

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR SIXTH SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 14th FEBRUARY, 2023
(Time 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM)

QUESTIONS

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

LAYING OF PAPERS

2. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, hon. Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of The Third Annual Report 2021-2022 of the Mizoram Lokayukta.
3. **PU TAWNLUIA**, hon. Deputy Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of each of the following :
 - i) The Mizoram Municipalities (Ward Committee and Local Council) (Amendment) Rules, 2020.
 - ii) Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Mizoram Annual Report Financial Year 2021-2022.
 - iii) The Mizoram Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2022.
 - iv) The Mizoram Municipalities (Facilities to Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors (Amendment) Rules, 2022.
4. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of each of the following :
 - i) The Mizoram Home Guards (Amendment) Rules, 2023.
 - ii) Notifications issued under the Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. (w.e.f. 25.10.2022 – 16.1.2023).

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

5. **THE SPEAKER** to present to the House the Twelfth Report of the Business Advisory Committee for the current session.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

6. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to move an Official Resolution in the following form :
“That this House unanimously resolves to oppose any step taken or proposed to be taken for enactment of Uniform Civil Code in India”.

LALMAHRUAIA ZOTE
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : *Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity.* Proverbs 21:23

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

We will proceed with questions and answers and I request Pu VL. Zaithanzama to ask starred question no. 61

PU VL ZAITHANZAMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will The UD&PA Minister be pleased to state-

The number of Solid Waste Management Centers available in Mizoram District Capitals?

SPEAKER : Hon. UD&PA Minister Pu Tawnluia to answer the question.

PU TAWNLUIA, Dy. CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is-

There are 2 Solid Waste Management Centers which are available in Aizawl and Kolasib.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu VL Zaithanzama

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Solid-Waste Management Center is a priority of the National Crime Tribunal but we only have them in Aizawl and Kolasib. Are measures taken to establish in other districts?

Aizawl city's Solid-Waste Management Center at Tuirial is not enough and some of the wastes are disposed improperly. So, is there a plan for other waste disposal facilities? If so, where is it and has any action been taken?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr F. Lalnunmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA: *My Supplementary question is-*

What is the status of Solid-Waste Management Center in Hualngohmun village operated UD & PA and AMC? When should action be taken and when should it be completed?

SPEAKER : Hon. Dy. Chief Minister Pu Tawnluia to answer the question

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer to the question "Are measures taken in other districts" is-

In addition to Aizawl and Kolasib Districts, there is a proposal to establish solid-waste management centers in every district and measures are currently taken.

The works that were started by the previous government are currently underway in Lunglei and Solid-waste management center in Champhai is under construction with NLCP fund. In addition to Champhai, Lunglei and Kolasib, works are commenced in the three new districts - Saitual, Khawzawl, Hnahthial and Serchhip. Measures are currently taken on Solid waste management centers in each District Headquarters and the project concept-paper for these district headquarters has already been prepared. These projects are also planned to be included in NECIT with the help of our Chief Minister.

The fund for solid-waste management center at Hualngohmun is ₹16 crore from special assistance. However, the amount for construction execution is too large and the fund is transferred to PWD. The PWD tender is now in the final stage and contractors are appointed.

In addition to the government's efforts for solid-waste management in each district headquarters, the government is also taking steps in the notified towns. Therefore, the Government is giving importance to solid-waste management and funds from the Urban Ministry and other sources are being implemented.

Tuirial solid waste management center is the largest and is currently managed by AMC. This is not enough and that is why ₹16 crore is implemented at Hualngohmun for Aizawl South. We now have a location for Solid waste management center for Aizawl West at Industrial Growth Center. We have identified it and we are also currently looking for a location in Sihphir. Likewise, Solid waste management center for Aizawl city is being sought and measures are extremely taken. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 62 to be asked by Er. H. Lalzirliana.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Health & Family Welfare Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If there are any proposals to recruit new staffs for ANM School
- b) The period when 2nd batch hostel for ANM School in Mamit be constructed
- c) The period when 100 bedded District Hospital in Mamit which is currently under construction be opened.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Dr R. Lalthangliana to answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is -

- a) There is a proposal to recruit staffs for ANM School.
- b) Construction funds are being sought from the Government and we will start the construction as soon as we get the fund.

c) District Hospital, Mamit which is under construction is expected to be opened this year.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Er. H Lalzirliana.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. ANM School, Mamit started in 2022 and I would like to thank our ministers and nursing officials in particular during those difficult times when I was operated and could not carry out the works. 5 staffs - 1 LDC, 1 Driver and 3 Group-D are employed from MLA fund and is there a way to pay their salaries without MLA fund?

The first batch is now ready to be released and Graduation Day will be celebrated soon. The second batch is coming in but the hostel is only for 20 people. The main building is partitioned and 8 students of the 2nd batch were placed in 1 room. So, is it possible to arrange a place for the second batch?

