

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FIRST SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 22nd AUGUST, 2023
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

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

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

2. **PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA** to call attention to a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly regarding National Highway 302 (Lunglei – Tlabung)

ANNOUNCEMENT

3. **THE SPEAKER** to announce Panel of Chairmen.

LAYING OF PAPERS

4. **PU TAWNLUIA**, Deputy Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
 - (i) The Mizoram Water Supplies (Control) Rules, 2023.
 - (ii) The Mizoram PHED Enlistment of Contractor (Amendment) Rules, 2023.
5. **DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
 - (i) The District Mineral Foundation Rules of Mizoram, 2023.
 - (ii) The Mizoram Minor Minerals (Concession and Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules, 2023.
6. **PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of The Code on Social Security (Mizoram) Rules, 2023.
7. **ER. LALRINAWMA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of The Annual Report of the Office of Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

8. **THE SPEAKER** to present to the House the Thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee for the current session.
9. **DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA** to present to the House a copy each of the following:
 - (i) THIRD Report of Subject Committee-V relating to Mizoram Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board under Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department.
 - (ii) FOURTH Report of Subject Committee-V relating to Land Revenue & Settlement Department.
10. **ER. H. LALZIRLIANA** to present to the House a copy of the Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government relating to various Departments against the Recommendations of the Committee on Government Assurances contained in the Eighth Report of Eighth Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

11. **PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA**, Minister to move an official Resolution in the following form:
 “That this House unanimously resolves to oppose the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 in order to protect the rights and interest of the people of Mizoram.”

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bills for introduction, consideration and passing

12. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed

13. **PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Shops & Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

ALSO
to introduce the Bill
to move that the Bill be taken into consideration
AND
to move that the Bill be passed

14. **PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) 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

SPEAKER : *'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you'*

- Matthew 6:33

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

By God's grace we do not have an obituary today, thanks be to God. We will start with the *question hour*, hon. member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you Pu Speaker, will the concern minister be please to state –

- a) The amount used for hiring of Lawyers free of charge under Mizoram State Legal Services Authority within this financial year?
- b) The number of clients represented so far?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. member questions is –

- a) An amount of ₹21,36,203/- had been utilized for hiring lawyers under Mizoram State Legal Authority during the period of April – July, 2023.
- b) There are 737 nos. of clients during the period of April – July 2023.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask *Supplementary question s*

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question s* are –

- i) Who are the lawyers that can be hired free of charge under Legal Services Authority?
- ii) How many Legal Aid Counsel and Défense Counsel do we have under State Legal Services Authority?
- iii) How are they classified? What cases are represented by Legal Aid Counsel and Défense Counsel under District Court?
- iv) How much is the honorarium provided to Legal Aid Counsel and Défense Counsel?
- v) How much is provided as an honorarium by the government to Legal Aid Counsel and Défense Counsel by the government?
- vi) How much is the amount of fees paid in one case? Are the fees paid at once or after each prosecution is concluded?
- vii) What are the percentage of cases won from all their representation?

SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana to ask *Supplementary questions*.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern minister be please to state –

- i) If the Administrative Tribunal has been established as directed in the book of ACDP Policy for the government employees?

ii) Has the Human Rights Commission been established as seen in the book of ACDP Policy? If these two had been established, what are their achievements so far?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions?

PU T.J LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answers to the hon. members questions are –

Clients who do not have an annual income of ₹25,000/- can be represented as per the criteria but as a tribal community, whose who generate more than ₹25,000 annually are also represented. An amount of ₹10,000/- are usually given for the whole case and about ₹7500/- are given in dispose cases. The questions raised by Dr Vanlalhlana are not under Law Department, so I am unable to provide answers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Moving on to *Starred Question* No.2, I will call upon Dr. K. Beichhua.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Home Department be please to state –

If there are any intentions to reconstruct SP quarter and Police quarter at Siaha?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the question.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. member question is –

Yes, plans are made to reconstruct SP quarter and Police quarter at Siaha.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu C. Lalsawivunga to ask *Supplementary questions.*

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Home Department be please to state –

i) Are travelling bills provided to transferred police? How much have been given and how many are left unpaid?

ii) If Police Southern Range has been established at Lunglei? If not, what is the reason and are there any steps taken in this regard?

