

**SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR NINTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 23rd MARCH, 2018
(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.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

2. * **Resolutions**

S.R. ZOKHUMA
Commissioner & Secretary

- * Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 217, dated the 19th March, 2018 for relative precedence of Private Members' Resolutions to be moved.

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SPEAKER : A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

Proverbs 25:11

Let us now call upon Er. Lalrinawma to ask Starred Question No. 109.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Hon. Minister for Soil & Water Conservation Department be pleased to state:

- a) If there is any fund availed during 2016-17 for Rubber and Coffee Plantation; if so, how much?
- b) From which source?

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows:

- a) ₹66,38,000/- from NABARD for Rubber Plantation. There is no fund availed for Coffee Plantation.
- b) It is availed from NABARD.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Who owned the land for plantation at Chungtlang, the government or private? How many private plantations are being taken up by the government at present? What is the total amount of production this year and last year?

SPEAKER : Pu Thanliana.

PU LALTHANLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will seedlings be distributed this year? If so, will it cover Kolasib District?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may now answer.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, plantations under the maintenance of the Government are of various societies. There is no plan for distribution of seedlings for this year as of now. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will move on to Question No. 111 of Dr. K. Beichhua as the owner of Starred Question No. 110 is absent today.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the Hon. Minister for GAD be pleased to state: -

- a) How many times Pawan Hans Helicopter is chartered by the name of Chief Minister, Governor and other VIPs since 2013?
- b) How much is the charter rate?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Hon. Chief Minister, Pu Lal Thanhawla.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows: -

- a) Helicopter is chartered 69 times since 2013.
 b) The rate is ₹70,000/- and is increased to ₹80,000/- since January, 2018.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, if the cost of charters is paid in full?

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the cost of chartering is always paid in full.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Firstly, how many helipads are there in Mizoram? Secondly, from which source fund for chartering helicopter being availed? Thirdly, is life insurance for the passengers being implemented?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Chief Minister may now answer.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, 75% of the cost of chartering helicopter is centrally funded. Helicopter service is made available to district headquarters and other important towns. It is proposed to be increased as the needs compel us. There are 16 functioning helipads at the moment and each passenger is insured at 7.5 lakhs. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua may now ask Starred Question No. 112.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 112. Will the Hon. Minister for Agriculture Department be pleased to state: -
 a) To how many parties NLUP fund is being lent?
 b) How much?
 c) How much from NLUP fund is spent for administrative and other costs?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may answer.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows:
 a) NLUP fund is lent by NIB to 5 parties.
 b) The amount is ₹377.77 lakh.
 c) ₹118.83/-.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Dr. K. Beichhua.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My question is: -
 Is there any guideline for utilization of NLUP fund? Is NLUP fund being loaned on interest or without interest? Is the amount being recovered? If so, how much is recovered? Is there a time fixed for recovery of such loan? How many vehicles are bought under NLUP Scheme?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, for what purpose payment of ₹165 lakh is made to Pi Lianzami Khiangte on 29.1.2016?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may answer.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there is a guideline for utilization of funds under NLUP. The conditions of lending NLUP fund are as follows:

i) Hnamchhantu is lent ₹230 lakh on interest free out of which ₹35 lakh is recovered.

LZ Bamboo Industry borrowed ₹10 lakh on interest free loan and there is no recovery as yet.

ii) Mizoram Broom India borrowed ₹30 lakh on interest free and there is no recovery as yet.

CDAR borrowed ₹50/- to provide assistance to farmers facing marketing problems.

iii) Samuel Tea Factory borrowed ₹57.77/- lakh on interest free for the purpose of establishment of processing plant for tea plantation at Biate.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, what about the question regarding purchased of vehicle under NLUP?

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I could not answer it at the moment; I will try to give the answer later on.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, for what purpose payment of ₹165/- lakh is made to Pi Lianzami Khiangte on 29.1.2016?

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the said was lent to LE & IT Department for the purpose of sending our youth to Japan for employment opportunity.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, if it is granted to LE & IT Department, why is it being transferred to Pi Lianzami Khiangte's private account?

