

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR NINTH SITTING ON MONDAY, THE 4th 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.
2. **ELECTION TO FINANCIAL COMMITTEES** to elect Members of the four Financial Committees.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

3. **GENERAL DISCUSSION** on the Budget for the year 2024-2025 (to commence)

VANLALTHANTLINGI
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : “*This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.*”

-Zachary 3:7

QUESTION & ANSWER

Pu Lalthansanga and Pu C. Ngunlianchunga could not attend today’s session due to unforeseen circumstances. I request Pu Ginzalala to ask *Starred Question No. 121*.

PU H. GINZALALA : Will the hon. Minister of Land Revenue & Settlement Department be pleased to state –

“If it is right to outsource the surveying work under the Revenue Department to Mizo young entrepreneurs”

SPEAKER : Land Revenue & Settlement Department Minister Pu B. Lalchhanzova to answer the question.

PU B. LALCHHANZOVA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My answer is – Considering our current lacking, some of our work may have to be outsourced. To that end, the empanelment of a survey firm is in process.

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

PU H. GINZALALA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am quite pleased with the Minister's answer and this shows that he is an efficient minister. I believe that a transformation will happen in his department. It will be impressive if we are going to outsource the surveying work. However, in the future, the government will have to make rules and maintain secrecy. There may be times when they will misuse their power and if that happens, how can the government prevent it?

Aizawl and Lunglei are making progress but this development is an unplanned growth. The Revenue Department has a high responsibility in this regard and if surveying is to be outsourced in this way, then Aizawl city should have an expansion scheme. There is a City Development Plan under UD&PA and it is necessary to go in convergence with this and revolutionize our land-use pattern in terms of the layout of roads, side drains and everything. My question is – “Is there any way to implement that?” Thank you

SPEAKER : There is a request to ask brief questions so that we can have more time. Therefore, members should ask two or one supplementary question if possible and let us use our time more wisely. I request Pu W. Chhuanawma to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU W. CHHUANAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I believe that surveyor shortage is quite serious. Khawzawl and Khawhai are large notified towns in Tuichang

constituency and more than half of these towns have no LSC and no revenue payment. Therefore, the government is not getting the taxes it should have received. One or two surveyors from Champhai are required to issue the LSC and their roundtrip fare and lunch money is a burden for the poor. Therefore, ₹8000 - ₹10000/- is often spent before paying the government. So, before it is outsourced to entrepreneurs, will it be possible to put at least two surveyors at Khawzawl? There are many vacant buildings for any department and there is also a large DC building to be occupied. Only manpower is required and the rest is all available.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu T. Lalhlimpuia.

PU T. LALHLIMPUIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *Supplementary question* to Land Revenue & Settlement Department Minister is –

- i) Land dispute is a very common issue in every district and are there any plans to address these issues in the department? Are there any suggestions on how to fix it?
- ii) LSC and amalgamation adjustment is required for a long time due to lack of Surveyors. So, is there a way to speed the process?

SPEAKER : I request our Leader of Opposition Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, my supplementary question to the Land Revenue & Settlement Minister is –

The previous government took extreme steps to have a cleaner land record. So, do we have any new initiatives to ensure that we continue to have a cleaner land record?

There are many empty lands that are not used and some people have a lot of land that is not utilized. However, there is no land for those who need it for their livelihood. So, has the government taken any steps to implement the progressive tax to eliminate these? Recently in newspapers some people are selling LSCs with no real lands for taking loans and does the government take action against such sellers?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu B. Lalchhanzova to answer the question.

PU B. LALCHHANZOVA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. In response to Pu H Ginzalala, today is the last day for out-sourcing agencies to submit EOI (Expression of Interest). There are 139 surveyor posts of which 64 are filled and 75 are vacant. Surveyor shortage rate is 53% and the Government is aware of the public's concerns and is planning to hire out-sourcing agencies. Careful planning is done here and the EOI is carefully written. In case of 'secrecy' outsourcing agencies will survey the land and technical experts from the department will carefully analyze it. In response to Pu W. Chhuanawma – 1 Settlement Officer, 1 Surveyor-I and 3 Surveyors are currently available at Khawzawl. The problem of land surveying in Mizoram is faced

in two main ways- – There is a ‘Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Rural Village’ (SVAMITVA) project where 215 rural area inhabited villages have been surveyed by drone. ‘Digital India Land Record Modernization Program’ is being implemented extensively. These initiatives are being reviewed and we believe that we can solve these problems in collaboration with our out-sourcing agencies.

