

**EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM  
(NINTH SESSION)**

**LIST OF BUSINESS**

FOR FIFTH SITTING ON MONDAY, THE 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022  
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

**QUESTIONS**

1. **Questions** entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

**LAYING OF PAPERS**

2. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, hon. Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the following:
  - (i) Economic Survey of Mizoram 2021-2022.
  - (ii) 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Mizoram Information Commission.
3. **DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House The Mizoram Epidemic Diseases (Covid-19) Regulations, 2022.
4. **PU LALCHAMLIANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House Notification issued under the Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 w.e.f. 10.7.2021 – 17.1.2022.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

5. **DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022**

Discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for the year 2021-2022.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

***Bill for introduction, consideration and passing***

6. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, hon. Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demands for Grants 2021-2022) Bill, 2022”

**ALSO**

***to introduce the Bill***

***to move that the Bill be taken into consideration***

**AND**

***to move that the Bill be passed.***

7. **PU ZORAMTHANGA**, hon. Chief Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce “The Mizoram Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2022” (A bill further to amend the Mizoram Road Fund Act, 2007)

**ALSO**  
*to introduce the Bill*  
*to move that the Bill be taken into consideration*  
**AND**  
*to move that the Bill be passed.*

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

8. **GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR  
2022-2023**

General discussion on the budget for the year 2022-2023 (to commence).

**H. LALRINAWMA**  
Commissioner & Secretary

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**SPEAKER :** *It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.*

- Psalms 118:8

Today the hon. Member Pu C. Lalsawivunga cannot attend our meeting due to illness.

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:**

We will take up *Questions & Answers* starting with starred Question No. 41. Let us call upon Pu Zodintluanga Ralte to ask his question.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you.

First, I want to make an apology through you as I posed this question to Horticulture Deptt. which should be of Agriculture. Starred Question No. 41 is –

- a) Is there a plan to increase cultivation of oil palm in Mizoram?
- b) If so, is it from the pressure of the Central Government or the State Governments apply for aid to increase the cultivation?

**SPEAKER :** We will call upon the hon. Chief minister Pu Zoramthanga i/c Horticulture Department.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, answer to hon. member Pu Zodintluanga Ralte question is –

- a) There is no plan to increase cultivation of oil palm in Mizoram. 2005 pattern is still followed.
- b) There is no pressure from the Central Government and the State Government does not apply for any aid.

**SPEAKER :** Supplementary Question from Pu Zodintluanga Ralte.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Is there any plan to compensate oil palm growers in Lunglei and Lawngtlai District? May the government avail the Prime Minister Scheme to increase edible oil that includes 100 ha. of oil palm. According to our expert cultivation of oil palm destroy our land.

**SPEAKER :** Let us call upon hon. member Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask his supplementary question.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. My supplementary questions are –

- i) How will oil palm product be disposed?
- ii) Is there a market set up especially for selling oil palm nuts?
- iii) When will equipment be distributed to oil palm farmers?

**SPEAKER :** Let us call upon hon. member Pu Lalduhoma.

**PU LLALDUHOMA :** Pu Speaker, my supplementary questions are –

- i) How much does the government give for support price and are they given?
- ii) If given, when?
- iii) Does the government have proof that there is a problem between Environment and Ecology due to cultivation of oil palm? Does it give any heed?

**SPEAKER** : Now, we will call upon the hon. Chief minister to reply and he may not be able to give all reply but will try his best.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, while oil palm is good in many ways it also brings a lot of problem like in its production, transportation, processing and marketing. While other State may not have this kind of problems as they cultivate in plain, our land is hilly and need construction for transportation and in processing.

Suggestion about giving compensation is right. However, it is important that we give important first to construction of road and how to acquire the machine. Regarding distribution of equipment, I cannot give answer as it is not my department. However, we will try our best to pressure the central in regard to support price. There can be many plus point and minus point in its impact on environment and ecology. The government will take step in this regard and follow the impact it made. We are trying to go along with what is best for the economy and avoid hardship for the people.

**SPEAKER** : We will call upon the hon. member Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng to ask his Starred Question No. 42.

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for Home Department be pleased to state –

Whether there is an intention to upgrade Lunglei Fire Station.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon hon. Minister Pu Lalchamliana to reply.