How much has the Government allotted from SEDP to open new health clinics and how many new health-workers are provided?

Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Staff-nurse, health-worker and lab technicians are recruited in various parts of Mizoram. Staff-nurse, health-worker and x-ray helper are also recruited for Lunglei district but this is not clear whether it is done by the SEDP Board or the High Power Committee in Lunglei. They continue to work but they have not been paid their salaries and have not received any appointment orders to date. Therefore, it is not right to employ without interview and without knowing who the employer is. So, is it possible for the government to pay them shortly for their hard work?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. We have made great progress in our constituency due to the efforts of our Health Minister and Bilkhawthlir PHC buildings and Vairengte CHC buildings and facilities are being renovated. Pu Speaker, Vairengte is located near the state border and our CHC is the most crowded in Mizoram. Our CHC received many highway accidents and we have many needs. One of the things we need during emergency is an x-ray machine and ours is no longer suitable for use. So, is it possible to provide us a new x-ray machine?

Secondly, health clinic centers are opened in several places by the Government and they are run at VC House and other convenient places. So, is it possible for the

government to make arrangements for construction of buildings for our new health clinic centre?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Dr. R Lalthangliana to answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there are a few *Supplementary questions* and I will start with Pu Zira. ANM was opened last year but only 20 students i.e., 1st batch could accommodate the hostel and we faced some difficulty for the 2nd batch. So, we made as proposal for a new construction and here, retaining wall, brick pins and rooms are estimated to cost ₹ 40-50 lakhs and we are currently looking for funding.

Secondly, the MLA of this constituency is commendable as he has been hiring employees from his MLA fund for a long time and we will soon be able to ease his burden next year.

The Congress government also opened clinics in various places and this is our initiative as a state government. Therefore, Primary Healthcare is the flagship of the SEDP knowing that rural villages have many problems due to lack of maternity wards. Therefore, 235 new clinics were opened and the recruitment process was casual because regular post was not convenient. Each village committee of the SEDP was responsible for the recruitment process and it is difficult to recruit formally.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Govt. funds are public funds and why is the recruitment so casual? It is not right to hire health-workers and staff-nurses on the go. They have not been paid yet and so, is it possible to pay their salaries?

DR. R. LALRTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Such a thing is also required for times in School Education. For example, the state government decided to fill the casual Asst Professor gap for Higher & Technical Education and the committee's careful consideration was our approach. They have not been paid for a long time but their salaries are almost available. They are currently processed by finance and will be paid in arrears soon.

It is not exactly a building and the Chief Minister gave us a different approach rather than SEDP. ₹25 lakhs was allocated as unit-cost for the SEDP committee, village council and NGOs in their respective villages. We plan to use wood and tin roof for maternity wards and equipment such as BP check, essential medicines, table, chair, steel almirah etc. will be included. We are glad that our project will be successful and I hope that we would soon get the fund for construction. It is impressive that some members have already donated their MLA funds for the project. Therefore, the budget for the construction of the building is already in place and we are waiting for the fund to be released.

In response to Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte, Vairengte is quite important since they are the pioneers of the border and they are busy working hard. Pu Speaker, measures are also taken for x-ray installation since accidents usually occur within and outside the state. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 63 to be asked by hon. member Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, will the UD & PA Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If there is any progress in 26-Serchhip Constituency for the construction of Land Development for Solid Waste Management Center under SASCI
- b) If so-
 - i) The location;
 - ii) The amount spent;
 - iii) The contractor's name
 - iv) The current achievement.

SPEAKER : Hon. Dy. Chief Minister to answer the question.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is - It is located at 'Pu Darzika Kawng' at Chhiahtlang, Serchhip. The cost is ₹ 60 lakhs and the contractor is C. Vanlalsiamthara of Serchhip. The current status is – “Land Development is completed”.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, when did the contractor start the work and when should it be completed? Will it be possible to complete the works during the time limit? Can you tell me the current financial and physical achievements percentage (if possible)?

SPEAKER : Hon Dy. Chief Minister to answer the question.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, as I said earlier, land development was carried out in five districts - Mamit, Saitual, Khawzawl, Hnahthial and Serchhip at a cost of ₹60 lakhs each and this is a start for the construction of Solid Waste Management Centers. ₹60 lakhs each was disbursed from the previous government's fund. The sanction amount is ₹60 lakh and the contract amount is Rs 58,25,440/-. ₹1,74,500 is for Contingency budget and ₹60 lakhs is completely spent. Pu Speaker, the projects include fencing, jungle clearance, construction of segregation platform, internal road, approach road, water tank and side office. They are now completed.

Pu Speaker, I would like to add that Concept paper for Solid Waste Management Center for the 5 Districts has been prepared and the project is being implemented under Nessel with the Chief Minister's guidance. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 64 to be asked by Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question is this – Power Supply to WRC Vaphai (Saikhumphai) is already connected to 11 kV line and LT line but could not function due to unavailable transformer. So, when will the transformer be installed?

