

**NINTH MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(THIRD SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FIRST SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 20th AUGUST, 2024
(Time 10:30 A.M to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

OBITUARY

1. **PU LALDUHOMA, hon. Chief Minister** to make obituary reference on the demise of **PU KAPOOR CHAND THAKURI, Ex-MLA.**

QUESTIONS

2. **QUESTIONS** entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

ANNOUNCEMENT

3. **THE SPEAKER** to announce Panel of Chairmen.

LAYING OF PAPERS

4. **PU K. SAPDANGA, Minister** to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
 - i) The Lunglei Municipal Council Licensing Regulations, 2024
 - ii) The Lunglei Municipal Council (Control of Parking and Collection of Parking Fees) Regulations, 2024.
 - iii) The Lunglei Municipal Council (Display of Advertisement and Hoarding) Regulations, 2024.
5. **PROF. LALNILAWMA, Minister** to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
 - i) The Mizoram Water Supplies (Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2024.
 - ii) The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Rules, 2024.
6. **PU B. LALCHHANZOVA, Minister** to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Mizoram Consumer Protection (Salary, Allowances and Conditions of Service of President and Members of the State Commission and District Commission) (Amendment) Rules, 2024.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

7. **THE SPEAKER** to present to the House the Third Report of the Business Advisory Committee for the current session.
8. **PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE** to present to the House the following Reports of Public Accounts Committee:
 - i) First Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2016-17 relating to Public Health Engineering Department.
 - ii) Second Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2016-17 relating to Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department (MYC).
 - iii) Third Report on Actions taken by the Government against the re-commendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of Public Accounts Committee (2021-2023) relating to Sports and Youth Services Department.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bills for introduction, consideration and passing

9. **PU K. SAPDANGA, Minister** to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024".

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

10. **PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, Minister** to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Public Records (Amendment) Bill, 2024".

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

VANLALTHANTLINGI
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : *Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.*

-Ecclesiastes 7:9

Greetings to all members and I thank God for bringing us together today to hold the Ninth Mizoram Legislative Assembly (*Third Session*).

OBITUARY:

We have an *obituary* today and we will be paying homage to our former leader Pu Kapoor Chand Thakuri, a former Member of Mizoram Legislative Assembly. I request the Hon' Chief Minister to deliver the eulogy.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Pu Kapoor Chand Thakuri, aged 83 passed away due to hypertension at Nepal Mediciti Hospital, Kathmandu on July 15 (Monday) at 10:00 PM. He was the youngest child of Pu Gopi Chand Thakuri and Pi Kalawati Thakuri and he was born on September 9, 1940 at Maubawk, Aizawl. He married Madhu Rani in November 1973 and they had three sons, two daughters and ten grandchildren. He completed his PUC (Pre-University Course) and completed Hindu Visharad in 1962.

He was a Middle School (M.E) teacher under the Seventh Day Adventist Mission and he was also a teacher at Gorkhali ME School, Aizawl in 1960-1961. He then started his business career. Pu Kapoor Chand Thakuri was once a Treasurer of Gorkha Panchayat and a President of Gorkha Sangh. He was appointed as a Nominated Member of the First Mizoram Union Territory Legislative Assembly on behalf of the Gorkha minority in the Mizo Union Government in 1972. He then settled in Kathmandu after growing old. We had 30 seats in the Assembly at that time and two nominated seats- one from Gorkhali and one from Bru. Our previous leaders were very caring to the minorities. I was the PA to Chief Minister at the time and I was also quite close with Pu Thakuri. Mizoram Government and Mizoram Legislative Assembly are deeply saddened by the death of Pu Kapoor Chand Thakuri and the government is proud of his services to the nation. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request our *Opposition Leader*.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, it is sad that we need to pay homage to our former member Pu Kapoor Chand Thakuri. As mentioned by our House Leader, he was appointed as a nominated member of the First Mizoram Union Territory Legislative Assembly in 1972 and he was among the first to administer the state government. He was invited to attend the Assembly Golden Jubilee but he could not attend due to physical infirmity. We the younger generation have not seen his face nor his performance in the House but he worked hard and made a good contribution

in this House and represented the Gorkhali community. Their family is a Thakuri tribe which is a great tribe and it was said that his grandfather was a Gorkhali soldier in the British war. His mother's brother Zaibil Sahi was also a British soldier. He was appointed by the British as a leader and tax collector among the Gorkhas due to his great service. So, it is said that he came from an exemplary family. He also started his business quite early and it is said that he started Panama Sikret shop at Bazar Bungkawn near traffic point. He was also involved in newspaper and created the Gorkha star. He was a remarkable man and it is unfortunate to lose him and we extend our deepest condolences to his family.

SPEAKER : I request hon. Minister Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I was one of the few members who met Mr. Kapoor Chand Thakuri. They lived near Pu Thangkima watch house. They owned a shop and they were the agents of the famous Panama cigarettes. I heard that he was born at Derugon which is now known as Tuikual. Pu Thakur was a great leader in Nepali society and he was among the first scholar. He joined the Mizo Union Party. Pu Ch. Chhunga was the Chief Minister and he was appointed to the MLA nominated seat. He dedicated himself to Mizoram and I believe that also reflects the situation of the Nepalis. The Nepalis followed the British during the Mizoram expedition and he was the descendant of these early followers. They are a good tribe and they accept his leadership. He joined the Mizo Union Party and did his utmost for the state. Till today, Gorkha brothers and sisters have joined political parties such as Congress, MNF and ZPM because of their love for Mizoram. Therefore, we should appreciate their dedication to the state. We are deeply saddened by his death and we pray that God be with his family.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

SPEAKER : Are there any family members of Pu Kapoor Chand Thakuri present today? The House will now rise for a minute of silence. We will proceed to *Questions and Answers*. Questions and answers will be taken if the owner has any *Supplementary questions* and if there are other *Supplementary questions*, two more questions will be taken. *Starred Question No.1* to be asked by Pu H. Ginzalala, representative of Champhai North constituency.

PU H. GINZALALA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Hon. Horticulture Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If the fruits and vegetables imported from outside the state are inspected for safety.
- b) If not, is it rational to establish a Chemical Testing Laboratory for the livelihood of the youths?

SPEAKER : Hon. Horticulture Minister, Prof. Lalnilawma to answer the question.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is-

- a) The Horticulture Department has no knowledge of the inspection of fruits and vegetables from outside the State since the import and inspection of fruits and vegetables from outside the State is not under the jurisdiction of the Horticulture Department.
 - b) Pesticide Analysis Laboratory for imported fruits and vegetables is a good idea.
- Thank you.

