

CABINET MINISTER

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| 1. Pu Lal Thanhawla
Chief Minister | 1. Political & Cabinet
2. Vigilance Department
3. S. A. D.
4. GAD
5. P.W.D.
6. Sports & Youth Services Deptt.
7. P.H.E.
8. Printing & Stationery Deptt. |
| 2. Pu J. Lalsangzuala | 1. Finance Department
2. Planning & Prog. Implementation
3. Economics & Statistics
4. Co-operation Department
5. Parliamentary Affairs
6. Law & Judicial |
| 3. Pu P.C. Bawitluanga | 1. Food & Civil Supplies Deptt.
2. District Council Affairs
3. Sericulture Department |
| 4. Pu C. Chawngkunga | 1. Agriculture Department
2. Art & Culture Department |
| 5. Pu Liansuama | 1. Home Department
2. School Education Department
3. Higher & Technical Education
4. DP & AR |
| 6. Pu H. Lalruata | Transport Department |
| 7. Pu C.L. Ruala | 1. Power & Electricity Department
2. Industries Department |
| 8. Pu Saikapthianga | 1. Environment & Forest Deptt.
2. Rural Development Deptt.
3. Trade & Commerce Deptt. |

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| 9. Pu Zosiama Pachuau | 1. Health&Family Welfare Deptt.
2. Medical Education
3. Hospital
4. Soil&Water Conservation |
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MINISTER OF

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| 10. Pu P. Lalbiaka | 1. Animal Husbandary&Vety. Deptt.
2. Relief&Rehabilitation |
| 11. Pu Nirupam Chakma | 1. Information & Public Relations
2. Tourism Department
3. Fisheries Department |
| 12. Pu S.T. Rualyapa | 1. Land Revenue&Settlement Deptt.
2. L.A.D. |
| 13. Pu P.C. Zoramsangliana | 1. Social Welfare
2. Excise & Taxation
3. Prisons |
| 14. Pu Zakhu Hlychho | 1. Horticulture Department
2. Labour & Employment Deptt. |

ALSO

to introduce the Bill.

SPEAKER : 'And the word of Lord came to Zechariah saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgements, show kindness and mercy each to his brother, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against his another in heart'.

Zechariah 7:8—10

Now, we shall take up question No. 1, Pu F. Lalremsiama.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I ask my question No. 1, will the hon'ble Minister i/c General Administration Department be pleased to State —

(a) Whether the Mizoram Government has cancelled the setting up of new District ?

(b) If so, what is the reason ?

SPEAKER : Pu Lal Thanhawla.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the answers are—
Chief Minister (a) This is not yet cancelled by the Government.

(d) There is nothing to fear in the said proposal. As this is a vital issue, there are certain things to be reconsidered and reviewed.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, although insurgency had ended in Mizoram, why is the problem of the Grouping-centre's staff remain unsolved ? Why is there a poor administration in every Ministry ?

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, is it a fact that the decision of the Council of Ministers to make Khawzawl and Mamit as District Headquarters was cancelled, simply because a Minister of State revealed the decision ? Why the Council of Ministers failed to fulfil its decision ?

Secondly, is there any intention of creating 4 Additional Districts in Mizoram ? Was such statement made by the Hon'ble House Leader ? Thirdly, what are the obstacles that stand in the way of the proposed new districts ?

PU LALSAWTA : Mr. Speaker Sir, just one supplementary question; for the past 3 years, there was a Budget provision of Rs 242 lakhs for the proposed Districts. For what purpose was the provision utilised ?

Secondly, regarding creation of Districts or District Head Quarters, does the Government avoid this proposal as a Political Campaign for the forthcoming election ?

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, was the decision of the Council of Ministers cancelled simply due to leakage of the matter ? Will fresh decision be made on this issue ? Against the earlier decision, Kolasib is not likely to be the District Headquarter. As such, does the Government plan to shift the College of Teacher Education to Kolasib in order to ease the sentiments of the local communities ?

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if the people of Kolasib are more satisfied with the College of Teacher Education, it will be a pleasing matter. However, this is not the notion of the Government. Right from the previous times, there

Chief Minister

was the intention of shifting certain offices, the said college and other institutions as Aizawl had become too congested. Besides at Kolasib, there is a suitable location for the said college.

