacktopping. However, till today, there has been no development as such, and I request you again to do it.

Besides that, the Chakhlei- Siasih road, CRIF is not yet completed till today and I have informed the Chief Minister previously as well. To reach the River Beino from Siasih to Chhimtuipui, only a stretch of 200 metres needs blacktopping. Anyway, I would be truly thankful if this was done. It is devastating to know that the road is not yet completed, and I kindly ask for a reaction later.

Pu Speaker, it is great to know that ₹ 318 crores have been allocated for strengthening (improvement) of the Kawlchaw- Serkawr road which is 8 kms. It is good to know that there are allocations for improving the road to reach our Missionary's

place. Right now, no tender has been issued, and I kindly request that tender be issued for this one.

Niawhtlang- Chakhei road is quite old now. It was paved 25 years ago and a tender was given for black - topping, but till today, it has not been completed. Right now, this work amounting to ₹1615 was given to Pu Biakliana. After working on a stretch of around 6 kms, it was held back again. My request is that this road be repaired too.

Pu Speaker, let me talk about Sport & Youth Services. The artificial grass playground that we have at Meisatliah has a small gallery and is not capable of accommodating many people. Please, make a bigger gallery for us. Pu Speaker, 2–1 minute more only, please.

Talking about the Tourism Department, Lodawh, also called Castle of Beino, has a grand stone that attracts many tourists. Since Lodawh is a village, there are no proper places to stay, so please construct a Tourist lodge there. Last year, it was promised to us, but nothing has been done today. It is my request to kindly give importance to this as well.

Our Agriculture Minister really favoured the southern region and Siaha District gets the highest number of tractors. Besides that, they have also ploughed many hectares of soil. We have also set up the Siaha District Food Security Consultative Meeting. While Dr. K. Beichhua was the Minister. He was the Chairman and many hectares of land were ploughed, but since we do not have adequate areas for water to flow, some portions were becoming unusable. So, I request these important places for water to be supplied properly.

Regarding cooperation, I request the authorities to open a new branch of Apex Bank in my constituency, Tipa. Then, in the southern areas, the distance between Phura and Siasi is quite far, so I also sincerely request that Apex Bank be opened at Phura. Previously, I have also emphasized how we need a Bank at Zero Point. Pu Speaker, I ask for a favour that our Minister may grant us those things.

Pu Speaker, besides those in my constituency, we call it ‘Sala- zawl’, the banks of the Sala River is a good for vegetation where it is suitable for tomatoes and mustard to grow. But we need lifting to pump out the water. So, I request the Minister to please think of ways to provide water pumps for the farmers out there, and I would be appreciative. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Before we continue, regarding our recent decisions, let me make sure that nothing of that sort is repeated in the future. Afterward, they’ll be doing research and, in order to save ourselves from having terrible records, we shall also expunge the request made by Dr. Vanlalţanpuia to expunge including the one

mentioned by Dr. L. Thangmawia. Those harsh and inappropriate words shall be removed. Let us expunge that as well.

PU LALDUHOMA : I think this part is important. In every session, the debts that we present are never the same. While I talk about RBI data, our Chief Minister.... (**Speaker:** Just a moment, you may speak when your time comes) supports what we said, and he just mentioned his appreciation. Was that offensive?

SPEAKER : Whether it is about giving thanks or not, respected member Dr. Vanlalhlana is not a stranger to me. Since it has been mentioned, let me say it honestly- I won't allow people to see him as arrogant and, since I care for his future, I opt to expunge that part. These Assembly records are going to stay forever. So, whatever we have discussed, including what I have said, I shall mention later in the corrections and I think that is important. The House is very respectable. Students might come later for research work and that is why I am thinking of all that and also, since two members have talked about it.

Alright, I invite respected member Dr. L. Thangmawia.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. In this term's budget speech, this is going to be my last speech. I am grateful to have received God's guidance. On this particular day, it is also great that the Chief Minister's part, Demand No. 1- Legislative Assembly, is among the deliberations.

Pu Speaker, I might not be able to talk about my constituency today. However, I would love to highlight our experiences and how our seniors guided us throughout our five budget sessions within four years. Let me start with what has hardly been discussed, Demand No. 2- Governor.

I think within the last 4 to 5 years, we hardly talked about the Governor. During the UT days and after gaining statehood, we have had good governors over the years. We do not know the limit of their powers and how they exercise them, but there have been instances where they take them and not government employees when they travel. Even though their diligence is appreciated, I often used to think, 'If this is practised in other states, and if the President of India practices this too'. Since this requires getting through the Minister in charge, we must think and discuss if the practice has its drawbacks, especially as a tribal group. It would be wrong if they did things here that won't be allowed in other states. On the other hand, I do appreciate their efforts, and I am not standing here just to complain about it.

Regarding Demand No. 1- Legislative Assembly, we celebrated our 50th year last year. In the meantime, through God's grace and with the help of the Lengteng constituency, I got elected for the third time. I was almost down, and I even compared myself to a very senior bachelor finally tying the knot. That time, I was very lost, and

my legs were shaking when I stood up in public for the first time. However, our seniors, both from your left and right, used to give me advice in the recess room and that gave me a good experience. Our senior members, who are not first-timers, like CLP Leader Pu Zodintluanga used to tell me in a fun way, “I knew that your speech would not end without mentioning Saitual to Saichal Road”. That made me feel comfortable, and I am here today.

Even though there might be differences in the way we work towards state development, in matters related to our tribal status, I think we cooperate well. If it is for the state’s good, we accept it even though it is the resolution brought forward by members on the left. Not only that, the ones sitting on your left have passed resolutions put up by the ones on your right.

There have been tremendous improvements in Sports. Initially, we used to wish that some things were done. Now that it has happened, we expect more. I think this is one form of progress. While there was scarcity, we said, “We want this for our village, for our district.” Now that things are in abundance, I believe it is great progress.

So, we are going to receive EAP. In the previous Session, our respected Minister was a bit hesitant to make promises about this, but now I hope he is ready to make promises to us. Let me also add that EAP already imagined artificial turfs in the fields of Ngopa and let’s remind ourselves to think about this.

In terms of ITC, I feel regretful this time. When a resolution was brought forward that said, “Central government must try their best to improve internet connections in the whole of Mizoram”, it ran through my mind that things were not possible anymore. If there ever was a chance, bringing this up and fixing the issue for less than 100 villages is the need of the hour now. I think our Minister is also putting his best foot forward in this matter. These days, the Central requires them to immediately upload details from fare shops and the ‘100 days labour scheme’. People, including the ones from my constituency, have to go to the next village where there is a better signal, so we urge you to get rid of this system and this is what we give importance to.

Moving onto the next part, Agriculture under respected Minister Pu C. Lalrinsanga is making great efforts even in my constituency. Regarding the growing of watermelons, along with Horticulture, they have greatly helped us. I heard that they are going to build a warehouse for us. With the coordination of Horticulture, they have set up 50 greenhouses in preparation for hosting the next KTP General Conference. If time permits, along with officers, I would like to visit the spot. By the new year, we are planning to start planting drought-tolerant vegetables.

Under the General Administration, the previous government started Sialkal Range Development and then renamed it into ‘Council’ the following year. Whoever sits as MLA of the Lengteng constituency must be the Chairman, not because I fought

for the chairmanship, but because the people of the Lengteng constituency elected me. With the Chief Minister's favour, beyond expectations, our budget became ₹200 from ₹50 and now ₹220; it has increased by 10 crores. On behalf of the people, I even express my gratitude in the last Budget Session. However, as I have mentioned in this House, what people want is not just GAD notification but to be Legislated. In this regard, we still have one session left, so I urge our leaders to use their thinking cap in this so that SREC will be able to be voted on instead of cancelling notifications whenever possible. Let that be my request on behalf of the people.

Even though I am not an expert, I want to talk a bit about Finance. As we all know this time, with his initiative, the Chief Minister is ready to raise taxes on alcohol. The Central ordered us to release all the funds under CSS, which was followed by the Covid, earthquake and ASF. Our respected member, Dr. Vanlalhlana said, "... They are receiving another one anyway". Here, we have taken from the 14th and 15th Finance Commission. In the 14th Finance Commission, we had less than ₹2000 crores under the Post-Devolution, Revenue Deficit Grant (PDRRDG). Between 2015 and 2016, it was ₹2,139 crores. When we entered the 15th Finance Commission, it was ₹1,422 crores in the interim report, we had already let go of almost ₹2000. That's the case, it will take time to read everything.

Then, the 15th Finance Commission continued to recommend reducing it. By 2025- 2026, it will be ₹586 crores only. Meanwhile, the interim, of 0.056 from the sale of tax which was expected to be distributed between states was previously recommended to be 42%, of which 1% was later carved out for Jammu & Kashmir, and it continued with 41%. If we compare the 15th Finance Commission with the 14th Finance Commission, it makes one tearful. As I have mentioned earlier, we have faced COVID-19, and despite that, our Chief Minister gave his best efforts. In the previous government, he had devised the Government of Mizoram, Privatization of Vehicle Scheme, 2001. During that time, 534 vehicles were auctioned and a total of ₹1,74,23,258 went to the government's treasury.

For this, the Mizoram Resource Mobilization Committee was set up last year on 21st January. Because of this, ₹35.74 crores have been paid to the government's treasury this financial year. Also, on 19th November 2019, we felt that the expenditure regarding the government's newly bought vehicles and maintenance fees for the old ones were too high. As for me, I do not know the exact amount but the ones who knew it said that it amounts to crores and to stop this and to save expenses, the Govt. of Mizoram Vehicle Outsourcing, 2019 was introduced. Post this Act, buying new vehicles for officers only whom government permits not allowed to buy new motors, the salary of the driver is no longer needed, and the people whom they outsourced must get themselves separate drivers. However, the government takes care of POL and the government does not need to pay for repairs. The government did all these to reduce expenditures and even though it is hard to calculate the amount of how much has been saved, it will amount to crores.

Anyway, we are in difficult times and, with the guidance of our seniors and our leaders, I am glad that we can stay till the end of our term. I thank the people of Lengteng constituency and God for this. Pu Speaker, I extend my well-wishes to all the members to see each other in next year's budget session. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Respected member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo, I hope he shortens it well.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Speaker. As the Lengteng MLA has mentioned, it is great that we get to witness the last Eight Legislative Assembly Budget Session, also known as the 'farewell budget session'. Pu Speaker, we, the first-timers, consist of different people and the way we say things might also be different. In that case, I express my gratitude for your kind understanding. Today in this House, we have held obituaries for the deceased members and, by showing humanity, the ones to your left have also praised them even though the deceased members, are not from their party. It amazes me how Mizo Christians find it difficult to compliment people while they are still alive.

Today, I want to mention briefly that - even though our House leader has received lots of backlash, at the same time, he is fortunate enough, and I am happy for him. Today, all the political party leaders, whether they belong to Congress, ZPM or BJP, were born out of our respected CM, after they branched out, they just tend to have different opinions. Pu Speaker, I am saying that briefly.

Previously, it was intriguing to hear what Pu Hlana talked about in our House Leader's speech. In politics, one has a clear set vision and even if that vision is not fully achieved, they have properly devised plans and this, the members need to keep in mind. I am afraid that, for a long time, you might be following a leader with no proper vision. I feel that a person who goes issue-based and goes spontaneously is not suitable for our state.

Besides that, Pu Speaker, the new members are well-versed, the ones sitting on your right consist of 4 doctorate holders, we have a professor and there's one person who sits alone to your left. There were also times when we often discussed his speeches. We, including Pu Nguna, are not highly educated, but in politics, we have quite a lot of experience. We have been elected as public leaders for 10 years, whether it is a high level or low level, let that be. So, I think we must respect the opinions of our senior members.

Before the ones on your right emphasised that includes all the MLAs from the south and I questioned our professionalism when we said those kinds of things. In the meantime, it is against my opinion that first-timers are portrayed as budget experts. No one is a super expert when it comes to budgeting, and in Finance, the experts even make

mistakes. In that case, in March 2020, Germany's Finance Minister committed suicide. Even though they are an advanced country, the financial crisis due to the Covid led to that act. Meanwhile, our leader heading finance with all the hardships is just amazing.

When we were students, or when we received training in something, we learned theory-wise, but learning theories are not suitable in practical practice, and I think we need to accept that, "this is not that practicable", "I have presented this many papers" is not applicable in matters of finance. We, 39 out of 40 members, don't touch any other budget other than our wives and our salary, so to label ourselves as experts is not right in my opinion. Besides that, you have said, "...the way we want to say it", I don't think there are ways we want to say it when we borrow money. No one said, "My neighbour borrows one crore, so his children owe me this many per cent" or, "Our neighbour borrows ₹10,000, so our family owes her this many per cent". Pu Speaker, it's just that our family is borrowing money. The legislators on your left think it that way, and it's not only about calculating in percentage. We should not compare ourselves with people living with HIV-Aids; it is not something that we borrowed from others, either by accident, or they happen to contract the disease.

SPEAKER : Hold on. Now it's past 5 P.M., shall we let him finish what he has to say? (House agreed to let him finish his speech.). Alright, you may continue.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The way we say things, husbands who are breadwinners for our families must make sure our mouths remain faithful first. Someone from your left had to make his voice sound deeper, it made people laugh at him. It has come to an end and I believe it is important to stay happy. The Bible does not favour people who never find reasons to be happy; it is important to stay happy and content.

I really praise the Congress legislature. We, the ones on your right, are pleased to pass their private resolution, and they are really happy about it. It is such a miracle that their leader did not want to take his seat while passing the resolution. He said that we admire him; Pu Speaker, our leader, is whom I admire, and I have been following him for 48 years. We know that he made a slight mistake in his vision of politics, so any political party is dependent on its leader. For the 48 years that I have followed him, our respected CM has not rested for a second, and we have crossed the valley of the shadow of death together. However, this is what I have witnessed- If I were to say the mistakes he had committed, I might know many things, including some of the inexact words spoken by him. But with all those, I believe that he is worth the following.

I believe today, it is evident that when they reviled and persecuted our Leader, a blessing is waiting for us in the next election. So, I am wondering if some people will not be spending their happy holidays during Christmas. Will people really want us along with Pu Nguna, who did not get access to a quality education? Because, not just that,

our God is marvellous, so he makes many ordinary people on earth. In politics, it is the best choice to look towards ordinary people, and if we lean towards ordinary people, there is hope that we won't lose. So, when we talk about the intellectual part, as much as we emphasize it, there are really few in numbers from my constituency.

Alright, demand No. 31- Agriculture... (**Speaker:** before you talk about Demand, I was wondering which demand, and I was trying to stop you at first. Alright, go ahead with it.).

Our constituency was allotted 2 posts for Block Agriculture Officer. Something which has never happened before, at Phuldungsei and Lungphun, even though he's not very fluent in the Mizo language, even though the other members are quite satisfied with his response, I can say that what he did was up to the mark. So, they have set up warehouses for us in Phaileng, and they have started in Reiek as well. I think he is very pragmatic, and I praise him for that.

I want to thank our Sports Minister who is sitting next to me. I think it is great that he has devised new schemes that have not yet been practised in other places and which the ones sitting on your left did not comprehend. We often argue, "He took some part in the Smart City project, he did not...". He is sure as a book; he knows what the youth of this state requires and tried his best in the promotion of 'Sports.'

We shall talk about our CM's demand here as well. In demand No. 45- Public Works, we have travelled from Lengpui Airport to different states, and he has changed it that much. Not only that, I often think about demand No. 15- General Administration. During our Opposition days, we often travel here and there and question whose legacy this is. Our officers are very efficient. Our House Cliff Colony at Shillong was adjusted. Now he does it for patients at NEIGRHIMS Shillong and later at Guwahati. Just like that, he did it in Imphal and Agartala as well. Even though we usually complain about it, at some point, we always want to be guests in those places. I wanted to mention these things because I felt it is very different in a great way. Today, it took so long to spend 4 years with people who don't know how to be happy, but we might be able to co-exist happily by the end of the fifth year.

In terms of initiatives in Agriculture, when we asked the ZPM members what their initiatives would be if they formed a government, their reply was - Ginger. When we ask, "Do you know where to sell?"- "No. In the valley of Bagha, there's a man named Sundar Ali. We will ask him where to sell and if he does not tell, the ZPM youths will follow him, dine where he dines and sleep where he sleeps. If we keep on following him for years, he will eventually tell us". So, this came to my mind if they were playing a spontaneous game of politics.

Pu Speaker, since I constantly keep these things in my head, I had to say it out. That is why these things are what our parents used to talk about the foundation of our

land. It makes me think there might also be some parts which are not that great. So, Pu Speaker, I support the demands from our CM and our Minister and request that we all pass it without hesitation. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Alright, until you move to demands, I will consider you as Council of Ministers.

Now, we shall have a break and have dinner. We may resume at 6:00 P.M.

6:00 PM

SPEAKER : The deliberations of our Budget Session are getting broadened; we have limited time now. Let me invite respected member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I want to talk briefly about Demand No.1- Legislative Assembly. About 20 years ago, I came to this House as an opposition MLA without knowing anything. However, the Assembly staff were kind to us and explained to us the things that we did not know of, so I thanked them. Every year, they are very tired during our Budget Sessions. I want to thank them personally first.

Pu Speaker, I want to talk about Demand No.9- Finance. When a budget is presented in other countries, people eagerly wait with high expectations. Entrepreneurs, students, government employees and everyone wonder what the new budget will bring to us and the possible consequences. Are there any job opportunities? Is it good? Will it increase taxes and thus bring up rates, or will taxes be reduced?" these are the things people keep in mind.

However, in our state, even though we have discussions on the budget, we are still stuck with, 'Kamrula', 'I am resigning; not resigning; let him apologize', which is troublesome. There is no separate budget for reforming our state from the very roots. Since last week, we have started discussing various demands and spending the whole day there. When we look at the Ministers' demands, we prohibit them from working. We do not allocate a budget for Ministers to improve their departments by their initiative. Some powerful Ministers, before taking new employees, can choose who the local area selects and those who do not go through written tests and interviews do what they need. Meanwhile, when we talk to the least powerful Ministers, they'll say, 'We are facing shortages; we are unable to work. I want to mention that even our government is unfaithful towards some ministers.