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

PU H. GINZALALA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question might be for the Health Department and I apologize for that mistake. Anyway, I would like the other concerned Departments to consider this as well since it is a necessity. Cancer is quite common in our state and this might be from our vegetables and meat since some are medically treated. So, it would be appreciated if the concerned Departments take this seriously.

My Supplementary question is- We plan to propose horticulture related activities in every constituency and we need several saplings for the next year. Depending on the saplings we receive, we will determine the amount of crop to be harvested this year and it would be appreciated if the Minister could give us such assurance.

Firstly, we are trying to increase the production of oranges and we will need at least 200000 orange saplings. We also plan to implement this at Vaikhawtlang, Tualcheng and Selam. Apple sapling is also planned at Hnahlan and its surrounding areas where we will need about 20,000 saplings. Kiwi cultivation is also planned at Khuangphah, Hnahlan and Diltlang areas. MLA Fund is also used to start this process and we also imported from Arunachal Pradesh. We will need five thousand kiwi saplings and about 20,000 valencia saplings. We plan to carry out cardamom at Tualpui and its surroundings and we will need 50,000-60,000 saplings. The same goes with banana and passion fruit and we plan to carry out passion fruit at Ngur, Khawbung, Hmunhmeltha, Champhai and its surrounding areas. We also plan to carry out lemon at Aiduzawl. So, Pu Speaker, will the hon. minister be able to consider this? Thank you.

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

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. *My Supplementary question is-*

- i) Is there any research on how many households are growing ginger, chilli, broom and turmeric?

- ii) Do these farmers form a Society? Is there any research?
- iii) Does the Government implement research based on these crops?
- iv) Will the Government buy all these crops after the farmers produce them?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from our Woman Legislator, Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi, representative of Aizawl South-III constituency.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Our Minister's answer to (b) is that it is logical. There are many great things to achieve in our state and yet, we see no signs of success and the people are becoming frustrated. Therefore, since our Minister said that it is a great idea to accomplish this, will he be able to take steps and accomplish this for the sake of our youth's livelihood? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Horticulture Minister, Prof. Lalnilarawma to answer the question.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The questioner is working hard for his constituency as seen on his *Supplementary question*. While we recently occupied the office, he said he needed that much of saplings. However, this year's program was planned since last year and we will not be able to accomplish his needs this year. It is difficult to give assurance but it should be noted that it is our initiative. We will take notes on the number of oranges, apple, kiwi, valencia and cardamom saplings and we will send them to the central for next year's plan. We will try to include them depending on the amount we received. Order of 15,000 cardamom saplings were received at Tualpui recently. This is not included on our budget but we supplied them for a test since it is said that it grows well. Banana is also included in our proposal.

In response to Dr. K. Beichhua, ginger is currently cultivated by 25,102 households according to our records and we are currently taking measures at several constituencies. We believe that Multipurpose Farming Cooperative Society has been established in every village and the list has been submitted and we are entering it in the Data Bank. The data entry is a bit complicated and we are working on it. The government is planning to purchase them all but this does not mean that the government will purchase vegetables in cash, the government will be the facilitator in the purchase of vegetables. The Government will not directly buy the products but the Government will facilitate the purchase between the society and the buyers. (**Dr. K. Beichhua:** Pu Speaker, my questions are not fully answered. Are chilli, turmeric and broom conducted in research base?) Yes, a research based was conducted as much as possible. We are estimating the number of new productions and also looking for buyers based on research. However, research can also include lab stage research and we have not yet reached this stage but we hope to continue to do so. The government has fixed the rate of other crops as well. (*Interruption*)

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, *point of clarification* as this is important. The Horticulture Minister has made an explanation but it seems that we are not planning to buy any products and we will be its facilitator. The CM said that grade A and B will be purchased without discrimination. If ginger is bought for `50, does it mean that the government bought it?

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, point of clarification. When it was said that the previous government sold liquors, the government did not sell liquor but it was sold by individuals. It was permitted by the government.

SPEAKER : I request the Minister.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, *point of clarification*. He also said that the rates have been fixed and so, will it be possible to disclose the rates in this House?

SPEAKER : I request the Minister.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I am afraid I will get the rates wrong. Ginger is to be not less than ₹50 and broom is divided into grade A&B where A is ₹100 and B is ₹80. (**PU Lalrintluanga Sailo:** Pu Speaker, how will the grade be divided? Will it be according to the length?) it will be according to the variety and the time of harvest. (*interruption*)

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, point of clarification. Marketing was never dealt by any previous government and therefore, this new government started dealing with the market and form a marketing committee. The government is currently working hard on it and the rates have been notified. The government has now notified all this and we will provide the copies to all the members later. The government will take measures if the price is not higher than the rate fixed by the government. Support prices have been provided and empanel buyers have been appointed. I am making this clarification because there were some questions that were not exactly the concerns of the Horticulture Minister. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request the hon. minister.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we should not worry much whether the government will purchase it or not and the purchase system will come in time. (**Dr. K. Beichhua:** Pu Speaker, I still get no answers regarding chilli and turmeric) The government's stand is that we will buy them according to the fixed rates. (**Dr. K. Beichhua:** How much?)

SPEAKER : The Agriculture Minister clarified that marketing is a separate subject and it is understandable that the Horticulture Minister could not provide every answer. We now heard that there is a separate marketing board for marketing and so, we should move on.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in response to Aizawl South III representative, I spoke with the department officials on how to take measures about the imported vegetables as soon as I occupied the office but we are not sure whether it is the Department's purview or not. However, there is a promising initiative where Vety College has been working on the project for three years and sanction was issued in March, 2024 under RKVY. The Project is titled 'Strengthening of Pesticide and Residue Analysis Laboratory' and it will be designed to test all fresh vegetables imported from other states. The cost of the project is ₹11.8 crore and the 1st installment of ₹2.65 crore has already been received. A tender for the purchase of a large machine from ₹2.65 crore is being issued and we will be able to test the vegetables that need to be tested in the future. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question No. 2* to be asked by Pu K. Laldawngliana.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Social Welfare, Tribal Affairs, Women & Child Development Department Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If the Central Government handed over the bills for the works carried out in several villages under PMAAGY (2023-2024) to the State Government.
- b) If so, what is the date on which the Finance Department received the money?
- c) When do you intend to pay the bill to the workers?
- d) Is it ready to be paid?

