

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR SEVENTH SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 28th 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 PAPER

2. **PU LALDUHOMA**, Hon. Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of The Fourth Annual Report 2022-2023 of the Mizoram Lokayukta.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

3. **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER** to present to the House The First Report of House Committee.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

4. **PU K. SAPDANGA**, Minister to move an Official Resolution in the following form :
“Central Sorkar-in Free Movement Regime (FMR) tihtawp a tum leh Myanmar nena kan inrina, Border Fencing kalpui a tum hi tha kan ti lo va. Ti lo turin kan ngen a ni. Dik lo taka British Sorkar in Divide and Rule Policy hmanga Zofate min thendarh hi rorelna pakhat hnuaia kan kun leh theihna turin hma min lakpui zawk rawh se.”

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

**DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND
FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024**

5. Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demand for Grants for the year 2023-2024.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bills for introduction, consideration and passing

6. **PU LALDUHOMA**, Hon. Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants 2023-24) Bill, 2024”

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

7. **PU LALDUHOMA**, Hon. Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Lokayukta (Amendment) 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 : *I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.*

-Psalm 119:106

QUESTION & ANSWER

Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte is on a trip and could not join us today and Pu Lalthansanga could not attend this session due to sickness. We will proceed with questions and answers and I request Pu Ramthanmawia to ask *Starred Question No. 81*.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Power & Electricity Minister be pleased to state- 'The Government plans to take steps to generate power'.

SPEAKER : P&E Minister, Pu F. Rodingliana to answer the question.

PU F. RODINGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

In accordance with the hydro-electric power policy formulated by the Mizoram Government, hydro-electric projects are being implemented with proper planning of the expected power generation. In particular, we have 15 small hydro-electric projects with a total generating capacity of 38.55 mw. However, the amount of power it can generate varies according to the weather conditions and some of these small hydel projects are being repaired. Several Hydel projects are being implemented in the field of power generation namely-

- 1 Tlawng HEP (120 mw) Near Lungleng – Survey & Investigation (S&I) is underway and Detail Project Report is expected to be completed within 2024.
2. Tuivai HEP (150 mw) near Ngopa.
3. Tuirini SEP (24 mw) Near Sesawng- S&I is completed with DPR and the funding for the project is being considered.

The Government is also doing its utmost in solar power generation and Grid connected SPV Power Plant (Solar) 10 mw near Thenzawl Village is currently being constructed.

The Government's current plans for power generation are-

1. Thenzawl Solar Plant (20 mWP) - PPA signing is underway.
2. Sumsuih Solar Plant (5 mWP) - Project is planned under the State plan and administrative approval has been given.
3. Keifang Solar Plant (10 mWP) - PPA has been signed with Mizoram Energy Development Agency (MEDA).

Thank you, Speaker.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question from Pu Ramthanmawia.*

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : *My Supplementary question is-*

- i) How many mega-watts does Mizoram need to develop power?
- ii) How much does it cost per month to import from other states?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu H. Ginzalala

PU H. GINZALALA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Champhai has power problems especially during the rainy season. So, can the government consider an alternate line from Khawzawl 132 kV sub-station? Secondly, Can the government provide 33 kv line for the power evacuation line of Kawlbem hydel project to feed Hnahlan? Thank you, Pu Speaker.

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

PU K. HRAHMO : My *Supplementary question* is – Tuipang river mini-hydel project has been out of order for a long time. So, does the government have any intention of repairing it?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Pu F. Rodingliana to answer the questions.

PU F. RODINGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. In response to Pu Ramthanmawia – Power development is being carried out where solar and hydro are the main targets. We have several mega-watts in our budget for rooftop-solar specifically for the city. We also have a specific river target in the hydel project. Tlawng river is expected to be completed this year, but since Mizoram is in earthquake zone 5, the previous project had to be changed slightly. Tuivai is 210 mega-watts according to the previous government's plan but as we studied it more carefully, we decided to reduce it to 115 in forests and other things. The project reports are currently being revised. I would like to expand on Tuirini a little bit. The government does not accept the investors offers and we also hand out our offers as well. 4/5 companies are willing to talk business again and there may be some adjustments.

As mentioned earlier, there are many who want to build solar in our state. We have a battery system to reduce our electricity consumption during peak hours at night and this battery system has a warranty of 6 months. The company we talked to has a 15 years of lifetime and a warranty of 5 months. These are our policy revisions and technology initiatives and we plan to take measures by using our own budget. (*interruption*)

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, I had 2 *Supplementary question s* and i was not answered.

PU F. RODINGLIANA, MINISTER: The average monthly power expenditure is ₹37,00,00,000 - ₹33,00,00,000. We still require a power of 156 mega-watts and this is what we call the peak hour.

In response to Pu Laltea regarding Kawlbem - Kawlbem is only 4 mega-watts and is designed to feed the surrounding area. So, we will look into it and take measures if necessary. 133 kV alternate line cannot be constructed at any time because there are norms and the norms should be followed. our State has no authority and so, the current power shortage in various areas will be addressed through the RDSS scheme. Survey and Investigation is currently being conducted.

In response to Pu Hrahmo regarding Tuipang hydel project- trial-run is being conducted. It is true that it is neglected for a long time and trial-run will be conducted again when water is available. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I request our House Leader if he has any comments.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. We do not want to dam up all our rivers since we do not want to destroy the environment. However, we are in need of it and some are just necessary. Some of our current projects cannot be continued due to compensation and forest clearance and this include the Chhimtuipui - Kolodyne project.

I would like to explain the Tuirini-Small hydel project. It is meant to provide 24 mw and this will be financed by the New Development Bank from an externally-aided project. It is a soft-loan with an interest rate of only 1.25% which is to be held over a period of 19 years. The DPR was drafted in March, 2007 and it is estimated to be ₹584,00,00,000 in 2022. The consultancy service was also 'free of charge' and it was dropped by our previous government in November before the election. We are trying to revive this and the good thing about this is that the whole power which will be generated will be ours. That being the case, we are in a hurry and we also have a lot of clients from India and abroad.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question No. 82* to be asked by Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the District Council & Minority Affairs Department Minister be pleased to state-

If the DCMA Department is involved in the internal affairs of the three Autonomous District Councils without the Governor's orders after the recent formation of the new Government.

SPEAKER : District Council & Minority Affairs Department Minister Pu C. Lalsawivunga to answer the question.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My answer is- “The District Council & Minority Affairs Department is not involved in the internal affairs of the three Autonomous District Councils without the Governor's order”.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Robert Romawia.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The three Autonomous District Councils have different powers under the 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the State-government has power under the 7th Schedule. Thus, they have their own self-government and they also have the Constitution & Conduct of Business Rules, which we call the 'CCB Rules'. Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma, was both a CEM and MLA and he was recently issued a show-cause notice for violating the office of profit law. Article 191 of the Constitution of India provides for disqualification of office of profit and Article 192 clearly states the disqualification procedure. Pu Speaker, with your permission – the Governor can disqualify anyone regarding the office of profit but the Governor had to get ECI approval. Therefore, the DCMA Department should not issue the show-cause notice to Pu RM Chakma. Similarly, show-cause notice was issued to LADC CEM Pu V. Zirsanga by DCMA following the court decision. The DCMA should take the matter to the LADC Chairman and the Chairman shall then consult the Governor if he wishes.