Pu Speaker, other states have been taking necessary steps to decrease the fiscal deficit, meanwhile, our debt interest rate is very high here. These borrowings are what the youths, who are the future leaders of our state, are yet to pay debts; so, we need to be conscious here. We must remember that 'today we are squandering away the money

that they have to spend later'. If we keep spending, within 20- 30 years, there might not be any sum of money left for the youths who are going to sit here later. We have started implementing SASCI, but the possible results will appear after many years. Sadly, there is no focus given towards our youths who want to earn an income.

Pu Speaker, in other states, used to allocate big budgets to the education sector. Their youths have been trained to compete with others in an open - market with other youths. In Tamil Nadu, right from Primary School, there are programmes for the subjects and, besides that, English, Tamil and Science subjects are taught in written and spoken versions with the help of teaching aids and volunteers. Pu Speaker, even in engineering colleges, in their final year, foreign languages like Chinese, German or Japanese are compulsory. They give importance to their students being able to get jobs after their degree. Besides that, they place great importance on the health sector as well.

Pu Speaker, today we do not observe those kinds of things. Today, even though the ruling MLAs gave their speeches, they did not even talk about the needs of their constituency. The whole point is- that we have a Demands Book, in which there is no budget allocated to the Minister, even if it has to be requested, there is no amount as such. But all the money is kept at the Chief Minister's office. Today, we are going to pass a budget that needs to be requested from the Chief Minister and I feel sorry for this. Under a normal government, we make use of the Planning Department, but today it is as if it never existed. The Planning Department makes department allocations and plans, which are all required by big departments. Today, the Planning Department does not make sense, it relies on whom the Chief Minister wishes to grant when they ask him, "Sir, we need this much", and he says, "Yes, give it to him/her" and he signs it off. It's like a CEM from a District Council area in the past. When the Budget reached the table, he gave off saying, "This is yours, this is yours", and they distributed the budget away. Our budget is just like that today. The MLAs are supposed to pass the budget in this House, but we did not, we moved straight to Supplementary, which is very upsetting.

As much as Finance is important, I still cannot fathom why we do not have a Finance Commission yet. Now it's 2023, and we haven't submitted recommendations for 2025 or 2020. If it goes like this, there is a possibility that the 16th Finance Commission might give some orders. Pu Speaker, if I am not mistaken, under the 73rd Amendment, it is mandatory to set up a Finance Commission. Under the Congress government, we had a Finance Commission that recommended, "this much shall go to village council and this much to local council"; there was a proper plan till today. Meanwhile, not having a Finance Commission yet from 2020- 2023 can be assumed that we are possibly becoming so expert in finance that we say it is not good enough.

We also talk heavily about Healthcare. Pu Speaker, we resume a big building that is planned but cannot be completed. They set up Healthcare in a grand manner, but they were unable to complete it. Today, we have a debt of more than 6 crores and these debts

will be paid through borrowings from ADB which means ‘debt’ will be paid with another ‘debt’. Pu Speaker, about our state budget, as I have said previously, it is yet to be discussed how most of our budget will be used for SEDP. We just put a huge part of it for state-matching share and this shows the lack of vision that we possess.

Using state-matching share, we are just hoping to receive schemes put forward by the Central government. Without thinking if it will be suitable for our state, we run after it as long as it is PMJVKY, a Central scheme. We are excited about the scheme of the Central and that it is not only about building grand buildings. We also have to think about schemes to raise manual labourers who belong to the poor community. In this government, there is too much of a race about who gets the most funds from the Central government. Let me assure you that there are setbacks for our future leaders and generations to come. While the Congress party and the finance experts took care of finance, even if the government falls, the next government can continue hassle-free.

When our Chief Minister talked about the Governor’s speech and how, in 2019, there was a smooth functioning in terms of finance, that was what a good government had left behind. It is a burden for the next government that will come to power after our current government falls by November. It seems like we are going to commence with heavy debts, meanwhile, we are unable to release salaries for government employees.

Today, our Ministers have answered the questions, and even though it has been the end of February, they are still bragging about the salaries that we gave out in December. They are happy to receive January’s salary at the end of February. This is a strange government. Now, we will be starting with debts. Pu Speaker, I wanted to assure you that with the help of God and the people, we will be able to give out salaries on time from January onwards. Let me stop that part.

I really want to talk about Horticulture, but before that, I will talk about demand No. 45- PWD.

When our government was born in their first year, here they passed a resolution and clapped saying, “Under the MNF government, roads are becoming so much better. When winter came and 5 years passed, just the day before yesterday, we had passed a resolution saying, “we must take care of roads and buildings”. Their initial resolution and their resolution after 5 years differ a lot and this is very problematic. Also, Pu Speaker, I want to make a request to our House Leader about the Aizawl- Thenzawl- Lunglei road. The Aizawl-Thenzawl Road is good but Thenzawl- Lunglei road needs special supervision. Here, as per UQ answers, it is written, “Thenzawl- Lunglei road is in the process of resurfacing” but it gets more damaged. The money they kept was for making the roads around the Sateek area. I wanted to ask our respected House Leader if Aizawl-Thenzawl Road is fine and is still comfortable to drive through. So, rather than resurfacing the former, Thenzawl- Lunglei road, which people have to use despite the bumpy and rough roads, this area must be blacktopped.

Even though I want to talk about Kamrula and Zoramchhana regarding Lengpui Airport. I only have 2 minutes left. It seemed possible to make Lunglei bypass road and Lunglei circuit house using around 10 crores that the Congress party had left. Now that 5 years have passed, they promised to work on a larger scale, but they have not initiated. This made the Southern people lose their hope in this government. Funds allocated to start the foundation are being used for other purposes and, Pu Speaker, today I assure you that this government does not care for the southern people.

In Demand No.15- GAD, our Congress youths filed a complaint with the Lok Ayukta reporting that there were many irregularities regarding the outlay of funds. Lok Ayukta even accepted their complaint and recommended to hand over to CBI. A year has passed, and the government has not dared to let the CBI investigate. Is it trying to cover up the unfair utilization of money under Civil Aviation? Why is it that the CBI suggested by Lok Ayukta has still not yet been investigated? It's such a pity.

Besides that, Pu Speaker, regarding Agriculture, our main theme is self-sufficiency in food production. Our Supply Minister often spoke about the unavailability of a new purchase of rice. I want to assure you that after 5 years, our policy of, 'not importing rice from other states' is pointless. Another one is that bamboo species, which we thought was their flagship programme, was not heard in the Governor's speech nor seen in the budget speech. Without allocation of separate funds, they talked about bamboos that reproduce new canes thrice a year. They also said, "If you have a sufficient number of bamboo, you may start making a garage". Is our government desperate? Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Let me invite respected member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to clarify some things first. We have received answers to yesterday's questions from UD & PA and DP & AR. My name is not 'Ngunlianchunga', it is 'C. Ngunlianchunga'. In one of the proceedings, they had written the former, he is not an MLA, but the latter is an MLA. So, Pu Speaker, I request the department to check on that part.

Pu Speaker, I am glad that we can come together to witness the 8th Legislative Assembly. As long as this world exists, we shall never forget the ones who will not be MLAs anymore in the next term; we shall continue to say, 'We were MLAs together in the 8th term'. We will miss each other. It would be great if we became MLAs together. If not, I wish my fellow members the best.

Pu Speaker, even though our Chief Minister is a good man, he has given us assurance in this House twice, which can be found on the proceedings of October 2021, page- 89 and on March 2021, page 301. On 2.9.2021, Vanglaini newspaper falsely reported regarding PWD that the amount of compensation claimed for KMMTP road

was reportedly written as larger than Mizoram. This is wrong. I have mentioned twice in this House that the amount that can be claimed is ₹2.3959. I asked if they could provide me with their mathematical calculation and the pass to which our Chief Minister replied, “Yes we can; you may write again since there are times when we forget some things”. I have written it again but till today I have not been given one yet. I sincerely request our Chief Minister to hear me out and provide the needs. The reason is that this could seem like an accusation widely accusation. The people of Lairam (i.e. where the Lais settle) are not that selfish and do not poke our noses into anyone’s business. Somehow, it appears here that the calculation is greater than Mizoram which is 25,940.05 square metres, which is wrong. I believe they miscalculated. But, till today they did not admit what seemed to be a mistake.

Pu Speaker, let me assure you that I have stood thrice in this House regarding this. Now, let me move towards the demands. Firstly, it’s a pity that our Agriculture Minister does not have any other things to look after except for CSS towards the development of the state. The answer received by the Minister for the Tipa constituency was that 50 hectares was how much they were able to plough for cultivation. What I have often said here in this House is that this current phase is not enough and so, rather than simply giving it out, let’s focus on a particular area, let’s concentrate on potential areas to achieve economic development. Today, no real progress and the fruits of labour have not been met as we hand out things without careful consideration. Within those five years, even though we heard that ‘we shall depend only on Mizoram’s grain production’, there seems no chance as no storage facilities can be found.

In our state, especially in my constituency Lawngtlai West, the famous river bank of Belisora, which the late Pu Saikhuma (prophet) saw in his vision, and the Chamdur project are very favourable for cultivation but no projects were heard to be done. There were economic development projects initiated by the Agriculture Minister under FOCUS; plans have been in place since the Congress government and with the new government, they started with the execution. Rather than that, there have been no development-related initiatives for capital expenditure. That is why, if we do not give importance to agriculture, we will never earn respect.

Even though we have improved sports infrastructure, installed artificial turfs, and had tennis courts and basketball courts, without self-sufficiency in food and agriculture products, we can never be in a higher position than others. We have to strive to stand on our own feet to earn honour and to be glorified. The government must take steps to achieve that.

Secondly, our Chief Minister instantly took over the Horticulture Department. However, even those who are passionate about it and those who know the potential areas cannot get into this area. If this is the case, we will never rebuild this place. So, to rise, people who have the potential and the ability must be chosen by the government. Even if a person owns a good area of land and is very diligent, until and unless they

have connections with the Party, there seems no chance just like what we have seen in Lawngtlai and Champhai. We will never stand out like this with this practice.

Today, as Pu Rintluanga has mentioned and called out my name several times, let me also talk a bit about it. We have a debt that amounts to ₹ 14,209.80. ₹ 13,500 is our debt from RBI. Other than that, we have a lot of Contractor work debt; we are unable to give out salaries for government employees and pensioners; we are unable to provide GP funds, and we borrowed from healthcare as well. Despite all this, we seemed to be at ease. It is already a reason to not get a good night's sleep.

These days, we hear on Zonet TV that, "...on average, a person has a debt of nine lakhs". Despite all that, we are still busy with more borrowing, and we even borrow money to pay our debts and that is our way of functioning. Let's think about this land. We only have this land. Let this land attain progress. Today, as this government reaches its fourth year, a new phrase, 'Money in the brain' (thluaka sum lut) emerged. From the Church lecterns, they dare to say to us, "We do not want a person who earns distinction in terms of talking, but we need those who secured distinction in terms of working". Why? We might think good about ourselves, but people hear and observe us. So, don't take it as pride on my side, but it is through God's grace only. Every morning, I usually pray for you to exercise righteous judgment. Let there be justice and progress in this place and there is none other than us who can make it a beautiful land. Therefore, there must be a limit to showing favour towards our party.

As we have heard in the morning session from the ruling party, they have selected 93% affiliated with their party. I think this time, they have selected 20% of their party people for SEDP. We do not expect anything from our side. If it goes on like this, this state will never rise. Debts will overburden us and there will be a time when the government cannot march forward anymore.

Pu Speaker, there are many things to say, and I have burnt the midnight oil for this. It is really a concern. Give me one hour for this. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now I invite respected member Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, before I start talking about demands, whenever we address you, we do not call you, 'honourable Speaker', the rest of us call ourselves, 'respected members'. Is this necessary? Can we not do it? I think it's not Mizo enough, and it takes time too. Unless the rules prohibit it, not out of disrespect, personally, I will not use that term often.

This is about excessive favouritism shown towards contract work, which has also been a topic of talk for over four years. On 20.9.2021, Kamrula received three work orders within a day that amounted to ₹88 crores. It was followed by three more work

orders on 3.12.2021 that amounted to ₹3,350 crores; that was a lot. Then, the contract that was received between 24.6.2019 and 3.12.2021 was ₹212.98 according to my calculations. It would also mean that, on average, it is ₹734 per month. It is an amazing thing to know that we have such a contractor who earns ₹730 per month. Same as Zoramchhana, and I won't add more.

What I meant to point out is that, when you give out restricted tenders, you go against the 5 important rules:

- 1) Rule 162 of General Financial Rules;
- 2) Rule 16 of Public Procurement Rules;
- 3) Central Vigilance Commission circular no. 04/04/21 4;
- 4) Article 14 of the Indian Constitution;
- 5) Supreme Court ruling SPO civil no. 10121 of 2006.

All the above-mentioned things violate how we give out contract work in Mizoram. Now, let me elaborate on a few things about what this law talks about-

Firstly, it has been given that 'restricted tender invite should be handed out to more than three firms.' It was only three in the case of Kamrula. The number of Class-1 contractors in our state is 162. We have 116 registered Grade-A firms. Out of all those, to make comparisons, only three were selected. This is against the law.

Secondly, it has been said that 'restricted tender should not cross ₹25 crores. Next, it mentions, 'the work should solely be done by him without the involvement of any other party'.

From the RTI asked by ZMP Tlau, they answered that Kamrula is known to have no construction experience, but he still received a restricted tender. Then, the only exceptional case that can be done indirectly is- that the State government must declare a natural calamity or emergency. Fortunately, we haven't experienced that, and our government has not declared an emergency yet. Meanwhile, our government has two standpoints, the first one being CPWD Manual 2022, para 1.5, and the second one being SOP 2022 of CPWD Manual, annexure 66, serial No. 19. Even these mention that 'these things must be present even if restricted tenders were to be given out'. These are- earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning strikes, tsunamis or foods, terrorist attacks or, just in case, if the building(s) were/was to collapse. The law they have been regarding as a standpoint itself does not allow them to give it to themselves as they do now.

Besides that, they were rushing to get things; there is no need to rush since the daily average number of passengers in our airport is between 700 – 900 which is the least among all India's capitals. There were some renovations. However, while our per capita income is decreasing and people stay hungry, spending this much on airports seems like we just focus on making money rather than the thought of having a good

airport. With that state, our CM gave his approval. That's why the MPYCC submitted a case to the Lok Ayukta. The said case number is- Case No. MLC42/2022.

The other one is that *Mizoram First* has submitted a case against the Chief Minister with the case number - Case No. MLC44/2022, which is under inquiry. Now, they also demand the prosecution of the Chief Minister under the 'Prevention of Corruption Act'. Yesterday, we mentioned that 'it is not a case.' However, if we look up the dictionary, the meaning of 'case' is written like this- 'Object of investigation', 'A situation requiring investigation or action.' Without a case, there can't be an inquiry, a case comes first, which is followed by inquiry and investigation.

Pu Speaker, if we look at the other departments, PWD itself has 121 restricted tenders, there are many including Sports Deptt. and Health Deptt. as well; I'm shocked by the way we select our priorities. We require patient lodging in Guwahati to a great extent since patients do not know where to stay. We bought a plot of land in 2019, so should that be considered urgent rather than renovating our Airport? When we consider our priorities first, it points out more about money making rather than the state's development and that is hard to comprehend. We have spoken many times about PMJVK, "80% must be concentrated on Education, Health and Skill Development", and 20% will go towards other sectors like Sports and other departments. Meanwhile, they have occupied 80% to 100%. That's why I feel that our legislation is not focused on people (*interruption*) (**Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo:** Pu Speaker, *point of clarification*-please, they did not mention that 'PMJVK is about education and other departments', but why do they think it is only about Sports, what is the meaning?)

It is clearly written, "80% of PMJVK must be concentrated on Education, Health and Skill Development". (**Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo:** You didn't mention what was written in demands in Education). That's because they did not give clarity to their answers. We are just saying that it is not right that the Sports Department gets 100% and sometimes 80%. (**Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo:** And regarding the case, you have mentioned that people have submitted a case; is any case ever submitted? When an FIR is accepted, only then the case is filed, right? Haven't you heard of it during your 6 years at the Police department?)

SPEAKER : Just a moment. You have asked for clarification, let that suffice. You may continue later.

PU LALDUHOMA : It's a hassle that *Dampa savawm* keeps talking. He is taking up my time. I hope you give me more time.

We have heard how they take care of Lok Ayukta. In 2014, a Select Committee was set up with the guidance of the Chief Minister at that time, Pu Hawla and Group Leader Pu Vanlalzawma. Then, in 2019, the Chairperson was appointed. Now it has been 4 years, and they have not set up an Investigation Wing yet. Lok Ayukta borrowed

ACB. ACB cannot be transferred and cannot be posted, they didn't even write ACR for them; no discipline exists in that kind of case. ACB mostly frightens the Home Minister and the Chief Minister. They just reside permanently under Lok Ayukta and are not even able to write ACR for them. That's how we positioned the Lok Ayukta, it's for sure that we are afraid to end corruption.

Besides that, I have recently seen in the media how 12 of our leaders were getting richer by 3 to 7 times within 5 years. I feel really *..... Our Chief Minister earns the most. In a year he earns ₹22,08,000 only. Even if he did not spend it, he cannot afford to buy a good plot of land. Then why is it.....

(expunged as ordered by the Chair)*

SPEAKER : Just hold on. The seniors have mentioned not to say certain words like, 'it is shameful', Pu Duh, you have mentioned that twice, let us expunge that part alright?