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu F. Lalnunmawia to ask *Supplementary questions*

PU F. LALNUNMAWIA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Home Department be please to state –

If there are any intentions to reconstruct Sialsuk Police Station and refurbish the quarters?

SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Supplementary questions*

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Home Department be please to state –

- i) Where does the funds for the ongoing work of RCC retaining wall near Siaha SP quarters come from?
- ii) Is the hiring method as per the rules of the government?
- iii) The name of the contractor of Siaha District Jail fencing work? How much is the allocated fund and when will the work be completed?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the question.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. member Pu Lalsawivunga's questions are – Yes, Police transfer TA/DA are provided and I know that a certain amount still needs to be paid and I do not know the exact amount. We have visited Lunglei DIG Southern Range office and they are functioning very well.

On the questions raised by Dr. F. Lalnunmawia, the former ministry had utilized an amount of ₹2 crores for the renovation work of quarters and since we could not acquire more funds, we are unable to allocate more funds for the repairing work. Regarding the questions raised by Dr. K Beichhua, the construction of retaining wall is not acknowledged by Home Department, but due to the ardent effort of the SP, I believe the construction could be initiated and in order to save money I believe department staff carry out the construction work. On the matter of District Jail Siaha fencing, the work is handed over to PWD and we are not aware of the contractor for this work.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua to ask, *Starred Question No.3.*

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Sports & Youth Services Department be please to state –

‘The steps taken to develop Sports at Siaha District during this Ministry.’

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the question.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Sports Department had organised Mizoram State Sports Council Tata Trust Football Academy, 2022-2023 at Siaha and Tipa (Tuipang). Siaha District is also selected at District Khelo India Centre Boxing from the Government of India.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Supplementary questions.*

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker –

- i) What are the initiatives taken in sports at Siaha and Tipa?
- ii) Who will be the contractor for Futsal ground which was inaugurated by the hon. Sports minister at Tuipui Ferry?

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

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Sports Department be please to state –

- i) The reason why the amount of ₹43,066/- is missing from the amount of ₹5 lakhs as per our proceedings, Dt 2.3.2022 session which was signed by the Secretary of Sports Council. Assured by the hon. minister, stating that he will take care of the additional fund needed?
- ii) Who will reside at the Residence Sports School at College Veng, Lawngtlai and what are the physical and financial achievement at College Veng Sport Complex, Sports School and Mampui Sport Complex?

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Sports Department be please to state – The latest status of State Sport Academy?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer to the hon. member Dr. K. Beichhua's questions are – In continuation to the work of the former Sports Minister Pu Zodintluanga, artificial turf was installed at the field constructed by UD & PA and apart from these, TATA Trust Academy was established.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, *Point of Order* – I am only asking about Sports Department.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the initiatives were taken in collaboration between Sports Department and UD & PA, so it is crucial to mention other departments involved. On the matter of Tipa, we hope to install artificial turf very soon. We also hope to achieve more development in sports under PMJVK. I have also promised to establish futsal ground at Tuipui Ferry, which I believe will be the first futsal ground at Siaha District.

On the question raised by Pu C. Ngunlianchunga on the instalment given, we will look into the matter and provide the answer by tomorrow.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, since the hon. minister had given assurance in the House, it should be executed as promised.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, as mentioned earlier, we will look into the matter and clear the issue. On the questions raised by Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng regarding Zobawk Sports Academy, it was first initiated by Pu ZH Ropuia, followed by the Congress Ministry and then this ministry continues to promote the former works and we have utilized an amount of ₹3,300 lakhs, but due to a complaint filed at National Green Tribunal, we received a ‘Stay’ order, so, we initiated a Compensatory Afforestation Land and we hope to clear this matter very soon.