SPEAKER : The question is- “Is the Governor aware of it? Did the DCMA issue a show-cause notice? *Supplementary question* from Pu V. Malsawmtluanga.

PU V. MALSAWMTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is - “When will the construction of Mara Tribal Hostel in Delhi be started?”.

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

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question* is – “Did the DC&MA Department asked the ADCs to report to DC&MA on the recruitment of substitutes? If so, in accordance to which law? What will DC&MA do if the Deputy Secretary's letter Memo No.A.60011/1/2019/DC&MA is not answered? It is important to know that the Autonomous Districts have their own rules.

SPEAKER : District Council & Minority Affairs Department Minister, Pu C. Lalsawivunga to answer the question.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. In response to Pu Robert Romawia Royte- Governor's approval is always required. In the case of Pu Rasik, some clarifications were sent as required by the Governor. In response to Pu V.

Malsawmtluanga's remarks regarding the Mara Autonomous District Council Girls Hostel in Delhi- it is their own initiative but no works could be carried out since they faced problems on the workers. Immediately after the formation of the new government, the Mara people were asked to carry out the works and the works are currently underway.

In response to Pu C. Ngunlianchunga regarding the substitutes of ADCs- According to a letter from DP&AR, a letter was sent to the three ADCs on February 7, 2024 to report whether there are any substitutes under them. DC&MA report was also given as 'Nil'. I would like to expand on this - substitute issue is one of the 100-days priority of the new government announced by the Mizoram Chief Minister and also, we are all residents of Mizoram. As an administrative department, we did not see any attempt to take away the authority of the three ADCs when the Government wants to know the status of the three ADCs regarding substitutes. The letter was sent out on behalf of Deputy Secretary, DC&MA.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: *Point of Clarification* - I think it is very important that we understand the District Council's administration. State DP&AR shall not be involved in the recruitment of their staff or administration because they have their own Recruitment Rules (RR) and CCB rules. The State DP&AR Department should not be concerned whether there are any substitutes or not. Autonomous Councils are under the protection of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and we should know the limits of our authority.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: We are only asking to give a report and we are not taking away their authority. (**Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Why should they report to the state?)

PU TBC LALVENCHHUNGA: Pu Speaker, *Point of Clarification* - Where do they get their salaries? They are under those who take from the Consolidated fund of the State.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: That was given separately to the District Council. They are paid from the funds allocated to local bodies on the recommendation of the State Finance Commission II.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: The three ADCs are also under the Mizoram State Government and the government wants to know the situation of the substitutes. (**Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Autonomous Councils are independent.) They are all citizens of our state and the government is doing what it is supposed to do. As the Administrative Department, questions were asked to find out what their situation was like under the ADCs and the department does not interfere with their authority. (**Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Why does it want to know that?) As an Administrative Department, the Government wants to know the status of substitutes throughout Mizoram including ADCs. Therefore, we asked the ADCs about their situation.

SPEAKER : I request our House Leader if he has any comments.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in response to Hachhek representative, the Governor is paying attention to the fact that some of our MLAs are also MDCs. So, this is against the rules of both the state and the ADC and that is why the Governor issued a letter saying that this should be enquired. The Speaker is the only one who can disqualify them if they violate the rules. **(Pu Robert Romawia Royte:** The House Leader should tell us on how the Speaker can disqualify the violators under the Office of Profit.) Pu Speaker, it is not about office of profit, it is about Dual-Membership. **(Pu K. Hrahmo:** Pu Speaker, *Point of Clarification* - District Council has a CCB Rules and it states that a member can held a position of an MLA while still being an MDC and MP) The Governor wants to know whether there is a violation or not and that is why the governor has provided a chance for explanation. He then will decide the matter but the one who can disqualify is the Speaker if there is any violation.

SPEAKER : In the Office of Profit, the Governor will look into the matter and will not make a decision yet and he will consult the Election Commission of India. Then, if the Governor deems it necessary and appropriate (depending on the case), he shall look into the case and he is the one who can disqualify. However, in the case of Dual Membership, we have the Removal & Disqualification of Members Act, 1975 and the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Member of the Autonomous District Councils are on the exemption list. It means that a member can be both an MLA and MDC. However, in 1986, it was amended to replace 'Chairman, Vice Chairman, Member' with 'Chief Executive Member' and 'Executive Member'. It was amended again in 2006 to omit Article 4 of the Principle Act, 1975 and 'Dual Membership' is then abolished.

We have about 7/8 businesses to discuss today and we have to proceed faster and I request the members understanding. I request Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte to ask *Starred Question No. 83*.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Minister of Agriculture will be pleased to state -

- a) The Government's proposals for the labourers during the 2024-2025 financial year
- b) If there are any proposals to implement in Serlui constituency during the 2024-2025 financial year.

SPEAKER : Agriculture Minister, Pu PC. Vanlalruata to answer the question.

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My answer is - "During the 2024-25 financial year, the government has launched various schemes for labourers under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY) and Krishonnatti Yojana

(KY). The schemes are designed to be implemented in all districts and Serlui constituency is also included. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is – “Is there a plan to develop a comprehensive management of arable lands and a meaningful production and marketing system?” The Government has plans to take measures on agriculture under the SDRP and I believe this will create easier life for the labourers.

My other *Supplementary question* is- Serlui constituency is a potential area for agriculture. The previous Government had already done various projects in my constituency. However, Chite-phai -Vairengte and Chemphai – Bilkhawthlir are not yet executed and will the Minister make arrangements under FOCUS?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is- Pu Speaker, with your approval - as announced by the media in January, 2024, four wholesale-markets are to be set up in Aizawl and have these four places been selected? It would also be appreciated to know the criteria of the selection.

SPEAKER : I request Agriculture Minister Pu PC. Vanlalruata.

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in response to Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte– The Government is making plans to develop arable lands as much as possible. The new Government has made immediate arrangements by establishing Agriculture Market Assurance Fund Management Board and its operational guidelines are currently being worked on. Therefore, the vegetables will be then be sold in a proper manner. In case of Chite-phai, we hope that the government will make plans and FOCUS will also be available again. The Government will continue to have plans and give importance to these potential areas.

In response to Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi regarding wholesale market, the Government is taking vegetable supply chain seriously and the location is currently being considered but the criteria cannot be set separately. Thus, measures will be taken in a proper manner. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question No. 84* to be asked by Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Sports & Youth Services Department Minister be pleased to state –

- a) If Lawngtlai Vengpui YLA field is completed
- b) If not, why?
- c) The estimated time for the completion.
- d) The name of the contractor and address.
- e) The amount
- f) The work supervisor.
- g) If the Supervisors approve the work and if they are they satisfied
- h) The Physical Achievement and Financial Achievement

SPEAKER : Sports & Youth Services Department Minister Pu Lalnghinglova Hmar to answer the question.

PU LALNGHINGLOVA HMAR, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My answer is –

- a) Lawngtlai Vengpui YLA field is not yet completed.
- b) Completion date is 11.7.2024 and the project is expected to be completed within this period.
- c) Works are scheduled to be completed before 11.7.2024.
- d) The Contractor is M/S Décor India, GS Road, Guwahati and they did a lot of work under Sports & Youth Services.
- e) Work order amount is ₹914.77 lakhs.
- f) It is Supervised by Mizoram State Sports Council Engineers.
- g) Mizoram State Sports Council Engineers are not able to visit Vengpui YLA Field as they are responsible for sports infrastructure throughout Mizoram and visits are made as appropriate. Therefore, even if there are deficiencies in the work, they are repaired immediately.
- h) Physical Achievement is 90% and Financial Achievement is ₹871.73 lakhs.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Jeje Lalpekhlua.

