

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR TWELFTH SITTING ON THURSDAY, THE 7th MARCH, 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.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON DEMANDS

2. **PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>	<i>Demand for Grants Page No.</i>
19	Local Administration	2,08,31,40,000.00	178-185
23	Art & Culture	14,59,20,000.00	229-238
27	District Council & Minority Affairs	6,12,17,14,000.00	288-292
34	Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	70,10,78,000.00	366-379
TOTAL		9,05,18,52,000.00	

3. **PU PC. VANLALRUATA**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under his charge.

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>	<i>Demand for Grants Page No.</i>
31	Agriculture	2,03,17,96,000.00	336-354
37	Co-operation	15,16,74,000.00	395-399
47	Irrigation & Water Resources	1,03,18,23,000.00	497-503
TOTAL		3,21,52,93,000.00	

4. **PI LALRINPUII**, Minister to submit to the vote of the House various Demands under her charge.

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>	<i>Demand for Grants Page No.</i>
24	Health & Family Welfare	8,39,53,60,000.00	239-270
29	Social Welfare	2,47,68,05,000.00	300-328
43	Tourism	13,92,80,000.00	452-457
TOTAL		11,01,14,45,000.00	

VANLALTHANTLINGI
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : “Blessed are those who act justly,
who always do what is right.”

-Psalm 106:3

Let me first mention that hon. member, Pu Lalchhuanthanga will be absent today. It's good to see the face of Pu Lalthansanga after recovering from his illness.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Will the hon. member Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga, Champhai South be pleased to ask *Starred Question No. 181*.

LT. COL. CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. My questions for the hon. Minister of Health & Family Welfare Deptt. are:

- a) Has anything been done to make the hospital better?
- b) Are there any initiatives to solve the shortages of specialists and doctors?
- c) Why was the trauma centre not functional yet? Will it function soon?

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pi Lalrinpuii may provide the answers.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: These are my answers-

- a) There are two big projects to improve the Champhai District Hospital, these are- Pradhan MAANTRI Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), a laboratory called Integrated Public Health Laboratory (IPHL) is ongoing construction. The other one is Emergency Covid Response Package (ECRP) – II, in which the Critical Care Block (CCB), Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU) are ongoing constructions.
- b) There is an ongoing initiative to fill up Specialists and Doctors.
- c) Since there is no manpower, the Trauma Centre is not yet functional. We have informed the Central to take quick actions to start the Trauma Centre. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga.

LT. COL. CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to know in which department vacant posts would be filled up if Specialists and doctors are employed.

SPEAKER : Pu Jeje Lalpekhlua, South Tuipui.

PU JEJE LALPEKHLUA: Pu Speaker, my question is- South Vanlaiphai Hospital is planned to accommodate 10 beds but the rooms hardly accommodate 7 beds. Is there a way to renovate to accommodate at least 10 beds?

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga, Lawngtlai West.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: I heard that the previous administration upgraded the Bungtlang South PHC to CHC. When will it start functioning as a CHC?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte, Hrangturzo constituency.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, my question is- When will the North Vanlaiphai PHC function as CHC?

SPEAKER : Let's invite Pi Lalrinpuii, Minister of Health & Family Welfare to provide answers.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Regarding Pu Clement's question, there is an ongoing request to the MPSC to recruit 7 posts for Specialist. Recently we recruited 5 Ayush Doctors. We also sent a request to recruit GDMO (9 posts) to the MPSC. We also request the DP & AR to allow us to open vacancies for Specialist (3 posts), GDMO (1 POST) and Dental Surgeon (1 post). Responding to Pu Jeje's question, the South Vanlaiphai Hospital (PHC) has 10 beds now. In February, we visited that place along with Pu Jeje and checked the conditions. We talked to the officials and asked them if the old buildings could be renovated, then some beds would fit in. It is an ongoing initiative.

Responding to Pu C. Ngunlianchunga and Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte, we knew that 7 PHCs were upgraded to CHCs before the elections. But they shall function as CHC only when there are enough staff.

SPEAKER : Will the hon. member Dr. K. Beichhua be pleased to ask *Starred Question No. 182*.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My question to the Minister of Health & Family Welfare is-

“Are there plans to build the Siaha CMO office building? If yes, how much has been done so far?”

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Pi Lalrinpuii may give answers.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is Yes, a proposal has been made but it is not yet successful.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua to ask supplementary questions.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, actually CMO Office was constructed for a warehouse. Meanwhile, we do not have the CMO quarter and the Medical Superintendent quarter. Could you take the necessary steps?

We also need Medical Officers at Phura and Chhaolo PHC. Can we have them soon? Besides that, are there any plans to post a new Health Worker in the sub-centre? Naotlah requires male and female health workers. We also require an Anaesthetist. If these are not possible, could we at least have a medical officer to train us?

SPEAKER : Pu H. Ginzalala, Champhai North to ask supplementary question.

PU H. GINZALALA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Is the new administration going to continue the ADBA loan (₹1000 crores)?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Pi Lalrinpuii may give answers.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, responding to Dr. K. Beichhua's question, If MO is recruited on a contractual basis, it is usually done through the NHM. However, they don't prefer to be posted in villages. The final year students signed a bond to work for the government for two years after their graduation despite the amount of their salary. In this way, we are planning to improve the condition of the sub-centers and the PHCs.

If we could find someone who is trained for at least 6 months, then we would be able to have an anesthetist at Siaha Hospital.

Regarding Pu Ginzalala's question, the previous administration settled ADBA loan amounting to ₹1000 crores and we are working on this. Our healthcare head, Dr. Bawihteit went to Delhi and agreed that an agreement will be signed by June. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Will the hon. member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga, Lawngtlai West be pleased to ask *Starred Question No. 183*.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, my questions for the PWD Minister are-

- a) Are there plans to connect Tuipui Ferry, Lawngtlai to Siaha through a connecting bridge?
- b) If yes, can it be done as quickly as possible?
- c) If the government has plans to construct, what would be the reason?

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana, PWD Minister.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My answers to Pu C. Ngunlianchunga are-

- a) To construct Tuipui Ferry bridge, a DPR was submitted to MoRTH on 8th February 2023 but sanction is not yet received.
- b) We are awaiting sanction.
- c) Initiative is ongoing.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalramliana Papua, Lunglei South.

PU LALRAMLIANA PAPUA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Luangmual to Vaisam PMGSY Road is not yet completed. When will it be done? Besides, is it possible that the road enters the main village and does not end on the outskirts?

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask *supplementary question*.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, my questions are-

- i) Regarding the Tuisumpui – Lui, a budget was allocated from SASCI. What is the progress so far?
- ii) When will the work at Vathuampui to Chamdurtlang PCC pavement be completed since it is taking longer than usual?

SPEAKER : Pu RM Chakma, Tuichawng constituency.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, my questions for the PWD Minister are-

- i) PMGSY road was carved that connects Lalnutui to Ugudasury South. However, Tuichawng Bridge must be constructed first to reach till Ugudasury Road, when will the work commence?
- ii) Besides that, four bridges must be constructed between Chawngte Road and Ajasora road. There won't be proper roads if these are not built soon. Is there a way to work on this soon?

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana, PWD Minister.

PU VANLALHLANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, answers for Pu Papua are- currently the Luangmual- Vaisam road is under construction, it has crossed the deadline. But we are planning to finish within this winter season. Extension was given till 31st March 2024.

Regarding the construction of road that stops before entering the village settlement area, we shall look in to that.

Regarding Pu Nguna's supplementary question, is that a statement? (PU C. Ngunlianchunga: ₹300 lakhs were allocated through SSACI. Is there any initiative being taken was my question?) I am unable to respond to that, Pu Speaker.

Replying to Pu RM Chakma, they may inform me separately regarding those bridges that are required to be constructed. We shall try to improve the infrastructure of that area as much as we can. Right now, under the PMGSY scheme, there are no plans to do a work between Lalnutui to Ugudasury road; there needs to be a separate plan. (**Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma** : Pu Speaker, it is unfortunate that it will be maintained in the records that Ugudasury road is already connected when it is not. Only the road has been completed. A bridge must be constructed at Tuichawng River first.) Pu Speaker, there are no proposals to make roads from Chawngte right now, we shall look into that matter soon.

SPEAKER : Will the hon. member Pu H. Lalzirliana, Mamit constituency be pleased to ask *Starred Question No. 184*.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : My question for the Health Minister is-
“How is the government planning to go about it regarding the various newly constructed Health Clinics?”

SPEAKER : Hon. Health & Family Welfare Minister, Pi Lalrinpuii.

PI LALRINPUII : My response to hon. member, Pu H. Lalzirliana is-
The Health Clinics of some villages are currently studied. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Lalzirliana to ask *supplementary questions*.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, my questions are-

i) The health infrastructure at Lengpui is a CHC or a PHC?

I have given a letter to our Health Minister mentioning the absence of Health Clinics in 15 villages in my constituency. With the help of SEDP, we employed health workers and their helpers. With MLA funds, we even built assam-type clinics. Many are left unfinished, so my next question is-

ii) Can I request the Health Minister to take up the initiative and help us in having health clinics in those places where we haven't up?

iii) The ANM School, Mamit District which was started around 2021-2022 had its first outgoing Health workers. As the number of enrollments keeps increasing, there is a requirement to have 20 to 60 students for three badges. Additionally, the institution employs 5 drivers, LDCs and grade-IV who all are recruited using MLA funds. Is there a way to relief our expenditures and is there a way to build more rooms? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi, Aizawl South-III to ask *supplementary questions*.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Pu Speaker, my questions for the Health & Family Welfare Minister are-

- i) Is there a way to equip Sialsuk PHC and is there a way to permanently employ the attached doctor there?
- ii) The PHC also requires X-ray technician and one more lab technician. Is there a way to recruit the needful? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Ramthanmawia, East Tuipui.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Since the staff nurse and the lab technicians were dismissed by the new administration, we only have one staff nurse and one grade-IV in the former will be taking maternity leave till August. Could you kindly arrange for us as soon as possible?

SPEAKER : Hon. Health & Family Welfare Minister, Pi Lalrinpuui.

PI LALRINPUUI : Pu Speaker, first of all, I'd like to thank the MLA of Mamit, Pu Zira for his cooperation and his efficiency. Using the MLA funds, various posts have been employed and we want to relieve that as much as we can. We are trying our best to fill up the vacant post despite our lack of finance. Also, Lengpui is a CHC. Regarding Health Clinics, the previous administration recorded 161 health clinics, the MNF ministry inaugurated 235 more health clinics; altogether there are 396 health clinics. However, all these are not functional. Some clinics were inaugurated through Project SASCI, 2022-2023 worth ₹8.40 crores named, '*Strengthening of Primary Health Infrastructure through Partnership with local communities in Mizoram*'. 58 health clinics were already built and 177 more are left. The new administration notified that the works must be stayed. As we conducted a study, the total clinics were 235 but the Govt. of India, Ministry of Health & FAMILY Welfare did not recognize them. So, we had talks with the Finance Minister and we came to a conclusion that we shall use the money for the construction of the old MO quarters.

Regarding the ANM School, Mamit District, after the Session, we shall visit Pu Papua's constituency, Sesih, Pu Zira's and then Pu Famkima's constituency. We shall try our best. The main issue with the hostel has to do with manpower. Let's hope we shall employ new staff soon.

Responding to Pi Baryl's question, the same problem is the manpower. We are trying our best to fill up the posts. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhuanthanga is supposed to ask Starred Question No. 185 but he is not present today. Pu W. Chhuanawma may ask on his behalf.

PU W. CHHUANAWMA : Pu Speaker, the question is-
“Does the government have plans to repair the Aizawl to Vairengte road which is always in a poor condition? If yes, when will the work commence?”

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana, PWD Minister.

PU VANLALHLANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the Aizawl-Vairengte National Highway is under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highway and the PWD is doing the work. The government tries its best to repair the roads before the arrival of monsoon.

SPEAKER : Pu W. Chhuanawma to ask *supplementary questions*.

PU W. CHHUANAWMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My questions are-

- i) Is the Aizawl-Vairengte National Highway under the Mizoram government?
- ii) Next, Khawzawl is growing and a good example is they never build their houses too close to the main roads. With the Model Code of Conduct, the works done through SASCI were halted. We realized that the party gets a lot of the profits and when the SE and PWD checked that, it was halted due to unsatisfactory work. Around 51 lakhs were left when the contract was bought by another party later. Pu Speaker, let me read what was issued in the newspaper with your permission-
“...Only 51 crores were left to refurbish Khawzawl town. Pi Nutei, the bitumen supplier and the one who bought the contract and the Khawzawl PWD shall continue the work. Since the remaining funds will not suffice, the work done around the Vengthar Bazar area shall be worked on again. The training shall be done when a new sanction arrives”.
The question is- Can the PWD Minister take the initiative to repair the roads in Khawzawl?

SPEAKER : Pu K. Laldawngliana, Tuirial constituency.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. My questions for the PWD Minister are-

- i) When will the national Highway connecting Kawnpui to Hortoki be repaired?
- ii) Are there plans to repair the National Highway in Mualkhang?
- iii) When will the four-lane road construction start?

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana, PWD Minister.

PU VANLALHLANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Pu Lalchhuanthanga's question seems like a report. I don't know what to do with that. The MLA may take care of it.

Vairengte to Bilkhawthlir is under the NHIDCL and works independently, so the Mizoram PWD is unaware of all their plans.

At the same time, the Bilkhawthlir to Kolasib road is under the supervision of the Mizoram PWD through a contractor named, Sath Guru Engineer & Allied Services Private Ltd. They will be taking care of this till 2.6.2024. The deficit liability period will end on the same day and we hope the contractor shall do the reparation work soon. The Mizoram PWD handed over the Khamrang to Buichali road to the NHIDCL on 16.11.2021. While the PWD took charge, the contract work was given to RATNA Company but they were terminated due to inefficiency. Their bank guarantee of ₹ 73 lakhs was also seized from them. The NHIDCL will continue the work.