Regarding the building at College Veng, it will be utilized by Motilal Nehru Sports School. We have completed about 85 % of the physical infrastructure and 20 % has been completed at Mampui and estimated to be completed at 2025. Lawngtlai is also estimated to be completed next year. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Starred Question* No.4.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, will the concern Minister of Health & Family Welfare Department be please to state –

- a) The names of Hospitals where MRI machine and CT scan machines are installed?
- b) If there are any intentions to install CT Scan machines at Siaha?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. member questions is –

- a) MRI machines are installed at – State Referral Hospital, Falkawn/Zoram Medical College, Falkawn. CT Scan machines are installed at – State Referral Hospital, Falkawn, Civil Hospital, Aizawl and Civil Hospital, Lunglei.
- b) There are no intentions to install CT Scan machines at Siaha District Hospital.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. From the answers provided on Pu C. Lalsawivunga’s questions, an amount of ₹1,974.8665 lakhs is in debt by Directorate of Health Services and Zoram Medical College, when will this debt be

cleared? Is there a possibility of clearing health care bills before the upcoming elections?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, we are in dire need of X-Ray machines at Vairengte CHC, so is there a possibility to install the machine within this year?

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

PU B.D CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern minister be please to state –

- i) If ZMC hospital have acquired MCI recognition?
- ii) If there is a possibility to provide an ambulance at Chawngte?
- iii) If X-Ray machine could be installed at Chawngte?
- iv) If there could be a Blood Transfusion Facility at Chawngte?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, starting with Dr B.D Chakma's questions, we have applied for an ambulance at CSR and we are aware of the necessity of X-Ray and Blood Transfusion Facility. Regarding the need of X-Ray machines mentioned by Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte, we have applied for about 10 X-Ray machines and we hope to install them in different areas. As for the recognition of ZMC under MCI, we have been received an approval for 1 year.

Regarding the bills mentioned by Pu Lalduhoma, an amount of about ₹50 crores had been allocated in the budget for the purposes and we thank the hon. Chief minister for releasing these funds and if we could receive more funds for the same purpose, we will be able to clear more of our liabilities. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr K. Beichhua to ask *Starred Question No.5*.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you Speaker. Will the concern Minister for Health & Family Welfare Department be please to state –

If there are any intentions to post doctors at the vacant post at Chhaolo and Phura PHC?

SPEAKER : The concern Ministers may answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. Member's question is –

Due to lack of manpower, we are, at the moment unable to fill the vacant post at Chhaolo and Phura PHC.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Supplementary questions*.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Are there any intentions to recruit doctors through MPSC? Can this ministry conduct recruitment of doctors at least once during this ministry? Is there a possibility of employing Ayush Doctors and is there a probability of installing CT scan machines at District Hospitals? As promised to us, is there a chance to use the old CT scan machine used at Aizawl Civil hospital as emergency purposes at Siaha?

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

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, is there a possibility of constructing hospitals under SEDP? How many can be constructed?

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

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Are there any intentions to inaugurate PHC building at Lungpuighat? Why do Mizoram government have only one MRI machine and does the government have no intention of developing rural areas? Is there a possibility of installing CT Scan machine at District Headquarters?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you Pu Speaker. Answering the questions raised by Dr. K. Beichhua, through 235 villages in Mizoram, we have conducted primary healthcare under SEDP and there are 375 sub – centres in Mizoram, 61 PHC's and 9 CHC's. I want to add that we are trying our best in these regards. We must know that some funds are to be allocated from the Central government, which is the reason why many bills are still on hold. We are aware of the lack of doctors but we have to know that there are 25 nos. of doctors who have reached their superannuation pension and there are some who acquire voluntary pension and there are 78 vacant posts. At the moment there are 5 specialist post proposal and 5 AAYUSH doctor posts to be selected under MPSC. Under GDMO there are 9 vacant posts to be filled up, 3 Specialist posts and 84 vacant posts under MHS. The main reason for posts lying vacant under the government is due to the employment of doctors under private hospitals in the city.

Pu Speaker, we are aware of the importance of MRI and we are trying our best to install the machine as many as possible. I also want to state that due to the pandemic we are unable to achieve progress as desired. Though we may have many flaws, there are also many progressive achievements like the establishment of PICU at Aizawl Civil

Hospital and more than 50 nos. of ICU at ZMC. We have attained a number one position under NITI-AAYOG in their health index indicator and the infant mortality rate is the lowest in Mizoram. We have also installed oxygen plant in every District hospital in Mizoram. We have also installed an oxygen filling station at Pukpui. Thank you.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, can the old CT scan of Aizawl be used at Siaha?