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, I have no idea if it is not deposited in LE & IT Departmental account but it is meant for it.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 113 from Pu Lalruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 113. Will the Hon. Minister for General Administration Department be pleased to state:-

- a) Is a plot of land being purchased at Imphal for Mizoram House? If so, when?
- b) If the fencing being constructed; if so, how much is the cost and who is the work agency? Is the site maintained properly?
- d) Is there proposal for construction of Mizoram House? If so, when will it be started?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Chief Minister may answer.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows:-

- a) Yes, it was purchased in 2004.
- b) The fencing constructed in 2005 costs ₹5 lakh. The work agency is Greenfield International, Dinthar, Aizawl.
- c) The fencing is renovated recently at a cost of ₹37,67,710/- and the work agency is Pu C. Lalrosanga, Kanan Veng.
- d) There is no plan for construction of Mizoram House at present. For our kind information, we also have a site for Mizoram House at Churachandpur but we could not start the construction yet.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Ruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The site mentioned by the Hon. Chief Minister at Churachandpur is very important since it is a place where different Mizo tribes are living. Meanwhile, there are some encroachments of the area and so is necessary to take necessary steps to protect the land.

Secondly, the flight service between Aizawl and Imphal is only once a week. I would like to ask if this could be increased.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, it is true that construction of Mizoram House at Churachandpur is very important. It is the desire of the government to construct the same for a long time but could not be materialized due to financial limitations. It will be considered as soon as possible.

Regarding air service, only once a week is very insufficient. Not only this, there is a problem about the rate also as it is increased at an exorbitant rate as we have submitted a complaint to Civil Aviation Minister also. Likewise, we have made all possible efforts to have better connection with Imphal.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No. 114 from Pu T.T. Zothansanga.

PU T.T. ZOTHANSANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Starred Question No. 114, will the Hon. Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state: -

How many of power tiller and mini-power tiller being distributed during this Assembly session?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister concerned may reply.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, 735 Nos. power tillers and 80 Nos. mini-power tillers are distributed during this Assembly session.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu T.T. Zothansanga.

PU T.T. ZOTHANSANGA : Pu Speaker, my Supplementary Questions are as follows:

- i) Is there a plan to continue with distribution of power tiller and mini-power tiller?
- ii) How many custom hiring centres are there in Mizoram?
- iii) May tractors be provided at subsidized rate also to those farmers who are excluded from clusters due to the location of their fields?
- iv) Will those farmers whose fields were destroyed by floods during last monsoon be compensated?

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may now answer.

PU K.S. THANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, there are 104 custom hiring centres and other 30 centres set to be established. Regarding providing tractor at subsidized rate, we will pursue the matter despite huge financial problems. We are having problems in providing compensation for those farmers whose fields are destroyed by floods also as there is no fund available at the moment. However, we will consider if there is way to provide. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now move to Starred Question No. 115. Let us call upon Pu Lalruatkima to ask the question.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, Starred Question No. 115. Will the Hon. Minister for Planning & Implementation Department be pleased to state:-

- a) Is BPL baseline survey being held? If so, when, and when will it be completed?
- b) Do we have reliable Economic Survey/Statistics/Data bank? How was it prepared?
- c) Is production statistics and impact analysis of NLUP being held on regular basis? If so, how many time in a year?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Pu Lalsawta may answer.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer is as follows: -

- a) BPL Baseline survey was held in 2016 and provisional list was published in 2017. Final publication is expected soon.
- b) Step has been made for a reliable data bank as District and Village profile also is under process.
- c) Regarding NLUP, I cannot answer the question as the subject is of Planning & Programme Implementation Department.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Ruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I opined BPL Baseline survey is essential and it is desirable that the final publication is completed this year. What I would like to add is that the people, especially those from villages and poorer sections are facing problems due to high cost for availing delayed Birth Certificate. I hope the process will be simplified.

Regarding Birth Certificate, a doubtful issue occurs recently at Borapansuri-I, Lawngtlai District as Birth Certificate issued to two siblings with the name Sepali Chakma and Rupali Chakma with their age gap of only around six months. This is impossible as they are of the same mother. Thus, it is obvious fraudulent is involved in it. So, I would like to ask what step has been taken so far at the part of the department in this regard. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Rinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, what is the eligible income ceiling for BPL member registration? Thank you.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may now answer.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, as requested, we will try our best to complete the final publication of BPL baseline survey during this year. Regarding the high cost for availing delayed Birth Certificate, it is done so as to stop issue of fraudulent Birth Certificate.

