

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR THIRTEENTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 24th 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.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

2. * **Resolutions**

LALHMAHRUAIA ZOTE
Commissioner & Secretary

* Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 290, dated the 22nd February 2023 for relative precedence of Private Members' Resolutions to be moved.

SPEAKER : *But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always.*

-Hosea 12:6

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

I request Dr. Vanlaltanpuia to ask *Starred Question* No. 201.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the School Education Department Minister be pleased to state-

The lists of school buildings to be renovated in Lunglei North.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu Lalchhandama Ralte to answer the question.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer to the question asked by Dr. Vanlaltanpuia is-

Govt. MS, Bualpui 'V' and Govt. PS, Mausen additional classroom. This is proposed for NABARD-27

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question* is-

It is impressive that a Headmaster was recently appointed for Zotlang High School. However, the Headmasters of Govt. High School Mualthuum North and Govt. High School Haulawng were transferred. Haulawng High School is the center of examination and it is improper to not have a headmaster. So, will it be possible to return the transferred headmasters?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. While the government was trying to reduce MR in 2019, a large number of MR teachers were recruited with a salary of ₹520/- per day. They are all appointed at rural areas and some of them took the charge of a headmaster. When taking the charge of a headmaster, there are some teachers who have higher salary than them and this effects discipline. So, is it possible to promote them as provisional employees and is there any proposal?

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

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is-

- i) A Higher Secondary School is not available in Lawngtlai West and the schools at Bungtlang South and Diltlang are likely established as a private school. So, is it possible to provide it from Samagra?
- ii) Is there a proposal to fill the vacant posts of High School Headmasters in Lawngtlai District? Seniority promotion has been done twice during this MNF government and is it possible to implement this in Lawngtlai and Siaha as well?
- iii) The State government runs some schools in the District Councils due to provincialization and two teachers (Mizoram staff and Council staff) are appointed in one school. This is a problem that has been addressed since the previous government and this complicates the administration. So, will it be possible to enlist these provisional staffs in district councils since Elementary schools are owned by the district council?
- iv) There are 2 lump-sum grant high schools in my constituency and they manage themselves with ₹2,50,000 in a year. So, will it be possible to upgrade them to ad-hoc?

SPEAKER : Minister Pu Lalchhandama Ralte to answer the question.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in response to Dr. Vanlatanpuia, we have high school headmasters who are appointed through LDE and promotion and we also have several pensioners. So, we made arrangements by distributing them equally due to insufficiency. A Headmaster is also newly appointed at Zotlang, Lunglei North. We look into the conditions of the schools and its teachers and there are some senior teachers who can take charge of the headmaster. There are schools in the district capital that do not have a headmaster and that needs one. Therefore, some teachers are transferred and some schools are given additional teachers.

In response to Pu Ngunlianchunga, Blue Mount High School, Sangau has a new headmaster and a new Headmaster is also provided at Tipa. A headmaster was also provided at Siaha High School and Zero point. 3 headmasters are already provided in Siaha District. Regional High School in Lawngtlai has no Headmaster and we wish to provide one. However, the promotion file of the teacher who had taken the headmaster charge for more than 10 years is in progress and we will soon be able to provide a Headmaster.

In response to Pu Lalduhoma, 881 MR teachers who were recruited in September, 2019 are paid ₹15,000 and the government is also looking for ways to increase their salaries and services. We made a proposal to the DP&AR to upgrade them to Provisional Employees and it is currently in process. Labor & Employment department has proposed to review the minimum wages and the proposal will be included in the cabinet agenda soon.

In response to Pu Ngunlianchunga regarding the unavailability of a higher secondary school in Lawngtlai west, a proposal was made to PAB last year which was

unfortunately excluded. PAB is scheduled to be held in Delhi in April this year and we will include it in the proposal again.

School upgradation was mentioned by every member and the department has done its utmost in preparation and examination. We made a proposal again to the Finance Department as suggested by our finance minister and this is currently under consideration.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question* is-

- i) Is there a proposal to recruit more SEDP teachers? If so, the teacher should be appointed in his own village.
- ii) Adhoc Grant-in-Aid schools like TC High School and Siata High School buildings in my constituency are in poor condition and is it possible to renovate them with NABARD Fund?

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Palak representative is a great supporter when it comes to education and we will take notes on what he had said. I am pleased that the members on your left are quite happy regarding SEDP teachers and they appreciate the way we implement the stop-gap arrangement in their constituencies. The current financial year will end on March 15, 2013 and the new academic session will start in April. 701 teachers under the SEDP were discussed with the Chief Minister and a proposal is also submitted with more funds.

Pu Ngunlianchunga said that Lawngtlai and Siaha Autonomous Councils are under the Sixth Schedule and elementary is legally in the hands of the Sixth Schedule. He also mentioned that they are facing problems due to dual administration. CADC solved this problem in the past and it is all in their hands. Some Middle Schools in Lawngtlai and Siaha are both a district council school and a state govt. school. So, this result in administration and education struggle. So, we discussed this with the council officials and made proposals. However, they are separate councils with different opinions and that is why we cannot proceed as fast as we could. LADC had come to the consensus that there could be a way to absorb all the state employees into their own council. Therefore, we are processing this and deal with it in our office as much as we could. We were in agreement with the previous MADC government but we have not met the education authorities of the new government. So, we want to put it on the cabinet agenda unanimously if possible.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 202 to be asked by Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, will the Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department Minister be pleased to state-

- a) The water conservation scheme that the government is implementing.
- b) If the government is implementing Tlawng source (Lunglei) conservation.

SPEAKER : Minister Pu TJ Lalnuntluanga to answer the question.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is-

- a) Soil & Moisture Conservation works are carried out and security measures are also taken. The Forest (Conversation) Act, 1980 states that any work except forest improvement works (tree planting/soil & moisture conservation works) is prohibited within the jurisdiction of Reserved Forest, Notified Forest and any other forest without prior permission of the Central Government (without forest clearance)
- b) Tlawng source conservation is carried out by the Government.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question* is – Lunglei city water supply is pumped from Tlawng-Pialthleng area. As we know, Tlawng has a source at Zobawk and Pukpui water source is not far away. Therefore, the conservation of the catchment area is very important for the availability of water sources. So, will the Minister take a closer look at the recent decline in forests especially in that particular area? I would like to emphasize that it is a dry season and there is hardly any water to pump. Therefore, conserving the surrounding forests is important for water conservation. So, I would like to make a request to take this seriously and will this be possible?

Secondly, precihole guns are very common nowadays and many birds were shot. A restriction on this gun is quite important and does the government has this restriction?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Regarding Lungpuizawl VC, Lungpuizawl was inhabited in 1980 and VC was established in 1997 with the permission of the government. There are 170 households with 1004 inhabitants and two schools that are middle school and primary school. There are three churches, a community hall and a VC house. The VC area was peaceful without any problems and LSCs were issued and no objections were raised from the department. However, their main occupation which is quarrying and their LSCs have been banned from renewing since 8.2.2022. Therefore, Pu Speaker, will the Minister take action as soon as possible to alleviate their suffering and grief?

SPEAKER : Minister Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga to answer the questions.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in response to Pu Tanpuia regarding Lunglei water supply, the Forest Department has been working on soil moisture conservation at Tlawng source and Tlawng valley. We also protect all those that can be protected under the law. Contour trenching, water wells in the mountains and check-dams are being carried out recently. CAMPA and other funds were used to protect the catchment areas and conserve the soil and water resources. We are also including it as one of the major components of the JICA Project. So, the catchment area will be conserved in a more meaningful manner in collaboration with the SMC work when this is successful. We also hope to build new water streams.

Regarding the gun restriction, we are working with the Home Department and the license is prohibited from issuing. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 also prohibits it from hunting birds. However, this may still occur due to lack of awareness and measures cannot be completely taken on this matter. At the same time, the people are becoming more aware of the conservation and killing of wildlife. The love for birds and animals has grown especially in children.

Pu Speaker, in response to Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng regarding the problems faced by Lungpuizawl villagers, the area was protected under the 1965 notification on Tlawng protection and this why the villagers are also facing difficulties. PIL 7 of 2021 was filed in the High Court. Therefore, illegal activities are banned in this area and this is an ongoing case. Therefore, I would like to acknowledge the difficulties and grief of Lungpuizawl people and we will take all possible steps to help them as much as possible under the law.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 203 to be asked by Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, will the GAD Minister be pleased to state-

- a) The number of government quarters that are in need of repair or renovation in Ainawn Veng.
- b) If measures are taken for renovation.

