

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR TENTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 21st 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.

LAYING OF PAPERS

2. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, hon. Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following :
 - i) Annual Report of Mizoram Road Fund Board for the Year 2021-2022.
 - ii) 16th Annual Report 2021-2022 1st April 2021-31st March 2022, Right to Information, Mizoram Information Commission.
 - iii) The Mizoram (Election to Sinlung Hills Council) (Amendment) Rules, 2022.
 - iv) The Members of Sinlung Hills Council (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 2022.
 - v) Economic Survey of Mizoram (2022-2023)

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

3. General discussion on the Budget for the year 2023-2024 (to be concluded)

LALHMAHRUAIA ZOTE
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: But with the lowly is wisdom.*

Proverbs 11:2

I am informing the House that Dr. R. Lalthangliana, hon. Minister will not be present today due to the demise of his aunt.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

We shall take up Questions for today. Let us call upon Pu Zothantluanga to ask *Starred Question* No. 141.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My Question is-
“How many new Health Sub-Centre Quarters have been constructed in Mizoram during 2019-2023?”

SPEAKER : As I have stated earlier, the Hon. Health minister is absent today. However, the Hon. Home Minister Pu Lalchamlia being authorized by him shall now give his reply.

PU LALCHAMLIA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is -
“25 New Health Sub-Centre Quarters have been constructed in Mizoram during 2019-2023.”

SPEAKER : Let us take *Supplementary questions* from Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

i) Aizawl West-I has 6 villages without health sub-centre. The government has kindly provided us with health clinic centers in 6 places where there are no health clinics. Can the government take steps to continue its maintenance?

ii) When the health clinic was established, equipments and medicines were bought from the MLA fund. It was also equipped with medicines and other necessities. I would like to ask when the salaries of our employees will be paid. Thank you

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* - Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Jordan Centre, the proposed world's best drug treatment centre, was occupied during the Covid-19 pandemic. Electric bill of ₹2,02,933/- and water bill of ₹1,78,276/- are owed so far. They are treated as grant-in-aid types and sometimes threatened with cutting off electricity and water connections. 'Is this a health or disaster management issue that can be resolved immediately?' Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* - Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker, my question is –

Lawngpuighat PHC building was constructed during the Congress government, but has not been opened yet. Healthcare is a difficult issue. Bungtlang South, Chawngte 'P' and Lawngtlai are the only healthcare facilities available. The building is already completed. I would like to ask when it it will be commissioned. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister authorized may provide answer if possible.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, as we are aware, as it is not my Department, I prefer not to answer the questions. It will be pursued by the Department as they are in record. Thank you.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, may I supplement some matters? (**Speaker:** You may.)

Regarding maintenance of Health Clinics, I would like to state that steps will be taken for that purpose. Regarding Jordan Centre also, the matter has never came to my notice. Immediate steps will be taken to resolve the issue.

SPEAKER : Er. H. Lalzirliana may now ask *Starred Question* No. 142.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, Will the hon. Minister for Sports Department be pleased to state -

- a) How much sanction approval has been received from the central government for sports infrastructure development under PMJVK during the current government?
- b) Does Mizoram Government have any plans to build a District Sports Complex? Where are they planned to be built and what is the project cost?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned Pu Robert Romawia Royte may reply.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answers are –

- a) Sanction approval of ₹42,204.67 lakhs has been received from the central government for the development of sports infrastructure under PMJVK during the current government.
- b) Mizoram Government is taking steps to build three (3) district sports complexes at the following locations:
 - 1) District Sports Complex, Lunglei - ₹4,919.31 (Rahsi Veng and Zobawk Sports Academy are also included in the project)
 - 2) District Sports Complex, Lawngtlai Mampui - ₹5,019.43
 - 3) District Sports Complex, Mamit - ₹4,496.48.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions* - Er. H. Lalzirliana.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, My *Supplementary Questions* are-

- i) How much labor cess and GST does Mizoram government receive from PMJVK projects in Mamit District?
- ii) Is there any plan to provide sports infrastructure in Zawlnuam, Kawrtethawveng, West Phaileng within RD Block in my constituency from PMJVK, State budget and other sources?
- iii) Mamit District Residential Sports School football ground is being constructed by Décor India. When will this be completed?
- iv) Did the Government pay Footballer Miriam Lalnunsiami's injury treatment costs? I've heard some people say, 'The government doesn't pay this, it doesn't care'; is this true?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions* from Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Foundation Stone of Rangte Community Service Center was laid on 29.3.2021. I would like to ask the Minister if the construction work can be started this year.

SPEAKER : Let us call the hon. Minister to give reply as far as possible.

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

Regarding Er. H. Lalzirliana's question – figures in connection with GST and labour cess are difficult to say immediately at the moment. The Sports infrastructures in Kawrtethawveng Block, Zawlnuam Block and W. Phaileng Block in Mamit MLA constituency are not being implemented from Mizoram state budget. However, we will try our best from other schemes and projects outside the Budget. The answer from the Sports Department was 'we will do our best' in this connection.

Mamit Residential Sports School football ground is quite difficult as it is located on a hilltop. It is expected to be completed during this year. However, the expected date of completion is next year as per the project.

The actual amount collected from GST and Labour Cess for Mamit District Sports Complex, Mamit District could not be provided at the moment. I would like to say that it is done as per the rules and regulations of LESDE.

I am much concerned regarding Rangte Community Service Center. However, due to the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic, the Finance Deptt. cannot release funds as quickly as in normal times. It is the same regarding many other projects also. However,

works have been started now and it is expected to be completed by December this year if no other unwanted circumstances occurred.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Dr. ZR. Thiansanga to ask *Starred Question* No. 143.

DR. ZR. THIAMSANGA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon. Minister for Power & Electricity Department be pleased to state -

- a) We are facing problems in making payments of electricity bill in Champhai and its surrounding areas due to poor internet connection. Could this be improved?
- b) Is there any solar energy initiative to meet the electricity supply problem?
- c) Is there any plan to improve the street lights in Aizawl?

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana may reply.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I will replay as the prepared answers -

- a) Online electricity bill payment is now available in different localities of Champhai viz. Vengsang, Kharawt, Vengthlang, Vengthlang North, Venglai, Bethel, Vengthar, Zion Veng, Electric, Kanaan, Dinthar, Jail They are Veng, Hmunhmeltha, N. Khawbung, Zote, Tlangsam, New Champhai, Zotlang and Ruantlang.
- b) Yes, there is.
- c) It is the purview of AMC and no reply could be given by Power & Electricity Department.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions from* - Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAMSANGA : Pu Speaker, Thank you.

- i) What is the present status of Champhai 132 kV double circuit? When will the work be started?
- ii) *Pahnihna* chu - Champhai District's 132 kV level power supply is only one 12.5 mVA transformer. Can a 12.5 mVA power transformer be added? Champhai - 33 kV power transformer 2.5 mVA also used to be overloaded. Can it be replaced with 6.5 mVA?
- iii) There are many important government building - Police Station, Fire & Emergency Sub-Station and Hospitals at Kulikawn. As there is s power shortage from time to time, are there any plans to add new transformers here? If so, when can action be taken?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions* - Dr. BD Chakma.

DR. B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, my questions are -

- i) More than 10 villages in Indo-Bangla border area have no electricity connection. Are there any plans to provide electricity connection to these villages?
- ii) Eklavya Model Residential School cannot be opened due to lack of electricity and water connection and approach road. The electricity line is already there, but the domestic connection is not yet available. When will Eklavya Model Residential School be provided with electricity connection? Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* - Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, Ka zawhbelhna chu -

- i) When will West Phaileng, Marpara sub-station, which was constructed by the power grid with 132 and 11kV lines several years ago, be commissioned for public use?
- ii) Ugadasuri and New Location Veng, 48 households and 57 households respectively within Silsuri Village Council area have not received power supply yet. Could the hon. Minister take necessary steps in this regard?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned, Pu R. Lalzirliana may reply.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Regarding Dr. Thiamsanga's question about Champhai 132 kV double circuit, it is called 'strengthening infrastructure scheme'. CEA had approved it and works are expected to resume soon.