In response to Pu T. Lalhlimpaia, land dispute is a very important issue. Our current process is that if a person is facing problem, he can go to the Settlement Officer and if not satisfied, he can go to the Director, then to the Secretary, Land Revenue & Settlement Department, then to the court. Land disputes were neglected for too long and that is what makes the conflict increased. So, The Land Revenue & Settlement administration needs to be reformed and the administration of the Land Revenue Department is being considered as efficiently as possible. If Aizawl District is divided into North and South and the directorates also play the directorate role as they should, many of today's problems and sorrows can be alleviated.

In response to Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Opposition Leader – 'SVAMITVA' and Digital India Land Record Modernization Program (DILRMP) are currently implemented. As I mentioned earlier, the Land Revenue administration will be looked at more carefully and these Land Records will be prepared. The Government is considering to implement progressive tax. Regarding LSCs with no real lands, it is all caused by poor administration. Therefore, we will run a proper administration and we will take care of it.

In response to Pu H. Ginzalala regarding city planning and town planning, there are limits to what Land Revenue can do and the rest is up to the departments that are responsible for it. Pu Speaker, the total number of passes in Mizoram (excluding District Councils) - LSC, house pass, WRC and periodic patta is recorded to be 2,72,028. Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question No. 122* to be asked by Pu R. Rohmingliana.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the GAD Minister be pleased to state – if there any plans to implement Biometric Attendance Systems in Government offices.

SPEAKER : Hon. Chief Minister and General Administration Department Minister, Pu Lalduhoma to answer the question.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is – General Administration Department, Secretariat Wing is in the final stages of implementing the Biometric Attendance System for all government employees in Mizoram Secretariat. Biometric Attendance will be implemented in several departments and district levels.

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

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Pu Speaker, my supplementary question is – Is there any difference seen in the office workers before and after the implementation? If so, what are the differences?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Dr. Lorrain Lalpeklia Chinzah.

DR. LORRAIN LALPEKLIANA CHINZAH: Pu Speaker, my *supplementary question is*- Is there any other attendance system other than the Biometric Attendance System?

SPEAKER : Hon. Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma to answer the question.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there is quite a difference before and after the implementation. Attendance can be monitored and that is why it was introduced. The biometric attendance system is expensive and therefore, some departments have come up with low-cost solutions which we also accept. For example: The Education Department uses KAI and QR codes which is not that expensive. Geofencing is used on the school premises and attendance cannot be given to anyone who does not stay within the geo-fencing; The application is uploaded to the Google Play Store where Ministers and Secretaries can view the attendance of teachers and staff from dashboard. It is also acceptable if other departments can develop a cheaper and good system.

SPEAKER : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga could not attend today's session due to unforeseen circumstances and he authorized Dr. K. Beichhua on his behalf. So, I request Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Starred Question No. 123*.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, will the Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change be pleased to state – if there is a plan to employ National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) without seeking forest clearance.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalthansanga is being hospitalized and he authorized Pu K. Sapdanga on his behalf. So, I request Pu K. Sapdanga to answer the question.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there may be a mistake and I believe that Hon' Minister Pu Lalthansanga authorized Pu C. Lalsawivunga to answer the questions on his behalf.

SPEAKER : I am sorry for the mistake and I request Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer to Pu C. Ngunlianchunga's question is –There is no intention to employ NHIDCL without seeking forest clearance.

SPEAKER : The concerned minister is not among us and we will not take any supplementary questions. I request Pu K. Laldawngliana to ask *Starred Question No. 124*.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Pu Speaker, Will the Home Department Minister be pleased to state – Mizoram government's plan to continue to take care of our refugees from Burma, Bangladesh and Manipur.

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

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is– The Mizoram Government is committed to continuing to provide assistance to the refugees from Myanmar, Bangladesh and Manipur.