SPEAKER : Social Welfare, Tribal Affairs, Women & Child Development Department Minister Pi Lalrinpuui to answer the question.

PI LALRINPUUI, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My answer is-

- a) Yes
- b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has already submitted it to the State Government.
- c) It will be paid when Mizoram Treasury releases the money.
- d) The answer to (d) is the same as (c)

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

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* is-

- i) Is PMAAGY fund still available from Central?

ii) Is there any proposal to the Central to declare villages that need development as selected villages in addition to the 344 selected villages declared by the Central Government?

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

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker.

i) The Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme was renamed PMAAGY where 344 are selected villages. So, do we have any additional requests?

ii) The fund available for each selected village is ₹20.38 lakh and this is not enough for North-East. So, is there any pressure from the government to increase the rate?

iii) How many households have received the first installment? How many households have received the second installment? Is the work conducted according to the guidelines?

SPEAKER : Minister Pi Lalrinpuii to answer the question.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. In response to Pu K. Laldawngliana, 269 villages have been sanctioned. However, releasing PMAAGY fund method is complicated and so, we decided to work in minority areas first. In response to Dr. K. Beichhua regarding the increasing of rates, I am not sure about this but I will find out and I will get back to you.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, she did not answer all the questions. How many have received the 1st installment, 2nd installment and is the work conducted according to the guidelines?

SPEAKER : It might be difficult to provide the figures and quantity immediately since the questions were asked instantly and information data is not always available. I hope the Ministers will be able to inform the members in writing later. I now request the Minister.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in response to Dr. K. Beichhua, the guidelines are being followed and in response to Pu K. Laldawngliana, there is an intention to request more villages. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question No. 3* to be asked by Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Speaker. You often called Dr. K. Beichhua a Siaha constituency representative and does this mean that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has changed the name Saiha Constituency?

Pu Speaker, Will the Home Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If the Government is aware of the measures taken by the Assam Government to excavate a road on Vairengte side.
- b) If so, what actions are taken?

SPEAKER : The Election Commission has entered it as Saiha but our member said that a notification was already issued to name it as Siaha. So, I addressed it as Siaha even though it is still clear on my mind. I request the Home Department Minister, Pu K. Sapdanga to answer the question.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is-

- a) The 2 states have different acceptance of the border. The government is aware that the Assam government has taken measures to excavate roads towards Assam Police Camp in the area where we both claim to be the land owners.
- b) Kolasib District authorities inspected the road and found that the road is being constructed and they are ordered to suspend their activities immediately. Kolasib DC issued a letter on 31.07.2024 directing Cachar DC and Hailakandi DC not to violate the status quo and to stop their activities immediately.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Our esteemed Home Minister, while speaking to press persons at his office on July 29 said that no actions were taken on either side within the status quo of the border. On the same day, there was an excavation carried out at Vairengte Aitlang. Vairengte residents and Vairengte MNF issued press releases but the Home Minister said that landslides were cleared. However, I am pleased that he spoke the truth today in this House. They work on excavation and 200 meters of Mr. Samuel's garden was excavated. The government should be aware about the measures taken at Aitlang, Singkili phai and other areas.

As our Leader of the Opposition had said, we the Opposition will be the driving force behind the government and a helping hand when necessary and we do not intend to defame the government. It would also be appreciated if the Minister invited me to inspect the areas with him. Pu Chhandama's garden is located below the road where they excavate and they plan to widen they excavation. The reason why I am saying this today is because no party should use our border for political gain but the government should supervise the border more carefully for the sake of our state and nation. I would like to inform the Home Minister that on August 1st at 3-4 am, Assam Police visited Vairengte Auto-stand and asked for the documents of the auto drivers. So, is our Home Minister aware of this incident?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. How many vacancies are there in the Police Department and are there any proposals to fill these vacancies? 3rd MAP is located in my constituency where their buildings and quarters are in ruins and some of them are uninhabitable. So, is there any intention to renovate these buildings? Our retired Police Officers often recruited Grade-IV employees and is this still happening? Some of them still possess the vehicles and is this true?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary question* is- Since the formation of the ZPM government, has the Home Minister visited the Assam-Mizoram border conflict areas especially Saihapui-‘V’ and Aitlang border? On 9th August, 2024, the two states held talks in Aizawl city to resolve the border issue and what have they discussed about? The meeting for these two states regarding the dispute had been planned for quite sometime and does the Minister think that it is shameful to extend the time due to power shortage?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, they only intend to excavate the road and they do not even carry out the excavation. So, is that not enough?

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, I am aware of it. I mentioned that they had excavated more than 200 meters in Mr. Samuel's garden.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, he mentioned what they had excavated and he also mentioned where they will excavate more. So, I am just saying that is it not enough since they are not excavating it yet.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: This is not for the ZPM government but for the sake of the state and the nation.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, is it necessary to mention the areas that they had to excavate?

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, he will say so if there are any intentions. It is not right to keep quiet when there is an intention to excavate.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: You said that only 3 *Supplementary questions* will be taken and the Hrangturzo representative just stood up. Could that be disrespecting the Speaker?

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: I was requested.

SPEAKER : I request the Leader of Opposition.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

Does it mean that we handed the 200 meters excavated by the Assam Police to them?

SPEAKER : Home Department Minister Pu K. Sapdanga to answer the question.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, you announced that there would be only two *Supplementary questions* but there was a lot of noise that I could not tell who was asking the question. We visited the outposts along the border on January 16.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, I was asking if he specifically visited Saihapui V and Aitlang?

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: We also visited Saihapui V and Aitlang in addition to 11 outposts. We could not contact the representative MLA to invite him during that time.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, point of clarification. It was during the session and he gave me an information letter that he was going. He told me verbally but I did not receive a single invitation. Let him speak the truth because I was not invited. It is my constituency and I would be appreciated if he asked for me. I will gladly follow him even if he insists tonight.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, we will invite him if we are to visit again. It is not that long since we visited the places. I was simply saying that we were unable to find him during our visit.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Our Home Minister should not tell a lie.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: It is not right that the Home Minister could not find an MLA.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: I called him several times actually but he does not take calls.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, point of clarification, how can the Home Minister find a criminal if he cannot find an MLA?

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, our Home Minister should speak the truth.