SPEAKER : Hon Power Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the question.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is – The transformer has been purchased and is expected to arrive soon is the answer to the previous question before the transformer is installed. Our updated answer is - They now have completed the installation of a 25 kVA transformer.'100 kVA' was estimated and we will replace it later.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is impressive that it was installed when the sanction was released. That area was kept dry even though it was a potential area for cultivation. We asked the department to pump Tiau Lui water where 0.5 km has been installed and 0.7km is still needed. So, is it possible to take measures on this issue?

There are many traces of our ancestors in my constituency where 'Kawtchhuah-Ropui' at Vangchhia is a popular tourist destination in Mizoram. However, power supply is not available and this creates problems. We already asked for extension and I would like to beg the Minister to give importance to this. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Hydrel projects such as Maicham-II, Teirei, Tuirivang, Serlui (B), Hawiva, Kau, Tlabung, Tuipui and Tlawva produce less power where only about 20% is produced on average. Tuipui has not produced anything in seven months and Tuirivang simply exist without any purpose. My *Supplementary question* is –

- i) What measures are taken to make better use of our hydrel projects?
- ii) What measures are taken for Tuivai Hydrel Project with a capacity of 210 mega?
- iii) When will Vankal solar project with a capacity of 20 mega watts be operational?

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

DR. Z.R. THIAMSSANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is-

i) Power is taken from Lungphunlian through 11 kV line and this line passes through 3 km of forest which is often damaged during rainy and windy season. Since Selam has a good PMGSY road, will it be possible to move this 11 kV power-line beside the road?

ii) Due to population growth in Vapar village, about 40 households in the village are facing power problem. So, is it possible to install LT line?

iii) Tualpui is just 25 km away from Khawzawl and they received power supply from Khawzawl to Rabung and then them. The line is old and runs through a long forest and it often get damaged during rainy season. Tualpui is now connected to the PMGSY road and is it possible to install a new line beside the road?

iv) The people of Champhai are grateful to the Mizoram Government, the Minister and his colleagues for providing 132 kV line from E. Lungdar. We requested the CE to provide a direct line from Chhumliankawn without entering Khawzawl and it would be appreciated if this is achieved.

SPEAKER : Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the question.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in response to Pu Ramthanmawia, the workers carry out the works according to the estimate. Regarding Kawtchhuah-ropui electrification, we will look into the matter and take measures according to our finance.

In response to Dr. Vanlalhlana, Mini-hydel projects and other projects are being implemented. However, the production is very low with high demands and that is why we want bigger hydel projects. However, the loan application for Tuirini was cancelled due to some difficulties. Our environment is now improving and so, Tuirini and Tuivawl are expected to generate 22-24 mega-watts and the DPR is now ready. We applied for forest clearance and we can work immediately if it is issued.

Chhimtuipui Kolodyne phase-II is designed to generate 460 mega-watts. However, it is said that this will cover foreign country such as Burma. Burma is a military government and our leaders think that we might not be able to work on it even if we get clearance from the Indian government. So, DPR is to be revised to generate 150-180 megawatts and we left that in the hands of the CWC.

Matsekawi is expected to generate 70 mega-watts and CWC is currently appointed to prepare the DPR. We are issuing a tender for Solar which is extended till the 15th of this month and there are many bidders. The VCs of 11 villages gave us the sites free of charge and the Expression of Interest holders will visit the site and work on it. Thenzawl VC has also given us the site for Vankal project which is expected to

generate 20 megawatts. The department will take up the project and ₹74 crore is earmarked from NABARD. We hope to receive it.

Works will soon be carried out at Keifang which will generate 10 megawatt and the loan for this is almost ready.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : My question- the ones we currently have did not function for 9 months and sometimes throughout the year. So, what steps are being taken to make them faster and produce more?

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Old things get deteriorated and are often repaired. We are not sure on how to make the mini dams produce more. The recently opened 4 megawatt power plant can produce only 600 kilowatts and river flow alone is not a good idea. Therefore, we proposed that the new dam should be 3-4 meters high so that the people of the area can depend on it even during dry season.

In response to Dr. Thiamsanga, Selam and Tualpui lines were moved and task like this is quite difficult. The Electric Department is a strong department and they entirely cover the whole Mizoram. Meanwhile, the EGS road that was used by the villagers is replaced by another road due to development and the old one is not reliable because it requires a lot of fund. This is difficult but we will look into it. Vapar village needs extension and we will install several towers even if RDS Scheme does not reach the area. These are the things that our EEs can do every year from our annual budget and then we will look into it and work on it.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 65 to be asked by Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, will the Power & Electricity Department Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If there is a proposal to construct a road to Khawiva Mini Hydel Project
- b) If so, when will it be completed?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the question.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is-

- a) It is currently constructed.
- b) Sanction is fully received and is expected to be completed by May

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary questions* are-

This road has been untouched for 30 years and we would be grateful if you could make it long lasting and better.

