

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

**LIST OF BUSINESS**

FOR SECOND SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2023  
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

**QUESTIONS**

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

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

2. **PU LALDUHOMA** to call attention to a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly regarding Zawlpui Leilet leivungin a chhilh chungchang.

**LAYING OF PAPERS**

3. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, hon. Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
  - (i) Report of the Second State Finance Commission Mizoram 2021-22 to 2025-26.
  - (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Social, General, Economic and Revenue Sectors for the year ended 31st March, 2022.
  - (iii) State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2022.
  - (iv) Thirty-Second Annual Report, 2022-2023 of Mizoram Public Service Commission.
  - (v) The Mizoram Protection of Interests of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Rules, 2023.
4. **PU TAWNLUIA**, Deputy Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
  - (i) The Mizoram Municipalities (Facilities to Mayor, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors) (Amendment) Rules, 2022.
  - (ii) The Mizoram Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2022.
  - (iii) Plastic Waste Management By-Laws, 2023.
5. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of Notifications issued under the Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (w.e.f. 14.3.2023 – 4.8.2023).
6. **PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of The Industrial Relations (Mizoram) Rules, 2023.

### **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

7. **PU VANLALHLANA** to present to the House a copy each of the following :
  - (i) Eleventh Report of Public Accounts Committee on Actions Taken by the Government against the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Agriculture Department.
  - (ii) Twelfth Report of Public Accounts Committee on The Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-19 relating to Tourism Department.
  - (iii) Thirteenth Report of Public Accounts Committee on The Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-19 relating to Sports & Youth Services Department.
  
8. **PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG** to present to the House a copy each of the following:
  - (i) Statement on Action taken by the Government on the Further Recommendations contained in the Sixth Action Taken Report of Committee on Papers Laid on the Table relating to Finance Department.
  - (ii) Seventh Report of Committee on Papers Laid on the Table ( 2022-2023) relating to Commerce & Industries Department.
  
9. **PU RAMTHANMAWIA** to present to the House a copy of the Second Report of Estimates Committee on Skywalk and Ropeway Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme relating to Tourism Department.
  
10. **PU ZOTHANTLUANGA** to present to the House a copy of Statement on Action taken by the Government on the Further Recommendations contained in the 2nd Action Taken Report of Committee on Petition relating to School Education Department.

### **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

#### ***Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demand***

11. Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2019-20 (Regularization of Excess Expenditure).

### **LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

#### ***Bills for introduction, consideration and passing***

12. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, hon. Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Appropriation (Regularization of Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2023."

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

13. **PU TAWNLUIA**, Deputy Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023.

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

14. **PU TAWNLUIA**, Deputy Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023.”

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

15. **PU TAWNLUIA**, Deputy Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2023.”

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

16. **PU R. LALZIRLIANA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023.”

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

LALHMAHRUAIA ZOTE  
Commissioner & Secretary

**SPEAKER** : *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*

*-Ephesians 6:10*

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

We will now start question and answer hour. Let us call upon Er. H. Lalzirliana to ask *Starred Question* no. 21.

**ER. H. LALZIRLIANA** : Pu Speaker, will the hon. minister for Higher & Technical Education Department be pleased to state-

- a) What is the current state and progress of NIT Mizoram at Lengpui?
- b) When will construction be resumed?
- c) What is the state of progress regarding clearance with Forest Department?

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Higher & Technical Education Department Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana.

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you.

- a) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has given 'Stage-I approval with certain conditions' on 7.6.2023. Diversion of forest land was also accepted by the same department.
- b) Definite date for resuming construction is unknown.
- c) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has given 'Stage-I approval with certain conditions' on 7.6.2023. Diversion of forest land was also accepted by the same department.

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

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. There are several villages in Thorang constituency with no teachers. Especially in the case of Tuisenchhuah, there is no teacher and the headmaster never visits the school. I beg the hon. Minister to settle this issue.

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary question - Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.*

**DR. VANLALTANPUIA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. My *Supplementary question* is- What is the latest update on Mizoram University Southern Campus?

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

**PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Firstly, would it be possible to not directly deposit government college admission fees to government account?

Secondly, how many contract Asst. Professor are there in 'zone of consideration' under 'Regularization on Contract Employees Scheme, 2008'?

My third question is the same as Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

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

**DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I apologize to Pu Zodintluanga Ralte as his question is not my purview and I cannot answer.

In answer to Dr. Vanlaltanpuia, we are doing our best to make this happen. However, there are some issues from central government which we are currently trying to solve.

In regards to the question posed by Pu Lalsawivunga, we have several discussions regarding this issue with Finance Department. There are some rules and regulations that need to be followed and I regret that I cannot give a definite answer at this time.

We have regularized about 70 contract assistant professors at the beginning of the year.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng to ask *Starred Question* no. 22.

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Pu Speaker, will the hon. minister for Tourism Department be pleased to state-

- a) How many tourists visit Mizoram during the year 2022-2023?
- b) Has this number has been reached in the past?

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

**PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you.

- a) 2,22,008 tourists visited Mizoram during the year 2022-2023.
- b) The number of tourists this year has been the highest since recorded.

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary question* – Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Is there any development plan for Lunglei in regards to tourism?

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

**DR. ZR. THIAMSANGA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. Is there any plan to develop wine tourism at Champhai and Hnahlan?

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

**PU K.T. ROKHAW** : Pu Speaker, thank you. I have mentioned this twice at the House. Does the government intent to construct tourist lodge or rest house near and around ‘*Castle of Beino*’?

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

**PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. In answer to Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, Tourism Department has been sanctioned Rs. 4488.52 lakhs under PRASAD Scheme. There are also several projects under Tourism Department aimed at Lunglei.

I would like to assure Dr. Z.R. Thiamsanga that we do plan to develop wine tourism as done by many states. Several projects are on the pipeline to realize this.

In answer to Pu K.T. Rokhaw, we do plan to develop the roads and the areas around Castle of Beino. Plan is there to construct not only a guesthouse, but an approach road and helipad as well.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu Vanlalhlana to ask *Starred Question* no.23.

**PU VANLALHLANA** : Pu Speaker, will the hon. minister for Home Department be pleased to state the reason why Assam Rifles has not yet transferred their base.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. minister to answer.

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the reason Assam Rifles has not yet transferred their base from Aizawl is that they are still expecting an MoU letter from Union Home Minister.

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary question - Pu Vanlalhlana.*

**PU VANLALHLANA** : Pu Speaker, the current ministry has made endless excuses and give reasons regarding the Assam Rifles issue. It was even in their manifesto. Can it be that they are making a promise that they cannot keep?

**SPEAKER** : *Supplementary questions - Dr. L. Thangmawia.*

**PU L. THANGMAWIA :** Pu Speaker, the hon. Union Home Minister gave his word on 1<sup>st</sup> April that Assam Rifles will move out of Aizawl within two months. Does the government receive any word on the reason why this is not realized?

Secondly, will they be able to open police outpost at Kawlkulh and Hnahlan during this term?

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

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, the hon. Revenue Minister mentioned on television that Assam Rifles have moved out. However, the hon. Home Minister just said the opposite. Can you please explain and elaborate?

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

**PU LALRINDIKA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, what does the government plan to do with 4<sup>th</sup> IR Bn. Hqrs. Rengdil?

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

**PU LALRINSANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, when will Vairengte IR Company headquarters be opened and start to function?

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

**DR. VANLALTHLANA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. Is the department aware of the recent breach of 'The Mizoram ST/SC Regulation of Issuance and Verification of Community Certificate Act, 2014, Section 11, sub-section (b)?

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

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. There have been many talks of Assam Rifles moving. However, this has not been realized yet. As mentioned by several members, this is a long process. It also appears that they are doing their best so as not to move their base and gave different reasons and excuses.

In answer to Pu L. Thangmawia, we have not received any information regarding the two months mentioned by the hon. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah.

We have received permission from GAD to establish police outpost at Kawlkulh, Hnahlan and East Lungdar.

In response to Pu Zodintluanga, some section and platoon did move to Zokhawsang. However, there are some who stayed behind.

Regarding Rengdil 4<sup>th</sup> IR Bn. Headquarters mentioned by Pu Lalrindika Ralte, Rengdil will function as Advanced Bn. Headquarters.

IR Company headquarters at Vairengte is expected to function from September.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Some section and platoon from Assam Rifles have moved a long time ago. However, there are some who stayed behind. As mentioned by the hon. Home Minister, they do have several reasons and excuses not to move. But we are also trying our best to make this happen. I would like to give my word that it will happen, it is just that the process is taking longer than we expected.

**CALLING ATTENTION MOTION**

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalduhoma has submitted a *Calling Attention Motion* according to *Rules 59*. Let us call upon Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. We are all aware that NHIDCL is working all around Mizoram. They are doing excavation work for development of roads. The actual work was done by their sub-contractor, Karam Company. They have no proper disposal system for loose soil and dirt which is causing devastation and destruction everywhere.

Zawlpui Zau is one such area which is suffering from their inefficiency. Rice fields and fish ponds around Zawlpui Zau is ravaged and several families have lost their land and livelihood.

We have not received any consoling words or any mention of any kind from the government regarding this issue. I strongly urge the government to take action and solve this issue. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Minister Pu C. Lalrinsanga.

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. it is unfortunate and I feel regretful at the suffering of families from Zawlpui Zau and Lumtui Zau.

I have personally visited these areas and try to assist them in any way possible, personally and as a department. We have given them monetary aid and looking at schemes to assist them.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Chief minister.



**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. It is regrettable that such an unfortunate event has occurred while pursuing development for our state.

I would like to reassure everyone that the government will take action regarding this issue and look for ways to compensate the families who have lost their land and livelihood.

### **LAYING OF PAPERS**

**SPEAKER** : We will move on to laying of papers. Let us call upon the hon. Chief minister Pu Zoramthanga to lay the following papers:

- i) *Report of the Second State Finance Commission Mizoram 2021-22 to 2025-26*
- ii) *Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Social, General, Economic and Revenue Sectors for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022*
- iii) *State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022*
- iv) *Thirty Second Annual Report, 2022-2023 of Mizoram Public Service Commission*
- v) *The Mizoram Protection of Interests of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Rules, 2023*

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. With your permission and the permission of the House, I lay the following papers:

- i) *Report of the Second State Finance Commission Mizoram 2021-22 to 2025-26*
- ii) *Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Social, General, Economic and Revenue Sectors for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022*
- iii) *State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022*
- iv) *Thirty Second Annual Report, 2022-2023 of Mizoram Public Service Commission*
- v) *The Mizoram Protection of Interests of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Rules, 2023*

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed. Let us call upon the hon. Dy. Chief Minister, Pu Tawnluia to lay the following papers-

- i) *The Mizoram Municipalities (Facilities to Mayor, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors) (Amendment) Rules, 2022*
- ii) *The Mizoram Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2022*
- iii) *Plastic Waste Management By-Laws, 2023*

**PU TAWNLUIA, DY. CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I lay the following papers-

- i) *The Mizoram Municipalities (Facilities to Mayor, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councilors) (Amendment) Rules, 2022*
- ii) *The Mizoram Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2022*
- iii) *Plastic Waste Management By-Laws, 2023*

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed and we will move to the next business. I request Pu Lalchamlia, hon. Minister to lay on the Table of the House 'Notification issued under the Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017' (w.e.f. 14.3.2023-4.8.2023).