SPEAKER : Let us listen to the Minister.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, this honorable House is not a place to lie* *(to be expunged as ordered by the Chair)** please find out the one who lied **(to be expunged as ordered by the Chair)**.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: As I had mentioned earlier, we have different acceptance of the border and this often cause problems. There had been negotiations and the previous governments were commended for their negotiations. A new government is now formed and both the Chief Ministers of the 2 states agreed that the Boundary Development Minister and Mizoram Home Minister should meet each other. Assam then made a proposal to start Good-will Mission and that was their mission when they came to Mizoram recently. It was agreed that the minister level meeting should be held on 31st March, 2025 and before that, Secretary level and Official level meetings should be held as much as possible. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Starred Questions No. 4* to be asked by Hachhek representative, Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, Will the Home Minister be pleased to state-

- a) If the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Mizoram Government that it has decided to evacuate AR.
- b) If so, what is the date, month and year?
- c) If the notification copy could be provided.

SPEAKER : Minister Pu K. Sapdanga to answer the question.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker my answer is-

- a) Yes
- b) The Ministry of Home Affairs issued notices on 19.2.2019 and on 11.3.2020
- c) The notification copy is ready.

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

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Assam Rifles' evacuation from Lammual Area was announced on 19.2.2019 and 11.3.2020 by the Home Ministry and I appreciate that the notification copy is to be provided. The Memorandum of Understanding was prepared by the Assam Rifles according to the RTI

and we heard that the Union Home Minister called our Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma where he told him that the MoU will be signed within a week. However, there were no words about MoU even after several weeks and so, the Home Department was questioned through RTI. The Home Department then answered that the ZPM government did not make any emergency request to sign the MoU with the Assam Rifle and this is quite unfortunate. They have been in government for 8 months and why are no measures taken? Are there any intentions to fulfill this mission?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu TBC Lalvenchhunga

TBC LALVENCHHUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Thorang representative accused the Home Minister of lying and can we erase this accusation? (**Pu R. Rohmingliana:** I did not accuse him of lying and it would be appreciated if it is changed to false information. I asked if it would be great to seek for the truth.) (**Speaker:** We will change it if there is a word containing 'lie'. Our time is over and shall we let him continue? You can continue.) *Point of clarification* is the reason why we spend so much time and there is no *point of clarification* anywhere in the House guidelines. Is it proper for us to stand up and raise our hands at any time and use points of clarification to interfere others statements? If not, why do we insist on doing it?

My question is- The Ministry of Home Affairs ordered the Assam Rifle to evacuate in 2020 but why have not they evacuated within the four years? Thank you

SPEAKER : The *point of clarification* that the member talked about is nowhere to be found but the point of order exists. A *point of order* is raised when a member believes that there has been a violation of *parliamentary rules, procedures, or etiquette*. Anyway, it would be impressive if members could be more restrained in that regard. I request Minister Pu K. Sapdanga to answer as much as he could.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the previous government knew secrets and we will ask them why they have not yet evacuated. As for our government, there is nothing but only this smooth conversation among us for now. Thank you.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, point of order. This is a serious matter and it is no joke. The truth is that there were problems because of covid and we had serious political crisis with our neighboring states. I would like the government to know that this is not easy. I believe that the MoU which was previously drafted by the previous government and the comments they had given are good enough. However, the Mizoram government has been silent for eight months without saying whether the MoU will be supported or not.

SPEAKER : I request our House Leader.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, our leaders told us that they had evacuated which was not true. Separate MoU were drafted by both Assam Rifle and our former government but they were left untouched without any discussion. We then decided to discuss this matter and I held a meeting with all the concerned Departments and the Assam Rifle under my chairmanship. We discussed our point of differences which we could not solve it but many things were explained to one another. I mentioned that a tripartite meeting with Mizoram government and Assam Rifle should be held under the chairmanship of the Home Ministry regarding the pending MoU and solve our point of differences as soon as possible. Later, I was told that it would be solved within a week. However, the Assam Rifle wanted to draft the MoU again and that is why it could not be done again. A word from the Home Ministry was that a senior officer from Joint Secretary and IB will be sent in Aizawl for a talk but he was not sent till today. Therefore, the MoU discussion cannot be held yet and we are waiting for the initiative to be taken. We will then continue to push forward as necessary.

There are several farmers at Zokhawsang area who have farms there and the previous government had since paved a road beneath the road as it is no longer permitted to enter the compound. However, no vehicles could enter since the road is too long, too narrow, too poor in grade and no use at all. I proposed a straight road between the existing road and the road built by the previous government which was accepted. We will be doing at our expenses and we have already searched for the alignment. There is a building towards the east and we will move this building at our own expense as well. Our farmers will now be able to travel without any difficulty if this new road is constructed. Thank you.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, if I may. The Chief Minister's statement should be clarified. According to the RTI on 22.7.2024 asking if the Mizoram government draft a MoU during the MNF government with an enclosed copy (*interruption*). It was answered that the MoU was not drafted during the MNF government, but the government made comments on the MoU drafted by the Assam Rifles. Is it true when the Chief Minister said that both the 2 states drafted separate MoU?

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: RTI questions are drafted by officials and there can be mistakes if the concern Ministers do not help in reviewing it. Let us accept what we have said today in this House as more of a truth. The previous government and the Assam Rifle both drafted separate MoU and the two are inconsistent and therefore there is a dispute that must be discussed. This is what lies ahead and I urge everyone to work together.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

SPEAKER : We will proceed to the next business. Our *Panel of Chairmen* during the previous session will be appointed again this session namely-

- 1) Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma, MLA
- 2) Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte, MLA
- 3) Pu K. Hrahmo, MLA
- 4) Pi Baryl Vanneihsang, MLA.

LAYING OF PAPERS:

We will proceed to *Laying of Papers* and I request hon. Minister Pu K. Sapdanga to lay on the Table of the House-

- i) The Lunglei Municipal Council Licensing Regulations, 2024.
- ii) The Lunglei Municipal Council (Control of Parking and Collection of Parking Fees) Regulations, 2024.
- iii) The Lunglei Municipal Council (Display of Advertisement and Hoarding) Regulations, 2024.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission, I hereby lay on the Table of the House-

- i) The Lunglei Municipal Council Licensing Regulations, 2024.
- ii) The Lunglei Municipal Council (Control of Parking and Collection of Parking Fees) Regulations, 2024.
- iii) The Lunglei Municipal Council (Display of Advertisement and Hoarding) Regulations, 2024.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed. I request hon. Minister Prof. Lalnilarawma to lay on the Table of the House-

- i) The Mizoram Water Supplies (Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2024.
- ii) The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Rules, 2024.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby lay on the Table of the House-

- i) The Mizoram Water Supplies (Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2024.
- ii) The Mizoram Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Rules, 2024.