The ceiling of income for BPL registration changed from time to time. I think it is ₹1 lakh at the moment.

Regarding the said false issue of Birth Certificate, the Registrar has already been suspended; action will be taken as per the law. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Question Hour is now over. We will move to Private Members Resolution. Let us call upon Pu Vanlalzawma to move Resolution No. 1.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am overwhelmed that my Resolution has been balloted to be discussed in this august House. First of all, my Resolution is, "Let intensive efforts be made to combat the menace of drugs abuse and consumption of alcohol in our society, church, family and private life." This kind of Resolution with a different wording had already been discussed in the House last year.

As a matter of fact, it is not unlikely that use of alcohol and drug abuse disturb us as the government's corporations themselves are made to sale liquor; it is even sold in the premise of police compounds. With this, the use of drug is also rampant. This problem is not only prevailing within Aizawl but also in villages as well. As this is our present situation, I consider this resolution as an important one. (*Dy. Speaker's at the Chair.*) This is clear from the fact that the death rate of men is much more than that of women.

If we consider this carefully, the majority of death is due to consumption of alcohol. According to the survey report of the Mizoram Synod Social Front, 93.81% are of the opinion that alcohol consumption has a negative effect in our society and 86.1% are of the opinion that MLPC Act does not lower the rate of other drugs and so on. So, it is important to consider this carefully and I hope we all agree to pass this

Resolution. From the answer provided by the hon. Minister for Starred Question on MLPC Act, 2014, he states that it is very effective and that consumers can acquire a better quality alcohol at a lower price; and it also puts a halt for importing alcohol from Myanmar. He also mentioned that the rate of accidents also decrease and the revenue generated by the State had also increased. I want to say that alcohol is still imported from Myanmar and our MLPC Act does not stop consumers to acquire Myanmar liquor. It is also important that our medical expenses have also increase due to alcohol consumption and that States like Bihar and Kerala chose not to promote selling of liquor after carefully considering the consequences it has on their society. Thus, I request all my fellow members to vote for my Resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member has moved his Resolution; we will start our discussion and each member will be allotted 15 minutes. Regarding the control of substance abuse, The Mizoram Drug Control Substance Act, 2016 is passed in the House and the Rules have also been drafted for immediate Gazzetted. To start our discussion, I will now call upon Pu Lalthanliana.

PU LALTHANLIANA : Pu Speaker, even after the implementation of MLPC Act, there are many licensed sellers and the impact it has in our society is appalling. From the review meeting on the Surveillance, MSAC Project Director mentioned that the rate of substance abuse had increase along with the number of HIV infected which placed Mizoram at the top of the list in India. The number of cancer patients also increase; and according to Vanglaini and The Zozam Times, the percentage of those who breach MLPC Act during 2017 is higher than 2016 by 200%. From the survey conducted by Synod Social Front, it is clear that the selling of liquor does not decrease the percentage of other substances abuse in our State. Before it causes more damage to our family and society, I opine it is wise to pass this Resolution and take necessary immediate measures for the success of the Resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalsawta, the hon. Minister.

PU LALSAWTA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. The negative effect of substance abuse is clear in our society since it results in the untimely demise of many as it also increase poverty, broken families etc. I understand the purpose of the hon. Member with his Resolution as so by the hon. House Leader and a committee thus is established to fight against substance abuse; it is clear that our society need to take extreme actions in this regard. I also request our NGO's like YMA and Churches etc to join hands on this issue as the Government is also open to suggestions. With that, I will conclude by stating my support in passing this Resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu R.L. Pianmawia.

PU R.L. PIANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I want to express my support of this Resolution as substance abuse is a burning issue in our society. NGO's and churches have tackled this for a long time. It is obvious that we cannot eradicate this practice completely but still we have to continue in combating this issue earnestly not only as a government but as NGO's and Churches. At the same time, I think it is important to know the grass root cause of how a person

involves in selling liquor and drugs. It is important that the concern MLA's knows the reason, the number and why there are bootleggers in our respective constituency and try to come up with a solution. So, I want to express my support in passing this Resolution as substance abuse is the main cause of social evil in our society. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinliana Sailo.