SPEAKER : I request the hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga to answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is –

- a) Ainawn Veng is formerly known as 'Govt Complex' and it has 47 government buildings with 184 quarters. The Government quarters are old and measures are taken to demolish all of it. Therefore, repair works are not being carried out.
- b) Inspection and verification reports review and study meeting held on 11.7.2022 at Secretariat Conference Hall under the guidance of GAD declared that Ainawn Veng government buildings and quarters are becoming quite old and it was

suggested that the buildings should be demolished as they are not safe enough for the inhabitants of the area. The proposal is being prepared for the Council of Ministers for consideration. So, no repair or renovation work is being carried out and the renovation or repair works were stopped.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, it is impressive to hear the initiatives taken. However, I am afraid that Aizawl New Market will be demolished and we would not be able to build it again. Therefore, we should not demolish it as long as it can be occupied.

Secondly, this area was reserved for the government during Brig T. Sailo's time. However, some powerful people possessed LSCs later and it is painful that the nation's leaders are taking the lead in destroying our land. There are many private land owners who are recognized by the government where some grew crops and build houses. So, is there a proposal to issue house pass to those people whose house are already available?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the GAD Minister be pleased to state—

According to the Unstarred question No. 243, DP&AR Minister mentioned that re-employed persons cannot be appointed as DDOs. However, the Principal Consultant of Aviation is among the re-employed and he is appointed as DDO. So, what rules are applied in this matter? Is he a DDO just because he was appointed as HOD on 10th April, 2019? What action should be taken if the rules applied here is invalid?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, it is impressive that you also expressed your concern and your desire to resolve Ainawn Veng issue in the previous session. Ainawn Veng was formerly known as Govt. Complex. Was it difficult to issue LSCs when it was a Govt. Complex? The poor and needy own houses here but they are unable to take loans since they do not possess LSCs. The Revenue Department has already conducted a survey and it is currently in the hands of GAD. Many powerful people possess lands and they are able to resolve their problems easily. However, there are also many poor people who cannot do anything. Therefore, will it be possible to take steps to ensure that they have a permanent settlement? The government's properties are all identified and 90% of the survey is also completed. Therefore, it will not be that difficult to issue LSCs for non-government's lands. They will protect their property at all cost and so, I urge the government to prioritize this issue and resolve it as soon as possible. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request the hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga to answer the questions.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Reemployed persons were often appointed as DDO in the past without much proper caution but we have now forbidden it. Therefore, the Principal Consultant is also no longer employed as DDO.

In response to Pu Duhoma regarding the demolition of New Market, he is absolutely right but it is also quite difficult for the government to make a decision. The buildings are desolate and we are afraid of being held responsible for another's life if disasters occurred. On the other hand, it is also a problem if we evict them and cannot build a place for them. However, the Expert Committee chaired by the DC argued that it is not safe anymore for both the residents and for those who live nearby. Therefore, they recommend that it should be demolished and the government is also looking into it. Anyway, we take this recommendation into consideration for the time being. It is excruciating to evict them from their homes and therefore, quarters are constructed at DIET and we are asking them to move to that quarter.

The previous government also considered issuing LSCs to those who have already settled which we also agreed. Therefore, GAD is currently considering the drafting of a cabinet memorandum and we are taking measures to issue permanent LSCs during this government. Bawngkawn Brigade land is also being relocated and this area needs to be inspected cooperatively. GAD also prepared a cabinet paper to resolve issues as soon as possible which we will execute soon.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 104 to be asked by Pu Lawmawma Tochhawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Disaster Management & Rehabilitation Department Minister be pleased to state-

The amount of aid provided to victims of various disasters during the year 2022.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchamlia, hon. Minister to answer the question.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is –

₹4,24,63,580/- has been provided to the victims of various disasters during 2022.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAMSAंगा : Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question* is –Tuimuk Lei lei collapsed. Neihdawn bridge is a PMGSY road but it is built temporarily since provision is not available. It was recently built with MLA fund but it collapsed and it

will be impossible to enter Neihdawn village during rainy season. I have already approached the Minister and he has taken it seriously and we have also reached out to the department. So, will it be possible to built the bridge before rainy season?

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

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* to the Minister of Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department is –Republic Veng faced a problem last year due to soil erosion and steps need to be renovated and drains need to be replaced. The electricity connection line was also removed and the inhabitants of this area are facing a lot of difficulties. Therefore, will it be possible to take action on the existing estimate proposals for the construction of new steps, drains and electricity wires?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchamliana, Minister to answer the question.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Dr. ZR Thiamsanga is quite concerned about the construction of Tuimuk bridge but DM & R is not responsible for building bridges.

Pu Lalsawivunga's statement is quite true. The NDMA under the Union Home Ministry issued new guidelines for the use of State Mitigation Fund and State Disaster Response Fund in February last year which bound us. According to my understanding, every central project even those projects under DM&R should be appraised by the Appraisal Committee and then the State Executive Committee under the SDMA chaired by the Chief Secretary will have to approve it and only then, the sanction can be imposed. So, our Director, Secretary and the concern Ministers have their hands tied. It stated that SDMA member shall be the chairman of the Appraisal committee. Members from technical departments like- PWD and P&E are required to be recruited and this made the works of DM & AR quite slow. Estimates are already made for Republic Veng disaster and if I am not mistaken, it has been approved by the Appraisal Committee and the SEC and sanctions are currently being prepared. The works is expected to start soon.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 205 to be asked by Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, will the GAD Minister be pleased to state –

- a) If the spiritual sub-committee formed on 14.08.2019 still stands.
- b) The measures taken by this committee.
- c) If the SEDP sanction of ₹29.05 lakhs on 6.2.2020 for the construction of Chaplain Office is used.
- d) If not, why? What is the fund used for?

SPEAKER : Hon. GAD Minister Pu Zoramthanga to answer the question.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is –

- a) Yes
- b) The Spiritual sub-committee held gospel camping six times.
- c) Chaplain Office construction was not sanctioned from SEDP fund on 6.2.2020.
- d) As per the answer above, it is not sanctioned.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, the first answer to my question and the answer I just received are in contradiction. According to the answer given on my starred question no. 120 on 28.2.2020, it was stated that Mizoram Finance Department sanctioned ₹29.05 lakhs on 6.2.2020 for the construction of chaplain office under SEDP but it has not been implemented yet. However, I was answered as if there was no such thing. So, which one is true?

According to my understanding, this spiritual - sub-committee would be the government's guiding force like the ethics committee of the previous congress government. Aside from praying for the government and its legislators, I thought that this committee would be a spiritual reliance with its own office and building. However, it is about camping in some places and so, we should stop this if we are not constructing buildings for it.

SPEAKER : Hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga to answer the questions.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Social Rehabilitation Board meeting formed various sub-committees including a committee on spiritual life and the target at the time was the care of the Jordan Centre. The others were also done as necessary but this is not a nationwide campaign. The Spiritual sub-Committee was formed on August 14 for that purpose and the order was also made by Social Welfare where Mizoram Church Leader is the Chairman of the Committee, Upa K. Lalthawmmawia of Tuikual North as the Secretary and its members include- Rev. Vanlalbela of Bawngkawn, Upa Denghmingthanga of Kulikawn and Pu C. Vanlalmawia Chhakchhuak, Asst. Director, Social Welfare. Lt. Col. Vanlalthanga and Rev. JC Vanlalluaia were added among the members later. Camping was held at Jordan centre but then Covid struck and the centre was occupied for covid care centre. However, camping was held several times later on. A board under Social Welfare established this centre for treating addicts but Covid-19 prevented them from occupying the main building. This had no connection with the chaplain's office.

Camping was held six times. The chaplain's office was previously located at the airport and a sanction of ₹29 lakhs was also made for the construction of a separate office. However, with the renovation of the airport, a building worth ₹29 lakhs near the airport is impossible and so, more than ₹100,00,000/- was sanctioned for the reception of the deceased, shelter, and canteen. The construction is currently carried out and we are doing our best to complete it as soon as possible.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 206 to be asked by Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the School Education Department Minister be pleased to state -

- a) If there are any proposal to repair the damaged school buildings/MDM kitchen buildings.
- b) If so, when will the work be implemented?

SPEAKER : I request Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, School Education Department Minister to answer the question.

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

- a) MDM kitchen building is being constructed under the central scheme- PM-POSHAN and a proposal is currently made to the Central Government for repairment.
- b) It is scheduled to be implemented when the Central Government provides funds.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, MDM kitchen buildings at Khawrihnim, Lungphung and Silsuri villages are in poor condition and is there a way to take measures?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, Khuangleng High School is a centre for matric examination with no Headmaster for a long time. So, it is impressive that the Education Minister recently provides a Headmaster. My *Supplementary question* is - Vaphai Higher Secondary School was established and inaugurated by the Minister. This school often has good results with 100% passed results. So, is there any way for the government to provide lumpsum in this coming Financial Year?