How much power in average does this mini-hydel project currently generate during the rainy and dry seasons? I heard it is an important location for Lawngtlai and Siaha power distribution and so, how is it used? There is so much siltation on this project and are steps taken to mitigate siltation in order to restore power? Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, I believe Tlawng was excluded among the ongoing power projects which are discussed today. I would like to ask –

- i) CWC is conducting an investigation into the Reiek dam. So, what stage has it reached?
- ii) Has it been completed?
- iii) Is the DPR ready?
- iv) Can our government take this into account?
- v) How many megawatts of capacity will it be?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Er. H. Lalzirliana.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is-

Bairabi - West Phaileng via Mamit, 132 kV line is currently shared with Builum and works cannot be continued due to unavailable Forest clearance. So, when can it be commissioned?

SPEAKER : Do you remember that you had asked the same question last year?

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : I remember. My *Supplementary question* is- Is there any progress?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the question.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there are 207 towers of which only 8 are not yet installed. The contractors said that the forest clearance has already been issued. There are two land owners in the forest land and they also claimed it. Therefore, we are not sure what to do and we are looking into it. I personally think that the forest, power and contractor issues can be resolved by holding a meeting under the guidance of the Chief Minister and our leaders have also made suggestions for this. We are waiting for the Chief Minister to schedule a meeting with us. So, I think we can

commission it in two months from the time we get these environmental clearances and forest clearances.

Regarding Tlawng mentioned by Pu Lalduhoma, we do not have any new proposals yet.

PU LALDUHOMA : Did not the CWC conduct an investigation at Reiek? Do you not know?

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: I do not know and we do not have any new proposals. Regarding the production of Khawiva mini-hydel project, I am not sure how much it can exactly produce but siltation is a lot. It is also an important thing for the southern areas and therefore, the road is being repaired and is expected to be completed by May. Therefore, instead of preparing a new one, we think it is better to improve the siltation.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question* No. 66 to be asked by Hon. member Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Health & Family Welfare Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If it is true that the Chief Minister said ₹2 lakhs each has been allocated in the SEDP for the use of healthcare scheme beneficiaries.
- b) The total amount of registration fee of Healthcare Scheme enrollees for the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
- c) The amount from 1st April, 2020 to 31st March, 2021
- d) The purpose of this fund

SPEAKER : Health & Family Welfare Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana to answer the question.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is -

- a) ₹60 crore is received for SEDP beneficiaries during the current financial year. This is not to be distributed to every household. However, the annual bill limit per household is ₹2 lakhs.
- b) As a policy year wise-

<i>Policy Year</i>	<i>Total amount of Registration fee for Mizoram State Healthcare Scheme</i>
1st Oct, 2021 – 31st March, 2022	₹3,31,67,050

we have not yet reached 1st April, 2020 - 31st March, 2021' so let us put it in the form of 'current situation'. The total amount received is ₹4,90,63,200/-.

(Speaker : Question & Answer session is over. Shall we let him continue? *(The House agreed. Carry on)* Mizoram State Healthcare Scheme enrollees' total expenditure list for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 is as follows. –

Sl.No.	Expenditure	Amount (₹)
1.	Salary	3,19,37,830.00
2.	Office Expenditure Stationery, Purchase of Office Equipments, Postal Charge, Internet Bill, Telephone Bill, etc.)	20,47,618.00
3.	Hiring of Vehicles	5,00,000.00
4.	Training/Meeting	1,87,304.00
5.	Health Care bill payment (Public contribution/ Enrolment fee)	3,21,65,987.00
	Total Expenditure	6,68,38,739.00

I would like to inform the House that administrative expenditure is used with permission since society has no separate administrative fund.

SPEAKER : *Question & Answer session* is over and we will proceed to next business.

LAYING OF PAPERS

I request our Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga to lay 'A copy of the Third Annual Report, 2021-2022 of the Mizoram Lok Ayukta' on the table of the House.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby lay "A copy of the Third Annual Report, 2021- 2022 of the Mizoram Lok Ayukta".

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed. We will proceed to our 2nd business and I request Pu Tawnluia, hon. Deputy Chief Minister to lay the following on the *Table of the House*.

- i) The Mizoram Municipalities Ward Committee-in Local Council Amendment Rules, 2022.
- ii) Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Mizoram Annual Report Financial Year, 2021-2022.
- iii) The Mizoram Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2022.
- iv) The Mizoram Municipalities Facilities to Mayor/Dy. Mayor, Chairman/Vice Chairman and Counselors Amendment Rules, 2022.

