

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR ELEVENTH SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 22nd 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 PAPER

2. **PU R. LALZIRLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of Notification No. A. 43016/3/2018-DC&MA (C)/232 of 16th December, 2022 on the assumption by the Governor of Mizoram of all function or powers vested in or exercisable by the Chakma Autonomous District Council as per Para 16(2) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS

3. **ER. LALRINAWMA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
4. **PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.
5. **PU K. LALRINLIANA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

LALHMAHRUAIA ZOTE

Commissioner & Secretary

* *Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 288, dated the 15th February 2023 for Demands to be moved by Ministers.*

SPEAKER : *In your anger do not sin; Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry; and do not give the devil a foothold.*

-Ephesians 4:26-27

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

I call upon hon. member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo to ask *Starred Question* No. 161.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, Will the hon'ble Local Admis ration Minister be pleased to state the following question.

- a) How do the present government look after Phuldungsei village in Zampui area, which is newly included within Mizoram territory by the present government?
- b) Does the government intend to construct road infrastructure for connectivity in Phuldungsei village in Zampui area?

SPEAKER : I now call upon hon. minister Pu K. Lalrinliana to answer the questions.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the following are the answers to questions raised by respected member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo-

- a) The government has given the name 'Phuldungsei-Zampui' to Phuldungsei village in Zampui area and has given Village Council. VC election was conducted on 27.8.2020. LAD has given 15th Finance Commission Grant, the grant received are as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Untied</i>	<i>Tied</i>	<i>Total</i>
2020-21	₹91,000	₹91,000	₹182,000
2021-22	₹60,000	₹87,000	₹147,000

During 2021-22, LAD has given ₹20 lakh to construct Panchayat Bhawan (VC House) under RGSA Scheme. Also, *100 days of employment* was given under RD. Apart from other initiatives, supply of rice grain was also given to them.

- b) There is no initiative taken so far regarding road construction for connectivity in Phuldungsei village in Zampui area.

SPEAKER : I call upon hon. member Pu Lalduhoma to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, Firstly, the financial grant for Local Council and Village Council comes from Finance Commission. My question is-

- i) Who is in charge of distributing the fund, Mizoram Finance Department or Mizoram Finance Commission?
- ii) The Department fails to grant the fund to Village Council in time. Due to this delay, we had to pay ₹282 lakhs as penalty. What is the reason for this delay?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Dr K. Pachhunga.

DR. K PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, how many computers have been given to VC so far? Is there a proposal to give in the future?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, Mizo community has been living in Zampui area which is called Tripura by us. Village council was given as it was requested by them. When I visited along with respected Chief Minister and LAD minister. Development funds were given to them by different departments.

My question is- How many VC House have been constructed during 2019-2023 under LAD? Is there any proposal to build more houses? During 2019-20, ₹20 lakhs was given to each village for the construction of VC House. During 2020-2022, they were given ₹10 lakhs, and this year it has increased to ₹20 lakhs. What is the reason?

SPEAKER : To answer the questions, I call upon hon'ble Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, answer to hon. member Pu Lalduhoma's questions are- Finance Commission distribution of fund is in accordance to, 2015 baseline survey according to population base designed by Finance Department.

The delay in distribution of fund may have various reasons which lead to penal interest. However, the penal interest is invested for development of VC. Presently, the new law states that '*fund must be distributed within 20 days*' which leads to smooth distribution of fund.

Answer to Dr K Pachhunga's question- Computer was distributed to 23 VC and there is a plan for further distribution.

Answer to Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo's question- VC House renovation fund has been given to 98 VC, and, new VC House fund have been given to 150 VC. Also, currently there is a plan to build more VC House.

Due to pandemic, Panchayat Bharat India fund which is 20 lakh was reduced to 10 lakh by the central government. As the pandemic gets better, it is now increased to 20 lakhs. It will be sanctioned for the current proposal to construct new 23 VC House.

SPEAKER : To ask *Starred Question* No. 162, I call upon hon. member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, will the hon. RD minister be pleased to state-

When will the second installment for housing assistance under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) be released?

SPEAKER : To answer the question, I call upon hon. RD Minister Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the next installment will be disbursed when fund is received from the central government, and depending upon release of fund from State Treasury.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, in rural areas, especially within minority areas, there have been issue regarding mismatch of their account number and adhaar card. As they are illiterate, they are often deceived by some village council. So, my request is when next installment is received, will it be possible for BDO or VLA to visit the field to rectify the technical issue faced by them?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Pu Speaker, there have been frequent calamity in Sairang which is within my constituency. The voluntary rescue team during such calamity are the people from Sairang. Therefore, the hon'ble RD Minister is constructing Community Hall in Sihhmui and Sairang which is almost completed. Will it be possible to construct in Sairang-Dinthar as well?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr ZR Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAM SANGA : Pu Speaker, my questions are: how many days are allotted for *100 days employment scheme*? Secondly, what is the plan for the current year? When will fresh selection for PMAY Gramin be conducted?

SPEAKER : To answer the questions, I call upon hon. Minister Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, PMAY- Housing for all is divided into two- PMAY-Urban and PMAY- Gramin, Under PMAY Gramin, each beneficiary receives ₹1,30,000 in 4 installment. 30% each in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd installment and 10% in the final installment. There has been issue in the selection of beneficiaries which is done using socio-economic census, SECC, 2011 data. As the Ministry of Rural Development hires 3rd party, some villages are omitted from the beneficiary list such as Lungtian, Sangau-III and Mualchar.

On the other hand, people with good housing are even included in the SECC data. For such reason 'Awaasoft' was uploaded in the computer and submitted in the Ministry. After that, in 2017-18 there was a request to re-select the beneficiaries due to some error. A new 'Awaas Plus' was made and finalized in February 2019. Thus, the final target beneficiaries are 20512. 14,862 have received 1st installment, 2nd installment-7966; 3rd installment-6493 and 4th installment-6069. Thus, 14,443 are ongoing construction and there are still 5650 that haven't started house construction.

There have been many complications under PMAY Gramin due to delayed disbursement of fund between each installment such as decayed logs. Efforts have been taken to tackle the problem such as conducting regional Workshop in Aizawl. However, there is no desired result to be seen.

To answer respected member Pu Zodintluanga's question- effort have been taken to sort out the problem of mismatch of adhaar card and account number by requesting BDO to look into the matter. Still, we are facing problem in such case as the adhaar holder is the beneficiary, whereas, the account holder is the head of the family, since it is difficult for each of the family members to open separate bank account. We request our officials to sort out the problem and give their best efforts to tackle the problem.

Answer to the hon'ble member Pu Zothantluanga's question is- Even though community hall is utilized less than ten times a year, each village needs a community hall. Separate funding is not allocated for construction of community hall. However, we will find a way to procure fund for the construction of Sairang/Dinthar Community Hall. answer to hon. member Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga's question is- amidst the pandemic, we could achieve 100 days labour under the 100 days labour scheme. The labour budget for this year is '*175 lakhs person's day*' which used to be '*200 lakhs person's day*.' With the approval of higher committee, we are allowed '*additional-10 lakhs person's day*'. Presently, our current approval is '*185 lakhs person's day*'. In order to fulfill 100 out of 100 labour, we need '*201 lakhs person's day*'. officials visited the ministry and we expect to achieve the target budget again.

Regarding the question- When will fresh selection for PMAY Gramin be conducted? Under PMAY-Gramin, 6069 have completed the construction, 14,443 are under construction and 5650 are yet to start the construction. Due to this, ministry informed us to first complete the present target. After the completion of the target, we expect a fresh selection to include people who are in dire need to be included.

SPEAKER : To ask Starred Question No. 163, I call upon hon member Dr. K. Pachhunga.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu speaker, Will the hon. minister for Land Resources, Soil & Water Conservation Department be pleased to state-

Nghasih catchment area is located in the outskirts of the city where Hrangchalkawn, Theiriati, Sethlun, Lunglawn, Ramthar and Chanmari are located at the source of Nghasih Zau. Are there plans for the prevention of soil erosion, maintenance of water recharge and check dam in these areas? If there are plans, what are those plans?

SPEAKER : To answer the questions, I call upon hon member Pu R. Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, for prevention of soil erosion in Nghasih catchment area, there is construction of check dam. They are:

<i>Sl. No</i>	<i>Items of Works</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
1.	Check dam at upper, middle & lower reaches	60 nos.
2.	Spur for WRC land protection at lower reaches	25 nos.
3.	Bench terrace at lower and middle reaches	100 Ha.
4.	Contour trench for moisture conservation at upper reaches	50 Ha.
5.	Farm pond (non-lined) at lower reaches	15 nos.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Pu C Lalsawivunga.

PU C LALSAWIVUNGA : Pu Speaker, Will the hon. minister for Land Resources, Soil & Water Conservation Department be pleased to state-

- i) How many rainwaters harvesting were made for farmers within these 2 years?
- ii) How much fund is sanctioned for construction of tanky for the year 2020-2022? If the fund has been utilized?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, most of the villages within my constituency lie at the bank of river, there is occurrence of soil erosion every year. Is there any initiative for the prevention of soil erosion such as construction of check dam?

SPEAKER : To answer the question, I call upon hon minister Pu R. Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am not able to give answer to questions raised by hon. member Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

To answer Pu Nihar's question- it will be feasible to take initiative for the prevention of soil erosion. We will keep in mind if there's an intention to take initiative on such case this year.

SPEAKER : Can you give answer to Pu Sawivunga's question regarding tanky?

PU R LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, rain water harvesting tanky have been made in many places, however I cannot point out the exact figure.

SPEAKER : To ask *Starred Question* No. 164, I call upon hon member Pu Lawmawma Tochhawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, my questions are –

- a) What are the initiatives taken by Land Resources, Soil & Water Conservation Department for conservation of water resources in the state?
- b) Where are the places where such initiatives are taken?

SPEAKER : To answer the questions, I call upon hon minister Pu R. Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answers are as follows -

- a) Under NABARD-WDF, Spring Shed-Based Watershed Development Project has been carried out in different places by Land Resources, Soil & Water Conservation Department. The main motive of this project is to increase water source. The work is carried out on 100% grant.
- b) The places where the project is carried out are:
 1. Lungtian Zau, Aibawk
 2. Vaipuanpho, Ailawng
 3. Khawhnuai Tuikhur, Bawngthah
 4. Upper Chitelui, Haulawng

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Pu Lawmawma Tochhawng

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Speaker, my questions are -

- i) Will it be possible for conversation of water resources be implement in Lunglei area as well?
- ii) After sowing of seeds by ginger cultivators the rain washes away the fertile upper soil. To prevent such incident, If percussion can be taken like Changkham-contour trench and gabion structure?

SPEAKER : To answer the question, I call upon hon. Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, few works were done within the constituency of Pu K Pachhunga in Lunglei area. We would like to extend the work in other places as well. However, it depends upon the fund we receive from NABARD and if our finance minister, could sanction additional fund, our work can be extended in

every district. So, the initiative for conversation of water resources can be carried out in Lunglei area as well.

SPEAKER : To ask Starred Question No. 165, I call upon hon. member Pu K Laldawngliana.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Pu Speaker, my question for hon. Minister of Irrigation & Water Resources Department are-

- a) What are the works done by Irrigation & Water Resources Department within Tuirial Constituency in the year 2022-2023?
- b) What are the names of the villages such work is carried out?

SPEAKER : To answer the question, I call upon hon. minister in charge Pu C. Lalrinsanga.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answers are as follows -

- a) Work done by Irrigation & Water Resources Department within Tuirial Constituency in the year 2022-2023 are-
Dilzau MI Project, Hortoki-
 1. Renovation of Water Harvesting Pond at Zahawma's area;
 2. Construction of Water Harvesting Pond at Thangchhingpuia's area;
 3. Improvement of Water Harvesting Pond at Vanlalduha's area;
 4. Construction of farm road and approach road;
 5. Laying of GI Pipe at Tumtlang, Bualpui.
 6. Dilzau, Hortoki.
- b) Tumtlang, Bualpui.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Pu K Laldawngliana.