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, firstly I would like to welcome back Pu Lalduhoma after winning Serchhip bye-election and congratulate Pu K. Laldawngliana for winning Tural bye-election.

The answer to the question of Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng regarding the possibility of improving Lunglei Fire Station is: step has been taken to upgrade Lunglei Fire Station.

**SPEAKER** : I call upon Pu KT Rokhaw to ask supplementary question.

**PU K.T. ROKHAW** : Pu Speaker, thank you. Is there any attempt to upgrade Tipa Outpost into SDPO post?

**SPEAKER** : I call upon Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng to ask supplementary question.

**PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG:** Pu Speaker, thank you. How exactly is Lunglei Fire Station being put for upgradation and what is the cost of quenching wild fire in Lunglei?

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalchhantluanga shall ask supplementary question.

**PU LALCHHUANTHANGA:** Pu Speaker, Thank you (*audio failure*).

**SPEAKER** : Let me call upon Home Minister Lalchamliana to answer the question.

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** The answer to Pu KT Rokhaw is – Due to scarcity of finance Tipa Outpost cannot be enhanced to SDPO.

Going on, the answer to Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng is –

The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has put Crore 1000 for upgrading Fire Stations in India. We have made an estimate of ₹47,25,50,000 for upgrading Fire Station in Lunglei, Siaha, Lawngtlai, Khawzawl, Saitual, Hnahthial, Tlabung, Kulikawn and Vairengte for constructing new buildings, 60 new fire tenders and buying various fire equipments.

Then, the bill for helicopter in extinguishing fire in Lunglei, Lawngtlai and Serchhip comes to a humongous cost of more than 3 crores. We plead in writings to the MHA to proceed the cost as grant to which we haven't receive the reply. As of now, we have paid around 3 lakhs for the pilot expenses and accommodation.

The answer to Pu Lalchhuanthanga is, we received funds form Disaster Mitigation Fund to buy 3 new Fire Engines which was used when DC office was on fire and we have given one for Lunglei.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Dr. K. Pachhunga to ask Starred Question No.43.

**DR. K. PACHHUNGA** : Will the hon. minister for Art & Cultural be pleased to state -

- a) Completion of time for District Museum constructed in Lunglei. Amount of fund came from and its source.
- b) Whether there is any attempt to establish Art & Culture District Office in various district capitals?
- c) Whether there is any proposal to make Record Rooms in Mizoram Secretariat? Does Mizoram State Archives have all the records of various offices? Thank you.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Art & Cultural Minister to reply.

**PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. The answers to those questions are:

- a) Lunglei District Museum is proposed to be completed by June, 2022. The funding of ₹827.21 lakhs comes from Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India to which ₹413.61 lakhs has been received.

- b) There is no attempt to establish Art & Culture District Office as of now.
- c) There is no attempt to make Record Rooms. The records of Mizoram State Archives are taken from National Archive of India, New Delhi, West Bengal Archive, Kolkata, Assam State Archive and Aizawl District DC Record Room.

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask Starred Question No. 44.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you. My question is - Who captured the smuggling of betel nut in Kelkang region; DC Champhai or Maria CT Zuali, MCS?

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, the answer is - Maria CT Zuali, DC, Champhai District.

**SPEAKER** : Pu C. Ngunlianchunga to ask *Supplementary Question*.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Pu Speaker, thank you.

- i) Will the Government support Maria CT Zuali, MCS until court judgement since FIR was filed against her?
  - i) Do the Government approve smuggling in our state?
  - ii) Do the Government apprehend smugglers of betel nut or other smuggling items?
  - iii) Did the Government ignore the prevalence of smuggling for bringing profitable business for the local people?
  - iv) What measures has the Govt. taken so far against smuggling?
  - v) What is the truth about the Police head who is allegedly involved in smuggling case? If this is a fact, what measure will be taken? Do the government deliberately ignore the issue?

**PU H. BIAKZAUA** : Pu Speaker, thank you. *My Supplementary Question* is –

If the District Magistrate is authorized to destroy illegal goods at the site where it is captured?

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, there is no report as to whether the government stands for Maria CT Zuali relating to FIR being submitted against her. It is in the hands of Law Department as of now. Secondly, there is no government which approves smuggling as so is our government.

As far as my department is concern, any smuggler is penalized and imposed a monetary fine by the law.