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

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Pu Speaker, my *supplementary question* is –

- i) How many refugees are there in Mizoram at present?
- ii) How much refugee aid has been received from the central government?

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

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, my supplementary question is–

- i) Is there any plan to deploy Women Police in every Mizoram Police station? I am asking this because there are many problems at Chawngte because of the lack of women police.
- ii) Is it possible to operate a Fire Service Station at Chawngte?
- iii) Chawngte is now a big town and its density of population is high. The whole town can be in trouble if a house is on fire. So, is there a way to expedite the installation of the Fire Service Station?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, my *supplementary question* is - Illegal theft of areca nut is increasing recently. My constituency is a growing area for areca-nut and they are sold in advance from the previous year. The buyers would buy and protect them from the time it blooms. We also faced difficulty last year but we did not

have too much trouble selling it fortunately. Non-Mizos have not purchased the new areca-nut this year and Bilkhawthlir areca-nut growers association members are on duty to prevent illegal areca-nut smuggling. So, how can the government take action on this and can the government prevent this more strictly? As an areca-nut center, can the government make arrangements for us to sell these?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu V.L. Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Speaker, my *supplementary question* is –

- i) Is it true that police promotion exams are given marks with a pencil? If so, why do they have to use a pencil?
- ii) How does the government handle the border issue?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga.

LT. COL. CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Pu Speaker, I need to explain my question a little bit. Mizo residents of Zokhawthar and its surrounding areas do not have much land to earn a living and their main source of income is Tiau trade. The border is now controlled and so, their daily livelihood is illegal because it is an international border. Nevertheless, they have no other reliance and occupation. canned fish, soft-drink, beef, stinky bean, mustard leaf etc. reached Aizawl Bazar and construction materials and sports equipment were also imported from this place. Some items are also cheaper than those from Silchar. So, is there any way to improve the livelihood of my constituents?

SPEAKER : I request Hon' Home Minister, Pu K. Sapdanga to answer the questions.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. In response to Pu K. Laldawngliana- The latest census that is on February 9th showed that 9,248 people from Manipur have entered the state and there are also many who have entered and left the state later. According to the 3rd February census, there are 32,161 from Myanmar and this figure might also change after the census. As of January 25th, 1,167 people have entered the state from Bangladesh. I could not provide the accurate numbers as there can be no daily census and I hope that the members will understand. Regarding the assistance, the cash assistance received from the central government was ₹30 lakhs during the previous government but the spending is not recorded.

In response to Pu RM Chakma- We lack women police and there is no fund to recruit the required numbers. The new government will do its utmost to save money and when the funds are available, women police officers will be distributed wherever they are needed. Regarding the Fire Sub-station, The Home Department also wanted a fire sub-

station at Chawngte but a current recruitment is not possible due to lack of funds. Therefore, the Government is doing its utmost to ensure that this is done.

In response to Pu Lalrinsanga – the government is busy with this issue whether in plain sight or undercover. After the birth of the new government, there is an order that foreign areca-nut shall not pass through any police check gate which is well followed by our police. However, it is said that there is a secret road where there is no duty and so, areca-nut cannot be discarded and its movement cannot be stopped. It is sometimes seized by communities and sometimes by the police. It is not right for us to keep it since it is foreign goods and foreign areca-nut is such a headache for us. There are more than 1,0000 areca nut farmers in Mizoram and we consulted one another. However, Mizoram farmers are treated as appropriately as possible. I would like to invite all members to do their utmost in this regard as it can hamper the sale of fresh vegetables in the state.

In response to Pu Zaithanzama, Pencil is used in police examination marking but the association has requested to stop using it. Therefore, a ballpen is used in the last police examination. Regarding borders, this subject has been raised 24 times since the time of the District Council sometimes in Delhi, Assam and Aizawl. We can tell them the place and the meetings in detail if the House wishes to know all these conversations. The conversations, however, are kept secret by the government and it is not appropriate to talk about it in the House.

SPEAKER : I request Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi to ask *Starred Question No. 125*.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Pu Speaker, will the Home Department Minister be pleased to state –

- a) The number of firearm licenses issued since the new government was formed.
- b) If issued, to how many people was it issued?