PU K LALDAWNGLIANA: Pu Speaker, is there any intention to continue taking initiative within Tuirial constituency? Also, I thank you for all the work done so far.

SPEAKER : To answer the question, I call upon hon. minister in charge Pu C. Lalrinsanga.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the initiatives taken so far covered just a small area. However, we identified potential area in different areas which I cannot tell you the exact figure. We are trying our best to continue taking initiatives within Tuirial constituency.

SPEAKER : To ask *Starred Question* No. 166, I call upon hon. member Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C LALSAWIVUNGA: Will the hon. Commerce & Industries Minister be pleased to state-

For the preservation and processing of our harvest in Mizoram, is 'Food/Fruits Processing Wing' created?

SPEAKER : To answer the question, I call upon hon. minister in charge Dr. R Lalthangliana.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, for the preservation and processing of our harvest in Mizoram, 'Food/Fruits Processing Wing' is not yet created.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, my first question is- In our website "*Means of doing business*", we can see draft policy of Mizoram Industrial and Investment Policy, 2021. In the previous session, it was said that 'there is an initiative taken for new industrial policy'. How is this initiative carried forward? Will Mizoram have new industrial policy this year?

'*Competition commission*' was put under Trade & Commerce- Allocation of Business Rules, 2019. Does the Department have initiatives taken in trade and consultancy- public procurement? What are the initiatives taken under competition commission allocation?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary questions* are -

- i) What is the progress on DPR submit for the renovation of Serkawn Bazar shed, which is in my constituency?
- ii) Serkawn Bazar shed needs renovation. It is overcrowded and the floor is already in very poor condition. There is serious threat of calamity. If the hon'ble minister could look into the matter within this year?
- iii) There is an ongoing proposal for the establishment of 'Handloom Park' in Mualthuam North which is within my constituency. The project proposal was already submitted to central government and I believe it has reached the final stage. Can you tell me how far it has progress?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Pu C. Lalsawivunga

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, the cultivators have been facing issues on trade, storage and processing. We can see in SEDP book B-3.1 (iv) about the plans for development on such areas. In SEDP book, it states that 'separate budget is to be sanctioned for food processing'. However, even in the 5th year, there are no solid initiatives taken. What is the reason for not taking such initiatives?

Also, is there any work done for the renovation of our existing storage facilities? If there is any sanction for such, in the next budget? What is the plan?

SPEAKER : To answer the question, I call upon hon. Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer the questions raised by hon. member Dr. Vanlalhlana is-

Extra effort has been taken for Industrial policy. However, it requires intense study. Discussion with stakeholders will take place and we will likely finalize after the outcome of the discussion. It will most definitely be done within this year.

Regarding competition commission, we had a meeting with higher authorities and it is an ongoing process and the selection is almost done. Speedy steps has been taken in this regard.

To answer Dr. Vanlaltanpuia's questions- there has been initiative taken for the past 2 years, regarding Serkawn Bazar shed which is in danger of collapsing. Due to covid crisis, NEC is facing a problem in funding. We have already submitted ₹3 lakh DPR, however, it seems that NEC has faced some financial issue. I have, had a talk with NEC Secretary and we are informed to construct a medium sized building. There is an ongoing initiative in more than 10 areas where market can be built easily. We have submitted the proposal and it is ongoing. I cannot guarantee that it will be granted. I want to let our respected member know that Serkawn is given top priority.

The hon. member, Dr. Vanlaltanpuia has been taking initiative for the establishment of Handloom Park in his constituency, Mualthuam. He even visited Delhi in this regard. The concerned department also took up the matter. I also have personally sent DO letter to the concerned ministry. The information received from Ministry of Textiles has been carried forward. It is not a minor project, it is a project which requires at least ₹500 lakhs. we haven't receive a response as of now from the central government.

To answer Pu C. Lalsawivunga's questions- It is true that it is put under SEDP. Priority is given by the hon'ble CM who is also the Finance Minister, during this financial year.

However, the question on 'Food Processing Wing' needs rectification. Pu Speaker, MIFCO was established under 'Commerce and Industries Department' on 19 December, 1989 for the regulation of harvest in Mizoram. Fruit-Juice Concentration Camp was established in Chhingchhip on 19 May, 1998. This plant processes passion fruit, pineapple and orange including cold storage. It is planned to accommodate 677 metric ton of fruits and vegetables. There is also a warehouse with 1000 metric ton capacity.

However, in the previous government, MIFCO was privatized on 7 April, 2016 in the Council of Ministers Meeting. Out of more than 100 employees, 55 employees were given retirement under *Early Retirement Rules, 2015*. Currently, there are only 26 employees. Due to labour constraint, effective work cannot be done in food processing. For this reason, after thorough thinking, the present government puts MIFCO as a facilitating agency. The surplus product of the cultivators is bought and taken care of.

Project Management Unit is established under Commerce & Industries Deptt. For better utilization of central food processing programme there is 'Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Enterprises Scheme' which is expected to be benefitted by the people. The establishment is an agency and not a 'wing' for faster and more efficient work for vegetables and fruits production.

As it was not a big establishment like before, work cannot be efficient. Regardless of whether money will be sanctioned in the next budget, some amount will be available.

SPEAKER : To ask *Starred Question* No. 167, I call upon hon. member Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Will the hon. I&CT Department minister be pleased to state-

- a) How many IT Skill Development & Training Centre I &CT Department plan to establish?
- b) Where will they be established?
- c) What will be the benefits of the establishment?
- d) How many permanent and temporary employees do I&CT Department have?
- e) Is there any intention to establish District Office by I&CT Department?

SPEAKER : To answer the question, I call upon hon. Minister Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the questions raised by Aizawl North-III MLA Pu C. Lalmuanpuia is-

- a) I &CT Department plans to establish 7 (seven) IT Skill Development & Training Centre. Areas to be established are:
 1. Chawngte Block;
 2. Lawngtlai Block;
 3. Bungtlang 'S' Block;
 4. Zawlnuam Block;
 5. West Phaileng Block;
 6. Lungsen Block;
 7. West Bunghmun Block.
- b) The benefits are as follows:

Firstly, there is an intention to establish IT Skill Development & Training Centre in every block of Minority Concentration area in Mizoram. There is a plan to put 50 sets of computers in every center which can be utilized by students and teachers in the study of Information Technology (IT).

Secondly, this project is carried out in collaboration with NIELIT which is capable of giving various courses. This will be beneficial for people within the block for the studies and skill development in IT.

Thirdly, even the most remote and corner most village will have IT training center. This will be beneficial for the development in education, community development and job opportunities for the people.

Fourthly, this center includes not only education but also facilitation center. It can also be used as common service center, Running course and people required will be provided by NIELIT.

- b) Currently, I&CT Department has 32 permanent employees and 7 temporary employees.
- c) I&CT Department does not have an intention to establish more district offices.

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

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Pu Speaker, Airtel has launched 5G, Is there any intention to launch 5G by other service provider in Mizoram?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question-* Pu L. Thangmawia.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Pu Speaker, there are places where internet signal is extremely poor within my constituency such as Kawlbem, Khawkawn and Chiahpui. This causes problem in various cases such as, '*100 days guaranteed wage employment*' where files need to be uploaded immediately. Is there a plan for strengthening in this regard?

Secondly- does Mizoram government have a say in call and internet rate charged by the service provider? Or the government has to accept whatever rate charged by the service provider?

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

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question* is *Starred Question* No. 168.

SPEAKER : To answer the questions, I call upon hon. minister Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

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

SPEAKER : Time is up for Question & Answer hour. Should I let him answer the questions? (*approved by the members*). Okay then, you may proceed.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Jio and Airtel are the two service providers that offer 5G service. They launched 5G service in Aizawl before we expected. As an ICT Minister, I tried my best for faster launching of 5G service. We had a meeting last year. March was the tentative month for launching 5G in Mizoram. Keeping in mind the target month, 5G service was launched by Airtel and Jio in Aizawl in the month of February. There is a plan with proper target and deadline in Lunglei and other districts. However, there are many challenges. More towers are required with shorter intervals for 5G services. There is also an objection from some people in fear of radiation. AMC Building Regulation was amended to remove 'Neighbourhood NOC'.

This results in putting more tower and faster connectivity. After the establishment of IT Infrastructure Policy, central government and private service providers are able to make effective plans. They said more towers are required; however, I cannot tell you the exact figure. 5G service will eventually be available in other areas other than Aizawl very soon.

To answer Dr. L.Thangmawia's question-although we are already in High Tech IT world, according to my latest information, 70 small areas which do not even have village council, which can be called habitation, still do not have good mobile connectivity.

In 2019, when I was newly appointed as a minister, I suggested for a meeting with DoT and MEITY Ministry officials. We found out that around 400 villages did not have connectivity, especially in south and north corner areas where there is extremely poor connectivity. Initiatives were taken from central government, PSU and Private Service Providers. ICT Department also takes charge in coordination and helps whenever required. We are trying to universalize connectivity to include even the most remote areas.

Covid pandemic has created serious challenges for Service Providers as they were not entertained to enter their villages which hampers in expansion of connectivity. Although it may not be appropriate to announce the name of the villages in the House, we have shortlisted such villages. Regardless of such challenges, we are giving our best to expand connectivity.

There is no intention to modify or make new call or internet rate by Mizoram government.

Pu Speaker, should I consider Pu C Lalsawivunga's query as a question and proceed to answer? (**Speaker:** He asked within the time so yes).

The answer is-

During 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, ₹7561.85 lakhs was received from the central government. Out of this, ₹7250.00 lakhs came outside the State Budget. As the work is to be carried out through Finance Department, it is put within the State Budget.

This will be shown in the Supplementary Demand and I want to clarify that this sum is not additional borrowing rather it is received.

- i) “Establishment of IT Skill Development & Training Centre” under PMJVK received ₹311.85 lakh as first installment. Sanction including second installment will be ₹622 lakh. State Nodal Agency (SNA) through District Council & Minority Affairs (DC &MA) received expenditure sanction on 22.09.2022.
- ii) “*Establishment of OPGW and ADSS for Backbone Connectivity of Districts and Blocks in Mizoram*” under SASCI Scheme received ₹5000.00 lakh sanction.

SASCI has various parts such as SASCI Part I, SASCI Part II, SASCI Part III, SASCI Part IV and SASCI Part V. Under SASCI Part I, Mizoram received 400 crores. What we are discussing right now is SASCI Part V. This doesn't affect SASCI Part I kept under general infrastructure. IT related project can be made under SASCI Part V. Fortunately, Mizoram is included as eligible to make project. Due to efforts of IT Department, we received ₹5000 lakh under SASCI Part V.

Next, for “*Mizoram e-Service Portal & Upgradation Mizoram Data Centre Enclosed Immovable*” we received ₹2250 lakhs (which is under SASCI Part IV) on 18.1.2023. We have already received Budget allocation from Finance Department.

To answer the questions regarding ongoing project, with reference to IT Development Centre, tender is ongoing at the moment.

SASCI Part IV and Part V are quite technical and the eligible criteria are also a bit complicated. ZENICS is the only one that can have and has License which can implement within Mizoram. We are reviving ZENICS as it didn't function properly for a long time and our respected Chief Minister has already approved it. We are taking such initiative as we want to use ZENICS without using other state's agency or Central Agency.

SPEAKER : This question can or cannot be admitted. It is under transition time.

Question & Answer hour is over. Before we proceed, I would like to say that yesterday there was a quarrel during the session between hon. members- Pu Robert Romawia Royte and Pu Lalduhoma without even addressing the *Chair*.

I said that, “We will look into the proceedings and whoever is wrong will apologise.” The Assembly officers looked into the matter, checked Pu Robert Romawia Royte’s statement regarding footballer Miriam Lalnunsiami. The officers found that Pu Robert Romawia Royte was right according to Proceedings on 10.2.2023. So, will Pu Duha apologise regarding this? As there can be a misunderstanding as well.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, a few days ago, Miriam Lalnunsiami was ill and she faced problem as she didn’t have money for her medical bill. This story created chaos and quarrel in social media. I misunderstood the story in social media and what was said in this House and I apologise for that. As I didn’t create quarrel intentionally, I ask the understanding of our respected minister, respected Speaker, Members and the people.