PU LALDUHOMA : Yes, you may do that. But, the feeling of shame that I felt will remain. If we were to save up our one-year earnings, it would not even cost a good plot of land. Despite all that, we became MLAs for one term and just held the position of a Minister, we became really rich and our houses and their surroundings are very well-built. These clearly show that we are corrupted. Now that elections are coming near, when we tell the ones to your right that, "You have given ₹3 lakhs properly, so you might as well be elected again", they get offended. If we ever form a government, I don't want witch-hunting; I do not like tracing back history as well, so let no one be afraid as well. But these days, people have been actively indulging in things. There are lots of Ministers who do work unlawfully, there might be bad things waiting for us on our road forward, and I am afraid that in our last term, things might go wrong. Let us all be careful. I want to assure you that even if we favour some people, let it be according to the laws.

Our state also suffers because of our behaviour. Now, if we look at GSDP, between 2021-22, we went down by 11%, between 2022-23, we are in the 9th position. We are declining rather than progressing, and it's because of wrongful spending. All over India, we became a state with the largest debtor in the year 2020- 21, 1st rank again in 2021-22 as well as 2022-23, within three financial years, we were ranked no. 1 among the highest debtors. So, Pu Speaker, I request you to expunge the part where our Chief Minister and his colleagues mentioned that all over India, we have been ranked the second-lowest debtor. There should be no record of falsehood in this House. These are the statements and data from RBIO. It was needed to form a Public Expenditure Review Committee, but they were ignored, so; how can we march forward properly? Our FRBM Act requires it, but we choose to hesitate. That is why our budget book is more of a 'Debt Book'; and there is no need to hide.

Pu Speaker, I wanted to talk about SEDP. We all know that this is one of the biggest topics here in our state. What has been strange is that the government's budget allocations for SEDP and what our Finance Minister said in his budget speech are never the same; this is a public deception. He made a lower number of his demands and then withdrew all his demands later. Then, after it has been withdrawn, it is re-provisioned. Let me mention only one year, which is between 2020-21. It was ₹513 crores as per the Finance Minister's speech, and it was ₹428 crores as mentioned in the demands. Their spending was ₹113 crores only. So, within 4 years, it was ₹2,363 crores as per the Finance Minister's speech, it was ₹2,208 crores in Demand for Grants. Their spending was ₹967 crores and what was left was ₹1,395 crores. They didn't even spend half of it. It seems as if we are placing this much amount just to fool the public and to play politics since they didn't even spend half of it.

Therefore, the reality, Finance Minister's speech and demands are never the same. Besides, it has been booked under Capital, but under capital, only Sports and PWD have been used; the rest goes towards Revenue Expenditure. That means, because of the fear of high revenue expenditure, we placed it under capital but behind closed doors we used it for revenue. That's why our Budget lacks transparency and accountability, and it's just a public deception. Besides, we cannot rely on this so much, so that we can call it 'a book of deception'. Since this is our current state, the way we come to an end is very unfortunate.

Pu Speaker, before you end my time, let me thank you. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, we shall head towards ending our session. I am going to say, 'respected Minister' since we have been doing for over 50 years and I can't help but say it in our House. Now, I invite respected minister Pu Robert Romawia Royte to wind up and to make further clarifications, and to request you to pass his demands in the House.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Today, I am glad that we get time to discuss my demands in our Budget Session. As some of the respected MLAs have mentioned earlier, I am also a first-timer in this House. Through the help of God and our Chief Minister, I got to be a Minister for the first time as an MLA. I might have made mistakes and done things I was not supposed to do. Our behaviour in this House may not be pleasing to the eyes of you, the respected Speaker, the Commissioner of Assembly and all the staff. Similarly, I believe I may not be in the best behaviour towards my fellow MLA. Today, in this budget session and this term specifically, as the Budget Session comes to an end, I thank all the staff of the Assembly, Speaker and Dy. Speaker, I may have spoken things or done things I am not supposed to do. I beg for forgiveness. They are devoted; whenever I needed some books

from the Library urgently, they welcomed me and they were very helpful. My thanks also go to the seniors for their guidance.

Tonight, I also wholeheartedly thank the people of Aizawl East - II for their support and because of that, I can enter this House. When I first stood in this House, I talked about how I became a member of the House which is greater than the powerful Assembly Houses in India- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. I also thank God for this opportunity. That was because of the Peace Accord signed between MNF and the Indian government and followed up with the amendment of the Indian Constitution, Article C7 (1) (g). This House came into being. Article 371 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) and many more, but the Mizoram Assembly is very different. Since I used to study the Constitution, I used to compare which is the favourable one with Nagaland.

Tonight, as this budget session is coming to an end, I extend my deepest respect to Pu Laldenga, Pu Zoramthanga, Pu Tawnluia and others who have deceased and who are still alive today. It is great that they have fought for the ‘Constitution of Safeguards’ and let me mention this for the second time in this House. There are bigger assembly Houses with more members and they are more equipped with resources. But we were able to oppose the laws laid down by the Indian Parliament, like customs, religious laws and land-related laws in this House; that authority, Mizoram, can exercise that because of Pu Laldenga. It is great that the youths have started to pay respects again. It is also great that the youths are awakened respect to for nationalism and I extend my thanks today.

Tonight, I am wearing a tie, which is unusual. I have mentioned it this morning and I don’t want to talk about it often as there are some issues with me on social media and other parties, it seems like it happens in an organized manner. I think I have to talk about this regarding trolls against me. As I am clothed formally, kindly excuse me. You may think whether I should talk about this or not in this House, but regarding the apologies made that night, there are old things that have been circulating. I think it’s time that the truth was spoken at this House and I have been waiting for a long time.

In the year 2014, I was unexpectedly invited to contest for MP candidate by the Opposition party. Initially, I simply laughed away at it, but as it went on, they said, “All the parties work together here”. However, ZNP was a bit stressful for a long time. They came in much later than the others, but I won’t talk about how they joined. Then we started the campaign and headed towards the south. When we reached Siaha, one of our friends said, “Pu Robert, the people who campaigned before you said that while you worked in Siaha, you got involved in corruption. Could you explain that”. I just smiled, but I won’t delve into how I clarified. As we reached Champhai, we then heard, “Pu Robert Romawia Royte was corrupted while he used to work at Zawlnuam Police Station”. As we returned and headed towards Serchhip, “Pu Robert Romawia Royte was corrupted while he used to work at Zawlnuam Police Station. Afraid of being convicted, he pretended to act insane”. Then time went by, “He defecated and ate his faeces”, and

“He even ate grass”, such strange rumours emerged. Whenever there’s some issue, these completely false allegations circulate again and again.

As I am dressed quite well here today, I am talking about this with a smile on my face. For me, it’s nothing, and so is my family, but I think some people’s sentiments are hurt, so I am saying that by making use of this time. That time, MPSC organized a CEO examination in which I was the topper through the grace of God. Also, during that time, to continue my Ph. D at Assam University, I along with university and college lecturers gave an interview where I was the only one selected for the programme. (**Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma:** Pu Speaker, he need not say that in a public meeting, he may do that for *winding up*). Pu Speaker, I am almost done. I am mentioning these since it has been an issue these days. It may take a long time, but I have lots to say.

As time went by, the SSA Project came up during Pu F. Malsawma’s time. We couldn’t do many things during his time. Then, Pu Thangtea started becoming our senior Minister and appointed me as a convener. Maybe he and our Chief Minister during that time were good enough that in the ‘Education for all’ movement, Mizoram was awarded first prize by India Today. Then, The National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR) under Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy, Mussoorie opened a post for a national consultant which was issued in national papers. I went there to give an interview and someone like me, through the grace of God and who is nothing, was told, “You are the first among tribals who is qualified”; it was the rank of a Joint Director. That time, it was higher than our rank. But Dr. R. Lalthangliana, our Minister came over to our House and advised me not to go since the RMSA project had just launched and I was appointed as nodal officer. So, I worked on the RMSA project and Mizoram is the first state in India to receive funds for RMSA including the Model School and Girls Hostel Scheme. Nagaland even invited me and so did Meghalaya, Time Magazine announced me as ‘Man of the Year’, and when the Vice President of India did the same, our club was announced, ‘Club of the Year’, Sports Illustrated, the most famous magazine in the world announced our club as ‘Editor Choice of the Club’ and the prize was handed over to us by the Union Minister.

I am saying all those because I have received a lot of backlash and ill-treatment. Today, as the ‘Youth Minister’, I want to remind the youths that one must be determined, serious and hardworking, to succeed, one has to go a little extra. As an IT Minister and Sports & Youth Services Minister, let me also say that we must stop using fake accounts to threaten and attack people, especially our respected CM Pu Zoramthanga and our Opposition Leader along with Pu Lalduhoma who are constant victims in social media. Even the other tribal societies do not get involved as much as we do here. So, as we discuss about ICT budget and progress under the ICT Department., it won’t do any good if Mizos keep on doing this.

There is more to say but since we have some seniors and our CM waiting so I will not take much time.

First, we have recently talked about PMJVK. As much as I believe we should not continue talking about it, let me just do it anyway. The Mizoram government do not sanction funds for PMJVK, our CM neither gives funds nor makes allocations for funds, it is not done by our Council of Ministers either. Today, let's learn that it comes from the Empowered Committee under the Govt. of India. Pu Speaker, let me ask a question to those who talk something through you. If there was a balance possessed by the Health Deptt., Govt. of Mizoram, whether K- Deposit, unspent balance or utilized money, should the Health Ministry, Govt. of India recommend regarding funds under PMJVK? Let us think about this.

I talked about this in the morning, and they said that PMJVK is about a 'gap-funding scheme' or 'gap filled-in' scheme, let me also talk about it in another way. If the Ministry were not able to finish using its funds and has lots of *money surrender* funds, will they be able to recommend the line departments under PMJVK? The ones from Niti Aayog and the Financial Ministry might have asked, "Why don't you just give the surrender amount to which your state gives importance?"

I think it's not right that some people who just came to know about PMJVK during the second wave of COVID-19 talk about it at this House; the procedures that it entails are not ordinary. I assume we believe that the sanction comes from the Minority Affairs Ministry, but that is not the case. In Sports, the Sports Ministry do not have money which is why the end of the financial year, we face difficulties due to lack of money. When any Sports project reaches the hands of the Sports Ministry, they say "We have lots of gaps" and send it to SAI. SAI then sends it to Imphal, from there, physical verification is done and that is how the process takes place. So, let me assure you that it is not what we assumed to be projects wherein the ministry sets up an approval board or Grant-in-Aid committee sanctions.

Not only that, it is entirely wrong to assume that the Sports Department receives funds just because our state government gives importance to Sports. As the department receives PMJVK funds, it didn't pull the money out of another department's budget. So, if we do not utilise the sanctions that came from the Empowered Committee, we will be a department that violates the guidelines and the law. We receive and utilise funds rightly, as they are supposed to be. With the grace of God, the contractors and the department, there have been no complaints so far with the work done under PMJVK where more than ₹40,000 was spent. We have received God's grace and God has blessed this project too. So, I don't think it's right to complain just because we sit on different sides.

From its initial days, I think it's wrong that this scheme does not cover the whole of Mizoram. There's the IDMI scheme which is also a minority scheme. It covers the whole of Mizoram, because if 25% of the population are Christians, then that area is regarded as a minority area. I believe it's wrong that despite this, PMJVK does not include places where around 90% or 80%; Champhai District where 90% are Christians,

and Serchhip District might be slightly higher than this; I have also attended the meeting and written a letter. I was also involved deeply when they were about to amend their guidelines. They even laughed when I once suggested to them, “Do include Sports too, since people are so wise here that they work only on things related to sports”.

I would like to assure the House that the new guidelines encompass the whole of Mizoram and it has also been said that all the minority concentrated areas must be included. In this case, the ones who know it better might have thought, “According to their actions, maybe he said something about it”, so I am clarifying this.

I wanted to talk a bit about artificial turfs. Pu Speaker, I secretly heard that what our Opposition MLA wants the most for his constituency is artificial turfs. This is because the youth require it. There have been false allegations in some instances. When our Health Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana inaugurated an artificial turf field at Hnahthial, his constituency, we did not just leave it then and there. From this project, the government of Mizoram receives lakhs of money and this would be useful towards the fight against COVID-19. According to their interpretation, they said, “Pu Robert said that artificial turfs are useful to fight against Covid”.

Anyway, it is 100% central funding and I believe it was ₹670 lakhs. From that part, GST and labour cess is ₹60 lakhs or ₹50 lakhs. So, from laying the artificial turfs in Hnahthial, the government received more than lakhs which was utilised in 4Cs and 3Cs. I just wanted to include that as I talk about artificial turfs.

During this government, according to the answers given in Sessions, we answered that we expected to finish installing around 28 artificial turfs, but we missed out on some, we apologise for that. What we missed out on is one more from Siaha District which will be undertaken by UD&PA, and with that, it is 29 in total. We expect to do more as the population of youth increases, and so are their demands. Now, we haven't installed artificial turfs in Lengteng, Ngopa, Hnahlan, Champhai North and Melbuk, Burma border areas. I cannot mention all of them.

The other day I had a phone call from Ngopa saying, “Whoever said artificial turfs were enough, let them not enter our village anymore, we shall chase them back. We have been eagerly waiting for installation”. Tonight, in this House, I wonder if we hurt the mentality of our youths. So, let's understand the fact that some people install artificial turfs without taking away people's share and it may be out of the consciousness of our MLAs or our Chief Minister. We may criticise if we do only one thing from the budget without concentrating on other areas, when we simply criticise, we hurt our youths. Tonight, they will be talking about Sports in WhatsApp groups. As per the requirements of our youths, let us hope that we will be able to form a government again; they have talked about EAP so it seems like we are continuing installation of artificial turfs.

We have also talked about GST and labour cess. As per the calculations of the Department, GST and labour cess keep entering, a minimum rate of 18% is a must, and a greater amount can also enter. If the Contractor gives GST in cash, and if the vendors, cement sellers and iron rod sellers give GST from their sales and if the Contractor did not claim ICT as such, GST of more than 18% could enter as well. Currently, from the Sports department, there has been a good amount of GST that keeps entering, I hope the same goes for other departments too. Specifically, from Sports, more than ₹ 6,000 lakhs of GST and labour cess will enter the Government's account. We have been told that we did it too much but of course, we need to in some areas; we still have plans ahead.

After thoughtful consideration from our experts, the Mizoram Sports Deptt is supposed to use only ₹560 lakhs from the state government to build infrastructure within 4 years. The return of labour cess in GST is a lot that's why they had to adjust the shares that we utilised. So, I just want to assure you that with all those initiatives, we only use a tiny portion of the State's treasury.

I also want to say that our movement is purely demand-driven based. Now some things cannot be done yet and the demand for Sports is extremely high. Our Opposition members have mentioned that we have to give attention to 'contact sports'. As much as you requested, we also wish to fulfil these things. Apart from the government's money, we expect to receive from CSR and Railways. We even called the head of the Railways Sports Board and with Pu Valtea's initiative, we are planning to set up the Contact Sports Centre at Ainawn Veng. Now, we are waiting for funds from three sources. I also accept the saying that we haven't done much promotion of Sports. This is due to a lack of funds. But I can tell that God is guiding us along with our Chief Minister. That includes our sportspersons as well; this morning I had all the required figures but, I misplaced them. During these four years, we have taken lots of international medals including national medals. Due to categorisation in terms of zonal wise, we believe that our leaders have done their part in sports promotion.

It is also true that in the recent North-East Olympics, we were on a lower rank due to our poor performance. The Sports Association called for a joint meeting and what they said is very true. Since we're reaching a higher level, rather than North East Level competition, the ones who aim for National Level and the ones who are staying at National Camp, we decided not to call them back. There have been many Mizos who used to and have been staying in National Camp. Had we taken one or two gold medals, we would have positioned ourselves at least in the third place. There are sportspersons for sure who can take medals but are not a part of the North East Olympic Games. Our priorities now are the National Games and National Championship. People might not fully get this. I am not making up excuses because of our unsatisfactory results, but we need to know the facts of the case.

Regarding sports infrastructure, it is not good for our sportspersons to hear the opinion, "You are too excited in this regard because you want to allot work to

contractors”. There are ways of appointing contractors, even if it was *restricted*, there are established procedures. Let’s hope that the department knows how to select restricted tender carefully and there are standards for comparative assessment. In the Works Advisory Committee, where Ministers cannot get involved, there were departments like Finance, Law, allied department and nodal department. Based on those cases, they told them to do a presentation. There are criteria like- work done and the kind of key personnel that they have. So, let us trust our officials. They have one of the best advisory systems, through which they appoint contractors. Since we are juniors in this field, I believe, that constantly talking about their names here at this highly regarded House, is hardly practised and I am saying that as a political science student also.

I remember my father telling me, “The Assembly Session’s speeches are very important, they never mention individual names, if they do, it’s about officers who received awards because of their good deeds”. Since I am a person who is obedient towards their father, I grew up with that. The other day, I regret that Lalnunsiami’s name was mentioned. I already heard it when we first discussed it and then and there, I didn’t want to answer since I do not want to mention their names personally.

I also urged the support of all the members about promotion, I also believed that our coaches were good enough. The residential and non-residential training are all done by us *in-house*. So, right now we have a good number of associations in many places that are taking initiatives out of their commitment. We only picture Aizawl and its surroundings when it is the outstations where we mostly see more activities. Today, I also want to state that we even utilise whatever money that we have.

When I conclude, my flaws due to less experience are revealed. Let’s also talk about *Supplementary Demands*. (**Pu Lalduhoma:** I heard our Minister saying that PMJVK is 100% ...?) Pu Speaker, it is not PMJVK. I think I know what our respected Opposition Leader talks about, that 100% is about the Hnahthial field. (**Pu Lalduhoma:** Then which fund is that?) It’s from NECS and was started by the previous government. I want to give compliments to the previous Sports Minister but he is not here today. It was their initiative along with Saitual. But as we all know; the scheme suddenly came to a halt. Since long back, I often used to believe that it is wrong that the Central government has the habit of suddenly ending schemes. At that time, Saitual and Hnahthial were heard to be discontinued. I went to Delhi to visit Pu Rathore who was the Union Sports Minister at the time. I sincerely asked, so he called the officers and as an aligned ministry at NECS, he wrote a letter and with that, we can continue. I think the two MLAs, Pu R. Lalzirliana and Dr. R. Lalthangliana are happier than me, the people from their constituencies are also happy. That’s enough with Sports. I shall react later.