PU JEJE LALPEKHLUA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Sport infrastructure development is a good thing but it is also important to have a good association. If we have a good association, we will have more competitions and the more competition we face, the more experience we gain. So, when there is a lot of competition in the state, it gives us confidence when we go outside the state.

My question is - Does the Mizoram Government have any plans to strengthen the Sports Association and will it be possible to organize more competitions? Thank you.

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

PU K. HRAHMO : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The current Minister has been a minister for 2/3 months and does he have any plans to lay artificial turf during this period? If so, at which villages?

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

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is—

- i) How much was spent on the re-installation of artificial grass-turf at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Mualpui before the 2023 MLA elections?
- ii) Is there any sanction and from what funds?
- iii) Was tender issued? If issued, was it open tender or restricted tender?
- iv) When did the work start and when was it completed?
- v) Who is the contractor?

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

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question* is - Kan Sports Minister is a newcomer and this work was done by the previous government. State Sports Council Engineers visited the work from time to time and the work performance is quite bad. Three pavilions were built and out of these, one pavillion was sub-contracted by the YLA community. MS Decor perform a very bad work. As seen on the Governor's Speech, it is impressive that Mizoram State Project Monitoring Committee will inspect the work. However, the pavilion is not suitable for the players even when it rains and so, I would like to ask the House Leader if the Mizoram State Project Monitoring Committee can inspect this project. And also, how does the State Sports Council intend to address this poor work here?

SPEAKER : Sports & Youth Services Department Minister Pu Lalinghlova Hmar to answer the question.

PU LALNGHINGLOVA HMAR, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in response to Pu Jeje Lalpekhlua - Sports Association development and sports development are among the Government's proposals and State Level Competition, District Level Competition etc will be conducted as much as possible. Competitions give us experience and equips us to move forward and so, Incentive Cash Awards will also be given to the best Sports Associations.

In response to Pu K. Hramo regarding Artificial grass-turf, it is being implemented and there are those who are also asking for it. However, it is intended to be done without State Government funds. So, the application is submitted and we hope that the Union Sports Minister approves it.

In response to Pu VL Zaithanzama regarding the artificial turf at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Mizoram State Sports Council is not aware of this. Mizoram State Sports Council is responsible for sports infrastructure and not the Sports & Youth Services Department. It is not laid through Mizoram State Sports Council and we do not know the sanction amount. Tender is not issued and we do not know whether it is an open-tender or restricted tender. We do not know when the work began and its contractor is not known officially. The government has no written records and so we cannot provide answers. Therefore, administrative approval, tender or expenditure sanction is not available according to the government. (*interruption*)

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, with your permission, regarding the artificial turf at RG Stadium stadium, the stadium was rejected to host I-League and National Level Competition since the grass is becoming bare. So, an administrative approval letter was issued to the Director by the Government. The government ordered the Director that Zobawk artificial turf should be laid at RG stadium instead and further necessary action should also be taken if necessary. It was right before the election and I was not present and I am not sure about the works undertaken. However, I am sure that MS Décor Ltd had taken up the works on almost all North East Football fields and not only Mizoram. We have also consulted MFA officials and said that if we do not take measures like this, we will not be able to host any national competitions anymore and they also agreed. We do so in good faith and I know that there are many incomplete formalities and so, let us hope that the Minister will solve the problem.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Speaker, it is not good to do things without the knowledge of the department.

SPEAKER : I request the concern Minister.

PU LALNGHINGLOVA HMAR, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, as I had mentioned earlier, the Mizoram State Sports Council is responsible for the work and they also work on many things. However, this issue was before our time and there is no official record about it. So, all I can answer for now is that it was done due to urgency.

In response to Pu C. Ngunlianchunga, Ms Décor, Guwahati had already spent ₹871.73 lakhs and as the President of Mizoram State Sports Council, I will visit the place myself and look into it. Various projects are carried out under PMJVK where there are several Basketball courts worth ₹102 lakhs and volleyball courts worth ₹31 lakhs. These are being evaluated and we will do our best to improve the infrastructure established by the previous Government. (**Pu Robert Romawia Royte:** Pu Speaker, I support that the State Monitoring Committee will inspect the works because I was the one who inaugurated it. The pavilion is in a good condition as far as I can tell) I am not sure about the exact condition because I have not yet reached the place. Décor India is

involved in 14 projects, some of which are excellent. There are several companies not only Décor who are working and we will continue to monitor it. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Question & Answer session will now be concluded. I would like to clarify one thing - in the case of DC & MA, the person who can disqualify is the Governor while in the case of dual-membership, the Speaker is the one who can disqualify.

LAYING OF PAPERS

We will proceed to *Laying of Paper* and I request Pu Lalduhoma, Hon. House Leader (Chief Minister) to lay on the Table of the House- “The Fourth Annual Report, 2022-2023 of the Mizoram Lok Ayukta”.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby lay on the Table of the House- ‘The Fourth Annual Report, 2022-2023 of the Mizoram Lok Ayukta’.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed

PRESESENTATION OF REPORT

We will now proceed to *Presentation of Report* and I request the Hon. Dy. Speaker to present “The First Report of House Committee”.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Speaker, with your permission, I hereby present - “Amendment of Terms and Conditions lay down in the First Report of House Committee presented to the House on March, 2012 for the allotment of Conference Hall and Banquet Hall, Mizoram Legislative Assembly, Annexe Building”.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

We have 1 official resolution today and I request the Hon' Home Minister, Pu K. Sapdanga to move the resolution.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I have introduced an Official Resolution for the House to approve that is- “We do not approve of the Central Government's decision to end the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and implement Border Fencing on the border with Myanmar. The British Government had unjustly divided the Mizo people through Divide and Rule Policy and so, initiatives must be taken to bring us back under one rule.”

Pu Speaker, Free Movement Regime and Indo-Myanmar Border Fencing issues are of concern to everyone and I would like to explain it as briefly as possible. Zofate are the descendants from the east and we would settle in the mountain regions before

Bangladesh and Myanmar had their own borders. The British invaded us and divide us so that we can be easily conquered. There were those among the British who also wanted us to be under one government. On January 29, 1982, Chin Lushai Conference was convened in Kolkata and the conference resolved that Zofate should be under one nation and one government. However, the Chin-Lushai Conference decision was not implemented and Zofate are still divided today. When the British left us, we were scattered in Burma (now Myanmar), India and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). There is a living hope in the hearts of all Zofate that one day the border will be abolished and all Zofate will be under one government. The abolition of the Free Movement Regime and border fencing cannot be supported by the Mizo people and it is our responsibility as a nation to continue to oppose it.

The last word of this House on Border Fencing was that on March 10, 2017, Leader of Opposition, Hon' member Pu Lalchhandama Ralte moved a Private Member Resolution "Central Government should be pressured to fence not only Indo-Bangla but also Indo-Myanmar border fencing" which the House had approved it. On March 23, 2001, former member Pu C. Sangzuala presented a Private Member Resolution "Central Government should be requested to build Mizoram International Border Fencing" which was passed by this honourable House. Why is it that a national party is detesting the free movement of our brothers and sisters and they had requested the Central Government twice to separate us. During the second time, the opposition members (then ZNP members) and the current House Leader refused to pass the bill and walked out of the House.