Yesterday, our respected Minister said, “I didn’t have a talk with Miriam.” However, there was viral social media to prove that they did have a talk. It may be because of some misunderstanding and deserves forgiveness for his statement. Let us use this example to improve. Let us close the chapter and forgive one another.

SPEAKER : Alright, there can be misunderstanding out of diligence.

LAYING OF PAPER

Now we will proceed to our next business *Paper Lay*. I would call upon hon.Minister Pu R. Lalzirliana to lay paper on the desk of the House regarding “A copy of Notification No. A 43016/3/2018- DC&MA (C)/232 of 16th December, 2022 on the assumption by the Governor of Mizoram of all function or powers vested in or exercisable by the Chakma Autonomous District Council as per Para 16(2) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.”

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

I lay on the table of the House “Notification No. A 43016/3/2018- DC&MA (C)/232 of 16th December, 2022 on the assumption by the Governor of Mizoram of all function or powers vested in or exercisable by the Chakma Autonomous District Council as per Para 16(2) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.”

SPEAKER : Distribute the copy. Has everyone receive the copy, we will proceed to *Financial Business*.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Today, we will discuss demand of three hon. Ministers- Er. Lalrinawma, Pu Lalchhandama Ralte and Pu K. Lalrinliana and we will pass today itself. We will take all the demands together. Now, I will call upon hon.Minister Er. Lalrinawma to submit his demand-

Demand No. 7 - Excise and Narcotics Department;
 Demand No. 29 - Social Welfare Department;
 Demand No. 34 - Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department;
 Demand No. 41 - Sericulture Department
 on the desk of the House.

ER. LALRINAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, I submit the following Demand to be taken care of by our respected House:

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
7	Excise and Narcotics	49,65,81,000.00
29	Social Welfare	1,75,25,12,000.00
34	Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	69,11,70,000
41	Sericulture	10,55,59,000.00
TOTAL		4,62,81,11,000.00

SPEAKER : I will call upon hon. Minister Pu Lalchhandama Ralte to submit his demand-

Demand No. 18 - Printing & Stationery Department;
 Demand No. 20 - School Education Department;
 Demand No. 28 - Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department

on the desk of the House.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, Sir, I move Demand Nos. – 18,20 and 28 for 16,08,11,33,000/- only for meeting expenses during 2023-2024 in respect of the following Departments-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
18	Printing & Stationery	12,86,60,000.00
20	School Education	15,63,31,66,000.00
28	Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	31,93,07,000.00
TOTAL		16,08,11,33,000.00

SPEAKER : Now, I will call upon hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana to submit his demand-

Demand No. 17 - Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department;
 Demand No. 19 - Local Administration Department;
 Demand No. 35 - Fisheries Department

on the desk of the House.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, on the recommendation of Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, Sir, I move Demand Nos. – 17, 19 and 35 for 4,62,81,11,000/- only for meeting expenses during 2023-2024 in respect of the following Departments-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
17	Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs	2,70,20,65,000.00
19	Local Administration	1,82,04,87,000.00
35	Fisheries	10,55,59,000.00
TOTAL		4,62,81,11,000.00

SPEAKER : We will now start the discussion. I call upon hon.member Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, I would like to discuss Demand No. 20 first. I am very thankful for the initiatives taken by Education Minister in developing our education system in Mizoram, also, the increase of students' enrolment in Govt. School, improvement in shortage of teachers where there are more than 2000 teachers newly recruited are crucial for remotes areas such as our constituency.

There has been renovation of schools which is helpful especially for our constituency. Matric Exam Centre was also given to Saiphai and Saiphum. The northern areas are very poor in education and for its improvement our respected Minister has taken initiatives to strengthen school buildings, rectify shortage of teachers and we are very thankful for it.

We have new high school building in Saiphai and new exam center in Saipum. Also, there's a plan to build new Primary School-1 building, we are really grateful for that. There's a dire need to increase the number of SEDP teacher in the next financial year as the current number is no longer sufficient due to pension and dead. The recruitment of SEDP teacher really helps to tackle the possible challenges.

We can no longer function without SAMAGRA teacher and we are grateful to our government and minister for increasing their salary. Apart from that, I request the government to design better perks for Samagra teachers. It would be great if we could spare certain percentage for them so that they can be recruited depending upon seniority when there is new teacher recruitment or when given permanent employee status.

Also, I believe school upgradation is a must. In my constituency there are more than 200 students currently looked after by the community. We have Vairengte Higher

Secondary School, Rengtekawn High School, Vairengte High School, Bilkhawthlir and Saipum High School that need to be upgraded from lump-sum to adhoc. I request respected minister to take into account on these matters.

Regarding Demand No. 28, there is a great improvement in Skill Development. The fact that 20 nurses from Mizoram are selected out of 50 nurses from all over India to work in Japan is remarkable. Also, we still remember their great contribution during Covid pandemic. The initiative taken under 'Labour Welfare Board' is remarkable especially in remote villages. It would be wonderful if better awareness is made for the benefit of primary sector.

Pu Speaker, Demand No. 18- Printing & Stationery Department may not be a prominent department yet important department as it takes care of important government documents. The machines and equipment are worn out and need to be replaced, and, also shortage of employees need to be tackled so that more revenue can be generated by the department.

Printing & Stationery Department is expected to supply all the departments; however, there are some departments that do not make use of the department. In order for all the departments to make use of it, such as printing of Mizoram calendar, we need to renovate the department as needed.

Regarding Demand No. 17 Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs- the present government has done a great job in terms of gas, rice and POL so that the citizens do not face much problem. Due to the effort taken by the concerned minister and the discussion with the company- it is remarkable that the present government is able to receive gas trip way more than the previous government.

I want to thank the department and minister in charge for their hard work when there was road block in the main road for essential commodities during the border issue. They were able to get required essential commodities from Manipur and Tripura.

Moreover, it is wonderful that the government builds new go down and renovates the old ones. From such initiatives, new go downs were built within my constituency in North Hlimen. Saiphai. Godown located near the Assam border, needs renovation as it is not spacious enough, it would be great if action could be taken in this regard.

In Demand No. 19- LAD, it is great news that many new VC House are built. However, there are many villages that still do not have VC House, even in my constituency. Also, in the present government we are given VC House within my constituency in places such as- Thingthelh, North Hlimen, Saipum, Saiphai, Saihapui-V, Vairengte V/C-I, Vairengte V/C-IV, Bilkhawthlir North, Rengtekawn and Builum, and we are very thankful. Also, repair work was undertaken in Bilkhawthlir South,

Gosen Veng and Saihapui 'K'. However, Bukvannei doesn't have VC House till now and I request the Minister to take note of this.

With the effort of LAD, factory for manufacturing of biodegradable plate made out of betel nut shell is planned in Bilkhawthlir. The construction of building is done and machines are already received and we are very thankful. This is beneficial not only for my constituency but for Mizoram as a whole to replace non-biodegradable plastic. We would like the respected Minister to inaugurate the factory.

Regarding Demand No. 35- Fisheries, the areas in my constituency are mostly suitable for fish farming, betel nut and rice cultivation. So, instead of focusing on other areas, It could be better if effort is taken regarding fish farming in my constituency, as it would be of great help.

Regarding Demand No. 29- Social Welfare Department, yesterday. I request our government and minister in charge to take immediate action so that old aged pension can be utilized into practice as soon as possible.

Also, if development coming from Article 275 could be constituency wise, it would be of great help especially for constituency like us where even 30-40 lakhs development fund can be used for greater development.

Demand No. 34- Animal Husbandry & Veterinary- Serlui Constituency is a hub for animal husbandry and I request AH & Vety Department to give utmost priority to this area. Also, it is a great news that MVU (Mobile Van Unit) has been distributed Block wise recently and our constituency is under Bilkhawthlir RD Block. RAHC in Bilkhawthlir was promoted to Dispensary and we are under the supervision of Bairabi vety doctor. Currently, MVU is constituted of doctor, VFA and driver, and sits in our dispensary where different areas under Bilkhawthlir RD Block are looked after by it. This is called 'Movable Hospital' and I hope it will be very beneficial and I am very thankful.

Last but not the least Pu Speaker, I heard that RAHC building is proposed to be constructed in North Hlimen and we are very thankful. I also request to recruit VFA employees.

Pu Speaker, I support Er. Lalrinawma, Pu Lalchhandama Ralte and Pu K. Lalrinliana's demand. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I call upon hon. member Pu VL. Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Demand No. 20- School Education- School Education is a very prominent department and it shares 11% of the total budget.

Under School Education Department, apart from the mainstream there are three wings- Physical Education, Adult Education and Hindi Wing. Out of these, I want to focus on physical education wing. Physical Education wing takes care of students' physical education and sports related. They are- 1) Zonal Sports Middle School and Primary School 2) District High School Sports and 3) Mizoram Secondary School Games and Mizoram Higher Secondary School Games and National School Games. It also carries forward central govt. policy 'Fit India School'.

There are many works to be taken care of by the department. However, currently there are only four Circle Physical Officer and are really under staffed due to their overload work as they have to look after state level and national level sports. The Department has been proposing to fill vacant posts but it's not successful till date. I request the higher authority to look into the matter and fill the vacant post of four Physical Education Officer and three Physical Education Teacher.

Last year, only 42.05 lakhs were sanctioned for students' sports. With that much amount, Mizoram Higher Secondary School Games and Mizoram High School Games were conducted in different districts. Due to inflation, various challenges were encountered. However, with additional financial support they could conduct successfully. As the pandemic gets better, it is expected that they conduct National School Games as well. Thus, Physical Education Wing needs more sanction of Fund for the betterment and development of sports among students.

If we look into National Education Policy, (4.8), physical education is expected to be included in school curriculum, which is not yet done in Mizoram till date. As other states, I request if we could also have one physical education teacher in every school. Schools in my constituency- Aizawl West III area are in a very poor condition and needs renovation. There is also lack of clean water within the campus. When we visited the schools within my constituency, we helped them wherever we could and I request respected minister to take required initiatives as done in Serlui constituency.

Demand No. 29- Social Welfare- the department needs extra attention as the people it looks after are downtrodden people such as disabled, widow, old aged pensioner, disadvantaged and poor family and different Children Home.

Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte in charge of Serlui Constituency has mentioned about the success of Old aged Pension which is such a great news. According to my knowledge, the small amount of money ₹400 sanctioned for disabled given in the interval of 3-4 months is not given regularly. Likewise, the same goes for old aged pensioner and widow. Social welfare Department waits for fund sanctioned from the central govt. to distribute to these people who eagerly wait to receive ₹330-400 given in the interval of

3-4 months and sometimes after a year. In order to give them in time, I say, 'we need revolving fund.' Is there a way to give their due before the sanction is received from the central government?

Meanwhile, we have 50 Children Homes, Child care Institution in Mizoram, out of which 18 are government owned and 32 are looked after by NGO. ₹3000/- per month is to be given for every child but the funding has been pending for so long. Currently, the fund has been pending since July 2022 and they have been looking after themselves from the fund received from donation.

This department needs top priority. The Budget needs to be increased and the department needs to be strengthened so that there can be fund to look after the disadvantaged people without waiting for fund coming from the central govt.

Then, Creche Centre... *(Hon. Dy. Speaker takes over the chair...)*

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please continue.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Creche Centre used to be under Anganwadi in different localities. Our locality Khatla also used to have one, but it doesn't function normally nowadays. It is usually look after by MHIP, however the fund comes in the interval of 1-2 years, which creates challenges and needs to be taken care of. I want to add that they are the ones who take care of underprivileged children. I also want to add that while Pu Majumdar's bill never gets delayed, the fund to look after orphan children gets delayed for so long and it needs to have a second thought about it.