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

SPEAKER : *Question hour* is now over and do we wish to continue? *(The House agreed)*

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker and it is a pleasure to govern under your guidance. Govt. Bethlehem High School, Govt. Central High School and Govt. Republic Primary School-I are in need of renovation and their buildings are more than 30 years old. So, is it possible to build new buildings?

Govt. Middle School Bethlehem Veng, Govt. Bible School Venghluai and Govt. Aizawl High School Republic Veng buildings are in ruins. So, repairment and maintenance are required and will the Minister be able to take measures?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, hon. Minister to answer the questions.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in response to Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo regarding MDM kitchen, the kitchens are usually the place where midday meal is served in many parts of Mizoram and they are in a state of disrepair. According to our current plan, we plan to provide ₹10,000 for repairment to all those buildings that are above 10 years old.

In response to Pu Ramthanmawia regarding Vaphai Higher Secondary School, a proposal is made to the Government regarding the funds required for schools which are to be Lumpsum Grant-in-Aid, Adhoc and provincialized. Therefore, we will review this with the leaders and we will keep it in mind.

In response to Pu C. Lalsawivunga, we faced many problems in schools especially within the city. However, some works are carried out through minor head at Bethlehem Veng and other parts. Major work of school renovation under NABARD scheme is for rural areas only and we are taking measures for urban areas. I expect that the ₹30 crore available at Samagra PAB-II will be used for major repairs and minor repairs instead of building new schools. We have high hopes for this. The department is preparing to carry out major and minor repairs for schools in urban and rural areas.

PRIVATE MEMBERS RESOLUTION

SPEAKER : We will proceed to the next business. Today is *Private Members Resolutions* Day as per Article 27(1). Our Business for Today was balloted on the 21st (Tuesday) and 16 resolutions were selected which were provided in the bulletin.

We will start with Resolution No.1- *“Works should be implemented more carefully so that we can have good roads and good buildings.”* I request Pu Lalchhuanthanga to move his Resolution.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, I am impressed that I am able to move my Resolution- “*Works should be implemented more carefully so that we can have good roads and good buildings.*” Resolutions on roads have been debated in this House. Dr. K. Beichhua’s resolution was introduced on November 21, 2014, Pu Vanlalzawma’s resolution was discussed on 16 October, 2015 and Pu K. Sangthuama's resolution was also discussed on March 16, 2018. Member Pu Zothantluanga's resolution- “It is impressive that MNF ministry has been able to repair the bad roads of Mizoram within a short period of time” was considered and discussed during the beginning of this government. The purpose of my resolution is to have better roads and better buildings with better quality. Roads and buildings with high quality are one of the most important things for our development. We are all concerned about the need of good roads in each of our constituency and I present this resolution so that our roads will be better and long lasting. This resolution is not intended to criticize the department employees or the concerned Minister but to work together to have a good quality and long-lasting roads.

We said that our roads are in poor condition because the stones are not hard enough, but they are still nondurable even after we imported harder stones. We also said that the reason is due to heavy rainfall but Meghalaya state has more heavy rainfall. We also said that it is due to heavy vehicles but there are many larger and heavier vehicles in the neighbouring states compared to us. We have lesser rainfall and lesser vehicles compared to other states but our roads never lasted for 1 rainy season. So, I want to discuss what is the main reason behind it.

I believe that the main reason for the road deterioration is corruption. Releasing tenders knowing who will receive it, providing works through restricted tender, working on behalf of others by using their names and selling of works are all the reason behind our bad roads. Therefore, it is necessary to deeply think about the construction of these roads and buildings. The government spends a lot of funds every year for road construction. The government spent ₹1102.65 crore for road construction during this current year that were received from SEDP, PMGSY, central road fund, NABARD loan, EAP loan and PM-DeVINE. In addition, funds received from NESIDS, NEA and other central schemes for road construction are also available but why are our roads still not improved?

Regarding buildings, we need to be very careful when building houses and qualified engineers should take better care of us with better equipment. AMC is doing its utmost within the city but we still need to be careful when building large buildings outside AMC area.

Our roads are divided into various types - national highways, state highways, major district roads, other district roads, village roads and city roads. The total length of our roads is 5,716.93 km. I am not saying all roads are bad but the damp areas often need repair. We deal with the same areas every year and we could have solved this with RCC flooring.

Pu Speaker, I would like to request all the members to discuss and pass this resolution so that we can have better and more durable roads and buildings. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The resolution has been moved and we will start with the discussion. Each member will be given 10 minutes and I request Pu KT Rokhaw.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This is an excellent resolution. The previous and current governments have done their utmost but there are times when the weather conditions have prevented them from doing their jobs. Therefore, I support this resolution when it said that works should be implemented more carefully. I believe we should pass this resolution without much discussion.

SPEAKER : I request Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I believe that this is an excellent resolution. We all want what is best and we are elected on behalf of the people. As mentioned by Pu K.T. Rokhaw, the previous and current governments all want good roads and buildings but the engineers' plans could not be implemented as expected due to heavy rainfall and soil instability. Our Chief Minister is very concerned about our roads. Therefore, I support Pu Lalchhuanthanga's resolution to ensure that the works are implemented more thoroughly. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAMSSANGA : Pu Speaker, this is an excellent resolution and I support it. The previous and current governments are quite concern about our roads but our roads are not durable due to heavy rainfall. I suggest we passed it without further discussion.

SPEAKER : I request Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, it is necessary to have a discussion on this resolution looking at the condition of our roads. We recently visited Lunglei in regards to disaster and I could not attend the program due to bad roads. We should be serious on how to take measures, dealing with the workers and implementing works. We need contractors to carry out the works but I have a feeling that some of our empanel firms and contractors seemed to be fake. We once asked the work experiences of the empanel firms and they have crores of work experience despite being established for only 2 years. Firms and individuals are legally different. Some people formed partnership firms while others formed LLPs private limited. However, we casually claim the works in this government. we took measures and accepted one another. A Grade A consultancy could not issue a DPR so they hire others who perform the works without having a proper experience. So, how are we supposed to have impressive works?

On the other hand, if the consultancy is a sole-proprietorship, they can use their experiences because they are the owners. KR proprietor also has a sole-proprietorship status and it is owned by a non-tribal. I filed an RTI asking if he pay taxes since he is registered under the Income Tax Act and has permanent account. I was answered that he pays taxes from 'income from other sources.' These are the consultancies that we have. I filed an RTI and there are still 5 dues. I also asked if there are any actions taken against him for not paying taxes and if investigation is going. I was replied that no actions were taken. These are our partners. Under the Income Tax Act, 'Income from other sources' is money taken from lucky tickets, money given by someone else, or money earned from horse racing. A sole-proprietorship owner who earns income in such a manner must pay income tax from income from business. I believe that the income tax he has to pay will be a lot and we are working with him. The danger of not paying income tax is that they can go to jail and be pursued for not paying their taxes and will be charged with interest. He looks after our land, us, our people and our buildings and we still want to work with him. Whatever the works that we may have here we have to make effort in the process.

Pu Speaker, regarding PMGSY, PWD was short on auditors when an internal audit was held. The bank guarantee looks quite fake where some are genuine, some are expired and some put other people's names. These are the working methods of our PMGSY and we really need to make efforts here as well. There are many government employees and our contractors are building houses for them. We recently heard about the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and some of the employees are not feeling safe. So, it is painful to see the works done by the contractors.

I was once driving a two-wheeler when it was raining and I visited MINECO. Water was pouring from the ceiling and it was a chaotic mess. So, we must also consider the future of our government employees. Regarding the airport, the first thing that the foreigners see is our airport. The airport was destroyed due to poor construction but the duty personnel were fortunately safe. Pressure was received from SE on November 26, 2020 and Restricted tender was approved on 18.12.2020 as directed by the Chief Minister. In the case of restricted tenders, the Competition Commission is very strict about bid-rigging. We have to consider whether this government is involved in bid-rigging. Many contractors faced problems since the government has not released enough open tenders to reregister themselves. There are too many restricted tenders that they do not even get enough works for registration. The work order for the renovation of the airport was issued on 21st September, 2021. However, KR Construction started the works early on 21st April and the work order was issued months later. This is how we implement works (**Speaker:** Your time is almost over). It is such a shame that works were implemented by ignoring the laws. The General Financial Rules, 2017 provides for the requirement of more than three persons in a limited tender or restricted tender. The Supreme Court also issued a statement saying that the Competition Commission will take action against bid-rigging'. Therefore, we need to

put more effort in the construction of roads and buildings. I support this resolution to be passed. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request Dr. BD Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This is an excellent resolution and rural areas should also be included here. It would also be great if ‘more carefully’ is replaced with the words ‘extremely’. Aizawl - Lunglei roads are extremely damaged and there are many holes bigger than potholes. PWD labourers are also hardly seen. Aizawl - Lungei roads is an important road which is in extremely bad condition. In addition, 80% of Kamalanagar internal roads in my constituency are under the state PWD and only small roads are available under CADC.