**PU LALRINDIKA RALTE** : Pu Speaker, will the Govt. impose penalty or take necessary action against the offender?

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** Of course, action should be taken if case is filed.

**PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA:** Pu Speaker, is it a fact that Pi Vanramchhuangi submitted FIR in this regard? If so, why did the authority reject the case?

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** If FIR is submitted, it has to be registered. But there are some cases which need preliminary inquiry. In that case, I do not know as to whether FIR submitted by Pi Vanramchhuangi is cognizable. Whereas Police Deptt. and Judiciary are in contact for the matter.

The Govt. takes certain measures to curb out smuggling and check gate has also been set up in Sailiamkawn and Sihhmui. To conclude, the Govt. does not acknowledge any involvement of Police officers on this issue.

**PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, the hon. Minister claimed check-gate being set up in Sihhmui, but the area comes under Sairang which is quite confusing. If Home Deptt. demarcated the boundary, should his statement be called for correction?

**PU LALCHAMLIANA, MINISTER:** Correction may be made as of Sairang area.

Regarding betel nut smuggling, we have a meeting with former CS, officials from Assam Rifles and Custom Deptt. three times and instructed concerned DC and SP to watch over the situation. This is for my answer to PU Ngunlianchunga. We have heard of the existence of High Court case from social media only but we have not received that information officially.

District Magistrate is authorized to capture any item of illegal trades but not to destroy it. Such cases, if any may be put forward for court case and the court will decide.

**SPEAKER** : Starred Question No. 45 to be asked by Pu VL Zaithanzama.

**PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department be pleased to state -

- a) No. of pigs which died of African Swine Fever;
- b) No. of pigs which were culled due to alleged ASF;
- c) The total worth of pigs which were killed due to ASF.

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Minister for AH & Vety Department Dr. K. Beichhua to reply.

**DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. My answer is -

- a) 33,417 nos. were killed due to ASF;
- b) 10,910 nos. were culled due to alleged ASF;
- c) The total worth is estimated as ₹60,82,03,000/-

**SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu VL Zaithanzama to ask *Supplementary Question.*

**PU V.L. ZAITHANZAMA :** Pu Speaker, thank you. My Supplementary Questions are as follows -

- i) It is learned that the case of our huge loss of pig due to ASF is forwarded to the Central Govt. for compensation. What is the progress so far?
- ii) How much will be compensated as per pig?
- iii) May the same be compensated through SEDP?

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, we have a report of the absence of male goat in Thenzawl Vety farm for mating process. Will measure be taken in this regard?

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte to ask *Supplementary Question*.

**PU LALRINSANGA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. My Supplementary Question is -

Is ASF under control as of now? What measure is taken in this regard? Is importing of pigs permitted?

**DR. K. BEICHHUA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Yes, compensation for the loss of pigs is requested to the Central Govt. in writing on 17<sup>th</sup> September. As per Disaster Management, compensation on pig is fixed at ₹3,000 per head. As of now, there is no question as to compensate the said from SEDP.

Regrading goat breeding in Thenzawl farm, we have breeds of Sirohi and Beetal. We sold the offsprings to the farmers for ₹600/1kg. To multiply the animals, we also determine to obtain male goat for reproduction.

Regarding ASF, I believe we have overcome the disease now for we have not received any death report since December. We took various measures to contain this disease; we have spot-visited every location particularly Lungsen which was under containment zone for having enormous cases of ASF. Immediately after the widespread of the disease, we established Rapid Response Team to deal with the problem and manage culling the animals in cooperation with Home Deptt.

Import of pig is prohibited by the government until 31<sup>st</sup> January. As the situation is alleviated, we are beginning to import but only from the states within the country and are certified as vaccinated.

**SPEAKER** : Pu Lalrindika Ralte to ask starred Question No. 46.

**PU LALRINDIKA RALTE:** Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. minister for Agriculture Department be pleased to state -

- a) What is the progress of pension scheme formulated by the State Govt for farmers ranging 14-40 years of age?
- b) How many have received the scheme so far?

**PU C LALRINSANGA, MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, my answer is -

- a) The scheme is now in process as necessary measure is taken. The PM-KMY scheme was publicized on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2019 by assigning the Common Service Centre for registration of farmers ranging 18-40 years of age.