CALLING ATTENTION MOTION

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma has moved for *Calling Attention* to a matter of urgent public importance, so, I will call upon Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Due to the corroded condition of the National Highway – 302, Lunglei – Tlabung we are unable to receive domestic needs like rice, gas and others. There is no rice at Tlabung godown, which is my main reason for *Calling Attention*. If a medical emergency arises it is obvious that ambulance and other public transport will not be able to reach their destination in time. Pu Speaker National Highway – 302, Lunglei - Tlabung Road is a lifeline for us and it is important for defence purpose as well. So, I request this ministry to give priority and take necessary steps in this regard. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Chief minister, also the concern minister of PWD may answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. We are aware of the importance of Tlabung road mentioned by the Hon. member and his reasons for *Calling Attention Motion*. Though the construction had started, due to monsoon we are unable to make rapid progress, at the same time I want to state our physical achievement which is 14% and our financial achievement which is 9.9 %. Since this is under NHIDCL, PWD does not have much authority but we are pushing them to give maximum effort in order to clear the problems face by the people. We hope, to have more rapid progress after monsoon is over, thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SPEAKER : Moving on to the next business, we have listed out the *Panel of Chairman* and they are –

1. Pu C.Ngunlianchung
2. Dr. K. Beichhua
3. Dr. Vanlalhlana and
4. Pu K.Laldawngliana.

LAYING OF PAPERS

We will now move on to *Laying of Papers*. Hon. Dy. CM may lay the following papers on the table of the House-

- i) *'The Mizoram Water Supplies (Control) Rules, 2023' and*
- ii) *'The Mizoram PHED Enlistment of Contractor (Amendment) Rules,2023'*

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. With your permission I lay the following papers on the table of the House-

- i) *'The Mizoram Water Supplies (Control) Rules, 2023' and*
- ii) *'The Mizoram PHED Enlistment of Contractor (Amendment) Rules,2023'*

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed and the hon. member Dr. R. Lalthangliana may lay the following papers on the table of the House –

- i) *'The District Mineral Foundation Rules of Mizoram, 2023'*
- ii) *'The Mizoram Minor Minerals (Concession and Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules,2023.'*

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission, I lay the following papers on the table of the House –

- I) *'The District Mineral Foundation Rules of Mizoram, 2023'*
- ii) *'The Mizoram Minor Minerals (Concession and Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules,2023.'*

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed. The hon. member Pu Lalchhandama Ralte may lay -

'The Code on Social Security (Mizoram) Rules, 2023' on the table of the House.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE: Pu Speaker, with your permission I lay *'The Code on Social Security (Mizoram) Rules, 2023'* on the table of the House.

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed. I will now call upon Er. Lalrinawma, hon. Minister to lay -

'The Annual Report of the Office of Commission for Persons with Disabilities' on the table of the House.

ER. LALRINAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission I lay - *'The Annual Report of the Office of Commission for Persons with Disabilities'* on the table of the House.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed, and moving on to the next business, we will now observe the *Presentation of Reports*. BAC had conducted a meeting on Dt. 11.8.23 and chalked out a detailed programme for the *12th Session of Eight Legislative Assembly*, so I present the *Business Advisory Committee Report* in the

House. The copy may be distributed and now I will call upon Pu ZR. Thiamsanga, hon. member to present the following reports on the table of the House –

- i) *'Third Report of Subject Committee – V relating to Mizoram Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board under Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department' and*
- ii) *'Fourth Report of Subject Committee – V relating to Land Revenue & Settlement Department.'*

DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA: Pu Speaker, with your permission I present the following reports on the table of the House –

- i) *'Third Report of Subject Committee – V relating to Mizoram Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board under Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department' and*
- ii) *'Fourth Report of Subject Committee – V relating to Land Revenue & Settlement Department.'*

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed. The hon. member Er. H. Lalzirliana, Chairman, *Government Assurance Committee* may present the following reports on the table of the House –

'The Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government relating to various Departments against the Recommendations of the Committee on Government Assurances contained in the Eighth Report of Eighth Mizoram Legislative Assembly.'