Besides, installation of more transformer for Champhai District 132 kV, steps were taken in this regard, new transformer is expected to be commissioned within this coming March. Also in the case of Kulikawn, ₹35 lakhs had already been sanctioned for installation of new transformer.

The reason why the villages mentioned by Dr. BD Chakma are not yet provided electric connection is that at the time of doing surveys for electrification in this area, the mentioned villages are not yet a census village. It is under the scrutiny of the Department also.

The matter mentioned by Pu Lalrintluanga, MLA is under the purview of Power Grid and thus, we have no full control of the matter.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Dr. F. Lalnunmawia to ask *Starred Question* no. 144.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon. Minister for Health Department be pleased to state -

- a) How many Health Sub-Centres have been upgraded to Health and Wellness Centers in Mizoram during 2019 - 2023?
- b) How many new Health Sub-Centre Quarters have been constructed in Mizoram during 2019 - 2023?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchamliana, hon. Minister in-charge may reply.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, answers to Prof. F. Lalnunmawia's questions are as follows -

- a) 305 Health Sub-Centres have been upgraded to Health and Wellness Centers in Mizoram during 2019 - 2023. The remaining 8 Sub-Centres will be upgraded to Health and Wellness Centers by March, 2023.
- b) 25 new Health Sub-Centre Quarters are constructed in Mizoram during 2019 - 2023.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions from Hon. Member Dr. F. Lalnunmawia.*

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA : Pu Speaker, *My Supplementary questions* are –

There is an UPHC (Urban Primary Health Centre) at Hlimen which is quite beneficial for the people for the locals as well as the surrounding localities. However, there is no Doctor at this facility at the moment. Will it be possible to post a Doctor as soon as possible?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions* from Pu KT Rokhaw.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Speaker, my Questions are –

Pu Speaker, there are four Primary Health Centre within Mara Autonomous District Council, Siaha District viz. - Tipa PHC, Phura PHC, Chhaolo PHC and Chakhei PHC. There is no doctor in any of these PHCs. Does the hon. Minister aware of this matter? I would like to ask why there is not a single Doctor within Siaha District. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions* - Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I would like to ask these questions at least for a record, even though the hon. Minister Concerned is absent today-

- i) Kulikawn Hospital has only two doctors, a man and a woman. The man has taken additional charge in the High Court which created huge shortage of doctors? Can additional doctor be posted to fill this doctor shortage?
- ii) There is huge shortage of other staff like Sisters, nurse, fourth-grade also, can steps be taken to solve this problem?
- iii) Can ultrasound machine and ambulance be provided for that Hospital?

iv) The oxygen pipeline at Kulikawn Hospital used to leak from time to time. Can immediate steps be taken to mend this leakage? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchamliana, the hon. Minister authorized may reply.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, HOME MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. As the matters asked as *Supplementary questions* are not included in the supplement note provided to me. Thus, I am not in a position to answer those questions. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, let us call upon Dr. I. Thangmawia to ask *Starred Question* No. 145.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare Department be pleased to answer *Starred Question* No. 145.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu Lalchamliana may reply.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answers are as follows –

- a) Recently, Mizoram Government has opened several Health Clinics.
- b) 235 new Health Clinics were opened during the 2019-2023 government year.
- c) Recently, Mizoram Government has established 368 Health & Wellness Centers and 310 Health & Wellness Officers have been recruited for these centres.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions* – Hon. Members from Pu L. Thangmawia.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Pu Speaker, my questions are –

Firstly, I would like to thank the Department for posting Medical Doctor at Ngopa after a long time. Can reconstruction of Kawlhkulkh PHC building be undertaken under SASCI or any other scheme?

Ngopa is the only CHC in my constituency, can more doctors be provided for this facility? Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions* - Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, Serchhip has received a lot of CSR for the construction of District Hospital. However, we have been busy with the location for a long time and now the government has made a decision. When can we start the construction? Can we have experienced hospital building constructor for this project without restricted tender?

What is called 'maternity assistance' has not been received for a long time. ASHAs have not received awards for nearly a year. It seems these small awards are available from government funds also; thus, can these be taken seriously and rewarded?

Finally - we know how much we owe in healthcare. It is apparent that the budget for the 2013-14 budget is not enough to repay the debt. So, can this money be paid out immediately in the next year, to the more than 20,000 people who are currently stuck with healthcare bills?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* - Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker, it seems there are many anomalies in providing health facilities under Health and Family Welfare Department. It seems there is a huge discrimination of constituencies of *Opposition Members*. Can this kind of practice be prevented in the future?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchamlia, authorized Minister may answer.

PU LALCHAMLIA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, as I have stated earlier, as the Department is not under my portfolio, I am afraid that it is not my purview to answer those *Supplementary questions*. Therefore, I think it may be pursued by the Department officials present today.

LAYING OF PAPERS

SPEAKER : Now, the Question Hour is over and we shall move to Laying of Papers. Let us now call upon Hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga to lay the following papers –

- i) Annual Report of Mizoram Road Fund Board for the year 2021-2022;
- ii) 16th Annual Report 2021-2022 1st April 2021-31st March 2022, Right to Information, Mizoram Information Commission;
- iii) The Mizoram (Election to Sinlung Hills Council) (Amendment) Rules, 2022;
- iv) The Members of Sinlung Hills Council (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 2022;
- v) Economic Survey of Mizoram (2022-2023) te hi House dawhkanah rawn lay se; ka sawm e.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your kind permission, I hereby lay the following papers –

- i) Annual Report of Mizoram Road Fund Board for the year 2021-2022;
- ii) 16th Annual Report 2021-2022 1st April 2021-31st March 2022, Right to Information, Mizoram Information Commission;
- iii) The Mizoram (Election to Sinlung Hills Council) (Amendment) Rules, 2022;
- iv) The Members of Sinlung Hills Council (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 2022;

- v) Economic Survey of Mizoram (2022-2023) te hi House dawhkanah ka rawn lay e.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS : GENERAL DISCUSSION

SPEAKER : Let the copy be distributed. We shall continue with Financial Business which is General Discussion of “*The Annual Budget for the Year 2023-2024*” which is to be concluded today. Each speech should be limited to 10 minutes. Let us call upon Dr. L. Thangmawia for our first speaker today.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker.

The Hon. Finance Minister Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister presented the Budget Estimate for 2023-2024 Financial Year on 13th February. The Budget Estimate amount is ₹1,42,091.95 crore which includes revenue surplus of ₹417.87 crore. This means that the increase in budget amount will be ₹201.80 crore.

According to the “*Statement under the Mizoram Fiscal responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2006*,” 59.6% of the budget is for Salary of Government employees. This is a huge portion of the budget. We have also learned that there are 11,168 permanent posts and 12,250 temporary posts. I would be very pleased if the Hon. CM may clarify these two types of post. Meanwhile, there are many vacant posts under the government limiting the smooth functioning of the Government. In this connection, it is interesting to learn that many of such vacant posts were filled during last year. It is more noteworthy keeping in view the difficult situation posed by COVID pandemic.

Pu Speaker, moving to state liabilities, the Union Budget presented on February, 1 by the Union Finance Minister showed that the *outstanding liability* of the Central Government is 57% of the GDP. Meanwhile, our state liability is 32.72% of GSDP for 2019-20, 33.98% in 2020-21. It increases to 40.98% in 2021-22 due to COVID crisis. It is the same for all other states also. It again increases to 41.29% during 2022-23. It can be learned from Finance Minister’s budget speech that it is estimated to decrease to 37.84% in 2023-24. This is a great positive sign of development.