Matter concerning the creation of District is a difficult task and had been widely debated since the previous times. Today, it is our desire to consider this issue on the basis of administrative convenience only, we do not welcome any political interferences or conveniences. Accordingly, instead of politicians, we appoint only Senior Officials as Committee's Members. As this is a vital issue, final decision cannot be made within a short span of time, and as soon as the Committee's Recommendation is received, the cabinet will take up prompt actions and make the final decision.

Previously, creation of new District was out of the question due to shortage of finance. Regarding the point raised by the Hon'ble Member Pu Lalsawta, the Token Allocation for 1995-1996 remain untouched as a final settlement of District is not yet made.

Thank you.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if the Committee is formed by Senior Officers, they should be provided with the obligatory points. If so, did the Government provide the obligatory guidance so that the Government and the committee could work out the number of District ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding creation of new Districts, specific guidelines should be furnished by the Government. At the same time, it is not correct to depend wholly on the decision of the official committee. Does it mean that the Government has no idea on the formation of new Districts after all these years? Will my constituency be made a District Headquarter before the Election ?

PU C. VULLUAIA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, the existing Ministry is not the sole authority for formation of New Dis-

tricts, but the finalisation should come from the District Reorganisation Committee. Another point I would like to stress is that there is no leakage of decision made by the Cabinet, the matter was widely publicised in the Newspaper. Today, my questions are — who has the authority to change the Cabinet's decision? Is it the Cabinet itself or the Chief Minister?

PU F. LALREMSIAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, can a meeting be held by the Cabinet to consider, the formation and division

of Districts and its Headquarters? Can you give us an assurance?

PU LAL THANHAWLA :
Chief Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am not aware of such matter concerning leakage of Cabinet's decision. The

circulated Memorandum is signed by the cabinet, which is only a circulation until final decision is made. As stated earlier, out of 17, 7 had signed the Memorandum, and as there are certain points to reconsider, its finalisation is being withheld now.

Further, the Government has certain guidelines and ideas regarding creation of new Districts. We are of the opinion that the number should not exceed 4. Finally, I remind the Hon'ble Members that this issue is not utilised by the Ministry to gain more votes in the election.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, for College of Teacher Education, Aizawl is the most ideal place as Libra-

ries and other facilities are already available. If so, why do the Government plan to shift the said College to Kolasib merely on ground of congestion? Can the proposal be withdrawn by the Government?

SPEAKER :

We shall move on to question No. 2, Pu Zathuama.

PU ZATHUAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, question No. 2,

(a) A sanction was made from the N.E.C for construction of

Public Playground at Ngopa. Why the said task is not yet undertaken till date ?

(b) When will the said task be undertaken ?

(c) What is the estimated amount and the amount already sanctioned ?

PU LAL THANHAWLA :

Chief Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, no sanction is made by the N.E.C for construction of the said Playground, but

repair-work will be taken up immediately from the state—fund. The estimated amount is Rs. 8,13700/-, the Govt. has made the sanction in accordance with the estimation of the state sports council.

PU F. MALSAWMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the said Playground, how many times was the N.E.C pressurised

by this Ministry ? In what manner will the work be executed ?

Secondly, way back in 1995, the House was informed that Rs. 142 lakhs was utilised for construction of Ramhlun Sports Complex, but the task remain incomplete till today. Recently, a JCB is employed, can this service be continued for full completion of the said Complex as well as Mini Sports Complex at Ramhlun. Can assurance be given by the Hon'ble House Leader ?

PU ZORAMTHANGA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, for construction of Playground at North East Bualpui, the VDC was initially

ordered to be the executing Agency. But later, a change

was made where the Games and Sports Association, N.E. Bualpui was assigned the said task. It is also learnt that at the time of withdrawing the sanction, the Block's Leaders cut Rs 1,000/- from the first instalment and Rs 3,000/- from the second instalment with a total of Rs 4,000/-. Is the Government aware of this matter ?

PU LALHUTHANGA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, though the areas around Lengpui is convenient for Playground, the area is reserved for Airport. However, we have found a suitable piece of land for playground. So, can the Hon'ble Minister furnish the estimated amount for its construction ? Does the Government intend to undertake this construction ?

SPEAKER :

The main question is concerned with N.E. Bualpui, but many irrevelant questions were added, which will be difficult to answer. Now, let us call upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

PU LAL THANHAWLA :
Chief Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding the question of our Hon'ble Member from Mamit, as Airport is being established in his constituency, we do not have time to pay attention towards sports.