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. The notifications issued between March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 under 'The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017' are hereby laid on the Table of the House. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed and we will proceed to the next business. I request Pu Lalchandama Ralte, hon. Minister to lay on the Table of the House 'The Industrial Relations (Mizoram) Rules, 2023'.

**PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission, I hereby lay on the Table of the House 'The Industrial Relations (Mizoram) Rules, 2023'.

### **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed and we will proceed to Presentation of Reports. I request Pu Vanlalhlana, Chairman of Public Accounts Committee to present the following reports-

- i) *Eleventh Report of Public Accounts Committee on Actions Taken by the Government against the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Agriculture Department.*
- ii) *Twelfth Report of Public Accounts Committee on The Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-19 relating to Tourism Department.*
- iii) *Thirteenth Report of Public Accounts Committee on The Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-19 relating to Sports & Youth Services Department.*

**PU VANLALHLANA** : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby present-

- i) *Eleventh Report of Public Accounts Committee on Actions Taken by the Government against the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Agriculture Department.*

- ii) *Twelfth Report of Public Accounts Committee on The Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-19 relating to Tourism Department.*
- iii) *Thirteenth Report of Public Accounts Committee on The Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-19 relating to Sports & Youth Services Department.*

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed and I commend our committee for their works. I request Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, *Chairman (Committee on Papers Laid on the Table)* to present the following-

- i) *Statement on Action taken by the Government on the Further Recommendations contained in the Sixth Action Taken Report of Committee on Papers Laid on the Table relating to Finance Department.*
- ii) *Seventh Report of Committee on Paper Laid on the Table (2022-2023) relating to Commerce & Industries Department.*

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby present.

- i) *Statement on Action taken by the Government on the Further Recommendations contained in the Sixth Action Taken Report of Committee on Papers Laid on the Table relating to Finance Department.*
- ii) *Seventh Report of Committee on Paper Laid on the Table (2022-2023) relating to Commerce & Industries Department.*

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed and we will proceed to the next business. I request Pu Ramthanmawia, *Chairman of Estimates Committee* to present *'The Second Report of Estimates Committee on Skywalk and Ropeway Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme relating to Tourism Department'*.

**PU RAMTHANMAWIA** : Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby present *"The Second Report of Estimates Committee on Skywalk and Ropeway Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme relating to Tourism Department"*.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed and we will proceed to the next business. I request Pu Zothantluanga, *Chairman of Committee on Petition* to present *"Statement on Action Taken by the Government of Mizoram on the Further Recommendations Contained in the Second Action Taken Report of Committee on Petition Relating to School Education Department"*.

**PU ZOTHANTLUANGA:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House I hereby present *"Statement on Action Taken by the Government of Mizoram on the Further Recommendations Contained in the Second Action Taken Report of Committee on Petition Relating to School Education Department"*

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed and we will move to *Financial Business*.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

We will proceed with “*Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2019-20 (Regularization of Excess Expenditure)*”. *Supplementary Demand* is never discussed in the House. However, members can express their questions and concerns. I request the Hon’ Chief Minister and Finance Minister, Pu Zoramthanga to submit “*Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2019-20 (Regularization of Excess Expenditure)*”

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I beg the House to introduce “*Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2019-20 (Regularization of Excess Expenditure)*”. (**Speaker:** I request him to introduce)

Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House I hereby introduce “*Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2019-20 (Regularization of Excess Expenditure)*”.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copies be distributed. The *Supplementary Demand* is for the regularization of unregularized excess expenditure by government departments which appears in the C&AG Report. The *Public Accounts Committee* has studied and made a recommendation for regularization. I request the hon. Chief minister to beg the House to pass it and make clarifications if needed.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, The *Supplementary Demand for Grants* is the regularization of excess expenditure for the three years - 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2019-20. Excess expenditure is usually not spent with money. Miscalculation and technical reasons are usually the reasons why regularization is required. The CAG Report on excess expenditure is being carefully studied by the PAC under the Legislative Assembly. Departments are summoned and after knowing the true situation, a report is submitted to the House for consideration. Measures are taken for regularization after the House approved the PAC Report.

Thus, the PAC recommendation for regularization of excess expenditure of Mizoram government departments for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2019-20 is ₹8,387.87 lakhs. This includes charged expenditure of ₹0.74 lakhs that is not required to be passed by the House and the voted expenditure that the House had to pass is ₹8,387.13 lakhs.

Pu Speaker, as recommended by the PAC, I beg the House to pass ‘*Supplementary Demand for Grants for Regularization of Excess Expenditure*’ of ₹8,387.13 lakhs in order to regularize the excess expenditures for the following three years-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (₹ in lakhs)</i>
2016-2017	6,145.78
2017-2018	1,250.53
2019-2020	990.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,387.13</b>

I beg the House to pass '*Supplementary Demand for Grants*' for the regularization of excess expenditure. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Chief minister and Finance Minister Pu Zoramthanga has begged the House to pass '*Supplementary Demand for Grant for 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2019-20 - Regularization of Excess Expenditure*'. All those in Favor may say 'yes' and those not in Favor may say 'no' (Members: *Yes*) The House has unanimously passed '*Supplementary Demand for Grant for 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2019-20 - Regularization of Excess Expenditure*' (**Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister:** Thank you, Pu Speaker.) I would like to applaud PAC on this regard.

### **LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

We will proceed to *Legislative Business* and we have five *Government Bills* for consideration today. I request hon. Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga to beg the House to introduce "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Regularization of Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2023*".

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, this was already passed

**SPEAKER** : Appropriation is of a necessity.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I beg the House to introduce "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Regularization of Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2023*".

**SPEAKER** : Do we agree? (*The House agreed*) Let it be introduced.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I hereby introduce "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Regularization of Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2023*". (**Speaker:** I request him to beg the House to pass and move his Bill.)

I beg the House to pass "*The Mizoram Appropriation (Regularization of Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2023*"

**SPEAKER** : This is never discussed as I have mentioned earlier. All those members in favour to pass “*The Mizoram Appropriation (Regularization of Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2023*” may say ‘Yes’. (**Members:** ‘Yes’). All those not in favour may say ‘No’.

The House has unanimously passed “*The Mizoram Appropriation (Regularization of Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2023*”. (**Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister:** Thank you, Pu Speaker.)

We will proceed to Bill No. 2. I request Pu Tawnluia, Dy. Chief Minister to beg the House to introduce ‘*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*’

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission, I beg the House to introduce ‘*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*’.

**SPEAKER** : Do we all agree? (*The House agreed*) Let it be introduced.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I hereby introduce ‘*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*’. (**Speaker:** I request him to move his Bill for a discussion.)

Thank you, Pu Speaker. The bill I am introducing today is a bill that has never been introduced in this way before and I hope that the members will read it carefully.

The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023 is the most reliable bill for drinking water and crop production in Mizoram. As the population increases, so does the demand for water. At the same time, the water resources are decreasing and conservation is needed. Tlawng River which feeds Aizawl and Lunglei cities should be conserved specially since the residents will face water shortage if the law is not passed soon.

PHE Department held a meeting with relevant departments like Irrigation, Forest, Revenue and Law & Judicial on May 24, 2021 to discuss the conservation of Tlawng River and the State Level Savings Committee and working committee are than established. State level Save Tlawng Committee meeting was held on June 23, 2022 at the Chief Minister's office and the meeting approved the drafting of a law to protect all Mizoram rivers and not just Tlawng river.

Thus, The Committee on Draft Mizoram River Protection Bill was formed under the chairmanship of the CM. That committee formed a sub-committee and the agriculture minister is the Chairman of the sub-committee that prepares the draft bill. The sub-committee formed a working group of seven members to draft the draft bill

and this working group was convened by the Secretary of the Law & Judicial Department. The draft prepared by the working group was discussed by the sub-committee in consultation with the concerned departments. Thus, the Draft Mizoram Protection of Rivers Bill, 2023 was approved on May 9, 2023 and the drafting committee's approval was submitted to the Mizoram government.

The Draft Mizoram Protection of Rivers Bill, 2023 was drafted as an ordinance and The Mizoram Protection of Rivers Ordinance, 2023 was presented to the Cabinet meeting which was approved by the Cabinet on May 18, 2023. The Governor's approval was sought and then The Mizoram Protection of Rivers Ordinance, 2023 was published in the Mizoram gazette on June 8, 2023. The Ordinance is for a few months only and is to be introduced in the first session. The Mizoram Protection of Rivers Bill, 2023 was prepared and it is approved by the Cabinet. It is presented today in this House for the members to discuss it.

The Bill in general is as follows- The Mizoram Protection of Rivers Bill, 2023 is divided into six chapters and 29 sections. The preamble said that Mizoram's rivers are the source of clean drinking water for humans, livestock, irrigation, fishing and other purposes. The destruction of the river banks due to population growth and agricultural practices and the decline in river water levels are also highlighted. The Mizoram Protection of Rivers Ordinance, 2023 was published an article 213(2) of the Constitution requires the Legislative Assembly to lay the ordinance and as written on the preamble, it is presented today.

*Chapter 1 contains sections 1 & 2, which describe the name of the Act, the scope of the Act excluding the Autonomous District Council area of Mizoram, the definition and application of various terms in the Act.*

*Chapter 2 contains sections 3 - 7, which deal with the establishment of Mizoram River Protection Authority, District Authority, Working Group for District Authority and Local Authority. The Chief Secretary is the chairman of the State Authority and Secretary of GAD is the Member-Secretary. Representatives of various departments, NGOs, VCs and Local Councils were present. In addition, the State Authority's functions, nodal department appointment and nodal department functions as well as designated officer appointment are highlighted as well.*

*Chapter 3 contains sections 8 – 14 and this chapter deals with the declaration of protected-rivers and river-conservation zones by the state government. Protected river and river conservation zone shall be declared by the local authority with a proposal which shall go up to the district authority and considered by the state authority. The State Government shall issue a notification and conduct a survey as recommended by the State Authority. Once the notification is issued, complaint deadlines will be set and the government will issue a final notification declaring protected-river and river-conservation zones after the appeal deadline expires.*

*Chapter 4 contains sections 15 – 18* and it deals with activities that affect water and wildlife within protected rivers and river-conservation zones. Quarry construction, land reclamation and commercial waterway construction, underground excavation and other activities are prohibited.