Buichali to Sairang road is under the NHIDCL and the Mizoram PWD is not involved. Sairang to Aizawl road is under the PWD. A request to do the resurfacing was submitted to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highway, sanction is awaited.

That is the road condition between Aizawl and Vairengte. Non-Mizo Company is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the road until the defect liability period expires. However, their performance is quite bad and some roads need repair while they were still constructing the road. So, such bad roads are our problem today. Truck Owner Association members have also met the minister and reported that they do not dare to drive. These non-Mizo contractor companies were taken to the site and we discussed their performances. So, the government cannot fail to act in such a case and the department is currently working on the project by collecting as much funds as possible. We took boulders from different places so that vehicles can pass through since we are afraid that the road will not be cleared when rainy season comes.

In response to PU K. Laldawngliana regarding National Highway, there is no plan at the moment and National Highway Mualkhang road is also not yet planned. Four-Lane Road construction is ready but clearance from the Forest is not yet available that creates a problem. NHIDCL has already selected its contractors and is ready to start the work. However, they have not been able to start work yet due to this minor problem. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question No. 186* to be asked by Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon' PWD Minister be pleased to state—

If the new government canceled, withdrawn or separated the works of the contractors selected by the previous government through tender.

SPEAKER : Hon. PWD Minister, Pu Vanlalhlana to answer the question.

PU VANLALHLANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is –
One work is cancelled.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, my supplementary question is, it will not be possible to travel during the rainy season unless an alternative arrangement is made for the concrete bridge between Kanhmun and Damchera. I also contacted PWD officials and they said that ₹50-60 crore will be enough for it. Therefore, it seems that SASCI project will be available again and so, is there any way to do that? I would also like to request the PWD Minister to complete the road between Hriphaw and Kola-Lian through SASCI or State priority project or annual plan. Kawrtethawveng, Bungmun, and Kanhmun roads have very few pot-holes to be repaired and we will be able to save money before the rainy season if we repair these potholes. So, will this be possible? Thank you.

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

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, regarding KMTTP Road, Lawngtlai – Zorinpui, I was answered that the work is completed but Lawngtlai - Zochachhuah, KMTTP Road was not handed over to the department by the construction company. However, the company manager said that they handed it to the department. NH-54, Aizawl - Tuipang road has Siaha road above it and the sand from the excavation blocked many ravines and this block roads in 10 places. The double-lane road is now quite difficult to pass through. So, if it has not yet been handed over to the department, it should be cleared within this month. So, will the department take steps to clear the land slip?

SPEAKER : *Question Hour* is now over and I request the hon' PWD Minister Pu Vanlalhlana to answer the questions.

PU VANLALHLANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. In response to Pu Robert Romawia, the road till Hriphaw is currently constructed and Kola-Lian road will also be developed according to the availability of funds. Sub-way Bailey Bridge is being constructed at Bawrai due to the construction of Damchera bridge. Autoplyable suspension bridge between Kanhmun and Damchera is also planned and we hope this will alleviate some of the public's problems.

Regarding KMTTP road, we will try to clarify whether it is handed or not and drains should be taken seriously by the responsible party. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

SPEAKER : *Question Hour* is now over and we will proceed to financial business. We will discuss the Demands of our 3 Hon' Ministers- Pu C.

Lalsawivunga, Pu PC Vanlalruata and Pi Lalrinpuui. I now request Hon' Minister, Pu C. Lalsawivunga to move the following Demands- -

- 1) Demand No. 19 - Local Administration Department;
- 2) Demand No. 23 - Art & Culture Department;
- 3) Demand No. 27 - District Council & Minority Affairs Department
- 4) Demand No. 34 - Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I hereby move the following Demands on the recommendation of the Hon. Governor of Mizoram –

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
19	Local Administration	2,08,31,40,000.00
23	Art & Culture	14,59,20,000.00
27	District Council & Minority Affairs	6,12,17,14,000.00
34	Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	70,10,78,000.00
TOTAL		9,05,18,52,000.00

SPEAKER : I request Hon' Minister Pu PC Vanlalruata to move the following Demands-

- 1) Demand No. 31 - Agriculture Department;
- 2) Demand No. 37 - Co-operation Department;
- 3) Demand No. 47 - Irrigation & Water Resources Department.

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. With your permission and on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram, I hereby move the following Demands-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
31	Agriculture	2,03,17,96,000.00
37	Co-operation	15,16,74,000.00
47	Irrigation & Water Resources	1,03,18,23,000.00
TOTAL		3,21,52,93,000.00

SPEAKER : I request Hon' Minister, Pi Lalrinpuui to move the following Demands –

- 1) Demand No. 24 - Health & Family Welfare Department;
- 2) Demand No. 29 - Social Welfare Department;
- 3) Demand No. 43 - Tourism Department.

PI LALRINPUUI, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and on the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram, I hereby move the following Demands-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
24	Health & Family Welfare	8,39,53,60,000.00
29	Social Welfare	2,47,68,05,000.00
43	Tourism	13,92,80,000.00
TOTAL		11,01,14,45,000.00

SPEAKER : The Ministers have moved their demands and we will have a discussion. Each member will be given 10 minutes and I request Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker and I would like to start with Demand No. 19 - Local Administration Department. LAD is an important department that governs all rural villages and manages our VCs and so, it needs to be given priority. It seems that its power and function is not as good as it used to be and therefore, we need to revive this department. As per the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission, the funds for the development of the village are directly deposited in the VCs accounts and VCs also work on the needs and problems of each village. Since it goes on a population base, larger villages receive ₹20-30 lakhs while smaller villages receive only ₹1-2 lakhs. So, the situation of each village is not the same because of this. Therefore, Pu Speaker, the Finance Department should provide more minor civil works to the LAD. (Hon. Dy. Speaker at the Chair)

Then majority of the poor people are at small villages and the department is not able to provide funds for the renovation of their villages. Therefore, it would be appreciated if minor works are provided for LAD. VC House is not available at Bukvannei and this is important because we are at the border of Assam. Therefore, it would be appreciated if a fund is provided for Bukvannei VC House. We also have LAD parks and they need to be decorated in order for the government to generate more revenue.

Regarding AH&Vety, the AMC has introduced a new plan for the restriction of livestock in Aizawl city. Rearing of pigs has to be 100 feet away from neighbors in the city and I believe that we will soon face a lot of problems especially in the city. Therefore, the department should take more action to develop the pig farms. There are many initiatives taken by the previous government to develop meat. The Department should take more steps on egg incubator and also ensure that healthy meat is consumed. The Department also has a poor premises and buildings throughout Mizoram and staff quarters and offices need to be renovated.

Pu Dy. Speaker, regarding Demand No. 24 - Health & Family Welfare, needless to say, it is an important department and it is impressive that a healthcare bill debt of ₹50 crore was recently cleared. ZMC is in the process of being introduced to society and ZMC non-teaching staff's position should be reviewed. They need to have option whether they want to work under the society or the government department. NHM doctors are not willing to work in rural areas because of their low salary and so, there needs to be a way to make them a regular employee. The health-workers of health clinic centres were dismissed and my constituency is in need of a clinic centre. It is appreciated that an x-ray machine will be provided for Vairengte CHC.

Moving to Demand No. 29 - Social Welfare Department, the salary of Anganwadi workers and helpers is very low even though they are one of the most important teachers. So, it would be appreciated if their salaries are increased. Pu Dy. Speaker, it would be appreciated if you could open a way for us to submit a planning proposal for the development of our constituency. PMAYG was implemented in Mizoram during the previous term where 240 villages were approved and about ₹20 lakhs each was available for a village for work. There is also an additional which was not yet processed after being approved. So, it would be appreciated if these are expedited.

Moving to Demand No. 43 – Tourism, more villages will be selected for homestay development and as many guest-house as possible will be built in more rural villages. The approach we are taking with tourism here is very appropriate. Big infrastructure is not necessary for tourist attraction and it is better to attract tourists through our culture and society. We should also renovate Serlui Tuikhuah where there is a beautiful Chawngkhupa Island.

Moving to Agriculture Department, this Department will be the most important department in our government since they are the representative of hand-holding policy. This department will be the basis of the reputation of the Government and that is why this department should be given more attention. Meanwhile, ₹200 crore for hand-holding policy is still a small amount and it should be increased if possible. We sabotage broomstick rates when we set the dry broomstick rate because the fresh broomstick rate determines the dry broomstick rate. 3 kgs of fresh broomstick produces 1 kg of dry broomstick. If 1kg of dry broom is ₹100, the fresh broom will not be sold for more than ₹30/. Therefore, the rate of green broomstick should be set at ₹40/- and then the dry broom will automatically come up at ₹120/-. Therefore, we would not have a problem if we fix the rate of the fresh instead of the dry. Mizoram's farming system is not properly maintained and rice cultivation is simply not profitable. Therefore, power tillers, water pumps and brass cutters should be subsidized as much as possible so that we can make further progress. Pu Dy. Speaker, I support the demands of our three Ministers and thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request Pu Lalramliana Papuaia.

PU LALRAMLIANA PAPUIA: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker and I would like to discuss Health and Agriculture departments. We are the constituency that needs the Agriculture Department and farmers and laborers are in a difficult situation in terms of production and marketing. We need to take measures not only on the production of fresh crops but also to sell them at a reasonable price. We should start prohibiting foreign crops and the department should be prepared to encourage the farmers and provide assurance that their production will not be in vain. It is necessary to take steps to develop ourselves through local production and the government should make laws and regulations for the development of farmers.

The Mizoram Agricultural Products Prohibition of Movement Order, 1999 should be repealed immediately because it is the law that prevented local farmers from transporting their fresh produce as they wished. They cannot transport more than 50 kgs even if it is their own produce. We should make a law on the restriction of imports from outside the state without restraining our own farmers. The government should be more involved in the market assurance fund in addition to the four selected crops. Agriculture link roads in rural areas are very important for agriculture development. So, Bawktlang-zau link road, Hmeithai-tlang link road, Serva link road etc. need to be excavated.

Regarding Health & Family Welfare, Mizoram is a state with the highest number of cancer cases and we need to find more preventive measures in health. Do we perform laboratory tests on imported fruits and vegetables? The department should take more measures in this regard. Lunglei District Civil Hospital is in dire need of improvement and we are looking forward to use ICU. We are also looking forward to the day when Cancer patients can take therapy without having to go to Aizawl. Health & Wellness Centre building is also needed at Thingfal and the sub-centers at Chawngte, Lunglawn, Sairep and Thangte are not suitable for occupation. Tawipui North-II and Mualcheng South do not have health workers. Therefore, I am ready to assist the minister in any way possible from my MLA fund in my constituency. I support the Demands of our 3 Ministers and thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request Pu R. Rohmingliana.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I would like the LAD Minister, the Agriculture Minister and our House Leader to note that- jhum cultivation season is coming up and do we have any records on how much we burnt down every year? We need to have records on this so that this will help us in our development in many ways.

Moving to Demand No. 34 - Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Animal husbandry is a passion of Mizo people especially in rural areas and it is important to appoint several veterinary doctors in rural areas especially along the international boundaries. The reason is that imported pigs from other states can cause diseases in our state. Broiler chicken feed is often imported from other states and the Vety department has 1 food processing plant which is being shared by Mizoram. This machine should be expanded and the state will benefit from it. At the same time, corn is needed for chicken feed and Mizoram has many potential areas for corn production.

Regarding Demand No. 31 - Agriculture, we need to sell our fresh produce at a reasonable price. The potential areas in my constituency produces a lot but they cannot meet any buyers. The production needs to be transported in Aizawl and we need a cold storage of good quality. We are facing problems on broomsticks everywhere and if we do not buy their agricultural products, it does not make sense to say that we care about our farmers.

Regarding Demand No. 37- Co-operation, Apex Bank, MIZOFED and many State-level societies including primary level are available and we need to do business with them.

Regarding Demand No. 47, we need water, air, and sunlight to produce more crops and we should take extreme measures on Solar water pumps.

Regarding Health Department, I am pleased that the MNF government established a new Nursing Directorate and the government should take measures and equip it more strongly. Doctors alone are not enough and nurses, lab technicians etc. must be involved.

Regarding Demand No.29- Social Welfare, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has a lot of funds and our Social Welfare Department is also making progress. They need an engineer to be more progressive. However, the existing posts in rural areas could not be filled and this should be allowed to be filled by the current government.

Regarding Tourism, Tuikawi village is the first village in Mizoram to celebrate Christmas and it is a precious place for Christians. This is a natural place and there are many birds and wildlife to see. However, there are many challenges as well and they have to climb 2 km up the mountain to get ration. Therefore, Tourism should take initiatives.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I support the Demands to be passed. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker and I would like to start with Demand No. 19-LAD. This department is a shelter for those living in rural areas and ₹2,08,31,40,000 crore is allocated for it. There are some villages with no VC house and some needs to be renovated. There is a lot of work to be done and it is clear that there will be lots of funds to be disbursed. LAD buildings are located in various places and Hmuifang Park has a building which needs to be renovated. Rural areas are depending on this because minor works such as step construction, railing construction, retaining wall construction and side-drain construction etc. still need to be done. It is clear that we have a lot of work to do not only in my constituency but throughout the state.

Moving to Demand No. 23 - Art & Culture, ₹14,59,20,000 crore is demanded. This department is the face of the nation and they look after our sites. Zo-khua is located at Falkawn and Zawlpala and Tualvungi thlan-tlang are also available. So, there are many things to develop without losing their originality. There are many historical places in several villages and this demand is good enough for maintenance.