PU LALRINLIANA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I express my wholehearted support to this Resolution as we are all aware of the evil effect of alcohol and other substance abuse is becoming a social issue and even the churches have observe continuous prayers for this concern. Apart from alcohol, it is important that we give attention in fighting against drugs. Even in countries like the Philipines, the penalty is death; but since we are Christians, it is too harsh a punishment to sentence one to death. But I believe we can make a more severe punishment for those who are involved in such things. I was once a VCP back in 1997 and we caught one youth abuser of barely 14 years of age; I asked him how he started involving in drugs and his answer was very surprising. He said that he started abusing drugs from seeing the pictures in the newspapers. So, I suggest the media should be very careful in spreading information to this concern.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the government is truly interest in supporting this cause; I believe enough effort had not been made in the previous Ministry. It is important that we should encourage our youths to be more tenacious and work earnestly in any kind of job they are engaged into so as to make some profits out of their leisure. I also believe that it will be effective to determine deployment of our youths even on shifts or an hourly engagement; I strongly believe this will have a positive impact on our youth. I suggest our government giving attention on this issue through different departments like Labour & Employment, Planning etc. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu P.C. Zoram Sangliana.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. I express my support on the Resolution of our fellow member. We must all be aware of alcohol and drugs have a negative influence in our society and the same to many families. It is obvious that we all have to fight against substance abuse as a government and as NGO's and churches. As all the members who made their speech so far supports this Resolution, I suggest we passed it without further ado. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now have come to the end of our morning session and we will have a short break and will continue with our discussion at 2:00 PM.

2:00 PM

SPEAKER : We all seem to support the Resolution and do we need to continue with it? Pu K. Sangthuama.

PU K. SANGTHUAMA : Pu Speaker, from our morning discussion, it is obvious that we all support the Resolution and I am glad that we are aware of the impact of substance abuse in our society. I am sure we are also aware that it has affected many families and our society and increase of HIV infected persons in our state. So, it is crucial that we all should take our stands as churches, NGO's and families to fight against substance abuse; and at the same time, it is important that we give attention to Health Department as abusing of drugs and alcohol always results in the health of the abuser.

Pu Speaker, we, as a society we need to come together and put more efforts on our rehabilitation centers.

I am aware that the Govt. is helping these centers financially and yet fund provision for the same may be increased.

I believe that the Govt. itself should run these centers through Social Welfare Department na more staff may be deployed as necessary to relief the workload on Narcotics Department. Also, we need to strictly enforce the existing law for the punishment of those using and selling narcotics, thank you.

SPEAKER : Er. Lalrinawma.

Er. LALRINAWMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. This Resolution is quite important as it concern the problems of our society due to drugs and alcohol.

As seen from the Governor's Address and starred Question No.100, it is quite clear that using and selling of drugs and alcohol have increased exponentially. The Govt. thus needs to increase financial support to combat drugs and alcohol. At the same time, we can provide substantial financial support to rehabilitation centers and strengthen Excise Department.

We must also take control as MLPC Act and enforce the Mizoram MLPC, 2014 to ensure licensees follows the rules. Lastly, I express my support to this Resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now invite our hon. C.M and House Leader for the hon. Minister of Excise & Narcotics Department is absent today.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, it is our right, as a Member to speak of what we feel is important even in the absence of the hon. Minister.

PU H. ZOTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, it is not an absolute right but it is up to the Speaker waive this right at his discretion.

SPEAKER : If you want to speak and participate in the discussion, it is your right. Since we all agreed to this Resolution, I assumed we may pass it without further ado.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, I believe there are Members having suggestions or construction criticisms.

SPEAKER : You may proceed if you have any.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. We are all aware of the importance of this Resolution and I feel that having proper discussion in this topic is essential.

My personal opinion is that since the introduction of MLPC Act, there is a surge in alcohol related deaths and misuse of drugs due to various sources of alcohol and drugs in the market. We have all seen its consequences and I believe the Govt. should determine the reason and find solution.

I believe the first solution is to terminate MLPC Act. Let us hope that this termination would make a dent on the drugs market. As we have seen from the Subject Committee-I Report, stronger enforcement is a must at the border areas and other alcohol and drug routes.