Demand No. 7- Excise & Narcotic Department- these days dead bodies are found very frequently and many people lost their lives because of drugs. In the year 2022, 43 people died because of drugs. Large number of drugs related substance enter Mizoram, for instance, 'Bi-i' entered 1.1 litre in the year 2020 in Mizoram, but in the year 2022 more than 2000 litre was caught. As they are responsible for prevention of drugs, the employees needs to be increased. However, looking at their budget, 95.7 percent goes towards salary disbursement, I would like to highlight that there's only a small per cent left for work.

Lastly, Demand No. 17- Supply Department- regarding cooking gas, refills are short on weights, there are issues of fabrication. Today, 3 February 2023 there are people caught in this regard. When they are caught, we let them pay for the shortage of weight, but we do not press charge other than. Pu Speaker, due to that there's no one who repent and quit the illegal business. Is there a way to stop such activity of robbing the people? Is there even a single person punished for fabrication of gas cylinder?

Likewise, there used to be fabricated petrol, which now occurred very hardly. The reason for this is not because it is put under control with great effort by the authorities, but because of the increase in price of kerosene which is used to dilute

petrol. Bangladesh used to follow flat rate, which leads to supply of clean kerosene and petrol, nowadays this situation can be seen here in Mizoram as well. As fabrication of petrol needs not be worried anymore, extra attention needs to be given to fabrication of cooking gas. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. member Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I am very delighted to discuss the 3 Demands of our respected ministers as the budget for this year increased by crores compared to the previous year. Let us first discuss about respected Minister Pu Lalchhandama Ralte's Demand No. 20.

As mentioned before, the budget increase by 69 crore and this gives us high hope in the development of education. When we were newly elected as ruling party in the year 2018, many schools in Mizoram faced shortage of teachers especially in villages. There were schools having only one or two teachers which deeply affected our education system. Govt. schools had very less students' enrolment and some schools were almost needed to be closed down. Currently, due to the endless efforts of our respected minister in charge and the government, there has been great improvement. In order to tackle shortage of teachers, large numbers of teachers were recruited, presently 868 MR teachers and 701 SEDP teachers are employed. More than 1000 Hindi teachers were recruited. This leads to development of education and many students start enrolling in govt. schools again.

We never had Science subject in Higher section within my constituency, however due to the consideration of our request by our respected minister Pu Chhantea, we are now going to have Science section in Farkawn and Khawbung starting from the next session and we are really grateful.

There are 4 HSLC exam center within my constituency such as Bungzung, Khawbung, Farkawn and Khuangleng. However, we did not have LDC for many years in these exam centers. I am happy to announce that SEDP LDCs were appointed in these exam centers. Also, even though the govt. takes many initiatives for the development of education; there are still certain needs which are as follows-

5 High Schools, 17 Middle Schools and 24 Primary Schools within my constituency currently do not have headmasters. Moreover, there are school buildings, toilet and fencing that need to be repaired and where new construction is required. Even though more than 130 MR teachers, SEDP teachers and Hindi teachers were recruited, due to dead and pension there is still inadequate in teachers. Currently we are employing 5 teachers from MLA fund; even with that effort we still face teachers' shortage in around 5 schools.

Pu Dy. Speaker, currently there are 3 teachers in Leithum Primary School, Dungleang Primary School currently has only 2 teachers as one of the teacher got pension and the other one passed away. We are very thankful for giving us a good Hindi teacher in Vangchhia Middle School, however, sadly he was diagnosed with cancer and is not able to attend school regularly which creates problems. Also, even though 4 regular teachers are recruited in Leithum Primary School, due to poor health of the head in charge and the rest of the staff, we face problems in teaching smoothly. Even in Zawngtetui Primary School we are now going to have only 3 teachers as one of the teachers is transferred. I request our respected minister to take note of these issue.

I also request our respected minister to upgrade Khawbung and Farkawn Higher Secondary School that are within my constituency which still function in lumpsum grant-in-aid.

Within my constituency, there are 8 High Schools and 1 Middle School that are adhoc grant-in-aid since 2008 and they are in dire need to be provincialized. Also, we are thankful for giving priority to my constituency which is remote and need rapid development, we request that continue priority be given to us.

Let us continue in discussing the hon. minister Er. Lalrinawma's Demand No. 34. As we have heard, on 1 February our respected Chief Minister inaugurated and flag off 26 unit of mobile veterinary, at College of Veterinary Science for different RD Block. We also received for Khawbung RD Block and we are very thankful. We also are allocated with a Veterinary doctor and para-veterinarian; this greatly accelerates work within our constituency. At the same time, we do not have veterinary doctor in Vaphai dispensary for a long time; likewise, Khuangleng does not have vety doctor although it is a hub for mithun rearing. The same goes for Vaphai and its surrounding areas where there are large number of pigs rearers. I request our respected minister to take note of the matter.

Moreover, dispensary employees' quarters within my constituency needs renovation, please take note of this as well. Farkawn is a hub for pig rearing and needs vety specialist. Under FOCUS, VFA-1 is placed and his hand is full, thus if more VFA-1 could be placed under vety it would be of great help.

Demand No. 29- in Women & Child Development Department, Khawbung ICDS Project Circle Officer is going to retire soon and there will be inadequacy of workers immediately as we do not even have CDPO. I want our respected minister to take note that if CO retires, the office will be occupied by LDC and Peon only. I would also like to add that Khawbung ICDS Project Office building, CO quarters and IV-Grade quarters and go down need to be renovated. Anganwadi needs repair and reconstruction. I am very thankful that salary of Anganwadi helper and worker is disbursed. I make it a point to pay a visit to them, although there is very little I can do, they are very grateful for the fact that I personally see their conditions in the real field.

Our hon. Minister's Demand No. 17 exceeds last year's budget by ₹71,88,44,000/-. This shows the importance of the department, Mizoram hasn't faced any challenges in food till date and the minister in charge effort is praiseworthy. 31 go downs were constructed successfully and 24 are planned to be constructed and the efforts of the govt. is commendable. The constructions are completed in Khawbung and Khuangleng, which are in my constituency. Khawbung go down was visited by the hon'ble minister, the estimate is a bit less therefore, I request the minister to increase and take note of the matter. I also request him to take note of the fact that Dungtlang and Farkawn godown is still remaining for construction.

Moreover, Vaphai, Bungzung and Khuangleng do not have storekeepers they are being taken care of by storekeepers from another place. Khuangleng centre is a huge godown, thus, one IV- grade PE is in sufficient. Likewise, there are only two PEs in Farkawn, but one of them have retired and only one is left. The same goes for Khawbung which has only one PE. We would be grateful if our respected minister could recruit more PEs in these three centers.

With the help of RGSA scheme, 150 VC House are constructed and 98 renovated in Mizoram. Even in my constituency, 10 villages already have VC House and 15 are still ongoing. Also, we heard that computer sets are given to 243 VC so far. In my constituency, 8 VC have received computer sets, however there are still 17 VC that have not receive computer. I would like the minister to take note of this.

I support our three ministers Demands- Pu K Lalrinliana- Demand No. 17, 19 and 35, Er. Lalrinawma- Demand No. 7, 29,34,41 and Pu Lalchhandama Ralte- Demand No. 18,20,28. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon our hon. member Dr. K. Pachhunga.

DR. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I would first like to discuss about Excise & Narcotics Deptt.

In order to increase the efficiency and development of cultivators, our govt. introduced a grape wine rule which is commendable. It would be great if we could make the same rules for other fruits such as dragon fruit and pineapple. Many people find it hard to accept that alcohol content of wine is 11-15%, we should try to accept and understand. There is also nonalcoholic wine which can be developed with the help of technology. My main point is that, the govt. should also accept wine produced from different fruits product by cultivators.

The speedy effort of Excise Dept. can be seen not only in social media but also in tv news where drugs are seized. It is impossible to wipe off drugs completely worldwide; however, it is the duty of the govt. to take preventive measures to curb the expansion.

Tribal Girls Hostel under Social Welfare is present within my constituency, which helps underprivileged students. There is a need to have more of this especially in Chhungte and Lungrang, I request the minister to take note of this.

I would also like to request for the renovation of Anganwadi buildings as its function and activities are beneficial for the people.

Regarding AH & Vety Department, rearing of animals is part and parcel of our culture especially pig and poultry farming. We practiced this even before new technology develops. Now, with new technology and expert doctors, we are self-sufficient in pork and chicken. Sadly, there are instances of occurrence of flu that killed reared animals. People often blame the govt. on this, however there is no one to blame as it is a natural calamity, in fact the govt. is praise worthy for their efforts during such calamity. However, I want to add that there are many unreported cases which may be because of absence of workers, there are also instances where a single person loss 38 life stock even in my constituency. These people suffer a lot and it would be great if there's a way to sort out their problems.

Vety clinic building in Tawipui South and Lungrang South needs renovation. Also, I heard that we are going to be given clinic in Sethlun and I want to say thank you in advance.

We have heard many times about Sericulture *Muga*, which is used to make expensive cloth, it is already tested that Mizoram is suitable for its cultivation. Initiatives are taken and even in my constituency *Eri* is done with hard work in Tawipui North II and Thualthu. Please take note on this as they are worthy of help. Also, it is chosen in different places as SEDP trade, I request to take note of this as well.

I would also like to talk about Education. We can see the importance given to education by the government as they recruited 2500 SEDP teachers and MR teacher. However, I want to highlight the challenges faced by MLAs as all the teachers posted in village want to be transferred in the city which creates problem. During the interview, they all agreed to be posted in the village, but after a week they request for transfer. As this creates so much hassle teachers should stop such kind of behavior.

Also, many people doubt the fairness of the recruitment of teachers. It is very fair, it is not taken by the party and every party, MZP and students are thankful and even published a notice. I would also like to add that we didn't recruit unqualified candidates. I would like to extend my gratitude to the hon'ble minister. I would like to request the government to look into *private* and *ad hoc* status upgradation. Even in my constituency in Tualthu we established private school in collaboration with NREGS. It gets difficult at times, so please take this into account and find a way to upgrade to *ad hoc* or *lump-sum*.

Moreover, I have been talking about the poor condition of school building within my constituency; few works are done so far. Chawngte L M/S building doesn't even have a proper roof; likewise, Buknuam School, Vaisam and Chithar do not have walls which even go viral in social media. The same goes for Upper P/S established in 1972 that doesn't have a wall. Also, Lungrang P/S is on the verge of collapsing. The renovation is done from MLA fund, Education Dept. and NABARD, but that is not enough. It is also noteworthy that SAMAGRA teacher- with large number of society members, are moved to better condition.

Regarding Pu Rintea's department Food & Civil Supplies- it has done a great job thus; we did not face any problem in food grain and gas supplies even during Covid and border issues. All thanks to the hon'ble Chief Minister and Supply Minister. LAD took initiative in construction of VC House. Many people feel that VC House is not needed, but we find that it is needed. When I visit my constituency, the question most asked by the people is- MHIP House, MUP, YMA and VC House. We are very grateful for the ongoing proposal.

Pu Speaker, we do not have mortuary house and cemetery house, I don't know if fund can be granted from the government. Every village needs cemetery house, we have done whatever could be done from MLA fund. Go downs- in Chawngte and Tawipui S are constructed and we are very thankful for the effort. I would also like to suggest if go down could be constructed in other villages so as, monsoon stock can be stock.

Lastly, there is a big controversy in Fisheries Department regarding 'crab farm'. As we are aware, crab is never domesticated in Mizoram as it's available sufficiently in the river. Before it was never purchased but nowadays, it is sold in the market. Thus, crab farm is now under trial\ research. Doing research is expensive, but if it's successful the profit will be remarkable and create job opportunities for many families.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I support these three demands, let it be a blessing for the development of Mizoram and let it be passed. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon.Member, Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I want to talk about Demand No. 20 regarding Education. Our Minister has implemented 10+2 science stream in our constituency and we greatly appreciate his work. Moreover, it came to my knowledge that commerce stream will be implemented soon. But, we have only one Matric Exam Centre, it is quite problematic as students increased each year. We proposed for one more exam center thus, I would like to know the status of our proposal.