I would like to talk about the origin and structure of the Free Movement Regime. From 1885 to 1937, India and Burma were under the British Colonial Administration for 52 years. The Treaty of Yandabo was signed on February 24, 1826, the year the British invaded Burma. The people of Burma did not want to be ruled by the British and that is why there were two Anglo-Burmese wars in the year 1852 and 1885. The British defeated Burma and then the whole of Burma came under the British rule in 1885. According to the Government of India Act, 1935, Burma was seceded from British India on 1/4/1937 and became a separate British colony under the name of 'British Burma'. After India and Burma became separate countries (before independence, for ten years) from 1937 to 1947, the tribals living across the border were of the same nationality, race, culture and religion and so, the British Government made it easier for the two countries to travel without changing the border. This continued in 1947 – after India gained independence and in 1948 – after Burma gained independence. The Government of India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification on September 26, 1950 and the copy of this notification is not available to the Mizoram Government - Home Department and we hope to receive it soon as requested. The Central Government issued a notification on June 28, 1968 to replace the 1950 notification. The new notification includes passport and visa-free travel for residents within 40 km of the border, in our case, from Tiau to Keihfang.

On July 21, 2010, a new notification was issued, which reduced the travel distance from 40 km to 16 km. Recently, the Government's 'Look East Policy' and 'Act East Policy' have led to the signing of bilateral agreements between India and Myanmar. Former Indian External Affairs Minister Mrs. Sushma Swaraj and Myanmar Labor & Immigration Minister Mr. Theingsu signed the agreement on 11.5.2018 in Naypyidaw, Myanmar. The agreement is officially called the 'Land Border Crossing Agreement' but the more popular term is 'FMR' – 'Free Movement Regime'. No gazetted notification was issued by the Parliament but the guidelines were drawn. The term 'Free Movement Regime' is used in meeting minutes and bilateral correspondence under the Ministry of Home Affairs. According to the guidelines issued on 5.11.2003, a permit issuer in the name of the Government is appointed near the border and those who want to cross the border are required to obtain permission. The Burmese Government has done the same as the Indian Government. Thus, residents of the India-Burma border can travel in either direction without a passport, but overnight stays are not allowed.

The Central Government has taken the FMR policy seriously and on 11.8.2017, the Central Government formed a Committee chaired by the Special Secretary, Internal Security under the Ministries of Home Affairs. The Committee has formulated the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the implementation of FMR. The SOP includes border pass issuance, specific entry and exit points, 100% Aadhar authentication, database of all villagers along the Indo-Myanmar border, etc. As per the decision of the Council of Ministers meeting (22.10.2003), the Government of Mizoram has issued 'Guidelines for Regulating Entry of Mynmarist Tribals into Mizoram' and it was published in the Mizoram Gazette on 12/11/2003. The guidelines state that residents within 40 km of the Indo-Myanmar border can travel at four designated gates without visa or passport and Police Station and Outpost Officer in-charge may give permission. The Police Station and Outposts are –

1. Zokhawthar - Police Station (Champhai District)
2. Thingsai Police Station (Lunglei District)
3. Lungbun Police Outpost (Siaha District)
4. Phura Police Outpost (Siaha District)

The Mizoram Government continues to take measures in accordance with this SOP and the following are the transit gates –

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Lawngtlai District | - | Saisihchhuah, Hruitezawl, Zochachhuah, Laitlang; |
| Hnahthial District | - | Thingsai; |
| Champhai District | - | Hnahlan, Bulfekzawl, Farkawn, Zokhawthar; |
| Serchhip District | - | Sailulak, Lungkawlh; |
| Siaha District | - | Chapi, Lodaw, Lopi, Phura; |
| Saitual District | - | Teikhang |

Mizoram Government has formed a Committee to monitor the implementation of FMR chaired by Principal Secretary, Home Department and then the Committee was re-

established and chaired by the Chief Secretary. Travel permits are available in a proper booklet issued by the Central Government and Police Headquarters Mizoram also received 10,000 copies. The booklet was also distributed to SPs of Champhai, Hnahthial, Lawngtlai, Saitual, Serchhip and Siaha districts as per the order of the Passport Seva Division - Ministry of External Affairs. On 27.8.2021, The Home Department of Mizoram Government requested the Ministry of Home Affairs for clarification on border-pass and entry/exit points but we have not yet received the reply. Mizoram has benefited greatly from the passport and visa-free travel facility on the India-Myanmar border. The recent decision of the Government of India to abolish the FMR is probably due to the Manipur Government's proposal.

According to media reports, the reasons for the FMR and border-fencing are- national security issues, smuggling of contraband items, illegal immigration and movement of insurgents. Mizoram Government has not received any special communication from the Ministry of Home Affairs and news reports are still to be referred to. This is a poor excuse and if national security is important, passport and visa-free travel with Nepal and Bhutan should also be banned and not only FMR with Myanmar. Similarly, India's borders with China, Pakistan, Bhutan and its coastlines should also be fenced. It appears that selective-fencing is not for National Security reasons but to punish the citizens of a particular nation. The 1950s was the time of Naga insurgency and the 1960s was the time of Mizo insurgency. Similarly, the 1980s and 1990s were the time of the Bodo-insurgency and FMR was continuously implemented at that time and it was never troublesome. Therefore, FMR and border fencing in the North-East area is difficult to understand since there is no insurgency happening.

If there is an intention to do border fencing between Myanmar and India many lives will be disrupted. We have experienced in Indo-Bangladesh border fencing where many lost their livelihood beside their home.

Besides, they face problems in resettlement, rehabilitation and compensation. In the meantime, we have to mind the hardship our Mizo tribe will face and urge the Central Government to rethink.

Nevertheless, our country is in a monsoon area and if the border fencing is done it will soon be destroyed by trees and shrubs. Instead of fencing why not use the fund to develop and strengthen NGO, CPO and its people to guard against various forms of law enforcement. It would be more beneficial for the government and its people and for the unity of India.

In 1990 we witness the successful Re-unification of Germany when Berlin Wall was torn down. In the meantime, the Central government try to stop the Free Movement Regime by implementing border fencing. In this case, no official letter is received from the Central Government. However, our Chief Minister request the Union Home

Minister to omit Mizoram if they intend to implement border fencing. While the government and the people oppose this, we have a resolution that “We urge the Central Government to unite the Mizo people who are divided into three country and take step in the international forum as needed”. Therefore, today’s resolution “The government attempt to end Free Movement Regime (FMR) and implement border-fencing with Myanmar is not appropriate. Divide and Rule Policy wrongly used by the British Government to divide Zofate should be remedied and place us under one rule” is move by me and beg the hon. members to pass, Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Now that the Minister explain the reason for the resolution. We will have a discussion and take first that does not support the resolution. As we have many business we may not be able to take much from the support side. Will 5 minute be sufficient, if so, let us start and call upon Pu Rasik Mohan chakma.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I will have a discussion in favor of the resolution. I know first hand about Indo-Bangladesh border-fencing, how much we suffer and lost. We are omitted from PMGSY pilot project because of this and lost connectivity. When the company construct the road they only think about profit and as such the road is bad in its grading and alignment. Our area lost so much because of border-fencing.