*Chapter 5 contains sections 19 – 23* and it deals with the penalties for offenses under the Act and the person who can punish them.

*Chapter 6 contains sections 24 - 29* which deal with the rewards for an offender witness, the creation and expenditure of the Mizoram River Protection Authority fund and the rules made under the Act.

Pu Speaker, Mizoram's rivers are the source of clean water and it is important for our crops and daily consumption. However, our water resources are decreasing with each passing year due to population growth and agricultural practices. Therefore, proper protection measures should be introduced before further problems occur. I present "*Mizoram Protection of Rivers Bill, 2023*" in this House today for consideration as it is an important bill and I hope that we pass it unanimously. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Tawnluia, hon. Dy. Chief Minister has explained the reason for his presentation and we will now have a discussion. Each member will be given 10 minutes and I request Pu C. Lalrinsanga, Minister.

**PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** I appreciate today's bill and our leaders appointed me as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee which I appreciate a lot. It is impressive that '*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*' is introduced and the importance of this bill will be remembered in the future.

Pu Speaker, it is painful that some of our rivers are polluted due to our negligence and our water sources are drying. So, I am quite pleased that we have taken steps to protect our rivers in various ways.

'Save Tlawng was the starting point and 'Tlawng Lui Protection Bill' was also introduced last year. Tlawng Lui conservation meetings were often held in the past. However, according to the Mizoram Land Revenue Rules, there are 19 rivers while according to the Statistical Handbook 2022, there are 16 rivers. Therefore, the Drafting Committee on all river conservation was formed under the chairmanship of Dy. CM Pu Tawnluia.

PHE Department and Forest Department have their own bodies prepared and in combination with this, we have examined the plans that were in place. The Drafting Sub-Committee cannot look at all the bills at once and that is why the working groups were formed. Thus, in the course of the working group's activities, the drafting sub-



committee was held five times. ‘*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*’ was notified in the ordinance on June 7 after the Cabinet considered it.

(Hon. Deputy Speaker at the Chair)

If plans are carried out, our bills in these ordinances 'shall be legislated within six months' if I am not mistaken. At the same time, I appreciate our Dy. CM's enthusiasm and this bill is quite impressive.

‘*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*’ is divided into 6 chapters and 29 Sections and several clauses are included in these chapters. Chapter 3 outlines state level authority, district and local level action plans, VC, NGO and public cooperation. Responsibilities are properly arranged within the limits of authority. There are also times when the bill is revised and so this bill may not be what it looks like. So, we will not see the flaws unless we use it.

Water and catchment area protection is very important. Integrated Farming System (IFPS) is also planned to be implemented in my department.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the bill may not be perfect and there may be some things that need to be changed. However, we can still continue with amendment and rewrite. Therefore, I request all members to pass the bill as it is. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I request Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

**PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA** : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. I am pleased that the hon. Dy. CM has introduced ‘*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*’ and it is especially important for us who live beside the river.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I would like to read this with your permission. “Due to ever increase in population, over-exploitation, solid-waste dumping, etc., the quality and quantity of the river water available in Mizoram has been degraded extensively over the past few years.” I talked about fencing at every session and the government is not thinking clearly. We are located on the banks of the river and the Indo-Bangladesh border fencing is 318 km long. The western river is currently flooded and Mizoram has never experienced such a flood before. However, the dumping ground at the border fencing is not maintained properly and all the soil flowed into the western river when it is raining and thus, destroying livelihoods. According to the guidelines, fencing should be done from 0-150 yards inside the Indian territory but they destroyed all our fertile lands.

Pu Dy. Speaker, our western-river also need to be protected bas it is degrading and there is too much siltation. This is a serious problem. The western-river was quite deep when we were young but today, we can cross it with our feet.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the bill body is excellent and it should have been submitted earlier. It is unfortunate that our water resources are not being managed properly. Therefore, I support this Bill to be passed. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I request Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

**PU C. LALMUANPUIA** : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I appreciate ‘*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*’ presented by our hon. Dy. Chief Minister and it is a useful tool for food and agriculture development. We know that our rivers are descending and this bill includes the management and protection of the catchment areas. Looking at the wider parts of India, we see that their rivers are very polluted and they are doing their utmost to clean them up. Sonapur river is almost completely polluted because the state is developing with big factories and industries and a lot of chemical waste is flowing down the water which pollutes the rivers and kills the aquatic creatures. All the central rivers including the Ganges are also all very polluted. Mizoram is also expected to face the same problem in the near future and so, I believe it is the right time to pass this bill. Therefore, I support this bill to be passed. We need to focus on not only protecting the depleting rivers but also turning the catchment areas into forests.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I truly support this bill as it is a necessity. One of the reasons why we need to protect our rivers is that we need to protect the fishes in Tlawng River. This bill will also prevent all these pollutants. I support this Bill to be passed. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : We will have recess and we will continue at 2:00 PM.  
(*Recess at 1:30 PM*)

### **2:00 PM**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : We will continue with our Bill and I request Dr. K. Pachhunga.

**DR. K. PACHHUNGA** : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. This is an important Bill and it is remarkable for Mizoram. This affects everyone and it is an important issue for all of us. The world is aging and the UN is also concerned about it. Global temperatures are rising as the world becomes more populated. Firstly, emissions of carbon dioxide are increasing due to the industrial revolution. Secondly, the greenhouse effect makes the global climate uncontrollable. Summits were held several times and it was a key point of the environmental summit. Mizoram population is also increasing which demands development and roads and communication are needed. Trees are destroyed, forests are being depleted and rivers are drying up. The global climate has doubled in the past 10 years and if it continues to do so, the icebergs at the north and south poles

will melt and the sea levels will rise which the world must face whether it likes it or not. All these disasters are caused by human desire for development.

Tlawng river is also drying up and this is due to the lack of awareness of the people of the catchment area. Mizo people are still not conscious about environment and the behaviour of our society is not environmentally friendly. That is why NGOs and YMA's are contributing a lot to environmental protection.

The only thing we can do to increase the water supply is to implement the Bill carefully. Catchment area demarcation should be clearly stated and the 19 rivers like Chhimtuipui, Tlawng, Tuirini and their tributaries should be protected. The world is beyond our control and Mizoram state alone cannot correct the global climate issue. However, we should at least work together in our catchment area. Afforestation automatically prevents water shortages and Mizoram has received monsoon rain very well. However, when the sun shines for a month without any rain, the water content of the soil evaporates and the volume of water decreases. When we plant trees, the tree does not release water but it prevents the rainwater from evaporating from the soil. Therefore, this Bill is for the benefit of the nation.

I would like to mention that during the Covid-19 pandemic, our officials and departments have done their utmost to introduce central schemes through JJM scheme in my constituency. So, I would like to thank the concern minister on behalf of my constituency.

In conclusion, our land is deteriorating due to lack of environmental nature and behaviour. Our water sources are drying up and scientists predict that the world will wage a war on water in the future. Therefore, we should do our utmost to implement this bill while we are still enjoying good forests and good rains. I support this Bill to be passed. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I request Prof. F. Lalnunmawia.

**DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA** : Pu Dy. Speaker, '*The Mizoram Protection of Rivers Bill, 2023*' introduced by our Dy. CM is an important Bill and it is impressive that it is introduced. The Bill explained the establishment of the Mizoram River Protection Authority and the implementation of the Act.

Serlui is drying up fast and its catchment area is used for farming which caused the water supply to be reduced significantly. I am pleased that it mentions the conservation, management and improvement of the catchment area and afforestation planning around our rivers. Measures will be taken only with the state authority's permission after the implementation of this bill and I believe this bill will greatly protect our rivers and their surroundings. This Bill will prohibit shifting cultivation and garbage dumping in the catchment area. In addition, chemical fertilizers and pesticides are used

in many places in agriculture today and its prohibition will soon be available. Industry and manufacturing facilities along the river will be treated with caution and banned in dangerous areas. The bill also introduced a fine of ₹1,000-10,000 for violators of the law. Industry workers and those who caused fires and water pollution will also be sentenced to six months imprisonment and fines of ₹1,000 - 1,00,000 is also imposed. I believe that this Bill will protect us to some extent if we implement it properly. This Bill may not be desirable. However, we should try it out and then amend it necessary. As for now, I believe that it will help us in conserving our water bodies and rivers if we do our best. I am sure that the people of Mizoram, civil society, NGOs, environmentalists and experts will be quite appreciated if this bill is passed. Therefore, I support this Bill to be passed. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I request Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

**PU LALRINDIKA RALTE:** Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Section 15(c) states that no stone, sand, timber or anything else shall be taken without the permission of the state authority. It also states that the government shall have extensive authority to protect the river. Sections 19, 20 and 22 also state that woods, sand, stones etc. taken without the permission of the Government shall be fined twice the value of the goods taken.

Creation is made for mankind but we must also protect it. It is not right for us to walk on the creations according to our own desires and God has a perfect plan for the earth and the sky to have a perfect relationship. Therefore, if we do not protect our rivers, we will only cause harm to ourselves.

I support this bill but I believe that there are things that need to be reviewed and added as it progresses. I support this 'Protection of Rivers' bill knowing that it is for the people. I would also like to express my support for this Bill so that the people can utilize the rivers for their convenience and livelihood. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I request Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

**DR. VANLALTANPUIA** : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. It is impressive that '*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*' and '*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023*' are presented today along with the ordinances.

The importance of rivers and water is quite obvious. The demands are quite high in Mizoram since we live on top of the mountains and it is difficult to receive water unlike the plain areas. India is also launching 'Save Ganga' campaign. Thus, the world is increasingly dealing with the water crisis. Mizoram is not cautious about the rivers and we are now facing the consequences. Therefore, I truly appreciate the Bill introduced by our Dy. CM today. This bill talks about catchment area protection and I think it is necessary to enhance it. It should also be amended as soon as possible.

Ground Water Control issues were mentioned but it seems that there are no alternatives and research should be done carefully. Ground water harvesting is also mentioned but some other things that are hardly mentioned are recycle systems, better water treatment plants, better research wings, and cooperation with international experts. Underground water extraction is the main source of water in Delhi and its annual rainfall does not replenish ground water which means that underground water is also drying up. Therefore, we should find better systems and alternative systems. Anyway, I am quite pleased that the Dy. CM has introduced this bill. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I request Dr. BD. Chakma.

