

**NINTH MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(SECOND SESSION CUM BUDGET SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR THIRD SITTING ON THURSDAY, THE 22nd FEBRUARY, 2024
(Time 10:30 A.M to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

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

LAYING OF PAPERS

2. **PU LALDUHOMA**, Hon. Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
 - i) Finance Accounts 2022-2023 Vol.-I relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - ii) Finance Accounts 2022-2023 Vol.-II relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - iii) Appropriation Accounts 2022-2023 relating to Government of Mizoram.
 - iv) Report of Director of Local Fund Audit on the Accounts of Local Authorities for the year 2018, 2019-2021.
3. **PI LALRINPUII**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
 - i) Zoram Medical College Memorandum of Association, 2024
 - ii) Zoram Medical College Regulations, 2024
 - iii) Bye-Laws of Zoram Medical College, 2024
 - iv) Zoram Medical College (Recruitment & Conditions of Service for Teaching Faculty) Rules, 2024
 - v) Zoram Medical College (Recruitment & Conditions of Service for Non-Teaching Employees) Rules, 2024

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bill for introduction, consideration and passing.

4. **PU PC. VANLALRUATA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024"

Also

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

VANLALTHANTLINGI
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : *He told them, “Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for mere mortals but for the LORD, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.*

- 2 Chronicles 19:6&7

Today is the 75th birthday of our Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma and it would be a pleasure if he could stand where he is. The House wishes you to continue to use your knowledge and wisdom for the people and for this House.

Pu Lalchhuanthanga is unable to attend today’s session due to unforeseen circumstances, Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte will not be able to attend the morning session and Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi could not attend this session due to illness.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

We will proceed with Questions and Answers and I request Pu H. Lalzirliana to ask *Starred Question No. 21.*

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, I wish our Chief Minister a very Happy Birthday and I wish him a many happy returns of the day.

Will the Health & Family Welfare Department Minister be pleased to state when Tuipuibari PHC will be functioned?

SPEAKER : Pi Lalrinpuui, Minister to answer the question.

Pi LALRINPUUI, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is-

Tuipuibari PHC is expected to be functioned within the current government term. It is also included in the Primary Health Centre list in Mamit District (Health facilities list – Gazette, 2021).

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu H. Lalzirliana

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, Tuipuibari PHC building and staff quarters were completed during the Congress government and the previous MNF government tried very hard to pursue different opportunities. The former Minister Dr. Thangtea also did his utmost to help us but there was a pandemic, lack of funds and we were also seeking for doctors. It seems that we will soon be having several new doctors from ZMC and it would be appreciated if this is given a priority and let it function soon. Mamit District is aspirational due to lack of health infrastructure and health facilities with high infant mortality rate and low education. So, it would be appreciated if we are given more attention.

My Supplementary question is- During the previous government, Health Clinic Centre was proposed to be opened at places where there was no Health Clinic Centre and there are 15 villages in my constituency that have no centre. (**Speaker** : Get to the question) How does the government intend to implement the Health Clinic Centres in these 15 villages and is it impossible to reimburse us financially for the construction that have already done? How will the Health Clinic Centre opened under the SEDP be implemented and will it be possible reimburse us for the construction?

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

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, PHC building was built at Longpuighat during the Congress government and it was not opened for the whole term during the previous government. The nearest PHC to Longpuighat is Chawngte, Bungtlang 'S' which is too far from Parva area and Theka. So, a building is already available at Longpuighat and when will this be functioned? So, I would like to request the Minister to give us priority since we are in dire need.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. *My Supplementary question* is- Vairengte CHC is among the most crowded CHC in Mizoram and the old 50 MA x-ray machine is no longer usable. 10 x-ray machines were ordered and our Minister and officials promised us that they will earmark one for Vairengte CHC. So, will it be possible to install the x-ray machine at Vairengte CHC if these x-rays arrived? Secondly, 11 Health Clinic Centres are opened in Serlui constituency and we hired health workers through the SEDP but they were all fired. So, is it possible to fill the posts since this is important? Thirdly, the northern areas hardly receive developments and we are always neglected. A PHC building was built at Saiphum and is ready to be opened. So, it would be appreciated if the Minister open this building and assign us 1 doctor. It will be used by Thingthelh, Hlimen, Saipum, Mauchar and other NEEPCO employees and so, will it be possible to assign a doctor in the newly built Saipum PHC?