There is shortage of teachers especially in primary level. There should be equal distribution of teachers in accordance with the number of students. Also, replacement

of transferred teachers should be the priority, otherwise there can be downfall in our quality of education due to unavailability of teachers.

We have implemented various policies; we need to have a at 'Look 35 West Tuipui Constituency' policy. Tlabung which is the oldest village in Mizoram lag behind in various aspects. We need Sport Infrastructure, Educational Development etc.

We have set up Primary school in Tuichawng Chhuah from our MLA fund, we have two teachers initially. However, one teacher is transferred, so one teacher is teaching 100 students. We request our Minister to look into this matter. Also, we are in need of MIL teacher, we want to learn Mizo language and if we implement Mizo subject in primary level, we believe we could improve.

I would like to comment on Demand No. 7 regarding Excised and Narcotics. Drugs in Mizoram have reached alarming position as we have seen in News every week. We need to upgrade the concerned department to tackle drug issue by increasing manpower. We have lost many lives due to drug abuse and its remedy is the responsibility of Excise & Narcotic Department.

Regarding Demand No. 19 of Local Administrative Department, Bru Refugees are in need of basic facilities such as water, electricity, and schools. As of now, they are under Tlabung Village Council, would it be better if they are under sub-village.

Lastly, I want to discuss Fisheries Department, our constituency has great fishery potential. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to develop Fishery Department in our area, it is also visible from Economic Survey that we suffice ourselves from fishing. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will resume our sitting at 2:00 pm.

2:00 P.M.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. Member Dr. L Thangmawia.

PU L. THANGMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Firstly, I will start with Er. Lalrinawma's demand. As per our manifesto, we prohibit selling of liquor by passing 'Mizoram Liquor Prohibition Act, 2019 (Act No. 8 of 2019). Here we sacrificed ₹26,361 lakh 58,398 rupees income generated from selling liquor as per RTI. I am very grateful that we can accomplish the demand of NGO's, Churches and the people.

We opened Youth Development Centre in Ngopa and continued the work of previous Ministry by completing Eklavya Model Residential School in Ngopa. (Demand No. 29)

New Vety Office and quarters are on the verge of completion by the effort of the concerned Minister, I would like to thank him in this House.(Demand No. 34)

Regarding Demand No. 20 Education, we have shifted the school timing in accordance with our Mizo culture keeping in mind the health of our young students and I am glad that we are able to shift school timing.

The previous Ministry set up Sub Divisional Education Office at Ngopa however it doesn't have GAD approval. We tried our level best to have the approval and with the help of Honorable Education Minister, we received *ex-post facto* approval from GAD on 27th June, 2022. SDEO office is nearly completed so, I kindly welcome Education Minister at the inauguration.

Establishment of Mizo Language Development Board has been approved by the House on 10th March 2022 and it is an ongoing process. This will be an autonomous body. I hope we will have MLDB Chairman and Secretary by early this year. MLDB office renovation is also completed on 1st February this year (2022).

Regarding National Education Policy, 2020 there are various challenges and funds needed to implement NEP 2020, additional classroom will be needed and additional foundation course before class -1. All these are quite challenging.

Due to the effort of our Minister, 518 Hindi teachers and 880 MR teachers had been recruited, 152 teachers regularized. Plus 548 teachers had been promoted to principals and headmasters and there are 958 pensions. 9 Samagra High Schools and 2 elementary schools had been opened.

I would like to thank MYC Chairman and LESDE Minister for their achievements in creating job portals to curb corruption and how they run civil service coaching centers.

Lastly, I would like to thank the hon'ble minister Pu. K Lalrinliana for his effort during Covid crisis. He went as far as Delhi himself so that we did not face any difficulty in food grain and other essential commodities. 31 go-down, 23 ware house, 150 VC House have been constructed under his leadership. I request that storekeeper quarter in NE Khawdungsei be repair as soon as possible.

Finally, 'Crab Farm' is under experimental stage. Therefore, it may be too early to criticize. It could be a success and on the other hand it may be a failure. CSIR Experts are investigating the process. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. Member Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, Demand No.7, Drug and Alcohol have greatly damaged the condition of the state. We have captured 26.557 kgs of heroine until 31st December 2022. 54805 liters of alcohol has been seized in 2022. More than 84 kgs of meth were also captured by the police. Due to this, Central jail, Central Women Jail, and Aizawl District Jail have crossed its limited capacities. This proved that the current Prohibition Act 2019 is a failure. Looking at the budget in Excise, there is no room for development which signify that the Ministry is not concerned about the eradication of the various effects of drugs and alcohol.

Regarding Demand No. 34, AH&Vety, the Government did not compensate the local pig breeders. Even the budget has dropped by 68%. The Government must look into the matter and take effective measures.

Demand No.20, 75% of the Education Budget is for salary. Therefore, there is no room for development, this is very sad. There are lots of High schools and Primary Schools that require development in my Constituency, we repair some from MLA fund, but the Government is neglecting. Meanwhile, the Government is not following recruitment rules in employing SEDP teachers. it did not publish proper advertisement. Also, there are 656 schools with less than 5 teachers. This is the status of our education system; the Government must take developmental steps to develop our education system.

Demand no. 19, there is not much change in LAD. VC Grant has not increase. ₹ 8000 lakhs from RGSA is put under CSS. Here, 10% SMS is not visible in the Budget, what is the reason?

Regarding Demand No.17 FCS&CA, the budget allocation is almost the same as previous. It has been 36 years since we became state, however we cannot produce rice to sustain our needs and we buy from other states. This is very sad so to say.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, we must change our values and priorities, it will not be that difficult to produce for 11 lakhs people of Mizoram, we can increase our production. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. Member Pu Zothantluanga.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Our budget may look the same. But it is quite ok considering the exclusion of ₹ 600 crores from PM DeVINE. Development depends on the Budget coming from the center, if we receive it on time and as expected amount, it becomes easier for us to implement work.

Demand No. 29, I want to discuss about Social Welfare. We have constructed 2 Tribal Girls Hostel which cost ₹ 3.5 crores, Old Age Home ₹ 3.5 crores as well as Paite

Girls/Tribal Girls Hostel and Zotlang Higher Secondary School. Also, we are able to compensate the salary of ICDS staffs which the Central Govt. put an end to it.

Regarding Demand No. 20, we are able to progress in School Education in spite of Covid. It becomes clear that sufficient teacher is required for schools to develop, as 2500 teachers are recruited admission of students will be increased.

Sometimes we utilize our MLA fund to renovate old school buildings. there are plenty of Schools that needs renovation. The hon. Education Minister helps us in establishing Samagra and Ch. Chhunga High School. We are also able to shift Aizawl West College from Dawrpui Vengthar to Handloom & Handicraft.

Secondly, Demand No. 28, Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department is an important department. For developing skills of the youth, we have tie up with Madhavi Foundation. Students are sent to Noida for Skill training, and B.Sc. nursing, – Hotel Management & Hospitality at a low-cost expenditure. talk is also on going with Taiwan Embassy who will employ our youth in India & Foreign Companies. However, Madarin teaching is required beforehand.

Moreover, we have our own skill development industry in ITI. There are various courses to learn including Plumbing, Electrician etc. However, there is shortage of equipment and machineries, and our Minister in charge is taking measures to fulfill our needs.

Demand No.17, Food Civil Supply & Consumer Affairs Department is doing quite well, we have enough supply of food and other commodities. We are constructing new FCI go-down in Dinthar, Sairang, which is an ongoing process apart from the present FCI go-down we have in Tuivamit.

Our Ministry is planning to set up Oil Depot in Sairang and Bairabi which will meet our needs in times of Border issues. This way we will become self-sufficient in oil and food grains even when there is road block with neighboring state.

In Demand No. 35, it please me to mention that the Fishery Minister had a discussion with Central Fishery Minister, Secretary and Joint Secretary in Delhi and urge them to allocate budget for ‘Fishery ponds- approach road ‘, here in Mizoram which the Central oblige to it.

Therefore, I support the Demands of the three Ministers. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. Member Dr. BD Chakma.

PU B.D. CHAKMA : Pu Dy. Speaker, talking about Demand No.7, Rangvamu is a clear example that shows MLTP Act 2019 is a failure. It is located at

the entrance of the city and this is not a pleasant sight for visitors who are entering the city. However, this is not merely the fault of the concerned department, but due to insufficiency of fund. RE and BE remains the same, rewards cannot be awarded to the force for their achievements. Plus, there is shortage of manpower in Excise and Narcotics. Therefore, MLTP Acts and Rules are a failure.

Moving to Demand No. 29, Social Welfare, there is huge fund allocated under 'other charges' amounting to ₹46,54,38,000/-. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister to clarify during his wind up, also, I would like to request the hon. Minister to release the Old Age Pension and other funds on time.

Demand No.34, first of all I would like to thank for the 5 beneficiaries under poultry production who are going to receive ₹15000/- each in this House. The Central Minister was willing to supply Animal Ambulance for every block, however Chawngte RD Block haven't received until now, If the hon'ble minister could clarify.

In Demand No. 18, Printing & Stationery received ₹100 lakhs annually. I request departments and all MLAs to buy from Stationery sales outlet. Also, I would kindly request to explain the word "suspense".

Then, Demand No. 20 School Education, SEDP teachers earn salary of ₹1000/- every month. It would be great if the Minister could increase their salary. There are 88 villages in our Constituency. However, there is only one Matric Exam Centre, I request one Exam Centre to be added in Borapansury.

Demand No. 17 Food & Civil Supplies is a department which needs mentioning. Some families change from BPL to APL, then the following year from APL to BPL. Is this legal? I would request the Hon'ble minister to make clear statement.

Moving on, I beg that a separate Store-keeper be posted in Borapansury . He manages Haulawng as well as Borapansury Go-down at the same time. It is quite troublesome. I won't talk about Fisheries Department; all I will mention is that Crab Farm is a failure. Mr. Chairman, Udalthana is nearby Chawngte, can private entrepreneur under Fisheries Deptt. have Fish Seed Accreditation? If the Minister could help them if they approach? If yes, that would be very great.

Altogether, the present budget is not satisfactory; however, I have no choice but to support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Let us call upon hon. Member Dr. ZR. Thiamsanga.

DR. ZR. THIAMSAंगा : Pu Chairman, thank you. Today I am glad that we can discuss the demands of three Ministers ; Er. Lalrinawma, Pu Lalchhandama, Pu K Lalrinliana. Firstly, Demand No. 7 Excise and Narcotics is very important. They work

very hard day in and day out even though the staffs are less in number. They captured heroine worth ₹ 1607 lakhs in the past year. My constituency lies in Indo Myanmar Border which is a busy route for drug trafficking. Therefore, we need better staff quarters, excise office and two wheelers for emergency purposes.

We are very grateful that the Government laid out rules for grape wine production. The previous Ministry banned selling of grape wines, so the cultivated land becomes barren land. Now owing to the new rules, farmers can cultivate grapes once again.

Demand No. 29, the Govt. segregated Social Welfare Deptt. into Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs Deptt. and Women & Child Development Department, therefore there is an increasing shortage of workers. Pu Speaker, children under 6 yrs of age if looked after in an organized environment ought to grow into better person; according to studies. Therefore, we should develop our Anganwadi Centers under ICDS. These Centers need building repair or even new buildings. Earlier, wheelchairs, hearing aids and other such equipments were supplied, but it seemed it is difficult lately. Thus, I would like to beg the concerned Minister to mark these points.

Demand No. 34, Under Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Deptt, we construct Veterinary Hospital. Other such works are piggery under national livestock, rural backyard poultry mithun shelter under FOCUS, grazing area and pig- breeding. One thing that is required is barbed wire for fencing.

The Hon. Chief minister released 26 Mobile Veterinary Unit Ambulance on 2nd February 2023. This will greatly improve the health condition of livestock in times of emergency. This will surely result in production of healthy meat. Mizoram is beginning to be self-dependent on pigs and cow, even though the spread of virus hampers a bit. All these successes are the result of the efforts given by Veterinary Department.