The BSF using patrolling as an excuse does not allow us to use the road and harass many motors going that way. It is said that border-fencing should be 150 yards from the zero point but in some places 3-4 km were put outside the fencing. Therefore, Mizoram lost a vast area of land of vegetables produce land and many others. There is no rehabilitation in the villages while some are outside in the fencing. The Central refuse to pay compensation and the fencing was open oly during the day and close at night. Many faces hardship because of this. The treatment of those outside the fencing was inhumane.

Culvert were built in small rivers causing water logging and cannot prepare soil for crops. Using ‘we don’t acquire them’ they refuse to compensation and did not want to pay to reclaim it. River at the internation border used to be one of the main sources of nutrition. Now, it is not useful for us anymore while the Bangladeshi used it as much as they want. They also prohibited taking balu from the sea shore and allow only for the use of building Mandir. The BSF used many things as a hand to harass us. It would be good if they look into this matter as it bring mass suffering. We have not only raised this issue in this House but also at the State Level Border-Fencing under the Chief Secretary including to Home Ministry’s Border Management Secretary. We do not receive any response so far.

If border-fencing is going to be implemented we have to know that for Mizoram, there would be no gain only suffering and lost. As mentioned by the mover, the British policy of ‘divide and rule’ already bring chaos in the northeast resulting to political problem.

It create cultural and political problem in the northeast as well as the Chittagong Hill area. Therefore, Pu Speaker, I give my support to this resolution, thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us try to maintain 5 minutes. Now we will call upon Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte, hon. member from Serlui constituency.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am happy that the government moved a good resolution. In my opinion we should change the wording of '*request*' to '*oppose*'. However, as it is an official resolution it needs an appropriate word. Pu Speaker, as we all know we, Zofate spread across Bangladesh, Myanmar and India. Under the Free Movement Regime we communicate easily. We used to proclaim 'Greater Mizoram' hoping Zofate will dwell under the same rule in the future.

The Manipur Chief Minister cannot tolerate the fast growing relationship with our brethren and play a dirty game to the Central. He Manipur CM in his Press Conference announce that he urges the Central Government to implement border-fencing and eliminate Free Movement Regime. The government need to oppose this strongly. Our Cm announce in front of the Press that he conveys his strong oppose of this border-fencing. As he is friend with the Foreign Minister and well acquainted with the PM and Home Minister, he should take step to stop their intention by having a talk with them.

Nagaland and Mizoram are the State that do not want to be included in the Myanmar border-fencing. It is not right to follow Manipur's desire; we have to oppose strongly. The desire to implement border-fencing and abolish FMR is to stop our relation with our brethren from Myanmar. Therefore, we should oppose this with all our strength. Besides, if it is not stopped, our economy will suffer.

Last, the resolution omits 'bio-metric identification'. Identifying our brethren seeking refuge to Mizoram will not be welcome by both sides. If border-fencing is implemented and FMR is abolished, it would be a must to do identification. This will lead to arresting those who come to country and it is not right. During MNF period the Central Government strongly pushed for bio-metric identification, and we evaded so far. While that is the case the Central Government send aid for these refugees. Therefore, I urge this government to stand strong and bravely face this issue. The opposition bench will also give their support in this issue. Pu Speaker, I give my support in the Government Resolution, thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, we will call upon hon. member from Siaha Dr. K. Beichhua.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. If I am not wrong this resolution was introduced three times, and still there is no response. From the Home Minister discussion it appears that no official letter was received till date. The hon. CM

also has a meeting with the Union Home Minister and appear to received a positive response. When I think again and again, I do not know whether to pass this resolution today as many of us including myself had blood relative in the Myanmar. It is hard to have a clear though in this issue.

Considering Zoram and Myanmar situation it would not have an effect whether we pass it or not. Today, Pu Speaker, through you the people of Zoram are invited to use our thoughts. We know the situation of our country and heresy of the people and songs of our youth in the social media. There is a big question in how long will our country and nation survive. From information we receive and heresy our youth are killed because of drugs. What would be the benefit of being developed, advanced and prosperous if our youth are dying. Therefore, we have to consider these things carefully. Our country is a mountainous country and if the fencing is going straight there is a lot of land we can lose. Would it be safe for us to have a gate-way in a proper, friendly and legal manner. Is is not because we enter the country voluntarily and smuggle in secret drugs, human trafficking, arms and ammunition are rampant. Pu Speaker, I respect the resolution and its mover the Home Minister. However, I would like to invite the House and people of Mizoram to think carefully, thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon hon. member Pu Robert Romawia Royte from Hachhek constituency.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. The Home Minister gives explanation and the need for this official resolution in detail. It appears that we are going to pass it. However, I want to have a few words. Firstly, Free Movement Regime is not just between Myanmar and India. There are many countries in Europe, Africa and even in Asia that are exposed to the FMR system as both ways benefit from it. This FMR is a system that bind the Mizo nation with our brothers and sisters. The Home Ministry intention is very clear in this issue. It is a tool to divide our nation and I personally support it. It is a national issue and we have to stand together regardless of party. If this is implemented Myanmar border villages will lose their livelihood if not legally but in practical. The reason is that the fishing we used to do in the river will no longer be available and sand we used to collect. Economically, it will be a huge loss as well as a large portion of our country. It will also be a violation of Act East Policy announced by the Prime Minister Pu Modi. Asian countries agreements will also be violated if I am not wrong. Therefore, the pressure of our neighbor Chief Minister to close the border is not good for the Mizo, our nation. It would also hinder the success of the Act East Policy and welcome this resolution to fight back.

As suggested by the hon. member Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte from Serlui constituency, the words should be changed a little bit if the mover can make a new arrangement using a little force. Let also include biometric identification as it is a national issue so that our support will be stronger and we will be happier. This resolution should be implemented.

CAB and UCC issues have been discussed in this House before. I think the official resolution came in at the right time. If the resolution is passed, the government should follow it. I believe that the strong Chief Minister who had a good connection in this field can do a lot at his personal level. I give my support including the rejection of biometric identification.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon hon. member from Thorang Pu R. Rohmingliana.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I support this resolution. As mentioned by the hon. member before me I have pointed out the wording of ‘beg not to do’. Instead of this can the mover change into ‘do not do it’. Pu Speaker, on 1.2.2024, the MNF National Core Committee and Political Affairs Committee passed a resolution. Pu Speaker, with your permission I would like to read out these two points – (1) The MNF does not approve of the Indian Government move to implement border-fencing between India and Myanmar and will continue fighting. (2) We will continue to oppose the Indian Government intention to remove Free Movement Regime within 16 kms. near the border of India – Myanmar. Pu Speaker, as mentioned by the hon. member from Tuichawng, there is also a border-fencing within my constituency. This causes problems in roads, transportation especially in village-to-village transportation. All our fertilized land and import roads for crops are all outside the fence. It also opens door for criminal as the Police cannot pursue them as the BSF used to stop them in the border. Good and bad things happen under the watch of the BSF. Alcohol and gas cylinder are also imported from Bangladesh as I witness with my own eyes. The fencing will not prevent smuggling and we would lose a vast land. The 2018 Act East Policy brings the issue of FMR. On 20th January, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the 1643 km Myanmar border would be closed soon at the passing out parade of the Assam Police Commando. Therefore, I think this is true and should pass this resolution today as well. Pu Speaker, instead of asking them let us use a stronger word if the mover allows. That is all I have to discuss, thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, let us call upon the hon. member from Lawngtlai ‘W’ Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to have a discussion. I support this resolution. If this fencing is implemented it would be a big problem for our area. The FMR is very useful for us as it allows us to have a common market especially in Sangau, Pang village and its eastern part along the Mara Autonomous District Council area. The British Government used a Divide and Rule Policy to divide us. Many of our brothers and sisters suffered in Bangladesh and Myanmar. What we see and hear within this two, three years is that for Zofate ‘Mizoram is our Jerusalem’. Myanmar government is in turmoil and many fled and in Bangladesh there is ethnic conflict and our brothers and sisters fled to Mizoram. As mentioned