Tourism is very important. You have given importance and some of us have talked about it. I forgot to mention about ‘Peace Bonus’ in the first Budget Session. I spoke about how the ‘Peace Bonus’ exists and how it was sanctioned.

Today, I want to talk about Tourism. Under our Chief Minister, we do not construct buildings wherein people would say “The whole village requested for it”. With careful consideration and study, the Tourism department is undergoing tourist attractions or destination development. While I was the Minister of Tourism, (I think the other Ministers did it too), we first looked into Allocation of Business. When we look at that, we can see what the state expects from the Allocation of Business Rules. When I looked up that, I was not happy at all. I also looked at the other state’s Allocation of Business. It was also a time when the previous government was about to amend the Allocation of Business Rules, which I also brought forward to the committee. It was 2019 when I first took up the Chair. We amended the Allocation of Business Rules in this government to improve Tourism. We put hospitality services, hotels, and restaurants under the Tourism department which were never under other departments. That really paved the way and advantages were seen too. Now, initiatives have been taken to maintain standards, how to serve foods, how to prepare, and how to set up rooms and grading systems in hotels. Pu Speaker, I wanted to request our respected members to visit the hotels in Aizawl and witness the revolution. They have set up high standards and I am really glad about that. At the recent International Tourism Mart (ITM), Ricky's team from Govt. of India spoke highly of our hotel owners, and today, our department receives great cooperation from them as well. Through this House, I thank the hotel and restaurant owners for their cooperation.

From our side, I also believe we helped them as much ever we could during Covid when money and income were a problem; there were no guests, rent, fees and bills needed to be paid and we gave assumptions in whichever way we could.

While COVID was severe, we have developed this rule which was known as ‘*Mizoram- Responsible Tourism Policy, 2020*’, the Council of Ministers approved it and we have presented it in this House as well. This is an important foundation for the development of tourism. Because of this policy, the department and the government can move ahead with Mizoram Tourism as the base. Not only that, we can make known to the Central that we now have a ‘*responsible tourism policy*’, and we are ready to get help and support. This is an important game-changer in the history of tourism.

Not only that, but we have also made the *Mizoram Tourism of Tourist Trade Act, 2020* with a variety of guidelines. This is how we make use of Covid. We have set up, ‘Guidelines for Caravan Tourism in Mizoram’, ‘Guidelines for Dormitories and Hostels in Mizoram’, ‘Guidelines for Homestays in Mizoram’, ‘Guidelines for Tour Operator in Mizoram’, ‘Guidelines for Ticketing Sales Agent Travel Agent in Mizoram’, ‘Guidelines for Tour Guides in Mizoram’, ‘Operational Guidelines for Registration of Restaurants in Mizoram’, ‘Operational Guidelines for Organizing Fairs Festivals and Events’, ‘Guidelines for Recognition of Tourism Service Provider’ and ‘Guidelines for Recognition of Tourism Service Providers Association’ which people adhere well to it.

From my simple point of view, I think we have set up a proper legal foundation to boost Tourism, I am really glad to witness this and I also have great colleagues. For this particular department, just like the ICT and Sports Department, I won't be going into the points. My salute goes to my colleagues, officers and staff. **(Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Pu Speaker, please, while he is talking about Tourism, Bungtlang South is my constituency. The tourist lodge that the previous government built did not receive any care within this year and I have also spoken about this during the Session. So, is that place going to be abandoned or is there are initiative to continue? While it has been said that the construction of Tourist Lodge, Bungtlang South is almost completed, and is placed for commission, it remains the same. It would be good if we have an explanation for that.)

Pu Speaker, respected member, MLA of Lawngtlai, Pu C. Ngunlianchunga mentioned that in the previous session. We gave importance to that and before he spoke about that, we visited the place and even clicked pictures there It was also the time when we thought we would start looking out for more funds. I am not sure if we can do it within this financial year, but we do have areas to work on. With the grace of God and the leadership of our Chief Minister, we do expect to inaugurate within this term.

The unfortunate case for Tourism is that, when the Tourism Department builds a tourist lodge and tries to hand it to us, there are some cases where we do not like to accept that; I have also personally visited one of those places. Even in the previous term, we were not able to accept Tuipang Tourist Lodge. Similar cases happen in other places as well. Concerning Pu C. Ngunlianchunga's question, is he directing to that or the PICC scheme? I am not sure about the scheme that ended recently, and I cannot talk about that. It might be that they continued with the remains of SASCI finds which can be found in SASCI (Part – 1) guidelines. I will also discuss this with our Chief Minister, which is very important.

Regarding *Tourist Arrival*, there is no doubt that Mizoram was in a poor situation during Covid (2020 – 2021). Before COVID-19, which was 2019- 20, out of our total population of 1,61,677, we had 14% tourist footfall which we were glad about. The next 2 years were in disarray, there was not much to say. Within this year, there is a month left; there are around 1.89.099 people as per Tourist destination and hotels. We might not include everyone who entered casually. We are happy that we have 16.6% before the end of the year.

We have also erected a Convention Centre at Chite Veng, the sanctioned amount was ₹4,600 lakhs, they have been working fast, and it is supposed to be completed next year as per the work order. We have appointed an execution agency for the work post and they have been issuing e-tenders. When we visited the place recently with the department heads, they told us that they would be done before September and they have been working day and night.

Let me just talk about how interesting this scheme is. Mizoram is the only state in India that receives this sanction. Their Joint Secretary even congratulated me. One Mizo lady from Manipur, maybe an Under Secretary even asserted that no other states attempted to request that scheme. The advantage is that, once it is completed, they will hand it over to the Mizoram government and a running course will also be given for three years.

With the initiative of our Chief Minister, we are going to build the Beraw Tourism Resort under SASCI using ₹606 lakhs. Under NESIT, there is one more construction that costs ₹560; the same goes under NESIT at Khamrang which costs ₹800 lakhs, I believe this is also 100% funding. Similarly, we have finished issuing a tender to build an Ecological Park at Chakhei for ₹236.17 lakhs under NEC. Maybe they are still in the process of selecting the Contractor, I am unsure about this part. We also have ₹601.25 lakhs for the upgradation of roads in Samtlang, Tlungvel and Reiek. ₹ 4,488.52 under the Prasad Scheme is also 100% funding and I believe the tender process is ongoing. A DPR is currently being made for Swadesh 2.0, wherein ₹7,000-₹8,000 lakhs are earmarked by the principle (I think it is not yet approved) for Champhai and the surrounding areas of Aizawl. Besides, under Mini – the Prasad scheme, to promote Heritage & Religious Tourism at Sairang, Changsil Kai, Bethel Ministry's land and Vangchhia, we are currently submitting ₹1,213 lakhs.

We believe that we successfully hosted the International Mart based on the remarks that we received from the guests and customers. Our staff even received personal thanks from people. Since it is about good news, let me say that on a rare occasion Pi Lalawmpuii, Asst. The Tourism Officer at the Tourism Dept. was assigned to be the LO for Arvind Singh. Mr. Singh sent a letter to the department complimenting Pi Lalawmpuii for her smart and kind behaviour. That shows that our officers and staff from our department are really smart.

Thenzawl Tourist Lodge is available now for online booking which also prevents corruption. The current Union Minister, Pu GK Reddy gave great importance to the YUVA Tourism Club. The forefront runners in development practice this type of 'call tourism'. When the Central government implied that Yuva Tourism Club must be set up in high schools, colleges and universities. Mizoram was among the first few states who take the initiative. In the recent ITM, many volunteers are from Yuva Tourism, which is also where the Central govt. recognises us.

Regarding the 'ongoing tender' that I have mentioned, rather than a restricted tender, we thought it would be better if we do it as an 'open tender'; now that Covid is over. I have been waiting for this even though restricted tender also seems to be a good practice. Just as our Opposition Leader have mentioned, if it is 'proprietary' or some level, when the bidders are not that much in number and if it is an 'open tender', it is possible that the rate is high. In this case, they can cooperate by dividing their percentage of share; if the bidders are fewer, there is a chance that open tenders in

remote areas give place for giving work at a high rate. For example, Nagaland is a conflict-prone state, so there are not many bidders; especially, if it is an open tender, the excess amount from the *schedule of rate* is distributed among them as well. This can also arise in this case.

Pu Speaker, I think that during Covid, if the ones on your left were Ministers and CM, they would even follow restricted tender. There seemed to be no other way in that kind of situation. What I meant to say is that we can start opening tenders for our current 6 projects, which cost more than lakhs which makes me glad. That is the responsibility of the officials. I am unsure if I have seen their recommendation or not. I also believe that by that time, just like how our Contractors work for Tourism and PMGK, they will also put in their best efforts.

I also invited the House members to visit there as a family trip and stay the night there. There is a huge difference when you see it on the spot. We are also planning to check all the roadside hotels and restaurants and advise them to improve their cooking and management of their business, we haven't found the right time yet. Tourist Lodge has a 'brand' of its own. Back in the day, we hesitated people to invite and welcome in these places, but now I think we have set up enough that we are open for a visit, it's a way of contributing towards the government's revenue.

Let me also mention that this year, we have taken 144 international medals which is great. In recent years, they travelled to How they regard an 'international medal' back when they travel to Bhutan is not anymore since it goes through the federation now. The 'international medals' that we received through the cross was 144, we also received 233 national medals. But in the year 2021, we almost didn't secure any medals because, in other states, their sportspersons were given special permission during Covid while that was not possible in our state. As a result, no participation was seen. So, once COVID is over, we will be able to improve both in securing good results and sports infrastructure as well.

Talking about ICT is a small department but plays an important role. Therefore, I want to say that we cannot give lesser importance compared to other departments. They have been working hard and promoting maximum outputs rather than facing it personally. After becoming the ICT Minister, I thought of employing more people but there has been no additional post created so far. As mentioned before, even though we have comparatively a smaller number of employees, we do have a budget of ₹500 lakhs which we believe is a lot. However, if you look back at the supplementary demands last year, ICT had ₹7,250 lakhs or ₹7,700 lakhs. Some people used to say that the authorities give a lot of funds through supplementary demands. So, let me take this opportunity to justify it. The supplementary demand of ₹ 7,000 lakhs or more than this, which the ICT department has comes from our receipts. After the budget was passed for this financial year, our officers and staff worked their fingers to the bone. Even I tried my best for this as well.

Then, we received funds from the Central government under schemes like PMGVK, MEITY Ministry and DOT. So, on the verge of the end of the financial year, we received around ₹7,000 lakhs; our budget was just around ₹494 lakhs and our spending was supposed to be ₹7,000 lakhs. (**Speaker:** It is ₹7,697.50 lakhs). Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is great to have ₹7,697.50 lakhs for supplementary demands. We used to motivate each other by telling each other that even though we have a smaller budget, we must try to make it big at least in supplementary demands. I believe people missed the point on social media like Facebook saying that we do too many *supplementary demands*. Today, I want to make it clear that my 3 departments aim to get maximum supplementary demands. So, we are currently implementing these in reality and with the funds that we receive, we are planning to install 5G service in all the district and block headquarters. Pu Speaker, I also have the sanction ready, but I already took so much time; I am afraid they will think that I took too much time when our budget is very less.

We are planning to give mobile connectivity in all the villages; I believe I am not mistaken in this part. It's only a few places that we haven't installed it yet, but let me assure you that we have the provision to install it. Let us hope that the two villages that fall under Pu L. Thangmawia and Er. H. Lalzirliana's constituency has not missed out on this part as well. We have heard about 5G which our Chief Minister recently inaugurated. Jio has also introduced 5G in Aizawl now. Even the other districts wanted to have so I keep receiving phone calls about this often. According to the department's plan, within this calendar year, we are planning to introduce 5G connection and 5G service in all the district capitals. When the Prime of India, Mr. Narendra Modi launched 5G on 1st October, I along with Dr. Renu Sharma, Chief Secretary and Pu Maringa, Senior Informatic Officer attended that great event. I have attended big conferences and the Ministers' Conference, but that one was spectacular. I was impressed by the acts of the IT Ministry and the IT Company. It was also the Indian Mobile Congress which is recognised as the largest Congress in Asia; let me share with you all that it was a beneficial experience for me.

Additionally, we are also planning to give free Wi-Fi to 500 villages; I wanted to provide the list but I am not yet ready. We are also planning to make a 'digital- super-highway' to link all the districts and blocks. It also seems like, along with our Chief Minister, we are going to make more highways not only for trucks. We also have sanctions to build Knowledge Centres in the 15 RD Blocks, the tender is under process. The 'Mobile e-Service Portal' is in the making for the people's ease of access; we believe that this will bring a positive change in the lives of people and so we are enthusiastic about it.

We are also going to create a 'Cloud-enabled State Data Centre' that will be utilised by all the government departments in Mizoram to store their information and documents. As I have stated about supplementary demands, we shall be utilizing it for these developments. From PMJVK, we are going to create an IT Skill Development and

Training Centre in 7 places that fall under the Minority area. There are also plans to improve telecommunications like to saturate all the 4Gs. As I said the other day, we haven't finished covering 70 villages and that is planned to be covered using 57 towers; we believe this won't take much time anymore.

Here, our heads have mentioned various points stating our achievements and initiatives, but I won't go into this to save time. I assume we know that the ICT department helps various departments with their software development. It is also true that our budget is less. But let me state that in some areas, we also work with other's budgets. We also have MSAC (Mizoram e-Governance Society) who are a bunch of experts; they are consulted by private individuals, private firms, corporate firms and even the government. The various state departments have a budget for IT and software related and using those, they have also employed our staff.

We have also experienced how M-COVID and ICT's role became prominently big during COVID-19. We were not able to do anything without M-Covid and that was where other states liked the idea too. Those are solely the output of the ICT Department.

This sums up the ICT department, "Even though the ICT department is a small department, their output is a great one". The department is going to do more than this since we have received funds. I have two to three projects that I have kept in my mind for this year. Due to this Session, we are not able to discuss it with our officers. If we could get three more projects, our initial thoughts regarding how small the projects we have would have surely changed. For ICT, let that be my response. Even though our departments have prepared well-elaborated responses, I will not read everything. In short, we are going to cover all the villages left for covering.

Besides that, our respected members have spoken about this and I'm hesitant to leave it just like that so, I will react without taking too much time.

There is not much to react to regarding Pu Zothantluanga's speech and I assume he is happy with that since we are planning to excavate lands to construct Sairang field and Phunchawng field. Changing RR is also an important topic. The government has already decided to have a 5% reservation for 'Permanent Direct Recruitment'. Maybe there are some departments which still hesitate to make alterations. We have written about this, and we shall do it to other departments as well.

Let it be a request to our respected members of the House, our Chief Minister and our Dy. Chief Minister who also heads DP & AR- to effectively implement this important initiative by the government, 'all the RRs that need amendment must be amended.'

Regarding '₹1,000 crores' in Tourism as mentioned by Pu Zothantluanga, just like our Minister, Pu Thangtea spoke about it, we have already received

recommendations from the Home Ministry, Defence Ministry, External Affairs Ministry, NITI Aayog, DoNER, Tourism Ministry and the screening committee under Finance Ministry. If we continue to qualify, they are planning to give us ₹1,000 crores through PRF.

Out of ₹1000 crores, ₹720 crores is an agreement between the central government and ADB. There has been a belief that Mizoram is borrowing loans but that is a misunderstanding. It means that the Central government will borrow loans for us and we have a role of paying back a small portion of it. Whereas in terms of Tourism, it seems that through Public- Private Partnerships or management contracts, several other people will build hotels, resorts and amusement parks and the state government will not spend any money for these.

When I last visited Delhi, we had a small talk with the Addl. Secretary who is also the Chairman of the Screening Committee. I asked, "State shares seem difficult for us so can we just have agreements with hotels that want to open their branch in our state that will take the responsibility of providing state share and not the state government?", then he unexpectedly replied, "That is our wish." There was no such thing as not permitted. So, people will want to invest in Tourism. Our Finance Department also should not worry too much. It seems that this will be practically run once the Private Companies want to invest in Tourism by building hotels, big buildings which will not go in vain. He also suggests that after many years, the government will be able to have it back which will be of a great advantage. So, I wanted to include that in terms of EAP, I am looking forward to it.

Meanwhile, action is being taken diligently. Even if money and sanctions are not received together, we wish to receive a good amount as early as possible. We might need the help of our Chief Minister and we also hope that he is willing to help us.

This complements the Sports integrated concept nicely as well. As stated explicitly in the meeting minutes, we anticipate receiving ₹1,250 crores from EAP for sports. Since it is an integrated area, receiving the largest sanction in Mizoram would set a "Mizoram World Record" if the amount reached ₹2,250 lakhs. Let me also state that our officers are smartly running after this. If this was issued, it would be used to develop various places such as Lammual, Champhai District Sports Complex, and Khawzawl District Sports Complex which I talked about to our Dy. CM 2-3 times, then Saitual which does not have a sports complex yet, Darlawn, a village that has been waiting for the installation of artificial turfs, that has also the capability of building a mini sports complex in various places. I believe, from these places, we would be able to elevate our conditions. Since there won't be a need for repayment, we would be able to receive ₹720 crores, ₹1,400 crores- ₹1,500 crores and this is a lot to get for free. The financial experience of our Chief Minister is seen again and again.

We often talk about financial management but the most important one has to do with ‘income management’; even during my trainee days, this was what our teachers primarily put their focus on. Ignoring this part and focusing on reducing expenditures simply in the name of financial management deteriorates development and thereby creates a ‘development holiday’. So, the most important thing for financial management is to receive a lot of money and to spend lots of money.