Regarding education, as we have heard, there is great enhancement. Before, even though we claimed our education as 'world class education', there were many of our schools that were defunct. But under this Ministry, we recruit SEDP teachers, MR teachers and we have renovated and built new school buildings from NABARD and other funds

The budget allocated under Education has increased by 69 crores. This proved that improving the education of our youth is our priority. MYC coaching center is also doing well in yielding students that are able to appear in UPSC interview. Also, under LESDE, employment is generated for many jobless youths. Under SAMAGRA, we are able to establish Rabung Higher Secondary School, for which we are grateful. But, one thing I want to add is that, Vaikhawthlang, Khuangphah, Neihdawn requires school upgradation.

Revenue Collection from Printing & Stationery could generate 81 lakhs and 93 lakhs respectively. Also, their work is remarkable yet very cheap. Therefore, I urge Departments and private to purchase from Govt. Stationery sales outlet.

Lastly, Food & Civil Supplies Department is doing distinguished work by providing continuous supply of food grain and gas; amidst the crisis of Covid as well as during road blocks due to border issue.

Therefore, I support the Demands of our three Ministers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Who will be next? Ok. Er. Lalzirliana.

ER. H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Chairman, let me start from Education Department.

I want to give thanks to our Minister for providing Science and Commerce stream in Mamit Govt. Higher Secondary School. But we have only Mamit and Rawpuichhip Higher Secondary School, the rest are Govt. Adhoc Aided, lump sum Aided, and private. Khanthum village is greatly in need of schools as they have only Non-Special Residential Training Centre. We are looking forward to have one in the near future.

I would like to request our Minister to see whether it is possible to open Labour & Employment District Office at least in District Capitals.

Regarding Excise & Narcotics, we all are aware that huge number of contrabands coming from East entering through Champhai are caught. However, it must be noted that almost the same quantity enters through Tripura region. This can be controlled by employing more workers maybe through SEDP. Also, plot of land owned by Excise Department in Mamit remained unused for a long time. Is there any attempt to take action here?

Regarding Social Welfare, I support MLA Thiamsanga's viewpoint.

AH&Vety are providing piggery in Lengte and Nghalchawm which can rear 1000 pigs. However, we have to start all over again due to the outbreak of virus .

Food & Civil Supplies Department are doing great and deserve praise. DCSO office was blown down by wind in 2019. The hon'ble Minister took steps in recreating the office building and quarter. But there are some flaws regarding the furnishing so I request the department to monitor closely.

Legal Metrology in Mamit doesn't function properly, we do not have Inspector and we will be very glad if we can have one. Also, Dilzawl, Khanthum, Tuipuibari

Venghlui, Chi Lui, Sailtlaw, Tlangkang retailer receive their supply by head –load, I request that measures be taken so that they can receive ration in their respective villages.

Many VC Houses are constructed under LAD, Mamit LAD Park was also inaugurated by the hon’ble Minister. I would also like to mention that, Tuipuibari and Rajiv Nagar need larger Go-down. We used community hall to stock rice grain. We need special care as we are ‘*aspirational district*’ and would be very grateful if you build us larger stock house.

I hope that the demands of our Ministers are passed and I support them all.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. Member Pu KT Rokhaw.

PU KT ROKHAW : Pu Dy. Speaker, let me start off with Demand No. 20, School Education.

There is inadequacy of teachers across Mizoram, some schools have very few or no teachers. To tackle this problem, the education minister and its department recruit SEDP teachers. Now, we have 2/3 teachers at least, but unfortunately, some teachers left their station. So, I suggest the Minister to recruit the local villagers in the future. Also SEDP teachers are BA, B.Ed so I suggest that they are recruited on a contract basis.

Our Minister construct two new schools namely; New Laty and Lopu but we do not have proper building and teacher quarter. I request that at least the school building be built soon.

Many schools were constructed and repaired under NABARD, but none were included from Palak area. Therefore, I urge the Minister to repair Tisi High School, Siata High School, Zate Memorial High School. Also, I want to request the Minister to Upgrade Tipa –V Centenary Higher Secondary School from lumpsum Grant-in-Aid to Adhoc Grant - in- Aid.

Siaha and Kawlchaw have very small supply kudam, first in first out is not applicable. The first stocks are placed in corner and are likely to be damaged. Therefore, it would be more reliable if we get FCI treated rice grain which can be stocked for longer period.

We have 6 store keepers in Siaha District but only 2 are reliable. Therefore, I urge local people to be recruited in the next store keeper recruitment. Also, we are glad we have 2/3 newly constructed kudam last year.

Also, I request Social Welfare Minister to build us Girl’s Hostel for students in Tipa – V through Special Central Assistance to Tribal Grant.

I beg the AH & Vety Minister to take necessary action so that check posts and clinic center at Lobo, Zyhna, Siasi , Phura and Lopu can operate in full swing.

We prohibit buying and selling of liquor in Mizoram, yet they can be found in many places. This is not because the department is neglecting its work, but rather due to shortage of enforcement. Therefore, recruitment in a large scale is a must for prohibition to succeed.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. member Pu C. Lalmuanpuia.

PU C. LALMUANPUIA : Pu Dy. Speaker, Excise Department is an important department to have a peaceful state free from drug and alcohol. Police seize many drugs from outside the state, I wonder the destruction it could bring if all these drugs were sold freely within Mizoram. Therefore, I support the enlargement and upgradation of excise department.

We have Protective Home in our areas, which help the in-mates to lead a better life under careful guidance. Also, we have Jordan Centre for the rehabilitation of drug and alcohol abuser. Upgradation of these centers are very important.

Thirdly, Demand No. 34 AH & Vety Department. They worked very hard so that we could be self-sufficient on meat. They faced difficult situation due to ASF, however they fight back to keep the situation under control. Recently, they inaugurated Mobile Van Unit in different RD Blocks and I want them to succeed and improve in their tasks. Also, the efforts given and work of the Sericulture Department is great. This department doesn't have any issue regarding market. There is an ongoing project in Siahia and Mamit Districts.

Printing & Stationery Department is an important yet small department. Papers and many other Confidential properties that we use today are produced by them. Some of their machineries need repair and upgradation. They have very less staff yet their output is quite huge.

The Minister and the Department of School Education are taking several steps to develop education in Mizoram. In order to work swiftly, they recruit more than 3000 teachers including SEDP teachers. This is all because they have a vision to develop the future of the youth. They recruited teachers in a fair and just manner. All their efforts are worth praising.

They established new High School in Edenthlar. Also, I want to give thanks for releasing fund to build Chanmari West High School. It would be great if SAMAGRA teachers are regularized.

LESDE are also doing great during covid crisis in supplying free ration. Also, they are able to send 20 nurses in Japan, their work is incredible.

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department is one department which cannot be neglected. They supply rice grain, gas and other commodities relentlessly. Also, we are able to receive free ration through PMGKY.

It is great news that we have oil depot in Sihmui and Bairabi. LPG home delivery has started in some places. Construction and restoration of go down can be seen in many places.

Fisheries Department is making huge efforts in producing fishes which are healthier and safe to consume. It had distributed 58.24 lakhs subsidized fish seed. Also, they construct cold storage in Ngaizel Aizawl and mini cold storage in Champhai and Kolasib.

We have very limited time, so that is all I can say and I support the Demands of our three Ministers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. Member Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. To start off, Demand No. 28 LESDE. ITI Training Centre which was constructed in 1975 remains assam type building till today. We need new building, Girls and Boys Hostel as well as staff quarters. The Center is greatly in need of gradual transformation. Also, we need regular post to fill up the vacant post left by pensioners. Moreover, there are only 3 training centers, I would like ask whether if institution can be opened in other districts as well?

I visited Primary school in my constituency recently, and they look very shabby. Most of them are in need of proper fencing. Such schools are;

1. Mamawii girls High School
2. Kulikawn Middle School
3. Salem Middle School
4. ITI Primary School
5. Tlangnuam Primary Scholl III and
6. Kulikawn Primary School.

Tlangnuam Primary School and ITI Middle School have roof which leak during rainy season and they need some renovation. 700 SEDP teaching and non-teaching staffs haven't received their salary since Oct. 2022, If the matter could be look upon as soon as possible.

Demand No. 34 AH & Vety, there is slaughter house in Salem but there is no proper link road. I request the Minister to repair the 250-meter road. Also, the smell produce from the slaughter house is one major problem, it needs proper treatment.

We need to enhance and make more use of Printing & Stationery Department by producing better quality calendar, diary etc.

Demand No. 41 Sericulture is one aspect where women, old age person and weaker section of the society can involve and make their living.

Excise & Narcotics doesn't have office building in Aizawl and Lawngtlai Districts. It would be great if new buildings could be built for them, even if the Government doesn't have fund; maybe they can do so from SASCI.

Regarding Social Welfare, there is only one Anganwadi Center in Mission Veng, that too in the outskirts. As a large locality, they need one more at the center of the locality. Also, there are many Anganwadi Centers that requires renovation, some needs building repair while others need painting.

We have huge potential in Fishery, this department is quite old yet we could not produce sufficient fish. Therefore, the cold storage we have cannot be used as it should be. I hope fisheries department reach their full potential. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Starting with Demand No. 7, Excise & Narcotics, they are the one who protect us from substances that can harm life. They worked very hard knowing that they are small yet very important department. It is sad that new staffs could not be recruited due to lack of funds, but it would be great if something could be done about this. Also, new vehicles and equipments are required in various districts.

Demand No. 29, Social welfare involves all aspects of life from birth to old age. Pensions are given to old age. Anganwadi level is important which can influence the future of children, therefore it must be enhance to the fullest. There is low birth rate while death is inevitable, thus, the condition of our state is at alarming rate. Building better environment for kids to grow up becomes very essential.

AH& Vety Department is making gradual efforts in producing healthy and safe meat. We have become very sufficient especially in chicken. This is great achievement. But we have to make little more efforts in producing local-eggs. We have to make use of the newly constructed hatchery in Lunglei, Lungpuizawl. While we are on the road

of increasing pig production, the epidemic virus ruined our progress; we have to work even harder to achieve the goal.

There are many points to discuss from Demand No. 20, School Education. There are lots of aspects involved in this department. There is development despite the covid crisis, number of students admitted in government schools have increases. They repaired schools, established new schools, inaugurate better toilets and clean drinking water, supply mid-day meals, recreating the subject matter of text books to comprehend our culture and so on. Mizo language Development Policy will be the stepping stone in preserving our culture and tradition.

Demand No. 28 LESDE is one unpopular and small yet important department with important roles. They are the one to show and guide the youth in building better future for themselves. The department and the youth must cooperate side by side.

Demand No. 17, Food, Civil Supplies work relentlessly to suffice the need of the people despite of the catastrophe. All these are made possible only due to the grace of God. The proposal to build bigger oil depot and gas bottling plant will be very useful in the future.

Demand No. 19 LAD is making move in outsourcing various parks to increase the revenue of the Government. LAD Department and concern Minister are working endlessly, many VC Houses are constructed in different places, at the same time we need to locate where illegal villages are set up and immediate measures should be taken, especially around the western side.

Fish is one popular menu in Mizo dish. Therefore, we need to increase production and reduce import. A fish couple can produce 50,000 -80,000 fishes, therefore if other states can produce, why can't we produce in large scale? It would be great if we could give special importance in local inhabitant fish-culture. As we have heard before, we have the potential to be independent in fish supply and production. Hence, I support the demands of our three Ministers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Its 4:00 pm, shall we continue. Ok, then, let's call upon Pu Vanlalhlana

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Demand No. 7 Excise and Narcotics, 96.5% of the budget allocated is for salary. Thus, there is no remaining fund for work. As we have heard there are lots of work to be done, drug trafficking is major problem and it is increasing each year.

2018-2018 : 8 kgs 111 gram

2019-2020 : 15 kgs 826 gram

2020-2021 : 18 kgs 416 gram

2022- 2023 : 26 kgs 557 gram (*within 10 months*)

This is our current status. Therefore, not only the Government but the church, NGOs and the masses must cooperate to fight this evil.