SPEAKER : I request Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Hachhek constituency is also facing problems in healthcare and health services. The previous government install Health Clinic Centres at 10 villages where there were no Health Sub-Centres. So, is the SEDP provision for Health Clinic Centres completely abolished? Is this why the Health Workers who worked in the Health Clinic Centres cannot continue working?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is- Borapansuri PHC has been functioning in PPP mode for a long time and the District Council in 2019 decided that the state government should manage the project instead of PPP mode. So, an order was issued in July saying that Mizoram government will take up the project. District Council has no source and salaries were given in fixed-pay. Hospital maintenance is extremely expensive and we cannot afford it. Therefore, an order is now available and the government should take expedite measures. Pu C. Ngunlianchunga mentioned the Health Care at Longpuighat and will it be possible to give this a priority?

Chawngte area is vast and it has a population of over 22,000 and the coverage area is - Lungrang, Rualalung and Diltlang. So, is there any way to upgrade it to a Sub-Divisional Hospital?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu R. Rohmingliana.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is- Thorang constituency has two PHCs and doctors are never fully available. We never have an x-ray technician as well and so, is it possible to assign 1 doctor and 1 x-ray technician in these two PHCs?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu H. Ginzalala.

PU H. GINZALALA : Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question* is- Champhai ICU is currently shut-down and is there a way to reopen it? ZMC is extremely expensive for the government to look after it and it is appreciating that the Central Minister approved the special package. We will lose too much if ZMC is handed to the central government. Mizoram state quota is 70 per year but we will not have that much if it is handed to the central sector. Pu Speaker, when can we receive this special package and what have we attained so far?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Jeje Lalpekhlua.

PU JEJE LALPEKHLUA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is- How many PHCs are without doctors?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu K. Hrahmo.

PU K. HRAHMO : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is- Some PHCs were upgraded to CHCs during the previous government and does the new government approve this? If so, will it function as a PHC or as a CHC? Sub-Centres are provided in some villages but Health Workers are not available at several centres. So, is it possible to provide Health workers for these centres?

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there are so many *Supplementary question s* just for 1 question which means that it will take us more than half an hour to answer. So, it would be appreciated if you stick to your ruling.

SPEAKER : That is quite true and it could also be overwhelming for the Minister if there are too many *Supplementary question s*. I request Pi Lalrinpuui, Hon. Minister to answer the questions.

PI LALRINPUUI, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My answer to Pu H. Lalzirliana is – Firstly, ZMC students will graduate at the end of April and it will be functioned after that. Secondly, the fund will be reimbursed. Health clinics are not recognized by the ministry and they are illegally established at 235 places in the previous government where health workers, helpers and IV Grade are recruited through SEDP. The sanction of SEDP expired in November, 2023 and that is why the employment could not be continued. However, the Health Clinic Centres set up by the Government in various places will continue as required.

In response to Pu C. Ngunlianchunga– The government gives importance to the functioning of Longpuighat PHC and we are very keen to get it functioning as soon as possible. Longpuighat PHC is one of the 15 PHCs without doctors and it is intended to function as soon as we have a doctor.

In response to Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte regarding the x-ray machines at Vairengte, we intend to purchase the machines from MHSSP fund. SEDP is no longer available and the recruiting of SEDP Health workers will not be continued. Thirdly, Saipum PHC will be used to upgrade the existing Health & Wellness Centre when we have enough staff.

In response to Pu Robert Romawia regarding the installation of health clinics at places with no sub-centre, Health Clinics were established illegally and it is impossible for us to provide HR and also, SEDP is no longer available and thus, we face difficulties.

In response to PU RM Chakma, the functioning of Borapansuri PHC is being considered as the order is currently in place. Regarding the upgradation of Chawngte CHC to Sub-Division, as per established norms, a PHC in rural areas is to be established for a population of 20,000 in hilly areas and 50,000 in plain areas. CHC also requires a population of 80,000 and many things have been done illegally. In addition to 9 CHCs, 7 PHCs were upgraded to CHCs last year before the election. This caused a problem for the government and we do not even have staffs. A total of 101 posts for doctors, 143 for nurse and 412 for Health Worker are vacant and likewise, pharmacists, lab-technicians and x-ray technicians posts are also vacant. There are many Health Clinics, PHCs and CHCs that are not functioning due to the financial difficulties of the State. We are currently requesting for Nurses and the officials are currently working on it. So, my answer is- “It is not possible to say at the moment”.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, *Points of clarification* if you please. According to our Minister, Health Workers cannot be reemployed due to the end of SEDP. So, is the SEDP really no longer available? SEDP is still available for some departments for example, the Education Minister said that teachers will be employed and paid through SEDP till 31st March and SEDP works are also underway in many departments. So, why is SEDP ended in the health sector?