Pu Speaker, you were the Guest of Honor when we host the golden jubilee inauguration programme and our internal roads/town roads are quite damaged. My MLA fund was used for pot-hole repairing (PCC) and patch repairing last year during the pandemic. However, the MNF Executive Committee strongly opposed us and did not allow us to perform properly while working on the patch repairing. MLA fund is a limited fund and such internal road repairing cannot be done without several crores. Therefore, it would be appreciated if expedite measures are taken on the internal road repairing in Kamalanagar. At the same time, soft-loan from the central government under SASCI can be used for at least 50 years without any interest and it would be appreciated if Kamalanagar town area is carried out from this fund. Chawngte police station quarters are in poor condition and OC quarter is never repaired. There are no good quarters for the constables as well and I replaced the roof of the BDO office with MLA fund last year. SDO conference room is also damaged and renovation is being requested. A fulltime SDO is unavailable for a long time as well. Therefore, government offices and quarters should be carefully examined and repaired.

Lunglei-Tlabung road is utilized by four or five MLA constituencies and Phairuankai Bridge gets damaged every month. So, I was wondering if there is a way to make this a permanent bridge since HVM (12 wheels) cannot pass through this bridge. Pu K. Pachhunga’s constituency covers till Chawngte ‘L’ and there is no other way except through Phairuankai bridge. So, it would be appreciated if major repairing is done.

I support this Private Resolution presented by Pu Lalchhuanthanga. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker and I support this Resolution. Communication is important in the world and without it, no country can move forward. Pu Speaker, National Highway-302 (Tlabung-Lunglei) is our lifeline. It is currently repaired and it should be carefully monitored. Chhumkhum – Chawngte

which is a World Bank funded road is completed but as time passes, it is slowly deteriorating and pot holes started to exist. We need to know the reason why Mizoram roads are not durable. The Annual Report of Mizoram Road-fund Board, 202-2022 is available to all and we see that road excavation works are carried out in various places where this project includes Village roads, PMGSY, National Highway, District roads etc. While this is impressive, the roads are not durable at all.

I would like to thank the Hon'ble Member for presenting this private resolution. Aizawl to Lunglei road is quite damaged especially between Lunglei and Tlawng Bridge. It has been repaired several times but it is still not good enough. Tlabung-Lunglei road that is NH-302 is currently excavated and the works should be carefully monitored.

We need to keep a careful eye on their work. Since we are not technical experts here, we do not know the reason for the problems that they faced.

That's all I can say to support this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now I invite respected member, Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: I think our member's resolution, "There must be a greater effort than ever to achieve good roads and buildings" is very crucial. We have been doing these developmental works in our state for many years and has proved useful till today.

Communication would mean airways, roadways, railways, and waterways. Today, I want to talk about road connectivity. The Central government also gave it importance and said that it is an important key to development. That is why the northeastern states received sanctions from the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. Mizoram solely received 6,664 crores for road construction of 204 km; Nagaland and Sikkim received less than us. It is great that the Government of India pays attention to the cornerstones of most states in the country.

Pu Speaker, there may just be a reason for the poor quality of our roads. One of the roads in my constituency was repaired, but within a week, it came off. One morning, I decided to check and realized using small and soft stones was not the only reason, but the mixture with bitumen was uneven. We are too stingy with the use of *alkatra*, which is the main component that holds together the sand, boulders, and stones. Unfortunately, with a smaller quantity of *alkatra*, these cannot stay intact. We must look back and learn from our mistakes.

Unfaithfulness is the main reason, coupled with corruption. If money is used wisely, difficult situations could be avoided. I also came to hear that there isn't enough

money for the workers to use effectively. Due to these reasons, the conditions of our roads could not meet the best outcome.

Indian companies under the Road Transport & Highways Act make roads for us, and we must monitor these activities, but it seems that the government is not paying attention. That is how I was answered when I posed a question here. Since we leave these companies to do whatever they like, they have become free and do not hesitate to exploit and deceive us. It is time that we realize all these things.

I also believe that we must reflect on ourselves regarding the way we do construction, whether we are contractors or the concerned departments. When the work order is released, we mostly think about how much profit could come out of that work rather than how we can do the best work. (**Speaker:** You have 2 minutes left.) Pu Speaker, I think we must give greater importance and notice how other states make roads and buildings from money, while in Mizoram, we make money out of roads and buildings.

Recently, the MICE School building in my constituency was constructed, and it was of poor quality when I checked it. The slab is warping, and the contractor was given money to construct the laboratory, which is also the lowermost room, but till today no work has been done. In place of five retaining walls, only four have been there. Even though there were supposed to be support pillars for the lower floors, they were not there. No proper septic tanks were there.... (Pu Speaker, I am going to conclude.) Even the toilets are not suitable for girls having their monthly menstruation. Let's all reflect on these cases; the ruling government must take the lead to fix the mistakes. If we take the lead, then it will be followed by experts and engineers, and our state will surely progress. So, Pu Speaker, I support this resolution and vote that it will be passed. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let me first call respected member Pu VL. Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I will try to support respected MLA, Pu Lalchhuanthanga's resolution to pass in the House.

Our state is in dire need of better infrastructure; even our House Leader, who is in charge of PWD, is also concerned in this area. The roads that are repaired hardly last a year, and there are times when road construction is not completed in a year. Before we finish making some roads, the other roads deteriorate. We all accept that we have poor roads and poor-quality buildings. Overall, none of the main roads are up to the mark.

At the beginning of this year, I travelled to the western side of the state, around Phuldungsei areas; then I visited Siaha and Champhai as well. I noticed that the roads

are not good enough in general. We tried to find various reasons, and in that light, I asked one engineer, "Why is it that the roads made in Meghalaya are thick whereas the roads in Mizoram are thinly covered?" He replied, "Assessment is first made, and the evaluations are based on the number of trucks, buses, and cars that usually pass those roads. Based on that, the India Road Congress gives recommendations, and that's how the work is done." So, I simply assume that Mizoram roads would be a thinly laid mixture of materials. However, if we think about it, there are lots of fully loaded trucks that run on our main roads, so there needs to be a thick, layered pavement of roads. His reply was true to an extent, but I think the main reason is that we did not perform our work properly.

One thing that comes to mind is that the cooperation between various departments is not good. Especially in the city, the PWD makes the roads, and the PHE later digs those roads to do their jobs. If possible, a sample road may be made with various departments cooperating by fitting pipes and proper blacktopping on top. Since our water pipes are getting old and rusty, they get leaked, which causes damage to the roads. The same goes for telecom. I was wondering if the departments could join hands to create better infrastructure.

Pu Speaker, it appears that technology is advancing in the developing world. This type of technology, known as "FDR," seems to have not been used in Mizoram; one can see this on YouTube. When construction is underway, vehicles will follow one another to perform various tasks, such as pouring alkatra and using a road roller to keep the mixture compacted. We are unsure when we will be able to follow Nagaland's lead, as they have already begun. They found that this type of approach is high-quality and takes less time.

The contractors play an important role here. In many places, contractors get work that is beyond their capacity; they cannot perform their best, and as a result, they leave pending work, which affects the quality of the construction. So, it is not good to give work to one person. Some of us even dare to commission our assigned work, and this is a huge drawback.

The poor maintenance of roads is the main reason for the poor quality of roads. A palm-sized pothole should be immediately filled, and if this is practised efficiently, it will last longer. When the damage is already too much, then the expenditure also increases.

Finally, I would like to know if we are even capable of building decent roads. If we have good roads, we tend to increase our speed and are more prone to accidents. Soon after the Champhai and Lunglei roads were repaired, accidents occurred. The government must try their best to achieve good roads; correspondingly, we, the people, must also learn how to adapt to this progress.

Pu Speaker, for all these reasons, I vote in favour of passing the resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I invite respected member, Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, now I have experience in both the Parliament and State Legislatures for short periods. It is the first time I have seen a request from an opposing member to adopt a private resolution without any discussion during these times. It may sound positive, but as we put our heads to this, I don't think we must be pleased.

Even the Congress party is one of the ones that supports passing without discussion. We know how bad the roads were during their term, and maybe they are afraid that we speak out on that. Even the ruling party seems enthusiastic about passing the resolution soon without any discussions. So, the way we support it is not quite satisfactory.