- b) None has received pension allowance under this scheme as yet. Any beneficiaries of 18-40 years of age will benefit after attaining 60 years.
- c) So far, we have 283 farmers registered, such as - Aizawl – 132, Champhai - 7, Kolasib - 4, Lawngtlai - 197, Lunglei - 15, Mamit - 12, Siaha - 1 and Serchhip - 15.

**LAYING OF PAPERS:**

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Chief Minister may now lay the following Reports – (i) *Economic Survey of Mizoram, 2021-2022*;  
(ii) *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Mizoram Information Commission* on the table of the House.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay on the table of the House the following Reports, such as -  
(i) *Economic Survey of Mizoram 2021-2022*;  
(ii) *15<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Mizoram Information Commission* on the House table.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. Since Dr. R. Lalthangliana is absent, the hon. Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga may now lay “*The Mizoram Epidemic Diseases (COVID-19) Regulations, 2022*” on his behalf.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I lay “*The Mizoram Epidemic Diseases (COVID-19) Regulations, 2022*”.

**SPEAKER** : Let the copy be distributed. Now, I call upon Pu Lalchamlia, hon. Minister to lay Notification issued under the *Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017* w.e.f. 10.7.2021-17.1.2022 on the table of the House.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS:**

**SPEAKER** : Now moving on to Financial Business which is *Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demands* for the year 2021-2022. I call upon the hon. Chief Minister to submit the Demand.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I beg to introduce “*The Mizoram Appropriate Supplementary Demands for Grants 2021-2022 Bill*”. (**Speaker:** You may submit it instead.)

**SPEAKER** : The Chief Minister have now submitted, and if there is misunderstanding, we may say so. Let us call upon the hon. Chief Minister to make clarification.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, regarding Supplementary Demand, I have few points to clear and since it concerns financial matter, it is necessary for the members to familiarize the process.

The budget we are now spending is of the previous 2021-2022 and since Assembly Session cannot be called on a short course notice for the House to pass it, Finance Department thus made allocation order to be spent for the time being. Actually,

even a single rupee cannot be spent without prior permission of the House. I, therefore, urge to pass this Supplementary Demand.

Funds which were not allocated while preparing the budget with the start of financial year i.e. Funds received during mid financial years; new schemes plus funds which need adjustment for head of accounts; funds parked under Finance and Planning Department need to be passed on Supplementary Demand for distribution to various departments. Also, fund which may be borrowed from RBI for shortage of fund through *Ways and Means* plus, sum which needs adjustment of interest should be processed through *Supplementary*. As such is the process, this *supplementary* is put forward for approval of the House by the end of the year during which annual budget for the new financial year is placed in the House.

Hon. Speaker, we have supplementary demand of ₹6,025.44 crore for the current financial year, 2021-2022 and were not included in the budget at the start of the year. A huge portion is spent for RBI loan recovery and were obtained in advance through *Ways and Means*. It may be noted that our state cannot borrow more than 260 crores at a time and, if we exceed, it will become overdraft.

During this financial year, the sum we've borrowed in advance amounting to ₹3,762.88 crore. It may seem huge but is of the total amount we borrowed little by little at a time for easy recovery. However, recovery of the sum advanced we borrowed through ways and means is of *charged expenditure* and does not require any vote or pass. In this supplementary demand, we have ₹3,863.97 crore which doesn't require vote and ₹216.47 crores of voted expenditure.

The following are the main budget heads of voted expenditure - CSS, NEA, NLCPR, NICIT amounting up to ₹599.45 crore; ₹373.11 crore for *work expenditure* which we acquired from NABARD; ₹12.19 crore of *Externally Aided Project*; ₹201.65 crore of *Special Central Assistance* for capital expenditure and ₹551.53 crore of state's normal fund.

Other expenditures are - ₹230 crore for pension payment, ₹100 crore for power purchase' ₹55.86 crore for Covid related expenditure and ₹165.67 crore for others. Also, there is adjustment in the budget amounting to ₹423.54 crore such as: - SEDP (normal) - ₹89.24 crore, counterpart funding of SMS - 237.52 crore, medical treatment - ₹8.87 crore, Rural Local Body grant - ₹88 crore totally ₹2,161.47 crore. The main reasons for this expenditure are Covid effect, border disputes and two alternative bye elections etc. However, 54% of the supplementary is utilized for development which was not included in the budget earlier.

Thus, I request the House to approve this *Supplementary Demand for Grant* of ₹2,161.47 crore.