Regarding Demand No. 34 - Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, ₹70,10,78,000 crore is allotted for this department. We need to lend a hand on animal rearing and there are many staff quarters that are damaged and need to be repaired. We are facing

problems in chicken feeds and its transportation and I would like to request our Minister to do his best. Pu Dy. Speaker, The Mizoram Agriculture Producer Prohibition of Movement Order, 1999 is a law that provides for the welfare of farmers and livestock breeders. So, I would like to request the concern minister and its department to take measures on the basis of this Act.

Moving to the Demand No. 31 – Agriculture, ₹2,30,17,96,000 crore is allocated here and the state relies on this department. South-III constituency is a large producer of crops in the state and it would be appreciated if the Minister takes measures on its wholesale shed.

Moving to Demand No. 24- Health & Family Welfare, we put our trust in our minister and we believe that she will perform her best. Examinations of Post Graduate courses, ND and MS seats of Mizoram are often conducted in Manipur but as we all know, there is a conflict within the state and we do not know when it will be settled. So, it would be appreciated if PG courses are still available. There are many people who go abroad for IVF. We also have IVF specialists in our state and it would be appreciated if facilities are provided for them. It would be impressive if we could upgrade from IUI to IVF and then to ICSI. In 2023-2024, RTI queries showed that IVF (government referred only) MR bill was ₹70,50,882/- which is increasing every year and so, the government is spending a lot of money on it. IVF Center will be a good source of revenue for the government if it is possible and it will be a good way to generate funds for the RKS fund and the hospital.

Moving to Demand No. 29 leh 43, ₹247 crore and ₹13 crore are allocated respectively which I believe will be used effectively. We have many Anganwadi to reform and we still have many things to accomplish on Women & Child Development as well as drug control. In case of Tourism, we need to take measures on lodge renovation and many other things. Just like Art & Culture, this department is the face of the nation and we should take measures on developing Lungleng Lal-In, Hmuifang tlang, Sialsuk tlang and other sites.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I support the Demands to be passed. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I now request Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker and I would like to start with Demand No. 19 - Local Administration Department. The 15th Finance Commission recommendation included Excluded Area Grant which was sanctioned only once. It seems that the fund is still available looking at the recommendation and so, when can that be released? Even though the fund for VC House construction is limited, it should be distributed equally throughout the state including the southern side.

Regarding Art & Culture, Mizoram is a home not only to the Mizo people but also Chakma, Bru, Lai, Mara etc. and they have their own culture. We need to preserve these cultures as well as they enhance our appearance. Therefore, the scheme should be implemented widely in a culturally diverse manner. Biju Festival is a very popular festival in our culture and we want to celebrate it statewide. So, if we can achieve this, it will be a way of sharing our cultures and strengthening our brotherhood.

Moving to District Council & Minority Affairs- There are three District Councils and all administrative are the same. However, there is a wide gap in terms of receiving funds where CADC receive too little. The three District Councils have many difficulties in making laws. Law vetting was done and passed it in the session which is no longer impossible to criticize. Many of the laws passed were given to the District Council for vetting which I do not support. The state government's Law department should do the vetting because there may come a day when anti-constitutional laws is passed.

Regarding the Agriculture Department, there should be a way to implement schemes based on potential areas and the Minister should be able to make this a policy matter so that the entire state can become self-sufficient on provisions.

Social Welfare has a Gender Budget and awareness program should be intensified. I support the Demands of our 3 Ministers. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request Pu T. Lalhlimpuia.

PU T. LALHLIMPUIA : Thank you, Pu Dy. Speaker. The convergence of AH & Vety and Agriculture departments will be able to enable us to have indigenous production of animal feed and it is desirable to take action in this regard. According to our Chief Minister's Speech, the Agriculture Department is a non-tax revenue contributing department and our state will be in a higher position if we improve our contribution to agriculture production. There is a sudden order to construct market shed construction at Bazar veng in my constituency without even passing through the District Agriculture Office and the location is on the Lunglei - Aizawl Road. The work started without proper estimates and drawings and therefore, the department needs to take measures. Agriculture link road construction in my constituency is quite curvy even for two-wheelers. If Bazar Veng Para-III is not continued, the current efforts will be of no use and the department should take new steps in these areas.

Next is Demand No. 37 - Cooperation. Lunglei Office has only one HA and one UD and the quarter also needs to be renovated. We will be buying fresh vegetables through society and so, the department should be strengthened and its staff should be restructured.

Regarding Demand No. 19 - Local Administration Department (LAD), Lunglei district has 5 Field Inspector posts out of which 3 occupy the office and 1 is a traveler. We faced several problems regarding reforming village Council body and boundary which create many works for them. LAD Lunglei has 1 JE post and they have no JE since the regular JE retired. One person is hired since 2017 at office expenditure and they use whatever funds are available. Village Council Houses are available at Lunglei West but internet connection is not available and proper computer systems are not available. Lunglei LAD Department should recommend the Common Service Center for Buarpui and surrounding areas.

Moving to Demand No. 23 - Art & Culture, Chapchar Kut is celebrated in various districts and its fund is always received late. So, we should take measures here since cashless payment is always available now.

Regarding Demand No. 34 - Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Rural Animal Health Centre is available at Rahsi Veng and the building is barely standing. So, it would be appreciated if the Minister look into this.

Moving to Demand No. 24 - Health & Family Welfare, Lungdai South and West Bungtlang are the villages without Sub-Centre and the Health Sub-Centre building is in poor condition. Hauruang, Runtlang, Khawper etc. approached their center and so, it needs to be equipped. We have talked about doctor shortage in Lunglei and during the last 10 years, MPSC has recruited 180 MOs, 11 AYUSH doctors, 7 Dental Surgeons, 31 Specialists, 3 Health Workers, 1 Specialist and 3 for Public Health totaling 233. So, it seems that there are many who sat in offices and our problems will be solved if most of these doctors are relocated to districts.

Finally, Demand No. 29 - Social Welfare. There is a Bethel Center in my constituency where there are 100 children and young people and their situation needs to be taken into consideration. The nodal department is Women & Child Development which is under Social Welfare. The daily meal for more than 100 children is a huge amount and the grant has not been received from July to this March. So, it would be greatly appreciated if this could be solved.

I support the Demands of our 3 Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will have a recess and we will continue at 2:00 PM
(*Recess*)

2:00 PM

SPEAKER : I now request Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga.

LT. COL. CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker and I would like to start with Demand No. 19 – LAD. Our population is increasing and our way of life is also improving. Our wastes are also increasing and Waste management is a subject that is becoming an important subject in our daily lives. Dumping ground is being constructed at Ruantlang in my constituency and the final stage is underway. So, we are looking forward to this being functional soon. A slaughter house at Zotlang by-pass road was constructed during the previous term but it was not used because the site is not convenient. So, temporary shelters at Champhai Vengthar are used for animal slaughter. However, being a temporary site, there is no proper arrangement and there is no blood-pit or waste collection facility. The surrounding areas have unpleasant smell and it is harmful for health as well. Therefore, I would like to request the Minister to take action to have a more proper slaughter house.

Regarding Vety & Animal Husbandry, there are 14 villages who herd Mithun and these herders are still keeping our Mizo tradition alive. The grazing grounds should be properly fenced and subsidy should be paid by the government. The veterinary quarters are old and dilapidated and they need renovation. Veterinary office faces many difficulties due to staff shortage. Champhai South is a border area and Mizoram's most consumed animals are imported from there. So, Laboratory and staffs are required to check the safety of these animals and therefore, I would like to ask the Minister's approval to fill the shortage of staff and quarters.

Regarding Demand 31 - Agriculture, New Champhai has an agriculture godown that was built in 1988 and this godown needs to be expanded. This can be said as the center for Agriculture and Horticulture and we need a larger warehouse for storing their production. We are also in dire need of agriculture link road.

Between January and December 2023, 46,699 people were registered in the OPD of our district hospital and our delivery cases are very high. However, we have only 1 gynecologist and the DMS (District Medical Superintendent) has a vehicle which is 20 years old and a new vehicle should be released.

I support the Demands of our 3 Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker and I would like to start with Demand No. 23 - Art & Culture. Most of the IMFA (Institute of Music and Fine Arts) instructors have retired and the posts should be filled.

Regarding Demand No. 34 - AH & Vety, we cannot be sufficient on animal feeds and chicken feeds always need to be imported. If we have enough raw materials, the price

of animal feed will be lower and the livestock breeders will be able to reduce the price of their meat.

Regarding Irrigation, Kolasib and Mamit Districts have potential areas for rice cultivation but there are some problems because irrigation is not yet strong enough.

Next is Demand No. 24 – Health Department. We have poor facilities and the government should install dialysis machines in every district. It would also be impressive to have a PHC at Bungtlang.

Moving to Demand No. 29 - Social Welfare, it is impressive that Minister will take responsibility for the morgue van. I am also glad that Old Age Pension will be available.

Moving to Tourism, Mizo people are still blind on how to attract tourists and tourists are interested in the uniqueness of our culture. So, we should take measures in this direction and we need a lot of improvement.

Pu Speaker, I support the Demands of our 3 Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I now request Pu H. Ginzalala.

PU H. GINZALALA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Veterinary sector is good for employment generation because meat is a high-grade food. 10 kgs of animal feed is needed to produce 1 kg of meat which involves a lot of employment. Therefore, Animal Husbandry is an important part of the state's development. CHAMUL (Champhai Milk Union Limited) is terminated and it needs to be revived. The buildings are in good condition and infrastructures are usable. Vety sector is an Agriculture Allied Sector and there is a need for convergence with Agriculture. There can be a lot of improvement if we know how to take a step forward with convergence.

The next point I want to highlight is the deficiency of Vety doctors and VFAs. If the vacant posts are difficult for the government to fill up, I suggest privatizing Animal Husbandry sector. For example: setting up of state-of-the-art infrastructure with adequate equipment by the government which could be utilized by our private entrepreneurs and vety doctors since they are an important component in the growth of our economy. We have to explore and widen the scope of this area to mobilize and establish a high-tech animal farm.

I want to call out to the Minister of District Council & Minority Affairs the necessity of reliable data in the state. Since we are moving away from our traditional farming system, we need to have extensive data on our cropping patterns so that it will help us in creating better DPR for the future. It is also the need of the hour to conduct research

on how our cropping patterns affect the environment, and understand how much amount of carbon dioxide is injected and generated in the atmosphere every year.

Also, I appreciate the granting of greater autonomy to our 3 District Councils in terms of planning and finances. We have to understand that these are our brothers and sisters and take good care of them.

With regard to the LAD, I want to know if street light outsourcing is possible for better administration. On the topic of Agriculture, I want to re-iterate on the sustainability of ginger farming in the House. It proves to be much beneficial instead of our traditional farming system and it provides much more yields per hectare as compared to other crops. Also, it is to be noted that sustainable parameter not only consist of the environment parameter, but it also includes the social and economic parameters. We have to understand that there is a certain trade off between development and environmental degradation.

To elaborate on the topic of Agriculture, we have been endowed with numerous flowers and plants from above. However, due to our primitive technology, what I call the '*chem kawi technology*', we are unable to harness its full potential. Thus, today, we need better government intervention, and technological input to move into 'permanent farming' so as to sustain our agricultural economy.

In addition, we have to enhance our irrigation and terrace facilities so that we are in the path of sustainable development. Thus, I firmly believe that our Agriculture Policy is a true environmental policy. I therefore, support the demands of our three Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : That is great.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Pu Speaker, I apologize for the interruption. Our Speaker and Dy. Speaker have other important engagements at 2:30 PM. Thus, as a Panel of Chairman and with the permission of the Speaker and Member of the House, I would continue to chair the session.

(Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi assumes the Chair...)

CHAIRMAN : We shall continue our discussion. This is the first time we have a woman sitting in the Panel of Chairman; thus, the Members may address me as '*Pi Chairman*'. As per the List, I may now invite the South Tuipui MLA, Pu Jeje Lalpekhlua.

PU JEJE LALPEKHLUA: Pi Chairman, thank you.

Firstly, with regard to Demand No. 19 – LAD, I want to extend my appreciation to the previous government for initiating the construction of District Panchayat Resource

Center under RGSA at Hnahthial District. However, there are no District Local Administration Officer to supervise its administration. Thus, along with the discussion of the importance of VC, I request the Minister to look into this matter as there are many villages without VC House even today.

Moving onto Demand No. 23, Art & Culture – We have many historical places which are important to preserve for furthering our culture and heritage. We have to celebrate and honor these places such as the ‘*Saikuti Lung Zeh*’ at Thingsai, places of the brave *Zakapa* (Khawhri Chief), places of killing of the wizards at Thingsai and Muallianpui and many more. These could be a great tourist destination and preserving our culture is the need of the hour.

As of Demand No. 34 – AH & Vety – I feel glad to see the on-going construction of District AH & Vety Hospital and Laboratory, District Veterinary Office and the staff quarters. For the growth of Animal Husbandry sector, self-sufficiency in animal feed is important. As mentioned earlier, our main bottleneck comes from the shortage of staffs and workers. The South Vanlaiphai VFA posts are vacant due to death and pension of the staffs. I urge the Minister to take necessary actions as rural development is required today.

With Demand No. 31 – Agriculture, it is important to have agriculture sustainability to have development in other areas. The government have planned to buy the harvest and built better markets for our crops. I have started seeing the fruits of this initiative in my area and I believe that this will guide the public to be more hardworking. With this, I urge the Minister to build better agricultural link road as this will help in better connectivity between the harvester and the market. The roads leading to our riverbanks must be revamped as they are crucial for extracting sand, stones and muds for various construction purposes. The School of Agriculture Science (SAS) and KVK at Hnahthial District should be enhanced so that it could be better utilized for the people. I request the Minister to come and look at the situation at the place and take necessary actions.

Demand No. 37 deals with Co-operative Department, which is an important Department as it will carry on the implementation of support price for ginger, chilies, brooms and turmeric. This requires the setting up of Co-operative Society under the District Co-operative Officer (DCO) in every district. However, there are some districts without DCO and I hope the Minister look into this issue.