As we all are aware, we are facing a grave problem due to COVID Pandemic. Lockdowns were enforced since 25 March, 2020. Lockdowns have been enforced multiple times the last of which lasted till September 2, 2022. This hinders economic activity of the state drastically. Besides, the expected fund from Central Government of ₹2,632.58 crores has been pending. With all these difficulties, the efforts of Hon. Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga prove effective. Introduction of various austerity measures is notable among which “*The Govt. of Mizoram Privatization of Vehicle Schemes, 2001*” is an important one.

Summing up, Pu Speaker, the budget allocations - ₹300 crores for SEDP ₹220 for State Matching Shares, ₹33 crores for PMGSY Road construction, allocation for

Lunglei Municipal Council and many more, the total amount of which is ₹1,565 contained in the Budget Speech are clearly public interested oriented. Thank you. Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu KT Rokhaw.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Thank you, Pu Speaker.

I would like to thank the Hon. Finance Minister and Chief Minister for presenting a Budget which is easy to understand even for us with few knowledge of financial matters.

Pu Speaker, the total budget estimate is ₹14,209.95 crore. The revenue expenditure amounts ₹11,068.76 crore which is 78.10%. On the other hand, the Capital Expenditure amounts ₹3,141.19 which is 21.90% of the thotal budget estimate.

Besides, Pu Speaker, the total liabilities is ₹13,584.80 crore. The difference between total Budget Estimate liabilities is only ₹625.15. Further, Revenue expenditure is meant for recurring expenditure like salaries, pensions, etc. and therefore, it could not be expected for development works. The capital expenditure, which is meant solely for development, is only ₹3,141.19 crore. In simple calculation, even if all this amount is used for repayment of liabilities, we shall still have ₹10,443.61 crore debt. This indicated nothing other than failed financial management. This is further evident from the fact that the Fiscal Deficit rose to 6.95% during 2022-2023 Financial Year while the maximum Fiscal Deficit prescribed by Finance Commission is 3%.

Pu Speaker, speaking about SEDP, it is not yet given to the beneficiaries till today while it is termed as Government Flagship Programme. This is purely due to negligence of the programme. The reason they gave is COVID pandemic. However, the total Budget allocation for the programme till today is ₹2,258 which is termed as already spent. It is not about any excuses but sheer negligence.

It is good to learn that ₹50 crore is allotted for Health Care Scheme. However, the total money owed by the government under the scheme is ₹65 crore. It seems there is no plan for repaymeny of debt or proper implementation of the scheme.

We have learn that ₹497.50 crore “*Special Assistance to State for Capital Investment 2022-23*” is granted. Another ₹500 crore has also already been sanctioned earlier. I think proper assets should be established in every district through this loan. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon Pu BD Cahkma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker.

To begin with, we have seen in para 4 that “Mizoram Resource Mobilization Committee” is established which mobilized revenue source of ₹35 crore for Mizoram. This is really notable. I hope it may be continued in the future.

We have also learned that ₹497.50 crore “*Special Assistance to State for Capital Investment 2022-23*” is granted for Mizoram. I wish creation of capital assets is prioritized under this SASCI.

The targeted GSDP during last year is ₹39 crore while actual achievement is only ₹30 crore. The reason for this shortage should be considered. The Anticipated Revenue Surplus for this year is ₹ 4,17,087 which is a positive sign. However, it must be kept in mind from which source this surplus revenue has to be achieved. It should not be at the cost of State citizens. The increased DAP GSDP percentage is a good sign for the state. Besides, it is great to see that State-owned tax revenue increased to 35.32%.

Moving to *Disbursement*, the estimated Revenue Expenditure is 78.10%. While Capital Expenditure is estimated to be 21.90%. A Budget having Revenue Expenditure higher than 65% is not said to be a favourable one. Only 21.9% allocation under capital expenditure in a Budget seems insufficient.

Besides, regarding *Sectoral Allocation* also Economic Service is too less standing at only 19.97%. I feel this regrettable as it is meant for the actual development of the state. Further, in *Important Allocation*, Pu Speaker, fund allocation for SEDP decreases from ₹350 crore to ₹300 crore from last year. This signify that the programme tends to be a failure.

Pu Speaker, while Education and Health is vital subjects. Only ₹50 crore is allocated for Health Care scheme which is not sufficient for the existing debt under the scheme alone. It is a big question about the future of this scheme.

I am thankful that ₹52.98 crore is allotted for SMS. Meanwhile allocation of ₹50 lakh only for assistance for Central Service exam preparation seems insufficient.

I also appreciate allocation of more fund for *Farm Capital Investment*. I wish more allocation may be made in the future also in this subject.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, allocation of ‘₹1.8 crore for primary management of Lunglei Municipal Corporation’ may prove insufficient. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Hon. Member Pu K. Laldawngliana.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am thankful to participate in this Budget General Discussion. Full Budget is presented every year except in 2019 when Vote on Account is presented due to Election Code of Conduct. Besides, Budget

presentation became earlier under this Ministry which is important for more effective financial transactions at the end of Financial Year. Further, use of local made bags as budget bag is notable. This will encourage our local entrepreneur and thus, I do appreciated this initiative.

Pu Speaker, 2023-2024 budget allocation is ₹14209.95 crore, an increase of ₹209.80 crore over last year. Estimated revenue expenditure for 2023-2024 budget will be ₹11,068.75 crore, which is 77.89% of total expenditure. We all are in favour of higher capital expenditure. However, it is not always possible as our state has very little income. It is still our vision to increase capital expenditure. The public also need to aware the importance of paying revenue our own good. In fact, taxation and other government revenues is for the betterment of the public. (*Dy. Speaker in the Chair.*)

Speaking about public debt, Pu Dy. Speaker, the estimated amount of total debt is stated in the Annual Financial Statement, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 page 23. Even though this seems high for our state, most of the amount is loan borrowed on open market borrowing as a form of state development loan. Besides, sum borrowed from SASCI will amounts to ₹1,197.5. It should be kept in mind that these loans are not to be repayed immediately and at once and some of them are soft loans. It is in view of this that the Government of India also allow us to borrow such loans. However, it is a good thing to go with more contribution. Tax increase is the only way to increase government revenue which the public should also be aware.

Introduction and implementation of Health Care Scheme is imperative for the welfare of the people. Pu Dy. Speaker, I really appreciated that ₹157.90 is allocated for *direct subsidy* which will enable the public to receive power supply at lower rates.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, the amount of Budget is not always the most important. It has to be kept in mind that utilization and management is as important as the amount itself. In this perspective, even though the budget Estimate may not be perfect, i consider good enough as the ministry is ready to utilize the budget for public interest. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us call upon Hon. Member Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. As this business is a General Discussion, I will not speak in dept about the budget itself. I would like to mention in advance that my approach may be a bit different this time.

We had a press conference last year about the budget that did not include the salaries of government employees and so, with your permission Pu Dy. Speaker, I would like to read this.

The Government explained that the budget for salary is never fully spent generally. The 2021-22 salary budget of ₹336 crore remained unspent and this is

estimated at ₹400 crore after the calculation. In other words, the salary for government employees is not insufficient. However, this year's insufficiency has become quite clear where this year's salary expenditure is ₹3,537.8 crore for BE and ₹4,445.93 crore for RE. The difference is ₹908.45 crore which is about 30%.

Speaking of budget, Mizoram is a state with insufficient funds and that is why we need to be sincere. 'Greed and selfishness' often occurs on our mind while presenting budget and it is unfortunate that the people who are in a comfortable place are still using their position for selfishness. Therefore, no matter how good our budget is in the book, it will be of nothing if the person who manages the budget has the wrong mindset. It is important to ask ourselves whether we are doing our best for the state and the nation. While we are busy arguing here, we should remember that our people are working hard for their livelihood and I think it is very important that we take into account the efforts of thoughts of our people. So, we should remember that other states judged us in accordance to our government.

Our actions are what define our history whether it is personal, national or government. There is a saying that politicians and government employees are rich where there is corruption. So, we need to ask ourselves if we are a state of wealthy politicians and government employees and I would like that to be in our minds.