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. With your permission I lay –

'The Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government relating to various Departments against the Recommendations of the Committee on Government Assurances contained in the Eighth Report of Eighth Mizoram Legislative Assembly.'

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

SPEAKER : The copy may be distributed. Moving on to our next business, I will call upon Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga to move a resolution concerning his department, Forest & Climate Change.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I move – *'That this House unanimously resolves to oppose the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 in order to protect the rights and interest of the people of Mizoram'* in the hon. House.

In order to preserve flora and fauna, Forest Conservation Act 1980 was executed in 1980. So, any private person or authority, corporation, agency or any other organization not owned, managed or controlled by the government are not permitted to

own or lease or cut trees within forest reserve area. It can only be utilized after forest clearance order is given by the government where the clearance states that the non-forest activity should not endanger the environment, destroy the flora and fauna and should not create any obstacles to rebuild forest in the area.

Later on, the desire to amend this Act was born and, in the amendment, which was Forest Conservation Amendment Act, 2023 included the areas where the Indian Forest Act notified as 'Forest' area only. Areas where forest are utilized with the permission of the government before Dt0.12.12.1996 will not be included. As seen in section 1A, clause 2, villages, railway track, roadside amenity, restaurants, cafeteria, highways or roads, which is not more than 0.10 area utilize for forest diversion will be exempt. If there are initiatives taken for linear project of national importance security within 100 kms from the international border, acquiring forest clearance will not be required. As for Mizoram, the area of the whole state within North, East, West and South is within 100 kms from our international border, meaning that forest clearance need not be acquired. So, it literally means that the whole of Mizoram can be utilize for defence related and public utility project.

In the amendment, section 3(c) is added which implies that the authority of the state relating to conservation of forest can be overruled by the Central Government. Upon carefully considering all these, we come up with the resolution '*That this House unanimously resolves to oppose Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 in order to protect the rights and interest of the people of Mizoram*'. Thank you

SPEAKER : We will now start with our discussion and each member will be allotted 5 minutes. I believe we can adopt this resolution without any further discussion. Anyway, I will call upon the hon. member Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, the hon. minister had explained the amendment act and I find it strange that we the people were not informed before this Bill is passed in Lok Sabha on the 2nd of August, and ZPM party was the only party making a protest statement on the 24th of July before it was passed. It is crucial to protect ourselves with Article 371G. We should also bear in mind that they will continue to amend IPC, CrPC, Indian Evidence Act etc which will obviously birth future turmoil. So, for the upcoming MP election we should cast our vote carefully bearing in mind the consequences it can have for our society if BJP continues to win majority. With that I will conclude my expressing my support in passing this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu Lalchamliana.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I believe it is important to express our disagreement in the Hon. House. We should also remember that there are times when the Central Government agreed to our demands and there are times, we need

to agree to theirs. Anyway, Article 371 states that Acts will not be implemented on such topics unless the state government pass a bill in the House, they are –

- i) *Religious and social practices of the Mizo's*
- ii) *Mizo Customary Law and Procedure*
- iii) *Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice involving decision according to Mizo Customary Law*
- iv) *Ownership and transfer of land.*

I am but a bit curious if 'Land Ownership and transfer of land' will include forest area. Anyway, I will conclude by stating my support in passing the resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu B.D. Chakma.