The Demand No. 47 – Irrigation & Water Resources is a crucial demand as it will lead us into the path of sustainability in the Agriculture & Allied Sector. Last year, on 9th June, the Zaupui – Ground Water Irrigation Project at South Vanlaiphai was inaugurated. This uses solar energy and is utilized by many land cultivators and I request the Minister to initiate more projects of the same kind as they are important for the development of agricultural sector.

Demand No. 24 – Health & Family Welfare is a department which is utilized and availed by everyone of the society. With the institution of ‘people-centric government’, I applaud the works of this Department in giving the pending health care bills, provisioning of vehicles for carrying dead bodies, new hospitals, Urban Health & Wellness Center and giving my area a dental chair which we have been asking for a long time.

With regards to social welfare, I think that it is a great step to increase the ‘*old-age pension*’ from ₹100/- to ₹1000/- every month. However, as stated earlier, the main bottleneck of this government is the issue of understaffing. Likewise, there is a shortage of District Social Welfare Officers in some districts, even in my area. I request the Minister to look into this problem and implement the pension scheme as effective as possible.

Lastly, Tourism sector could be our saving grace as I do not see any deficiency as compared to other developed countries. With proper preservation and care for our natural resources, we could have a prosperous tourism industry for our future generations. I request the concerned Department to take prompt actions in this area. I, therefore, support these demands. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Next, let the Hacchek MLA, Pu Robert Romawia Royte be invited.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pi Chairman, thank you for giving me the time.

The District Council & Minority Affairs Department is an important Department as it looks after the 6th Schedule areas and District Council in the Northeast. I am glad to see that our senior legislator gets this important Department.

As we all know, the 6th Schedule is constituted for the protection of tribal areas and minorities and our stater comes under the 7th Schedule. Various schemes and projects have been implemented through this Department. Under this schedule, protecting and promoting the cultures, traditions and customs of the minorities are of utmost importance.

The PMJVK Scheme is under the DCMA Department. I have been in this Department and I know the amount of hard work that goes behind sending project proposals of almost ₹2000 crores for different Departments to the Center. There have been allegations of utilizing PMJVK schemes just for the Sports Department. However, it is to be noted that this scheme is used for certain sectors such as education, health and infrastructure. Additionally, the ₹10 crores that have been released by the Center in October has not been utilized and is delayed at certain levels. I have reminded the Minister in the Recess Room as if this could be solved, another ₹40 crores could be released as it has been previously approved. Thus, I appeal to the concerned Ministers to release the funds as soon as possible.

I have noticed that the financial progress is not as fast as the physical progress under this scheme. Mizoram have been one of the three states that have effectively implemented projects in India. Therefore, if we utilize and release funds on time, we could be in a position to get more funds from the Center for more works. The current government inherited ₹19,000/- lakhs which I hope is used in an effective manner.

I want to highlight that despite its importance, we have seen very limited Budget estimation of around ₹1300 lakhs for the Art & Culture Department. Thus, Revised Estimates and Supplementary Demands for this Department would be highly appreciated. As a President of Mizo Cultural Organization (MCO), we have put foremost importance to preservation of our culture and heritage. Budgets could be enlarged by collaborating with the Ministry of Culture, Tribal Affairs or Minority Affairs. There are multisectoral ministries which could also help this Departments in a long way. There was a provision for establishing a cultural village in the past and I request the Minister to look into it.

Under Agriculture Department, mechanization is the need of the hour. Not only tractors and machines, we also have to widen our scope. Spraying insecticide by hand could be the cause of many cancers and this has been opposed by many developed countries. Thus, there are funds which could be asked from the Center for drone technology for spraying insecticides and I have also discussed with the Minister for the same. The previous government gave importance to agriculture and under the *family-oriented SEDP*, 15,000 families were selected for the beneficiaries of this scheme. However, it is unfortunate that the current government stopped this scheme which could be useful for many families.

Regarding healthcare, under our abled and active Minister, we have achieved great heights. I am pleased to see that the construction of x-ray building at Zawlnuam Hospital have been completed with good infrastructures. However, there are no technicians which cause problems for its utilization. The Kawrthah CHC which covers a large area have x-ray and technicians, but as per my report, it is not working properly. I would also like to ask the future plan for the construction of a Multi-Speciality Hospital or Cancer Speciality Hospital with the help of ADB.

Discussing on the matter of Tourism, the Thenzawl – Golf Resort was completed under SASCI. I would like to know the current state of Serchhip internal road construction, Tourist Lodge re-construction and Unity Mall (₹127 crores) where funds have been allocated by the Center in the past.

Thus, I support the demands of the three ministers today and I would like to note that we shall work together for its effective implementation.

CHAIRMAN : For the interest of time, we shall ring the warning bell at 8 minutes so that the Ministers could conclude within the given timeframe. I now invite the East Tuipui MLA, Pu Ramthanmawia to discuss on the demands.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pi Chairman, thank you.

Firstly, with regards to Demand No. 27 – District Council & Minority Affairs Department, as we have heard, PMJVK scheme have been widened and enlarged to cover the whole Mizoram including Aizawl. Thus, the State level PMJVK Committee have been set-up which proposed numerous projects for the whole state. Under this scheme, efforts were taken to construct teacher quarters to solve the problems of declining retention rates of teachers posted in the rural areas. Our House Leader also takes considerable efforts in this regard as educational reform is a pressing priority. After careful study of the situation, we found out that we have to take necessary steps towards the welfare of our teachers. The teachers often travelled great distances to their stations and this cause problems in imparting quality education for the students. Not only this, we also have projects provisioned for the development of various districts under the PMJVK schemes.

Moving onto Demand No. 27 – Veterinary Department, my constituency have three offices wherein only the Khawbung Mobile Veterinary Unit have CSS doctors. There are no doctors at Vaphai and Khuangleng and I request the Minister to look into this issue as a priority matter as it is important for the families depending on cattle rearing and gayal domestication for survival.

On Demand No. 31 – Agriculture, we all know the importance of this sector of our state's development. My area has good WRC potential and for this reason, the previous government had done a great job at Khuangthing, Khawbung, Vangchhia, and Vaphai. Also, land development is also required at the Sesih land of 60 hectares and Thekpui land of 150 hectares.

On the topic of Demand No. 47 – Irrigation & Water Resources Department, this is closely related with agriculture. We have MI project at the Thekpui land of 150 hectares at Phungchawng which needs re-survey and the project should be re-looked for better implementation. The Farkawn MI project at Pumphir land have been an on-going work and, on these lines, the Thekpui project must be re-considered.

As of Demand No. 24 – Health & Family Welfare Department, I believe that health is the most important facet of human life. Without it, nothing makes sense. I am afraid that the government will not take adequate care of this sector as they have terminated nurses and health workers under SEDP which makes this sector extremely understaffed. I am confident that our Health Minister will look into this issue and resolve it as soon as possible. In the past, we have employed health-workers and FA through MLA funds to

equipped numerous vacancies in sub-centers. Under SEDP, there were 265 health-workers and I hope the government make adequate provision to look after these workers as we have no health-workers even in the Leisenzo health clinic.

Speaking on Demand No. 43 – Tourism Department, my constituency have one of the most spots for tourist destination as it is cluttered with historic places everywhere. In the previous government, under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0, various places at Champhai and Aizawl Districts were provisioned for tourist attraction places. I want to as the Minister on the future plan of Champhai in this regard. Additionally, the Lurh mountain near Farkawn village is regarded as one of the best potentials for tourist destination and trekking trails. On a good day, one could see the Lentlang chain mountains and the Bangladesh reservoirs. The mountain is filled with orchids, Chhawkhlei flower, and Tlaizawng flower. During the previous government, NEC had submitted a proposal for developing the said area under the Tourism Department as *East-end Project*. However, due to pandemic, the project was terminated. I request the Minister to look into this matter and propose more projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 for the state. Therefore, I extend my support for the demands put forth by the three Ministers today.

CHAIRMAN : Let the Mamit MLA, Er. H. Lalzirliana be invited.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Pi Chairman, thank you.

We have discussed at great length on the necessity of adopting corporate culture and private entrepreneurship in government entities. A friend of mine has opined that the most successful industries in Mizoram are the ones where government have limited interventions. This is very thought-provoking.

Whether it is Tourism, Animal Husbandry or Agriculture, if we do not encourage private entrepreneurship, we will not see progress in these fields. We need to know how to operate our infrastructure and develop our software rather than our hardware. Our Tourist Circuit should be revamped and we need a Tourist operator for it. It is crucial to study our target customers and improve our infrastructure and resources accordingly to the demands of the market. Additionally, we have numerous LAD Parks in the state such as in Mamit and Lengpui. Do we really look after these parks? I have heard that some parks are outsourced to private entities. Do they contribute to the revenues of the state? I hope the Minister look into this matter.

During the previous government, we have constructed numerous VC Houses even in my area. However, there are many villages which do not have Halls, not to even mention VC Houses. The number could reach up to over 600 and big villages like Tuipuibari, Damparengpui, Suarhliap, Bawngva, Phaizau and Nalzawl does not have their own VC Houses. I request the Minister to initiate actions in this regard.

With regard to AH & Vety Department, Lengte and Ngalthawm in my area was declared as a pig cluster area. We have face immense trouble and inconvenience due to ASF wherein many families lost their livelihoods and their dreams were crushed in the process. At Lengpui, the Semen Boring Station have been constructed and 90% of the work is completed. However, we could not continue due to the complications posed by the Forest Department. I hope the Minister is aware on this issue and I would like to see speedy resolution in this regard.

Moving on to Irrigation, I would like re-iterate that we do not have a District Irrigation Office at Mamit. At Zawlnuam, we have a small, one-man army type of office which is not even in the headquarter. I have highlighted this issue to the Minister and I thank him in advance for his actions.

Agriculture is an important sector as it helps in developing irrigation and tourism sector as well. A concept paper has been submitted for the *Mamit Tuidai Multipurpose Rain-water Harvesting Scheme* at the Jal Shakti Ministry. We have received funds of ₹29.4 crores through NABARD with administrative approval being given and the next Budget will reflect these funds. Irrigation is crucial for agricultural states like ours. I suggest that we should construct more dams and reservoirs for the development of irrigation. This will have a spillover effect on Rain-water economic activities like horticulture and agriculture. It will recharge and increase our ground-water table. It could also be beneficial for fisheries, recreational activities, sports activities like swimming, boating and will further improve the micro-climatic conditions and control humidity of the area. This will also help the rural farmers and create employment opportunities for the youths. It is the need of the hour to venture into this area as we have not tapped our resources. I have discussed with the Jal Shakti Minister and things are not easy as it seems, but we shall work towards it. After my discussion with our Governor, he had sent a letter and as per their reply, we have sent a project proposal to the 'Water Commission, Centre Water Commission, Shilling'. The Irrigation Department have conducted surveys and put a lot of efforts into this project. I am pleased to see the fruits of our hard work as we have received a positive outcome in this regard. A model has been crafted for each Districts and I hope to see its successful implementation for the same.

With regards to Health Department, there have been debates as to whether Lengpui is a PHC or CHC. However, as per my question, the Minister responded that it is a CHC. However, there are certain requirements under IPHS which are not met for Lengpui. It is crucial as it is at the airport area which is a strategic location. Thus, we have to equip the CHC to handle serious and emergency cases. The Hindustan Petroleum Company have given one x-ray machine and an ambulance. However, this does not suffice their needs and man power requirements. I request the Minister to look into this issue.

To add on, the Mamit District Hospital have not been completed for a long time. Mamit has been declared as *aspiration district* due to our low performance in the health

parameters. There has been a grave issue of man power deficiency such as Group D and staff nurse. The project was initiated under the CSR Fund of Power Finance Corporation. They plan to provide us with dialysis unit and ICU facilities in the future as well. Thus, I would urge the Minister to give pressure to the contractors and concerned Departments for its speedy completion.

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

CHAIRMAN : Let the Aizawl West-III MLA, Pu VL Zaithanzama be invited.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pi Chairman, thank you.

Firstly, on Deman No. 37 – Co-operation, I am pleased to hear that the government is planning to collaborate with Societies for the work of support price for our crops. For this, PACCS- *Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative Society* could be utilised as they could even lend money to the farmers. More Societies could be set up in areas which do not have it. However, I am worried about the declining trend of Budget estimation for the past few years. This year, it has decreased by 8.59% which is troublesome as this Department looks after thousands of primary societies and big societies like MIZOFED, MULCO, and PIGFED also comes under it. There are plans of establishing more Societies and looking at the Budget, I wonder how this would be accomplished. The PACCS is an active society with a reliable history. If they could be clustered, it would be more beneficial for them.

Moving on to Demand No. 31 – Agriculture, I am glad to see the establishment of Agriculture Market Assurance Fund Management Board with a budgetary allocation of ₹110 crores. Mizoram have 74,644 hectares of cultivable land, as of today, we have cultivated only 17,000 hectares which is not even one-fourth of it. As per the 2011 census, we need 80,000 mt. to sustain ourselves wherein we could just produce 1/4th of our requirements. If we could bring more land under cultivation, we will have food security in the state. Thus, we have to concentrate more on agriculture and even irrigation which comes under Demand No. 47.

To discuss on Demand No. 34 – AH & Vety Department, this Department is important as it is responsible for providing safe meat, milk and eggs to the public. The Animal Feed Plant at Ramrikawn could produce 100 quintals of animal feed daily which is not sufficient for our state. There needs to be a collaboration between the Agriculture Focus Cell and Vety Department so as to bring more development in this area. The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) is a great initiative to provide loans to farmers and animal rearing families. Till today, 8113 families have received the loan with minimal interest. There is an alliance between the Vety and the Cooperative Department wherein Vety Department looks after Societies such as MULCO and PIGFED.