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

‘The Mizoram Consumer Protection (Salary, Allowances and Conditions of Service of President and Members of the State Commission and District Commission) (Amendment) Rules, 2024’.

PU B. LALCHHANZOVA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission, I hereby lay on the Table of the House-

‘The Mizoram Consumer Protection (Salary, Allowances and Conditions of Service of President and Members of the State Commission and District Commission) (Amendment) Rules, 2024’

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed and we will proceed to *Presentation of Reports*. The *Business Advisory Committee* meeting on August 1, 2024 (Thursday) prepared the detailed program of the 3rd Session of the 9th Legislative Assembly and this is already issued in Bulletin Part-II. I hereby present *the Business Advisory Committee Report* and let the copies be distributed.

I request Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Chairman of *Public Accounts Committee* to present the following-

- i) First Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2016-17 relating to Public Health Engineering Department.
- ii) Second Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2016-17 relating to Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department (MYC).
- iii) Third Report on Actions taken by the Government against the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of Public Accounts Committee (2021-2023) relating to Sports & Youth Services Department.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby present-

- i) First Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2016-17 relating to Public Health & Engineering Department.
- ii) Second Report on the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2016-17 relating to Labor, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department (MYC).
- iii) Third Report on Actions taken by the Government against the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of Public Accounts Committee (2021-2023) relating to Sports & Youth Services Department.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS:

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed. We will proceed to *Legislative Business*. We have 2 *Government Bills* to discuss today and the copies have already been distributed to Members. I request Pu K.Sapdanga, hon Minister to beg the House to introduce “The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024”

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission, I beg the House to introduce “The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024”.

SPEAKER : The Minister has begged the House for an introduction and let him introduce and move the Bill.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The Ministry of Home Affairs passed the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023 to ensure that the state government have effective jail administration. States and UTs were asked us to adopt it and adjust it as required. So, Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Act is being amended to have a separate law for the state and that is why we have introduced our own state bill.

Prisons administration is a State subject under the Indian Constitution, but The Prisons Act, 1894, The Prisoners Act, 1900 and Transfer of Prisoner Act, 1950 were implemented to manage the prisons since the state did not yet have any laws. Assam jail manual had also been used for a long time. The Mizoram Prisons Manual, 2017 was prepared just like the Central Government prepared the Model Prisons Manual. Therefore, Mizoram Prisons Manual, 2017 has been used instead of Assam Jail Manual. I apologize to the members for any spelling mistakes in the Bill and I ask the members to consider these mistakes as patent errors.

Chapter-I deals with the name and definitions of the Act.

Chapter-II describes the five types of Prisons and Correctional Institutions.

Chapter 3 also deals with the construction and maintenance of prisons and the establishment of categories of prisons and correctional institutions.

Chapter 4 is an organizational setup and it will be responsible for implementing government policies according to the Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services and for managing and coordinating prisons. Officers and staff will be under it and qualification recruitment and training of these officers and staff will be done in accordance with the rules.

Chapter 5 deals with the Duties of Prison Officers, staff and Medical Officers. Chapter 6 deals with the use of Technology in Prison Administration and these include CCTV, scanning and detection devices Radiance Frequency, Identification, Video conference for prisoners to participate in court hearing trials, computerization of prison administration and linkage of data bases with ICJS (Inter Operable Criminal Justice System), cellular zooming, cellular detections solutions and electronic monitoring technology for temporary release leave of jail prisoners.

Chapter 7 deals with jail entry, transfer, exit, inspection and procedures.

Chapter 8 deals with the categories of prisoners and Political Prisoner is also added to the list.

Chapter 9 deals with the treatment of high risk prisoners, habitual offenders and hardened criminals and these people do not have parole, furlough or any other leave.

Chapter 10 deals with the establishment of separate prisons for women, the establishment of a female ward in prison hospitals, medical care for pregnant women during admission and keeping their children with them in jail until they reach the age of six. Healthcare is also available.

Chapter 11 deals with transgender people. There will be separate wards for transgenders, access to healthcare and psychological needs and even correctional programs and activities.

Chapter 12 deals with the safety of prisoners in prison and the escort of prisoners to court and hospital. There is also a system to record visitors' address, name, photograph and biometric identification.

Chapter 13 deals with maintaining discipline in prisons. 25 types of laws are listed and the rules and penalties are also in place.

Chapter 14 includes access to prison stand healthcare facilities and mental health issues.

Chapter 15 deals with vocational training, skill development and education and recreation of prisoners. Spiritual, Cultural and Recreation Programs, canteen and sale layout for these prisoners to sell their products are also included.

Chapter 16 provides for the development of rehabilitation programs for convicted prisoners, the provision of employment opportunities for UTP, Civil Prisoners and the payment of adequate salaries.

Chapter 17 describes on how open and semi open correctional institutions can be developed as necessary.

Chapter 18 deals with the various types of leave and remission of prisoners and the premature release of prisoners.

Chapter 19 describes two types of prison inspections and the inspection can be conducted by the senior Officer and the Board of Editor.

Chapter 20 provides that the government may provide after care services to released prisoners.

Chapter 21 is miscellaneous and contains various items. It includes establishment of legal age under trial review of prisoners in each district, reporting of prisoner deaths, formation of Prison Development Board for prisoner complaints, empowerment of state government to make rules, repeal and saving.

The Indian Evidence Act, IPC and CRPC were still in force while Mizoram government is getting Cabinet approval for the model bill. However, from July 1, 2024, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), Bharatiya Shiksha Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA) and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) came into force.

The Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India issued a notification saying that BNS, BSA and BNSS shall be applied as corresponding provisions. The bill not only provides for the administration of prisons but it will also ensure that prisoners are able to take care of their own livelihoods and become useful people when they are released. The Home Department has already considered an open jail system to reduce the capacity of jails and officers were also sent to other states to study the practices of other states. Jail administration is not only in the hands of government officials but also an important part of criminal justice. Therefore, I present this Bill in order to make progress. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will now have a discussion and each member will be given 10 minutes. I request Thorang representative, Pu R. Rohmingliana.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024 is a bill that is worth studying. Each chapter is excellent and Chapter 2 mentioned about the safe custody. This Bill will extremely utilize technology from management to video conferencing and this Bill is also designed to ensure transparency. Transgender ward is also mentioned in this Bill and this shows that it has a very wide view.