SPEAKER : That is not the purview of Health Department, it is Finance concerned. The hon. Minister might not be able to provide an answer.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I can provide an answer now. Health workers and staff nurses recruited under SEDP were all terminated during the previous ministry.

Regarding posting of a doctor at Thorang PHC, as soon as doctors at ZMC graduated, they will be posted there.

Due to shortage of staff to run ICU continuously, ICU is not installed at Champhai hospital as well as Lunglei hospital.

Regarding special package to come from central for ZMC, we have made a proposal as directed and DPR is almost completed which is to the tune of Rs. 1.9 crore.

In answer to Pu Hrahmo, as mentioned earlier CHC and PHC which were upgraded during the previous ministry are not yet functional as they should be due to shortage of staff. Also, health sub-centres will be provided with health workers when acute shortage of staff is resolved.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Starred Question no.22*.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister in charge of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state -

- a) How many health and wellness centres are there in Mizoram?
- b) Are they all equipped with required staff?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to reply.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Pu Speaker,

- a) Mizoram has 391 Health & Wellness Centre. There are 54 Primary Health Centre, 319 Sub-centre and 9 Urban PHC.
- b) The centres are not yet provided with the required number of staffs.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr. K. Beichhua.

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

- i) Is there any intention to recruit more doctors through MPSC?
- ii) In which hospitals are CT scan installed? Are they operational?
- iii) What are the number of MRI machines installed in Mizoram at present? Siaha district is said to be the 27th. Is there any intention to reduce installation?
- iv) Does the government intend to complete construction of Siaha Nursing School building which was started during congress ministry?
- v) In Siaha District Hospital, there are ENT Surgeon, Gynecologist and Ophthalmologist but no Anesthetist. Can an Anesthetist be posted there?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu VL. Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Speaker, if I am not mistaken, MRI machine is only installed at ZMC among government-run hospitals. Is there any proposal to install one at Civil Hospital where most patients go to?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalchhandama Ralte Leader of Opposition.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, the hon. Health Minister mentioned that termination of health workers under SEDP was done during the previous ministry, is there any order regarding this issue? If so, can the order letter be produced in the House? Is the reason of their termination due to the fact that the government has not made their salary which is quarterly basis and is due on November?

Secondly, can the government accommodate a new doctor for Darlawn PHC as the previous doctor has gone off for further studies. Special package from central for ZMC is ₹1.9 crores. Is the amount a little meagre for Mizoram?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister to answer.

PI LALRINPUIL, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in answer to Dr. Beichhua, 7 specialist doctor and 9 Medical Officers are proposed to be recruited through MPSC. Recruitment of specialist doctors is currently conducted and recruitment of medical officers is expected shortly.

CT scan is installed at Aizawl Civil Hospital, ZMC, Lunglei Civil Hospital and Mizoram State Cancer Institute, Zemabawk. All are operational though CT scan at Lunglei needs to be handled with care due to malfunction of two batteries. For Lunglei, labour annual maintenance contract was signed, payment process has been finalized and maintenance will ensue.

The government plans to complete construction of Siaha Nursing School building. Anesthetist will be posted at Siaha Hospital as soon as possible.

In answer to Pu VL. Zaithanzama, MRI machine will be installed at Aizawl Civil Hospital under Smart City Project.

The IMR statistic for Mizoram is 3/1000 life birth. (**Dr. K. Beichhua:** The life birth rate if Siaha is 27/1000. Is there any plan to reduce this?)

Yes, massive drive is taken under NHM and the doctor in-charge, Dr. Lily has been actively engaged in this case.

In answer to Pu Lalchhandama, I will try to get the copy of termination letter from the office and give it to the opposition leader. Special package of Rs. 1.9 crore is the first phase. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu K. Laldawngliana to ask *Starred question number.23.*

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Health Department be pleased to state-

Whether Healthcare Bill of ₹40 crores which was sanctioned by SEDP have been distributed yet?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to answer.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you.

Healthcare Bill has not been distributed yet. However, 15 crores liability was cleared at the beginning of our ministry. The hon. Finance Minister will be able to give better clarification regarding capital of 40 crores from SEDP.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu K. Laldawngliana.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Pu Speaker, what is the amount of liability of healthcare at present? What are the measures taken to clear those medical liabilities?