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

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

- a) Since the formation of the new Government, the Home Department has not approved and issued a firearm license.
- b) The above answer makes it clear.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Pu Speaker, my supplementary question is–

- i) What is the reason for not issuing?
- ii) Is there any intention to issue it?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalramliana Papua.

PU LALRAMLIANA PAPUIA: Pu Speaker, My Supplementary question is –

- i) Has TA been paid to police duty during the border conflict and Covid-19?
- ii) Hrangchalkawn Police Outpost was compensated after being damaged by road excavation. So, is there any plan to follow up on the action taken so far?
- iii) Is there a plan to rebuild it?

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

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: In response to Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi –

The new government is only three months old. Guns are weapons that require a proper license and it is not time to issue gun licenses to unfamiliar people. Secondly, in the past year, we have relaxed the gun license. 1,296 firearm licenses were issued last year and 1053 were issued the year before last year. These firearm license holders are reportedly selling their licenses without buying firearms and issuing gun license at this time is not appropriate. Therefore, the existing gun licenses should be firstly reviewed and then the issue of new gun licenses should be considered. Meanwhile, some people need guns for self-defense and some farmers need guns to protect their crops and we do not intend to refuse these people. Therefore, we intend to issue the license according to their needs.

SPEAKER : *Starred Question No. 126* to be asked by Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, will the GAD Minister be pleased to state–

If the Mizoram government have any plans to make Lengpui Airport a cargo service.

SPEAKER : Hon. GAD Minister Pu Lalduhoma to answer the question.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is –
There is no specific plan in the new government and follow-up will be done soon.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, my *supplementary question* is–

- i) Is there any plan to hand over Lengpui Airport to the Airport Authority of India (AAI)? If so, how long has the plan been implemented?

ii) SDRP - chapter 4 (L) of the ZPM government states that Lengpui Airport will be made a cargo service facility. If it is intended so, will we still hand over Lengpui Airport to AAI?

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

PU H. GINZALALA : Pu Speaker, Helicopter service is very limited and what we have now is the Ministry of Home Affairs. We heard that there is something to expect from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and what have we reached so far? Several offices and lands are under GAD. So, ZOHANDCO, Transport and Agriculture offices are all located at Chaltlang and is it possible to surrender their tiny lands for road expansion? If the government itself can voluntarily give its land to the public, then we will leave a good awareness among the people. So, can we surrender 1 or 2 feet?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, my *supplementary question* is—

i) Does the new government intend to continue the previous government's initiative to build an airport at Lunglei Kawmzawl?

ii) Is there any plan to hand over Lengpui Airport to others? If so, what is the reason?

SPEAKER : We should ask relatable questions and not drift to other subjects.

Let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister to answer.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, due to the financial condition of the State, it was decided that management of Lengpui Airport is not feasible. A committee under the chairmanship of Pu TBC. Lalvenchhunga is established and a report is expected by 3.3.2024. management of the airport might be handed over to Airport Authority of India or a private firm. This will depend on the findings of the committee.

Encroachment of airport land area is prolific with many private individuals having LSC's for land around the airport. Revenue Department will be conducting a survey in the near future. We expect these lands be returned to the airport.

Under Regional Connectivity Scheme, 11 heliports and 15 helipads will be constructed in every district. We hope that this will suffice demand. (**Speaker:** Question and answer have ended. Shall we let him finish? (House agreed) Please continue.)

Lands owned by the government that is needed for widening of roads will be given as and when required.

Regarding Kawmzawl Airport, I have no information at present. Thank you.

ELECTION TO FINANCIAL COMMITTEES

SPEAKER : We will move on to election to financial committees.