PU TAWNLUIA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby lay the following papers on the Table of the House –

- i) The Mizoram Municipalities Ward Committee and Local Council Amendment Rules, 2020;
- ii) Real Estate Authority, Mizoram Annual Report Financial Year, 2021-2022;

- iii) The Mizoram Prohibition of Employees as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2022;
- iv) The Mizoram Municipalities Facilities to Mayor/Dy. Mayor, Chairman/Vice Chairman and Counsellors Amendment Rules, 2022.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed. I request Pu Lalchamlia, hon. Minister to lay the following on the Table of the House-

- i) The Mizoram Home Guard's Amendment Rules, 2023;
- ii) Notification issued for the Mizoram Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017 w.e.f 25.10.2022 – 16.1.2023.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby lay the following on the Table of the House-

- i) Mizoram Home Guards Amendment Rules, 2023;
- ii) Notification issued under Mizoram Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017 w.e.f 25.10.2022 - 16.1.2023.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

BAC meeting was held on 13.2.2023 (Tuesday) and the detailed program of the Eleventh Session of the Eighth Legislative Assembly was revised. This was already distributed in Bulletin-II. I present the BAC Report to the House table. Let the copies be distributed.

Do we all agree? (*The House agreed*).

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

We will proceed with Official Resolution. We have 1 Official Resolution today and I request the hon. Home Minister Pu Lalchamlia to move his resolution.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The Official Resolution that I shall move in this Honorable House today is- "That this House unanimously resolves to oppose any step taken or proposed to be taken for enactment of Uniform Civil Code in India".

Before we go any further, I would like to say two things Pu Speaker.

Firstly, when the MNF Legislature Party decided that the Resolution should be introduced by the Home Minister, I simply agreed to it. However, after careful thinking, this is about laws and it seems like it should be handled by the Home Minister and the Law Department. So, I beg for your understanding.

I did not lobby the opposition groups since I assume we, as the ruling and oppositions want the same thing.

Let us briefly explain what the Uniform Civil Code is. In India, different ethnic groups and religions have their own laws and customs such as marriage and divorce, inheritance, family management, land ownership, personal law and customary law. The purpose of the Uniform Civil Code is to eliminate these and make 'Uniform Civil Code' applicable throughout India. The UCC's aim is to unite all people under one law without discrimination of race or religion. If the UCC is to be implemented throughout India, it would affect the security of our nation and religion which means that our religions and traditional customs will disappear.

There are two types of laws in India. The first is the Criminal Law which covers all citizens and does not discriminate against anyone. The second is - 'Civil Law'. There are many different ethnic groups and religions in India and the ethnic groups and religious minorities are respected and we walk in harmony in India. We are all aware that The Uniform Civil Code is nothing new. The Constituent Assembly which drafted the Constitution of India before India's independence also discussed the Uniform Civil Code. Some wanted it done while others said that it will be bad for unity. After much debate, it was enshrined in Article 44 of the Constitution of India as one of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

The Constitution of India is divided into 22 parts and part 3 contains the Fundamental Rights. Fundamental Rights are the rights of all citizens to protect their rights given to them by the Constitution. Part 4 – 'Directive Principle of State Policy' is not like fundamental rights and it is 'non-justiciable/non-enforceable' where there is no court case even if the government or an individual does not comply with it. Article 44 of the Indian Constitution states that the state shall endeavour to secure for citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. Article 37 states, “the provisions contained in this part shall not be enforceable by any court, but the principles laid down therein are nevertheless fundamental in the governance of the country and, it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.” There are many things in the Directive Principles many of which have been implemented. However, the Uniform Civil Code is controversial and has not been implemented to date.

A friend told me that the BJP's 2018 and 2019 election manifestos included the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code and one party campaigned heavily in the elections saying that they will try to implement the Uniform Civil Code during the Assembly elections in 4-5 states in northern India last year.

When Arun Jaitley was the Union Home Minister he filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking the implementation of the Uniform Civil Court and also, BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena introduced the Uniform Civil Court in India Bill 2020, Bill No. 2 of 2020” in Rajya Sabha. The bill was debated on whether it should be admitted or

not but since the majority members wanted to admit it, the bill is available in Parliament for consideration.

Hon. MP Pu K. Vanlalvena asked a question on the Uniform Civil Code in the last Rajya Sabha Session and we can know from the answer that the Government of India has taken a lot of steps to establish this Uniform Civil Court because the Union Law Minister replied saying, “The government had requested the 21st Law Commission of India to undertake examination of various issues relating to Uniform Civil Code and to make recommendation thereon, the term of the 21st Law Commission and that on 31st August, 2018. As per information received from the Law Commission, the matter relating to Uniform Civil Code may be taken up by the 22nd Law Commission for its consideration”.

The 21st Law Commission ended its term without submitting a final report on the UCC. If I am not mistaken, the interim report prepared a draft report saying ‘the UCC is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage’ but this was not submitted. We do not know how the 22nd Law Commission will make a proposal and therefore, the Uniform Civil Code which can change our religion, culture, customary law and society should be opposed and it is very important that we pass the resolution of disapproval.