Finally, Pu Dy. Speaker, many people sacrificed their lives for the sake of our nation but I feel that their sacrifices are rejected. It is sad to know that there are people who cannot be faithful to their nation. Therefore, as we discuss our budget and finances today, I believe we should have that deeper commitment which is also the expectation of our people and I would like to urge you all to do your utmost to build up our nation. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker and I am pleased that the House Leader has successfully presented the 2023 budget.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the total amount expected from revenue section and capital section for this year's budget is ₹14,209.95 crore while last year's budget estimate was ₹14,008.15 crore. We do not surpass much in terms of percentage but it is quite satisfying that we surpass by ₹201.80 crore this year. We received ₹600 crore last year from a major project called PM-Devine but it will no longer be received. Nevertheless, Pu Dy. Speaker, I am pleased that we surpass our budget.

We are aware that covid-19 hit us hard and India is one of the worst affected countries in the world. Pu Dy. Speaker, the 14th Finance Commission highly recommended the Post Devolution Revenue Receipt Deficit Grant but the 15th Finance

Commission has recommended us in a low way. So, this year's revenue is ₹141 crore lower than last year's revenue and I thought that our budget will be decreased rapidly. However, Pu Dy. Speaker, I am quite pleased that we are moving forward today.

It is impressive that Mizoram is selected to host G-20 meeting and it is a great opportunity to showcase our culture and heritage. Mizoram Resource Mobilization Committee (MRMC) was established last year to increase Mizoram government revenue and reduce unnecessary expenditure and it is impressive to see that the budget and expenditure are carefully reviewed. ₹ 35.74 crore was accumulated from the profit in bank accounts of various departments and it is clear that the House Leader, Finance Minister and his department are working hard on the budget.

Pu Dy. Speaker, looking at our budget, Socio-Economic Development Program is an important scheme and ₹ 595 crore is allocated for this. I am also pleased that ₹ 220 crore is allocated for counterpart funding of various schemes such as CSS, EAP, NCDC and others. ₹300 crore is allocated for family-oriented schemes and it is impressive that SEDP is prepared in such a way that the poor and needy can make use of it.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the pandemic hit us hard and the swine flu affected our livestock. So, I am pleased that SEDP opens a way to help those rural places who are impoverished. ₹25,000/- can be a good starting point and I am really pleased that ₹50,000/- per household is coming up to help the impoverished. It is also impressive that ₹50 crore is allotted for healthcare scheme. Mizoram is a country with a high incidence of cancer and these cancers are not caused by our own desires or by our own efforts. So, I am grateful that the poor can claim their medical expenses. It is also impressive that ₹5 crore is allotted for MNF returnees who have done their utmost for the state and nation and have brought us to this position.

Pu Dy. Speaker, it is impressive that ₹52 crore is allotted for State Disaster Relief Management Fund (SDRMF) since we are a state who often suffers disasters during heavy rainfall. I am also pleased that ₹200 crore is allocated for Special Assistance to State for Capital Investment. I support this budget and I am quite pleased with it. Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

DEPUTY. SPEAKER : I request Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Budgets are usually passed as great budgets but we failed to develop or success government departments. We are not even self-sufficient on eggs and 'the good budget' that we passed has not brought success to the laborers.

Great nations are at war and wars are being planned. So, if such a problem arises here, what can ₹1 crore do? We are aware of the pandemic before it hit Mizoram and

we the ZPM MLAs begged the Governor to hold a special session to re-appropriate our budgets for the prevention of the spread of the disease and to discuss our budgets for the fight against the disease. However, the Special Session was not convened. The plague then broke out and we were in trouble. Government employees donated their salaries, NGOs also donated as much as they could and individuals also donated money. We MLAs also spent our MLA fund of ₹40 lakhs, donated our salary and used other funds. Poor artisans from rural areas also contributed as much as they could for fear of 'nothing to eat' and the relief fund we collected is a lot.

However, instead of using the fund as relief fund, we used them for the administration of the government and the State-level task force. In fact, we did not even spend 1% of our budget on Covid while other states spent a lot from their budgets. Therefore, the ₹1 crore allocated for emergency cases is very inappropriate and how would we deal if crisis happened again? Will we rely again on our NGOs, churches and government employees?

Mission Veng Church did a very good job by using all the premises of their church, formed a task force and provided more than ₹100000. Not only that, they also lend a helping hand to other neighbourhoods. That was how much we suffered and fought against the disease. On the other hand, the government spent less than 1% of our budget while so much sorrow had covered us. Our MLA Pu Zodintluanga Ralte bought an RTPCR for Lunglei but we refused to install it for various reasons. Have we lost our ability to even show mercy and compassion to our fellow human beings because it was the action of other party? This is such a shame and I believe it will be difficult for the southern people to forget this. However, Kamrula and Pu Zoramchhana who are always favored never lack works and their bills never got stuck.

One surprising thing is that while the Health Department was busy preparing for the outbreak, the audit was conducted even before a quarter (three months) and I have never heard of such an audit before because audit is conducted every alternate year. So, that may be the reason why the Health Department could not get hold of the budget.

Pu Dy. Speaker, is it possible to increase the fund for emergency cases in this budget speech? It is difficult for me to accept our budget because it is an ordinary budget without any success and progress for development.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We still have 5 minutes. Is there anyone else?
We will take a break and continue at 2:00 pm.

(Recess till 2 PM)

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will continue with our general discussion and I request Hon' member Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAMSANGA: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. The 2023-2024 Mizoram Budget Estimate presented by our Hon' Chief Minister who is also the Finance Minister highlights many developments for the people and the state.

The country is facing financial difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic and so did the Western countries and the rich countries. Thomas Schaefer, German Finance Minister of Hessen State committed suicide after the country's economy was devastated by Covid-19. Similarly, the French Prime Minister committed suicide due to financial difficulties caused by Covid-19. According to the National Crime Record Bureau, more than 11,000 business persons committed suicide in India by 2020 due to India's slow economy and businesses were not good. Thus, our country was facing a lot of difficulties. Our Chief Minister once said that our survival is the most important thing and development should be as it is. So, I am quite pleased that the budget has been presented in such a mature and good manner despite the difficulties we have faced for two years and I am especially grateful to our Finance Minister - our Chief Minister and his colleagues in the Finance Department.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I will not go into detail and I would like to highlight my priorities.

Firstly, ₹595 crore is allocated for SEDP in the 2023-2024 Budget. Of these, ₹300 crore is allocated for family-oriented schemes and ₹ 220 crore for counter funding like CSS, EAP, NCDP schemes etc. It is also impressive that this budget has increased by ₹220 crore compared to the current year 2022-2023.

₹50 crore is allocated for healthcare scheme and ₹25 crore is allocated to the SEDP fund. Pu Dy. Speaker, I would like to add a few statements regarding this healthcare with your permission. Mizoram State Healthcare was born during the previous MNF Ministry led by Pu Zoramthanga and ₹50 crore was allocated to the initial corpus fund. ₹ 117 crore was requested to the Asian Development Bank but it was not released since it was the end of their tenure. However, the ₹117 crore was released during the Congress Ministry.

Pu Dy. Speaker, when the Congress party formed the Ministry, the healthcare scheme could not bill all diseases and we can hardly bill 160 serious diseases at that time. However, in this current MNF government, almost all diseases can be billed. Not a single rupee was allocated for Mizoram Healthcare corpus fund for 10 years during

the Congress party government and had they allocate ₹50 crore annually during their 10-year ministry, we would not have faced the current healthcare crisis.

MNF came to power again in 2018 and the CM allocated ₹50 crore for healthcare as a corpus fund in 2019. The CM's aim is to allocate ₹ 50 crore annually for healthcare if not for the pandemic. Congress government's 10-year bill revenue was ₹16 crore while MNF government's 5-year bill revenue was ₹65 crore and there is a big difference. Only about 30,000-40,000 people registered under healthcare during the previous government while 1,13,720 people got registered during the present MNF government. The Congress government's healthcare bill was ₹82.8 crore while the MNF government's five-year bill is ₹138 crore.