Next, the Games and Sports Association of N.E. Bualpui is entrusted with the said task in order to execute the work efficiently. Matter concerning extraction of fund will be duely verified. Moreover, for construction of public playground at Ngopa, no demand is made to the N.E.C., it is the Sports Department, who is actively involved in this task. In fact, many of our projects for building up infra-structure is carried on with the approval of the centre. Presently, steps are being taken up to improve the various playgrounds at Aizawl and its surrounding areas, where the service of JCB will continue as found necessary.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a matter of satisfaction to give top priority towards development of sports. However, for construction of playground in different parts of Mizoram where crores of rupees had been utilised, the construction-work is always allotted to the rich and well-to-do persons, there by depriving the employment opportunity of the people. As such, can the Government employ the needy persons for such task which could be done through manual labours ?

PU H. ZATHUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as stated earlier, a full-fledged playground is constructed at Ngopa and Teikhang, likewise, will steps be taken up by the Sports & Youth Services Department; for completion of playground at North East Bualpui ?

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, for construction of playground, prior to making the sanction, the Engineers chalk out the estimated amount and if the project is approved by the R.D. then sanction is moved accordingly.
Chief Minister

Coming to the question of our hon'ble Member Pu Lalhmingthanga, usually, whenever there is a sanction for construction of playground in the villages, earth-cutting is regarded as an employment generation scheme. As such his suggestion is the usual procedure of the Government. But on many occasions, majority of the villages hire Bulldozer/JCB even for such works that could be managed locally or done through manual labours.

SPEAKER : Question No. 3, Pu Lalrinchhana.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, question No. 3, When will permission to distribute land for jhum be issued by the Government.

PU S.T. RUALYAPA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government has no intention of issuing such permission.

PU LALRINCHHANA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, supplementary questions —

Why is the Government incapable of issuing such permission? Will the farmers remain without jhum-cultivation throughout the year? How will the Government consider their situation?

PU S.T. RUALYAPA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, permission to distribute land for jhum is notified by the DLAO in accordance with the Lushai Hills District Jhuming Regulation Act 1964, sec 4 sub (3).

During 1997—1998, no such notification is issued as a writ petition was submitted to the Supreme Court of India. However, there is a Law stating that 'The village council should have the power to distribute land for jhum within the village of village council'.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, in view of the present situation, Mizoram cannot exist without jhum cultivation.

In spite of the said existing law, notification of the Government is still awaited in all the villages, thereby leaving the farmers in a difficult and complicated situation. So, can the Government issue the permission to distribute land without any further delay?

PU F. MALSAWMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, what is to be done in case action is taken by the supreme court against the

V/C, who acts in accordance with the said law? Is the government aware that without a systematic policy, our people are faced with immens hardships?

SPEAKER : Question hour is over, and we shall move on to our next programme after the Hon'ble Minister furnishes the answers.

PU S.T. RUALYAPA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it appears that the Hon'ble Member Pu Lal-hmingthanga is misinformed. Jhum cultivation is certainly carried on by the villagers, as the V/C exercises their power to distribute land for jhum. Besides, there is no encroachment on the forest reserved by the forest department.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, is not there a Council of Ministry to settle this confusion? It is true that the R.D. Department prohibit jhum-cultivation on the NLUP-area. But jhumming is carried on as we want to be self-sufficient.

PU S.T. RUALYAPA : Mr. Speaker Sir, following the direction of the Supreme Court, we cannot grant jhumming permission. Moreover, the forest conservation Act, 1980 is framed by the Central Government and not the State.

SPEAKER : As far as this matter is concerned, in the villages, there are a safety-reserve and forest-reserve, and the remaining are all jhumming areas. After receiving order from the Government, land for jhum is distributed under the direction of the V/C.

PU LALKHAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, in the previous year, did the Mizoram Government declare to Supreme Court that two-third of our land area is a forest reserve? Did the Supreme Court ban jhumming on such areas?

PU S.T. RUALYAPA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, in accordance with the forest conservation Act 1980, the Supreme Court issued direction not to grant jhumming-permission. Besides, apart from the forest reserve, we have village reserve, safety reserve and areas reserved for jhumming. In the present situation, as there is a Petition in the Supreme Court, the V/C are authorised to exercise their power in the distribution of land for jhum.

PU F. MALSAWMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, I think we are given wrong information. The forest coverage is only 1,0745 Sq Km in the statistical hand-book, while Mizoram is more than 20100 Sq Km.