SPEAKER : I believe there is no wine shop in your constituency.

Dr. K. BEICHHUA : Yes, there is no wine shop yet, there are a large numbers who sell it illegally. We have to pool one resource through NEDP, Social Welfare Department and Excise Department as a preventive and curative measure and also set up the rehabilitation of alcohol and drug abusers. Lastly, I would like to pledge my support to this Resolution, thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Ruatkima.

PU LALRUATKIMA : Pu Speaker, I am very pleased that this Resolution is submitted by the Opposition Leader, Pu Vanlalzawma. Majority of the family are affected by drugs and alcohol problems and our society is plagued; we, as a society thus need to address this issue before it is too late.

According to the reports, drugs and alcohol related deaths increases considerably and the number of people infected with AIDS is the highest in India based on one population.

Since the inception of the MLPC Act, the Excise has been stretched to the limit due to this Act with the need to check and control the sale of alcohol. While such is the case, availability of manpower decreases in our borders thereby indirectly affecting the safety of our borders. We are fortunate that we have Social Force to help us.

We must increase the budget of Social Welfare and Excise Department and use our resources from NEDP to tackle this issue and also give more attentions to our rehabilitation centers.

The Mizoram Drug Control Substances Act, 2016 was passed last year and more effects must be taken to make the best use of this Act so that those punishable by Law do not escape.

Lastly, I suggest that we terminate the MLPC Act 2014 and that the cons outweigh the pros. In the meantime, I give my support to this Resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu T. Sangkunga.

PU T. SANGKUNGA : Pu Speaker, the importance of this Resolution can be seen from the number of members participating in the discussion. I believe this House has unanimously support this Resolution.

I am also one of the families affected by drugs and alcohol. I opine it was a miss reception when MLTP Act was introduced by the previous Congress Ministry. As such, it is again introduced by the present Congress Ministry despite many criticisms.

Drugs and alcohol have a negative impact not only in Mizoram but on a global scale. The more developed and richer the country, the larger the issue is; developed countries such as America and China has been making all efforts to find out the source of these problems without practical outcome.

I opine control by total prohibition of drugs and alcohol will not resolve these problems. This ministry has also determined to stop MLPC Act and is now awaiting the report of Subject Committee-I.

I do admit that we need to tackle this issue as a society and put a common effort so that our goal is achieved. Pu Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this Resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu H. Zothangliana.

PU H. ZOTHANGLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I would like to add the phrase 'For a long time' to our resolution as this issue with drugs and alcohol is not a recent phenomenon but have started as far back as 1982.

I would like to point out that we might be too pessimistic in mentioning only the negative impact drugs and alcohol have. There are thousands of youth who are not affected. In saying so, it does not mean that I debase and ignore the reality of our situation.

There is no one reason for this influx of drugs and alcohol though some blamed demonetization of the Modi Govt. as a factor. Whatever may be the reason, the effects are the same and it is not right to expect the Govt. to solve these problems. I believe our Churches may prove more effective in tackling these problems as they are a stronger force in Mizo Society.

As previously mentioned by other Members, we need to strengthen our forces and departments who are dealing with drugs, alcohol and relatively rehabilitation centres. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Rinthanga.

PU K. LALRINTHANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. As we progress with our discussion, I am concerned that we are conveying a negative perception towards the sale of drugs and alcohol. We need to analyze why drugs and alcohol are prevalent in our society; it is due to the demand and supply ratio. If there are no users, then there will be no market for drugs and alcohol. We, as a Christian society is plagued by narcotics and we must be brave enough to take the blame ourselves. Gospel starts at home and parents must take responsibility for the actions of their children.

We cannot put the blame on the Govt. and expect it to clean up this mess. We, the society including the Govt., NGO's, Churches and individuals need to come together to tackle this issue. Thus, I offer my support to pass this Resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu P.C. Lalthanana, Hon. Minister.

PU P.C. LALTHANLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, as a Minister in charge of Social Welfare Department, I would like to outline a few of undertakings of the Department in combat against narcotics.