**PU B.D. CHAKMA** : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. Extent & commencement para 2 states that Autonomous District Council is not included since there are separate laws within our ADC area. However, the committee titled “Constitution of the Mizoram River Protection Authority” in chapter II has several members and Secretary and HoD of the department will be members. In addition, members are listed from (a) to (j). However, some important departments like PWD are not included here because roads are as much important as water. It is often mentioned that we do not have clean water because of soil pollution and so, PWD should be involved. Industries will also be involved directly or indirectly. P & E Department is also excluded and there can be no good electricity without hydro-electricity power plant. Therefore, P&E should also be included.

I agree with this bill but I believe that the practical implementation will be difficult. Fisheries, Agriculture, Horticulture departments and labourers will be mostly affected. If the river is to be declared a notified area, there is farming and fish-farming on the river. Vegetable farms are also built along the river in case of horticulture. However, Agriculture and Horticulture departments along with NGO representatives and AMFU are not included in the committee. If this is to be notified, what about all the establishments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries? What about the labourers? We should think about compensations. YMA is among the NGO representatives and YCA should also be included. It would be appreciated if the Minister tells us the measures to be taken for fisheries, agriculture and horticulture farmers.

If this bill is to be an act, it will be the master of all acts because it would have to involve all departments. We have left-out many departments and PWD and P&E should be included at the least. Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I request Er. H. Lalzirliana.

**ER. H. LALZIRLIANA** : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. It is impressive that our Dy. Cm introduced ‘*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*’ Chapter-III & IV are quite important and as mentioned by Pu BD Chakma, some departments are not included among the members and this should be kept in mind when it is amended.

Water shortage is a global issue. Climate change and various factors like human lifestyle and development are causing serious problems. The rivers are drying up and we are facing water shortage. It is important that we protect and develop our rivers. Mizoram's rivers have seen a sharp decline in water levels in the past 10-15 years because of development and we, the people as well as the government have not really paid attention to our rivers.

Mamit is famous for its water shortage and we have not received enough water till today. Therefore, a proposal was made for rain-water harvesting in Tuidai River near Mamit and it will also be used for groundwater recharging, irrigation purposes and food consumption. Pu Dy. Speaker, the authorities and the members are in place and I believe that passing this Bill will pave a way for mankind. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I request Pu Zaithanzama.

**PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA:** Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. We have a wonderful opportunity to discuss this bill. It is a shame that we are still polluting our rivers and we will face the consequences. We demolished our old house and there is no place to dump the debris. This pollutes the river and we need to make a dumping ground for these purposes. We pollute our water supply especially in Aizawl and we need to solve this issue. Committee Members are usually more likely to be stronger if they are less and if we continue to increase the numbers, they will not agree on several terms. That will be all and thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I request Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

**DR. ZR. THIAMSSANGA :** Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker and it is impressive that our Dy. CM introduces an important bill. Global warming is the world's biggest threat and Mizoram also faces a drastic change in environment. Our water sources are also reducing. 60% of the human body is made up of water and adults need 3.7 litres of drinking water per day according to WHO. 50-100 litres of water is usually required for daily needs and we cannot live without water. Therefore, all our rivers should be protected and it is also our responsibility as a nation. Awareness and moral education should be implemented as much as possible. UD&PA has taken a lot of steps in waste management and we need good awareness as individuals, groups and even as a church. It is disappointing that we could not implement plastic free till today. Therefore, the people should respect and protect the rivers and we must gradually stop shifting cultivation. Planting trees are becoming quite popular but it is unfortunate that we do not take care of them after planting. (Hon' Speaker at the chair)

Pu Speaker, I support '*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*' to be passed. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I request Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

**PU LALCHHUANTHANGA:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. Our Dy. CM has introduced an excellent Bill but I was wondering if we might be a little late. We need to protect and improve forests in order to have good water source and we do not have enough water because we do not have enough forests. We need a good power project to create and protect the forests. We would not have to destroy our forests every year if we have a good power project. Since we produced a lot of charcoal from our forests, our forests are not able to protect the rainfall. Therefore, we must protect and increase our forests since it is also related to global warming.

It has been 50 years since we became UT but we do not have any major power project. We can protect our forests if we have large power projects. We never take any steps to build big power projects and P&E needs to take measures on power projects.

I support *The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023* and we should also take measures on power project so that our bill is successful. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I request hon. Minister Er. Lalrinawma.

**ER. LALRINAWMA, MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. This is an important bill and I would like to talk about the protection of our water resources and rivers. We build houses but we never spare spaces for drains and steps even in Aizawl. RD should promote contour trenching in rural areas from 100 Days of Wage Employment.....  
(*audio failure*)

In addition, development has reduced the amount of water that enters the soil which reduced the water that flows from the river. Therefore, the central government's request for action should be taken seriously.

The soak pits in the cities are not good enough and PHE should implement bio-digester more intensively which will purify the river water. Many of our soak-pits in the city are released to the rivers and that is why bio-digester should be implemented more effectively. Pu Speaker, I support this bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I request Pu Vanlalhlana.

**PU VANLALHLANA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Mizoram's population is increasing rapidly while the water supply is decreasing. So, it is our responsibility to take steps to increase our water supply.

Tlawng Lui which is Mizoram's largest river is always drying up during dry season and we must take measures to protect our rivers. However, I would like to talk about the impact if this Bill is passed.

Mizoram has a riverine reserved forests of 800 meters each and the Protection Act has been in force since 1965. However, the Gauhati High Court, Aizawl Bench issued a repeal order on January 27, 2021 and it seems that Mizoram government does not intend to appeal against the order. The Central YMA and environmentalists strongly opposed to this. Mizoram's riverine reserve forest is 800 meters each and private land ownership is not allowed within this area. However, it was discovered that several people owned lands when Tuirial Hydel Project was built and more than 40 people claimed compensation, verified it and received compensation. Later, compensation claims increased dramatically and these people were the land owners of the riverine reserved forest area. The Chief Secretary issued an order saying that the people in these reserved forest areas will not receive compensation. However, the claimant associations staged bandhs, closed gates, filed law suits in court and they were justified. The government then did not appeal against the High Court's conviction and they decided to pay the money. However, YMA and environmentalists did not like this and they appealed to the court that leads to the unsettling compensation.

Mizoram Government issued a notification on 14th April, 2021 to protect 16 rivers and their banks. However, the notification is issued separately without rejecting the previous case and this does not make sense. The majority of Mizoram citizens want the 1965 law to be re-implemented. However, this does not appear to be the government's intention and so The Centre for Environmental Protection appealed to the Supreme Court and won. Therefore, the Riverine Reserved Forest is to be established.

Later, the Government hastily introduced the Protection of Rivers although it is unclear which rivers should be identified. All these would be cancelled and compensations claims will revive if this bill is passed. So, it is difficult to pass this bill unless we are clear on that. The potential impact is not only the compensation but also the destruction of the Riverine Reserved Forests. Therefore, it is better not to pass this bill as it is. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I request Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Thank you, Pu Speaker. *The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023* is being discussed and I would like to start by saying that we had done water conservation works while we were in the District Council. This session will be the last session for this term unless there are emergencies. Pu Speaker, I am pleased with your leadership and the way you lead the chair in this House is quite comforting for the opposition as well. I also applaud the Assembly staffs for their commitment in their works.

This is an excellent bill that we need very much. The population is increasing and we cannot live without water. Riverine Reserved Forest was established in 1965 but the government did not pay attention to this. Therefore, as we pass this bill today, it is



necessary to pay attention and monitor it carefully. No matter how good a bill is passed in this House, it will be meaningless if we do not enforce it properly.

For example: the PHE Minister has introduced this bill in the House but it may not have much meaning if the Revenue Department does not pay attention to it.

NH-54 that is Zemabawk to Tuipang four-lane road is currently constructed by NHIDCL and I often asked if the State PWD is aware of the works of NHIDCL. However, I was answered that the State PWD is not aware of anything. This is our land and PWD is responsible for our roads. As mentioned by West Tuipui representative, the western river is severely flooded because the border fencing works are carried out without any special dumping facility. The soil then flows into the river during rainy season which caused severe floods that destroyed many fields.

NHIDCL carry the works as they please and there are no supervisors. Serchhip representative also mentioned that Serchhip farmers faced problems due to lacking of soil dumping ground. So, even if we passed this bill today, it will be meaningless unless it is taken seriously. This is our land and there is no one other than us to protect our land. These workers are from outside the state and they destroy our land since there are no supervisors. We are the ones who suffer. So, there is a need to give awareness to the public as much as possible regarding this bill, garbage disposal and littering.

*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023* ' is an excellent bill and let us hope that it can be amended as necessary. Pu Speaker, I support *The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023* ' Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I request Dr. Vanlalhlana.

**DR. VANLALTHLANA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker. We are discussing *The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023* ' today which was previously known as 'Ordinance'. The Central Government drafted a Notification on 'Rivers Regulation Zone' in 2016 which include 'Prohibited Activities Zone', 'Restricted' and 'Regulated Activities Zone'. The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs issued guidelines on 'River Centric Urban Guidelines' in 2021 and the Prohibited Activity Zone was used where "500 meters from the highest flood level in the past 50 years should be a prohibited zone." Then came the 'Restricted Activity Zone' which will have limits extended from the outer limits of the prohibited zone and up to 1 km. Finally, the 'Regulated Zone' was imposed where this zone extends up to 3 km from the outer limits of the restricted activities zone.

Pu speaker, I am a member of 'Save Chite Lui' Coordination Committee since the beginning and it is impressive to have this bill. I believe there are about 22 members in Mizoram River Protection Authority and this authority is scheduled to meet every three months. The central government's 'activity zone' I had mentioned earlier is not

mentioned in this bill and 'Mizoram River Protection Authority Fund' will require a lot of funds even though the financial memorandum said that no fund is required and it is only to be received from fees, fines and penalties.

We made recommendations on PHE since 2019 and we requested our Minister to implement pilot projects in our constituency. Sewers should be made of RCC from the top of the hill in big cities and they should be covered. They should be wielded around to prevent large garbage from passing through. Our waters are flowing fast because of our steep hills and that is why we need to create more banks in order to prevent this.

Section 19 introduced 'search and seizure' which allows the government to enter a person's house and collect his property. This is quite rare in Mizoram. Even if this Bill is passed, what is the purpose if we do not implement it properly? The existing laws caused serious destruction that many workers are in trouble. We signed agreement with the district offices but they hardly take any measures.