It is unlikely that we will need much fund at the start, but the financial requirements will be higher when the rules are introduced through the Bill. It will require several employees and several buildings will be required. This Bill will require a lot of infrastructure and will we able to afford it all? It will require a lot of fund and how will we make ends meet?

There are several escaped prisoners recently and were they all found and arrested? It would also be appreciated to know from whose custody they escaped- the Prison custody or the Home Department custody? Is it also true that some inmates visit girls at

their homes and woo them? If so, it would be appreciated to know where and when it took place. I support this Bill to be passed. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request Pu T. Lalhlimpaia.

PU T. LALHLIMPUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. It is a great pleasure from my side to partake in the discussion of ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Service Bill, 2024’. The Bill was introduced to meet the challenges faced by Prison Department.

The management and functioning of jails within Mizoram is unsatisfactory. Especially as a representative of Lunglei West constituency, i have heard many anecdotes regarding the management and administration of jails and it is disheartening to hear these stories.

As mentioned in the Bill, it will include prisoners’ healthcare, prisoners’ mental health as well as psychological assessment. It is fortunate to see and read these sentences and I truly hoped that it will be realized soon. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu K. Hrahmo.

PU. K. HRAHMO : Pu Speaker, first of all I thank the hon. Home Minister for his work in ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Service Bill, 2024’. I duly support this bill.

However, I do have concern regarding this bill. Will the government have the bravery and the capacity to actually implement this rule? I have seen many instances where excellent and outstanding bills that were passed by the House were not actually implemented. Mahatma Gandhi National Guarantee Scheme states that the Programme officer shall allot at least 50% of the works in terms of its cost under a scheme to be implemented through the Gram Panchayats. However, this was overruled by the department.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, *point of order*. The Act states that at least 50% should be performed by V.E.C where 60% is wage component and 40% is material component. The said breakdown of 40%, 30% and 30% is still within the material component and not as a whole.)

Pu Speaker, thank you. This must be a miscalculation on the departments’ side.

SPEAKER : The current topic is ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Service Bill, 2024’. The discussion is about Rural Development subject, this could be discussed outside of the House.)

Pu Speaker, as I have mentioned before, I do support the passing of this bill. However, I do have concerns about the implementation of the Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalramliana.

PU LALRAMLIANA PAPUIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. We are currently discussing ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Service Bill, 2024’. It is promising to see that several correctional services and measures were included in this Bill.

There are several positive points in this bill one of which is that the administration and management of jails will be updated in line with growing technology. This will definitely be a boost for the management.

This Bill also included several provisions such as classification and categorization of prisoners according to sex, age and level of crime. After care and rehabilitation will also be included.

I do support ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Service Bill, 2024’. However, I have one concern which is will this bill be characterized by the old criminal law or will this be changed in accordance with the new criminal law? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Lalzirliana.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. It is fortunate that ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill. 2024’ has been submitted for consideration. It is a significant bill but does not include provision for political prisoners. This provision needs to be considered as it is a state subject.

We are all aware that jails within Mizoram especially district jails lack infrastructure. This Bill proposes to introduce new technology, healthcare, welfare program, vocational training and skill development. I am glad that this Bill will bring transformation of prisons.

In order for the bill to succeed, capital will be needed for the implementation. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. I feel that the owner of this Bill is not entitled to be in charge of the department. However, the Bill itself is quite satisfactory.

I would like to emphasize on one important regarding this Bill. Prisons in other states are under the jurisdiction of State Service Police. This practice must be emulated for better management. Also, head of Prisons and Correction Services should not be under the command of a civil service servant. (**Speaker:** First session has ended, shall we let him continue? Please continue.)

Pu Speaker, lastly, I have one reservation regarding this Bill which is its implementation. I do hope that the ministry will give its best effort for the implementation of this Bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will now break for lunch and resume the Session at 2 PM.

(*Recess*)

2:00 PM

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Lalchhuanthanga to start the discussion.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. First of all, I thank the hon. Home Minister for presenting us with a practical bill. We have never had a bill regarding prison on our own and only have prison manual. It is gratifying to have a prison bill on our own which include correctional services as well.

This bill will include aftercare, rehabilitation service, vocational training, skill development and education. I believe this bill will be appropriate for use in rehabilitation homes. I pledge my support to this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu TBC. Lalvenchhunga.

PU TBC. LALVENCHHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is a pleasure to be included in the discussion for 'The Mizoram Prison and Correctional Services Bill, 2024'.

I would like to mentioned that Aizawl West-I, my constituency is the home of district jail and women's jail. It is a rational and sensible proposal to include correctional institution, institution of young offenders and correctional facilities.

The current standing at our district jail is more than its capacity which indicates that our district jail is seriously overcrowded. Among these, more than 70% of them are underaged.

I would like to call attention to the fact that this bill does not include Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita. This will require this bill to be amended again in a short while.

Lastly, I pledge my support to ‘The Mizoram Prison and Correctional Services Bill, 2024’ and hope that this bill will open more doorways in the management and administration of prisons. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to clarify his statement regarding my absence when he came to visit Serlui constituency.

He stated that I could not be found. I would like to mention that I was at home in Dinthar. Would the hon. Home Minister clarify where they looked for me? I would also like to mention that such statements without clarification should not be done at this House. (**Speaker:** I would like to request the members to talk about the bill and not use their time for personal attacks.)

Pu Speaker, it is my conclusion from my observation that the hon. Home Minister does not deserve to submit this bill and as such, I will not be making a statement regarding this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga.

LT. COL. CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. We are discussing an exceptional bill ‘The Mizoram Prison and Correctional Services Bill, 2024’ and I am fortunate to take part in the discussion.

Introduction of categorization of accommodation and classification of prisoners is a welcomed chapter for this bill. Medical facilities, safety, pre-mature release and leave is also introduced. The bill also includes a much-needed corrective measures and corrective institutions, skill development and vocational courses. It will truly be a pragmatic bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. It is my pleasure to be a part of this discussion. First of all, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to react later regarding renovation of prisons across Mizoram. If they do, how many prisons will be renovated?