earlier the mover, our Home Minister should change the wording and use a stronger word. In this regard we are all unified and stand together. As the saying goes 'Country has boundary while blood has no boundary'. MZP organized ZOFEST to show we are all brothers and sisters and are in one mind. We anticipate the time when we live under one rule.

Let us pass this resolution unanimously and as mentioned the mover should agree to change the words to a stronger words. Let us not just pass the resolution but fight for it in future, thank you.

SPEAKER : Let call upon Pu lalnghinglova Hmar.

PU LALNGHINGLOVA HMAR, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to briefly mention the Official Resolution. As our Home Minister already said, there is no official announcement but there are press reports and PIB announcement. Fencing to be done is 1643 km and Arunachal Pradesh has the longest border, while Mizoram is the second longest. The MHA in the Annual Report 2011-2012 showed that the border is not safe. During 2022-2023 according to the MHA Annual Report 6.81 km of Manipur and Myanmar border was fenced. Now, according to hybrid surveillance it appears that 20 km of Manipur border was approved for fencing and was already tendered at 2.2. crore per kilometer.

Anyway, Pu Speaker, it is time for us to voice out our opinion through this House how we oppose this border-fencing. It is a pleasure to know that different political background can hold the same position on the issue of our country and nation. Therefore, I support this official resolution, thank you.

SPEAKER : For the last of our discussion let us call upon hon. member from Dampa Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. As our time is coming to an end, I will not be able to finish it and hope you will give me an extra time. The official resolution we are discussing makes me think very far. According to ZPM Press Release No. B01/2018-ZPM/PR/60 of 16th August, 2018, when our present Chief Minister visited Myanmar, he promised to make a Minister in-charge of Zo-clan unlike the past two Chief Ministers Pu Zoramthanga and Pu Lalthan Hawla. He said that it is sorrowful to have leaders who do not give importance to unification of Zo-clan around the world. However, till date it appears that we still have no such Minister. If we had such Minister, it would be his job to look after Zo-clan. (**Speaker:** Our time is up, will he continue. Okay you can finish) It is unfortunate that there is an intention to stop Free Movement Regime and implement border-fencing. It is welcoming that the government moved this resolution at the crucial time.

The Central Government made many laws and regulations that can hinder our Mizo culture. Today it is important that we fight this with sincerity and unity. In the past the government opposed Citizenship Amendment Bill and Uniform Civil Code and Biometric Enrollment. However, the Central Government till date tries to implement this with force. Meanwhile the Central Government still try to identify refugees and send back refugees from Bangladesh is going on and ask the State government to implement it. The then Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga opposed this strongly and refusal to implement makes it stay. Meanwhile, the NGO in respect of FMR shows their opposition by conducting marching. Using the British Government policy of Divide and Rule to divide Zofate should be relinquish and make us live under one rule. I support this resolution whole heartedly, thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, only the Opposition leader and House Leader remain. We will recess now and convene the sitting on 2:00 PM.
2:00 PM

SPEAKER : Now, we will resume our discussion and call upon the Opposition Leader.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Today, I support our Home Minister resolution “Central Government decision to end Free Movement Regime and implement border-fencing with Myanmar is not appropriate. By using the British Government’s Divide and Rule Policy to divide Zo-clan should be rectify and make us live under one rule”. Pu Speaker, there are two related but different issues inside this resolution. One is about *border-fencing* and the other is *free movement regime*. In 2007, I introduced and beg this House to adopt my resolution “The Central Government should be urge to do border-fencing in Indo-Myanmar not only in Indo-Bangladesh”. The introduction of this resolution gives me a golden opportunity and I am very pleased. The reason is that our country politics, our relationship with our eastern sibling differ than today. During that time Myanmar is Burma and the government bad administration led to many problems among the people. 65-70% of our crime record was from our siblings from the east. The word ‘Mizo 2’ was born and we insist immigration letter as there are many children rape and murder. We are not awakened to nationality and does not know the faces of our siblings. The NGO also voiced out that many smuggling of drugs and arms are from the east. The resolution was introduced and passed for the safety of the Mizoram people. Our current resolution is necessary and discussed it with my colleague and agreed that if there is no government resolution let us introduce it as a private members resolution. I also made enquiries in this regard to the Home Department and learned that there are no responses from the Central Government till date and that is very welcoming.

Thus, as time went on there is a revival in the nation acknowledging us that we are one nation, one brothers and sisters, one race and want to be under one rule.

Next, I want to say that in the past we are united in our position on national issue. Today, our government has taken up the national issue and does together with one mind. When the previous government Home Minister introduced official resolution on Uniform Civil Code and Citizenship Amendment Bill, we supported each other unanimously. I remember that in 2002-2003 when the Delimitation Commission tried to change the constituencies which was not safe for our nation, Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga, Minister and MLAs march for the sake of our nation. The NGOCC already passed resolution on these issues. It is important that we stand together in national issues and continue to say 'we are one'. If necessary, we will march again with our Chief Minister in the lead and nobody should take political advantage on the issue of nation. In the issue of FMR and border-fencing we will follow the government if they step in the right direction.

The Union Home Minister has taken a strong step supported by the Prime Minister. There will come a time for the political party, NGO and the Mizo people to march against this issue. If they try to implement by planting a wall, we will have to destroy it and let us keep in mind that we have to. Regarding bio-metric enrollment, the previous ministry opposed it and resolved the issue. There are suggestions to use a stronger word, which will be in the hand of the mover. If necessary, we can go further in support of this bill. Whatever, this is not good for the Mizo nation. Therefore, let us agree on FMR and border-fencing.

SPEAKER : Now, let us call upon the hon. House Leader Pu Lalduhoma to have a discussion.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. First, I would like to convey my thanks to the Home Minister for introducing this official resolution. His speech will remain in the House proceedings and will become a corner stone for the future. Between Myanmar and Mizoram there never was a closed door since the beginning of the world. From the signing of Treaty of Yandabo in 1826 between British Government and Burma Kings to 1948 when Burma became independence, Free Movement was recognized by the Burma Government and included in their passport rules. India also issued official notification in the passport rules. After this, some guidelines were revised to its coverage areas.