However, we have a law to prevent NHDCIL from taking any other steps and we have a person to handle this. How will we proceed if this Bill is passed? What if the people are the victims again? Pu Speaker, what will happen if we are not strong in its implementation? Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I request Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, we have a source at Tuirial. NEEPCO paid ₹24 crore to the Forest Department in 1998 for Compensatory Afforestation as the 17 km area of Tuirial dam was Forest land. There were only 48 individuals receiving compensation at that time and it was during the Congress Government. The government carefully monitored the list and issued an order saying that no one shall have any land here except for these 48 individuals. Election was held in 2003 and the ban was repealed. Many people began to have farms on Tuirial bank and they took a lot of compensation. A powerful brother suspended NEEPCO employees for 62 days to pressure them to pay compensation. This is why heavy cases have been filed in the recent years which is unfortunate. The main obstacle to compensation was the Riverine Reserved Forest Act which we had since the District Council period. The compensation seekers find this quite bothersome and they appealed to the Guwahati High Court. On January 27, 2021, the Guwahati High Court - Single Bench revoked the 56-years protection of 16 river banks and reserved roads between Aizawl and Silchar. For 56 years, this was passed by our first leaders knowing that our nation needs it and someone filed a complaint and the Guwahati High Court dismissed it. The judgment stated that the State Government may compensate these people if it wishes. I want us to know that the main point of today's Bill is based on compensation. This shocked a lot of people. The Chief Secretary chaired a meeting on 08.02.2021 to challenge the High Court judgement. However, on 18.2.2021, the CM chaired a meeting and said that the

judgement should not be challenged and the Revenue Department should handle the assessment of the compensation beneficiaries immediately. Therefore, it is all about compensation from the beginning to the end.

When it was only ‘the Protection of Rivers Act’, GAD issued a notification notifying restricted areas on 14.4.2021. GAD is not even the concern department and the notification was issued in a hurry. Forest is a 'Concurrent List' of Central and State authorities and we cannot pass it as we please. The YMA and the public pressured the government to challenge the Guwahati High Court judgement and the government did so under that pressure. However, the government withdrew later when it calmed down. Then, the Centre for Environmental Protection went to the Supreme Court but they could not appeal since they were a third party. So, they made a request for the third party to appeal and an intra-court appeal was allowed. On 17.1.2023, the Principal Bench revoked the High Court Single Bench's decision to repeal the Riverine Forest. Therefore, this act which we had during the District Council period is still in force today. However, an interim order was issued instead of a final judgment due to various cases. At present, the act which we had during the District Council is still protected by the High Court and it is still in force. So, it is wrong to present this bill that is against the existing rules.

The law is being drafted and there is a Drafting Committee, a Sub-Committee and a Working Group. The Cabinet approved it and the Governor assented to it on 25 May. After the Governor's assent, the Ordinance was passed in a hurry. Pu Speaker, why do we make ordinance?

**PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, Point of Order- I was wondering what Act was our opposition Group leader talking about. The notification was issued on April 16, 1956 and it is just a notification. A notification is not yet an act and the Riverine Reserved Forest, 1965 notification is not an act but a notification.

**PU LALDUHOMA :** Pu Speaker, it is a notification under the Mizo District Council Forest Act, 1955. Notifications are issued on the basis of the act and notification cannot be issued without the basis of the act. GAD's notification is not based on any act.

**PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, it is all related to that. The notification of Riverine Reserved Forest, 1965 is a notification and not an act nor a rule. It is just a notification. So, it would be appreciated if the leader refers to it as a notification and not as an act.

**PU LALDUHOMA :** Pu Speaker, that is another opinion. Notifications are issued under the law. The gazette notification issued on 28.1.1965 was issued on the basis of under Section 1, Mizo District Council Forest Act, 1955.

So why was the Ordinance issued in June? There was only a month in between and it was known that we would have a session in August. So, why is the government in a hurry to pass the Ordinance? The nodal department has not been formed yet nor has the Local Authority been formed at any level. They are in a hurry to disrupt the High Court case filed by the Centre for Environment Protection. This is the additional affidavit filed by our government in the High Court under this Ordinance and this will disrupt the Centre for Environment Protection efforts to enforce the existing laws during the District Council period. Therefore, the enactment of a law that is contrary to the existing law is a part of judicial intervention.

In a democracy, there are 3 things- Legislature, Executive and Judiciary and we all have different authorities. Today, our government is trying to take a hold of judiciary's power. So, the doctrine of separation of powers is bridged by this bill of ours and this is something we need to think about. We all agreed to protect the rivers but we need to think where this law will lead us.

This Bill does not cover district council areas. Reserve Forests are covered by the Bill but Khawthlangtuipui, Tuichawng, Kau and Phairuang are not covered. The rivers to be covered and protected should be chosen the villagers and not us. Meanwhile, this can revoke the protection of the 16 rivers and this is the time of concern.

Pu Speaker, 'Mizoram Land Revenue Act' was passed and with your permission, 'Mizoram Land Revenue Rules, 2013, (Rule 4)' states that 'No land shall be processed for allotment within the area of 800 meters measuring from the centre on either side of the following rivers'. Today, we have introduced another bill and so, which one will be used?

**SPEAKER** : Our time is now over and shall we continue? (*The House agreed*) You may continue.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Let us pass this Bill (**Speaker:** You may continue)

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, we will not pass it retrospectively today. Our laws and the laws during the District Council period can be interrupted and the High Court's decision is also to be heard. So, we should not be in haste with this since something more complicated could happen.

**SPEAKER** : I request the hon. Chief minister.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, this bill is necessary and there is much to be said. Opposition Group Leader Pu Duha's statement is true and our forest laws are a mess. Mizoram is not only in trouble and India is also in trouble. The original inhabitants' lands were declared forest areas without their

knowledge and this is our main concern including the central. Likewise, our former leaders declared that half a mile of these 16 rivers is forest land and the inhabitants were not aware of these. So, if the government was to implement that, it would be impossible to evict all the inhabitants of Bairabi, Sairang, and Hortoki.

That is why we are endlessly busy till today. The Forest will now declare which area they want as a sanctuary when they acquire lands. The inhabitants of the lands will be compensated and asked to relocate instead. Forest area is declared after notification, hearing and compliance with the law. Therefore, the High Court stated that it is wrong to declare a forest area without the knowledge of the inhabitants. They said it was announced as a forest area without their approval.

We thought that it would be better if we start advocating for riverine protection so that the generations of today shall know the importance. We also consulted the NGOs and we decided we must devise a protection law for our state, then the '*Riverine Protection Bill*' came into being. For the advantage of the nearby residents, we requested they announce us as a 'protection area' so the necessary work could be done accordingly. For example, Chalfilh Mountain was listed as a forest area around the 1970s. Their land was taken away, and the residents were unaware of this; a petition was later brought to the Court. On the contrary, Dampa and Murlen sanctuaries were legally listed as forest areas, and no one can file a petition against this. If we look at that carefully, I might also be the one who started making the mistake. We thought Chalfilh would be a favorable tourist center so we decided to make it a tourist spot. During our 10-year term, we did not know it was a forest area, nor did our CM. After an inspection was done from the Centre, we started doing construction.

As the construction continued during Pu Hawla's government, we were told it was a forest area. We were notified to take down all the construction and to cancel the plans from the Green Tribunal. Such a case is so problematic for a state like ours.

If we say that Bairabi, Hortoki, and Sairang are all against the law, the angry crowd would even dare to fight for it. Since the High Court notified us that everything should be taken down, we want to protect the area from free activities, which is why we opted for 'at least a river protection', so this bill came into being.

We are waiting for the settlement of the case, and an appeal is also in the process. At the local level, this would be effective in the long run. Now, the 16 rivers are not protected by the Forest Department, and it cannot be done either. As the initial stage was against the law, we thought we also should do something to protect the land and the rivers, so we decided to take quick action towards this.

The other Indian states also face similar issues; any stagnant project has to be questioned through various laws laid down by the Central. So, for the overall

improvement, we thought it was better not to go freely while waiting for the verdict or further notice. It is first crucial to pass the Bill for the Mizo people.

**SPEAKER** : I request the hon. Minister, Pu Tawnluia to wind up and add more points if needed.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DY. CHIEF MINISTER** : Today, the success of “*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*” is seen. It was informative and interesting to hear different views in support of the Bill. 19 of us, including our CM, have spoken in favour of the bill. Our Opposition Leader suggested that it was better not to rush, and the rest have supported it. Anyway, I believe we have similar thoughts on the bill.

I want to clarify that, according to the bill that was brought in, Section 27, it is written, “*Act to have effect in addition to other Acts.*” It means it will be an addition to the existing Act. “*The provisions of this Ordinance shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions in any other law, for the time being in force*” means that no provisions were made that go against the existing laws. In this regard, we took the advice of the experts in the legal department and the forest department.

‘*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*’ may require some corrections since it is going to be the first time. The temperature of the earth is slowly changing, and Mizoram has felt the effects of that too. Our rivers are getting dried up during the dry seasons. The Tlawng River, on which the livelihoods of Aizawl and Lunglei depend met with difficulties in pumping sufficient water. In Lunglei, they could not pump water any more from the place where they used to pump, so they had to shift to the next area. As the population increases, the need for water for various purposes like consumption, agriculture, irrigation, industrial purposes, etc. keeps increasing. We must prevent the water sources from getting dried up.

Pu Speaker, let me also mention that the FLAM (Ex-MLAs) are also concerned about this. One day, their elected OBs came over to my house and exclaimed how they were worried about our future generations if we did not protect and save our rivers; we would even feel bad about ourselves soon when the damage occurred. Then, we started a project committee that studied those issues. We decided to go ahead with it as an ‘Ordinance’. As the Cabinet considered carefully on this matter, everything was done as per law.

We were finally able to bring it up in the first session of the House, and our discussions gained more participation than expected. I am glad with that. As we look at it, it seems exclusive to the three Autonomous District Councils. However, if the authorities of the District Councils ask for it, it is up to them; I hope they implement it as well.

From our discussions, it seems clear to me that we are concerned about the implementation part. There is a provision for the selection of the nodal department. The PHE department seems like the forefront leader in this regard. Once this law is executed, the government will set up the nodal department, which is expected to be more productive.

It is clear from our discussions that the Mizo way of shifting and jhum cultivation is degrading the quality of the soil and the land, and it disrupts the flow of some water bodies; a catchment area must be properly ensured. If this bill is passed, it will go to the Governor and will be an act, and with that, we will be able to make certain rules. So, I hope everyone agrees to pass this Bill.

Another point is that forest fires are destroying the surrounding areas, which highlights the importance of awareness campaigns. Today, we need to instil the importance of protection and preservation of our environment in everyone's minds. Since owning lands for cultivation can't be restricted, we must keep in mind that the law requires saving space for the flow of water. Had this Act been imposed in the past 20 years, we would not have faced this much of a shortage of water. Therefore, I believe that this act will surely bring positive changes.