There are four branches of Financial Committee. They are-

1. Public Accounts Committee
2. Committee on Estimates
3. Committee on Public Undertakings
4. Committee on Local Fund Accounts

The following member were elected for the following committees-

I. Public Accounts Committee:

1. Pu V.L. Zaithanmawia
2. Pu W. Chhuanawma
3. Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga
4. Pu TBC. Lalvenchhunga
5. Pu Lalchhandama Ralte
6. Pu C. Ngunlianchunga
7. Dr. K. Beichhua

II. Committee on Estimates:

1. Pu W. Chhuanawma
2. Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte
3. Pu T. Lalhlimpaia
4. Pu Jeje Lalpekhlua
5. Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo
6. Pu Robert Romawia Royte
7. Pu C. Ngunlianchunga

III. Committee on Public Undertakings:

1. Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga
2. Pu H. Ginzalala
3. Pu Lalramliana Papuia
4. Pu V. Mawlsawmtluanga
5. Pu Ramthanmawia
6. Pu K. Laldawngliana
7. Pu K. Hrahmo

IV. Committee on Local Fund Accounts:

1. Pu Lalchhuanthanga
2. Pu Lalramliana Papuia
3. Dr. Lorrain Lalpekliana Chinzah
4. Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi
5. Pu H. Lalzirliana

6. Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte
7. Pu R. Rohmingliana

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

We will proceed to *financial business*. We will have a general discussion of ‘The Annual Budget for the year, 2024-2025’. Let us call upon Pu VL. Zaithanzama to start the discussion.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is very gratifying to know that the new ministry is able to present a transparent budget. It is evident from this budget that there will be development of agriculture and other areas.

We are all aware that the financial situation of the State was so dire that the new ministry was forced to declare ‘year of consolidation’. In spite of this, the hon. Chief Minister is able to present a budget made for the people.

The most important aspect mentioned in the budget is fighting against corruption. CBI has also been given authority and access to root out any discrepancy within the government.

The budget brings good news for farmers. Minimum price support had been declared for ginger, turmeric, pepper and broomsticks.

₹100 crores have been set aside for construction of roads. ₹1312.42 crore is expected from State-own tax revenue while 1 to 3% has been set aside for stamp duty. Biometrics attendance system will be used in every department.

Healthcare debt will be paid from RE with ₹40 crores set aside for this. ₹20 crore is also put aside for healthcare scheme. Priority will be given to education and infrastructure. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Jeje Lalpekhlua.

PU JEJE LALPEKHLUA: Pu Speaker, thank you. The hon. Chief minister has presented a budget that is made for all. It definitely is a people’s budget. It is exhilarating to see that debt GSDP will decrease by 29.22% from 37.84%. State-own tax revenue is expected to be ₹2434.81%.

One important aspect of the budget is the establishment of Agriculture Market Assurance Fund Management Board. I sincerely hope that this will bring about change for the better. Mizoram Research Mobilization Committee (MRMC) is also established. Anti-corruption measures have been also taken. Other notable feature of the budget are healthcare security and introduction of Minimum Price Support.

Expectation for the new ministry is high and I do hope that we will be able to live up to this expectation. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga.

LT. COL. CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Looking at the budget speech, I believe we are on the right track to achieving sustenance. With the announcement of year of consolidation, I do hope that it will bring about change.

Estimate for revenue surplus 2024-25 is at an all time high of ₹564.95 crore.

Mizoram Resource Mobilization Committee was established under the chairmanship of the hon. Chief Minister. The Committee will monitor state revenue and disinvestment of state assets.

Anto- corruption measures were laid out to root out corruption within the state. CBI were given access and authority to root out corruption.

Hand holding Policy was introduced to promote skill development and entrepreneurship among youths. New system for old age pension is introduced with state matching share. I have high expectation for New Education Policy 2020.

It is evident that we will see better and more sophisticated management system for the budget. Lastly, I wholeheartedly pledge my support to the budget. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. I applaud the hon. Chief Minister for presenting an excellent budget. However, I do have reservation regarding the implementation of projects and programmes mentioned in the budget.

I am delighted to learn that Boundary Committee and Mizoram Resource Mobilization Committee, which were established by the previous ministry will be continued. Mizoram State Project Monitoring Committee is also established and I do hope that it will function as it is meant to be.

I am disappointed that State-own tax revenue which was calculated by using GSDP as indices clearly shows that the amount presented is much less than the previous ministry. There is no mention of Development Bank within the budget speech which is another disappointment. Only ₹200 crore was set aside for hand holding policy which led me to believe that achievement based on this policy will be limited.

Lastly, I pledge my support to the budget with the hope that it will be implemented. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Lalzirliana.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. The first budget of 9th Legislative Assembly presented by the hon. Chief Minister is an excellent budget.