Therefore, it is not right to criticize the government in the field of healthcare as we did our best even in times of crisis and we have made almost all diseases billable. We still have a debt of about ₹60 crore but our Chief Minister, Health Minister and Finance Department have done their utmost and arrangement is made to borrow ₹1,000 crore from the Asian Development Bank. We hope to receive the money at the end of the year and I believe we can pay off our debts from this. The Chief Minister and the Government are doing their utmost to improve Mizoram State Healthcare especially in rural areas by providing 230 health clinics.

Therefore, our government is very concern about the poor and ₹60 crore is also allocated for the MLA Fund. MLA Funds are quite beneficial for both the ruling and opposition parties. ₹38.27 crore of state matching share is allocated under SSA and the Council of Ministers approved the salary increase of SSA employees and allocated ₹52.98 crore for SMS-top-up. The total amount allocated for SSA-SMS normal top-up is ₹95.25 crore.

The government allocated ₹8 crore for SMS top-up for the recruitment of employees following the termination of ICDSS scheme. In addition, ₹33 crore is allocated for State matching share under PMGSY project to demonstrate the Government's commitment to rural connectivity under PMGSY.

Art & Culture Department allocated ₹50 lakhs for the required expenditure. The budget-head for Chapchar Kut expenses is prepared separately and the budget is added as required. ₹157.90 crore is also allocated for direct subsidy under the P&E Department to ensure that Mizoram citizens have access to power and electricity at a lower cost.

Sialkal Range Development Council budget of ₹30.24 crore is increased to ₹224.55 crore. Mizoram has no case of the virus so far while there are still several cases in India and some deaths are still reported. However, it is comforting that ₹1 crore is allocated for the prevention of accidents and accidents. Pu Dy. Speaker, we depend on

central funds and I believe such a mature budget will bring us progress despite various difficulties. I support the 2023-2024 Mizoram Budget for the development and improvement of the state and thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request Er. H. Lalzirliana.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Today's budget is Mizoram State Budget. There are two types of budget - State Budget and Union Budget and here, our State Budget is also a part of Union Budget. The Union Budget includes our fair-share and I am confident that our Chief Minister, our Ministers and our officials will be able to figure out the fair-share of the Union Budget.

Finance Minister Pi Sitarami presented the Union Budget on 1st February and 'Amrit Kaal' was mentioned quite often. The Union budget focuses on steering India's economy from India@75 to India@100. This is a visionary budget especially for development. India's economy is one of the brightest in the world and our current economic growth is estimated to be 7% which is considered to be one of the highest rates among major economies in various countries. Although Covid 19, war and various other reasons restrict us in various ways, North East, especially for us backward communities have many expectations in this budget.

The Central Union Budget sets 7 priorities namely-

- i) Inclusive Development: This covers farmers, women, youth, OBCs, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and economically weaker sections, and overall priority for the underprivileged.
- ii) Reaching the last mile: The government introduced various schemes to reach the most remote and isolated areas of the backward communities. The Ministry of DoNER was established since Vajpayee's PM's era and is continued today in the Modi era.
- iii) Infrastructure and investment: Capital investment outlay increased by 33% to ₹10 lakh crore. There are several proposals for various states including North-East where 50 airports and Nursing Hospital colleges will be established.
- iv) Unleashing the potential: This includes unleashing innovation and research by startups and academia, a National Data Governance Policy will be brought up enabling access to anonymised data.
- v) Green Growth: This involves green hydrogen missions, energy transition, and agriculture.
- vi) Youth Power: Investments in education and skill development, the creation of job opportunities and the encouragement of entrepreneurship will all help in achieving this.
- vii) Financial sector: This entails taking steps to encourage financial inclusion, expand credit availability and enhance the effectiveness and stability of the financial sector.

In case of expenditure and revenue, we increased our own-revenue by 35% in state owned-tax revenue and state owned non-tax increased by 20.98%. This year's Grant-in-aid is ₹1474 crore which is less than last year by ₹141 crore and it will be lesser next year. We need to be alert since this 'post-devolution deficit' from central is about to get lower and lower. Therefore, we should all be aware that we need to generate more of our own revenue. The details of General service- 38.00%, social service- 31.6%, economic service- 19.79%, other allocations- 10.07%, SEDP, election expenditure, MLA fund, SSA fund, PMGSY fund the are here in this book.

Pu Dy. Speaker, Mizoram is a tax-free state to increase its revenue and we do not pay income tax, and many others like rice, electricity and water are subsidized. Most of our financial contribution goes to the Churches and these churches are very commendable in fighting against covid-19. So, the government and the churches should work together in developing the community and the state. For example, there are two or three churches in the same neighbourhood and we should all work together in developments so that we are more developed.

As mentioned earlier, the central funds are decreasing and the central government is expecting the states to develop themselves. So, it is important that the government starts to manage itself. I hope that the people and the government will be able to move forward with the mentality of investing the central fund. (**Dy. Speaker:** Are you almost done?) There is a sense of ownership in us when we give more together and this leads us to enthusiasm and goodwill which brings about progress.

Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker and I support this.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. The current budget is of lesser importance compared to the previous budget and we hardly talk about how we will manage government funds and public funds. It seems that SEDP is our most important initiative but this also seems that it was distributed among the party members. We have the SEDP policy book but I believe that we do not implement it the way it should be.

I will share my discussion into 3 parts and the first part is-Covid-19 should not be used as an excuse anymore and there is a fund that we received from the government. The Central government put aside the collection of taxes for the states and for example, if the central government put ₹100 rupees, Mizoram has a share of ₹.50 paise out of the ₹100. It is true that we did not receive the full amount and it was less by ₹267,74,00,000 according to this year's estimate. However, the state does collect taxes and there is state owned-tax revenue. Here, we received far more than our budget and we exceed it by ₹448,3,00,000 but we did not want to talk about it.

The government also has non-tax-revenue such as traffic charges and water bills from which we receive money. This is also decreasing and it is a great excuse where we fall short by ₹169,74,00,000. However, while the post devolution revenue deficit grant is decreasing, the 15th Finance Commission granted us additional ₹211 crore in 2020-2021. (*Pu Lalrindika Ralte at the Chair.*)

Pu Chairman, we received additional ₹211,48,00,000. If so, we can take more loans and we even borrow a huge amount of funds when the government said that we can borrow .5% from GSDP since we received less from the collection of devolution of taxes. Not to mention ways and means advances, we received ₹221,89,00,000 from state taxes, non-state taxes, fines, post-devolution revenue deficit grants. So, why are we still making excuses?

Last year's budget stated that ₹2,632 crore was not received in full. However, new data is now available and let us stop making excuses. We now received lots of fund and we cannot make excuses anymore. The reason for our financial difficulties is that our leader does not pay enough attention to financial management. We gave contracts to fake consultancies and we do not even use central funds for constructing airport but used lots of SEDP fund. Covid-19 was used as an excuse for not being able to distribute ₹3 lakhs.

The 15th Finance Commission had ₹546 crore in special grant for 2021 but did not received it. However, we know that the Finance Commission Grant is not compulsory and we just have to adjust.

The the second part is that- what made us the most indebted in 10 years has again made us the most indebted for 3 consecutive years.. (**Chairman:** Time is up.) Pu Chairman, other members also took extra 3 minutes. We are once again the most indebted state in India for the last 3 years. One thing I would like to point out is that Economic Services is needed for the nation to move forward.

Lastly, regarding Healthcare Scheme, I would like to know what priorities are given in regards to restricted tender during Covid. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : I request Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Chairman. The previous member said that Covid-19 is no longer an excuse. However, the world is still facing difficulties due to Covid-19. The airport was also described to be constructed through SEDP. Pu Chairman, with your consent, this is the release of ₹19.59 crore from NESIDS and it is unfortunate that only half the truth was told. Mizoram has a CM who stands by his own words and I am pleased that he is always trying to have accomplishments despite difficulties.