**SPEAKER** : As I have mentioned before, this doesn't require discussion... (*interruption*)

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, I request full discussion because more than half of the supplementary is charged expenditure which is unbecoming. As per

Article 203 of the Rules of Procedure, Supplementary Demand need to be passed by the House and we cannot pass without discussion. I therefore beg to put it for discussion.

**SPEAKER** : It had never been discussed in the past 50 years. So, the Chief Minister shall request to pass the Supplementary Demands for 2021-2022(*Voted*) amounting to ₹2,16,146.88.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, before I make a request for approval, I would like to add few points. It is not a problem to discuss the supplementary demand; but since it has become a tradition not to discuss, we cannot change this practice deliberately. It will be better if we first have a meeting representing all parties and include this in the list of business.

**PU LALDUHOMA** : Pu Speaker, we have used ₹6000 crore without the consent of the House. So, we insist such act is discuss as permitted by the Constitution. This is done so with the hope of improvement.

**SPEAKER** : I must say that practices and conventions are part of Law. So, this is law which we have been practiced for 50 years.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, I beg the House to pass this Supplementary Demand.

**SPEAKER** : Now, the Supplementary Demand for the year 2021-2022 is passed by the House.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS:**

Now, the Chief Minister may ask to introduce “The Mizoram Appropriate (Supplementary Demand for Grants, 2021-2022) Bill, 2022”.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, with the recommendation of the Governor of Mizoram and with your permission, I introduce the Additional Grant Demand such as - Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 a total of which ₹2,16,146.88 lakhs in 2021-2022. And, I further beg to pass this Bill.

**SPEAKER** : “*The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2021-2022) Bill, 2022*” with voted amount ₹2,16,146.88 lakhs and charged amount ₹3,86,156.00 lakhs, a total of which ₹6,02,544.48 lakhs is passed by the House. (**Pu Zoramthanga, hon. CM:** Thank you.)

**SPEAKER** : The hon. Chief Minister may now introduce “*The Mizoram Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2022*”.

**PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER:** Pu Speaker, there are some amendments which needs to be made. Firstly, new clause “*Manager, Finance* means an

officer appointed for the purpose of Section 7 of this Act” may be added after Clause (h).

Secondly, Clause (r) will be substituted by “*Road means all roads in Mizoram other than National Highway declared under National Highway Act, 1956 (Central Act No. 48 of 1956) which are maintained by the Road Agency, and including bridges and other things that facilitate such passage*”

Clause (s) shall be substituted by “*Road Agency means PWD which is a body responsible for carrying out repair, maintenance, rehabilitation, strengthening and construction of roads and bridges*”.

Under Section 4 of the Principal Act, sub-section (2), “*a body corporate*” shall be substituted by the words and symbols “*an autonomous body, having separate powers, objectives and function of its own*”.

Under sub-section (4), the sentence “*the Board shall consist of the following members namely...*” should be substituted by the respective Board Members.

Sub-section (11) must also be substituted by “*The Board shall have a Secretariat, headed by Chief Executive Officer, not below the rank of Executive Engineer on deputation from Road Agency, with responsibility to carry out administration and technical task for the Board and the Executive Committee from time to time: Provided that an officer of Road Agency not below the rank of Selection Grade will be eligible to be appointed on deputation as Chief Executive Officer*”.

Under the amendment section 5, clause (b) of sub-section 2 of 5 of the principal Acts underlines “*After sub clause 7 a new sub-clause 8, 9 & 10 shall be inserted as follows*”. Therefore, Sub-clause 8 “*seeking convergence of road maintenance with other scheme agencies*”, sub-clause 9 “*impart capacity building and house facilities and training of the road agencies*” and sub-clause 10 “*recommend and review road safety issues*” will be added.

Lastly, sub-section 1 of section 7 of the Principal Act, “*Vice Chairman and the member Secretary*” should be replaced by “*Chief Executive Officer and Manager Finance of the Board Secretariat*”. Thus, I beg the House to pass “*The Mizoram Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2022*”. Thank you. (*The House then decided by vote.*)

**SPEAKER** : The House has unanimously passed “*The Mizoram Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2022*”, a Bill which further amended “*the Mizoram Road Fund Act, 2007*”.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS:**

Now, moving on to another financial business, we will discuss “*The Annual Budget for the Year, 2022-2023*”. This General Discussion takes two days of discussion which will be concluded by tomorrow.