I will comment two things about Social Welfare. Firstly, Anganwadi is the first step of learning but most of our Anganwadis are in poor condition and need major restoration. I have renewed around 10 centers from MLA fund. The State Government must interfere in this matter. Secondly, the Minister have taken initiative in giving Old Age Pension on time, I am very grateful for that.

Many people are dependent on Animal Husbandry & Veterinary and Sericulture. However, ₹25,000 is quite minimal for startup family. Therefore, at least ₹ 3 lakhs are needed, and many people will look forward to this department to make their living.

Looking at Budget, 11% of the whole budget is allocated in Education. But 11% is not enough to achieve quality education, at least 25 % is a must. We have listened to the status of different schools in different places, it is clear that most of them need repairing. In my Constituency, from Chaltlang to Selesih, all the schools need new upgradation. There is lots of work to be done in Education Department. Better school building is required for better education. Also, many teachers are not sincere enough in their duties. transfer and posting problem also emerged. Our experts must see how Delhi and Nagaland operate; how their education system function and incorporate in our state.

Lastly, we need good Local Administration at the local and village level. Leng village in Hrangturzo Constituency is one good example.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon the hon. Member Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I will comment briefly on each demand. Firstly, I suppose Excise & Narcotics Department should earn revenue, selling wine may be one source.

I don't exactly know whether old age gets their pensions regularly. Matters of our senior citizens must be the priority.

I request the Vety Minister to look after the imported animals from Tripura.

Regarding Fisheries, it is remarkable that we could not produce enough fish despite of the efforts given. We used to import fish from Andhra Pradesh, however the rate of local fish could not compete with the rate coming from far off places and this is very wrong.

Regarding Supply Demand No. 17, there are lots of injustice in weight and measurement especially when it comes to ration. There are over 2,82,843 families having ration card, suppose there is one kg shortage in each family, it means about

2,82,000 kgs of rice grain is the extra expenditure paid by Government each month. So, the department must take necessary step to reduce fraudulent. One suggestion I would like to give is that if we could build new go down near FCI, tanhril, it will save lots of money spending in transportation.

It is very important that we prioritize School Education as Western countries do. High quality education in the elementary stage is the stepping stone. Likewise, we must make sure we have good education system. We are lucky that we are Christian, Christianity and Education goes hand in hand. Also, we must be very careful in recruiting teachers especially in the elementary section.

Lastly, in order to have good education system, we must make sure that the workers and teachers are working in a happy environment. Not getting them paid on time may not be very effective. Education is the backbone of our state and it is worth investing in it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call upon hon. member Pu K. Laldawngliana.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Pu Deputy Speaker, I am glad that we are able to discuss on the Demands of Er. Lalrinawma, Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Pu K. Lalrinliana.

Excise & Narcotics Department (Demand No.7) has done great work in tackling drugs and alcohol. However, they are seriously understaffed. It is our duty to support them as a society.

Social Welfare Department (Demand No. 29) is an important department and has a broad range of projects and duties. They are also very understaffed. I have been frequenting Jordan Centre, Sethawn and they require more support from the government.

AH & Vety Department (Demand No.34) is an important department and I am glad that more doctors and staff were recently recruited. I see considerable improvement within this department. I would like to emphasize that there is are no veterinary doctors at Lungdai, Serkhan, Nisapui, Lungmuat, Hmar Chaltlang and Bukpui.

Sericulture Department (Demand No.41) is underrated and needs more support and attention from the government.

Printing & Stationery Department Demand No.18) is a revenue earning department. It is an important department and more recognition must be given to this department. We should utilize their services whenever necessary.

I cannot stress enough the importance of School Education (Demand No.20). The first job I did as a legislator was to visit every school within my constituency. What

I have learned from those visits is that teachers need to make more effort as an educator. I have mentioned the state of Hortoki Middle School-I a number of times. I implore the hon. Minister to take note and renovate the school buildings.

We have no higher secondary schools at Thingdawl and Hortoki and we should be grateful if a higher secondary school could be established under Samagra.

Under Labour and Employment Department (Demand No. 19), more effort and maintenance are required for village councils. VC houses within my constituency is also in need of repair.

Lastly, I pledge my support to the demands submitted by the hon. Minister. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlalhlana.

DR. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Before I go into demands, it could be quite disturbing if our speech is disrupted as it was the case yesterday when the Chair asked whether I could finish at 7 minutes. Let us hope I will not cross the ten minutes mark today.

Education Department- our literacy rate is now 1% less than the 2nd highest in India. This indicates that we lacked behind. Concentrated effort needs to be made to improve our education system.

When loan is given under NABARD, the project present does not seem to cover what is actually required. NABARD loan is our main source of fund for Education Department. When creating projects, school teachers were not consulted when they were the one who will implement them. This needs to be reviewed.

Secondly, in our education system, students need to be taught self-sufficiency that would guide them in the future. Our education system needs to produce reliable individuals with the right mindset with self-sufficiency being the main target.

Our teachers are capable enough if given good direction and their role in molding students is greatly important. We, the government needs to have proper guidelines and targets for teachers as well as students.

In my constituency, we did to the best of our capacity to repair, provide and construct whatever is required in our schools in co-ordination with YMA. To rope in YMA is encouraging for the good of all.

In my constituency, we planned to set up common facility centre for home trades such as plumbing, electrical wiring, steel fabrication etc in collaboration with ITI. An

old abandoned building was earmarked for its site. But it has been more than a year since the file is kept pending.

Under LAD, the Directorate is in my constituency and it is intended to be shifted to MINECO. With the intended place being very congested to accommodate DLAO, is it not better to renovate the present garage for the office of DLAO?

Under Legal Metrology, I have mentioned this several times in the past. The department greatly needs to be strengthened and better equipped as it touches the pulse of all the people. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. F. Lalnunmawia.

DR. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I will start with Social Welfare Department.

Social Welfare Department covers various aspects of life before birth till death. It is therefore an important department. Our constituency is also covered with many improvements for which we are thankful. Of these, Tribal research Institute and Ropuiliani Museum at Kelsih when completed will be very helpful to our scholars. We hope the department will continue to be useful.

AH & Vety Department greatly helped poultry and pig farming in my constituency. Developmental works are carried out under National Mission Livelihood. Recruitment of VFA is also done and more are expected in the near future.

Under Excise Department, drug and alcohol abuse greatly infest our state destroying many lives especially our youths. Churches and NGO's needs to get involved more actively to tackle this issue. The government is also required to strengthen the department with more manpower.

Lastly, I want to assert once again that the government does not spent money for nothing. They used it for good and progressive works. Spending money or availing loan is justified if it is for the good of the people.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will have recess and continue at 5:45 PM.
(*Recess till 5:45 PM*)

5:46 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Vanlaltanpuia.

DR. VANLALTANPUIA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I thank the hon. Chief Minister and House Leader for his initiative where novice MLA's were sent for parliamentary training in Delhi.

The hon. Minister for School Education (Demand No. 20) is a sincere and dedicated person who strictly maintained punctuality. During his tenure, free and fair process is observed in terms of recruitment, posting of teachers etc.

Many departmental achievements were highlighted by other members. I want to personally mention that Mizoram is the only state in India which conducts offline mode of examination for class 10 and 12 during the pandemic. It really is a notable achievement.

In my constituency, there are several schools needing quality improvement for which some measures will need to be taken. They are Phaileng South Primary School, Pukpui P/S II, Mausen P/S, Bualpui V Middle School, Rawpui M/S, Sekhum P/S and Rawlaitui RMSA.

I thank the hon. Minister for FCS & CA (Demand No. 17) for all the good works he did for Mizoram by improving supply of basic amenities such as cooking gas, oil, rice etc. to the public.

As often mentioned earlier, Social Welfare Department (Demand No. 29) built many assets for Mizoram under the provision Article 275(1). Baptist Higher Secondary school could hardly accommodate all the students, particularly from the western belt and far-flung villages. I kindly request the hon. Minister to build a hostel through DC under the provision quoted.

Under Demand No.7, Excise and Narcotics Department, it is my view that Mizoram is the most affected area by drug trafficking. The department is working tirelessly to tackle this global menace. We appreciate what they have done and we expect them to continue their effort.

Lastly, I support the demands moved by the hon. Minister. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Starting with Demand No. 20, Education Department. I have often mentioned this through the House and personal request for opening higher secondary school at Bungtlang S under Samagra, but this has not materialized. Can this be fulfilled during the term of present ministry? Secondly, can the post of Lawngtlai District High School Headmaster be filled up during this term?

Thirdly, in Lawngtlai district, school education up to middle school level are under the council. After provincialization they are under the state government while non-provincialized are under the council. Is it not possible to incorporate provincialized schools in the council budget?

Fourthly, I have been employing 2/3 teachers from MLA fund and have done repairing works for dilapidated school buildings with available funds from BADP. This hardly meet their requirements. What can the government in such cases? Also, what will become of teachers employed under SEDP if the ministry ends?

Moving on to Demand No. 17, FCS&CA Department, in continuation of the many notable works he has done, will the hon. Minister take steps to solve the problem faced by the councils in food supply? It is also necessary to extend the office of DSCO Lawngtlai which was constructed during our tenure. DSCO quarter and godown also needs repairing.

Demand No. 34, Veterinary Department, I believe privatizing the animal food processing centre at Ramrikawn will generate higher revenue. Undoubtedly, we are all aware of our financial condition. The many projects started at various places under the department should be utilized to improve our finance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I will start with Demand No. 20 Education Department. During Pu Zoramthanga's previous ministry, Mizoram has the highest literacy rate for two consecutive years among the Indian small states. However, after ten years, our literacy rate drops and some government schools are closed due to zero admission. I am aware that the hon. Minister has often stressed the need to revive our education, and possible actions are also taken. There are also several primary schools that need to be upgraded in my constituent villages.

Demand No.19 Local Administration Department, it is noted with high appreciation that whenever MNF ministry comes into power, local council boundary is always widened in the western belt. However, it is necessary to rectify the council boundary of Mamit DLAO with the directorate in and around West Phaileng RD block for better administrative conveniency.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Today, we have 3 demands for discussion. I found nothing much to discuss in view of what we give priority to during the past five years. What is moved to be passed by the House is mainly salary and wages.

Under Demand No.7 Excise and Narcotics Department, had it not for YMA and NGO's taking the initiative and having massive drives, how many lives would be lost in view of the excessive inflow of drugs into Mizoram. Why is it that Excise Department cannot be strengthened with additional personnel? Total prohibition is said to be in force, yet things look worse than before. It is surely necessary to strengthen the department and help fight their on-going war against drugs and alcohol.

Demand No. 29, Social Welfare Department, the other day, we visited Jordan De-addiction centre. The hon. Chief Minister has mentioned that it would be equipped to be the best such centre in Asia and large funds were poured in to the centre. In reality, it is merely a money-making machine.

Demand No. 34, Veterinary Department, it would not be wrong to say that my constituent village Lungsen was the first breeding place of swine flu. However, when funds from the central government came, households effected were not given compensation. It was Lungpuizawl Vety Farm was the one who receive the compensation. This is the perfect example of the rich taking from the poor.

Demand No. 20 Education Department, it is good news that several new teachers were recruited under SEDP. However, the method of recruitment is questionable and is quite unfair. I would like to remind the ministry that funds under SEDP is not only for MNF, it is public money.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I thought the hon. Ministers would demand more fund for their respective departments to attain more development. However, this does not seem to be the case. They seemed to be content with salary and wages in view of their demands.

Funds demanded by Social Welfare Department decreased by 60% and salary is less than 500 lakhs. Number of employees decreased amidst heavy workload. It is obvious that heavy demand will be made in supplementary budget. This is a deceptive budget and should not be practiced.

In Veterinary Department, we need preventative measures against heavy import of animals from outside to safeguard local livestock farming. This is necessary if we aim to attain self-sufficiency in meat and its related products.