Tonight, the youths are going to hear how there are a lot of gaps in Sports. Through PMJVK, we have covered only three districts while some of our leaders whined about how it is already too much. I often say that this does not even exceed the amount spent for making one stadium in other neighbouring states; so, let’s not complain about it so soon. The youths of today are getting competitive so rather than staying here, they chose to go out of the state and prepare for national competition. Discussing matters that can hinder the development of sports infrastructure in the Assembly House might have political consequences; will it affect us by November? Therefore, we need to have a broad mindset for Sports.

Additionally, people who are not interested in Sports and the differently abled may just be our VIPs because if we look at the policy document of National Education Policy, 2020, Sports has been written 30 times. I’m sure you have read it already; I even gave a comment when the Union Minister sent me a draft. It says that sports must be part of the curriculum and not just outside of the school. To secure the status of a developed country, people must stay healthy, fit and productive. To maintain good health, physical activity must be promoted at its best.

So, Sports must be looked at from a new perspective and I request you all to look at it from the education aspect as well. Some headlines stated, “...Sports is no longer a co-curricular activity. It has become a curricular activity”; so, they have emitted the ‘co’ part now. So, these days, rather than having a son who is excellent in mathematics, it's better to have one who is physically fit and active right; even though both the combinations are good together. We need to cautiously think about this. Along with Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, we used to talk about whether we needed to form a committee or not... (interruption)

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, *Point of Clarification*, while he is standing there, may he kindly react to this for me-

In the year 2021, we the party people welcomed him at Sangau Tourist Lodge. What he said there was, “As soon as fall comes, I will put 2 JCBs to the north of the river. Within one month, we will repair all the fields that require touch-ups and those that require excavation of the lands. We were all happy and clapped our hands but nothing has changed since then. They request me to raise this question on their behalf. Pu Speaker, I would be thankful to get a response.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Alright, as a senior politician, our Speaker is wise; he asks more questions that people have, thus giving me a good chance to elaborate more.

I call it '*Operation Mualzavata*' wherein I keep looking for funds. Under this scheme, they have started excavation at Pu Rintluanga's constituency, Darlung and at the Home Minister's constituency, Keitum. We have also earmarked Theiriati field and we are going to start at Pu Valtea's constituency too. It might come from private individuals and we are going to receive CSR as well. I have also heard what Pu Ngunlianchung, the MLA of Lawngtlai West have said; but I did not mean to say the field areas which lie to the north of the river, we must be selective since the chance is open only for a month. We will place two JCBs for one month. Even the MLA of that constituency respected Dy. Speaker, Pu H. Biakzauva is eagerly waiting for it. There might be funds from SASCI as well. Pu Rintluanga has said that he'll be able to bear the cost of oil for JCB while the hiring fees will be on us. With this limited amount of money, our target is around 100 fields. Our MLAs can also contribute to this, and this is how we shall remember Mualzavata as well. (**Pu K.T. Rokhaw:** Pu Speaker, as I have said before, will you be able to give a chance for what I have said earlier- about Siaha Meisatla playground gallery? Also, regarding Lodawh Tourist Lodge, many tourists use to visit the *Castle of Beino*, as I have mentioned last year, will you be able to do the construction properly for us?) Alright, Pu Speaker, I won't have time to explain them one by one, I was planning to say that from our department, I will be giving out explanations. I have also given importance as it is a Sixth Schedule area. My M. Phil thesis was about the Sixth Schedule as well, so I thought it was important to react.

In response to Pu Rokhaw's question, we have submitted DPR for Beino, but we haven't received the sanction yet, I think it is around ₹1,000 lakhs. The Sports Department haven't received for the Meisatla field, a proper plan from UD & PA and our Dy. Chief Minister, the finished projects reach the Sports Deptt. first and from the department, it is handed over to the District Football Association or the District Sports Committee. Since I believe we haven't received anything regarding the Meisatla playground, I cannot further elaborate. I will discuss it with the Dy. Chief Minister as well. The football association from their district have already asked me as well, (**Pu K.T. Rokhaw:** I was talking about its gallery...) they have mentioned the approaching road; we even saw while it was built. It was built by UD & PA and since there was no handover, we were not sure if they were to continue building or not. Then, 'Lodawh' is that place near Bymari, isn't it? There is a tourist lodge there. The truth is, there are hardly any guests over there, thus, we failed to maintain it properly. (**Pu K.T. Rokhaw:** That is the one from Lomasu. It means, that even though the 'Castle of Beino' has lots of visitors, there is no accommodation at Lodawh. That is why I asked for the construction of a tourist lodge.) Alright, we will take note of it.

It's been difficult to maintain tourist lodges these days, so many of the lodges have decided to be maintained under private management through a contract. We also

hoped that this would be an ‘improved version’ of privatization. As we have thoughts on this, we do not want to go ahead with it without much assessment and proper studies. Pu Lalduhoma, opposition Leader has spoken about PMJVK gain. Since he’s very respectable. Let me just say it again.

PMJVK is sanctioned by the central government, and all the appraisals and verifications are done by them as well. If the Sports Department were given more and if we ask them the reason, I assume they would reply that they gave us as per the law and that they have more on their recommendations. So, they keep on asking me to ask even for the small funds. I hope I make it clear. Also, from the West Tuipui constituency, our senior MLA, ex-Minister, Pu Nihar Kanti told me that we did not work in their area even though he is the MCA there. I feel sorry for them and even the YCA and the Chakma Committee said this to me as well. I thought we were going to receive it since we have made three big projects in Tlabung. But as we have mentioned before, if the utilization level in a district is very low, then they refuse to give funds. Unfortunately, Tlabung is one of the selected villages so, I empathise with them as well. But there will be another chance, we still have EAP and Khelo India, so we shall give them more importance.

Besides that, there is a wrong assumption that too much of PMJVK has been used for Sports, had we not used this, we would have violated the laws. So, if it was sanctioned for Sports, we must use it for Sports. The criteria are quite complicated. There are evaluations such as ‘Have you surrendered money in the last financial year?’, so the Ministry won’t accept all the recommendations of the State government for PMJVK. As our friend, their Joint Secretary told us, the committee might have said, “You should have given the surrendered money to the Govt. of Mizoram”; these things must be avoided.

There are lots of DPRs that are not qualified enough for PMJVK. Between 2019 to 2020, several DPRs were submitted by the Health Department. There were also submissions for all the schools from the southern region, but there were no positive comments from the line’s ministry, so the PMJVK-empowered committee were not able to work on that. While there was an issue with the RT PCR machine in Lunglei, I travelled down there and I requested them to give me money to build a place to put the machine and said that money could be given to the Health Department as well. Even the Union Secretary said, “Sir, we would be glad to give you; RT PCR is where the Health Department puts a lot of money, that we know. But, how can we give you, since this is not about gaps”. I hope his answer makes it clear.

Sometimes Sessions can be peculiar; just like our seniors said, even I lost a booklet of what I have planned to say, so I will not delve into that part. Pu Speaker, I believe I have spoken about all the departments. In the past, I missed out on the Tourism department. I know that I took so much time since there is a lot to say regarding my

concerned departments, so I am considerate to myself in that case. Thank you for listening as well.

Pu Speaker, here are my demands:

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
22	Sport & Youth Services	25,37,23,000.00
43	Tourism	11,34,16,000.00
48	Information & Communication Technology	5,07,38,000.00
TOTAL		41,78,77,000.00

This is for the year 2023-24. I request the House to accept this.

SPEAKER : Alright, Minister Pu Robert Romawia’s demand-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
22	Sport & Youth Services	25,37,23,000.00
43	Tourism	11,34,16,000.00
48	Information & Communication Technology	5,07,38,000.00
TOTAL		41,78,77,000.00

is requested to be passed in the House. Those who agree may say ‘Agree’. (**Members:** ‘Agree’).

If anyone disagrees, please say “Disagree”. (*No one disagrees.*)

Alright, Pu Robert Romawia Royte’s demand is passed. (**Pu Robert Romawia Royte** : Thank you, Pu Speaker.)

SPEAKER : Now, respected Minister.... (**Pu Lalduhoma**: The respected Minister spoke about ‘eating faeces’ when he started talking about his demands. That is going to taint the *proceedings*.) What did he say? (**Pu Lalduhoma**: It is regarding ‘eating faeces’; and if that were a false accusation, it wouldn’t be good for him to stay on records. I have shared what it feels like to be falsely accused. So, let’s erase that part since it sounds awful.) I look back at the proceedings. When we celebrated our 50th year, there was a rumour in the way the Ministers and the MLAs teased each other saying, “...not an ordinary snore”. Let’s accept these things as the fun part. (**Pu Robert Romawia Royte**: Pu Speaker, I am saying that since I want that to remain in the *proceedings*.) (**Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo**: Pu Speaker, ‘Dampa savawm’ also seems that it needs to be removed right?”). When Pu Robert-a was speaking, I said to myself, “This must be a new style!”

Let me invite respected Minister, Pu C. Lalrinsanga to windup our deliberations, add more comments if needed and request to pass the demands.

PU LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Since it's already late, let me take the time.

It brings nostalgia as I think about the past years. I have been sitting here for the past 19 years and our Home Minister at that time was the Speaker, I also think our Commissioner used to be a Committee Officer at that time. Standing here today at the last session of this 8th Legislative Assembly is truly a blessing and guidance of God; it feels like a dream. It was also a favour from our heads and I am amazed with that as well. I also thank the Commissioner and the staff for managing all these; I know it's going to be a heavy workload so I thank them.

There are quite a few who gave reactions on my departments; I still have more to react but to save time, we shall send it to you all in file. What has been observed is that the Agriculture Department must fulfil its plans to achieve self- sufficiency; this brings a great responsibility as the Minister also. In that case, not being able to reach the desired goal is distressing. So, I thought of two things. When our Supply Minister said that we had no rice to buy, I thought we must find out the reason why. So, I went to the fields and saw the scarcity with my own eyes. Mamit and Kolasib are considered our 'rice bowls' as of now, so I visited those places to see how we take care of the crops. I saw that the owners were trying their best to achieve maximum production by employing other people. For example, if they collect 300 loads and say they collect only 100 loads, then they can divide 50 loads among them. If the owner were from Aizawl, the remaining would go to Silchar and the surrounding areas; therefore, this system must be corrected.

We also suggest a 'collective farming policy' to improve the existing conditions. This policy will contain FPO. For example, if the farmer chooses either FPO or FPC, it will be done in an entrepreneurship manner, wherein mechanization techniques will be adopted for harvesting and threshing rice grains. With the help of proper policies, we would be able to harvest a good amount of rice. This was what I was thinking of.

Focussing on the hilly terrains, since we practice farming on slopes, the natural minerals and fertilisers contained in the soil are often washed away in the hilly terrains. If this keeps going for more years, we have a good amount of rainfall that can even change the shape of our slopes in the coming years; these are the things that can occur. Even now, the farmers of today cannot grow as much as they want to compare to their produce back in the day. This is where we should initiate steps.

Anyway Pu Speaker, the Agriculture Deptt. has various schemes such as the Central Sector Scheme, Central Sponsor Scheme and Externally Aided Project (EAP) wherein we take steps to improve agriculture. Between 2022- 23, we also have reports

from the initiatives we took in the previous year. Firstly, we require bio-fertilizers or a solution or ways to make the soil runny. For that, we have been taking steps since 2020, the new project we are expecting right now is in Neihbawih called OP12- Bio-Fertilizer Production Unit.

With the help of two research institutes- CSIR and Northeast Institute of Science & Technology, Jorhat and the Department of Biotechnology, Mizoram University, we have been working together to bring positive changes. CSIR and NEIST, Jorhat have developed a type of fertilizer ‘OP12 strain’ or as we call it, microbes. This is run as a ‘turn-key project’. As time goes, we went there along with the CM since it is his constituency; we even set up a commission there. So, we expect to make more than 5 metric tonnes of bio-fertilizer in a month.

Besides that, Pu Speaker, there are quite a few oil palm growers in Mizoram especially in the western belt of Mizoram. There are also a few oil palm growers in Lunglei, but comparatively less than in this area. An initiative was started in 2004-05. Before the National Mission on Edible Oil Palm Scheme was launched, the cost of the fruit was only ₹4.50/- per piece; we used to expect a price that was more worth than the said price. However, the government cannot provide all for them. So, we increased the price by ₹4.50/- and then it cost ₹10/-. We were unable to maintain that for a long time also. Fortunately, the central government introduced a new formula price, called *viability gap payment* and *special payment* for the north-east. Here, they fixed our FAB rate; and with that, they were able to sell it for ₹10.28/- and they were really glad with that. After the introduction of this scheme, 46,412 metric tonnes of oil palm were extracted from the machine placed at Bukvannei. Currently, there has been a discussion in Lunglei to work with Patanjali Food Ltd., a company that will look after the production of oil palm. It has been reported that the location has been surveyed to install the machines.

Pu Speaker, I also want to add that regarding this, lots of questions came from the people saying, “It is safe; it is not safe; we have a small portion of land; it absorbs water a lot so it can damage the surface of the soil” etc. We have to do something about this. We think it is important to study if the growing of oil palms can pose harmful effects in Mizoram. To conduct the study, we appointed a study team last March. The convener is the Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Lengpui, Mamit and the members are:

- 1) Representative from ICR – Mizoram Regional Centre, Kolasib;
- 2) Representative from Deptt. of Forest, MZU Aizawl;
- 3) Representative from KVK, Kolasib;
- 4) Dr. Lalramliana, Associate Professor, Deptt. of Geology, PUC;
- 5) Professor John Zothanzama, Deptt. of Bio-Technology, MZU.

The state government gave them ₹6,61,000 to do their studies, I haven't heard of their findings yet. I am saying these so that lots of people will not be in doubt and that is how we took the initiative.

When we started growing oil palm, an oil palm seed garden was already commenced in West Serzawl and the Central also showed their appreciation by sending some representatives to visit. There are around 2000 trees in that place, and the ICAR and IOPR scientists are keeping a close eye on those trees. By 2025-2026, we look forward to producing oil palm sprouted seeds. The expected revenue will also add to the revenue income of the state as well. The aim is to bring sufficiency in oil production in the whole of India and oil palm production is one among them. Since we are among the first few growers of oil palm, they started focusing on us. If the other northeast states want to start growing, they would be able to buy sprout- seeds from us and this will generate our income to a great extent.

Pu Speaker, the next one is about the NEC project, wherein we will produce good potato seeds. We have the *'Development of potato seed farm in quantity seed production through tissue culture and epical rooted cutting'* which is ongoing as I mentioned earlier in the House. In the meantime, I also want to highlight how we do the promotions in the process. The advantage for India is that the *aeroponic system* will be applied. There are 40 development projects like this in India and Mizoram is the 41st to practice this. One time, their engineer Pu Sukinder Singh and his friend came over and we talked in my room, he said, "You must try to fulfil the requirement of potato seeds for northeast India". We will create a potato mini-tuber and to give the required technology license fee, an agreement has been made with the ICAR – Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) Shimla.

Besides that, we are going to set up a hybrid storage system to store the potato seeds which will be a solar cum electric-ran cold storage system. It has a capacity of 100 metric tons and that is received through RIDFG NABARD. Through NABARD funding, the place to set up is currently under construction. We have also put RKVY funds to converge this as well. The technology is also quite different, if the cold storage is higher than 4 degrees centigrade, the sprouts can easily grow. So, requirements to take care of all those things are currently in the planning process.

Next, we have 'Modern Jaggery Production-cum- Training Centre' based on the ICAR-IISR model at Khawlailung. These days, there are lots of jaggery makers in many places but we cannot cater to everyone's needs. Since Khawlailung village is known for their jaggery production, we placed our focus on them this time by setting up the *'Establishment of Modern Jaggery Production-cum-TRAINING Centre'*, ICAR and IIS Institute Model, Lucknow that helps in the development of entrepreneurs. We mostly follow the conventional method where we just pour the extracted juice into bowls which are not cleaned properly and later, we just wrap the solidified blocks of jaggery with newspapers which is unhygienic and often melts during monsoon seasons. Therefore,

using the modern style of production, the farmers will be able to produce hygienic and clean jaggeries. This jaggery won't be wrapped up in newspapers anymore; Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (DVK) will take care of the FSSAI certificate. They are under Society, recently they have also made a well wrapped and quality jaggery, they have also made brown sugar as well. They are limited in numbers; I have given to the MLAs and I hope you have seen that. The main aim of this project is to achieve a successful entrepreneurship development that the sugarcane growers will be able to experience.

I also think that I must mention the progress that we have from our initiatives. Adding on to what I have said earlier regarding how we can improve our fields and our terrains; it entails some other things as well. The problem now is that there are fall armyworms and rodents that are eating away the crops. Besides that, because of climate change, there would be new kinds of insects that will be born. Some of our experts have already seen it as well. So, a Biological Control Laboratory is the need of the hour now. We have started this at Lengpui with the help of NABARD funds. This will help the farmers to improve their crops by reducing the use of pesticides so that people will consume healthy and fresh vegetables and fruits. Now, we have done the erection of the staff quarter and the necessities. By making use of this laboratory, predator and biological agents will be made for the farmers all over Mizoram.

Pu Speaker, what I would like to add to this point is that last year we visited the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, National Bureau of Agriculture Insect Resources, Bengaluru which is also working on the same project as us. We met their scientists, Dr Sunil Joshi, Principal Scientist & Head and Dr Ankita Gupta, Sr. Scientist and Dr Keshavan Subharan, Principal Scientist who welcomed us. I am mentioning this because they showed us the useful bio-agents that could prove beneficial for us. I requested the scientists that once we finish the construction at Lengpui, they would give us the bio-agent since we went that far to meet them. They slightly chuckled and said they'd give it to us. If it were to be bought by us, it would have been very costly. If they could give us, we would be able to propagate more here. For example, there are some pests, and once we figure out if they are parasitoids or not, we can release them without leaving any toxic remains. If we use insecticides or pesticides, the chemicals will surely kill them. Since we want to prevent the toxic chemicals from causing damage, we feel the need to have a biological control laboratory for the benefit of our farmers. We are almost done with those kinds of initiatives, and once it is done, we will be able to inaugurate them soon.