While the Central Government of India itself had not been able to provide MP-Area Development Fund for two years due to Covid-19, our Finance Minister provided us funds till today without any problems and this is because of his great financial management skills. In addition, as in the previous year, ₹5 crore has been allocated for MNF returnees and ₹300 crore has also been allocated for family-oriented schemes in the SEDP. ₹50 crore is also allocated to support those who are preparing for All India Services. In addition, allocating ₹91.25 crore for Samagra is a pleasure for us rural areas. The previous government could not pay the salaries and I am pleased with the Minister's statement that advance will be paid.

₹50 lakhs was received through Art & Culture and also ₹400 crore for power purchase which is located on the banks of the Tlawng River. ₹27 crore has been allocated for the water supply scheme in rural areas and ₹20 lakhs for the opening of the BDO office is not a common occurrence. Therefore, let us be pleased with these initiatives and I urge this House to pass the bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : I request Dr. K. Pachhunga.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Thank you, Pu Chairman. This is the last budget session of the current term and I thank God for all the guidance he has given us. So, we need to forgive each other if there are some hurtful words spoken. I would like to thank the Assembly Secretariat staff for their exemplary welfare and treatment. We know that budget is a 'plan' and the budget itself can be changed due to inconvenience. The budget is based on the revenue received from the central pipeline and the revenue collected from the public. Therefore, the people should know that it does not mean a fund is available immediately when passing the budget and you should not be deceived.

As we know, whoever is in government, our state is still very poor and we managed to earn around 10% to 12% and we plan to earn 13% in this budget. Therefore, it is undeniable that Delhi supports us with 90% and the main reason is that we do not collect income tax, and our taxes are road tax and land taxes. Subsidies for rice, electricity and water bills are paid by the government as well. Mizoram has an additional charge of ₹1.50 per unit of electricity while Arunachal Pradesh is charged about 10%. According to the Human Development Index, Mizoram government is not rich, but individually we are the 'best' state in India with only two states from the North East - Sikkim and Mizoram. We are on the same level as the people of Haryana and South India. We have done our utmost to criticize the current government and previous government leaders. Our situation is not at all shameful across India and the current Chief Minister and former Chief Ministers are the ones who led us to this position.

Pu Chairman, the Government of Mizoram recognized the shortage of teachers and provided SEDP teachers and MR teachers. Similarly, rice is not difficult and the government is able to provide 100 days of wage employment while the previous

government gave only 45 days of wage employment in 2014. Thus this government is concerned with the needs of the people.

We expect the government to do everything and the people also need to improve themselves because the government cannot do everything by itself.

Pu Chairman, as we know, college students are also taken seriously in our budget. The previous government of 10 years talked about ‘world-class education’ but the school buildings in my constituency are all too shabby. However, thanks to the Education Minister, we now have repaired 50% of the buildings.

Some criticize the government as a smuggling government where in fact even America who has all the technology and money has not been able to stop drugs from entering its country. The government has taken extreme actions on seizing drugs as seen on the news. YMAS have done their utmost and are commended but we deceived the people since we want power and criticize the government as a smuggling government. This government cannot provide all the needs of the people but it is dedicated to the people and tries to improve education as much as possible. It also works efficiently on Buildings, teachers, healthcare, SEDP-health-worker and roads.

There are some people who said that Covid-19 is not an excuse anymore. Train services, air services, hotels etc got shutdown due to Covid-19 and this affected out tax contributors. Aizawl was nothing in 1986 but we made great strides in every way be it individuals, buildings, roads, etc. Our minds become unhealthy due to our hunger for power and authority and we refuse to say anything good.

We all know that Aizawl is quite a small city and it was our Hon’ Chief Minister who gave us all the important offices in the vast military area. Anyway, Pu Chairman, this is a great budget and SEDP is being distributed, the student fees were returned, healthcares are established for the poor and 100 days of wage employment are provided. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Chairman. I would like to divide my presentation into four-five points. Firstly, the budget data presented by the CM contains some important matters that I would like to discuss in this House. Secondly, I would like to highlight the good hopes for the people in this budget and I would also like to mention a little bit about debt. My friend Mathlantea said that Covid is not an excuse anymore but as far as I can see from the data I would like to show you how Covid has affected our economy and budget. Finally, as leaders, we are not supposed to justify ourselves here and I would like to highlight the challenges and issues that I think are important for our nation.

Pu Chairman, budget is a complex thing but the easiest way for the public to understand is 'receipt and expenditure' that is, how much do we earn and how much do we spend. Revenue surplus of ₹417.87 crore is expected in BE this year and this is quite impressive. The reason for this is that NE States have very low income and the large amount of grants we receive from the central government is the reason why we have surplus. Tax devolution, State owned-tax and non-tax revenue, ULB and RLB management, CSS and disaster fund, deficit grant are the most common source of our income. Thus, expenditure is the most difficult issue for budget managers and this year's primary expenditure includes salaries and wages, pensions, medical treatment, minor works, GIA non-salaries, loans and advances, repayment, interest payments, establishment costs, other charges and investment. The important thing that the public should know is that if our income is less than our expenditure, we have to borrow. So, for a poor state like ours, we are in a position where we have to borrow and no state is without debt.

Pu Chairman, this is the latest RBI data and our debt is ₹11,667 crore in RE in 2022.

(Dy. Speaker at the Chair)

Pu Dy. Speaker, the debts of other states are quite high as well. We owe ₹11,000 crore while others owe ₹6 crore, ₹4 crore and ₹5 crore. We all have debts but we should not rely on this. Debt can be a burden for a state and so we have to keep it to a minimum. We should also educate the people in this regard. Mizoram like other states also has debts but it is the responsibility of the leaders to minimize it.

I wanted to share a few interesting notes for people to enjoy. Mizoram Resource Mobilization Committee (MRMC) was formed to ensure that Mizoram's resources like valuables and money are properly protected and ₹35.74 crore has been deposited to the government savings this year. I want you all to know that the government is managing the government's money very carefully. IFMIS (Integrated Financial Management Information) was established to ensure that our funds are used more efficiently and managed meaningfully. Online apps for pay roll, bill preparation, submission, pension, debt and Budget and Accounts Management are available and budget management is carefully conducted.

Pu Dy. Speaker, we have seen something very encouraging in the capital expenditure for new works where 21.9% of the total budget is for new works which have never existed in Mizoram before. This is quite exciting and we will be working on new projects in our respective constituencies. Currently, ₹497 crore is being distributed and we received ₹500 crore for the new year. SASCI 'Special Assistant to State for Capital Investment' will be used to implement new capital investment in Mizoram.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I would like to conclude by saying that our revenue and expenditure are not in line and our expenditure is quite high which we need to control and we should keep trying to increase our revenue. Therefore, we should talk about what should be our development and not only justify ourselves in this House. In addition, some departments that are not profitable should be corporatized and post creations should be reduced. We need to set priorities in the way our department spends money because I believe that government funds are extremely misused. The labor cess collected should be used more effectively and the new pension scheme should be introduced soon. Some parties said that old pension scheme will be reintroduced but I doubt this will be good for Mizoram. I also think that our fiscal deposit should be reduced and we should provide more job opportunities for the youth.

Thank you and I support this budget.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Ngunlianchunga

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Dy. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to attend the last budget session of this term. At the same time, we have different opinions, views and acceptances of the current government.

The five-year budgets for 2019-20, 20-21, 21-22, 22-23 and 23-24 are being discussed today. Since the birth of this government till today, we cannot help but say that this government has not made a budget to save Mizoram. Looking at today's Demand for Grant, there is not much except Central Sponsor Scheme (CSS).