As of Demand 33 – Art & Culture, the preservation of our heritage and traditions have been kept up by the State Museum, State Archive and the Mizoram State Library. I am glad to see ₹100 lakhs for this regard in the Budget.

Under Demand No. 19 – I want to note that LAD looks after 532 Village Council across the 9 Districts, construct VC Houses and equipped them with computer sets. Till today, 243 computer sets have been installed and ₹268 lakhs have been provisioned for further development.

Pi Chairman, I find it a great step that the healthcare bill is to be awarded after a long time. I also want to applaud the initiative of our abled Health Minister. Through her, the Shri Sankar Heart Foundation Chennai and the Mizoram government conducted a free health clinic for people with heart diseases at ZMC. 300 people have availed this benefit and 130 patients were diagnosed to undergo a heart surgery. Of these, the urgent 50 patients will undergo a surgery free of cost and they will only have to pay for the transportation cost.

Thus, I full support the demands of the Ministers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Let the Tuichang MLA, PU W, Chhuanawma be invited.

PU W. CHHUANAWMA : Pi Chairman, thank you.

Firstly, I would like to start with Demand No. 19 – Local Administration. Currently, there are 2 staffs under LAD in Khawzawl. They are Augustine Lallungmuana, Technical Assistant cum Data Entry and Runremsangi, District Programme Manager. However, they do not have any office and are attached at Champhai. Thus, this needs to be looked into as soon as possible.

With respect to Demand No. 34 – Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, I want to point out the fact that gayal/mithun has been one of the most important cattle. It has high monetary and cultural values even in the past. Champhai, particularly Riagtlei, Vangtlang and Tualte villages have been domesticating gayals for consumption in a large-scale manner. With proper and adequate restriction of imported beef and cows from Myanmar, I believe we could scale up this area and establish a huge industry for the state. It will lead to multiplier effect in our economy. However, there are certain problems such as providing adequate water and also building a secure barbed-wire fields for grazing. I request the Minister to look into this matter.

With Demand No. 31 – Agriculture, we have to construct better link roads with PCC because this becomes a problem every year during monsoon season. Since Khawzawl is a District Capital, we have to take better care of it.

Moving on to Demand No. 24 – Health Department, we have problems of understaffing and shortages of doctors and nurses. The Health Clinic at Vengthar, Humncheng and Neihdawn does not have any staff and this leads to our impoverished state of health in our district. Moreover, our x-ray machines, Ultrasound machines that was bought through BADP Scheme and Endoscopy machines are not working properly and should be repaired or replaces as soon as possible.

To add on, Khawzawl is the only one that does not have a Tourist Lodge. The building has been completed in 2019 but the contractor refused to hand-over the building as they demand for reimbursement of GST. Khawhai has one of the best potentials to be a tourist destination as it has important places of cultural and religion history.

Therefore, I support the demands of the Ministers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN : Now let me invite the Tuirial MLA, Pu K. Laldawngliana to discuss on the demands.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Pi Chairman, thank you. Firstly, Demand No. 23 – Art & Culture Department, as we all know, this Department is the kingpin of our heritage and cultural preservation. Chapchar Kut festival that was celebrated on 1st March was a great success and I am glad to see the Budget of ₹100 lakhs and I hope to see it increasing in the coming years. The Department saw a Budget estimation of ₹892.85 lakhs for salary expenses last year and this year, it increases to ₹1,068.24 lakhs which is a right step seeing the burden of the workers.

With regards to Demand No. 19 – LAD, this Department spearheaded the RGSA Scheme. I would like to thank the government for the construction of VC Houses at Mualkhang, Lungmuat, and Zanolawn. I would also request for VC Houses at Khamrang and Nisapui as they do not have it.

Commenting on Demand No. 34 – AH & Veterinary, we are extremely in shortage of staffs and doctors in this Department. Animal husbandry and cattle rearing is very popular in the rural areas. There are numerous private clinics but we are still in great demand for more. We have received Vety doctors and mobile vans where emergency operations could take place and I believe we need more of it at various places. I am glad to see the advertisements floating in Kolasib regarding free training on animal husbandry. We have to systematically organize this sector. Not only this, the Department must conduct regular inspections to ensure that the public is consuming safe meat and for this, we require more field staffs.

As of Demand No. 31 – Agriculture, the establishment of Agriculture Marketing Assurance Fund Management Board is a great initiative. They are going to look after the support price for chillies, ginger, brooms and turmeric under the hand-holding scheme and I hope to see good results in the future. Under the PMKSY, water harvesting

structure was to be given to 605 families and under the RKVY scheme, 16 tenders are prepared for the construction of solar cold storage. At Thingdawl, we have provisioned for a sustainable potato harvest and tissue cultures have been prepared for it. I request the Minister to take a note of these projects.

Demand No. 37 – Cooperation Department which is a place where I have spent most of my youth days is an important Department. However, looking at the Budget in 2023, it was ₹1,659.29 crores and in 2024, it is ₹1,516.74 crores. It decreases by ₹142.55 crores which is very unfortunate. There are more than 10 Mizoram State-Level Society Boards which all submit taxes to the government. The Mizoram Cooperative Development Council had been established as well. I would also like to re-iterate that Cooperative Societies are credible enough to carry on the hand-holding policy.

Moving on to Demand No. 24 – Health, we have 16 CHCs, 45 PHCs, 235 Health Clinics and 27 government recognized private hospitals. Agreements have been signed for the ₹1000 crores loan from Asian Development Bank which is a great step and it is great to hear about the payment of healthcare bills to the public. With respect to ZMC, the Medical Council of India had inspected the institution in June 2023. Another inspection will be happening in June and I request every Ministers to look into this matter and help in the recognition of ZMC.

(Speaker takes the Chair.)

Pu Speaker, I also want to mention that Rasdali and Dilzau villages does not have any health clinics and I request the Minister to look into this issue.

The Demand No. 29 – Social Welfare Department is an important Department. The Sethawn Jordan Centre at Thingdawl VC area deals with a 2-course rehabilitation and after care of drugs users and I am happy to see that our Minister is going to visit the site. I am also glad to see the rise in old-age pension and the initiative of allotting vehicles for carrying dead bodies.

As of Demand No. 43 – Tourism Department, although Mizoram have a perfect weather and serene beauty, we do not attract tourist as we should be. However, I believe that our Minister is extremely capable and enthusiastic in this regard and I am also glad to see the initiative of promoting eco-tourism at Khamrang.

SPEAKER : Please. It is now 4 PM and our second session has ended. Shall we continue and recess at 5:30 PM? (*House agrees.) Please continue.

PU K. LALDAWNGLAINE: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to request the Minister to employ and make use of the youth in the tourism sector as tour guides. Thus, I support the demands put forth by our Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let the Lunglei North MLA, Pu V. Malsawmtluanga be invited.

PU V. MALSAWMTLUANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. We have inherited very high debts by our government. I am sure that all the demands discussed by the Ministers are of crucial importance to our House Leader. I want to note that we do not pressure the government but merely provide better ways and initiatives.

Firstly, I would like to talk on the Health & Family Welfare Department. The infrastructure in Lunglei is being utilized by all the Southern areas. Currently, we do not have a radiologist and ENT doctors in Lunglei Civil Hospital. I want to highlight to the Minister that Radiology exam results have been sent to other states by paying certain sum of money. Moreover, the ICU does not have proper staffs which causes great problems for the hospital.

The Lunglei Health Department Staff quarters is extremely old and deteriorating. Since it is an Assam type house, it could not be utilized during monsoon season. The Trauma Care Centre that was completed and inaugurated long ago does not have any staffs or workers in it. We also have a huge oxygen plant which could produce more than 1000 litres in 1 minute is not fully utilized as it requires a lot of power to operate. Additionally, I would want the Minister to tell me how many senior and experienced doctors are engaged in the Administrative Directorate?

Thy Urban & Health Wellness Centre, Pukpui was inaugurated in 2023. However, due to contractual issues, we do not have any doctors in the Centre. To add on, Pangzawl is the biggest village in my area but the PHC does not have X-ray machines. Bualpui-V and Ramlaitui have a well-built Health sub-centre, but there are no staffs or doctors in it. I request the Minister to take all these issues into account and resolve them as soon as possible.

My constituency has a lot of tourist spots which could be developed in the future. I would humbly suggest and request the government to organize the next Chapchar Kut at Leitlang. Also, there are places in Ramlaitui which are ideal for further development by the state or even from a central project.

On the topic of Agriculture, there are around 4 villages at Serkawn, Tlawng river near Kawiva who have been engaged in agriculture for decades. Due to improper roads of about 6kms, connectivity with these villages is hard especially during monsoons. The pandemic highlights the importances of these villages who supported the towns and cities nearby to a great extent.

I want the Power & Electricity Minister to note that there are around 100 families on the riverside of Pukpui-Tlawng area. Our Horticulture Minister is also aware of the

situation and I believe we could take the necessary steps for better irrigation facilities in those areas.

Next, with regards to LAD, I want to underline the importance of VC in rural areas once again. They perform various functions such as construction of retaining walls, managing disasters, road repairs and renovations etc., and I request our House Leader to increase the fundings for the Village Councils. Also, among many other villages, Mualthuam North in my area does not have VC House. They have been awarded with Transparency Award from the Central and I request the Minister to look into this matter.

In my area at Lunglei Municipal Area, Ward No. 1 Pukpui, Animal Health Centre was established in 1974. I request the upgradation of this Centre to Animal Dispensary. The Veterinary Office at Pangzawl have been completed but it does not function till today. If the Minister could take a look at this issue, I would be very thankful.

The District Museum at Saizakawn is newly constructed. I would like the Minister to note that an Assistant Curator and a Gallery Assistant is required for the same. The Ministry of Culture have inspected the Museum and there is an on-going recommendation and proposal of installing a Telescopic Centre at the Museum. I request the Minister to look into this matter.

Lastly, constructing Agriculture Link Road is the need of the hour. Although not my area, Thorang has one of the best potential areas along with Zawlpui, Dengsur, Lungsen and Phairuang which could benefit from the agriculture link road and this will also be utilized by Lunglei District as a whole.

Therefore, I extend my support to the demands put forth by our Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let the Lawngtlai West MLA, Pu C. Ngunlianchunga be invited.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, I am glad to discuss on the demands today.

Firstly, the Art & Culture Department cover the whole of Mizoram and is the kingpin of cultural and heritage preservation. We have numerous festivals in the state such as the Chapchar Kut, the Lyuva-Khutla of Mara, Biju of the Chakmas, and many festivals of the Pang, Bawm, Paite, Hmar and Bru. I request to the Department to make projects for the celebration of all these festivals and conduct cultural exchanges of the different tribes of Mizoram. Dr. Ambedkar talked about India as a big garden and the different communities are like the flowers of blooming together in unison. Likewise, the different communities in Mizoram must live together in unity and foster brotherhood among themselves.

With regard to the District Council & Minority Affairs Department, I would like to thank the Minister for implementing the Pay & Allowances which have been passed in the House by the previous government. The PMJVK is under the Minority Affairs Department which have many projects and were called the 'Multi-Sectoral Development'. I would like to request a change in pattern wherein any projects under the District Council Area should be transferred to the respective District Councils as they are well-equipped with PWD, PHE, Agriculture and Horticulture etc. In the previous government, a Deed of Agreement was signed with one firm and I would like to be aware if this will continue in this government.

On the topic of Animal & Husbandry, I have been in this Department for 5 years and is truly my area of interest. However, there are disagreements among the officials regarding the outsourcing and privatization of the Ramrikawn Animal Feed Plant. Dr. K. Beichhua replaced me who was not able to privatized it and I request the Minister to consider on this matter.

Without the increase in tax collection and minimal sources of revenues, Mizoram is in a dire need of finances. Thus, the Vety Department could be the light at the end of the tunnel. The 'Zoram Poultry Society' functions under the Director of the Department. Looking at the system in China and Bangkok, we could privatize this sector and hand it over to our entrepreneurs and the government will do the monitoring work. This will increase its efficiency and increase in tax revenues. Since the time of UT, the Vety Department was given a parcel of land on countryside. However, it has been lately seen that private individuals want to get hold of the land which is also true with our Chief Minister area Thenzawl. The area was developed for recreational activities, animal rearing, sports complex and installation of fodder plants. I request the Minister to protect these lands in a stringent manner. The Vety Farm at Mampui is also crucial for the Undivided Chhimtuipui for pig and poultry farming. It should be revamped and developed for better utilization.

Moving on to Health & Family Welfare, as I have mentioned numerous times in the House, my constituency is in a remote area. The Longpuighat PHC was constructed under NHM during the Congress government but it has not been utilized till today. Additionally, the Bungtlang South PHC building is in an impoverished state with just 2 nurses and 1 doctor. The cover area is huge and is extremely understaffed. We also need Health Sub-Centre and clinic at Lawngtlai West.

With regard to Tourism Department, I find it appalling to see that the tourist lodge at Bungtlang South has not been inaugurated for more than 5 years. It has now become a small jungle. The village is big with many visitors and I request the government to take the necessary steps as soon as possible.

Pu Speaker, I support the demands of our Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let the Aizawl West-I MLA, Pu TBC Lalvenchhunga be invited.

PU TBC LALVENCHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, thank you.

There are differences in our Rural Development Department and the line-ministry at the Centre. I hope this would be resolved in the coming years. Under the LAD, we still have ₹102 crores under the Central Scheme, RGSA. We could also still get ₹76 crores as *tight* and *untight grant* as per the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission. Not only this, as per the Mizoram Financial Second Recommendation, we could retrieve a GIA of ₹17.94 crores. I highlighted all these potentials as we have put ₹170 crores for the salary expenses of workers in the ADC area and ₹280 crores for the area outside ADCs. I want the public to realize that we need better devolution of power in term of Funds, Function and Functionaries in the state.