We have seen developments in our state; even if the president's rule is proclaimed, the incoming development plans will continue to pour in. However, those developments cause harm to our environment. In that case, we even have groups arriving to stand for environmental causes. Pu Speaker, today I am glad to see that we now have groups and associations like '*Centre for Environment & Social Justice*', '*Centre for Environment Protection*', '*Save Mizoram Rivers*', and '*Mizoram First*' come up to restore the condition of our state. It looks like they work harder than most of the state leaders, and since they do not have authority in their hands, I sympathize with them and I thank them as well.

I am also pleased to hear that the Central YMA signed a memorandum to work together with the state government to take steps to improve the roads. The main drawbacks of development are corruption, deception, and injustice. I recently heard that a new group that wants to bring justice to the state gathered. Today, Pu Speaker, the people of Mizoram want fair and just governance; they are thirsty for it, and they have been vocal about it.

Since the state's formation, the PWD has been under the Chief Minister's care. It implies that the Chief Minister receives praise for well-maintained roads and bears full responsibility when they are in poor shape. Pride must not be shown just because we held power for a long time. A long-standing government with poor performance will leave bad remarks forever in the minds of the people. So, an exceptional government must be based on its achievements and not on its tenure.

Since the PWD is under the Chief Minister's portfolio, we cannot help but blame him for the poor condition of our roads. Our leaders are also responsible for the failed projects. Even though this is a bitter truth, I think I should say it since it's better to speak

it bravely. We give restricted tenders to our people by going against the standing law. After receiving replies to my questions, I realized that 121 restricted tenders were given to PWD only! Illegal acts have become legal now. Some of them are not even restricted tenders; there were formal agreements, and some people do the work. It was with a verbal agreement that someone agreed to work for Lengpui Airport in April, by September, he received a notice 'to proceed'. That was not even a work order. Ignoring the law would simply contribute to our state's decline and unnecessary expenditures.

These people became the ones who received good bills, while the amounts are all over social media. Some received bills within a day, while others had to wait for the bills to be released. When GPFs and pensions remain withheld, there are no issues for these people. When the bills taken from the Treasury are evaluated, they take more than 1 crore per month on average. If he were that good a contractor, how many engineers would he attract? To what extent would they be equipped? Isn't Mizoram home to contractors who are that quick? Based on the bill taken, it said so.

The NGOs, the society, and the YMAs gather to inspect when there is a complaint. Subsequently, JEs, SDEs, EEs, and officers filed complaints. When the highest-ranking officials make mistakes, it is impossible to expect the people who report to them to do things correctly.

Pu Speaker, let our ruling party be the one that shows people the right path so that our state will heal. However, since these same people show poor performance, the whole state is in pain, and this is not a good sign. It is high time that we require a dedicated political party that can sacrifice themselves. Even officials are afraid to go against contractors whom the political heads show favours or else they would be transferred immediately; I knew some cases like this within this term. When buildings and retaining walls collapse, we realize the contractors are people who are close to important political heads.

Recently, the father of Lunglei South MLA laid a bridge that connects Mualthuum South and Mat for ₹ 35 lakhs; the poor construction was displayed all over social media. Pu Speaker, it is the top officials that destroy this land. We heard that the local NGOs were upset with that, and they raised their voices. The new bridge is hazardous as it could cause accidents. MLAs are supposed to invigilate and inspect any new developmental work happening in their constituency. If this is the case, how could we recover as a state? It is a disheartening situation.

It is a shame that our top heads, including our House Leader in charge of PWD, have cases here and there; it also pains me. How can the NHIDCL perform extensive work without having proper forest clearance and environmental impact assessment (EIA)? Here is the office memorandum. It is about the establishment of the Infrastructure Development Board (IDB); the inspectors in charge are NHI, NHIDCL, NRRDA, BRO, NABARD, and others to inspect the infrastructure works, including the

excavation of lands to make roads. It specifically states, "All such developments and construction works about roads and highways shall henceforth be inspected, monitored, and evaluated at regular intervals by the Roads and Infrastructure Development Board." Our Chief Minister is the Chairman who is supposed to look after all these, but I don't think we have achieved any progress.

We now realize how the NHIDCL destroys our state. In other states, they make use of the excavated land to make pavements, but in our state, they use the remaining soil to extend roads and give support from the surrounding areas. How could this possibly last long? The remaining soil keeps flowing until it blocks the main rivers, our fish ponds, our fields, and most of our rivers. Now it also destroys someone's plantation. If you visit Khawzawl, you will notice that the Tuisen rivers will be damaged when the monsoon comes. We have to manage the dumping of soil in certain places since, in some developmental works, we need it from time to time, but we did not utilize that. The reply when I asked a question about all the things I just said was, "The NHIDCL works without permission in Aizawl-Champhai, Lunglei-Tlabung, and Thenzawl Forest Division areas." How could we let them work without their clearance? Or, are they cooperating well? Why is the established board not protecting us then? Why are our NGOs vocal about it? We do have a monitoring committee at the state level, but they never work to their full potential.

The DFOs can give stay orders if there's any violation of the regulations, but no penalty is seen for the unlawful acts. Subsequently, they dump the soil into places that block the connectivity roads, the paths that connect people's plantations, etc., and we just stand there helpless. In addition, without any permission, people collect stones and *balu* (sand) from the riverside using their JCBs; these contaminate the waters and destroy the natural habitat.

There are lots of contract works that exceeded the deadline, including 72 under the PMGSY. The World Bank states that 'the one who supervises the work and the one who does the work cannot make the DPRs' but it's the complete opposite in our state. It is wrong to keep going like this since a person can even receive three work orders in a day. Accordingly, the *defect liability certificate* must be issued after the period ends. They are lethargic in maintenance and surveyed with the help of Google so much that the contractors need to re-survey that same place. For all these faulty practices, I support the resolution that will be passed mutually. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Zoramthanga, do you have any comments?

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. Today, respected member Pu Lalchhuanthanga brought up a resolution, which we all agreed to. I am glad to hear that we all support passing the resolution. As a PWD Minister, I also take on the responsibility. It is true about what the members have said regarding our

roads and our buildings: we shall work harder than ever. So, it is important that the House resolve this and that we all join hands and cooperate.

As we all know, as we gain UT status or as the state develops, knowledge and intellect also evolve over time, and that is how things work out. During the days of the District Council, I even got employed as a block builder. To give the appearance that it is sealed with mortar cement, we first assembled the blocks with mud mortar, then sealed the gaps with a cement mixture, and we smoothed the surface with the help of *krandi* (brick trowel) so we'll be able to bill it as cement mortar. With many obstacles, we were able to build retaining walls right from District Council to UT days. When one says, "It was built during UT days", it is correct; without mentioning, it is visible that those were 'second class'.

There was no proper grading on some of the former roads; hence, the roads were also narrow. Besides that, the blacktopping was done terribly. Now that we are a state, the electronic period that it brings also comes with developments at a fast pace. However, it is still unsatisfactory. I am the one who witnesses how much effort goes into it. While the CM Bungalow's aluminium roof was fixed, we were wondering if we should make it a concrete roof since the dripping rainwater used to be collected in 3 to 4 buckets. There are many things to add; let me just assure you that this is our condition.

Let's not talk about the other problems and focus on the undertakings. The Central government advised that they increase the number of national highways and that they would maintain them. In our state, we also planned to have two lanes. A four-lane road was planned to be made from the plains of Silchar and Vairengte to Aizawl. It is mentioned that the state capital must be connected via a four-lane road, but as we analyzed the terrain and our surroundings, we thought that it was better to reduce it to a two-lane road. When they attempted to make a four-lane road at the old Tlawng road, we suggested that it would be best to make it a two-lane road since the flow of the river might get disturbed or there could be problems. So, as per our suggestions, they agreed to excavate the green area of land close to the riverside to make a four-lane road that will reach Aizawl. That national highway will connect Aizawl to Lunglei.

SPEAKER : Our time is up; shall we allow our respected CM to finish his speech? (*The House agreed.*) You may continue.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER : Pu Speaker, I'll try to speak briefly.

So, there will be a two-lane national highway from Lunglei – Seling – Tuipang. Now, there is work in progress that connects Seling to Champhai to make a two-lane national highway. Another connectivity road will be made that connects Seling to Tipaimukh; it will go toward the west to Kanhmun, which will be connected from east to west and from north to south.

The supervisor that the Government of India assigned was NHIDCL, formerly known as MoRT. They met the requirements, like tenders and making plans, while we raised suggestions. As I have mentioned, when we argued their suggestion regarding the making of a four-lane road beside the Tlawng River, they had to change their plans. In that way, the state government tried their best to raise our opinions if we thought something would not work out for our cause.