As I had said last year, we are working with a financial dictator government. This year, ₹3,27,474.79 crore has been parked in the Finance Department alone. The leader has kept huge amount of funds with him and those who do not know how to appease him can hardly see developments. Additional salaries were given to 28 departments according to the Supplementary Demand, 2022-2023 but ₹151 crore was additionally paid for salaries. Salary insufficiency is quite high and Lai District was even given ₹2317 lakhs in RE. This year, 21 departments have more RE than last year, while the remaining 26 departments still lacks. We said that ₹50 crore is allocated for healthcare but it is not seen in the Health Department. If we look at our Demand for Grant, the SEDP is Nil and it was not in the department at all.

We will be disbursing funds again and the amount will vary according to our favouritism. Pu Dy. Speaker, the government has no plans for the development of the nation and the people. AH & Vety department, Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries departments are supposed to make us self reliant but there is no budget. Agriculture will receive ₹ 20,000 crore from central sponsor scheme (CSS) and this already happened during our time. We used Covid-19 as an excuse but there was no Covid in 2019-2020. Not a single rupee was spent for family oriented but we provide restricted tenders to the

people we favored. We could have made airport projects to the central government and we could use the state funds for food security and land reforms. We made excuses saying ONGC explore oil in Hortoki-Meidum and we gave restricted tenders worth 10000 lakhs. According to an RTI query last year, their licenses have not been renewed for eight months and they have not worked since.

Pu Speaker, today's budget is ₹14,209.25 crore while our debt is ₹13,854.80 crore and our debt is only 625 less than our budget. Pu Speaker, if this government continues next year, the amount of our debt will be more than our budget. I am pleased that we are talking about SASCI today. Not only are we talking about our current debt, but we are also leaving debts for generations to come (5 to 50 years from now). It is unfortunate that there is no plan for the future.

It is all good if we invest our debts but the government alone has a debt of ₹6,000 crore today. So, can we still say that we have a finance minister who can manage the finances?

Pu Speaker, there is a saying 'An army of sheep led by a lion is better than an army of lions led by a sheep'. Good leadership is important. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : : Pu Zodintluanga.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Today is the last Budget Session of the 8th Mizoram Legislative Assembly and elections will be held at the end of the year. The new members became good friends and I wish them all the best in advance for the upcoming year-end elections.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the budget book is quite thin and the Finance Minister has little to say. There is no vision for the state's development and there is no fund that will uplift the poor. During every budget session, we say that Mizoram Government has no vision and our State budget is meaningless and of no benefit to the people. Pu Deputy Speaker, our Ministers do not have the funds in their departments for their work. Some MLAs showed off by saying that they took funds from the main coffer and then we have to resolve it later in the Supplementary Demand. The Ministers are also not satisfied with the budget and it is difficult for the MLAs to recommend it as well. SEDP funds are the only source of development here. Recently, we talked about the construction of a large New Market building and we asked for the fund. It was NEDP fund and SEDP funds for large projects are not seen.

While winding up the Governor Speech, the Chief Minister said that we have a lot of fund to govern in 2019 and the reason he could say that is because the previous Congress government managed the fund carefully starting with the debt and then left a lot of fund for the new government. They enjoyed, lived and fed on it but four years

later, all the MLAs and ministers talked about the financial crisis. This shows that the Congress government that made good financial management and many developments is what the people are eagerly waiting for. This government has no vision at all and could not provide the salaries of its employees on time. Pu Dy. Speaker, we will form a new government and the government employees will receive their salaries on time with their DA.

We use Covid-19 as an excuse but we have no difficulty in pursuing what we want. We restrict ourselves in every way but allotted crores and crores for Lengpui Airport decoration and the work started in advance for five months before the tender was issued. Not only that, it collapsed and the contractors were not punished and no action was taken. The trolleys used by the public were used to carry cement bags and rods and they were heavily damaged. It is such a shame Pu Dy. Speaker. Our visions on bamboos have now disappeared and there is a debt of 23462 people's bills in healthcare. We even try to take ADB loan to pay off the debts. Healthcare is not something to boast about. The Congress government also had healthcare and bills are paid regularly. Today, healthcare scheme funds collected from public are used for office expenditure. Can we call this a good healthcare scheme?

According to our Finance Minister's speech point-3, tourism mart is succeeding. However, it would be appreciated if the bills for hiring the poor people's vehicles are paid as soon as possible. Point 4 stated that ₹35.74 crore has already entered the government coffers from the bank accounts of various departments. Do our departments carry work at all? This is not the way good government finance. Regarding Point 5, their manifesto is to distribute ₹5 lakhs and it is the opposition parties who tried to implement this manifesto and not them. They are quite satisfied after paying them ₹25,000 and they feel that it is enough. However, there are people who still expect the other ₹25000. Therefore, a program without such a heart of love for the people cannot be successful. SASCI is impressive and ₹200 crore is allocated for the scheme alone. Retaining walls have been constructed under SASCI in my constituency and these are interest-free debts that we must repay. It will be a burden for the future government as it will cause unnecessary problems in the future and it can also create financial crisis.

According to point 48, ₹5 crore is allocated for the rehabilitation of MNF returnees and I would like to know the specific term for returnees.

Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. This is our last budget and I wish all the members the best in the coming election.
Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Dy. Speaker, this government is quite in luck. 2021-2022 was the year of the outbreak of Covid-19 and the devolution of taxes was more than we expected (₹895 crore) that year. We unexpectedly received so much in times of our sorrow and this helped us in many ways to fight against Covid. MLAs withdrawn ₹40,00,000 each from their funds and the people have done their utmost for the CM relief fund. In addition, ₹114 crore was also received for Covid fund. The central government introduced a great scheme 'SASCI' to assist us in fighting Covid-19 where we received ₹997 crore. We also received ₹32 crore for health grant. In addition, ₹6,025 crore which was not passed in the budget was received for Supplementary. It is unfortunate that we lost lives due to Covid-19 but it also brought many blessings to the government.

Only .30% was used for fighting Covid in 2021 and .64% the following year. Our government does not spend 1% on Covid while it received thousands of crores of rupees for the pandemic. Saying that nothing could be done due to the pandemic is a clear inconsistent statement with what happened in reality. In addition, the government borrowed ₹3,681 crore through open-market borrowing in the last four years. NABARD loan was taken 70 times and received ₹653 crore from it and ADB loan of ₹1,004 crore is being allocated. ₹600 crore was allocated to PM DevINE and ₹187 crore to PMJVK. ₹6,664 crore was recently allocated for road construction and ₹40 crore is expected under Digital Mizoram. JJM, RUSA etc are additional funds beyond our normal budget. The government also withdrew ₹266 crore from the Consolidated Sinking Fund. It is like we borrow ₹32 crore daily on average on Ways and Means Advance. (see our budget book).

There have been nine overdrafts and we should have seen huge developments with great results by now. Nevertheless, the opening balance for this year's budget is ₹640 crore with an existing debt of ₹640 crore. The amount of debt we owe is often said to be different and we have to calculate it with percentage. Debts and other fiscal deficits are all GSDP-based. Pu Dy. Speaker, we should maintain the dignity of this House and we should stop deceiving the people and we should tell them the truth. The government's debt estimate is in correct and I will use the RBI statement. The RBI statement is out now and our debt was 42% in 2020-2021 making us the second most indebted state in India. Our debt is 56% in 2021-22 and we are the most indebted state in India and there is no denying. This year, our debt is 55% making us the most indebted state in India. Why do we make PR and still dare to claim to be the second lowest debtor? We may write wrong figures but we will never deceive RBI. Therefore, RBI should be our main assessment.