The 2nd Finance Commission has been approved. Under the State Own Tax Revenue, 42% is for vertical devolution. From this, 90% will go to the administration of the ADCs and the rest 10% will be distributed among the 800n Village councils. We have to re-examine the justification of the 2nd Finance Commission as it is the backbone of administration. We also have to devise a convergence plan for better and effective functioning of administration so that it will bring true grassroot development.

Moving on, the entire Art & Culture Budget is equal to the GIA under Commerce & Industries Board and this is a concerning issue that needs to be re-examined. Regarding the AH & Vety Department, we need to focus on border ceiling to protect our cattle and farmers from viruses and diseases from outside. I am glad to see more money for fodder feed development which will bring us to the road of sustainability in term of animal feeds. Committees have been set up for the consideration of privatizing this sector. I hope to see good results in this front.

As of Demand No. 31, 37 and 47, the salary expenses for Agriculture are decreased by ₹500 crores. FOCUS has been revamped with ₹63 crores and this will be supervised for result-oriented projects. One different thing about this year's Budget is the increase in Capital Resources Budget. We have ₹1384 crores for Link Road development and with FOCUS funds, it totals up to ₹7,704 crores for capital expenditure.

The Cooperative Department is the forerunner of hand-holding policies. We have started seeing the works of Primary Agriculture Credit Society in this regard.

PU TBC. LALVENCHHUNGA: Lastly, I do hope that there will be structural reform in Health & Family Welfare. Our health infrastructure relies on central sponsor scheme and as such we require a proper and significant plan to maintain quality control. Salary for Women & Child Development decreased by 16 crores, what is the reason for this? Also, I believe there is room for improvement in the way we operate rehabilitation and deaddiction centres.

Pu Speaker, I support the demands submitted by the ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I will start with Demand No.43 Tourism Department. It is disheartening to see what other states have done for tourism. Why can't our states what other states can achieve? Why can't we attract more tourist? The department needs to do more to attract tourists.

Social Welfare Department is a big department with a wide purview. There has been no new recruitment for quite some time now and the number of pensioners has increased. At this rate, the department might collapse. Priority should be given to recruiting more staff.

Under Demand No.24 Health & Family Welfare, priority should be given to primary healthcare. Healthcare should be started from primary level. There are many areas without doctors or nurses and these should be taken care of as soon as possible.

Agriculture should be able to boost the economy and we have not been able to achieve that as of now. I believe we have not really explored the core of agriculture and I hope that the new ministry would be able to do that.

It is discouraging to see that the budget estimate for Co-operation Department is lower than 10 years ago. Agriculture, horticulture and sericulture all depends on this department for their success. We have to give priority and more importance to Co-operation Department.

Moving on to Demand No.34 AH & Veterinary Department. I have been pondering that we are not self-sufficient in milk and egg production. We have potential and potential areas to achieve this. The ministry needs to concentrate on these areas.

Lastly, I support the demands submitted by the ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. I will start with Local Administration Department which is feel is the most important. It has a wide purview and requires strong support from the government. There has been delay in the release

of RDSA fund for repairing and construction and I kindly request the hon. Minister to solve this issue.

Under Tourism Department, our main focus should be on domestic tourism. We have an 'untamed sanctuary' in Dampa Tiger Reserve and this can be turned into tourist attraction without destroying the ecological balance.

We have a very complicated situation under Social Welfare Department (Demand No.29). In my constituency, we have several unfinished buildings meant for sub-centres, schools and community halls under Multi Sectoral Development Project. This project was substituted by PMJVK and we have not been able to receive the second installment and as such, construction work for these buildings have now ceased. I urge the hon. Minister to look into these matters.

Lastly, I support the demands submitted by the hon. Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I will start with Demand No. 19 Local Administration Department. The term for Village Council was amended to 5 years, it was felt that this was too long. Can the term be changed back to 3 years?

We have several parks that serve as a great resource mobilization such as LAD Park, Lalsavunga Park, Brig. T. Sailo Park, District Parks and some from Lunglei District. They need to be better maintained as they serve as a source of income for the government.

Under Demand No. 23 Art & Culture Department, I implore the government to give more importance to Mim Kut and recognize it as a state holiday. Also, there is acute shortage of instructors.

Moving on to Demand No.27 District Council & Minority Affairs, District Councils have autonomy under the 6th Schedule. We should give respect to our own rules and regulations. We need to work together to understand each other better.

Under Demand No.31 Agriculture Department, the government put agriculture as a priority sector and have declared that it will be society based. In order to succeed in agriculture, we need agriculture link road. Urban farming was also introduced and mentioned, how will this be implemented? Will solar cold storage be installed?

Even though the new ministry gave importance to Co-operation Department (Demand No.37), this does not reflect in the budget estimate. They need to be strengthened in terms of capital and manpower.

Health & Family Welfare Department (Demand No. 24) is an important department. Health sector is a priority sector and as such they must be given priority. I am glad that Zoram Medical College will be under the responsibility of Mizoram government.

District hospitals must be equipped with better machineries as this is an ongoing problem. We also need to provide more medical kit to CHC's, PHC's and sub-centres.

Moving on to Demand No.43 Tourism Department, even though we have outsourced the maintenance of tourist lodges around Mizoram, the government needs to supervise the upkeep of these lodges. They also need to improve services as well as the upkeep of the buildings.

Lastly, I give my support to the demands submitted by the hon. Ministers. Thank you.

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

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to assure the staffs at ZMC society that we will be doing things the way that is favorable for them.

The second installment for Village Council from Finance Commission grant will be handed out soon.

The budget for Autonomous District Council is made by Finance Commission and as such we have no authority over it.

I have also visited Castle of Beino and I would also like to see it developed as a tourist attraction. I urge the department to prepare a DPR for this so that we can find ways to develop it.

After outsourcing the maintenance of tourist lodges, we expect the service and maintenance to be better than before. However, this is not the case from my experience. I regret to say that the service and maintenance has declined considerably.

The budget for Chapchar Kut will be sanctioned from Art & Culture Department from now on. I believe a review committee is necessary as there is room for improvement. Lastly, I give my support to the demands submitted by the hon. Ministers. Thank you.

SPEAKER: We will have a short break and continue the Session at 6:30 PM.
(Recess)

6:45 PM

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

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is an honor to be able to stand here today and I thank the members for participating in the discussion for my demands. I also thank my constituency, Aizawl South-I and the officers and staffs from my concerned department.

Starting with Demand No.19, Local Administration Department, the budget estimate for the department is Rs. 2626.53 lakh. Second installment unreleased fund from 15th Finance Commission Grant from 2021-2022 was released on 22nd February 2024. 1st Installment for 2022-23 will also be released soon.

The government has decided to use the Panchayati Raj System for which village council rules and regulations is currently being revised. Also, The Mizoram Village Council Bill is also currently being prepared.

Budget for repair and construction of village council houses is expected to be completed by 2025-26 under RGSA.

Eleven LAD parks are outsourced and have been earning revenue for the State. Agreement for the maintenance of this park, rules and regulations have been made with the concerned authority.

Two junior Engineer posts is expected to be filled up soon.

As per Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission rules, outsourcing of maintenance of streetlights should be under the purview of Local Administration Department and Power & Electricity Department.

Construction of Hnahthial Panchayat Resource Centre is 43% completed and we plan to completed the construction by the expected date.

Since Khawzawl DLO does not yet have a separate office, they are attached to Champhai DLO Office. **(Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Opp. Leader:** Pu Speaker, what is the stance of the government in regards to reducing the term of village council from 5 years to 3 years?) We will look into this after consultation with the concerned authority and advisers.

Under Art & Culture Department, currently there are vacancies for 2 dance instructor and 4 music instructor post. As to staff shortage, cultural exchange programme, cultural meet and other donations, we will think about it in the near future.

Budget estimate for District Council & Minority Affairs Department is ₹6,12,17,14,000 and have increased from previous years. 94 projects were received under PMJVK and the 1st installment for these projects have already been received. The 2nd installment is expected soon.

Deed of agreement was made with NECS. However, they withdrew from the agreement. **(Pu C. Ngunlianchunga:** Can PMJVK Scheme from District Council be given to them directly instead of giving it first to Sports Department and ICT?)

After the ongoing projects are completed, we will have to review and examine them first.

Ground survey is currently being carried out for ways to increase production of eggs. This is done so that we can be self-sufficient in egg production.

Pu Speaker, I request the House to pass my demands-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
19	Local Administration	2,08,31,40,000.00
23	Art & Culture	14,59,20,000.00
27	District Council & Minority Affairs	6,12,17,14,000.00
34	Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	70,10,78,000.00
TOTAL		9,05,18,52,000.00

Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister Pu C. Lalsawivunga has request the permission of the House to pass his demands-

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
19	Local Administration	2,08,31,40,000.00
23	Art & Culture	14,59,20,000.00
27	District Council & Minority Affairs	6,12,17,14,000.00
34	Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	70,10,78,000.00
TOTAL		9,05,18,52,000.00

Are we in agreement? (Members: Agree). The house has unanimously passed the demands submitted by the hon. Minister Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

Let us now call upon the hon. Minister Pu PC. Vanlalruata to windup.

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Starting with Co-operation Department, it is regretful that the department does not seem to be a priority for the members as only 3 members have discussed this department.

The ministry will give priority to Co-operation Department in line with the central government. Model by-law will soon to be introduced as well as Multipurpose Primary Agriculture Credit Society. We expect several grants from central government as well.

If computerization is introduced we can monitor from Aizawl and District Headquarters regularly. The government will try to make a more precise plan. However, we have a shortage in staff. Co-operation Officers cannot be placed in every District. We hope to be glorified in the future. In the past Mizoram Co-operative Development Council was established. However, in this new government, we will try to establish the Co-operative Development Council.

Right now we have no Co-operative Office in three Districts. When the department is expanded, we hope to move forward as soon as possible. Fortunately, the National Co-operative Development Corporation Sub-Office will be opened at the Registrar's Office, Aizawl. They are mainly concentrated in PACS and Farmer Producers Organization and give grant. We hope we will reap a profit from them.

Next, I will go to Irrigation Department. Agriculture and Irrigation Departments used to be the same department and the separation was not that long. Now, we have a large office headed by the Chief Engineer. At the same time, we can only have Division Office in 4 Districts and Sub-Division in 10 Districts. Shortage of staff is a big issue and 44.49% is vacant. Recently, the Finance Minister cum hon. Chief Minister approved our request for recruitment of 3 Junior Grade MES. We are grateful and hope this will fill many of our needs.

We think our budget for this year is very reasonable. While our budget may not be large, its increase rate is 85.66. This will be put in the Capital Head and we hope we can do some works. Central Scheme like Surface Minor Irrigation Scheme, and under PMKSY – har khet ko pani 40 crore has been allocated for 36 new projects and the ongoing projects. Under PMKSY – har khet ko pani scheme, 13 projects for Ground Water Irrigation Scheme was completed and 20 crore was allocated for more projects. Under the Flood Management Programme 50 lakh was allocated for the implementation of Anti Erosion Scheme. In addition, DPR for Anti Erosion Scheme III has been prepared and is currently being implemented. Chief Engineer and SE from Brahmaputra Board visited the site on 19 to 23.

PM-KUSUM is related to today members' question. Under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy 1700 water pumps using solar pumps for farmers was constructed. We will start with 200 units as we do not have enough vendors. In Mizoram water

sources are in different areas and that causes a problem. While the government is ready to implement the project, the vendors are not able to take immediate action. However, we are trying to start as much as possible. Several irrigation projects have been completed under NABARD from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and several projects underway. Tuidai Multipurpose Project at Mamit has already received sanction from NABARD at 29.40 crore. It is now ready and sanctioned, if there no other problem it tender will be processed immediately. NABARD sanction of 6.05 crore has been received for 4 Ground Water Irrigation Projects. There are much development to do in Irrigation & Water Resources. Real Time Data Acquisition System (RTDS) has been installed in various parts of Mizoram. Water vapor and soil erosion rate are measured at all times and records are provided to the State Data Centre CE Office through satellite. It is sent back to the National Water Informatics Centre. These are the most important water resources initiatives we are taking.

Mizoram State Water Security Plan is being prepared with the National-in-Chief of Ideology, Roorkee, I think this is very important. By 2050, some of us may not be there. So for the future generations if our water resources are not properly managed, the younger generations will suffer. Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma from Tuichawng constituency said that ‘irrigation projects should be implemented on a potential area bases’. I want to inform him that irrigation project is according to the command area bases and potential area was divided into Horticulture and Agriculture or, WRC area. Under NABARD RIDF-29, step was taken in different areas. I want the member from N. Vanlaiphai to know that Ground Water Irrigation projects are being implemented in North Vanlaiphai . I want to react on what Er. H. Lalzirliana from Mamit constituency said. Mamit District is one of the most WRC potential areas in Mizoram. In spite of this, they do not have District Irrigation Office or Sub-division Office. For agriculture to be successful irrigation is a must. The department has Division Offices in only 4 Districts out of 11 Districts in Mizoram. I want to promise that we will continue to work in Mamit. Let us hope we will have a Division someday. Also we are thankful that our budget increase at 15.30%.

Pu Speaker, I will go to Agriculture Department. Our budget increases at 19.35%. Revenue head is 12,614.12 lakh and Capital head is 7703.84 lakh. The department is the flagship of this new government. It is the nodal department for marketing. Therefore, we have to work much harder. I think our colleagues, our officials who are experts in agriculture are very excited and their excitement inspire me. After 25 years of following our Chief Minister, whose main theme is ‘agriculture’, I feel very fortunate to become the Agriculture Minister. I want to thank God and the people of my constituency.