Also, Lungdai covers accident prone area but has no x-ray machinery. I have submitted a request for this since the previous ministry but to no avail. Can the hon. Minister address this issue?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My constituency has four PHC's and two of them, Farkawn and Sesih is without a doctor. Farkawn doctor left to pursue further studies. Sesih PHC does not have a doctor for 30 years since it was inaugurated by Pu Vaivenga. The previous ministry posted a doctor but at the beginning of this ministry, the doctor was transferred to Tuipang. Can a new doctor be posted as soon as possible?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question from Pu TBC. Lalvenchhunga.*

PU TBC. LALVENCHHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Sairang PHC & CHC has shortage of staff wherein Sairang PHC is without a doctor. Also, we have no technician and no space for x-ray machine. What action can be taken regarding these issues?

Secondly, what are the number of doctors posted in administrative post?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to answer.

PI LALRINPUIL, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, question and answer hour has almost ended and I will not be able to finish on time. (**Speaker:** Since *question and answer hour* has almost ended, shall we let her continue? Please continue.)

Pu Speaker, thank you. In answer to Pu Laldawngliana's question, latest liability of healthcare bill is ₹45,59,61,743 crore. If we deduct Rs.40 crore which is to be paid from SEDP, it comes to around 5.6 lakhs. We intend to clear all these before financial year ends.

To Pu Ramthanmawia's question- yes, a doctor will be posted again at Sesih. When the doctor was transferred to Tuipang, the replacing doctor remained for only 3 months at Sesih and resigned.

In answer to Pu TBC. Lalvenchhunga, Sairang PHC will be given a new doctor after recruitment of doctors is completed. New building for x-ray machinery will be from MHSSB. Regarding number of doctors employed in administrative line, I will give the answer later on.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, my question regarding Darlawn CHC doctor was not answered.

PI LALRINPUIL, MINISTER: Darlawn CHC will be given a doctor when shortage of doctor is resolved.

LAYING OF PAPERS

SPEAKER : We will move on to laying of papers. Let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister, Pu Lalduhoma to lay the following papers-

- i) Finance Accounts 2022-2023, Vol.I relating to Government of Mizoram.
- ii) Finance Accounts 2022-2023, Vol.II relating to Government of Mizoram.
- iii) Appropriation Accounts 2022-2023, relating to Government of Mizoram.
- iv) Report of Director of Local Fund Audit on the Accounts of Local Authorities for the year, 2018, 2019-2021.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I lay the following papers-

- i) Finance Accounts 2022-2023, Vol.I relating to Government of Mizoram.
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- iii) Appropriation Accounts 2022-2023, relating to Government of Mizoram.
- iv) Report of Director of Local Fund Audit on the Accounts of Local Authorities for the year, 2018, 2019-2021.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed. Let us call upon Pi Lalrinpuui to lay the following papers-

- i) Zoram Medical College Memorandum of Association, 2024.
- ii) Zoram Medical College Regulations, 2024.
- iii) Bye-Laws of Zoram Medical College, 2024.
- iv) Zoram Medical College (Recruitment & Conditions of Service for Teaching Faculty) Rules, 2024.
- v) Zoram Medical College (Recruitment & Conditions of Service for Non-Teaching Employees) Rules, 2024.

PI LALRINPUUI, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I lay the following papers-

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- ii) Zoram Medical College Regulations, 2024.
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- iv) Zoram Medical College (Recruitment & Conditions of Service for Teaching Faculty) Rules, 2024.
- v) Zoram Medical College (Recruitment & Conditions of Service for Non-Teaching Employees) Rules, 2024.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

SPEAKER : We will move on to legislative business. Let us call upon Pu PC. Vanlalruata to present his bill 'The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024'.

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I ask to introduce my bill 'The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024'.=

SPEAKER : As agreed by the House, let us call upon Pu PC. Vanlalruata to introduce and move his bill.

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The bill was borne due to the need for better management and regulation for our water resources. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to move his bill.

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I move ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’.

SPEAKER : We will now start discussion on the bill with 5 minutes assigned to each member. Who will start the discussion? Pu Rohmingliana.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I feel fortunate to participate in the discussion of this Bill. I have a few issues that I wanted the hon. Minister to clarify.

First of all, it states that State Water Resources Council will meet at least once a year. Can this be changed to more than once a year as it is an important council.

What approach will be used by Water Resources Development Management Authority? Under Village/Local Water Resources Committee, it states that Secretary will be ‘YMA President’. However, it does not clarify which YMA president will be appointed. Will the Bill include water sources from private lands?

Lastly, what is the extend of this Bill’s authority under PM-KUSUM solar water pump? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is a privilege to take part in the discussion for ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’.

I truly support this bill. It is a practical bill which will serve us better where some rules, regulations and restrictions were introduced.

One important point I would like to mention is raising awareness for harvesting rainwater. The general public needs to be educated on this topic. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu F. Rodingliana.