Under School Education, Mara District Council is an area neglected. Siaha Higher Secondary School is without Principal and Vice-Principal. There are no regular teachers at Serkawr while Phura and Zawngling have one each. I address the hon. Minister on their behalf to address this issue.

Coming to my constituency, Serchhip Diet- science teacher and mathematics teacher were both transferred without any replacement. The hon. Chief minister has given his assurance in the previous session; however, no replacement is there to this day. There are many lapses to be seen in other places. Hence, our education, its system and its related matters need to be revived. In view of our present condition, it will be difficult to produce good students. Type of syllabus required, which direction school children will be guided and what Mizoram needs have all need to be considered.

Coming to LESDE. Firstly, I want to thank YMA for their contribution towards production of skilled laborers among the youths. I kindly request the hon. Minister to disclose the amount of cess received and on what date. Also, what is the amount of cess received from NABARD?

We have ITI which ran for 67 years. After completion they cannot enrol in college or in normal educational institution. They are not given stipend and borne their own course fee whereas 100% funding is provided under PMKVY.

Regarding recruitment, according to the advertisement, only who possessed MSCTE recognized certificate are eligible. BCA or MCA degree holders from ICFAI or NELIT are not eligible whereas they are teachers in many of our training institutes. It is therefore, pertinent to revise our recruitment rules.

Tender was floated for Ngopa retailer and recommendation of MNF group president was required. This should not be the case.

Lastly, let us accept our failure at crab farming. Let us hand it over to Horticulture Department as it will be more lucrative. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to wind up.

ER. LALRINAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am glad there is well participation in the discussion of my demand.

Firstly, Sericulture Department- so far, we have no market problem for our products, rather we cannot yet produce enough to meet requirement. In Mizoram, about 4546 families are engaged in cocoon-rearing and we have yet to impart its value for real occupation as it is with other farming.

Veterinary Department is a well-established department and its reliability is worth mentioning. The main aim laid out is to provide enough healthy meat for local consumption. To achieve this, many projects were implemented while some are on-going projects. The Mizoram Licensing and Regulation of Private Veterinary Hospitals and Clinics Act, 2021 was also laid in the House recently.

Excise Department aims to remove social menace that prevails in our society. That is their function and they are working tirelessly with support from churches, NGO's and YMA. Meanwhile, drug cartels are becoming more and more powerful which is why the department needs strengthening.

Social Welfare Department is now bifurcated where Women and Child Welfare is now a separate directorate. As often mentioned, it is a department which touches every walk of life. Rehabilitation centre, vocational training centre, training center for handicapped, various committees and commissions, anganwadi, women empowerment and many others are the hallmark of the functioning of this department.

Lastly, I thank the members for their participation in the discussion of my demands. Pu Speaker, I beg the House to pass my demands-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
7	Excise & Narcotics	49,65,81,000.00
29	Social Welfare	1,75,25,12,000.00
34	Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	69,11,70,000.00
41	Sericulture	17,35,79,000.00
TOTAL		31,13,842,000.00

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has asked the permission of the House to pass his demands. Those who are in favor say 'Agree'. (**Members:** Agree). The House has unanimously passed the demands presented by the hon. Minister. (**Er. Lalrinawma, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

Let us call upon the hon. Minister Pu Lalchhandama Ralte to windup.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. we are discussing the last budget of the present ministry and it is interesting to listen to what were said regarding my demands.

Firstly, Printing & Stationery Department is an important department but they are not given much attention. Due to fast paced technology, machineries bought a few years ago were now outdated. 'Guidelines on Execution of Printing Works, 2008' bind all government departments. If the department cannot comply with the requirements placed by other departments, outsourcing is done from government approved firms. The department staffs are dedicated and sincere though they have no exposure as other departments have.

Dr. BD. Chakma questioned the meaning of 'suspense for 100 lakhs placed in the budget'. It means 100 lakh is set aside in our budget for the purchase of required stationery items.

Demand No. 28 Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department is the most flourishing department with many visions for advancement though it is not regarded as a major department. It is a nodal department for Youth Commission, Mizoram and Manpower Development Board under SEDP.

India has 44 Labour Law where in Mizoram enforced 18 of them in the State. 'The Mizoram Code on Wages Rules, 2021' is readied for implementation. 'The Mizoram Court on Social Security Rules, 2022' is passed by the cabinet and it was laid on the table of the House.

Under Labour Wing, there is 'Mizoram Building and Others Construction Workers Welfare Board' under which there are 65079 registered members. Many beneficial supports are given under this scheme.

'Employment State Insurance Act, 1948' provides registration for various private firms and establishments such as schools, hospitals, restaurants etc. we also have 94 registered firms. I would like to stress that it is truly important for well-established firms and big shops to provide beneficial support to their employees/workers.

Under 'Unorganized Worker Social Security Act, 2018', we have 58230 registered members. There is also PM-SYM and NPS while EMPACT Portal for students seeking employment is also opened recently.

Coming to Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the three ITI we have in Aizawl, Lunglei and Siaha are under Craftsmen Training Scheme.

Under STRIVE (Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement), we have programmes chalked out for improvement of our ITI's and for encouragement towards entrepreneurship. Pum Innovative Fair is also organized for two consecutive years where locally made bamboo products are displayed. 'Kawtchhuah Start-up Programme' is there for ITI products after completion of training. Winter Wonderland and Christmas Fair was arranged for women and physically handicapped which was highly appreciated by the public.

Pu Speaker, regarding PMKVY, Mizoram thankfully is the best implementing state of PMKVY where an award was received.

Under Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), state and district level committees are formed. Programmes held here will introduce our youths to the world of skill competition.

Manpower Development Board is under one SEDP Board. In collaboration with Madhavi Foundation, B.Sc. (Hospitality & Management) education is introduced, 12 youths are undergoing course training. Talk was held with Taiwan Embassy for

mandarin education for our youths, but some problem was there. We intend to pursue this further.

Our achievement as a nodal department for Mizoram Youth Commission is worth mentioning. A separate office is constructed in the premise of Secretariat and Youth Centre in Aizawl, Lunglei and Serchhip.

Super IAS-40 programme was introduced to encourage our youths to enter into central service. Expense for educational materials and fees for accommodation was borne by the government. We have successful candidates to be named.

Reacting to Pu Lalduhoma, it is true that Directorate and Workers Welfare Board somewhat take 3 tier system for ITI at a stretch of 2/3 years. But skill development training conducted under Workers Welfare Board is only for registered members and their families.

Coming to Demand No.20 School Education Department, I have made an appeal in the House earlier to jointly help improve our education with the resources we have. To instill a sense of Mizo nationalism through education is highly prioritized by this government. A book 'Zonun' is introduced as an additional subject in class 6,7,8 level and our national song '*Ro min rel sak ang che*' is to be sang in every school at the beginning of every academic session. New text books are printed to replace old topics which are no longer relevant.

To have quality education, various training courses are conducted for teachers and standard authority yard stick and standard regulations are prepared.

School textbooks are updated to maintain standard at national level. Online portal and integrated digital systems are also introduced. As demanded by NEP-2020, skill development has to go side by side with education. Various programmes are framed and vocational education is introduced in 35 school providing vocational teachers.

Several members mentioned schools needing repairs and constructions. There are yet many to do as there are many schools to be covered. Villages could be covered by NABARD whereas projects for towns are not there. We hope to resolve this issue in the near future.

Appointment of teachers was mentioned during this tenure. 3163 teachers and muster roll teachers were appointed with funds from CSS and SEDP. It is our intention to appoint qualified teachers only. However, there are cases where non-qualified teachers are inevitably appointed. Teachers appointed under SEDP are for stop-gap arrangement.

NEP-2020 recommended alignment of sports with education. MoU was signed with sports association of various disciplines and 500 children were selected for training in cricket.

School enrollment also increased during this tenure. As mentioned earlier, MBSE arranged offline exam during the pandemic. We are the only state that could do so. Experts came to study our performance from Chhatisgarh, it is no doubt an achievement.

With permission from the hon. Chief Minister, wages of more than 5000 workers under SAMAGRA were increased.

One notable achievement is the goodwill gesture shown by our government towards refugees coming from Myanmar and Bangladesh by providing education to more than 6000 children with uniform, textbook and midday meal included.

Scheme for restructuring of school education is actively pursued. It is submitted to DP&AR and we hope that the government will consider it. One issue we have is some in service employees under DIET were not given their salary yet. 67 are placed as para-academic staff. Their case has to be looked into with broader outlook.

Pu Speaker, about upgradation of schools. It is truly necessary to deeply consider the case of such schools needing upgradation which the government will see to it. We acknowledged the pivotal role played by private schools in Mizoram. Local councils, village councils and NGO's show a sense of belonging in education which I greatly appreciate.

The Mizo Language Development Board started to function from 6.2.2023 having an office at AIS Transit Building II at the Secretariate building. We hope to fill up the post of Chairman, Secretary and other employees in the near future.

Pu speaker, I thank the members for their enthusiasm for improvement of education in our State. Lastly, I beg the House to pass my demands.

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
18	Printing & Stationery	12,86,60,000.00
20	School Education Department	15,63,31,66,000.00
28	Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	31,93,07,000.00
TOTAL		16,08,11,33,000.00

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has asked the permission of the House to pass his demands. All in favor say 'Agree'. (**Members:** 'Agree'). The House

has passed the demands presented by the hon. Minister. (**Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

Let us call upon the hon. Minister Pu K. Lalrinliana to windup.

PU K. LALRINLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Demand No.35 Fisheries Department, a number of families are given financial assistance from central sponsored scheme PMMY. ‘Chakai Farm’ is alleged as a failure, I would like to remind everyone that it is only a pilot project demonstration farm.

Fishery is potentially a good occupation for self-sufficiency. Department staffs are few and inadequate and the pay of the officers is now upgraded to the level of their counterparts.

Area covered by DFDO posted in every district is wide and an approach road to fish ponds are normally not in good condition. Fish farmers work tirelessly to produce more in such conditions. As we can see, we now have more locally produced fish to buy.

To protect river fishes, ‘The Mizoram Fisheries Act and Rules is implemented with good support from YMA. With funds from centrally sponsored scheme, cold storages are to be installed in different areas.

Fish seed is given to intended fish farmers and rearing ponds are constructed. ₹3000 each is given to families engaged in fish farming for livelihood and nutritional support. In 2021-22, fish produced by Mizoram is assessed to be around 45,750.5 quintals.

Demand No.19 Local Administration Department, District Council Act, 1953 is presently in force. Village Council Draft Bill, 2023 is not readied for presentation at this time.

Coming to Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, in the midst of easy flow of cooking gas, the vessel/bullet tanky of our bottling is getting rusted which resulted in lesser trip of gas production. Hence, 2 hectare of land was purchased nearby which was handed over to IOC. Work has started and we expect to have more trips of gas in the near future.

Rail-fed oil depot to stock oil and diesel is another target. We found no suitable land to meet our requirement around Bairabi. As a last resort, we selected land near Sihhmui that will contain only half-rack. But we hope that it will still serve the purpose of feeding Mizoram.

Hindustan Petroleum Ltd is also looking for suitable land to install oil depot. When our efforts get materialized, many of our problem in supply of oil and diesel will be relieved.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department many activities were pursued and achievements are seen everywhere whereas some drives awaited successful results. Home delivery of cooking gas has commenced in some localities.

Supply Department is given about 400 crores in the budget. Good return is expected from some sectors. Supply route from FCI godown to local retailer can be traced now due to the installation of e-post machine system.

Lastly, I thank the members for their participation in the discussion of my demands. Pu Speaker, I request the permission of the House to pass my demands-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
17	Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs	2,70,20,65,000.00
19	Local Administration	1,82,04,87,000.00
35	Fisheries	10,55,59,000.00
TOTAL		4,62,81,11,000.00

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has asked the permission of the House to pass his demands. All in favor, say 'Agree'. (**Members:** Agree). The House has passed the demands submitted by the hon.Minister. (**Pu K. Lalrinliana, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

We have concluded our business for today. We will continue the Session tomorrow i.e. 23.2.2023 at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned. (10:04 PM.)