Under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Scheme, there are many scheme implemented for some time. For example – ‘Digital Agriculture Mission’, under this scheme e-governance plan is being implemented for agriculture farmers. We are currently working on it and is scheduled to be completed within 3 years. It is fortunate

to have such Central Scheme. If this is successfully implemented, farmers in the State will be managed with accurate data. Steering Committee and Implementation Committee have been formed and 19,52,00,000/- is being earmarked for running the project. We may ask the usefulness of Digital Agriculture. It is a very useful tool for farmers as it is important to make farmer data base. With the official we started with 'know your farmers'. We need to know our farmers very well. Under this we need to make land records data base and agriculture marketing system. Digital platforms, soil data base, data apps for farmers, land resource inventory and GIS technology will be incorporated into the digital mission. National Edible Oil is being implemented in mustard oil, soya bean, and sunflower, peanut and other crops. Agriculture biggest problem is marketing, and the new government will try to pursue marketing in this regard. Under this mission, tree borne oil is now produced from Malabar tamarinds (chengkek). However, we are going to concentrate on vernicia fordii (Tung), and with AMFU as partner we are taking a step to implement in the New Year.

RKVY was used effectively in the previous government and we intend to use it more effectively. Under this, we plan to implement vegetable supply chain. As planned, we make DPR and 20 crore was allocated for wholesale go- down at Aizawl gateway and has been earmarked for DPR. RKVY is DPR based and will be useful on other schemes. We will earnestly try to get fund from Central Scheme as Mizoram budget is limited.

Sub Mission Agriculture Mechanization, under which Central allocation of 20.31 crore has been received for 2024-2025. Tractor and other equipment for farmers like grass cutter etc., are prepared for handing out. For 2024-2025 allocation is being received from the Central Scheme such as:

(a)	Agriculture Extension (ATMA)	-	9 crore
(b)	Nation Food Security & Mission	-	2.80 crore
(c)	Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Materials (SMSP)	-	2 crore
(d)	National Mission on Edible Oil, (Oil Palm)	-	30.97 crore
(e)	National Mission on Edible Oil (Oil Seed)	-	8.70 crore
(f)	Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region	-	33.50 crore
(g)	RKVYD DPR based	-	7.70 crore
(h)	RKVY Plant base (Soil Health & Fertility)	-	2.9 crore
(i)	Rain-fed Area Development	-	5.50 crore
(j)	Sub Mission on Agriculture Mechanization	-	12.3 crore
(k)	Per drop, more drops	-	27 crore
(l)	Agro-Forestry	-	2 crore

We have already got allocation for these.

NABARD provide loan for Warehouse Infrastructure Fund and 9.5 crore was received. 9.5 from NABARD and 5 was from State Matching share. 30.75 crore has already been

received from NABARD's Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RID) for construction of 46 agriculture link roads.

Fostering Climate Resilient Upland Farming System (FOCUS) project was launched on January 25, 2018 and will end on March 31, 2024. Step was taken in 6 Districts and they are doing well. We cannot cover the entire District yet and asked for extension period. Approval to implement FOCUS 2.0 in 11 Districts was approved by the Govt. of Mizoram. The concept note is being prepared for submission to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, we hope to submit soon. 6320/- lakh was allocated by the State Government for matching share. We are going to have an achievement. With the initiative of Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research and Ministry of Agriculture, at West Serzawl we expect to produce oil palm seed in 2025-2026. ICAR scientists monitor the project. Oil palm seed production is expected to produce 5 lakh per annum and the government is expected to earn a revenue of 175 lakh per annum.

The new government has a clear policy plan, among which we call it 'collective farming'; we will give great importance to cluster approach, in our own word 'zau policy'. We are trying to implement 'phai zau' and 'zo zau'. Every government wants to develop agriculture, but farmers are taking step in different areas. This causes problems as they cannot be helped in agriculture link road, irrigation and other things. In order to avoid the problems, the new government tries to develop a lot of 'zau'. The new government is planning to implement agriculture and horticulture in a systematic manner. For this purpose, we will try to implement a well-planned 'zau' policy.

We have to make clarification on the issue of not buying broom. The Central Government tries to force Agriculture Produce & Livestock Marketing Promotion of Facilitation Bill in all States. Draft Bill, 2024 is being prepared and will be submitted to the Cabinet. Agriculture Marketing Board will be established as promised. As marketing is important to us we make a plan. Operational Guidelines for Agriculture Market Assurance Fund was set up and was approved and passed by the Cabinet. As the Chief Minister gives important, a fund of 110 crore was allocated. However, we have no definite plan yet, so we cannot make any move in purchase. As such, there is no way for us to purchase broom. I want to inform the members that 110 crore was approved by the Finance yesterday. Agriculture marketing will be given great importance by the new government. This new government will try to create a country where farmers will no longer be disappointed as before. Therefore, ZPM will take action for the farmers in ginger, chili, turmeric and broom. Then we will notify the crop under the Agriculture Market Assurance Fund as promised by the ZPM. Minimum support price will be implemented at the current rate.

Therefore, farmers are very excited about the ZPM government. They do not want to harvest ginger yet and store for later cultivation. The government will take steps to fulfill their responsibilities. Market assurance will be provided to our farmers. Beside

this, we have to follow up with the processing unit. Even now, we are taking immediate action. We are consulting with experts as much as we can. Under the hand holding policy, we believe that we will use our youth, our entrepreneur very well. Through hand holding policy, we hope our youth will also find jobs. Therefore, if we can pay the minimum support price for our product, the farmers will be satisfied, and our economy will grow significantly. Agriculture is the most important key to economic development.

The Chief Minister promotes crop insurance for a period of 25 years. Today, crop insurance is a must in our country. We have to cover our farmers with crop insurance as their crops can be damaged. The government has allocated 15 lakh for a start in the budget. We invited Agriculture Insurance Policy of India and sensitization campaign was conducted in State level on February, 22 and 23. We may not be able to start on all crops yet, we hope to start on a couple of crops and try to have plan for this purpose. From Brig. T. Sailo's period, agriculture potential of the south was held in important. The Chief Ministers of the country all gives important to sufficient in food grains. To eat our product of rice is a very popular theme.

Agriculture land potential in the country is 74,644 hectares, of which 15,964 hectares has been successfully used. The rest is still useless. Therefore, the new government said 'Look South Policy' is needed. Agriculture and Irrigation Department in collaboration with MIRSAC initiated by Planning & Programme Implementation conduct a study using Remote Sensing Technology for potential areas for cultivation. The new government will look towards Chamdun, Betsuri and Palak.

Pu Speaker, as I am very interested in Agriculture, Irrigation & Water Resources, and Co-operation, there are many things to discuss. Our officials are open minded and are very easy to work with. Now, I will react to the government intention in implementing urban farming. Urban farming in Aizawl was very successful in Aizawl during covid. Aizawl has many large houses and useless rooftop. Urban farming was included while drafting this policy. As we think rooftop farming can be done and intend to promote it, we included in Sustainable Development & Reform Policy. We included Hydroponic farming; it is a method of growing crops on rooftop without soil.

There are many things to discuss in these departments. However, as our time does not permit us to have a long discussion. Agriculture, Irrigation and Co-operation covers all areas. I want the opposition to come forward for the development of their constituency and we will do our utmost. We will also established Multipurpose Co-operative Society in the opposition constituency as well. We want to establish as many as possible within Mizoram for our development.

Pu Speaker, I beg this august House to pass my demands for the goods of our country. My demands are –

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
31	Agriculture	2,03,17,96,000.00
37	Co-operation	15,16,74,000.00
47	Irrigation & Water Resources	1,03,18,23,000.00
TOTAL		3,21,52,93,000.00

SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister Pu PC. Vanlalruata beg the Houseto pass his demands –

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
31	Agriculture	2,03,17,96,000.00
37	Co-operation	15,16,74,000.00
47	Irrigation & Water Resources	1,03,18,23,000.00
TOTAL		3,21,52,93,000.00

Those who agree please say ‘yes’, and those who are not say ‘no’. (Members agree). The hon. Minister Pu PC. Vanlalruata’s demands is passed by the House unanimously. (**Pu PC. Vanlalruata, Minister** : Pu Speaker, thank you).

Now, we will call upon the hon. Minister Pi Lalrinpuui to wind-up and react as necessary and beg the House to pass her demands.

PI LALRINPUUI, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. 23 members discusses Tourism, 5 participate in WCD. Tribal Affairs was discussed by 6 members and Health Department by 15 members. I have prepared my wind-up notes and want to react to every member’s discussion. However, our time goes fast, I will instead give them in writing if they want with your permission. I request them to hear me till the end.

First, I will go to Demand No. 43 – Tourism Department. In the past tourism development was focused on infrastructure. Tourist Lodges are built in many places and DPRs was prepared for Tourist Destination. Many of the projects are still in progress. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Prasad’s project ‘Development of Vangchhia’ in Champhai District and the Director Pi Lalrodingi and delegation were also present. The tourism sector development in the previous governments is very commendable and we will continue the good work. I will describe the various steps we have taken to achieve a new approach in tourism sector:

1) The most important thing for the success of tourism is the ‘people’. Therefore, we are trying to implement community based tourism to bring a new approach.

2) The Tourism Department is committed to achieve sustainable development in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Targets. Its goals can be achieved for tourism development –

Goal No. 1 - *no poverty*

Goal No. 3 - *good health and well being*

Goal No. 5 - *gender equality*

Goal No. 6 - *clean water & sanitation*

Goal No. 7 - *affordable and clean energy*

Goal No. 8 - *decent work & economic growth*

Tourism Development is the key to rural Development. It aims to ensure thoroughly sustainable development for our children and future generations and to ensure that tourism is an inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

3) 4/5 villages will be selected as pilot phase tourism villages and SWOT Alliance will be implemented to develop tourism. In addition, I request MLAs to adopt tourism villages in their constituency. The government has set us a revenue target of 350/- lakh.

4) Greeters are being installed at the airport so that tourist can arrive in Mizoram comfortably

5) We intend to follow privatization outsourcing. We think it would be good to consider privatizing the loss-making infrastructure we have.

6) We are taking step to ensure that there is a Five Star Hotel in Mizoram in order to accommodate conferences held in Mizoram.

7) Event calendar has been prepared for tourists to visit Zoram in a planned manner. Tour packages have been prepared in collaboration with tour operators in Mizoram and abroad. We will market it and use it for income generation.

8) Guidelines for Home-Stay are being revised for rural tourism enthusiasts.

9) Step was taken to form tourist vehicle team to avoid high fare for tourist. We have met three times and had many discussions with senior officers.

10) Training on Capacity Building is very important and is in line with our party manifesto 'hand holding policy'. In addition, communication skill for airport police duty and training in collaboration with Home Department will be conducted.

As of December, 2023-2024, Mizoram has 152,413 domestic tourists, 2503 foreign tourists, totaling to 154,916. Right now, we have the following projects –

- a) Development of village based on eco-tourism at Khamrang in Mizoram under NESID.
- b) Development of Mt. Mawma Ecological Park at Chakhei under NEC. We plan to have the opening in early April.
- c) Development of Beraw Tourist Resort, Aizawl under SASCI.
- d) Up gradation of rural road in 02 Districts of Mizoram – Reiek, Samtlang and Tlungvel.

- e) Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage & Heritage Tourism in the State of Mizoram under Prasad Scheme.
- f) PCC road at Bawngkawn Farm Veng, Sairang Dinthar.
- g) Laying of Golf Course Paver Block at Thenzawl.
- h) Up gradation of Chawngte Tourist Lodge. (this is my answer to hon. member Pu Robert Romawia's question)
- i) Development of Convention Centre Scheme for Extension of Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development, ongoing works of WAPCO.

So, as mentioned earlier, we have a lot of things for development of tourism. Having in mind the potential we are developing detailed projects. DPIIT approved the DPR submitted for Unity Mall and gave us a fund allocation of 127/- crore. It was still under Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure for sanction.

Under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 project, Aizawl and Champhai Destination was selected. Swadesh Darshan 2.0 is a Central Sector Scheme and was 100% funding. The Central selected Asis India Consulting Engineer Pvt. Ltd., for its project consultant. The Project Manager sit in Aizawl and master plan for Aizawl and Champhai Destination is being drawn up.

Development of Widening at Saireptlang is being implemented by NESID OTRI under Ministry of DoNER and was submitted to Planning & Programme Department. Challenge base destination under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 is being implemented in collaboration with DC Chairman, Destination Management Committee and the following proposals have been submitted to the Ministry of Tourism –

- a) Integrated Development of Spiritual Tourism at Lunglei in Lunglei District.
- b) Development of Village base eco-tourism at Lungdai in Kolasib District.
- c) Reliving the pass tourism and heritage works at Lungleng in Aizawl.
- d) Promoton of eco-tourism and Amrit Dharohar Ramsar Site at Palak Lake in Siaha District.
- e) Provision of basic amenities in heritage site at Vangchhia under PRASAD. The proposal is being reviewed by Ministry of Tourism.
- f) Safety of Women Travellers under Nirbhaya Scheme is a tourism development proposal for the safety of women travellers.

The Tourism budget for 2023-2024 is 6.28/- lakh less than the previous year. This is mainly due to the decline in budget allocation for Major Works put under Infrastructure Assets, and GIS salary. State Matching Share of 38/- lakh has been allocated for the Safety of Women Travellers under Nirbhaya Scheme. I convey my thanks to the Finance Minister for allocating 133.61/- lakh for implementation of projects under NABARD.

Now, let us go to Social Welfare. The department has two Directorates – Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs and Women & Child Development. The department is very extensive and I am very excited. I will go first with Women & Child Development. In addition to child care, we have women empowerment and protection programme such as –(1) Sahsham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0. (2) Mission Vatsalya (3) Mission Shakti (4) Beti Bachao, Beti Padhan (BBBP) (5) Samarth.

We have PMMVY scheme and let me elaborate on the achievements under this particular scheme – Under this scheme, we are the 4th best performing state in India and the 1st in Northeast. Serchhip District received the national best district Award in 2018 and 2019. 36,207 pregnant women received this benefit. We have women rehabilitation center under Shakti Sadan scheme, and three Shakti Niwas Working Women Hostel in Mizoram. Under a new scheme Paalna, which is a Creche, we have approval for construction of 155 Anganwadi-cum-Creche.