I will mention one important point that I feel should be taken into consideration. The bill should not be adopted as it and should reflect our location, culture, tradition and practices. We should ask ourselves if we will be able to implement the following

sections. Section-5 Prison Architecture and Institutional Pattern, Section-6 Prisons and Correctional Institution, Section-8 Organizational setup Function and duties of officers-in-charge, Section-25 classification of prisoners, Section-24 transgender prisoners, Section-55 aftercare and rehabilitation services. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. Pu Speaker, thank you. It is a pleasure to be able to participate in the discussion for ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024’. The Bill is close to the hearts of a few members within this House including myself and we might have several anecdotes to share regarding this matter.

Inclusion of provision for political prisoners is deeply appreciated. One important point left out in the Bill is not including classification of Non-Criminal Lunatic. I would also like to make a suggestion under healthcare which is a separate hospital or separate room for prisoners.

Lastly, I pledge my support to ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024’. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024’ was borne under the insistence of United Nations Convention to assert that prisoners have rights too. It was created to safeguard the rights of prisoners and to eliminate human rights violation.

I sincerely hope that the provisions included in the Bill will be implemented. I believe that categorization of prisons is essential. Under this categorization, I would like to mention that Chawngte is in need of sub-prison and I implore the government to provide us with one.

I would also like to highlight a very unwelcomed incident that happened in Borapansuri. The O.C of Borapansuri was trying to take advantage of his status and attempted to use the service of speedboats to travel to Tlabung without paying and was refused by the boat owners. Due to their refusal, the O.C and one constable destroyed three boats. This same O.C also destroyed lands owned by supply reserve and used it as private land. I implore the government to take action against him so that justice will be served. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, I feel honored to take part in the discussion for ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024’. While I do appreciate this bill and agree with its content and provision provided, I would like to accentuate the need for caution. We must be cautious while drafting any bill. We, the legislators must also obey and respect the law.

One provision I would like to propose under Chapter-V Prison Architecture and Institutional Pattern is the establishment of gyms in prisons. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Leader of Opposition, Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am fortunate to take part in the discussion of ‘The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024’. First of all, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister apologize to the respected member in charge of Serlui constituency. I also request that the words mentioned by the hon. Home Minister in regards to the respected member be expunged. I also kindly request the hon. Home Minister to apologize to the people of Mizoram for his conduct.

We are all aware that this Bill is adopted from the model made by Ministry of Home Affairs. Does the owner of this Bill overlook the fact that this Bill does not have legal and financial vetting? If a bill is presented at the House for legislators to pass, it should always be vetted by Legal and Finance Department.

If I am not mistaken, I see few officials from the concerned department. We are discussing an important bill and I regret that only few officials from the concerned department are present. This should not be the case as I felt that we should respect this House.

After my discussion our house leader will be next. If him or our Home Minister can make clarification regarding Directorate and Inspector General. In Prison we used to have Inspector of General not Director as put in this rules.

Next, on section 6 no. of jails was mentioned and the mentioned jails are not in tally. While we do not have Central Prison, here it was mentioned. Is there an intention to change the name of our jails into Central prison, District Prison. Or are we going to make a new rules under Section 68 and make clarification base on this. Besides, there are many error in naming the designation. Are we going to accept this copy paste to pass this bill. Regarding the wording on section 13 is there any correction needed in the sentences. However, it is thankful that we may have the use of electronic devices tracking on prisoner. It is also thankful that there is a preparation for transgender inmates. Also care rehabilitation was mentioned in section 55 and I am thankful.

For the last Pu Speaker, I want to ask question on section 64 regarding Prison Development Board. Are we going to have the Board after passing the bill.

Lastly, it is thankful to introduce a new rules. However, I hope that in the future we be more careful before introducing to the House. It would be welcome if we can do it according to our State position. I give my support to pass this bill.

SPEAKER : It is welcoming. Let us call upon our Hose Leader to have a discussion.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the opposition leader mentioned about the lack of official attending our session today and we take note of this. In India, our jails are structure for cellular not for correctional institute. It was build to jail the freedom fighters and other criminal by the British government. We inherit many British hangover therefore we have to know that this bill is Correctional Bill. In Mizoram, many church people involve in helping those who get out of jail through Ministry like Set Free Ministry and Prison Ministry.

Some members studies our bill thoroughly and I am very thankful. While many of us though the bill is good it appear that we are trying to find fault from outside of the bill. Some of us insist the Home Minister to resign due to jail breakers. If this pattern is practice the past Home Minister will already resigned for at least 46 times. We inherit many practice from the previous government like transgender and IG Prison taken up by the civil service.

The existing Jail building are in bad shape and need new construction. It appears that there are many to construct and the Home Minister will made project for this new building. Under SASCI we put fund to build Central jail and 7 District Jails. This will be monitor by the Mizoram State Monitoring Committee which members consist of various party and from NGO. We hope through this committee we will acquire good work from various contracts. It appears that we all feel this bill is a good bill and only indulge in its accompaniment. Having thought about those who are in different Homes and Jails we hope with our hand holding policy, we will achieve some good result and pave a way for many broken families. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Before we invite the home Minister to wind up I would like to add a few words. First, on chapter 6, under sub-section 3 we see ‘Cellular Jamming and Cellular Detection’. This mean that cell phone cannot be used inside jail and also tracking devices will be put. There is also one thing for the Minister to take note and that is in chapter 8 (5)(e) where I think there is a clerical error. If we look into (e) we see that ‘prisoner suffering from mental illness, prisoner sentence to death’. Here

mental illness and sentence to death are put in one sentence while it should be separated. Now, we will call upon the hon. Minister to wind up and beg the House to pass the bill.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. 16 members participated in the discussion and all of them give their support to the bill and I am very thankful. On July 16, the Ministry of Law & Justice issued Notification stating that the Criminal Law as the name stand if accepted can be used and does not need amendment. Therefore, when the time comes we can replace IPC to Bharatiya Naya Sanhita as directed by the Central. Regarding vetting mentioned by the hon. Opposition Leader, the Finance and Law vetted the bill and there is no problem.

As mentioned by Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma, the bill can be used whether copy paste or not. If desire, the name can also be change as it is a State subject. The name of Jail mentioned by member from Siaha will be replace to Prison and Correctional Service Centre from now on. We hope the replacement of name will not cause further hardship. As mentioned by the House Leader, a fund of 55 crore was put under SASCI and DPR are already made following the pattern of Correctional Centre. Work will start as soon as possible.

Some members including Pu Hrahmo, hon. member from Palak are questioning whether we can follow the rules. I know we also have doubt in its implementation. However we hope we can follow through. Regarding jail breakers, the list can be seen in Q & A and ask ourselves whether we have jail breaker during our period or not.