Besides that, there is PMGSY, which the central government requires to reach all the villages under the RD department. They followed the guidelines and issued an open tender. The problem was that we had to give it to the lowest bidder; if it is not given, they go to the Court. People competed to be the lowest bidder, below the 'scheduled rates'; some were below 10%, below 15%, below 25%, and even 50%! The problem is that the bidders would just go to the Court if we didn't give them. So, we have an unwritten rule that less than 5% will not be acceptable; if there's anyone who bids lower than that, we request that 'more than this much percentage should be kept as a security deposit'. That is how the PWD made laborious efforts to manage these things as the Central government assigned us.

Therefore, if we look at the roads made through the PMGSY tenders, some were blacklisted and some were left unfinished due to a low percentage of open tenders. Some people took advantage of the open tenders and tried to do their work with a low bidding rate, which is one of the root causes of our poor-quality roads. It would be a relief if these bidders followed the 'scheduled rates' given by the PWD; instead, we competed for the lowest rate. It is the problem of every government. Accordingly, it would be better if restricted tenders were practised more to control lower rates and to go by the 'scheduled rates.' In the past, the government used to question why we kept doing restricted tenders. If we want to see good outcomes in any development project, rather than open tenders, restricted tenders are opted for, and the number of restricted tenders is high. If possible, we would like to do open tenders as well.

Accordingly, we all want good roads; we must make them work as per the given sanctions. Some people want to work lower than the sanctions, and that destroys our state. In return, it brings a headache to the government. Now, the NHIDCL makes the national highway, which is beyond our control. They are destroying our environment, and we must all stand together to fight for them. The Forest Department, the PWD, the local leaders, the NGOs, and the government must all join hands and work for this cause. It gets better now since they have assigned themselves a person to monitor, so the quality of the roads that have been made gets better as well. It is still not satisfactory, and so we all must cooperate more. So, it would help if the VCs, NGOs, and local leaders gave reports on the progress they saw.

So, we all support the resolution. If someone bids on our construction for 10% below, they will earn profits. Then, this would affect the cement proportion and also

pose a huge risk for potential damage to the construction of buildings. I call on everyone, including our NGOs, to join together to prevent these faulty actions.

The duration of our working period is hardly 6 months in a year. Once the monsoon starts, it becomes a problem on the black-topped roads. We often discussed that with our landscapes and the climatic conditions, PCC (concrete) is suggested. PCC is suitable for local area roads, but it becomes a problem when we try to make concrete roads on the main roads for the PWD. Unless the road is blocked, the poured concrete will soon be damaged by vehicles. So, we are unable to do everything as per our wishes. Recently, I came to know that when we pour a certain type of chemical into the cement, it binds the surface well. When there are heavy rainfalls, these PCC roads become problematic; water gets into the potholes, and when big vehicles such as trucks run on them, the damage keeps getting worse. Until the season changes, it cannot be repaired. Now that the PWD mainly supervises our main roads to Lunglei World Bank Road, the other PMGSY broads are still taken care of by the assigned supervisors. Anyway, it is in the hands of the central government, and we will keep assisting them as it is required. Within this winter and dry season, we must make plans so that the roads won't get easily damaged by big and heavy vehicles; we have started that in Lunglei. In some places, we have started with patching or resurfacing, and we will keep doing that. If we find any problems or improper work done, do not hesitate to inform each other. Pu Speaker, I am not here to boast about us; we keep on improving, and we shall keep doing that. Therefore, we believe this is an important solution; all the groups seem to support it, and so do I. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Today, our respected member Pu Vanlalhlana could not attend the Session due to the death of his relatives. Now, we shall take a break and resume at 2: 00 P.M.

2: 00 P.M.

SPEAKER : We have a quorum, right? Let me invite Pu Lalchhuanthanga to wind up and request to pass the bill.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

I am happy that seven members spoke in favour of my resolution. I have also noticed that our CM, who heads the PWD, also showed his keen interest. I have high hopes for him.

I don't know how I should wind up. All the groups rarely decided to support my resolution, and as the one who brought it in, it was extremely delightful.

So, I request that the members pass my resolution, "*There must be a greater effort than ever to achieve good roads and buildings,*" in the House.

SPEAKER : Now that he has requested to adopt his resolution, we shall now take the votes.

Those who agreed to adopt may say “Agreed”. (**Members:** ‘Agreed’). Those who disagree may say “Disagreed”. (Everyone agrees.)

The House unanimously adopted the resolution, “*There must be a greater effort than ever to achieve good roads and buildings*”. (**Pu Lalchhuanthanga:** Thank you, Pu Speaker.)

We still have time to reach 4 P.M. We shall move on to Resolution No.2, “*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.*”. I invite respected member, Pu Lalrindika Ralte to move in support of his resolution.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

First of all, I thank everyone for maintaining a calm environment in the House. As we all agreed to pass the previous resolution, I also hope that this one will be adopted.

As an introduction, we see that our brethren came to seek refuge in Myanmar and Bangladesh. Different NGOs, the government, churches, and individuals decided to lend a helping hand, and I thank everyone for that.

No one invites trouble; however, troubles are a part of our lives. In these circumstances, we can also notice where and what we hold on to. As we cannot avoid these circumstances, we must take the opportunity to help, carry, support, and love each other.

458 families from Bangladesh and 31,050 families from Myanmar are refugees recorded to have entered our state. The document might not be precise, but, in any case, let me be vocal about the need for us to shelter them when they are in need, and this is the reason for me putting up this resolution.

Pu Speaker, today it is sad that we need to discuss this kind of resolution in the highest legislative body in the state. But it is required. In this 21st century, when human rights have become more widely recognized, it is heartbreaking that there are still people who dare to hurt and torment their fellow beings. I grieve and feel sorry for our brethren who had to suffer various problems, and we must stand up for them.

Additionally, I am bringing up this resolution not because the government is inefficient but because the government should take the sole responsibility.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, in support of our suffering brethren, I urge all the members to think carefully and support adopting the resolution.

SPEAKER : Now that he has moved the resolution, how much time should we give each other? Let it be 10 minutes per person. I invite respected member, Dr. B.D. Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. This is an important *Private Member Resolution*; however, others hardly raised their hands to comment on it.

Mizoram is located at the tri-junction, close to an international boundary. We have China and Myanmar towards the east and Bangladesh towards the west. It is a materialistic move that developed countries race towards development rather than developing and underdeveloped countries. Among the refugee-accepting states, we became the most vulnerable. If we look in terms of development, India has good relations with Myanmar and Bangladesh. We even have a lot of similarities in terms of religion. As much as there are many Buddhist followers in Myanmar, so are the Christian Mizo brothers and sisters. There are many Buddhist followers among the Chakmas, Bawm, and Pang in Bangladesh. Besides that, the Bangladesh issue is not just an issue for our fellow Mizos and Chakmas but also for our tribal fellows. As long as we are alive, these issues can arise. Among the Northeastern states.... (*The Hon. Dy. Speaker took the Chair*)

DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may continue.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Instead of showing hostility against them, we must take care of them.

In the Buddhist text, Atithi Dev Bava mentions, “We must treat our guest(s) like God.” It is our moral responsibility to give shelter to all of them, no matter what their religion is. Our Buddhist monks even visited the Lai Autonomous District Council and gave relief materials to our fellow Buddhist followers who came as refugees from Myanmar. Even so, I am planning to visit Parva as soon as the Session is over. In that place, there are quite a lot of Bawm and Pang refugees. I have kept separately a ‘most urgent’ reserve from my MLA fund. So, once I visit that place, I want to know their conditions and give them the money. Similarly, Pu C. Ngunlianchunga’s constituency also hosts a few of them; our constituencies are close to each other, so we must take care of them.

Additionally, I want to add that during COVID-19, one NGO from Central gave us some oxygen concentrators, and I even reserved one to give it to when I visited my constituency. In that way, Pu Speaker, I am prepared to help in any way I can. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I invite respected member, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

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

Today, it is unusual that we get to discuss two Private Resolutions, let's take it as a positive move. I think we all agree with Pu Lalrindika Ralte's resolution, and I support that. However, Pu Dy. Speaker, we must modify the writing a bit when we talk about 'a designated place' because it is more of a central subject. As much as we want to take care of them, chances are that it is not completely possible. It might be better to translate to 'a place to stay' instead of 'a designated place'.

I also hope that this resolution will be a driving force for unity among the Zo people. We, the MNF, have been attempting for many years to put all the Zos under a common leadership. Along with our House Leader, we had stayed in those places for around 20 years; they sheltered us when needed. And as I heard the resolution, I became sentimental. Therefore, I am in favour of this resolution.