However, even if this law is passed, we Mizoram citizens are protected against it by our special provision Article 371(g) which is the result of the India-MNF agreement. It may not be threatening inside Mizoram but it is not safe in India as a whole. Article 371 (g) states that the Acts of Parliament relating to the following matters would not apply to Mizoram unless the State Legislative Assembly so decides:
Religious or social practices of the Mizos.

Mizo customary law and procedure Administration of civil and criminal justice, involving decisions according to Mizo customary law and Ownership and transfer of land.

Founder president Pu Laldenga who signed the peace agreement said that the peace agreement is not our wish nor is it India's wish. I am quite pleased that we have seen the benefits of such a special provision agreement. However, this refers to Mizoram in particular and Nagaland has a similar provision as well.

The UCC aims to abolish Christian marriage, Mizo customary law and inheritance customs and make India one as a whole. So, I would like to ask the House to consider this resolution as it is not good for the unity of India, especially for the minorities and religious minorities. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The Minister has moved his resolution and we will now have a discussion. Each member will be given 5 minutes.

PU VANLALHLANA : The resolution has been moved by the resolution holder and Legislative party leaders should be given 10 minutes. Do we all have to discuss it?

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalmuanpuia was the first to raise his hand and I request him.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am very pleased that the Home Minister introduced the Official Resolution '*Uniform Civil Code*' and I support it. The Uniform Civil Code is a law that treats people under one law regardless of their religion, marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance and succession and adoption. As we have heard, this is a dangerous law for Mizo citizens.

The Uniform Civil Code is not new to India. In 1835, the British Government submitted a report on the need for the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in India. The Hindu Code Bill Succession Act, Hindu Marriage Act, Special Marriage Act, Minority and Guardianship Act and Adoption and Maintenance Act were passed after India's independence. There are various criteria for those who want a Uniform Civil Code including national inclination, one nation one law, simplifying governance, eliminate vote bank politics, eliminate religious and ethnic politics and eliminate religious discrimination. So, there are various points raised in this regard.

However, Pu Speaker, it is clear that this is not studied and analyzed. The customary laws of the tribal communities in India will be abolished if we implement this law. The Indian Constitution also states that this is not the purpose of the Total Uniform Civil Code and it is also contrary to Article 25 of the Indian Constitution on freedom of religion. 'One Nation, One Law' is a law that is not safe for the various ethnic groups in India. Mizoram has Article 371(G) and the Peace Accord between the MNF and the Indian government is contrary to the UCC. Nagaland also has Article 371(G) which states that no law of Parliament shall change the laws of their customs and religion. So, it seems that it is not that unsafe for Mizoram because even if this law is applied equally throughout India, we have the Peace Accord.

However, Pu Speaker, UCC was the BJP's election manifesto in 1998 where two of the three objectives were achieved. Article 370 on Jammu and Kashmir was repealed in Parliament and the construction of the Ram temple was passed by the Supreme Court. Therefore, we cannot remain silent. Pu Speaker, the Uniform Civil Code is the only thing that has not been successful and the BJP government drafted this law with a special purpose. Rajya Sabha MP (BJP) Kirodi Lal Meena requested the introduction of the Private Member Bill where 63 members voted for it and 23 members were against it. Therefore, it is not going well looking at the way India is governed and it seems that they try to abolish us even if we have Article 371(G).

On March 22, Uttarakhand BJP government led by Pushkar Singh Dami took steps to ensure the implementation of the UCC and proposals were made to implement this law. Pu Speaker, the UCC is a terrible law which has a specific purpose and it will be used according to the wishes of the majority of ethnic groups and religious followers. Hinduism is the largest religion in India and the UCC's main objective is to slowly destroy the religious system of the minority Christians. Therefore, it is a must to oppose The Uniform Civil Code to protect our state, our nation and our religion. Therefore, I request the House to pass this resolution to oppose UCC. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Chapter 2 (8) of the Rules of Procedure says not to leave after ones speech. However, Pu Muanpuia’s good friend passed away and he asked for a permission to leave which we will immediately approve. I request Pu BD Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The Home Minister's official resolution on the Uniform Civil Code is “That this House unanimously resolves to oppose any step taken or proposed to be taken for the enactment of the Uniform Civil Code in India”. There are three reasons why this Uniform Civil Code should be taken seriously. In short - National Security Guard (NSG) where 'N' stands for National Integration, 'S' stands for Secular nature of State and 'G' stands for Gender Justice or Equality. These three points were included in the Central BJP's manifesto before the previous election since they are a concern.