The Government of India has a new policy, the Look East Policy in the 1990's. It aims is to promote social contacts, economic and trade relations with the South East Asia. Under my chairmanship as Public Accounts Committee we visited the east and looked at their businesses. We are very excited that multi-purpose roads and ports will be built in the future. When 'Act East' was introduced in 2014, plan was made for highway for communication and Land Custom Station was also prepared. In 2018, bilateral agreement was signed and we hope that the Indian Government gives important as it is the only corridor to have trade communication with South East Asia. Recently, we heard an attempt to remove Free Movement and fence it to against the Look East Policy and Act

East Policy. In this regard two resolutions were introduced in this House for border-fencing and were passed. Maybe the Indian Government remembers this and initiate border-fencing. When the resolution was discussed in this House we have a heated argument and we walked out of this House. The Divide and Rule Policy was not acceptable to us. Today, it appears that we are ready to move forward on the issue of the nation.

Regarding Biometric Identification, the previous ministry was told to do this to Myanmar refugees and they approved it. When we came into power we oppose to conduct this. They were also instructed to mark them as 'Myanmar Refugee'. This was also opposed by us as we do not have the authority to make that kind of mark if it does not come from the UGC. However, we propose to have 'Household Registration Bill, 2019' and passed it. Every village should have a registration.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, the House Leader statement on Myanmar Refugees nationality registration in education is a mistake. Nationality was not demanded to anyone instead they were instructed to admit them according to their class.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, that is right. While Biometric was the right thing to do, but I do not say they are taking step in marking them as refugee. We do not intend to take step either. Household Registration Bill was passed unanimously. To stop illegal immigrant from Bangladesh it would be beneficial to have Household Registration in every village. However, the President of India cannot give his assent even in the previous term. The Prime Minister and Home Minister advised me to pursue with the Home Secretary when I talked with. The Home Secretary advised me to withdraw and re-submit a new bill omitting what they object. I asked him to point out what to omit but we still not receive any answer till date. When we receive the answer, we may need to re-introduce the bill.

Zofate are scattered in various parts of the world but we do not have enough manpower to see to it. A portfolio not under the department and Minister goes to CMO office meaning GAD purview. We are still dealing with Mizo-Diaspora from the CMO. We have a meeting to discuss a possibility for our nurses going to Germany and UK, also several young people to Taiwan. The Ambassador is coming and we intend to have a meeting. We are trying to resolve the issue of placement and sending off and the dispute with their handlers.

Pu Speaker, our party stands on the same ground. When there was Chin-Lushai Conference in 1892 the British Government did not regard as to place with the Indian and the Burmese. They recognized as 'different tribe, different culture, different laws and different legal system'. Due to poor communication at that time they cannot implement it so we are scattered. The Chin-Lushai Conference Day was still celebrated by ZORO in its founding day till date. When India became independent, they recognized our difference

and gave us the 6th Schedule and then Autonomous Council. The 6th Schedule is autonomous and its power is so high that in the Constituent Assembly it was highly criticized and called 'Constitution within Constitution'. However, thanks to Nehru and Ambedkar, we have it and still go on with a separate organization. After becoming UT, we removed 6th Schedule and District Council which is sorrowful while Meghalaya still hold on to it. We have three District Councils and the other is just Tribal Area. Luckily, we are still covered by Schedule Tribe Order, 1950 and exempted from income tax.

As this is going to be a force border-fencing for us, we are protesting strongly. Looking at the current situation in Burma, we do not know how long it will last. Therefore, we have to prepare ourselves to face anything and think the time is not right to implement border-fencing. Recently, I was in Delhi and meet the Railway Minister and we look into the map. Discussing how it is possible for us to have a sea-port. The Indian Government has a big policy called 'Akhand Bharat'. Therefore, when the Indian Government has such a policy and in a position to being under the same then try to implement this border-fencing, it makes us very sad. We have a discussion with the Indian Government and intimate in writing also. They do not oppose us strongly either. Therefore, it would not to be worried over and their intention is not force the way I see it.

The 2007 UN Resolution on the Right of Indigenous People states 'Indigenous people, even if they are in separate government, shall have the right to freedom of movement, religion, social and political matters. This border-fencing cost is going to be very high and we ask the Prime Minister to utilize the fund for our development. When we talk about Bangladesh border-fencing, we have to know that the fencing was done without thought of the people and the ministry at that time neglected completely. That is the reason why there are so much suffering and some village are outside the fence. The responsible party is the government at that time. Likewise, if Tiau is fence, the same fate will befall on us. In this issue, the CYMA issued statement of opposition as well as the NGO under the Co-ordination Committee. Therefore, our BJP brothers should use their power in this regard and is good to make a noise whether it is going to be implemented or not. We cannot rely solely on our NGOs, we need to have a voice as a government. In order to do that the Home Minister introduces this Official Resolution and I beg you all to pass this bill, thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, let us call upon the mover Pu K. Sapdanga, hon. Minister to wind-up and beg the House to adopt the bill.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am very pleased that the hon. members participated in the discussion with sincerity. As the story contained we have to mention our demise members' name and from the opposition bench. Meanwhile, the opposition Leader welcomes positively and I am thankful to him. The hon. member from Siaha mention about 'grabbling before the fight'. But the world is in a hurry now so that we have to grab and fight at the same time. Therefore, the

government has that view that this resolution is introduce. As such we want the hon. member from Siaha to be in a ready mode. We mentioned about biometrics, the issue differs from border-fencing as it refers to the issue of deportation, it is not mentioned here.

It is an international boundary and security falls in the hand of the Central. Therefore, Central people are on duty and if security lapse, drugs, arms and any illegal smuggling are there, it is its own weakness and shame. We wanted to use a stronger word, it is right. However, what is important is how to materialize it. The wording does not change anything. We have to know that as representative of the people sometime we need to use a polite and softer word.

Pu Speaker, I think we have explained it very well and do not need any further explanation. Therefore, I beg the House to adopt this official resolution “That the Central Government should take step to ensure that we are under one rule instead of applying the British Government’s Divide and Rule Policy of dividing Zo-clan”, thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, the mover of the resolution our hon. Home Minister wind-up and explain the resolution, we will take vote for adoption. Those who are in favor say ‘aye’, and those who do not say ‘nay’. Now that we all agreed, this House adopts the hon. Home Minister’s Resolution (**Pu K. Sapdanga, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you.)

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Now, we will go to Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demand for Grants for the year 2023-2024. Bulletin was already dispatched on 27.2.2024 along with Budget Document. Now, let us call upon Pu Lalduhoma to submit to the House Supplementary Demand 2023-2024.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and consent of the House I introduce “The Mizoram Appropriation Supplementary Demand for Grants 2023-2023 Bill, 2024”. With your permission I will move the bill. On the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, Sir, I move the additional grants for Demand Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, and 48 for 3287 crore, 93 lakh, 49 thousand only for meeting expenses during 2023-2024 in respect of the following Departments. Pu Speaker, while moving the bill, I would like to say a few words. Supplementary Demand is a demand to cover meeting expenses that was not included in the Budget Session of the past year. It can be divided into three –

1. Fund parked in Finance Department needs deposited in various departments. For example – SEDP funds, it need to be re-provisioned as it changes from the time of its passing. However, the amount does not change it is just an adjustment.

2. On the other hand, CSS etc., which were received after the budget was passed, were needed to be included in the budget, the more the merrier and is very welcoming.

3. Due to lack of fund, additional fund are required, as I said which is not welcoming like pensions, State Matching Share, purchase of rice, water pumping, loan repayment, SEDP teacher recruitment and health worker recruitment, which are not there in the Budget Session but are needed later. These are the things that I am moving now, and beg to pass the bill.