It must be our sole duty to shelter and help them when needed, and we must get the attention of the central government to take this situation seriously. Even though an international boundary separates us, it cannot separate us by history or blood. So, we must take action not only through theory but also by adopting a pragmatic approach.

I am also glad to hear that all of us, including our House Leader, support Pu Lalchhuanthanga's resolution. Meanwhile, Pu Speaker, I want to highlight some areas where I want to add more. Our Bible says, "*Love is patient; love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, and it is not proud. It does not dishonour others; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered....*". The conclusion is, "*Love does not delight in evil.*" As he requested that we support his resolution, we did so. In the meantime, it makes me think that 'does it think of evil, is not happy, does it proclaims' and is that even a mature way? It makes me think of an upsetting baby who stops crying after we give him or her what he or she wants. In addition, he was no longer present among his party mates who supported adoption. Seeing that is distressing.

So, let him enter the House and I wish we all discussed together Pu Lalrindika Ralte's resolution and remembered that we must pass these to show our love for others as Christians. I therefore support both resolutions.

However, as mentioned before, there might be a need to change the wording since we might have a technical foul out of perfectionism. Pu Dy. Speaker, I guess someone should phrase it together as per our aims. In the coming days, we must continue to support this not just in theory but also practically, as this shows that it is a very Mizo thing to do, a Christian practice, and what a patriot must do. Today, we must make it known to our brethren from different parts of the world that we are not egocentric but that we care for our brothers and sisters in distress. This resolution

displays the Pu Zoramthanga-led MNF party's long-fought hardships, and therefore I support it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I invite respected member Pu K.T. Rokhaw.

PU KT ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Dy, Speaker. It seems that we all agree with both the resolutions put forward by the Opposition members, and it is indeed a remarkable day.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I support Pu Lalrindika Ralte's resolution. Due to refugee problems, 27 camps accommodate 4,586 people in our constituency. It is more than that since some people who rent houses in Siaha are not calculated. As of now, there seems to be no hope in Myanmar, so I believe we must make adjustments here as soon as possible. In Siaha district, community leaders, the VC, and the NGOs set up temporary camps for them as well. In some places, we make use of 100-day labour, and we take care of them through that system. They even share food and clothing with us.

Accordingly, I suggest the government take quick steps to build camps for the refugees. Since Lobo district in Siaha is a police outpost and a settlement place for the soldiers, it would be good if a camp was set up for the refugees in and around Siaha. The second camp could be met somewhere in between Chakhei and Siasi; the third could be built near Zyhno village; and the fourth camp could be at Lopu. So, I am in favour of this resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I invite respected member, Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. I do have lots to say, so let me take some time.

I support the two Private Resolutions that we discussed today. Talking about good roads and buildings, we all know how important they are. We finally have proper road connectivity in East Tuipui, my constituency, so we can easily move from one place to another within the constituency now. Even though we argue here and there, we all cooperate when it comes to the development of our state. It shows that teamwork is required, and I am glad to notice that.

Pu Speaker, I believe respected member Pu Lalrindika Ralte's resolution has an important focus. However, as we have heard earlier, it would be better if we could change the wording a bit from 'specific place' to 'a good space'.

On 1.2.2021, General Min Aung Hlaing took authority over the country of Myanmar through army force. Aung San Suu Kyi's government was overthrown, and the country rose to conflict as people revolted against the military rule.

As a result, the Chin Hills, where the Zo people live, were also unsafe; some villages were bombed, and there were shootings here and there. Our brethren had to run away here to seek safety and shelter.

Pu Dy. Speaker, it was during the budget session of 2021 when refugees started entering. From Farkawn, my constituency, the VCs contacted me and explained how they faced refugees from Myanmar. Their problem was that the Assam Rifles stopped them, and since they were not allowed, they found a way to settle in the forests. I immediately informed our respected CM, and on that same day, he stated the true standpoint of the MNF-led government towards our brethren, who all came to seek refuge in Myanmar.

Besides, since the Kuki National Army demanded separate authority in the Chittagong Hills, there has been a conflict that led our brothers and sisters to flee from Bangladesh to Mizoram.

In my constituency, Thasiama was the first refugee from Myanmar; he is from Tamu village and reached Thekte village on 3.2.2021. In East Tuipui, there are 2500 refugees. Till 27.01.2023, there were 31,508 refugees; of these, 31,050 fled from Myanmar, and the remaining 458 fled from Bangladesh. Right from the start, the government did what it had to do by gathering the villages that accept refugees, churches, community leaders, VCs, and NGOs that also work together in dealing with the refugees. This is how the people of Mizoram try their best to take care of them.

If the resolution is not passed today, it would still be right if the government and the people took care of them. However, no one can compare the resolutions passed after discussions in the House. So, I believe these resolutions will surely bear fruit.

As we all know, in 1966, Mizoram was fighting for independence, and many people had to leave their homes to fight for our land. We were declared to be in conflict, and many people migrated to seek a better life. Some of them even fled to Myanmar. During that time, Myanmar was also under the military junta, so some of our people were not able to take care of the refugees as much as they wished. They sheltered many refugees from Mizoram, and not only that, there were many martyrs for Mizoram who eventually resided in Myanmar. Besides, our local soldiers used to have Bangladesh as their quarters, and our brothers and sisters used to shelter the local soldiers.

Today, our brothers and sisters from Bangladesh and Myanmar are now seeking shelter and safety here in Mizoram. Although we did not receive permission from the Central to take care of refugees, our House Leader and our Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga, assured the House that we would take care of them no matter what and in whatever way we could.

The government of Mizoram then set up the '*High-Level Committee on Myanmar Refugees*' to welcome the refugees in a systematized way. Under the assistance of the DCs, the '*District and Village Level Committee on Myanmar Refugees*' was also set up. To maintain proper records, IDs were made for them as well. For the refugees from Bangladesh, the government organized a meeting headed by the DC of Lawngtlai. The government of Mizoram gave out ₹3,84,66,000/- for the Myanmar refugees and ₹30,00,000/- for the Bangladesh refugees. The total amount the government spends to take care of the refugees is ₹414,66,000/-, and 950 quintals of rice were also given out.

As we all know, our MPs were vocal about the refugee crisis, and our ministers and MLAs also often talked about this in the House. Our standpoint is the same with all the AMC councilors, Autonomous District Councils and Development Councils. It is great that the Central YMA, sub-headquarters, YMA Groups, various branches of the YMA, Mara Ṭhalai Pawl (MṬP), and the Young Lai Association were cooperative right from the start. Besides different denominations, the MUP, MHIP, MZP, MSU, various political parties, individuals, and people outside the state and foreign countries are all supportive in this regard. (**Dy. Speaker:** Is it almost over?) Without hesitation, we give out their essential needs like silpaulins, bedding, food, and financial help.

The Tuipuiral Group YMA from my constituency took on the responsibility of managing the needs and accommodations of the refugees settled in their areas. Through donations and funds from individuals, groups, and the government, they efficiently provide food and drinks, bedding, clothing, and services. The MNF Youth Headquarters also handed over clothes and bedding to the Tuipuiral Group YMA. Not only that, while Er. Rinawma was the President of the Youths, he even gave them a handful of money. The other MLAs whose constituencies lie close to areas like Pu Nguna, Pu Rokhaw, and others supported us, and through my funds, I also helped them. May this bring peace, unity, and cooperation among us. Pu Dy. Speaker, we also set up four relief camps in my constituency.

Therefore, I am in favour of the resolution since this might give them comfort and is a way to show our support and care for our brothers and sisters. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I had to give some time to that respected member since his constituency accommodates a huge number of refugees and he is engaged with those in need.

Now, I invite respected Minister, Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

I am glad to see that respected member, Pu Lalrindika Ralte, brought up a resolution. In the morning session, we unanimously passed an important resolution for

our state, brought up by Pu Lalchhuanthanga. I wish that Resolution No. 2 gets through the highest legislative body and that the difficulties faced by our brethren can be made public to the whole world.

As per official records, the refugees from Myanmar are recorded to be 31,129 people, and there are 160 camps in different places. 646 people are recorded to have fled from Bangladesh and are located in 3 or 4 places. I haven't reached the place where Bangladesh refugees settle so far. It is a kind act that we all can do to welcome them as their main home. The MNF has been hoping that we all come together to form one separate government one day, and that is why our elders fought hard to achieve freedom by sacrificing their time and lives. At the same time, there were instances not only this time but in other times when people felt hurt by their main home. We hope that one day, things will change for the better. Although it is hurtful to witness many people suffering, the positive side is that it brings blessings in a way that we realize the importance of loving each other, unity, and togetherness. God not only gives us troubles, but blessings also come along the way out of those struggles and hardships. I am glad that we can notice this aspect.