Next, I also want to mention that this time, we are planning to take 14 cold storages from RKVY rafter, out of that, 7 have been done already. The SPAB has also approved it; all that has been left is that we are waiting for the installation. Pu Speaker, we are also going to install it in one of your constituencies, Khanpui. They deserve help since they have been doing great with their vegetable supply chain. The remaining 7 are expected to be done soon. For example, if there are any vegetables left after selling most of them, it becomes problematic for the sellers. To prevent drooping and wilting of the

vegetables, cold storage facilities can play an important role. Similarly, we are planning to install solar dryers as well. However, there are still some small problems here and there that hinder the initiatives, but we have plans to do all these.

Another great milestone in our government under the guidance of Pu Zoramthanga has to do with 'ICT'. Previously, there was an Integrated Training Centre-Basic Agriculture Training (BAT) Centre in Hnahthial; there was no proper in-depth learning and it was not even like a diploma course. With the help of our CM and the Council of Ministers, they allowed the upgradation of BAT Centre into a proper diploma course training centre. Now, we have a well-established school, hostel and other facilities with 57 students, 30 students in 1st year and 27 students in 2nd year. We also thought of literal entries so that once they complete their course there, they will be able to enrol for the B.Sc. (Agri) course. The authorities are putting their best foot forward for their progress.

Our heads have expressed their pity over me regarding the agriculture link road which is not a problem at all for me. On the other hand, Pu Speaker, money is not the most important thing; but the most important one being the dedication and the motivation possessed by the farmers. I also believe that our farmers have been revived to perform better. The other night, I received a message from B.Sc. and M.Sc. graduates who were interested in knowing more about Senram Zau (Hualtu), a project under FOCUS, that is currently popular on social media. This kind of integrated farming system could be practised instead of focusing on government jobs only according to them. I replied that I was really glad to hear that. Those kinds of people are slowly emerging not only in Aizawl but in other places as well.

Cutting it short, with the help of funds from NABARD and SASCI, rigid pavement using RCC flooring- 15.53 km, construction for a link road - 90.63 km and construction for a small bridge for ₹1562.58 lakhs is undergoing. This means that in various districts, the construction process of link roads, rigid pavement and PCC keeps going.

We have done 'Land Development' in 8 districts amounting to 484.67 hectares between 2021- 2022, under RIDF-26, NABARD. I have heard that we have upcoming land developments and PCC; that might require us to visit Delhi also. Recently, when the MOS (Agri) visited us, we had a talk where I asked him about some of our needs. In that, I think the Cabinet has passed KVK to be set up at Saitual. Since Khawzawl has now Champhai's KVK, and since Hnahthial has Lunglei's KVK now, there are sanctions for 3 new KVKs. So, I assure the House that we are expecting new KVKs.

I would like to add more about the Integrated Farming System under FOCUS. During the days of inception, it was during the Congress days. Since the designs were fixed, no changes could be made; it must go according to the annual work plan. In the recent mid-term evaluation, I gave a strong suggestion since I believe we have been

wasting so much money and that the Integrated Framing System approach needs to be applied. As I have mentioned before, we have started this in 20 villages across 6 districts. It is a 3-tier system which will be all product-oriented based.

We are fortunate to have extensive help from the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), KVK and Samiti which gives training to our farmers. ATMA is placed in all the districts and we have tried making a ‘seed village’ for an increase in seed production and we propagated more. So, we have told them to get tied-up with the farmers so we could have our homeland production. Now, they have produced quintals of seeds and they also revived some species that are about to go extinct. Let me just mention that we have different varieties of seeds.

Regarding the Minister meeting held in Bangalore, we talked about ‘digital agriculture’, and if we could go forward with this, the chance for improvement and agriculture development is surely greater than our expectations.

Next, I want to talk about animal food processing. With the help of SEDP, we bought a Mizo-made animal feed mill machine that was sent out to 11 districts. There are initiatives to make 200 more machines from RKVY. Had the machines not been sent to the other districts, we would have had enough stock to sell here; anyway, there are plans to install machines in all the districts. We already have a soybean mill machine in Falkawn and next to that, we are planning to establish an animal feed mill machine. If these were successful, it would surely fill the gaps in the farmer’s needs and using these, a chain of development would be seen.

Yesterday, I said that the company from Nevada, USA, that would be buying Mizo chilli, 7.5 metric tonnes is called PGA. It is a curious company; they have measures to check the quality of the chillies and fortunately, they found out that our chillies were arcadic free and free from other harmful, contents. This is surely God’s blessing.

There are also rumours about the market port. At the beginning of our term, we had plans to use the ATMC Act. But there were some issues with ‘Farm laws’, which makes it unsuitable to move forward with it here in our state. We hoped to include ‘Agriculture Produce & Livelihood Marketing’ so that we not only include the agriculture sector but also the domestication of farm animals. However, under the APMC Act, we shall set up a market board, within this term, we are planning to take care of the things that the market board will take care of.

Let me also include that this is the year called, the ‘International Year of Millets’. India recently replaced China which used to be the biggest millet producer in Asia continent. They even invited us to Bangalore but we had no time back then. There are 12 kinds of millet that all have high nutritional values; therefore, we must cultivate more and more. It is also called ‘Nutria- cereal’. It does not require much water and can be

grown in dry places. Millets contain beneficial properties for human beings; it has Vitamin B, Calcium, Iron, Potassium, Magnesium, Zinc etc. Besides that, millets are gluten-free and have a low glycaemic index. This makes it the right food for diabetics, people with hypertension and various illnesses. Consuming less rice and switching to millet more and more is medically recommended these days.

Pu Speaker, our initiatives so far have been, the ‘Sixth State Level Inauguration Programme’ we had on 16th January and creating awareness through digital and print media. Hoardings and signboards have been kept in various places, and training and awareness programmes have also been conducted.

Let me talk about irrigation. Our budget for Agriculture and Irrigation is lower than last year, but that is not our biggest concern. The most important one is that our farmers have been working a lot under the central sector schemes for agriculture and schemes under the SSA. Under the PMKSY – ‘Har Khet Ko Pani’, we have projects to work under the Surface Monitoring Scheme out of which 36 out of 45 projects have been started so far; and for that, we have ₹4,000 lakhs. We have 13 projects for Ground Water Irrigation and are planning to finish within this financial year. This will surely revolutionise agriculture. We have drilled various places; Pu Thangtea’s constituency, South Vanlaiphai got to be the lucky ones. Of the 14 to 15 drilled places, around 13 were successful. We will surely make use of this.

I also want to talk about the Flood Management Programme. We used to have an ‘Anti-Erosion Scheme’, a scheme which helps to control flood waters from destroying the fields. ₹500 lakhs are kept aside for this project. Since we are settled in a hilly place, we need this kind of scheme. Beyond the budget, I want to mention that there are plans to take action from the Brahmaputra Board. I have also recently sent a letter to the Board Chairman. Now, they have approved 2 Spring-set Project Management and we also have hopes to approve the Anti-Erosion Scheme.

Under MNRE, there are plans to start PM-Kusum Component- B. Under this scheme, solar panels and pump subsidies will be given to farmers. We had 200 units before. Last year, we met the MNRE Minister, who is also the Union Minister, RK Singh regarding the problems that were faced because the matching shares and the vendors were not able to arrive. At first, he was worried that we are adjacent to Myanmar and that we are far away. But then I told him, “Yes, not only that, we are adjacent to China; so, let the development keep going in Mizoram and I want China to notice that.” That made him happy and he smiled also. That time, he wants us to change the matching share, the pro-rata. Then he said, “Once you go home, ask our Finance Minister to change the matching share to 90:10; request it to me as well and we shall try our best. If we could change the matching share, then it would be easier for your vendors to reach here also.” But I believe that is quite a difficult task since it seems like we cannot go ahead without the Union Cabinet's resolve. With this, we started the

contract to select the vendors and the bidding rates have started entering, we hope it might be completed within a week.

Pu Speaker, under the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) project and beyond our Irrigation & Water Resources Department, we have ongoing works that are central sector schemes and other schemes. We have been working with JICA for years now. The technical cooperation project we have been working on will end in March. Within this period, the Japanese experts will make arrangements for us to achieve food security. They will make plans to change the existing system to a new systematized way to achieve sustainable development. We call that, JICS – Sustainable Farming System (JIFAS).

This new system will consist of blocks, departments and State-level committees with the Chief Minister at the top. A bottom-up approach will be applied in the planning stage and will be conducted carefully in a need-based assessment with the farmers. Under the Conversion Planning, Agri & Allied, joint planning will be conducted from time to time along with the line departments and the Irrigation & Water Resources Department. All the line departments will make use of the CSS and other schemes that we have for conducting conversion activity. This will enhance transparency and avoid duplicity as well.

It is also our plan to follow the ‘right activity at the right time’ which means the estimated work plan must be completed within a year. If everything is done correctly, then yielding will be productive as well. It all seems like a simple technology but it is quite deeper than that; reviewing project style management and making alterations if required would be done as well.

Pu Speaker, regarding ODA loans, the Japanese experts under JICA have made a master plan for us to have better food security. Since we faced insufficient funds to make this master plan successful, an ODA loan was requested. Most of the requirements have been done and are ready for submission. This is called the ‘Land & Water Resources Development & Management Project for Livelihood Improvement in Mizoram’ and the estimated budget is ₹628.18 crores.

The shortage of workers has been mentioned earlier; we often said that too. Somehow, it also depends on our financial conditions. Once, we have more financial stability, there will come a time when we employ more.

Pu Speaker, I also wanted to speak about Cooperation; it’s only about a page. Developed countries progress due to their ‘cooperative concept’; therefore, cooperative movement plays an important role. At the same time, ‘ownership’ remains a debate in the House among the ones on your right and left. If something looks beneficial for us, then let us all accept it rather than using as a tool to accuse or create tensions among us. There is an opinion that if the ones on your right said, “It’s black”, the ones on the left

said, “It’s white”. However, I am glad that we can all agree on the Private Member’s Resolution.

There are 1179 Primary Cooperative Societies currently in Mizoram and 12 Cooperative Federations. We often ignore the importance of these cooperative societies. These societies also sell products at a lower price in villages so that it is more affordable. In that way, the Cooperative Movement help against the problem of deprivation.

Besides, we often ignore the great amount of revenue we pour into the State. At the primary and state level, our Cooperative Society gave a huge amount of taxes to the State. Most of the revenues are not through the department but are given to the Taxation Department from the society and it seems like the Cooperation Department did not pay enough taxes. Every year, the taxes we submit are usually greater than the budget estimate. This makes me think that with the cooperative movement, our societies contribute a lot towards the State. This is a great progress.

Primary Agriculture Credit Society (PACS) is a registered primary cooperative society. It is approved by RBI and through PACS, people can easily apply for loans from their comfort at home. Now that we have established in various places in Mizoram, it is growing rapidly. Within the city, we have established PACS at Luangmual as well as Sihphir. They have opened accounts for children and rather than buying sweets, the money is deposited in their accounts; that creates a sense of savings in the hearts and minds of children. We are planning to make all the PACS computerised.

We also make use of PMVY a lot. This is a central scheme wherein we signed an MoU with Trifed. In Phase-1, VDVK was 59% and now we are currently 15% in Phase-2. These BDVK were started under the Cooperative Society and various help are given to start their business to earn a livelihood. In some places, we have launched a pulveriser mill to make turmeric powder and a machine to pack those. These machines are also given in the Opposition Group Leader, Pu Duha’s constituency such as turmeric, ginger, chilli, corn mill for animal feed, lemon grinding machine, and many more. After the establishment of VDVK, ₹282 lakhs have been sold out from these small items! That is why this is a valuable source of revenue generation. On February 17, 2017, Trifed organised *Adhi Mahotsav- Showcasing Tribunal on the National Stage* at Dyand Chand National Stadium, New Delhi. Reiek VDVK participated on behalf of Mizoram by taking up one of the stalls. There, they even met the Prime Minister and were happy about it. They were also glad that people bought products from their stall. Besides that, they also met Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda. In that way, they had a great time there.

Pu Speaker, I have many things to say but let me end it this way. I request the Huse to pass my demands. They are:

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
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31	Agriculture	1,70,24,25,000.00
37	Cooperation	16,59,29,000.00
47	Irrigation & Water Resources	89,49,22,000.00
TOTAL		2,76,32,76,000.00

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, our Minister, Pu C. Lalrinsanga's demand-

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47	Irrigation & Water Resources	89,49,22,000.00
TOTAL		2,76,32,76,000.00

is requested to be passed in the House. Those who agree may say 'Agree'. (**Members:** 'Agree'). If anyone disagrees, please say "Disagree". (No one disagrees.)

Alright, Pu Robert Romawia Royte's demand is passed. (**Pu C. Lalrinsanga, Minister:** Thank you, Pu Speaker.)

Now, I invite respected Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga to wind up and add further clarifications if needed and to request the House to pass his demands.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you.

It has passed 9:00 P.M. already. While I watched awhile from the room's TV, I can see some of us yawning, maybe we are getting drowsy a bit now. So, I will make it as short as possible. The youths used to say, "Whoever gives short sermons is considered a good speaker", and that is the time now.

First, I want to say that even though I have some reactions, it shall be sent to the respective members to save time tonight. However, let me allow myself to talk about two to three important areas.

One of the members asked if we have given ₹3 lakhs of SEDP. The answer is that in piggery farming, we have given ₹3 lakhs to 3 people.

Was it Pu Zodintluanga who asked me about the Finance Commission? The 12th State Finance Commission is ongoing; it was started on 31st December 2022 and those people are now doing the requirements as well. We have extended their term for 6 months since it has ended already. It will be over by June and we expect to give reports by the coming time.

Regarding what respected member, Pu C. Ngunlianchunga said, I was given the answers. The answers were made on the 20th of April 2022, it was already last year and I guess he didn't see that. Anyway, Pu Speaker, it was about the compensation of a land larger than Mizoram, there was a miscalculation there. We shall give him the correct details later.

What I like to talk about is that, for this compensation, land that measures 25,940.05 km², according to what they said in the beginning was miscalculated. When distributed, it was mistakenly recorded as 2,59,040.05 sq. km. (**Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Pu Speaker, can we at least have the department make corrections about their mistake to the newspaper?). Yes, we shall do that. Pu Speaker, we shall send Pu Nguna the document as well. Even the newspaper made a mistake. I shall inform the department as well.

Pu Speaker, I shall wind up the rest normally. This will be our last budget session, however, let's expect to have one more session as one more must be conducted before the end of the sixth month, but it won't be a budget session anymore.

I can see that we humbly gave chances to each other, which was good. If we keep seeing each other often, we will form a government again, Pu Speaker, I keep thinking, do we actually wish for that? But that is all out of kindness. Let me also repeat that individual reactions shall also be sent in written form.

First, I want to express my gratitude here in our Legislative Assembly. Pu Speaker, some people even complimented your performance saying your conduct is exceptional and that you are one of the most efficient; we are thankful for that. We know that the staff are diligent and their laborious preparation is praiseworthy. That is why I thank the Legislative Assembly.

Reactions could not be given to all my demands since it is about the Governor, the Council of Ministers and others; so, let me mention only the important ones. Let me talk briefly about Secretariat Administration since there are many vacant posts such as Grade IV. Even the DC and others are already concerned about our situation. On the other hand, the Finance Deptt. is worried but some situations can't be helped. Also, let us regularize the MRSs without much restrictions. The Finance Deptt. will try its best to fill up the gaps.

About the G20 Summit, it is a great honour to host while our Prime Minister is the head of G20. If God permits, we shall be hosting the B20 tomorrow, a business forum which is one branch under G20. Tomorrow, the Governor will be hosting a dinner and a meeting will follow on the next day. We also asked them to spend the festival with us on Friday at least during the forenoon hours so they would fly back by the afternoon. Our heads and officers may also prepare to assist them.

Regarding what respected member, Pu Hlana spoke about Vigilance connected, under Lok Ayukta, inquiry or investigation and prosecution falls under one directorate. The Supreme Court did not allow this. Inquiry must be separate while prosecution must be separate under Lok Ayukta. Inquiry must be done from outside and it must not be clubbed under one directorate. It is wrong if one takes inquiry and conducts the prosecution as well. Let me assure the House that to bifurcate this, we even have a committee that includes our Law Minister to think about this.

Following this, Opposition Leader, Pu Duha mentioned that our House Leader has a court case; even I keep asking him regarding that. I even asked our Police IPS senior officer with experience in this field and other senior Advocates. A complaint was sent to Lok Ayukta which was registered, and then the Lok Ayukta informed us to take a preliminary inquiry from our complaint, so, a preliminary inquiry is currently being taken, but it is not done yet. They told me that in such cases, we cannot say people as ‘having a court case’. That is how much I know of. (**Pu Lalduhoma:** Pu Speaker, we didn’t say ‘court case’, we didn’t mention ‘court’, we just said, ‘he has a case’. ‘Court’ is not included in the document but it is given as case numbers.) Nevertheless, what is clear is that I don’t have a court case. They just started with the preliminary inquiry, when a prima facie case is shown and sent to the Lok Ayukta, they might suggest registering it to the court, the case begins only after this. Now it is too early to say that, I have a case. Our officers.....

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, if we look at ‘List of corruption cases in Mizoram Lok Ayukta’, Sl. No. 44, it is mentioned, ‘case no.’, under that ‘nature of complaint’. So, someone submitted it in the Lok Ayukta, it was accepted and then it was registered. So, it seems like it was sent to conduct a preliminary inquiry. (**Pu Zoramthanga:** I fully accept what you just said.) If you have accepted it, then you should have accept the case number being given. (**Pu Zoramthanga:** Court case is not opened. It reached the Lok Ayukta, a complaint was neither registered as a ‘problem’ nor ‘item’, but a ‘case’. Just because of that....) Lok Ayukta accepted the complaint.