Most of the opposition Members who have spoken before me implied MLPC Act as the source of our issue. However, our issues with narcotics started long before the MLPC Act. In order to quell the sale and abuse of drugs and alcohol, the House thus passed 'The Mizoram Drugs Control Substance Act, 2016' on December, 2016 which is initiated by Social Welfare Department. The Mizoram Drugs Demand Reduction Policy, 2016 was also approved by the Cabinet on October, 2016. A survey on Drugs Awareness had also been approved by the Cabinet on October, 2016. A survey on Drugs Awareness had also been conducted by Social Welfare Department and the survey report released by the Hon. Chief Minister on 7th August, 2017.

Rules & Regulations for control of drugs and alcohol have been gazetted on January, 2018 and is expected soon to be laid in this House. Rules for control and rehabilitation of abusers and sale of narcotics have been prepared for Social Welfare Department and also by Excise Narcotics Department.

As mentioned before, there are 38 Nos. De-addiction and Rehabilitation centers functioning under Social Welfare Department out of which 2 are of centrally funded. We are looking for ways to improve and enhance these centers. In short, we are doing our best for control of drugs and alcohol. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now invite our Hon. Chief Minister.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. This Resolution has a big impact on this House as it is seen from the members' participation during the discussion.

As mention before, there is no definite answer as to the reason that the sale and use of drugs and alcohol is so prevalent in our society. We cannot ascertain if MLPC Act has increased or decreased or the sale and number of alcohol abusers.

However, it is certain that sale and abuse of narcotics have increased considerably. It may be due to demonetization and our closeness to the Golden Triangle. Due to the peaceful nature of our State, smuggling and illegal trading have increases considerably as we are looking into control of border areas to check the inflow of illegal activities. Problems stemming from drugs smuggling and alcohol abuse is not only prevalent in Mizoram, rather it becomes global issue.

One of the main problems faced is the prosecution of those lawbreakers. Due to the absence of applicable and competent rules, majority of the perpetrators are released with prosecution. We are working with Law & Judicial Department to look for more effective ways so the lawbreakers are prosecuted as per the crimes committed.

I am grateful to my fellow Member, Pu Vanlalzawma for submitting this Resolution. I hope that we, as a society will come together so that we can isolate this issue. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We shall now invite respected Member, Pu Vanlalzawma to wind up the discussion and move the House to adopt this Resolution.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. 14 members have participated in the discussion of my resolution and I am thankful for their enthusiast participation.

One important point that I would like to convey is raising awareness on the effects and impact of drugs and alcohol on individuals, families and society as a whole. I suggest this should be included in the syllabus at Primary and middle school level.

We should make more efforts to provide support to those who are working in the rehabilitation of substance abusers. We are fortunate that we have NGO's like YMA and other associations supporting us in the fight against drugs and alcohol.

We must capitalize on uniform decision that our youths enjoyed currently and apply this to educate them on drugs and alcohol, its effects and consequences as well. *(SPEAKER: It is now 4 PM; it is up to the House to decide if we would continue. Alright, you may proceed.)*

Pu Speaker, thank you. Another important is to adjust our mentality toward alcohol. We must instill in the minds of our youths so that they will be able to resist drugs and alcohol.

Thus, Pu Speaker, I beg the House to pass my Resolution that 'Preventative measure should be taken to control the prevalence of drugs and alcohol in Mizo Society'.

SPEAKER : Respected Member, Pu Vanlalzawma has moved the House to pass his Resolution that 'Preventative measure should be taken to control the prevalence of drugs and alcohol in Mizo Society'. Those who are in favors, say, 'Agree'. (Members: Agree). Is there anyone who does not agree? None.

This House has anonymously passed the Resolution that 'Preventative measure should be taken to control the prevalence of drugs and alcohol in Mizo Society'.

PU VANLALZAWMA : Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : It is now 4 PM and shall we continue with our discussion? It is up to the House.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Speaker, fresh topic is not entertained after 4 PM; we can only extend the existing topic if it is not completed.

SPEAKER : Alright we will not accept a new topic. Our Hon. Governor has invited us all for dinner at Raj Bhawan on the 23rd and I request everyone to attend. Dinner will start at 7:30 PM.

We have concluded our business for today and the meeting will be resumed on Monday, the 26th at 10:30 AM.

(The sitting is adjourned.)