PU B.D CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, as pointed out by the Hon. member Pu Lalduhoma, the Bill had already been passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, so, the discussion we have here at this moment is quite impractical. We have also discussed about UCC and oppose it, but we did not produce any draft or whatsoever. During the speech of the hon. CM on Independence Day, he mentioned that Green India Mission and National Afforestation Programme had been initiated, covering different districts of Mizoram. After the Bill is passed it will become an Act, and funds will be allocated for the purpose and what will become of our state amidst the confusion? Anyway, I suggest even our two MPs should cut their ties with NDA. So, I will conclude by expressing that I do not support this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. K. Beichhua.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This Bill had been passed in the last monsoon session, which was approved by the President and published in the Gazette of India on 4th of August, and the state government had submitted its disagreement at the *Joint Parliament Committee*. So, the only steps we can take is to support this resolution based on Article 371(G). Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Dy. CM Pu Tawnluia.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Under Article 371(G) the '*Ownership and transfer of land*' signifies all the land areas where forest grows, so, I want to state that the forest amendment passed by the central government does not affect us and we, the Mizo people do not agree to the Act. I was present at the drafting and signing of the 371(G) and I want to state that Article 371 (G) is enough to protect us. So, I will conclude by stating my support in this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu Nihar Kanti.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Under this context, we need to ponder this resolution with care to know if we are really protected or not. Like the National Policy – Indo Bangladesh border fencing policy which was started in 2005, the siltation of these fencing had caused many complications for us after many years. Anyway, I will state my support in passing this resolution Thank you.

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

2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER : We will now resume our session; may I call upon the hon. Chief minister.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. We all seem to agree to the resolution. Our two MP's have also asked about this and we inform them that we should oppose the resolution even as a ministry. The disagreement of The Consultation Committee had also been submitted on the 21st of October and also an office memorandum on Joint Committee on the Forest Amendment Bill on the 1st of June. Anyway, we will continue to accept that Article 371(G) gives security of our land or forest areas. So, I will conclude by stating my support and ask my fellow members to support this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I will now call upon the hon. minister Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga to wind up and appeal to adopt the resolution.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. 7 nos. of members have reacted to the resolution where only one does not support the resolution. It is clear that we all stood united when it comes to the security of our community. Pu Speaker, I appeal the hon. House to pass and adopt my *resolution 'That this House unanimously resolves to oppose the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act,2023 in order to protect the rights and interest of the people of Mizoram'*

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change appeal to pass and adopt his resolution '*That this House unanimously resolves to oppose the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act,2023*' in order to protect the rights and interest of the people of Mizoram.' All in favour to pass the resolution may say 'Aye' and those who oppose may say 'No.' Since there are no objections, the resolution of the hon. minister Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga is adopted by the House. (**Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga, Minister:** Pu Speaker, Thank you.)

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

We will now move on to the *Legislative Business*, I will now call upon Pu Lalchamliana, the hon. minister to appeal to introduce *'The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023'* in the House.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker with your permission, I appeal to introduce *'The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023'* in the House.

SPEAKER : The hon. minister has asked the permission of the House to introduce his bill? Are we all in agreement? (**Members:** 'Agree')

Let us call upon the hon. minister to introduce and move his bill.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I introduce *"The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023"*.

As we all know, 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)' was first implemented on July 2017. It is a dual authority system carried out by the central government and the state government and cannot be amended as we please. A new 'State GST bill' was drafted by the center and *"The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023"* was submitted. It is prepared by GST Council, passed by the Parliament and assent given by the President of India.

There are 22 parts to be amended. They are- Section 10 – compulsory levy, Section 16 – Eligibility and Conditions for taking Input Tax Credit, Section 17 – Apportionment of Credit and Blocked Credit, Section 23- Person not liable for Registration, Section 30 – Revocation of Cancellation of Registration, Section 37 – Furnishing details of Outward Supplies, Section 39 – Furnishing of returns, Section 44 – Annual return, Section 52 – Collection of Tax at Source, Section 54 – Refund of Tax, Section 56 – Interest on delayed Refunds, Section 62 – Assessment of non-filers of returns, Section 109 – Appellate Tribunal and Benches thereof, Section 110 – President and Members of Appellate tribunal, their qualification, appointment, conditions of services etc., Section 114 – Financial and administrative powers of State President, Section 117 – Appeal to High Court, Section 118 – Appeal to Supreme Court, Section 119 – Sums due to be paid notwithstanding appeal etc., Section 122 – Penalty for certain offences, Section 132 – Punishment for certain offences, Section 138 – Compounding of Offences, Section 158 – Disclosure of information by a public servant.