Hon. Rajya Sabha MP Pu Vena asked Kiren Rijiju, the Union Minister regarding the status of the Uniform Civil Code and Kiren Rijiju replied clearly that there is no intention of discussing or introducing the bill in Parliament at present. So, I believe we are a bit in a hurry to react and we cannot be sure whether things are good or bad before they actually happen. We will carefully examine it and support it if it is good. If not, Article 371(G) of the Constitution is a clearly written law for the protection of Mizoram. Therefore, all minorities - Christians, Buddhists and Brus in Mizoram have been safeguarded under Article 371(G). The Law Commission also clearly states that ‘UCC is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage’ and this was the recommendation of the 21st Union Law Commission. The 21st Law Commission is now completed but the 22nd Law Commission has not yet been established and its Chairman and Secretary were not yet appointed. Therefore, 28 other states also opposed the UCC and it is dangerous to be the first to react hastily as an NDA.

I stayed up until 2:00 am studying ‘the Mizo Divorce, Marriage, Inheritance of Property Act, 2014’ and ‘the Mizoram Compulsory Marriage Registration Act,2007’ to see if there are any contradictions with UCC but I have not seen anything like that Pu Speaker. So, I felt like we acted too hastily before things actually happened and I am afraid that Delhi will receive a bad signal if we are the first of the 28 states to speak out. Therefore, it is not necessary to say 'Yes' or 'No' before we study the report of the 22nd Law Commission.

I do not understand why this official resolution is introduced in the House as it is too early and this resolution is hard for me to support Pu Speaker. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Zodintluanga followed by Pu Duha.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is impressive that our Minister has moved a resolution against the UCC which can destroy our culture and religion. Congress party has been opposing the UCC for a long time and I would like to say that I support the official resolution introduced today by the government.

A party that wants to unite India's citizens is in power in the central government. 'One nation, One market, One tax, One data' is echoing loud and the low echo 'One religion' is what we fear today. The BJP promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code nationwide in 2019 and since the current government is a member of the NDA, they are also part of that promise. Chawngte representative's statement that they too are members of the NDA has made it clear.

However, I am quite pleased that a resolution against the UCC has been introduced in this very House. It is an important issue that can change the laws of various ethnic and religious groups, inheritance and traditions, marriage and family management. Pu Speaker, I do not think that Article 371(G) will protect us in today's central government as they want to be legislators in Parliament and amend laws. We have heard yesterday that the constitution was also amended in Kashmir. Article 371(G) of the Constitution can be amended if the majority of members of Parliament pass it. Therefore, we must fight together not according to the party but according to the nation and religion.

Therefore, Pu Speaker, our party supports the resolution- "That this House unanimously resolves to oppose any step taken or proposed to be taken for enactment of Uniform Civil Code in India". It is something we have always fought against and we are still fighting against it today. Thank you and we support this resolution.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Lalduhoma

PU LALDUHOMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. ZPM Legislature Party recognizes today's resolution as a national issue and we do not think it should be used as a party or for vote seeking purposes and it should be passed unanimously. The Home Minister explained it beautifully and presented everything we need to know and I would like to thank him.

Central Government and Mizoram's relationship as a nation should be seriously considered. The Congress party, which had ruled India for a long time was overthrown in the 2014 parliamentary elections and many people are looking at Mr. Modi with hope. I was invited to the swearing-in when he was welcomed as prime minister and we were asked to join the NDA. We looked at their manifesto and their slogans and we thought

it was good to support Mr. Modi's new government thinking that they are the government under the Indian Constitution and they will not do anything bad and so, we joined the NDA as well. However, things soon changed and the UCC was in force before it was even 2 years. It echoed all over India but was withdrawn and it emerged again today.

Union Minister for Human Resources Development Ram Shankar Katheria announced that India's education system will be based on Hinduism. The heads of the India's largest educational institutions were replaced by their own people who accepted their idealism and this made us to have a sense of fear. In addition, our foreign contributions which our private NGOs and churches received were stopped and Yoga Day was celebrated nationwide. Their government is supposed to work under the Constitution but they do anything they please and so, we withdrew from the NDA.

After that, the Citizenship Amendment came to light and we all knew the atmosphere of that time. Recently, Pu Speaker, the Times of India on August 13, 2013 reported that a Constitution Drafting Committee was formed to rewrite the Constitution of India. The Times of India wrote that Muslims and Christians should no longer have voting rights but should still enjoy the rights of common citizenship. This is also what we need to pay attention to and India is a country where the atmosphere is such that even if we try to be content, we cannot be.

In the 'New Minute', UP Minister Sanjay Nishad recently said that all those who do not want to speak Hindi will be considered foreigners and should leave India. They even removed Article 370, a special provision of Jammu and Kashmir.

Therefore, Pu Speaker, our special provision 371(G) can also be removed if they are able to remove 370. So, it is clear that our nation is not safe under the BJP government. Article 371(G) is a great provision that we have done our utmost to achieve. However, the biggest mistake we made was not to object The Indian Forest Act. The Home Minister said he would make a statement in the House that no central laws would be added before and after statehood and then Pu Denga was satisfied. 371(G) is a very valuable law but I am afraid that it will not be safe under the current government. I believe it is in jeopardy after Article 370 was removed.