The first member to speak in this regard is – Pu C. Lalmunapuia.

**PU C. LALMUANPUIA :** Pu Speaker, it is a privilege to have such a precise budget amidst the crisis. I thank God and give my appreciation to the effort of our Finance Minister.

Due to pandemic, we could not receive the expected size of fund i.e. ₹2,632.58 crores from the Central. However, under the guidance of our Finance Minister, we somehow manage to function normally and without our Treasury office being closed. This is indeed, a great achievement.

We recently moved up from 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission to 15<sup>th</sup> under which the salary of Govt. employees alone is ₹350 crores and our share of tax (capital receipt) from the Central decreases from 200 crore to 100 crore. Yet, we somehow manage to pay the salary of Govt. employees.

Our GSDP increased by 16.76% considering the present RE of ₹33,793.15 crore. It is a progress to have ₹11,426 crore to receive from Revenue Receipt. The State's own tax and non-tax revenue moves up by 11.36% from the present BE of ₹719.56 crore which also is an achievement.

Our CSS funding will be ₹20,00,646.64 crore and we will receive ₹1615 crore from revenue deficit grant which indicates the credibility of our budget. Urban & Rural local body grant is ₹106 crore and SDRMF budget increased from ₹47 crore to 49.

Our budget also includes fund for condolence to those who have lost their life due to Covid-19 under which 420 persons received this ex-gratia compensation. Moreover, the Govt. also have a plan to compensate any govt. employees losing their life on Covid duty by a sum of ₹20 lakhs. Unfortunately, we had lost 3 govt. servants on that ground and their family were compensated.

The Budget includes ₹500 crore for construction of Aizawl by-pass road ₹100 crore for Bamboo linked road. Externally Aided project such as Cancer Hospital Project and State Super Speciality Cancer Hospital project are expected to have great impact for the people. Since cancer remains a popular disease among the Mizos, this project will definitely prove to be a blessing.

Under UD&PA, ₹1,958 crore is allocated for Smart City project whereas ₹700 crore for our flagship programme (SEDP).

Lastly, the Youth Commission has a budget of ₹2.60 crore to facilitate the All-India Service and Central Service aspirants. Thus, I do have great hope in this Budget. Thank You.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Let us call upon Pu H. Biakzaau.

**PU H. BIAKZAUA :** Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. Despite the Covid crisis, it is a great pleasure to have a productive budget. It will be of much beneficial for establishment of Mizoram Resources Mobilization Committee to support the state government approach. Also, it is a pleasure to have Manpower Assessment Committee to deal with filling up and creating of any post under the government. With the help of this new budget, our debt is expected to decrease by 31.81% from 41.85% of the 2017-

18 (14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission). Tax Devolution increased by 22.70% indicating our budget improvement. In the new BE, Rural Body Grant will increase by 2.90% and Urban Body Grant by 2.94%.

It is great to have ₹1.19 crore on Health Infrastructure & Facility. Also, our Revenue Expenditure increased by 8.57% which will give rise to smooth functioning of the Govt. We also have an allocation of ₹1 crore for the Mizoram Victims of Crime Compensation Fund. We also expect SEDP to be able to enhance the village economy. Likewise, measures taken towards Central Service and increase of ADC budget by 9.08 % are truly appreciative.

It is great to learn the allocation of ₹80 crore for launching Lunglei Municipal Council for the purpose of democratic-decentralization. I thank our Chief Minister who also is in-charge of Finance Deptt. for bringing up our budget estimate by 25.65%. It may not be of an ideal budget, but is the best we can achieve as of now.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us call upon Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

**PU LALRINSANGA RALTE:** Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. First, I would like to point out the Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission imposed that any of the state's debt must not exceed 3% of their GSDP, of which our debt during 2021-22 was 5.2% and 4.1% in 2022-2023. On the question of attaining below 3%, our finance minister makes an arrangement by setting up the Resource Mobilization Committee headed by Pu H. Rammawia and even Manpower Assessment Committee proves to be helpful in developing a constant economy.

In 2022-2023 BE, the Capital Expenditure increases from ₹1,932.50 crore to ₹4001.64 crore which is 107.07% higher than the present BE. PM-DeVINE is an important aspect of our budget. The allocation ₹100 crore for Bamboo link road is expected improve connectivity for the farmers which will subsequently increase their productions.