The Bill does not specifically mention the number of rivers; however, it would be recommended by the village-level committee, then go to the district-level committee, the state-level committee, and finally reach the government. That is how the area identification should be done, and we cannot neglect this part. This would ensure clean rivers in Mizoram for the coming years.

Our CM mentioned some legal matters concerning the Forest Department. Besides, this is neither a legal battle nor a legal debate. We have also heard somewhere about compensation. But let the protection of art be our most important concern as of today. If any amendment is needed, time will tell, and the necessary steps will be taken.

As we know, we consume a lot of water today, especially since the people of Aizawl and Lunglei are sharing the Tlawng River water. The coming generations will reap the benefits or disadvantages of our actions today.

Pu Speaker, I also heard that we all agree with the bill, so I request that the House pass *'The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023'*

**SPEAKER** : Our hon. Dy. CM, Pu Tawnluia has requested the House to pass *'The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023'*. Whoever agrees may say "Agreed". (**Members:** *'Agreed'*) Whoever disagrees may say "Disagreed". (*No one disagreed.*)

The House unanimously passed, *'The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023'*. (Pu Tawnluia, Dy. Chief Minister: Thank you, Pu Speaker.)

Now, Pu Tawnluia, Dy. Chief Minister may introduce the third bill, *'The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023'*.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Besides these three bills, I have one more which is regarding Municipalities; I hope the last one won't require much time. Right now, this Bill is about the conservation and protection of groundwater.

Pu Speaker, with your permission, I request to introduce, *'The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023'* in the House.

**SPEAKER** : Let him introduce and move it for deliberations.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER** : Pu Speaker, I move the bill, *'The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023'*. here in the House.

Pu Speaker, the Govt. of India feels the need to conserve groundwater. In September, it released *'Guidelines to Control and Regulate Ground Water Extraction in India'*; based on this, it requires all the states and UTs to take quick action. Since 'water' falls under the state subject, the Govt. of India noticed all the states and UTs to set up the 'State-Ground Water Authority'. Since we have strict laws regarding groundwater in Mizoram, we started drilling wherever we liked, and people used that to make money as well. If there are no clear-cut restrictions and laws, we will soon face the problem of the scarcity of groundwater resources.

The PHE Department, after calling its related departments like Irrigation & Water Resources and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, has now prepared *"The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023."* As mentioned, people make money through groundwater drilling, and huge destruction is waiting if not controlled. That is why this law is required.

The Bill has been treated as Ordinance. The Cabinet agreed to it after it was brought up. With the Governor's assent, the notification regarding Ordinance was released. Through this Ordinance, the 'State-Ground Water Authority' was set up. Through an Ordinance, punishments for violations also came into being.

The meeting of the Council of Ministers on 18th May 2023, passed *"The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023"*, and with the Governor's



approval, it was published in the Mizoram Gazette on 4th July 2023. This Ordinance will be brought up for discussion in the House in the next Session.

As directed by the Central government, we keep on working with the rules. We realize more and more from the groundwater test conducted by the PHE department that the level of groundwater present is decreasing. The experts would have known how all the ground waters are connected. If there is a spill of water from unusual spots, it can disrupt the normal flow of the water that we consume. In such cases, we need proper acts like this.

Let me talk in brief about what is written here. There are two sections in Chapter I; it mentions the name of the Act, how it shall be used all over Mizoram, and the various explanations of the important terms.

*Chapter II* - contains sections 3 to 11. It mentions how the state government must set up the Mizoram Ground Water Authority, State Level Working Group, District Committee, and their bodies. It also mentions how a meeting with the Mizoram Ground Water Authority must be organized and the powers, functions, workers, and permission that can be given to perform drilling in search of groundwater.

*Chapter III* - contains sections 12 to 21. It is about the preservation of water on the ground. It contains how to mark bore wells and pump out water without it being a notified area, how the drilling company or agency can perform their task, how permissions can be modified, trials, and how to settle disputes.

*Chapter IV* - contains sections 22 to 24. It is about how to keep receipts and how to perform auditing. It mentions how the managing authority will separately take care of the fees and receipts received from the government, how it can spend, and how a separate budget will be fixed for it.

*Chapter V* - contains only Section 25. It is about rainwater harvesting, how to manage groundwater, the current initiatives taken by the government, how to raise awareness based on scientific management, and how to coordinate with various volunteer groups.

*Chapter VI* - contains sections 26 to 34. It mentions the penalties available for contamination of groundwater and contamination of wells and their surroundings, and if there are any necessary amendments, they can be made. It also mentions how the violators can be punished in various ways. Besides, if this Act is fully accepted, Rules can be made further.

Therefore, Mizoram requires this to protect our groundwater from overuse and to protect the environment. Pu Speaker, thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Now that our hon. Dy. Chief Minister briefed us about his Bill, and we shall discuss it together. We may take 5 minutes each. Let me invite respected member Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

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

Just like the previous Bill that we have discussed, it is equally important. However, if it is not exercised in a right manner despite it being well-written, it would be in vain. Though we highly commend how the Indian Constitution is the best in the world, we can see how the Manipur conflict causes doubt among many. It poses the question, - Where is our Constitution?

I am in support of “*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023*” in the hopes of seeing positive outcomes for the state and not for selfish gains. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let me invite hon. member, Dr. BD Chakma.

**DR. BD CHAKMA** : Thank you, Pu Speaker.

The first Bill did not cover the ADC areas. But this Bill mentions in the preliminary chapter that “*it shall extend to the whole of Mizoram.*” I expect a reaction to confirm if this Bill also covers all of the ADC.

Chawngte area constantly faces water shortages, especially in the dry seasons; we cannot give water even once. We get a good supply of water during the monsoon season, but it is not clean enough for consumption, which drives us to depend on groundwater. Sometimes we make bore wells, and sometimes we make ring wells. There would be issues if this Bill covered all the CADC areas. Even if we were to build ring wells, we would need to get the PHE's approval. Pu Speaker, I would be happy if a clear elaboration could be given. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I invite respected member Pu Vanlalhlana.

**PU VANLALHLANA** : Pu Speaker, the Bill that is on discussion, “*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023,*” is important. The Mizos started to get introduced to the pumping of groundwater three to four years ago. I also feel that God does know how to create things on earth, and I call it ‘God’s hidden water’. As we face more shortages, I believe God kept it hidden under the ground so that we could consume it when needed.

As we have listened, there was a Government of India notification on September 24, 2020, and based on that, all the states followed. But ‘water’ falls under the state list, so the state government has the authority. 16 states and 5 UTs currently have a similar

act regarding this, and 11 states are currently discussing this Act. Four states regarded it as unnecessary to have this Act, these are Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Sikkim, and Tripura. On the other hand, I believe Mizoram urgently requires this Act, but there must be a way to control it. Whoever is capable of doing it must not attempt to pump out water, as it could disturb the water tables. So, it is good that such acts as these exist. Chapter 6, Section 29 (C), talks about penalties for violators.

The Indian government gives importance to 75 years of independence and even calls it Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. According to what we heard yesterday, a "petty civil offence" means the reduction of one to two years of imprisonment. Here, *'fine'* means "*imprison for a term that extends up to six months*". So, it is based on the celebration of 75 years of independence that we see the lessening of punishment durations. Is the word 'imprisonment' a question in the current context? I request an explanation. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Those were well said and took less time. Now, I invite hon. member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng as he raises his hand first.

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

I think that this Bill that is currently under discussion is really important. Since it is quite similar to the previous Bill, I might talk about the bills interchangeably, so I request that the members understand that part as well.

We learned that water is precious, and we must conserve and protect the bodies of water. It is essential to maintain it meaningfully. I am also glad that an important Bill like this is being discussed together in the House for all of us.

Since water is precious, wealthy countries and researchers looked for water on other planets and hardly found it. As we heard, God places water on the earth, and that becomes a source of life. I think we all should agree together and unanimously pass together.

And as we pass this Bill, we should continue to think about how we should conserve rainwater and not let it flow freely. I also believe we would require more regular recharging of check dams. In this way, we would be able to keep the water; the ground would soak up the waters and turn into groundwater. I also believe that we can store water as groundwater. It is first and foremost important to have strict regulations.

Gabion structures are important to retain water, and this would let water soak up under the earth's surface. The olden practice of contour bund (*changkham*) by our ancestors must be popularized again; the government must also give rewards to the best performers. The concerned department must also maintain good coordination and cooperation with other departments. This is because there could be a clash of ideas when

we strive for common goals and have common wants. A similar case is currently occurring in Lunglei. Departments that want to conserve and store water have a difference of opinion, and it becomes a stumbling block. To prevent these differences after a lot of expenditures, we must consciously think of the consequences.

Pu Speaker, to conclude, I suggest we all agree to pass this Bill. I am saying this specifically since, in the discussion of the previous Bill, the Leader himself had requested to put it as pending, so things were almost in a haystack. If members of the same group have indifference in opinions, it has been said that they would be slowly reduced in number! So, I request everyone to agree to this bill, and I am in support of this Bill.

**SPEAKER** : I invite hon. member Pu Lalruatkima.

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

This has been our last Session during the Eighth Legislative Assembly. The three of us sitting in this row have not stood up, and I think that would not be right.

Today, our respected Dy. CM, who is also the Minister of the PHE department, presented "*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023*" in the House. I think it is very important, and it also shares similarities with the first one.

No man can live without water on this earth. We saw from the Bible that there were water disputes; the Israelites longed for water and got it in the wilderness when they were rescued from bondage. Issues like the 'Kaveri Water Dispute' highlight the importance of our rivers and the need for protection. In this way, the government of India also tries to build more check dams, contour trenches, and lakes.

Important projects like the 'Jal Jeevan' have been practised all over India. 20 years ago, Saturdays used to be our bathing day, but in the present scenario, we all want to take a bath daily. Now that the tap system has reached even the remote corners of our villages, water has been wasted in large amounts. Concerned with this, the different ministries from the Central even advised the states to take up this issue.

The MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme) was imposed on all the states. Under the *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, our department was also advised to work for groundwater recharge and to protect our water sources. That is how we started taking steps to save more rivers and help increase water flows.

With that being said, the "*Ground Water Control and Regulation Bill,*" as brought forward by our respected Dy. CM, would prove useful for the coming generations. This Bill will not be perfect. But let it be passed, and then we shall work towards amending the Act in the future. I, therefore, support the Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let me take the opinions of the House. Should we take a short break? (*The House agreed.*) We shall come back at 5:30 P.M.