SPEAKER : The Finance Minister also our House Leader moved and explains the Supplementary Demand. Supplementary Demand was never discussed in the past. However, we will break convention and discuss the demand. First, do we agree to discuss? (The House agrees not to have a discussion). If the Opposition Leader has anything to say, let us call upon him.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, a few words. As mentioned Supplementary Demand as referred in the Constitution is 'Supplementary for Grant' or 'Additional Grant' or 'Excess Grant'. Article 205 stated that members vote is required for approval of the bill. The bill was not discussed in the State as well as in Parliament. As the House Leader and Finance Minister invited us let us pass the bill as we all understand the meaning.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, let me ask a question please. In page 80 – District Council & Minority Affairs a large fund was added to Lai, Mara and CADC. What criteria are used to award them? Is it according to their shortage of fund? Can he explain? In the explanatory number one, 1699.28 lakh additional funds was under GIA salary for LADC, secondly, 2372.06 lakh additional funds under GIA salary for LADC. That should be MADC and it was not mentioned in the explanation. This is to be documented and would be right to correct the mistake. Third, a sum of 2656.87 lakh was for CADC and the note should also be corrected. What criteria were used in the Supplementary Demand for these funds? Shortages of fund are always in the salary. Districts are always given shortage of fund for salary. There is a complaint in recruitment. Are we going to regularize them all?

In the Budget Session the present House Leader himself said that Supplementary Demand is to be discussed, but it was never discuss. I used to criticize that while preparing budget, fund for salary was always put in shortage. This is the tool to manipulate the people. We do not want Revenue Expenditure to up while afraid to reduce Capital Expenditure. However, fund from revenue section was always pulled. Today, we see it clearly. This new government is not to blame, it is to regularize from the previous government. We will have general discussion later and we have high expectation. What kind of fund was used for the three District Councils? In the past 7:911 ratio was used to fund.

SPEAKER : Now, we will call upon the hon. Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma to make clarification and beg the House to pass the bill.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, regarding hon. member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga's question, it is true that a discussion was expected as put in the List of Business as 'Discussion and Voting', it was also in the Constitution. However, discussion has no meaning when introduced we never discuss it. Demand for explanation is allow and we will see to mistakes make in the figure and its allocation.

In the Supplementary 6728 lakh was allocated to the three ADC and it is a lot. It appears that it is an answer to their demand. However, salaries for a year are not put in the budget by the government in order to appear the debt less. It was put in the revised estimate in order to deceive the people. We used wrong calculation for so long. Therefore, we are trying our best to present the budget accurately as possible. Debt was shown less in the budget and increase in the year end. In order to prevent this pattern we will go as it is. The Directorate of Statistic has a method of calculating the GSDP; it is hard to change the method. Pu Speaker, I beg the House to pass this Supplementary Demand.

SPEAKER : The hon. Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma beg the House to pass Supplementary Demand for the year 2023-2024, Voted Amount 32,87,93,49,000/-. If we agree say 'yes' if not say 'no'. (Members: Yes) As agreed Supplementary Demand for the year 2023-2024 was passed by the House unanimously. **(Pu Lalduhoma, CM: Pu Speaker, thank you).**

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Now, we will go to *Legislative Business* and call upon the hon. Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma to introduce "The Mizoram Appropriation of Supplementary Demand for Grant (2023-2024) Bill, 2024" to the House.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission I introduce "The Mizoram Appropriation of Supplementary Demand for Grant (2023-2024) Bill, 2024" and if you consent to pass the bill.

SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister introduce and move the bill for passing, do we agree?. (Members: Agree) If so, "The Mizoram Appropriation Supplementary Demand for Grant, 2023-2024, Voted Amount ₹32,87,93,49,000/- and Charged Amount ₹6,22,37,000/- totaling ₹32,94,15,86,000/- was passed unanimously by the House. **(Pu Lalduhoma, CM: Pu Speaker, thank you).**

We will go to other Legislative Business. We have a Government Bill to discuss; the copy of the bill was already distributed to the members. Let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma to introduce "The Mizoram Lok Ayukta Amendment Bill, 2024'.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and consent of the House, I beg to introduce “The Mizoram Lok Ayukta Amendment Bill, 2024”.

SPEAKER : The hon. Chief Minister beg the House for introduction, do we agree? (Members: Agree) If so, let us call upon him to introduce and move the bill.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission I introduce the bill and move for consideration.

Lok Ayukta bill was passed by the House in 2014. As it was prepared in a hurry it needs amendment and was amended in 2012, 2016 and 2018. This bill was approved by the previous Council of Ministers for circulation and as such ordinance was already prepared. The previous government sent it back to Political & Cabinet for further study. Then, it came back and the Council of Ministers reviews it. Some changes in the wording and terminology and we introduce here for that purpose.

Pu Speaker, to explain the bill it would be time consuming. The incompleteness of the law we have, things needed to remove and added are there. I will not discuss too long about it. If there is any question from the member, I will react to it later when we have the discussion.

SPEAKER : The hon. Chief Minister discuss about the bill and the reason it was introduced. As it is an amendment bill discussion is not necessary. But if we want to do it we can. Let us call upon the Opposition Leader.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, thank you. As our House Leader mentioned this bill goes through experts and the MNF Cabinet twice and also this ministry Cabinet. However, when I read it again and again there is a chance to be duplication. In Amendment Section 43, page 5, it stated that the government servants declare moveable and immoveable assets through Property Return. This amendment includes declaration for assets and liabilities. With your permission I would like to read Amendment Section 43 – ‘on and from the date of commencement of this act, every public servant shall make a declaration of his assets and liabilities in such form and manner as may be prescribed’. Are the government servant needs to do declaration on both? Other than this there is only some wording that need correction. I support and beg to pass this amendment.

SPEAKER : Before we go to the bill, let us distribute the copy of Mizoram Appropriation Supplementary Demand for Grants 2023-2024 to the members. If we all receive let us call upon the mover begs the House to pass “Lok Ayukta Amendment Bill, 2024” and Opposition Leader Pu Lalchhandama Ralte made his

observation. Now, let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma to wind-up and move the bill for passing.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, question raised by the Opposition Leader was just and he shows that he looks carefully.

Lok Pal and Lok Ayukta Act 2013 were passed by the Central Government. There are several requirements that need adjustment and in this bill it is in section 43. The Ministry of Law & Judicial 2016 Act on Property Return has been revised. In two lines, the submission form was changed and the procedure is 'to be submitted when the submission is prepared'. In this amendment it is stated in a simple form 'in such form and manner as may be prescribed'. The prescription will be taken by the rules. The Annual Immoveable Property Return will be submitted at the same time, they also have to declare their debts.

Pu Speaker, I beg this august House to pass "Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2024".

SPEAKER : Now, we will take vote to pass the bill. Those who agree say 'agree' and those who do not say 'not agree'. As we all agree to pass this august House passed "Loh Ayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2024" unanimously. (Pu Lalduhoma, CM : Pu Speaker, thank you)

Now, we finish our business for today and will resume our sitting on 29th February, 2024 at 10:20 AM. I want to convey my thanks to members as Wednesday is a day for dressing up in our traditional dress as practiced in the previous government and members follow accordingly.

Sitting adjourned (3:21 PM)