There are several features that differs from the previous budget and I would like to highlight those. They are old age pension with state matching share, minimum support price for new produce, new healthcare policy, hand holding policy, road & bridges maintenance, hydel regeneration structure and gender budget.

I do have one query regarding the budget. Plan for the ministry is to increase state income, from where will the revenue be generated?

The budget is exceptional in theory, will we be able to implement them is another story. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Speaker, thank you. I give credit to the ministry for presenting the first budget of their term.

First of all, we encounter a new scheme under the budget which is Gender Budget Statement. This scheme will be under the purview of School Education, Social Welfare and Home Department.

I am a bit uncertain about their flagship programme which is the hand holding policy. Only ₹200 crore is set aside for the policy and I feel that the amount is too meagre for a flagship programme.

I am glad that a new scheme for old age pension is introduced.

If Aizawl by-pass tunnel project can be realized, it will solve the congestion issue faced by Aizawl city.

Lastly, I do hope that this budget will reach and benefit all the people of Mizoram. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu T. Lalhlimpaia.

PU T. LALHLIMPUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. We are pleased to have a new system budget presented by the hon. Chief Minister also in charge of Finance Department. It is tune with what His Excellency, the Governor said in his address to the House at the beginning of the session.

Capital expenditure, revenue, actual budget and revised estimate are all there without any addition or dressing compared to previous budgets. When re-appropriation is done, we hope to see positive result particularly when allocation is done for our Autonomous District Councils.

The balance inherited from the previous government is minus 389.89 crores. Under economic sector, ongoing mega projects and growth rate of Mizoram economy is highlighted. Cottage and small-scale industries contribution came second, then comes agriculture sector in Mizoram. I am pleased to see that the budget covers the highest to the lowest sector.

With negative balance, it is going to be a year of consolidation for the government. Due to this, there may be some allocation which do not meet expectations. We have incomplete projects to continue, it is necessary for the people to support the government in our contribution under different venues and sectors.

Pu Speaker, GSDP is based on current price and Revised Estimate is regarded as Actual Budget, so GSDP for 2024-25 is increased by ₹8681.63 crores.

SPEAKER : It is 1 PM. Shall we let the member continue?
(Members agree) Please continue.

Thank you, Pu Speaker. On scrutiny of every detail, the vision and far-sightedness of the hon. Chief Minister is very admirable. Our GSDP is only a projection which can change in the future. I hope the budget will bring positive change in times to come. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will break for lunch and continue at 2PM.

(Recess)

2:00 PM

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

PU H. GINZALALA : Pu Speaker, thank you. After studying the budget carefully, I really do appreciate it. It is a well-thought and well-planned budget considering the condition of our State. There are no manipulations and it is transparent and realistic.

In developed countries, prioritized sector is highlighted. In Mizoram, we have meagre resources to name. but we still need to have prioritized sector for economic growth. In this budget, education and health sector is prioritized.

Service sector, agriculture, primary and secondary sector are all mentioned in the budget. Service sector has the highest contribution which is 50% whereas primary sector has the least contribution which this budget prioritized. If various sectors are not well balanced, our economy cannot see full growth.

The budget also reflects the government's priority towards having linkage for all sections. It is anew venture reflected in the budget which we do not see in previous budget. This reflects how well-thought out the budget is.

Balanced regional development is also prioritized so is resource mobilization. Employment generation is also a must to elevate our state. The budget is aiming to make Mizoram a vibrant state.

₹200 crore is allocated under SDRP which is expected to be well utilized. Under resource mobilization, it is understood that we are incapable of implementing all resources. Paying electricity bill on time could save us capital.

I am also pleased to note the government's policy of outsourcing under Land Revenue and Settlement Department. Time management is also mentioned which is an important issue.

I do hope that the budget will bring sustainable development with environmentally friendly atmosphere. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pi Prova Chakma.

PI PROVA CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. The budget presented by the hon. Chief Minister greatly prioritized farmers and cultivators. That is in line with what I have been thinking.

Agricultural Market Assurance Fund Management Board is formed under Agriculture Minister for elevating farmers and cultivators for which Rs. 110 crore is allocated. If we do have such Board, why can't the farmers having broomstick to sell are unable to do so? Why is the fund allocated remained unused?