In addition, we have various Boards and Commissions for women and children. They are –

- 1) Mizoram State Commission for Women.
- 2) Mizoram State Social Welfare Board.
- 3) Mizoram State Commission for Protection of Child Right Act.
- 4) Mizoram State Council for Child Welfare.

In addition, women protection law such as –

- 1) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- 2) The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013.
- 3) Mizoram Prohibition of Child Marriage Rules, 2010.
- 4) They are implemented and enforced.

On Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs Department. I am pleased to present a budget that includes the lessen of the burden of the former leaders of the country. For transportation of deceased bodies ₹500/- lakh was allocated from Object Head 49-ORE. In addition, NSAP Scheme, which we used to know as old-age pension, widow pension, and disabled pension will increased from ₹100/- to ₹1000/-. The Finance Minister has included ₹325.56 lakh for old-age pension, ₹277.20 lakh for widow pension and ₹8904 lakh for disabled pension, I am very thankful to him.

As we all know, drugs invaded our country and destroyed the mind and body of our youth. This destroyed our country and families. Therefore, the Chief Minister made it a priority in the 100 days programme. This department held Consultative meetings with Women Leaders of various Churches, Women's NGO Leaders with department officials. ₹10 lakh was allocated under Object head 31, GIA General for drug addicts. Besides, Gender Budget was introduced for the first time under our department.

In addition to these, there are many on going works such as – Residential Institution & Training Centre for Tribal Youth (RITC) at Durtlang, State Social Welfare & Rehabilitation Center at Chanmari West, State Senior Citizen's Home at Ainawn Veng, drug education, prevention and treatment activities under the Mizoram Social Defense & Rehabilitation Board. Rehabilitation Home for Persons Care of mental Illness is currently established in Ainawn Veng.

Disability Pension, Stipend, Educated Unemployed, Handicap Students were given stipend under Welfare of Handicap, Disability. Besides this, we have Economic Rehabilitation Programme for handicap person. Also, Article 275 provides for various development works. I am also very thankful that we made progress in the management and expansion of the existing EMRS, which we call 'Eklavya School'.

Finally, we will go to Demand No. 24 – Health & Family Welfare Department. Under the Principle Secretary, we have Administrative Department. There are 4 Directorates under the Principle Director such as – Directorate of Health Services, Directorate of Health & Medical Education, Directorate of Ayush, and Directorate of Nursing. Beside these four there are National Health Mission, Zoram Medical College, Mizoram health Care Society, Mizoram State Aids Control Society. Under DHME there is Mizoram Cancer Institute. There are 10 large establishment and let me mentioned their works.

Directorate of Health Services:

1. Under NABARD's 29 IGF ₹20 crore and ₹5 crore was allocated for these works – Tlabung Sub-Division Hospital, PHE-2, Sub-Center-14 and 8 Quarters.
2. Construction of Central Medical House at Muallungthu with ₹13 crore from NEC.
3. Construction of Senior Chief medical Officer office building in three new Districts – Khawzawl, Saitual and Hnahthial is nearing completion under Mizoram Health System Strengthening Project (MHSSP).
4. Biometric Attendance was introduced at Directorate of Hospital and Medical Education, Civil Hospital, Aizawl and Kulikawn Hospital. Preparation was made to introduce Biometric Attendance under Health & Family Welfare Department's offices. We are taking this seriously as it is the Chief minister's 100 days achievement. We intend to introduce in offices under my charge.
5. Civil hospital, Aizawl has digitized all patient records for 10 years and I opened it the other day.
6. 23 CCTV Cameras with dual monitoring system was installed for the safety of patient and staff.
7. Hospital Pharmacy, which was closed since 28.2.2024 was reopened. This was especially useful for Dialysis, Cardiology and ICU patients. Besides, Aushadhi – cheap medicine store was reopened.
8. Hospital website is available for easy access to doctor duty hours, Birth & Death Certificate application and various schemes. We apply for changing the address to CHS.Mizoram.gov.in.

9. Trial run was conducted to ensure that OPD registration, UPI payment and SMS Lab. report were easily accessible to the public.
10. Civil Hospital has made great progress. A new Counter for pregnant women, new OPD for old-age was developed. Now we have six counters.
11. Mizoram first Viral Load Machine for HIV infection and treatment response and drug resistance detection machine was installed at Civil Hospital, Aizawl.
12. Project of 22 crore for construction of 100 bedded District Hospital and purchase of equipment has been received from NESIDS.
13. Project of 12.42 crore for upgradation of Cardiology Department, Civil Hospital, Aizawl was received from NESIDS.
14. Construction of Dialysis Unit at Civil Hospital was constructed under NEC fund of ₹63,45,000/-. Civil work was completed and purchase was to be made through GEM.
15. Project under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for construction of Trauma Center at Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Siaha, Kolasib, Champhai and Serchhip was completed. On-going work at Civil hospital.
16. Construction of Laboratory Building at Civil Hospital, Aizawl at the cost of ₹396 lakh under SASCI was allocated to State PWD and work is underway.
17. From Power Grid Corporation, CSR fund of ₹21 crore was received for construction of 100 bedded District Hospital at Serchhip. Work order was released and work will start soon.
18. Oxygen Generating Plant – refilling station at Pukpui, Lunglei was installed with fund from Mizoram Strengthening of Health Infrastructure for Comprehensive Response to Possible Outbreak of Covid 19. We are considering the staff.
19. For construction of three new District Hospitals fund was received from NESIDS. Contractor for Khawzawl and Hnahthial was selected and Saitual will also be soon selected.
20. Knowing our desire to run Tertiary Sector, the hon. Minister for UD&PA gives us fund for MRI machine at Aizawl Civil Hospital. Tender is being issued for the procurement of the equipment. I convey my thank on behalf of the people.
21. Two posts of Super Specialist sub-cadre was created. One post in Nephrology and one in Surgical Oncology was filled and one in Cardiology was vacant.
22. Recruitment of Specialist Doctor is underway. MPSC already issued advertisement for Orthopedic – 1, Gynecology – 1, Ophthalmology – 1 and Radiology – 1.

Ayushman Bharat –

1. 38 Sub-Centers were upgraded to Ayush Health & Wellness Centre. Step was taken to upgrade other 3 Sub-Centers.
2. Construction of 50 bedded Ayush Hospital at Kulikawn Hospital, Aizawl and 10 bedded Ayush Hospital at Keifang underway.
- 3.16 Ayush Health & Wellness Centers received NABH (good quality) accreditation. We are the first in India to receive NABH Accreditation.

4. Herbal garden was set up in 38 Ayush Health & Wellness Centers. The State Medicinal Plants Board, Director of Ayush in collaboration with Department of School Education is setting up herbal garden in 52 schools.
5. 5 Ayush Sub-Cadre Medical Officers was recruited.

Mizoram Medical College –

1. 5 Associate Professors, 28 Staff Nurses, and 2 Medical Record Technicians are being recruited.
2. 95 MBBS 1st Batch are currently doing internship. Among these 75 are Mizo.
3. Projects and Research are being carried out in ZMC.
4. 2 Residential Hostels for men and women worth 20/- crore was constructed under NESIDS.
5. Construction of 60 bedded intern facility worth 6.7 crore under NEC was started.
6. Construction of Morbi Rural Health Research Unit under Department of Health Research worth 2 crore underwent.
7. DPR for the 1st installment of 9.89 crore from the Government of India (Special Package) for the recruitment of college teachers and other employees has been submitted in Delhi.

Directorate of Nursing –

1. Directorate of Nursing was restructured on 9.8.2023 and the Principal Director, H&FW Department took charge.
2. GNM School, Champhai was opened on 18.8.2023. GNM Hostel construction fund of 150/- lakh was received from Central Sector Scheme. 50/- lakh was transferred to PWD, and 100/- lakh was used for purchase of school supplies. 390/- lakh was expected to be received from SASCI for the construction of school. If only 1st installment of was received only 190/- was at disposal. Since 90/- lakh was already a liability, an additional 100/- can only be used for construction. Pu Speaker, I want the Finance Minister to take note of this.
3. Project for up-gradation of Nursing School at Lunglei to Nursing College has been received from CSS Development of Nursing Services. . The State PWD takes step to construct the College building.
4. 20 tutors and 50 Staff Nurse on contract basis were recruited.
5. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India project worth 250/- lakh was used to complete GNM Hostel at Siaha. However, the school building was not yet finish.
6. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India project GNM Hostel at Champhai was handed over to State PWD.

Mizoram State Health Care Society –

1. Mizoram State Health Care Scheme patients' bills Of 14.99 crore was paid in January. The remaining balance 48.56 crore cheque was still in process.
2. The Government is taking steps to reform the health care scheme to become Universal Health Coverage Scheme.

3. To ensure that the people receive their right under healthcare, Inter Ministerial meeting with FCS&CA Minister Pu B. Lalthanzova was held. Action was taken right away in the revision of new ration card.
4. In the planned expansion of healthcare schemes, it will be merged with Central scheme of AB-PMJAY.
5. To improve healthcare scheme, the previous ministry take step to take loan from the Asian Development Bank and we continue to pursue. We hope to sign the agreement on June.

Mizoram State Cancer Institute (MSCI) –

₹700 crore was received from Japan International Cooperation Agency JAICA) for implementation of Mizoram State Specialty Cancer & Research Centre. Project Management Consultant was being selected. The following post are created – Pediatric Care Physician – 1, Medicine Specialist – 1, Grade II MHSGDMO – 1, Grade I MHS Dental Surgeon – 1, Staff Nurse – 10, Laboratory Technician – 2, and Group D – 6. Application for government approval underwent.

National Health Mission –

1. The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme under NHM received first prize from them Population Foundation of India. The award was presented on December 18, 2023 at new Delhi.
2. As of December 2023, 94% of pregnancies were registered on the RCH portal. NHM Mizoram is the best in National level in this regard.
3. As part of its effort to eradicate TB by 2025, the one year TB Elimination Accelerator initiative is being launched in Mizoram with Central TB Division and our partner agencies.

Health & Wellness Centre –

272 Health & Wellness Officers have been recruited in Sub-Centre, Health & Wellness Centers. Aspirational District and Aspirational Block are given priority. In Mizoram we have three Aspirational Block such as – Lungsens, Ngopa, and Reiek.

1. Two Primary Health Centres – Aibawk PHC and Thingsul PHC are certified by National Quality Assurance Standards (QAS).
2. Mosquito nets (medicated) is being distributed in Mizoram Districts to reduce Malaria morbidity and mortality.
3. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is being implemented to ensure that all Mizoram citizens have Ayushman Bharat health Account (ABHA) Unique Health Number.
4. Under Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM) step was taken to install Integrated Public Laboratories in 10 District Hospitals. Critical Care Block worth ₹3 crore is being constructed at Champhai District Hospital.

5. Construction of Block Public Health Unit Laboratory at 7 places under 15th Finance Commission Health Grants was finished.
6. Urban Health & Wellness Centers have been established at 17 places and were stationed in every District Hospital.
7. Construction of 50 bedded Critical Care Block at Zoram Medical College using Emergency Covid Response Plant underwent.

Mizoram Health System Strengthening Project (MHSSP) –

This is a project of World bank. CMO buildings are being constructed in Khawzawl, Hnahthial, and Saitual. Major repair and renovation of District Hospitals at Siaha, Lawngtlai, Champhai and Lunglei is scheduled to be carried out. The Mizoram State Health Care Society (MSHCS) office will be located at Directorate of Health Services building at Dinthar. Clinical knowledge and skill improvement online training for doctors and nurses is conducted and practical sessions are held. 448 doctors and 1130 nurses used the application.

Finally, the CSR fund issue, large companies in the field are paying attention to the health sector in their CSR implementation. Recently, Sri Ramchandra Institute of Higher Education Polur, Chennai in collaboration with CSR team sent their expert doctors to Mizoram to conduct cardiac camp and found 128 people with heart disease. 20 candidates have been elected, out of which 16 have already arrived in Chennai. Beside this, in collaboration with Selco Foundation, 236 PHCs and Sub Centers have been installed roof-top solar through CSR.

Pu Speaker, fund for 100 beds in Kulikawn has been received from NESIDS. Civil Hospital is very congested and footfall is very high. If we have an annexed in Kulikawn, it will be a great relief for the people.

That is the general activities of our department. I would like to thank all the members for looking into my demands and for their enthusiastic discussions. I also like to thank the official for their understanding and cooperation.

Pu Speaker, I beg this august House to pass my demand for the year 2024-2025 as follows –

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
24	Health & Family Welfare	8,39,53,60,000.00
29	Social Welfare	2,47,68,05,000.00
43	Tourism	13,92,80,000.00
TOTAL		11,01,14,45,000.00

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Correction to Pu P.C. Vanlalruata, hon. Minister total of the demand is ₹3,21,52,93,000/- in stead of ₹3,21,52,23,000/-. I apologize for the mistake.

Now, we will take vote on the hon. Minister Pi Lalrinpuui's demands –

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount (in ₹)</i>
24	Health & Family Welfare	8,39,53,60,000.00
29	Social Welfare	2,47,68,05,000.00
43	Tourism	13,92,80,000.00
TOTAL		11,01,14,45,000.00

Those who agree say 'yes' and those who do not say 'no' (*all members agreed*). The demand of hon. Minister pi Lalrinpuui's demands are passed by the House unanimously. (**Pi Lalrinpuui, Minister** : Pu Speaker, thank you).

Today, this august House was chaired by a woman and men are subject to women. I think it is the first time that women ever chair and it is a pleasure to enter a new chapter. Request have been made to address members in third person through the Speaker in the House. However, we have to think twice on this. Today, Panel of Chairmen chaired the House and let us hope to see more often in the future.

Our business for today is over, we will resume the sitting tomorrow, the 8th March, 2024 at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned (9:10 PM)