Therefore, in conclusion, Pu Speaker, I would like to say that we should have a united stand on the issue of our nation. We heard our House Leader and MPs' criticism of CAA, but they voted for it when the reality came because they are no doubt the NDA members. We should defend and protect our freedom. Depending on the issue, we should freely cooperate with the central government and then fight them on the things that we oppose. Therefore, the government and the ruling party themselves should say that it is time to withdraw from the NDA. Let us not lose our freedom as it will continue to be important for our state and nation. Therefore, I truly support this resolution and wished for it to be passed unanimously. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request the Hon. House Leader Pu Zoramthanga.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Today's Official Resolution presented by our Home Minister is quite impressive. Our legislative party carefully thought about it and this needs to be done with all our might. Our Home Minister explained the history and other important matters in detail and we all oppose the UCC.

India is divided into large parts from the coldest state to the hottest state and from the rainiest state to the driest state where our terrains all differ. Culturally, the Aryan group and the Dravidian group are in South India, the Mongoloid groups are in the east, Aryan groups, Dravidian groups and Mongoloid groups are also present in the north. Religiously, Hindu, Muslim, Christian and other religions all live in the country. Our cultures are different where most of us are patriarchal systems while others are matriarchal systems and our practices are very different. The founders of India also tried to implement uniform civil code but they saw how impossible and difficult it is to do so. It starts ringing in parliament and we believe this to be a dangerous warning sign. It will be too late to oppose this after the Parliament passed it and so, we felt that we needed to express our disapproval after the signal sound was heard.

We fear this law and it is a threat. Article 370 of Kashmir was abolished and we need to be careful. Article 371(G) protects Mizoram and Nagaland but this alone is not enough and the people should also make efforts. Therefore, today, on behalf of the people, we present this resolution to pass it in this House.

Mizo people are aware of the struggle we had to protect our nation where thousands of people died and many were handicapped, orphaned and widowed. We sacrificed thousands of lives to protect our nation, laws and religion and 20 years. Therefore, today we present this resolution to make our voices heard.

We have principles and we want to boldly stand up with our principles. For example, the Central government ordered us to reject the Myanmar refugees but we denied the orders since we are based on our principles. I, the House Leader told the central government that we cannot reject the refugees as they are our brothers and sisters even from a humanitarian point of view. We believe that we must protect them in the midst of their distress as per our principle and so, we protected them and our government also helped them as much as it could. Not only that, we also asked the Indian government to help them as well.

India will be in chaos if the UCC is passed and enforced. Will they force this and dare to enforce it is a matter of concern. So, what we can do in this House today is to pass this unanimously. Therefore, the Home Minister's resolution against the Uniform Civil Code should be passed unanimously. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Lalmuangpuia spoke for 10 minutes, Pu BD Chakma for 5 minutes, Pu Zodintluanga Ralte for 9 minutes, Pu Lalduhoma for 10 minutes and our Chief Minister spoke for 11 minutes. I request the Minister, Pu Lalchamliana, to wind-up and beg the House to adopt the resolution.

PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I will react to the members' comments briefly.

In response to Pu BD Chakma, my opinion is that, they have already taken long steps since the Law Commission is asked to study the matter. So, it is better to act early than to be sorry.

Group Leaders Pu Zodintluanga and Pu Duha said that 371 (G) can be repealed by the central government if it wishes since Article 370 of the J&K special provision was also repealed. So, it is true that this is not stable and we are in danger. We are under the central authority as long as we are in India and if the law makers can amend laws, they can also repeal laws. Therefore, it is very important that we are alert in this matter.

There is a saying that NDA manifesto includes UCC implementation, however, if am not mistaken Pu Speaker, the NDA has no manifesto and the UCC implementation is the BJP's manifesto. Regarding our MPs votes on CAB, our party, the government and the NGOS are all against CAB. However, pressure from various parties, especially the NGO Co-ordination Committee led by YMA met the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and it was decided that Mizoram will not be included. So, that is why our MPs only vote for it.

Pu Speaker, it is a pleasure to discuss this official resolution in a good atmosphere. Therefore, I beg the House to unanimously pass this Official Resolution "That this House unanimously resolves to oppose any step taken or proposed to be taken for the enactment of the Union Civil Code in India". Thank you.

SPEAKER : The resolution holder has requested the House to adopt his resolution "*That this House unanimously resolves to oppose any step taken or proposed to be taken for the enactment of the Uniform Civil Code in India*". All those members in favor may say 'yes' (**Members:** 'Yes') and all those members who disagree may say 'no' (There is no one who disagree.) The House has adopted the resolution of the Hon Minister, Pu Lalchamliana. (**Pu Lalchamliana, Minister:** Thank you, Pu Speaker). I would also like to thank the House for unanimously passing this resolution as it is an important matter for Mizoram.

Our business for today is over and we will continue tomorrow i.e., February 15, 2023 (Wednesday) at 10:30 am.

Sitting is adjourned. (12:48 P.M.)