(*Recess till 5:30 P.M.*)

**5:30 P.M.**

**SPEAKER** : Now, I invite hon. member, Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you.

As we have heard, the Bill that we just passed, '*The Mizoram Protection of Rivers Bill, 2023*', short title No. 2, talks about the Autonomous Councils being excluded, and I am happy with that. The reason is that the district councils have autonomy, and under the *6<sup>th</sup> Schedule to the Constitution*, the PHE comes under the subject. The Bill that is under discussion covers the whole of Mizoram. It is true that our Dy. CM said that the Autonomous Councils would also make adjustments for their use and that we would have our controlling authority. I prefer the exclusion of the district Councils to fall under the Act since it was also excluded in the previous Bill. Even though our respected CM said that this comes from the Central government, all the states shall adopt it. But there must be a way to exclude the Autonomous Councils.

The MLA of the Tuichawng Constituency rightly said that the area constantly faces issues during monsoon season. If the provisions of the Bill do not cover those areas, it might become problematic in the future.

The whole state of Mizoram must give importance to this. Unlike other states, the workers only drill about 20 to 30 feet, and many have now turned this into their business. I do not oppose this, but there must be a way to control and regulate to prevent damage. But I think the Autonomous Councils must not be included in this regard, just like the previous Bill. I do support the Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let me invite hon. member, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

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

I would first like to express my gratitude to the RD Minister for providing 12 bundles of aluminium roofing sheets (rangva) to all of us, even our opposition MLAs. I truly thank him, as it is of great help to my constituency.

In the morning Session, I didn't share my views. But this time, I would like to add points. At the same time, it makes me realise things that I have not heard of, especially during our Dy. CM said, "The waters underneath the surface of the earth stay together in one place." The other day, I visited my constituency, and one of my friends,

who is not a regular churchgoer, attended a church service. When the Church elder preached about ‘the crossing of the Red Sea with Moses’, my friend shook his hands immediately after Church and asked him, “You are very well versed in the words. You even crossed the Red Sea with Moses?”. “Yes, don’t you know that?” he replied. “I heard that for the first time.” Similarly, when I watched the TV show ‘Zonuni nen thingpuisen’, one of the leaders to your left told the anchor that he translated the comic book ‘Sudden Muanga’. I am happy that I discovered what I was unaware of afterwards.

Pu Speaker, I meant to say that this is an important Bill. We also learn that some people even started a new business of drilling water. Knowing all these, our Dy. CM came up with the thought of his love and concern for the state and brought this bill today. At the same time, I kept thinking about the expert people in this area; we have one Geologist under the PHE department who has been working for almost 20 years without a promotion. If our respected Dy. CM could care for this part too, it would be of great help.

Meanwhile, it’s important to think of the consequences that come along with developments. In my opinion, we have been having lots of concrete and black-topped roads where water keeps flowing on the surfaces of the road and hardly enters under the ground. For all these reasons, I state that I support the Bill. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

**SPEAKER** : I invite hon. member, Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

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

With the grace of God, the guidance of our respected Speaker, and the leadership of our respected House Leader, we have reached our final session for this term. I am happy to witness how each member respectfully plays our part in the House. I wish you all the best so we can see each other in the House in the next term.

Even though Pu Rintluanga has mentioned it already, I express my thankfulness to our RD Minister for giving us 12 bundles of aluminium roofing sheets (rangva). Additionally, our hon. House Leader and our DM&R Minister, Pu Lalchamlia, arranged 3 bundles of big silpaulines and 2 bundles of small silpaulines. I am thankful for them. Besides that, a ZPM candidate was elected for a Village Council at Lawngtlai Electric Veng; a ZPM candidate was elected at the Luangmual bye-election; and another ZPM candidate was elected at Salem Veng Village Council bye-election. Today, I wholeheartedly thank all the people who voted for these candidates.

Pu Speaker, this year, the ones to your left (**Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo:** Pu Speaker, it would have been preferred had he also mentioned that the MNF candidates won in 3 villages uncontested.) Pu Speaker, this time they all looked so intimidated. They must have known that people were planning to give us, the ones to your left, a chance to form a government.

Pu Speaker, I would like to add some points regarding this Bill. If anyone capable of drilling groundwater tries to do so, it will cause further problems. However, I am happy to see the well-written regulations and control measures here.

*Section 10* of the Bill did not include notified areas that fall under groundwater development; I believe this will be separately laid down later. It would be better if the whole state of Mizoram were marked under the notified area. It is believed that when the groundwater is successfully drilled, an individual or unit spends about 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs. So, imposing a fine of ₹5000 to 1 lakh seemed less for a penalty. Even if it were done illegally, spending ₹5,000 would not hurt anyone at all. If only there were around ₹10 lakhs for penalties, people might have given them more importance. Pu Speaker, I support the Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I now invite hon. member, Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

**DR. ZR THIAM SANGA** : Pu Speaker, thank you.

I am glad that our respected Dy. CM has brought the Bill to the House, and it is necessary to pass the Bill.

The need for water keeps increasing. In Rajasthan, the lowest rainfall is recorded to be 8.3 cm, while it is 2500–3000 cm yearly in Mizoram. Meghalaya sees the maximum amount of rainfall, which is 11,777 mm. We receive enough rainwater. However, our rainwater flows down to the plains as we do not have sufficient water storage facilities. That brings us to the need for practicing contour trenching, planting more trees, and conserving the forests. To practice groundwater harvesting, we also need proper maintenance. So, this Bill serves great importance.

We must also learn to use water wisely while doing laundry and dishes; we can effortlessly do this besides storing and pumping water in our tanks and barrels. This is why we must also practice rainwater harvesting. For example, like the people engaging in horticulture used to do, we can start practising ‘geomembrane’. Agriculture and horticulture would also improve, which would eventually help in the rearing of animals too.

Therefore, I support the Bill brought forward by our respected Dy. CM, and I also moved this Bill so that it may be passed. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I invite hon. member, Pu K.T. Rokhaw.

**PU K.T. ROKHAW** : Pu Speaker, I am standing here today since this will be my last time here during this term.

Pu Speaker, before I delve into the subject matter, thank you for those five years of your guidance in the House. We, the Opposition parties thank you a lot, as we did not see any kind of division between the Ruling and the Opposition.

Having been in this House for three terms (15 years) as an MLA, I came to see how you and our Chief Minister look after the welfare of all the MLAs. When we travel out of the state along with our officers, like secretaries and directors, we hardly used vehicles before, but, with your initiative, we have vehicles to assist us, and we are so thankful for that.

Pu Speaker, I want to state that this is an excellent Bill. But what it said, "*it shall extend to the whole of Mizoram,*" may be rephrased as "*it shall extend to the whole of Mizoram except the areas under the jurisdiction of the autonomous district council*", just like the previous Bill that we passed. Let the District Councils be excluded, and if they want to, they must independently decide. This is the part that I wanted to highlight. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : I invite hon. member, Dr. Vanlalhlana.

**DR. VANLALTHLANA** : Tonight, we are staying up late for the discussion of bills and as one of the juniors, I am glad that I have reached my fifth year here. Some people have criticized the fact that we do not know who we are as an MLA. Today, we know who we are as an MLA, and that's why we are cooperating. Tonight, let the people of Mizoram be informed that we even stay up to this hour to discuss what would be best for our state. We are doing our job as legislators.

I do not want to portray myself as a pessimist; I have some thoughts from the previous Bill. The PHE Department put forth the prior bill. If we look at the Allocation of Business Rules, under the 'Irrigation & Water Resources Department', it mentions that the department must do the "*groundwater development and management of irrigation*". But under the PHE, it specifically said, "*groundwater development for drinking water.*" Referring to the Allocation of Business Rules, I believe this must be under the 'Irrigation & Water Resources Department' when it comes to this Bill.

However, I am glad that the PHE Department, under the leadership of the Minister, who happens to be one of the most senior among us, took the initiative and put forward this Bill. They have a motive that would ease the problem that could be caused by drilling out groundwater. I am in support of this Bill.

**SPEAKER** : Let me invite hon. Minister, Pu K. Lalrinliana.

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



Since I haven't had a chance to speak, let me use this opportunity to address something different than the issue we are now debating. As an LAD Minister, let me state that in the bye-election conducted in the Village Councils and Local Councils, MNF won in 7 to 8 villages, and ZPM won in 3 villages. This portrays how the people of Mizoram still have trust in the MNF government. A ratio of 7:3 is quite evident, Pu Speaker. That is my first point.

Now, we all agree that the Bill is important. We have also passed the previous Bill that is also related to the protection and conservation of waters. It is a good exercise to discuss relevant and necessary topics.

The Euphrates River, known as the cradle of ancient civilization, is at risk of drying up and is becoming a concern. Today, we have 19 rivers, and the Tlawng River remains the longest among these. It is great that our Dy. CM proposed a Bill that would prove useful even for the coming generations.

Now, we have finally reached the last session for this term. Pu Speaker, I thank you for your guidance and to our House Leader for his presence.

As the hon. member, Pu Sawivunga wished that we all be elected again. That is better since the current government will be re-elected in that scenario, and I support that. To conclude, I support this, Bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let me call out hon. Dy. CM to wind up and do the needful.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you.

Today, 12 people (just like the apostles) rose to debate the Bill. It was beyond my expectation that these many members were passionate about the Bill and its relevance. I am also glad to notice the members who stood up were all in favour of my Bill. I also apologize for not being able to respond to every point.

Talking about the two Bills, the first one was about the protection of rivers, as in spring sources, and the second one, which we are talking about now, is about groundwater. It is of great importance that the government is attentive to this. In the past, the '*Ground Water (Regulation, Control, and Development) Bill, 2020*', was brought into the House. Like the previous Bill, we have to select the nodal department later. As of now, the PHE department has taken the initiative. Regarding groundwater, a Bill was brought into the House, and the 2020 Cabinet Meeting decided that the concerned department should make the final decisions. So, the PHE called the various departments like the Irrigation and Water Resources Department, and the Environment, Forest & Climate Change and prepared "*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and*

*Regulation) Bill, 2023.*" It was brought to the Cabinet and was approved by them. Let that be my clarification.

The hon. members from the Autonomous District Council areas suggested the exclusion of the ADCs. However, the Sixth Schedule did not specifically mention the 'groundwater', and since it was the directive from the Central, we decided to include "...*the whole of Mizoram*". So, I hope you understand that part.

We have also received many reports about the problems that arise from groundwater extraction, as Dr. B.D. Chakma said. It is important to keep in mind that while a permit is required for extractions over 10,000 litres, a permit is not required for extractions of up to 10,000 litres of groundwater. This is written in the regulations, chapter 2, section 11 (clause 7).

I would also like to enlighten everyone about what our department has done regarding drilling to get groundwater. Although the PHE Department owns a drilling rig, its maximum drilling depth is 50 to 70 meters or roughly 150 to 200 feet. So, we can't expect that much. These days, private agencies come up with a drilling rig with a drilling depth of 300 to 350 metres, which is approximately 1000 feet. They do their jobs in whichever places they wish to, and so this Bill is required to set regulations to prevent environmental damage. Inspection of the area may also be done by the government. This is why we need a Bill such as this one.