SPEAKER : If it was a court case, it was mentioned under which section? (**Pu Vanlalhlana:** It is not mentioned).

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, if the House Leader has a case, who is the case IO, is it possible to have a case without the case IO?

PU VANLALHLANA : It is written ‘Case No. Nature of Complaint’.

SPEAKER : Alright, silence, please. Pu Duha once said, “I didn’t say ‘court case’, that is enough.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Tonight, we heard, “Our House Leader hasn’t had a Court Case”. Sometimes, we used to be in a hurry.

Next, regarding GAD there is Mizoram House in New Delhi. Since there are a lot of patients, the place is very limited in accommodating guests. So, we have been looking for a new place too and the search process is ongoing. Besides that, we will follow up on what the members have said regarding preparing the mess to suit the Mizo palette more and more. However, since our choice of flavours is varied, the cooks are often busy. Even though there is 'bai' (traditional Mizo stew), some people dislike it. I shall inform the mess providers to accommodate different kinds of guests.

We have a Patient Lodge at New Town, Kolkata, which we are proud of since it is one of the best initiatives. As soon as we heard that Tata was to start a new cancer hospital, we met Jyoti Basu immediately asking to give us a good plot of land at New Town. Then, the land was given to us. Then, as we were about to start, people even commented that we started too early since the foundation of the hospital had not even started. Now it has become congested since we used to accommodate a lot of guests. In the meantime, our first House is getting dilapidated so we might need to demolish that building.

Now, we are going to start a new construction at Ballygunge, it is a problem since we are permitted to construct only G+3 (only three floors). It is difficult to go there, it has been outdated, but very useful for the residents of that area. If we construct only 3 floors, we won't be able to accommodate many patients. We received advice saying, "Sell this place, if you're lucky enough you might sell it for 30 to 40 crores. Buy a new plot of land at Salt Lake or New Town, with half the price, you will be able to build a building that fits in this area or a bit bigger than this. With the current rate added with a bit more, you will surely be able to build a place that accommodates many people". I thought that might be good advice, so, we are currently looking for places.

In Guwahati, there is also a House that has been bought already, due to Covid, the upper floors could not be completed. It is quite big to host patients. With 23 to 24 lakhs from SASCI, we are planning to finish it soon so the maximum number of patients will be able to stay there.

We were also given a good area to build Mizoram House at Shillong. Currently, the construction process is ongoing. However, there was a bit of a problem that we had to rebuild. The engineers are guiding the contractors so it shall be constructed sturdily and properly. We expect the House there will accommodate many people.

The other members also suggested constructing a building in new Mumbai where we have a piece of land. In case we face any shortages in the current SASCI, let us expect that more will come in the next year. Even though Mumbai is a bit far, transportation is easy nowadays and people can easily visit the cancer hospitals from there. I thought it might be a good idea to set up a House there, anyhow, we shall look into all those things.

They have also said about Bangalore, but it would be a difficult task to do it together with Mumbai. I have received the one from Bangalore, it is a huge land. We shall try to take action as soon as possible.

Regarding GAD, last year when I went to Delhi around August or September, I met Amit Shah and I told him, "Come and inaugurate the Assam Rifles Complex". He then asked the best time to visit, and I suggested him, November. However, at that time, there were elections in Gujarat, he was busy with the OM and when I called him, he told me that he could not come due to the election. Their election was over by 6th November and the following day they had a Parliament Session. Then, there was another election in the Northeast and around yesterday, voting was over. So, they had their hands full. Our Chief Secretary called their Secretary and they told our CS that on the 17th of November, he will come to Mizoram and visit the Assam Rifles Complex and the memorial stone at Laldenga Centre. We don't know what the future holds, so let us prepare for the coming days.

Next, our airport has been the recent talk of the town and we have been waiting for the day when the construction is over; we are also trying our best to receive many compliments. The most difficult task is that all the existing rooms need to be demolished, so we took advantage of Covid to do the renovation work. Since the walls had been taken down, there were no proper rooms to put the trolleys and with all the mess, it was easier to use the trolleys to bring around the necessary materials. The contractors used them for carrying bags of cement, to bring around water and it was also easier for the Police and CRP to do their jobs, and while we were away, some of the trolleys were damaged. So, we had to make restrictions later and we even repaired the damaged trolleys. Now, we have around 70 trolleys that are usable and we believe that will be sufficient enough for use. But we needed 100 more and we requested the contractor Kamrula to buy more trolleys as we were convinced that his men's force was the maximum number of people that destroyed the trolleys. He then told us that he'd get around 100 more trolleys. So, we believe we can manage with 170 trolleys.

Regarding what our Opposition Leader, Pu Duha said, I would like to have the written records since I am not aware that Kamrula received that many contract works or is it that I am unaware of it? I heard that "His rate is around 7 crores per month and that is for a whole year", am I right or have I misheard it? That means, within a year it will be 84 crores but we haven't spent that much yet. Pu Speaker, in case there is a mistake in the records, could you hand over it to us so that we can find out the truth? Is it that things happen without the knowledge of the Finance Minister? That is a great amount. I would be glad if you give me the records.

Accordingly, this morning, it was almost time for Pu Duha's question, but the time was over. He asked, "How much bill does Kamrula take?"; they would all say that he didn't take anything. The answer given by the Treasury, was, "He didn't take any of the treasury bills". I even saw that. But what I would like to add is that, I assume before

we even started a new government, it was ‘Kamlova Chhangte’ and not ‘Kamrula’, I don’t think such a name like ‘Kamrula’ existed. Let me repeat, it’s just my assumption. I am saying that in case Pu Duha has some concerns.

Coming to Horticulture, as the respected members have said earlier, the department also makes great efforts such as tomatoes from Tualte, pineapples from Sialhawk and dragon fruits, and they deserve a lot of praise. We even heard, “The CM is hardly talking about bamboo now”; if we keep on saying it, you said, “he only talks about this. The truth is that we have planted bamboo saplings but we cannot rush. To wait for new sprouts, we have to wait till June, by December, it is the length of the mature and normal bamboo. However, if we don’t know how to take care of them, we have to wait for around 5 years to wait for it to mature fully. That’s why many of the planted saplings were unable to develop properly. Recently, some people came and requested us to sell it to them for the making of ethanol, bamboo charcoal and high-class vinegar. They told us that they wanted to come here and take everything from the roots and that they wanted to harvest. The workers have come and let us see if they will do that or not. The advantage is that even if it was cut on the surface of the ground level, within the same year, it can grow back which makes it environmentally friendly as well.

No matter how hard we try in this regard, the problem is that Delhi is not as enthusiastic as we are, we are not able to convince them; and when we ask for link road, we receive only 100 crores. So, for the G20, to reach their ears, we are planning to request them if they could focus on the carbon trading scheme for us. (**Pu Lalduhoma:** Pu Speaker, can I react about Chawngtlai tomato growers?) What about that? (**Pu Lalduhoma:** From Horticulture, they were told to grow tomatoes. ₹30,000 was spent on making tankeys to start drip irrigation. Their account numbers have been collected already and it shall be sent to their respective accounts. They accused the MNF block leaders of taking away the share from them because they’re also afraid that there might be misassumptions against them.) Alright, we shall check along with them. Snatching it away cannot be the case. The Department must check carefully on the projects to avoid misleading statements. The MLA of that constituency is also here so we shall look into that.

Moving onto PWD, a double-lane process has been under construction for national highways in the north, east, west and south under the department. From Silchar-Vairengte, they are planning to make a four-lane road that connects Aizawl, a two-lane from Aizawl- Lunglei and to reach Tipa. Towards the east, from Seling to Champhai, a two-lane is under construction, from Seling to Tipaimukh, then from Lunglei, Lawngtlai to Tipa, there are works going on.

Now, there is a good wide road towards the west in Kanhmun, Tidam and that connects Mamit. Our workers are the NHIDCL and they have been making highway roads in the north, east, west and south. However, there are backlashes from the people

saying the NHIDCL's with their work destroys the environment a lot. We have been cooperating with the PWD and the NGOs and we shall look into those matters.

Next, we already heard about PMGSY. One of the drawbacks was that they advised us to do make it an 'open-tender', so we did it. Then, the bidding became too low: some were below 25%, and some even bid below 50%! However, there is no chance for those people. But, as they start their work, they couldn't do it properly again and so they were about to hand-over the work to some other party. Most of our PMGSY is downgraded like that only. The problem is that, from Delhi, they asked us to conduct an open tender and if we did not give to the low bidders, they went to court. This caused a headache for the road constructors.

Besides that, there is a State Road, the one that we conduct through State funding, some from NEC, NABARD and from some areas. To make Aizawl by-pass road, we have received ₹500 crores from PM-DeVINE. However, the problem lies in the fact that there were no compensation components earlier under PMGSY, knowingly we went through with that. But, with the coming of National Highways, the compensation components were easily released by the NHIDCL and people keep receiving great amounts. Next came the PM-DeVINE. Sanctions without any compensation components. There were no compensations included in the work that was supposed to be conducted in the state, so, there was a need to come to mutual agreements with the assigned workers that were assigned to make culverts and retaining walls. Anyway, let's take it as our burden and we shall keep doing our best efforts. Nevertheless, let measure the House that our heads/ our leaders are aware of our problems.

I have also noted that the members spoke about buildings like circuitry houses and office buildings. Even though I am among the ones who do not visit regularly, I regularly heard about all these necessary details since it is my concerned department. Subsequently, we shall check on our financial conditions and we are trying to do constructions as per our financial conditions; and especially as of now, we are going to do it through SASCI.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, while he's talking about PWD, one important thing is that, last year on the 3rd of March, Starred Question No. 72- the PMGSY road that connects Dam Lui, Vaseikai, and Chawngte, instead of connecting the main road, stops at Dam Lui. When I asked the question, the reply was, "As soon as there is sanction, we shall try it". Pu Speaker, from SASCI funds, can we have road grading and excavation work only for a stretch of 4km? If you cannot fulfil that, I consider doing that from MLA funds. Only 4 km is left to reach the main road from Chawngte. So, let that be my first point.

Our Chief Minister knows what I will mention for my second point. ₹66 crores were received from NEC for Sangau - Saisihchhuah, that came from the 14th Finance Commission. My question about this is mentioned in Starred Questions No. 3 & 4 to

which the reply was, “This is in the hands of BRO, so, we do not know of this”. Earlier, on this same road, the Defence Road that connects Thingsai - Saisihchhuah – Pangkhua - Sangau road was already abandoned. That road was supposed to be a road that connects with the eastern side. Now that there is ₹66 crores from NEC through the 14th Finance Commission, it might just lapse if not taken any action right now. I would like to hear further explanations about that as well.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER : Regarding that, the heads in charge have agreed to process it without crossing the villages and without big compensations. They signed it and sent it over to the sanctioning authority and I believe it’s almost coming out. I believe we also heard of the other one also. In any case, please send me the part that you just said in written form.

One more thing I like to add is that from SASCI, we gave ₹1000 lakhs (₹10 crores) each to our three new districts- Saitual, Khawzawl and Hnahthial. With that, they are constructing big buildings that will function as Secretariat Complex in which DC and other departments that fit in this complex will be functional so that people that visit the departments will not have to go long distances to meet the concerned people. The place is not big enough so the target is to expand it and to put department heads in one place. Some works are completed and some are on the verge of completion; we are planning to keep going.

I will not take much time to talk about Finance. Our demands in Finance are a lot. If we look at my demands, it amounts to ₹4,388 crores. The CM's demand has always been criticised since way back. Even pensions amount to ₹1,875 crores which is the demand that comes from various demands, more than ₹1,875 crores are in the Finance itself. Everything is clubbed together here and that is why the total amount is always this much.

Despite our imperfections, we have been active in finance for this long, especially concerning the budget system. During our first term (which lasted 10 years), 1998 – 2008 and while I served as Finance Minister, the Planning Commission was in place, earmarked sectors were prevalent, and we had already experimented with the budget system. Various complexities were met while we tried in multiple ways. At that time, we distributed almost equally so that the departments got their shares and included their minor works. The concerned departments followed up on those works as soon as possible, they allocated to different areas of concern and the money was spent wisely. We made a project in Delhi but they have finished using the shares kept for state-matching shares. They advised that the Planning Department may do it for them but the department had already put it separately and we have finished distributing our budget by then. It is as if we gave them the seeds, but they cooked them right away which became our problem. From Delhi, they told us, “There is enough money, here is 10 to 100 crores so why don’t you make projects?”, but we did not have the matching shares

anymore. That's why we are going different this time. So, our system is based on preparation first and then working secondly to get the outcome.

Consequently, we understood that if the state distributes the matching shares, it will get over immediately; so, we placed them all in one place. Then, we pressured the departments to make projects to be sent to Delhi. So, without any hurdles I the matching share, we went to Delhi to get able to get 10 to 100 crores and that is the most beneficial. We keep on handing over everything to departments, it won't be beneficial at all. Now, they have increased the matching shares, from 90:10, it is now 90:20, and even 90:50. We have created an SMS system in which we entered in the matching. Some people even told me, "As Finance Minister, you took control of those and so you are like a dictator." If the Chief Minister is also the Finance Minister, he will surely have authority. If the man of the family does not have financial control over the house, then that family is not in safe hands. So, just like the head of the family's role, we must be mindful that whichever party comes next, instead of following that system and giving one by one instead, they won't have any spare left for the matching share and it will get over soon; that won't do any good. I advise any upcoming governments to remember this. So, we believe that we made a good choice.

I will not keep talking about the financial loss we faced due to Covid, but let me just say that around 3000 crores were lost. After COVID-19, the money that we slowly have were spent on making fields, for agricultural purposes, for making roads and for construction of buildings. We would be grateful if they could send over the money to the Untied Fund which we needed the most but they don't want to. All the members know that it was for that purpose. We cannot divert the money kept aside for making roads for other salaries or whatnot. The share of taxes under the Untied Fund is a bit higher. But it is depreciating in terms of devolution. That is one of the reasons why we have difficulties in salaries. If not for that case, last year we took 700+400 crores from SASCI, and this year we took 500 crores. There won't be any problem if that money comes as a share of taxes under Untied fund. However, not as Financial Rules under the Indian government, but under Sanctions, it comes in great amounts. With the supplementary demands that we didn't get time to pass as part of our budget, the department went to Delhi and came home with 10- 20 crores solely for making the roads. Unless the House pass it, it can't be used and the House must pass it. Some of the remaining balance needs to be amalgamated into supplementary demand later.

It should not be said, "You are doing too much for supplementary demand", even all the churches cannot do without supplementary demand for one whole year; that's not possible. Even in a family, we cannot have the exact estimates for our one-month spending. Sometimes, the prices of vegetables go up, sometimes it's cheap, so, families need to adjust. So, if we do not do anything more about it, we will only be like one servant in the Bible who kept one talent. Accepting the need and passing it has been the practice for around 40 years now, and so are the other states of India. It doesn't make sense to discuss it together. The more additional sanctions we have in supplementary

demand, the more we increase our talent, so we become 'faithful and obliged servants'. That is the real meaning of Supplementary Demand.

Regarding state debts, percentage-wise, they have termed us as a state having the highest debts, here all the State debts are included. Among the 29 Indian states (except Delhi), our debts are all mentioned from 2013 to 2022, anyone can get access to it. Sikkim has the lowest debts as per the latest report updated on 16th January 2023. Sikkim has a debt of ₹ 12,982.60 crores, we are next with ₹12,991.20 crores, which is 9 crores greater than Sikkim. Terming us as the state with the highest debt is wrong. Various means can be used like GDSP which was used for calculating the percentage of debts. The calculation this time was based on the 2019 GDSP, but as Covid-19 approached, the base was lowered and so from Delhi, the calculation became inaccurate. Now that our heads here have re-calculated, what was assumed as 50 crores in the past has been reduced to 41 crores.

We, the people, understood that 'from GDSP, it is that much percentage.' People are confused with the 'highest and the lowest criteria'. We will repay in actual money, and not as a percentage.

I am sure the members have noticed that our neighbouring states like Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal have higher debts than us; only Sikkim has 9 crores lower debts than us. The rest are not just ₹10,000 crores, but also, ₹3,00,000, ₹4,00,000 - ₹6,00,000 crores. Everything is well documented, and there can be no other notice. To understand in layman's terms, "among the Indian states, we are a state that has the 2nd lowest debt".

Pu Speaker, I will talk about the Healthcare for the last part. With all the hardships, we continue to work towards better healthcare as it is essential for the people. People even said, "You are still borrowing money for healthcare while having debts". The advantage of borrowing is that the Indian government will repay all the debts for us. It means, they said, "You have to work out ₹280 crores for yourselves and we shall give you the remaining 720 crores, we shall pay it for you". No matter how many times we say it's not good, it is good in any case. If the other states heard about this, they would be amazed. So, I don't think we should say that it's not a good thing.

This will be cleared later. When we started running this government at the beginning, we put in 50 crores, later during Covid, we added 10 – 20 crores more, this year we added 60 crores again, and I believe the total is almost around ₹150 crores. Despite being short of finance, we managed to put this much. If we could put ₹1000 crores, people will be able to enjoy the benefits of Healthcare at ease. By that time, we will say, "We complained about it back then, but it is necessary now". We will eventually realise the advantage of Healthcare.

Alright, Pu Speaker, that's all I can say. My demands-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
1	Legislative Assembly	42,39,97,000.00
2	Governor	30,60,000.00
3	Council of Minister	7,13,18,000.00
5	Vigilance	6,60,51,000.00
9	Finance	33,24,74,79,000.00
11	Secretariat Administration	1,25,49,29,000.00
14	Planning & Programme Implementation	93,17,21,000.00
15	General Administration	93,49,93,000.00
32	Horticulture	1,04,45,28,000.00
45	Public Works	5,91,17,92,000.00
TOTAL		43,88,98,68,000.00

I request the House to pass the above.