The difference between last year's BE debt and the new budget is ₹1,155 crore and if our debt increases so much in a year, what kind of government are we? The only increase in the budget is the state-owned tax where water and electricity bill, rice prices will increase and that is it and not because of any other development. Capital Outlay is

where we compare each state. We need to pay our debt of ₹1,442 crore this year and if we exclude this, our capital outlay will be only 11%. Where will we take our state with just 11% and could this be the nature of a strong government? We allotted ₹100000 only on Agriculture and allied sectors. We will not be able to build a tomato field with just ₹100000. This is too much. Our food budget declined steadily over the past four years and it is still declining every year. We have not made progress and that is clear from the facts and figure.

GSDP growth rate is the most important measure of a country's performance. GSDP was supposed to be low in RE but it is high. Then, the actual came and our miscalculation amounted to ₹2,577 crore. It would have been so exhausting for the people to be under the government who kept on miscalculating and does not know how much it spends. The BE deficit is ₹12,178 crore in 2021-22 and our GSDP has fallen from 43% to -11% in percentage terms. If we are wondering what -11% means, it means we are moving backwards and we are even lower than 0. According to the Ministry of Finance's economic survey, we were -5% in 2019-20. We received and borrowed so much but how did we fall to -11%? This is a big question. What are they used for and why are we not growing? Why are our products not increasing?

Our GDP growth rate in national is -6% while Nagaland is 8%, Meghalaya is 8% and Assam is 10%. So, there should be a clear explanation for this. GSDP is never accurate and it increased suddenly in 2014-2015 during the Congress government. This is so wrong because we measure everything from our GSDP in the budget estimate but we always went far down when actual come. There is more money to borrow when GSDP increases and we are eager for this. It also makes our fiscal deficit look much less and we always present such budgets. This is a fraud and unreliable budget and it is not transparent as required by the FRBM Act. In case of inflation, inflation is controlled in India and has decreased to 4% while the price of goods in Mizoram is high by 8.41%. We said that Crude oil is expensive because of the Ukraine war but the truth is that India bought oil from Russia at half the price and India actually benefitted from the Ukraine war. However, we still say that we suffer and inflation arises due to the war but this is far from the truth.

Pu Dy. Speaker, old-aged pension could not be given since 2021 and Wildlife guards under CSS were paid till September recently but the rest is still owed. CAMPA employees were not paid since April last year. They are paid only ₹380/- per day and they are quite pitiful. We could not even provide salaries to those who were on forest duty. We owe ₹150 crore to PMGSY contractor, PHE owes ₹89 crore and P&E owes ₹78 crore. We also owe ₹85 crore for pension payment and ₹65 crore is owed to 23,462 beneficiaries under healthcare and we cannot pay any Police TA/DA.

Pu Dy. Speaker, Ebenezer Hospital has recently vacant five nurse positions and more than 100 people applied. Six Female Attendant posts are vacant with a salary of

₹7,500/- per month and about 100 people applied for the job. That is the economy of our state. Our people are so poor that they are fighting for a small salary while our government is moving backwards. Therefore, we find it difficult to pass this budget. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Our budget general discussion is almost over and I request the House Leader Pu Zoramthanga to summarize the budget and make clarifications.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. The budget was reviewed in various ways and it is wise to look at it from various perspectives which can also lead to new ideas. However, there are different ways of looking at it and it is necessary to present it in a way that the public can understand. We faced many difficulties before presenting this budget and some members said that Covid is not an excuse anymore. However, the Ministers of some developed countries committed suicide due to the economy affects caused by Covid and this is serious. We did what the central government asked us to do but it is the central government who could not provide us with the full amount. (Hon' Speaker at the Chair) It has been difficult since 2021 when the pandemic hit and our budget decreased. Looking at the taxes and revenues that the State collected, lockdown closed our shops, all the hotels were closed and we lost more than ₹3000 crore in a year due to the pandemic. In the meantime, the economy has lost a lot of money due to the border conflict and a lot of money was also lost due to the death of thousands of pigs from the flu. The earthquake also affected us to some extent and we have to allocate ₹200 crore for election. We were also expected to release PMGSY, CSS etc and so we had to release hundreds of crores imperatively. Bigger states have huge debts and Sikkim has the least debt with ₹12982 crores. Sikkim is followed by Mizoram with a debt of ₹12991 and the difference is about ₹9 crore. Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal, (excluding the big states) are all more indebted than us. Therefore, no matter what the percentage is, we have to pay what we owe. So, there are many more states that will be more frustrated than us.

SEDP is our flagship program and we want to implement it continuously since the beginning if we govern normally. SEDP was implemented in a large number in 2019. However, covid-19 has prevented us from distributing the funds and our main objective was to stay alive. We do not dare to carry out family-oriented things. However, things started to get better since last year and we decided to start family oriented by providing ₹50000 each to 60,000 households. It is quite difficult to start with ₹3 lakhs. Looking at our circumstances, an ordinary person can see that it is impossible to do it all at once. We are committed to implementing the SEDP for the development of the people. We want to run our budget without deficit.

Hundreds of crores under the central government is allocated for state development but this is not handed out randomly. We have to contribute as well for state

matching share and the matching share we gave helped the overall development of India. So, we need to know that we are doing the same way as all other states. Healthcare Scheme is still carried out today despite our incompetence. We reached out to Asian Development Bank because of Covid, the public health and being unable to pay their bills. It is not a loan actually and the central will pay for us.

We are doing better and ₹50 crore and ₹10 crore from the lottery with a total of ₹60 crore have been allocated. The ₹60 crore that we allocated is only to solve the current problems. In addition, we are extremely careful on the profit of our budget and we even allocated only ₹200 crore at SASCI. The Government of India has allocated ₹1,30,000.00 crore for SASCI where we received ₹400 this current year and we will surely receive more than that in the future. The allocation is ₹500 crore and it exceeded by ₹300 crore which is quite pleasing and we hope that these will help us a lot in future.

We usually borrow money from NABARD, NCDCREC, PFC and OMB and this is the way things have been going since we became a State. The money we borrowed for ways and means advances are always paid back immediately. Nevertheless, in the midst of all the difficulties, we have increased our salaries for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan as much as we can with ₹91.25 crore for top-up. As per the Green Tribunal's request, ₹50 crore is allocated for Solid Waste Management and ₹157 crore for electricity. Some members said that huge amount of funds were received after Covid but these funds are for other specific purposes like school buildings, fields etc and it cannot be used for anything else.

While Finance ministers of other countries committed suicide, we are able to move forward by the Grace of God without lacking food, water, electricity, gas etc. Developments are carried out and salaries are paid on the 10th - 15th of the month. The reason why we could not pay on the 1st day of the month is due to Delhi not being able to pay the state matching share of taxes and others on the exact day. It is unfortunate that we are often late since the main source of our income cannot pay us on the 1st day. We even requested Banks to understand the monthly loan payment and other things that need to be done every new month and they do.

Therefore, Pu Speaker, our budget is not at all satisfying and we can hardly keep up just like any other states. I hope that the budget we present today brings development to the people. It is true about the airport trolleys and the workers were fined for the damage. We do our best to have the best Airport in the Northeast state and we are currently working on a project worth ₹100 crore.

Pu Speaker, we have noted the statements of the Hon' members and I am pleased that we have a good discussion today. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Our discussion is now over and before concluding our session, I would like to share that the team from Punjab Legislative Assembly led by hon. MLAs Sandeep Jakhar and Raminder Jit Singh attends this budgetary discussion today here in our Assembly. I hope they enjoy Mizoram during their short stay.

I would like to request our hon. Chief Minister that, I will be happy if you could kindly spare your time for them after this session is over. (**Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister**: I will do, Speaker, Sir.) Thank you, Sir.

The G-20 Celebration is to be held on March 1, 2013 and this is the first time that India has been the Chairman Presidency of the G-20 and with that in mind, we insisted that our session be postponed. Central budget presentation is usually on 1st February; nevertheless, I heard that the Finance Department is working very hard and they fulfill our request. So, I cannot help but praise their efforts.

We have finished our business for today and we will continue tomorrow that is the 22.02.2023 (Wednesday) at 10:30 A.M.

The sitting is adjourned. (4:29 PM)