Our department has also submitted a proposal to the government to get a new, bigger machine. We also hope to get at least one big drilling rig machine through the PM-DeVINE scheme. I hope our hon. CM also takes note of the things that I am talking about now. The Bill that is currently under discussion, "*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023,*" has been precisely studied by the concerned departments, and then a draft was made. We have reached today due to the approval of the Cabinet, and this is a great step towards progress and development.

Therefore, Pu Speaker, I request that the House agree and pass "*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023.*" Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Whoever agrees to pass "*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023*" may say "Agreed". (Members: Agreed), and those who disagree may say "Disagreed". (*None of the members disagreed.*)

The House unanimously passed "*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023*". (Pu Tawnluia, Dy. Chief Minister: Pu Speaker, thank you.)

Moving onto the fourth Bill, the hon. Dy. CM may be pleased to seek permission to introduce "*The Mizoram Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2023*" in the House. Let me invite him.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DY. CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission, I request the introduction of “*The Mizoram Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”.

**SPEAKER** : Shall we agree? (*The House agreed.*)

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

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I introduce ‘*The Mizoram Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’.

In Sub-section 16 of section 2 of ‘*The Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007*’, it was written as ‘Councilor’. The main objective of this Bill is to change and substitute the word ‘Councilor’ to ‘Corporator’.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Dy. Chief Minister has introduced his bill. We will start discussion on this bill with 5 minutes allotted to each member.

Let us call upon Pu C. Lalmuanpuia to start the discussion.

**PU C. LALMUANPUIA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. I wholeheartedly support the bill *The Mizoram Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’ submitted by the hon. Dy. Chief Minister.

I would like to add that we need to find a new approach to maintain our drinking water, our wastes and building regulation. Especially in the case of dumping grounds. We need to make new dumping grounds as the one in Tuirial is overflowing with wastes. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

**PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I duly support the amendment bill submitted by the hon. minister. Currently, we are under 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission with no other notable source of income for the state. Our financial state is limited with little to spare for waste management. I implore the hon. minister to supplement the funds used for waste management. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Dr. K. Beichhua.

**DR. K. BEICHHUA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. First of all, I thank God and the people of Mizoram for giving me the opportunity to represent them.

I wholeheartedly support the bill '*The Draft Mizoram Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'. It hasn't been long since AMC was established, however, many developments and improvement can be seen.

Lunglei Municipal Council has just been launched. I sincerely hope and wish that it will be just as fruitful as AMC. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu K. Laldawngliana.

**PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I have been a member of this House for only 1 year and 8 months. I thank God and the people for this opportunity.

Looking back at all the projects, ventures and undertaking made by AMC, we can definitely see much development. I hope it will continue to do so in the future.

Lastly, I support the bill presented by the hon. Deputy Minister '*The Draft Mizoram Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

**PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I support the bill presented by the hon. Deputy Minister '*The Draft Mizoram Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'.

I personally expressed my gratitude to the hon. Speaker for his leadership, guidance and management of the House and its members.

I also thank the hon. Chief minister for his leadership during this term. Especially in the case of Hunthar landslide. The previous ministry was unable to deal with the landslide and its aftermath. However, this ministry, under the leadership of the hon. Chief minister took remedial measures and succeeded in achieving what the previous ministry could not.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Zothantluanga.

**PU ZOTHANTLUANGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I duly support the bill presented by the hon. Deputy Chief Minister, '*The Draft Mizoram Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'.

Since the establishment of AMC, we see much improvement in waste management. However, one important issue that needs attention is the waste throw out by heavyweight vehicles. These vehicles do not use the specific place arranged by the municipal. I urge the corporators to solve this issue. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I do support the bill presented by the hon. Deputy Chief Minister, '*The Draft Mizoram Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'.

However, I do like to counter the point mentioned by Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo regarding Hunthar landslide. I like him to throw caution when mentioning these things and I would like to correct this as I do not want it to be in the House record. DPR was submitted and survey was done on the spot and we were awaiting the outcome during our ministry. I advise respected member to mention these things without proof. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon the hon. Deputy Chief Minister to windup.

**PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I thank the members for their participation and support. I ask your permission and the permission of the House to pass my bill '*The Draft Mizoram Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Deputy Chief Minister has asked the permission of the House to pass his Bill. Those who are in favor, say 'agree'. (**Members:** 'Agree').

The House has unanimously passed '*The Draft Mizoram Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'. (**Pu Tawnluia, Dy. Chief Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

We will move on to another bill. Let us call upon Pu Lalzirliana to ask the permission of the House to introduce '*The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I ask the permission of the House to introduce my bill '*The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'.

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

Let us call upon the hon. minister to introduce his Bill.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I introduce '*The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023*'.

This amendment Bill I a simple bill wherein penalizing time is altered. According to ‘*The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Bill, 2001*’, those who destroy, steal and tamper with State protected monuments are liable to fined ₹5000- or 3-months incarceration or both. This will change in ‘*The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’. In this Bill, those who destroy, steal and tamper with State protected monuments will be liable to be fined ₹5000 for their first offense, ₹5000- or 3-months incarceration or both for their second offense.

**SPEAKER** : We will start discussion for the Bill with 5 minutes allotted for each member. Let us call upon Dr. K. Pachhunga to start the discussion.

**DR. K. PACHHUNGA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. I thank God and the people for their support and trust in me. I also thank the hon. Chief minister for his guidance and leadership during this trying times.

I also give my support to the Bill ‘*The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Prof. F. Lalnunmawia.

**DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. Since this will be our last sitting during the 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, I thank God and the people of Aizawl South III constituency for their support.

There are several ancient monuments in my constituency that have seen better days. I urge the hon. minister to do more for the conservation of these monuments.

Lastly, I pledge my support to the Bill ‘*The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE**: Pu Speaker, thank you. Firstly, I pledge my support to the Bill ‘*The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023*’.

Today is the last day of the Assembly Session and I wish all the members of this House the best in their future endeavors and hope for their continued success. Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga.

**DR. ZR. THIAMSANGA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. It is satisfying that *'The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023'* was submitted at this House.

There are several ancient monuments and archaeological sites within my constituency which has seen better days. One important issue I would like to take is that when restoring ancient monuments, their originality should be maintained.

Lastly, I thank God and my constituency for giving me the chance to represent them. I wish all the members of the House for their continued success. Thank you.

**SPEAKER :** Pu Ramthanmawia.

**PU RAMTHANMAWIA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. It is a pleasure to see such Bill being presented in this House. My constituency has several monuments and sites which are under 'National Importance' and several which has yet to be declared.

It has only been several years since we learned to appreciate these ancient monuments and better part of them have been destroyed. I am very appreciating of the fact that the hon. minister has presented this bill so that we can take better care of these monuments and sites.

I wholeheartedly support the Bill *'The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023'*. Thank you.

**SPEAKER :** Let us call the hon. minister to wind up.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. I thank God and my constituency for giving me the opportunity to represent them. I am also grateful for your unbiased leadership and I applaud your skill in managing members of this House.

Pu Speaker, I asked the members of this House to pass my Bill *'The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023'*. Thank you.

**SPEAKER :** The hon. minister has asked the permission of the House to pass his Bill *'The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023'*. Those who are in agreement say 'agree'. (**Members:** 'Agree').

The House has unanimously passed *'The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023'*. (**Pu R. Lalzirliana, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

**SUMMARY**

We have concluded our business for the 12<sup>th</sup> Session. Here is a brief summary of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Mizoram.

**PANEL OF CHAIRMEN**

Panel Of Chairmen are:

- 1) Pu C. Ngunlianchunga,
- 2) Dr. K. Beichhua,
- 3) Dr. Vanlalhlana and
- 4) Pu K. Laldawngliana.

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

237 starred questions were submitted wherein 236 starred questions were admitted and 1 was rejected. 40 starred questions were in list of business. 8 were answered in the House while 228 were not answered due to time constraint.

119 unstarred questions were submitted where 118 were admitted and 1 rejected.

**SPECIAL MENTION**

Special mention was made by the hon. Home Minister Pu Lalchamlia in regards to the collapsing of Sairang bridge.

**CALLING ATTENTION MOTION**

Calling attention was made by Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma and Pu Lalduhoma. The concerned Ministers reacted to their motion and explanation were given.

**LAYING OF PAPERS**

16 papers were laid during this Session. They were laid by;

- 1) Pu Tawnluia, Dy. Chief Minister – 5 papers
- 2) Dr. R. Lalthangliana, Minister – 2 papers
- 3) Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Minister – 1 paper
- 4) Er. Lalrinawma, Minister – 1 paper
- 5) Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister – 5 papers
- 6) Pu Lalchamlia, Minister – 1 paper

**PRESENTATIONS OF REPORTS**

11 presentations of reports were made during this Session. They were made by;

- 1) Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga, Chariman, Subject Committee-V
- 2) Er. H. Lalzirlia, Chairman, Committee on Public Undertaking
- 3) Pu Vanlalhlana, PAC Chairman
- 4) Pu Lawmawma Tohhawng, Chairman, Committee on Paper laid on the Table
- 5) Pu Ramthanmawia, Chairman, Estimate Committee
- 6) Pu Zothantluanga, Chairman, Committee on Petition



## **RESOLUTIONS**

An official resolution was submitted by Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga on ‘*That this House unanimously resolves to oppose the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023*’ in order to protect the rights and interest of the people of Mizoram’. It was unanimously passed by the House.

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

Under Financial Business, the hon. Chief minister and Finance Minister presented *Supplementary Demand for Grant for 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 and Regularization of Excess Expenditure*. It was unanimously passed by the House.

## **LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Under Legislative Business, 8 bills were submitted and passed by the House. They are:

- i) Pu Lalchamlia, Minister, “*The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”
- ii) Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Minister, “*The Mizoram Shops and Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”
- iii) Pu TJ. Lalnuntluanga, Minister, “*The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”
- iv) Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister, “*The Mizoram Appropriation (Regularization of Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2023*”
- v) Pu Tawnluia, Dy. Chief Minister, “*The Mizoram (Protection of Rivers) Bill, 2023*”, “*The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2023*” and “*The Mizoram Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”
- vi) Pu R. Lalzirlia, Minister, “*The Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023*”.

I thank God, the Hon. Chief Minister, Ministers, members and the people of Mizoram. I also thank the officers and staff from Assembly Secretariat for their hard work. I also thank all the other staffs from PWD, Police Department and Health Department for their dedication.

We have concluded our business and have finished our Session. May God bless you all.

*The House is adjourned. Sine Die (7:45 PM).*