Pu Speaker, development of rural infrastructures under NABARD is paving the way for local farmers as we power supply has now been improved. One thing which need to be mentioned is allocation of ₹700 crore to SEDP and ₹350 crore towards family development. Despite the financial distress of the nation as a whole and even when MPs couldn't get their funds, we are fortunate for having MLA funds through the efforts of our hon. Chief Minister who also is in-charge of Finance.

Lastly, it is great that ₹6.01 crore is allocated for development of Sinlung Hills Councils. For this present situation, I must say that no budget could be prepared better in this time of financial crisis. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : It is now time for us to recess; we will resume our discussion at 2:00 PM.

**2:00 PM**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : To continue with our discussion, I call upon hon. Member Pu VL Zaithanzama to have his time.

**PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA:** Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. This budget, at a glance seems fine but there are many loop holes in it. Out of the ₹700 crore allocated for SEDP, ₹350 crore is spent so far. Obviously party units are selecting the beneficiaries and party workers manages the fund which is a very bad case scenario. Of course, putting ₹80 crore for Lunglei Municipal Council is not that bad for it is done on good purpose. But, the budget for salaries of Govt. servants is lower than last year; I'm afraid employees could not be able to receive their salary on time. Indeed, our debt is likely to increase but is skyrocketing to ₹930 crore of debt is not acceptable.

Looking at the ₹100 crores for the construction of bamboo linked road, I'm afraid we will be able to make profit from bamboo production out of the allotted fund.

The main income for our state is revenue; however, Taxation Deptt. has a budget decreased by 1.17% compare to the past budget. The estimate budget of Taxation Deptt. was ₹650 crore, but they generate more than the estimate budget which further indicates Taxation Deptt. is our main sources of income. So, I opine the department must be given better preferences. Not only this, Commerce & Industries who could generate some sorts of income have their budget decreased by 18.52%. These are not great moves.

While this is the case of Taxation Deptt., setting up of Assessment Committee would be beneficial since there are various vacant posts in various departments. Also, I would like to urge the ruling party to utilize the budget for building assets such as Tuirini Small Hydel Project of 24 mW. Good budget depends on its utilization; so, time will tell.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us call upon hon. Member Pu BD Chakma.

**PU B.D. CHAKMA** : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. Even though most of the ruling members brag about the Aizawl by-pass road and Bamboo link road, there are certain issues to address. We must also determine the negative impact since construction of bamboo link road will hamper the environment and leads to deforestation due to construction of connective roads. As I have requested the Governor to look over the demeaning situation of District Councils, especially CADC in which financial management is quite worst. As per the Notification of the Governor, One-man Enquiry Commission of CADC is set up and I really hope truth will prevail regarding the mis-managements.

Regarding the ADCs, Chakma, Lai and Mara must receive at least 15% of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Mizoram. Calculating on the basis of population ratio, can we get at least 15% but not only 9% as of now? That is my request.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Let us call upon hon. Member Pu Nihar Kanti Chakma.

**PU NIHAR KANTI CHAKMA:** Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. According to my experience, I don't think a budget is a good budget if the Capital Expenditure exceeds the Revenue Expenditure. This year's budget is a total of ₹14,008.15 crore where Capital Expenditure is ₹4,001.64 crore and Revenue Expenditure is ₹10,006.61. In this type of budget, the people will never have direct benefits.

However, there are positive aspects as well. I feel grateful because ex-gratia and compensation will be given to the life loss due to Covid-19. But the Govt. must induce more care to the poorer section of the society to fight against the ill-effects of the pandemic.

Under the head of *Other Important Allocations*, it is great to have ₹2.60 crore for Civil Service aspirants. We must appreciate this kind of positive move by the Govt.

While this is the case, I feel sad that no budget is allocated for the Brus living in Tlabung area. They do not have their basic necessities and thus need the supervision of the state Govt. Also, it become skeptical to see that the state-owned tax and non-tax revenue have increased. The question is - Will this lead to increase of electric and water bills? So, looking at the budget, this Ministry doesn't know important spheres to be prioritized. Agriculture sector is being neglected as nowhere to be seen in this budget. How to suffice our needs for rice?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Six members have discussed so far and we will continue the discussion tomorrow.

*Sitting is adjourned. (2:34 PM)*