SPEAKER : Alright, respected Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga's Demands-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
1	Legislative Assembly	42,39,97,000.00
2	Governor	30,60,000.00
3	Council of Minister	7,13,18,000.00
5	Vigilance	6,60,51,000.00
9	Finance	33,24,74,79,000.00
11	Secretariat Administration	1,25,49,29,000.00
14	Planning & Programme Implementation	93,17,21,000.00
15	General Administration	93,49,93,000.00
32	Horticulture	1,04,45,28,000.00
45	Public Works	5,91,17,92,000.00
TOTAL		43,88,98,68,000.00

are requested in the House to be passed. Those who agree may see 'Agreed'. (**Members:** 'Agreed') If anyone disagrees, they may say, 'Disagreed'. (*None of the members disagreed.*)

Alright, our respected CM's Demands-

Demand No.	Purpose	Amount (in ₹)
1	Legislative Assembly	42,39,97,000.00
2	Governor	30,60,000.00
3	Council of Minister	7,13,18,000.00
5	Vigilance	6,60,51,000.00
9	Finance	33,24,74,79,000.00
11	Secretariat Administration	1,25,49,29,000.00
14	Planning & Programme Implementation	93,17,21,000.00
15	General Administration	93,49,93,000.00

32	Horticulture	1,04,45,28,000.00
45	Public Works	5,91,17,92,000.00
TOTAL		43,88,98,68,000.00

are unanimously passed by the House. (**Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023.

We still have a lot to complete. Now, we shall move on to *Discussion & Voting on Supplementary Demands for the year, 2023*. This was issued as a part of the budget document included in the Bulletin issued on 13.2.2023. Apart from that, there is no need to discuss the Supplementary Demands. However, there are certain exceptional cases that members need to understand, so, for those, time will be given. Now, I invite the respected Chief Minister, Finance in charge to submit Supplementary Demands, 2022 – 2023 in the House.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission, I request to introduce '*The Mizoram Appropriation Supplementary Demand for Grant, 2022 – 2023*' in the House.

SPEAKER : No need for introduction, you may submit it here.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, with your permission, I submit '*The Mizoram Appropriation Supplementary Demand for Grant, 2022 – 2023*' in the House.

SPEAKER : As we mentioned earlier, everything is in the Bulletin. Nevertheless, do we have any doubts?

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, thank you.

We have said in the previous Session that Supplementary Demand is also Demand since it mentions 'Discussion & Voting'. So, we should discuss it a bit on it, right? Since it is already late, I will not take much time to highlight the important points.

The 'ways and means' which used to be mentioned in *Supplementary Demand* is no longer included this year. This makes our Supplementary Demand very low. When a Church takes loans, we note it in 'receipts', but the payments and spending are mentioned in 'expenditures', just like that, the 'ways and means' that come in advance must go to 'capital receipts' and the spending in 'capital expenditure'. Besides that, it requires voting; without the Appropriations Bill and Act, nothing can be spent. I think we must be given further explanations that the ways and means that we have spent this year were down without the approval of the House.

There are good and bad *Supplementary Demands*, examples of the good ones include CSS that was usefully exercised for infrastructure development, the more the quantity, the happier we are; we all accept this. The bad ones include the ones from revenue expenditure. For example: We show a revenue surplus annually since we do not keep sufficient budget estimates for Salary and Pensions, but that was never right. The revenue expenditure in the *Supplementary Demands* was much more than expected. If there were a revenue surplus just like our budget is, we would have used them all for development just like how our Chief Minister spoke about the *tied funds*. Since our mention of having a revenue surplus is wrong, it deceived people. It is not realistic at all, so I think we must try to present the budget as it is.

Besides that, we include lots of infrastructure in the CSS but end up with a hassle so we must be mindful next time we select projects to avoid further discrepancies. I also believe that only in certain unavoidable circumstances, we must include higher state-matching shares. I think we have not had a '*Public Expenditure Committee*', this committee must lay their reports in the House. We need a body like this to study and analyse our budget. Unlike other years, there are no 'ways and means' to pass it anymore which is unusual; I wanted to ask if this is even right?

SPEAKER : As we mentioned earlier, we hardly talk of the 50th year. On 13.2.2023, our House Leader, and our Chief Minister presented the budget, allied papers were included. He mentioned all the *Supplementary Demands* that we are talking about now. Accordingly, I mask the members to raise their doubts if any. As Pu Duhoma said, if there is no one to present, I shall call the CM who is in charge of Finance to talk about this.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, after my briefing and explanation, should I ask to pass? (**Speaker:** Yes, you may do that.)

Pu Speaker, regarding what respected member Pu Duha said, our budget is our estimate, in some areas, it is a lot while it is less in others. That's why we called it BE (Budget Estimate.) In some areas, we allocate budget that will demand a lot of effort. It is normal; that we categorise budgets like this. As much as we want to make it realistic, when we increase the target, it cannot come out as realistic as we wished it would be, since it is all assumptions.

We shall look into it sincerely, but we might need to change *the supplementary demand* when the RE comes. At this time, we might receive questions like, "Are we going a bit overboard?", or, "...This part is less than expected". Also, we put the 'ways and means' under one category so if we spend today, we give it back the next day or very soon. Thus, the AG reports these as 'zero'. If we were to write down the ways and means, it would have contained a long list, so we didn't put it. This is not about funds that we borrowed from another source The RBI lays down all the necessary rules to be followed. It is quite regular so they did not expect us; we also did not bring up to be

voted here. Since our expenditure and receipts are in one place, we decided not to proceed.

Hence, Pu Speaker (**Speaker:** He may ask to pass the demands.) I request the House to pass our *Supplementary Demand for Grants (2022- 2023)*.

SPEAKER : Our respected Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga requests to pass the *Supplementary Demands for 2022- 2023*, voted amount ₹31,41,35,78,000/-. Those who agreed to pass may say “Agreed”. (**Members:** ‘*Agreed*’). Those who disagree may say “Disagreed”. (*Everyone agrees.*)

The House unanimously passed the *Supplementary Demands for 2022- 2023*. (Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister: Thank you, Pu Speaker.)

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Now, we shall go ahead with the next business. We shall discuss how we can utilise what we have just passed. I invite respected Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga to introduce, “*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for the year, 2022-2023) Bill 2023*”.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I request to introduce in the House “*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for the year, 2022-2023) Bill 2023*”.

SPEAKER : Since he requests an introduction, do we all agree? (*The House agrees.*). The copies may be distributed. (*All the members received the copies.*)

I invite the respected Chief Minister in charge of Finance to move the “*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for the year, 2022-2023) Bill 2023*” and to request to pass the bill.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker.

It is written in the bill, “A Bill to Authorised Payment and Appropriation of Certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State for the Service of the Financial Year, 2023- 2024”, we requested the House for authorization of Payment which was passed. Since permission to use is needed, I request the House to pass the “*Consolidated Fund of the State, 2023-2024*” with the amount, ₹ 1,43,41,94,64,000/-.

SPEAKER : Now, we shall discuss the Appropriation Bill... (*interruption*)

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Kindly pardon, I believe the Appropriation Bill that we are going to discuss is Demand for Grants, 2023-2024. You hardly make mistakes but I think I heard the word, 'Supplementary'. Hold on, it is written here, I read it like how it is written here. Let's assume they made a mistake in the paper. I was mindful of this; but, I did it as it is supposed to be.

We did not use to discuss this together. As the Chief Minister requested to pass this bill, we may immediately do so. It is the one between 2023-2024 which is correct.

SPEAKER : It is written here. Hold on, I didn't make a mistake, this is about to come. Whoever agrees may say "agree". (**Members:** 'Agree'.)

Very well then, "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants) 2022-2023*", voted amount- ₹31,41,35,78,000.00; charge – ₹1,24,33,51,000.00, total - ₹32,65,69,29,000.000/- is passed by the House unanimously.

We shall continue this talk. I think I did not make mistakes. (**Pu Lalduhoma:** Pu Speaker, I assume after we have been given the copies, we shall pass it and after that, we are supposed to be given these copies. How come we received them together?) Hold on, you are rushing. Our Assembly won't make mistakes, and I am certain I won't be.

Now, we shall move on to another Legislative Business. Now, we need to pass the Bill for the 'Demand for Grants' for the year 2022-2023 that the Ministers requested. Subsequently, things will be orderly.

Now, I request that respected Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga, request the introduction of "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants) 2022-2023*".

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I request to introduce, "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants) 2022-2023*" in the House.

SPEAKER : Do we all agree? (*The House agreed.*) On that account, let him start introducing.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I introduce "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants) 2022-2023*" in the House.

SPEAKER : The copies may be distributed. Pu Duha may be given first. You were given two copies before; we won't be making any more mistakes.

PU LALDUHOMA : When it's recorded our Chief Minister may expunge what he requested earlier as 'Demand for Grants'. His speech may be corrected once he sends the corrections.

SPEAKER : If that is the case, it may be the ones who distributed the copies; they may be exhausted.

Now, I hope we all received the copies without any double copies.

We shall invite the respected Chief Minister to move the bill, "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Demand for Grants) 2022-2023*" and request the House pass it as well.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, may I ask both bills to pass now? (**Speaker:** Yes) Because we just moved what you said and passed that bill.

Pu Speaker, there was a slight mistake in the distribution of the copies. I request the House to pass "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants, 2022-2023) Bill, 2023*", and the second one, "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Demand for Grants) 2022-2023*".

SPEAKER : We have not discussed the Appropriation Bill, our respected Chief Minister requested to pass that as well.

Whoever agreed to pass may say agree. (**Members:** 'Agreed'). Those who disagreed may say 'Disagree'. (*No one disagreed.*)

The House unanimously passed, "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants, 2022-2023) Bill, 2023*", and, "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Demand for Grants) 2022-2023*". (**Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)_

PU LALDUHOMA : This too might require interchange. '64' and '65' must be interchanged to '65' and '64'.

SPEAKER : We may do that part. The ones in front here may do the necessary work.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED DURING 11TH SESSION OF THE EIGHTH MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

We are almost done with what we are supposed to do. Let me report on the '*Summary of business transacted during the 11th session of the Eighth Mizoram Legislative Assembly*'.

The 11th Session of the Eighth Legislative Assembly also known as the Budget Session was summoned by the honourable Governor on 7.2.2023. As per the decision of the Business Advisory Committee on 25th January 2023, the Session lasted for 22 days and 15 days was the duration of the sitting. Alterations were made for the planned Sessions and so on 13th February 2023, the Business Advisory Committee sat for the second time and had discussions regarding the Budget (2023 and 2024). Today marks the last day of the Session. The following are the activities conducted by the respected members-

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE GOVERNOR’S ADDRESS:

The respected Governor made a speech on the first day of Session, dated 7.2.2023. Accordingly, the “Motion of thanks” was brought to the House by Dr. ZR Thiamsanga and was supported by Dr. Vanlaltanpuia. After much deliberations, the House unanimously passed the Motion as well.

LAYING OF PAPERS:

4 Reports were presented during the Session, which are-

- i) 11th Report of the Business Advisory Committee;
- ii) 12th Report of the Business Advisory Committee;
- iii) 8th Report of Committee on Government Assurances relating to Assurances given by Ministers in the 5th and 6th Session of the Eighth Mizoram Legislative Assembly;
- iv) 2nd Report on Action Taken by the Government against the recommendation contained in the First Report of Committee on petition relating to School Education Department.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

The elected Panel of Chairmen members are-

- 1) Dr. L. Thangmawia
- 2) Lalrindika Ralte
- 3) Pu Zothantluanga
- 4) Pu K. Laldawngliana

OBITUARY

Obituary was conducted for the departed members, they are:

1. Pu Lalhmingthanga,
2. Pu R. Khawpuithanga and
3. Pu Lalrinmawia.

After the House Leader, Pu Zoramthanga read the eulogies, the following 8 members continued to pay their tribute- Pu Zodintluanga Ralte, Pu Lalduhoma, Pu Vanlalhlana, Pu KT Rokhaw, Pu Lalchamlia, Minister, Dr. R. Lalthangliana, Minister, Pu Tawnluia, Dy. Chief Minister and Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo, Dy. Chief Whip.

A moment of silence to honour the deceased was observed after the tributes.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER:

On 8th February 2023, Pu H. Biakzauva, MLA, Lawngtlai East was elected as the Deputy Speaker without any contest. In this regard, I commend the Opposition Members as well.

QUESTION:

The Mizoram Legislative Assembly finally celebrates its Golden Jubilee. Coincidentally, this 11th Budget Session of the 8th Legislative Assembly is recorded as the Session with the maximum entry of Questions. A total of 1529 questions were received. These are-

Starred Questions:

Total number of questions	1160
Number of questions admitted	1152
Number of rejected questions	8 (<i>Reason for rejection is usually the length of the question. According to our law, a question must be short.</i>)
List of Business	260
Answered Questions	64
Unanswered Questions	195
Withdrawn	3 (<i>1 was withdrawn in the House</i>)
No replies	59

Unstarred Questions:

Total number of questions	369
Number of questions admitted	365
Number of rejected questions	4
Starred Questions converted to Unstarred Questions	693
No replies	43

LAYING OF PAPERS:

41 papers were laid in the House by the following members:

- i) Pu Zoramthanga, hon. Chief Minister
- ii) Pu Tawnluia, hon. Dy. Chief Minister
- iii) Dr. R. Lalthangliana, Minister
- iv) Pu Lalchamlia, Minister
- v) Pu R. Lalzirlia, Minister
- vi) Pu Lalchandama Ralte, Minister

- vii) Er. Lalrinawma, Minister
- viii) Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga, Minister

BILLS:

6 Bills were received during this Session and all of them were passed. These are-

- i) The Mizoram (Restriction on use of Transferred Lands) (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- ii) The Sinlung Hills Council (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- iii) The Mizoram Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Castes (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Community Certificates (Amendment) bill, 2023;
- iv) The Indian Stamp (Mizoram Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- v) The Mizoram Appropriation (Demand for Grants 2023-24) Bill, 2023;
- vi) The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants 2023-24) Bill, 2023;

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL:

The Mizoram (land revenue) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was brought to the House by Dr. Vanlalhlana, after deliberations, the Select Committee is to attend to this after a voice vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

There were 86 *Private Members' Resolutions* during this Session which were all admitted. After discussions, the following resolutions which are- Sl. No. (i) and (ii) were adopted through voice votes. Sl. No. (iii) was adopted after the amendment. Those were:

- i) *"We are pleased to witness the great developments in Sports Infrastructure under the current government."*
- ii) *"There must be a greater effort than ever to achieve good roads and buildings."*
- iii) *"The Government of Mizoram and the people are glad that we can receive our brethren from Myanmar and Bangladesh who came to seek refuge. Accordingly, we must continue sheltering them and providing for their needs."*

Let me assure the House that, I received a phone call from the US last night and heard that our Chin brothers and sisters were really glad to hear our resolutions regarding the refugees. They asked me to visit the US and spend some quality time with them as well. If God permits, I believe our Chief Minister will permit me to travel there.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION:

An official resolution came from our respected Minister, Pu Lalchamlia mentioned,
“This House unanimously resolves to oppose any step taken or proposed to be taken for enactment of Uniform Civil Code in India”.

After deliberations, the House unanimously adopted this official resolution.

STATEMENT BY A MINISTER:

Pu R. Lalziriana, Minister, District Council & Minority Affairs Department on 23.2.2023 (Thursday), made a statement as per request to the Hon. Speaker regarding the direct funding for Autonomous District Council which he included in his speech.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET:

Pu Zoramthanga, Hon. Chief Minister who is also in charge of Finance presented the following in the House-

- i) *The Annual Budget for the year, 2023-2024 (with allied papers);*
- ii) *Supplementary Demand for Grants for the year, 2022-2023*

After deliberations among the members, both were unanimously passed.

Before concluding, I want to congratulate Pu L. Thangmawia, MLA who got promoted to Associate Professor before getting his Doctorate Degree; while being an MLA, he received his Ph.D. I am mentioning this since it could pose a challenge among the members as well as the generations of today.

We have successfully reached our last day of Session. We were able to proceed with our List of Businesses. In other states as well as in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, none can conduct as smoothly as ours here. Although there might be slight arguments out of diligence and enthusiasm, it is great that there are no bitter relations outside the House; this is where people look up to us.

Within this term, we get to host two Presidents and our Vice President who made a speech about how we cooperate and perform well. That was a great compliment and we must keep up with that.

I also believe that the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm that came from the members would surely provide fruits that would help us in better cooperation for the functioning of the state.

I also thank the various departments and staff that helped in the smooth conducting of the Session. As I said the other day, I can't let it pass without applauding the Finance Department. As we all know, the Union Budget is usually presented on 1st February annually; so, at this time, a Session is never conducted. Since this year is India's presidency in the G20, it will show the nature of our state. While our officials

were busy involved in the process, I requested the Finance Department to work on the budget. Even though they were preoccupied, they all put their best foot forward, headed by our Chief Minister. I also thank the Principal Secretary and the Chef Secretary who were important driving forces in the process. 50 years have passed and we never used to conduct Sessions in February. This is why I must give credit to our CM and his colleagues, in the Finance Department. I wholeheartedly thank them as well.

Security is an important part of our Session. The Police Department and our Health Department did a terrific job. Along with the Minister, a health- clinic was conducted for us and we are truly thankful for their dedication.

Even though they are my colleagues, I thank the staff of the Assembly Secretariat. We did it with our new Commissioner & Secretary, Pu Hruaia. Since this is the year of Election, we are more dedicated than ever; imagine receiving 1500 questions, that's great! An answer is about 5 inches long, these are 73 questions. They were focused and even stayed up late at night many times. That is why, I request everyone to excuse our staff for handing 1 to 2 copies by mistake; I truly witnessed their exhaustion.

Besides that, as we conduct meetings with respectable members who are also intellectuals, I always try my best to maintain good relations outside the room. I am glad that you all cared to listen to my chairmanship even though I am incapable many times. I wish you the best. May God guide you all in the days to come. We are finally done with what we have to do.

The House is adjourned sine die. (10:50 P.M.)