PU F. RODINGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’ is a practical bill and I support it. However, I feel that the bill might be a bit restrictive. I do question whether we will be able to implement the bill as it is. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Er. H. Ginzalala.

PU H. GINZALALA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I wholly support ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’. And I do hope that this will be passed by this House.

One important point that I would like to highlight is that we need to exploit and promote underground water resource to economically develop our rainwater. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is a pleasure for me to be able to take part in the discussion for ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’.

It is an exceptional bill which punctuate the diligence of the hon. Minister. I would like to highlight one important point that I feel should take precedence. Mapping of surface water resources and ground resources is an important element of harvesting water. Considering our geography and resources, mapping of surface water resources and ground resources should be at the forefront.

Another important point is integrated state water plan. This will assist in the settlement of water disputes at district level. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Prof. Lalnilawma.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am fortunate to be able to take part in the discussion for ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’. It is a step toward growth and development.

Looking at the formation of the Bill, other than the state level and council level, Rural Development Department was given authority regarding this bill. However, Rural Development Department was not given authority at district level. I suggest that this department be given authority at district level as well for better coordination.

Also, I believe precedence should be given to management and incorporate water source as a priority.

State Irrigation & Water Resources Department is identified as the authority under surface water and ground water. It might be more practical for the project to advance without a specified department. Thank you.

PU F. RODINGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I would like to clarify that I have no objection to the bill, rather I was just voicing my concerns. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’ is an important bill. However, this bill does not include Autonomous District Councils although it does covers international boundary. We have had several water disputes with Bangladesh and our own BSF. We will definitely put together a bill of our own.

Pu Speaker, with due respect, I have one issue that I would like to be clarified. I understand that since this is an official bill, it will have already gone through cabinet. As such, there would be no need for the Ministers to make a proposal. Members have the privilege to discuss this bill, but that should not be the case for Ministers as this is not a private member’s bill. I kindly request that this be clarified.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Lalzirliana.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA: Pu Speaker, I take great pride in partaking in the discussion of ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’. It is a practical bill and I wholly support its passing.

As mentioned by Prof. Nilawma, priority should be given to its source. Having a good water source is paramount. Another important task is conservation of water. These two goes hand in hand and should be given priority.

By God’s grace, we are given enough rainwater. The only issue is that we have no proper storage for this rainwater. Rainwater harvesting dam will be the answer to our problem. Having rainwater harvesting dam in every district will definitely assist in irrigation, horticulture and agriculture. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is a great pleasure to be discussing ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’. I thank the hon. Minister for giving credit to the previous ministry as this bill was put together by the previous ministry.

This bill was borne out of necessity. As mentioned earlier, water management is a difficult task. I do hope that this bill will pave the way for such circumstances in the future.

I have some concerns regarding this bill and I kindly request the hon. Minister to clarify them. Under Sub-Section 4 of section and sub-section 5, similar authority was given to State Level Committee (MISWARC) and District Level Committee. Who will be given more authority? I believe it will be more practical if we could add 'with the approval of MISWARC'.

Sub-section 4 of section 3 mentioned only water supply. I believe it will be more convenient to outline what kind of water supply it will be. Is it drinking water or water for agriculture?

Including PD-DRDO at District Water Resource Committee will be more convenient. Member Secretary for this project is from IWRD PHE. I believe IWRD have not fully covered all districts yet and as such clarity on which Member Secretary will be the authority is not given.

Lastly, implementation is the most important aspect of this bill. I do hope that it will not end at only the passing of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister and House Leader.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I feel fortunate that I can take part in discussing 'The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024'. A review of transaction of business is due, we also need to appoint nodal agency for this bill. Otherwise, the bill falls under the jurisdiction of about four departments and this will create issues in the future.

I believe that an amendment is inevitable as there are and will be conflicting rules and regulations. As specified within the Bill, it will give priority to groundwater and underwater mapping, explore and preserve water source and explore underground water.

All in all, it is a practical bill and I do hope that we will pass this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu PC. Vanlalruata to windup.

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I feel contented to see the participation of members in discussing 'The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024'.

The Bill emphasizes on rules for management of our water resources. It is the purview of not only one but all the departments and have the hon. Chief Minister as its Chairman.

It might not be faultless and I do apologize for that. However, we are open to amendments during conception of rules.

Pu Speaker, I beg the House to pass ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has beg the House to pass his bill ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’.

All those in favor, say agree. (MEMBERS: Agree)

The House has unanimously passed ‘The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024’. (**Pu PC. Vanlalruata, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

We have concluded our business for today. The session will resume tomorrow i.e., 23rd February (Friday) at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned (12:51 PM)