₹200 crore is allocated for hand holding policy. How will the policy be implemented with meagre allocation?

One thing I appreciate in the budget is upliftment of women folks and gender budget. However, in the Assembly, there is no recess room for women. We will be pleased to have such.

Under Social Welfare Department, provision is there for financially constrained families to use mob van for carrying corpses. But how will we classify such families? Do they have to produce BPL card as there are families having no such card.

Our constituency faces road problem every now and then. Construction and improvement of road has started. Considering the condition of roads within my constituency, building bridges in our area is much needed. Is there a separate allocation for construction of bridges?

Will it be possible to include Bizu Festival, a chakma festival in the fund allocation? One suggestion I would like to make is cold storage for farmers in our constituency. We need cold storage for farmers to stock their produce. The area within my constituency is a high potential area. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. Lorrain.

DR. LORRAIN LALPEKLIANA CHINZAH: Pu Speaker, thank you. I feel very fortunate to be able to take part in discussion of the budget. I personally thank the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister for presenting a transparent and realistic budget.

100 Days Programme was announced at the start of the ministry. Many projects have been concluded during this time.

Year of Consolidation was also declared due to the weak financial situation of Mizoram. This will decrease the public debt by ₹697.69 crore. As promised by the hon. Chief Minister, minimum support price was laid out for ginger, pepper, turmeric and broomstick.

Other notable projects and board announced are Mizoram Resources Management Committee, anti-corruption measures, Mizoram State Project Monitoring Committee, Agriculture Market Assurance Fund Management Board and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme.

Pu Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the budget presented by the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, the budget for 2024-25 presented by the hon. Chief Minister and Finance Minister is a feasible budget.

Some features of the budget deserve mentioning such as anti-corruption measures, punctuality and time management.

Pu Speaker, it is welcoming that 20.13 crore has been allocated for replacement of old transformers. It is hard for us in the rural area during rainy season. When there are heavy rainfall and wind many transformers are broken.

Next, it is also welcoming to know that the State contribution increase from 100/- to 1000/- under Old Age Pension Scheme.

Next, from PM-DevINE scheme the Ministry of Road Transport & Highway sanctioned 1313.28 crore for construction of Aizawl by-pass tunnel. While this was proposed by the previous Chief Minister many of us think it a joke. However, it is welcoming to hear our House Leader 's thanksgiving speech. We have to slowly shed the feeling of helplessness. At Sairang railway construction 2.5 km tunnel was constructed. We see on page 7 at 24 'Anti-Intoxicating Substance Drive' the same fund was allocated as the previous government for the fight against drugs abuse. On page 14 – 'Recovery of loans & Advances' the same amount was also allocated as the previous ministry does.

What I do not understand is the government said, 'we will not increase domestic electricity bill this year'. In this regard we have to have a mature mind. We have no overground resources and will solely rely on taxes. We all know how dependent we are in taxes and increase Stamp Fee recently. We intend to increase the budget to 12% from 184.30 crore, this mean that we are going to squeeze hard. We see that minimum support price will be given in ginger, turmeric, pepper and broom. However, despite 110 crore allocated by the previous ministry farmers while harvesting on time suffered due to miscommunication with the Associates. When I looked into the budget closely only 17.03% was allocated in Capital Expenditure and that is for development work. While that is the case, Revenue Expenditure is very high, it is 82.97% from the Budget Estimate. I am afraid we will not be able to get out from this hand-holding policy. What is the reason our Revenue Expenditure is so high? I hope he will make clarification on this. However, there are 4 or 5 new things in our budget and I am very pleased. Their main policy hand-holding policy is not reflected in the budget. What they used to criticized in the previous ministry about allocating large fund in the Finance was repeated here by allocating 200 crore in Finance.

For the last the budget speech is not good and interesting. There many needs to add however, I want to convey my thank in implementing the previous government's work as we see in the budget. I think our budget is okay, thank you.

SPEAKER : Well, if there are no one to participate we will conclude our business for today, we will resume our sitting on Tuesday, the 5th march, 2024 at 10:30 AM.

Sitting is adjourned (2:47 PM)