I present those points for amendment to the House. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. minister has presented his bill for discussion. Will 5 minutes for each member be enough? (**Pu Lalduhoma:** If the hon.

Speaker and members permit, can we let him windup without discussion? This is a necessary bill that we have to pass.)

Do all the members agree? Let us call upon the hon. minister to ask the permission of the House to adopt his bill.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, ka lawm e. I ask the permission of the House to pass my bill “*The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. minister has asked the permission of the House to pass his bill “*The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”. All in favor say ‘agree’. (MEMBERS: Agree). The House has unanimously passed the bill “*The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023*” submitted by Pu Lalchamlia. (**Pu Lalchamlia, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

We will move on to another bill. Let us call upon the hon. minister Pu Lalchhandama Ralte to ask the permission of the House to introduce his bill ‘*The Mizoram Shops & Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I ask the permission of the House to introduce my bill ‘*The Mizoram Shops & Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’.

SPEAKER : The hon. minister has asked the permission of the House to introduce his bill. Are we in agreement?

Let us call upon the hon. minister to introduce and move his bill.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of this House, I introduce the bill ‘*The Mizoram Shops & Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’.

Pu Speaker, the main aim of this Bill is to protect and safeguard shop owners and small business owners. The fundamental aim of ‘*The Mizoram Shops & Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’ is to change the exemption list.

I kindly request the members of this House to support and accept my Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will now start discussion for the Bill presented by the hon. minister. Each member will be assigned 5 minutes each. Let us call upon Dr. Vanlalhlana to start the discussion.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. There are some mistakes within this bill that I would like to point out. '74th' was written as '73rd' while it was written as 'Act' instead of 'Bill' in the Financial Memorandum. The year for the bill was also written as 2022 instead of 2023.

I would also like to mention an important point that employees of private organizations should be aware of. Employees of organizations that have more than 10 employees are entitle to have 'Employees State Insurance'.

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

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. minister to windup.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I thank the members of this House for giving their cooperation, support and unity when it matters the most.

I kindly request the permission of the House to pass my bill '*The Mizoram Shops & Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. minister has asked the permission of the House to pass his bill '*The Mizoram Shops & Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'.

All in favor, say agree. (**Members:** 'Agree') The House has unanimously passed bill '*The Mizoram Shops & Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'. (**Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

We will move on to the third bill of the day. Let us call upon the hon. minister Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga to ask the permission of the House to introduce his bill.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I kindly request the permission of the House to introduce my bill "*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2023*".

SPEAKER : The hon. minister has asked the permission of the House to introduce his Bill. Are we all in agreement. (**Members:** Agree). Let us call upon the hon. minister to introduce his bill.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I introduce “*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”.

SPEAKER : The hon. minister has introduced his Bill. Let us call upon him to move his Bill.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The main reason why this amendment bill came about is due to decriminalization policy introduced by the central government especially in the area of minor civil cases.

Law & Judicial Department of Mizoram had a meeting regarding this on 29th June 2022 and came to the conclusion that “*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2007*” requires an amendment.

This Act states that a contract marriage should be registered at the Register of Marriage within their area. The department feels that some sections require an amendment in terms of reducing jail terms for some offences.

Pu Speaker, I ask the permission of the House to pass “*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. minister has moved his Bill. We will now start discussion on this Bill with 5 minutes allotted for each member. Let us call upon Pu C. Lalsawivunga to start the discussion.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, is there a record of anyone who violate ‘*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2007*’? What is the penalty for violation of this Act?

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Pachhunga.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, I would like to mention that it is our duty to protect, preserve and safeguard our God given land. I also pledge my support to this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. minister to windup.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am thankful that the members are supportive of the bill that I presented.

In answer to Pu C. Lalsawivunga, fortunately, till now no violation of ‘*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2007*’ has been recorded.

Pu Speaker, I asked the permission of the House to pass “*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. minister has asked the permission of the House to pass “*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”. *All those in favor* say ‘agree’. (**Members:** Agree).

The House has unanimously passed the “*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”. (**Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

We have concluded our business for today and continue the Session on 23rd August, 2023 (Wednesday) at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned. (**12:34 PM**)