Not only this, the different Zo tribes from different states and all over the world have been keenly observing, and they also have high hopes for the government as well as the people of Mizoram.

Last September, the Chin Community of the USA organized a meeting wherein our Chief Minister was invited to be the Chief Guest. The reason for their invitation was that our government has been acting as a parent to cater to the needs of the refugees while also sheltering them. They were content with this, and they wanted to show him their honour. Due to his busy schedule, he requested that I attend on his behalf, and I saw how delighted they were. Our Chin brothers and sisters warmly welcomed me, and they kept thanking the people of Mizoram for their acts towards the refugees. Even in America, the different Zo tribes who came from India and Myanmar, who were not that close, became close due to the Myanmar issue. They even held concerts to raise funds, and thus, it brought them closer. Since I went there on behalf of Mizoram, they kept thanking me

Not only that, we decided to take advantage of our meeting, and without obtaining permission from the Indian Embassy, we decided to meet the American government along with the Chin Community of the USA. We requested an appointment at the State Department (Foreign Ministry), Washington DC, through their MP, and we got through it. We told them, "A minister from Mizoram came from India to talk about the people that fled the Myanmar crisis to seek shelter here (in the US)". The US government representatives were very welcoming, and we had some talks. My constant talk of the topic had to do with the way we accommodate our brethren. As a Minister of School Education, they were familiar with how we go as a department. The American government is aware that we teach more than 6,000 students, provide midday meals,

and distribute books and uniforms. If we question how they get to know all those things, it is because they have a wide outlook.

There were around 5 officers; some of them were Director-East Asia in charge and delegates of the Myanmar government. As we kept talking, their question was, “Why can’t India accept refugees?”. We thought that “The leader of democracy, the American government, must suggest the Indian government accept refugees, who are also our brothers and sisters.” They got used to accommodating refugees from different parts of the world, and they asked, “If we were to give a huge amount of money to help the Myanmar refugees, who would accept that?”. It cannot come directly to the state government since it needs to go through the Indian government first.

As we kept talking, we decided to find other ways and means. Next week, some of our brethren are planning to visit. Soon after that, some of our Central YMA and CYLA leaders visited them, and they were given great honour since they were overwhelmed by the way we welcomed our brothers and sisters in need. Let me emphasize that they wholeheartedly thank the Mizo people.

Next, I want to mention that it is not the government’s efforts alone but also the cooperation of the people. The government only takes the credit. Besides contributing money, I think it’s important that all families keep thinking about what else we can do next.

We plan to enroll those kids for learning in the new academic year. Even though the central government refused to assist them, we will do our best to accommodate those displaced persons.

I sincerely hope that this resolution will reach the ears of the central government and made them aware of the plight of these refugees. We must fight for their cause together in unity so that they can be given refugee status.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I wholeheartedly support the resolution submitted by Pu Lalrindika Ralte which is ‘Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle’.

Those who are of Mizo descent were separated by the British due to partition and not because of their preference. Even though we reside in different countries, we are still of one descent and of one mind. I sincerely hope that through this resolution, our connection and relationship will be fortified.

I genuinely hope that this resolution will open the doors for more recognition from the international stage. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. In my 20 years as a member of this House, I have never come across a day where two resolutions from the opposition is passed. I thank the members for the cooperation and for working together in unity.

I ask myself the question ‘why do we have this resolution?’. This resolution came about due to anarchy and due to the deterioration of fair politics.

It is mandatory that the government care for our brethren without prejudice. Therefore, I wholeheartedly pledge my support to the resolution submitted by Pu Lalrindika Ralte ‘Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle’. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALHLANA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. It is fortunate that Pu Lalrindika Ralte has put forward the resolution ‘Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle’.

This ministry has done a good deed and provided assistance to our brethren from neighboring countries. They include them on MNREGA scheme, admit children to schools, provide meals and uniform and several other good deeds.

(Pu Zothantluanga at the Chair.)

I agree with this resolution as I felt that they need a stable place to stay and proper system for them to integrate into our society. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Chairman, thank you. Today is a significant day as both the Treasury Bench and Opposition have come together to contemplate an important issue.

Our brothers and sisters from Myanmar and Bangladesh have approached us due to internal conflict and ethnic cleansing. Currently, there are more than 30,000 asylum seekers in Mizoram.

In the case of Myanmar, they have been under military rule for about 50 years and have suffered for a long time.

(Hon. Dy. Speaker at the Chair.)

I was previously visited by Chin Affairs Minister and their MP to discuss their plight and to do more for their education. It was fortunate and I was also glad that I was in a position to provide assistance to them.

Lastly, I pledge my support to the resolution 'Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle' submitted by Pu Lalrindika Ralte. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. F. Lalnunmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA : Pu DY. Speaker, thank you. I feel fortunate to take part in the discussion for this important resolution 'Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle'.

According to the hon. Home Minister, there are more than 3,01,508 refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh as of now. I believe government of Mizoram is doing everything they can to look after them. Not only the government, the people of Mizoram has been remarkable in their acceptance of these people.

Lastly, I pledge my support to the resolution 'Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle'. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. Even though we are short of time, I'd like to voice my opinion concerning the resolution 'Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle' as it is an important resolution.

Due to internal conflict and ethnic cleansing, many of our brethren have seek refuge at our God given land- Mizoram. The people of Mizoram, government of Mizoram, NGO's and church organizations did their best to help them. I especially like to commend on the performance of respected MLA's from Lawngtlai District, Mamit District, Siaha District and Champhai District.

This ministry has spent more than 300 lakhs for refugees from neighboring countries. I hope and believe that they will continue to do so in the future. I pledge my support to this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I feel very fortunate that we, the people of Mizoram were able to come together to help our brothers and sisters in their time of need. It is only because of God that we can work together in unity.

It might be challenging to relocate all the refugees in one place. One suggestion I have is establishing a village for them. Also, will it be possible for them to have refugee status?

Lastly, I wholeheartedly support the resolution ‘Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle’. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. We are all aware of the situation we are in and the reason for our discussion. I personally would like to thank the hon. Chief Minister and Home Minister for their part in regarding this issue. I would like to give my assurance that we will continue to give our support to this cause.

We are also aware that the central government has provide us funds to assist in the management of refugees. However, they are still refusing to give refugee status to our brethren. This is in discordance to India’s campaign to become a Security Council Member.

I would like to suggest that our brethren be given voting rights and special development scheme.

On another note, I would like to voice my opinion and suggest that the government take action on ‘*UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous People*’. I suggest that a committee be formed to tackle this issue.

Lastly, I suggest that the wording be changed to indicate our willingness to give continued support. I pledge my unwavering support to the resolution ‘Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle’. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Home Minister Pu Lalchamliana.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is fortunate that respected member Pu Lalrindika Ralte has submitted the resolution ‘Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle’.

As suggested by ZPM leader Pu Lalduhoma, it might be more feasible to change the wording as it seems like we might have given too much responsibility to the government. Other than that, I earnestly support this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Chief Minister and House Leader, Pu Zoramthanga.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Today is a memorable day where in two resolutions from the opposition were discussed and passed by the House.

I stand with the hon. Home Minister and leader of ZPM in changing the wording of the resolution. I believe it is more practical in changing the wording so that full responsibility is not given to the government.

As mentioned by the members before me, we put effort we can in caring for our brothers and sisters from neighboring countries. We have defied orders from central government in order to give our support to them.

I give my support to the resolution 'Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle'. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Amendment of the resolution was suggested by the members. The rules dictate that any member can move for a resolution to be amended. Who will be the member to do that? (**Pu Lalchamlia, Minister:** Let it be Pu L. Thawngmawia since he is the secretary.)

Let us call upon Pu L. Thawngmawia.

PU. L. THANGMAWIA : Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I move that the resolution submitted by Pu Lalrindika Ralte be amended from 'Let those displaced people from neighboring countries be given special treatment by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle' to 'Let our brethren who were displaced from neighboring countries be given continued help by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle'. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Lalrindika Ralte to windup.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is a privilege to witness the level of unity shown by the members of this House.

I kindly asked the permission of this House and the members to pass and adopt my resolution 'Let our brethren who were displaced from neighboring countries be

given continued help by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle'. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrindika Ralte has asked the permission of the House to adopt his resolution '*Let our brethren who were displaced from neighboring countries be given continued help by Mizoram Government and find a place for them to settle*'. Those who are in favor, say 'Agree'. (**Members:** *Agree*).

The House has unanimously agreed to adopt the resolution submitted by Pu Lalrindika Ralte. (**Pu Lalrindika Ralte:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

We have concluded our business for today. We will continue the Session on 27th February, 2023 (Monday) at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned. (4:35 PM)