I want to have a few word on the administration which are not mentioned by the members. It is known that all our jails are in full capacity and most of them exceed its existing capacity. This is the result of our growing knowledge in law enforcement, also population grows and crime rate also grow. In our new jail improvement scheme vocational training will be emphasize more. The ongoing vocational training practice in Central jail and District Jail are as follows – (1) Hair Cutting (2) Carpentry (3) Piggery (4) Handloom (5) Tailoring (6) Handicraft (7) Soap making (8) Furniture Making.

Recently I visited Lunglei Women Jail and Siaha jail, it is depressing to see the sight. Seeing our jail fence with barbed wire is not safe and it is a wonder we have more jail breaker. The watch tower are also in a bad shape. Besides, the Church and Ministries visit the inmate to give them support and counseling. I am very thankful for their kind devotion.

We all know how inadequate our jail infrastructure and it does not meet our hope. We hope to improve the building and its surrounding through SASCI Scheme. We also invite Health & Family Welfare Department to work with us in treating the inmates and provide us with a doctor. Regarding jail breaker, it is a common occurrence and there is no one to blame. It can be blame to the poor condition of our equipment and vehicles.

If this bill, “The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024” is pass, we can rectify many problems and can move forward in jail administration and improve the condition of the inmates. Pu Speaker, I beg this august House to pass “The Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024”.

SPEAKER : I want to convey my thanks to the Home Minister for asking forgiveness to the member.

Now, we will take vote, those who are in favour say ‘yes’ and those who are not say ‘No’. This House pass “the Mizoram Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024” unanimously. (**Pu K. Sapdanga, Minister:** Pu Speaker, thank you).

Now we will go to amendment of bill. Let us call upon the hon. Minister Pu C. Lalsawivunga to introduce “The Mizoram Public Records (Amendment) Bill, 2024”.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Pu Speaker, with your permission and consent of this august House I beg to introduce “The Mizoram Public Records (Amendment) Bill, 2024”.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister beg to introduce the bill, do we consent. (Members: consent) Let us call upon him to introduce and move the bill.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I move “The Mizoram Public Records (Amendment) Bill, 2024” in this august House and with your permission and I will move the bill. The Mizoram State Archives at Art & Culture is the only archive we have to store government records. Here the state government and other Organization store their record which they have no use for their daily works. The department also made rules relating to this in 2011 and 2014 and come into effect on 1st July 2014. Workshop and Seminar are hosted relating to this. In this bill, recommendation was made to amend some from section and sub-section from the “Mizoram Public Records Act, 2011”. In sub-section 5 of section 1 Recording officer is not appointed by many agencies. Therefore, in this bill it was propose to strengthen in order to be more effective.

Second, in sub-section 1, section 5 clause C, it said that only record that are 25 years can be appraised. This create problem for many department as they do not possess room to hold this record. Therefore, 25 years was omitted in this new bill in order for the record to store anytime.

In section 6 of sub-section 1 clause 1 we see the responsibility of the Record officer in maintaining the record. Amendment is propose to replace this section where only defunct body record can be transfer in the state Archives.

For the last, The Mizoram Public Record Act, 2011, section 8 sub-section 2 was also proposed for amendment. It will read now that if the Archivist does not propose delete record will be store more than 100 years.

Pu Speaker, with your permission and consent I hope to have a good discussion and beg this august House to consent the amendment, thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister introduced and move the bill for passing. As it is an amendment, I think the discussion will be short. If we want to participate, please let us raise our hand. Now I will invite the Opposition Leader and then the House leader if he has anything to discuss.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, after hearing the explanation given by the Minister I think amendment to be made is good. I want to point out a few words that will favour the bill. It is important and good to know that the defunct State level Association record will be archive. It will help many researchers and it is good to know that a better and more functional system is going to be introduce. Besides, a well maintain post for the Archiver is also going to be made.

In section 8 we see a record of more than 100 year will be archived. Here, it would be hard to classify which and which not to archive. If clarification on this matter will be deliver it will be welcoming. Natural calamity and other hardship can destroy our record as we witness in the Aizawl DC Office where fire destroy the building. Therefore, it is welcoming to know that we are going to have a better and more safe measure to archive our records. It would be good if we differentiate what to store and what not to store. It would be also welcoming if departments are reminded to keep their record. With development of technology a storing in soft copy and hard copy would also be welcoming. I agree to pass this amendment bill.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the House Leader.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, let me say a few words. This world has many civilizations which we came to access through archive record and we can see in our phone through AI. However, our Mizo ancestor history record were not archive properly, therefore we cannot access many of their live. The cannon display at Assam Rifles quarter guard place was also known for the part it plays in the battle of Waterloo. Therefore, when the Assam Rifles take it with them when they were transfer, we retrieve it when this House passed my resolution. The Aizawl DC Office destroyed by the fire also damages many records and it is regretful. With the help of our bright youngster, we can preserve many old records through these rules and leave behind a great treasure for the next generation. Therefore, I request you to pass this bill unanimously, thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, let us call upon the hon. Minister Pu C. Lalsawivunga to wind up and beg the House to pass the bill.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. As it is an amendment it was prepared by the department experts. I thank the hon. members for their approval.

Leader of Opposition point out that in the main Act 1892 was mentioned. As it is, proposal was made to replace 1892 to 100 year. Record that reach the year 100 are if not in a bad condition should be archive. According to the Archive, a 100 years record should be archive all.

Pu Speaker, amendment to be made introduced by me are Section 5 (1) appointment of Record officer, Section 6 sub-section (1) clause (c) record value calculation and time period, Section 6 sub-section (1) clause (i) transfer of records, Section 8 sub-section (2) where record cannot be read. These rules are going to be very important for our country and nation. Therefore, I request the House members to pass the bill.

SPEAKER : Now that the Minister beg the House to pass “The Mizoram Public Records Amendment, Bill, 2024”, we will take vote. Those who are in favour please say ‘agree’ and those who oppose say ‘no’. Okay, we all agree and this House pass “The Mizoram Public Records Amendment, Bill, 2024’. (**Pu C. Lalsawivunga, Minister** : Pu Speaker, thank you)

Now, we will see to our attendance. Pu Ngunlianchunga and Pu Robert Romawia’s microphone are not working. Now that we concluded our business for today, we will resume our sitting tomorrow at 10:30 AM.

Sitting adjourned (4:26 PM)