PU LALSWTA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, the statement of the Hon'ble Minister could mislead the people. In matter of land distribution, the Government has certain laws under which the village councils are empowered to undertake the said distribution. But in accordance with The Conservation Act, 1980, the Supreme Court issued direction not to distribute land for jhum. If the Ministry dared not disobey the Supreme Court's order, why is the V/C instructed to take up land distribution on their behalf?

PU LALRINCHHANA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no official order issued to the V/C. So, it is the responsibility of the state Government to declare that jhum cultivation is permitted. I honestly request the government to make the decision now.

PU S.T. RUALYAPA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, as far as land distribution for jhum is concerned, the State Government Acts in accordance with the direction of the Supreme Court. Hence, the V/C are entrusted with the said task as they are free to exercise their powers.

PU LALKHAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, is it a fact that as per the Forest Conservation Act, the Forest Department claimed that 2/3 of Mizoram area fall under the forest-reserve, on which basis the Supreme Court banned jhumming? If so, could this matter be settled by the Government?

PU S.T. RUALYAPA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, the matter is being verified now.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government lacks comprehensive approach in this matter. The Conservation Act, 1980 is not satisfactory as it provides too many advantages for the Forest Department.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, the fact is that we are trying to free ourselves from the direction of the Supreme Court.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, the government is blind and too slow to take up actions.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, this matter is in the hands of the Supreme Court and there is nothing we can do. If the House receive information, we can discuss it with your permission.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, that is not the case, the Ministry should not exercise its power in this way.

SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister had stated that steps are being taken up, we should rely on him.

There are many Members who would like to avail the zero-hour, but time will be restricted as decided by the B.A.C.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, according to our Bulletin, the Members should give a written-information to the Speaker half an hour before. So, I will avail this opportunity since you disallowed in the morning.

SPEAKER : We shall follow the decision of the B.A.C.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Members who dare to challenge the Hon'ble Minister
Speaker should be expelled from the House.

SPEAKER : It is our convention to follow the Time-table set by the B.A.C. No Member should make a challenge from his chair.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, what we mean is that the procedures of our office should be respected.

SPEAKER : According to our usual procedure, the Zero-hour should not be availed by more than two Members.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make brief statements regarding the grievances faced by the staff of Pachhunga University College. This College was affiliated to NEHU since 19th April 1979, and a specific list of Agreement was framed, which was witnessed and signed by the leaders of NEHU, Director and Joint Director of Education Mizoram. With the recent proposal of establishing a University in Mizoram, the University Bill or Act is likely to be presented in the Winter Session. Meanwhile, the Lecturers of P.U. College received a Telegram from the V.C. of NEHU which stated that "Subject to the consent of the Academic Council, you may send two Representatives to the Academic Council Meeting to be held on 21st November 1997, to express your views on the retrenchment of Employees of the Pachhunga University College, in the event of their option for NEHU service to the formation of Mizoram University". The message of the V.C was not comprehended by the employees of the said college. So, the Pachhunga University College Teaching Association (PUCTA) submitted a resolution comprising of 3 different points on 13.11.1997, such as;

- (1) That in view of the non-enactment of the Mizoram University Act by the Parliament till date, any discussion regarding the exercise of option for the services in the Mizoram University or in the NEHU by the Members of the PUCTA is premature and redundant.
- (2) That even after the establishment of the Proposed University Under the Mizoram University Act, question of retrenchment of the existing employees of P.U College under NEHU does not arise and
- (3) That any endeavour by NEHU authorities to retrench unilaterally the services of the existing employees of P.U College would be resisted.

Today, in spite of sending representation to the meetings of Academic and Executive Councils, we still have numerous grievances. Above all, the Telegraphic message of the V.C Violates the seed of Agreement signed earlier, and unless immediate steps are taken up by the Ministry, things could go from bad to waise.

As we had already known, the V.C of NEHU is a Politician from Meghalaya itself, as a result, we are gradually loosing our share or entitlement. In fact, 95% the Administrative Staff is formed by the local community. So, the Ministry should react by notifying the V.C not to create more problems for the Employees of P.U. Coll.ge. At the same time, I sincerely request the Ministry to wake up and take up active actions for the proposed University of Mizoram.

PU F. MALSAWMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to speak in brief about the scholarship of our students for the year 1997, only 87 lakhs is sanctioned for scholarship while the minimum requirement is about Rs. 2,98,00,000/— So, the concerned Department has to make certain adjustments and at the same time, students are asked to produce Income Certificate, which creates immense problems and confusion, because students belonging to rich business families are eligible to receive the scholarship while children of IV Grade Staff, whose annual income has crossed Rs. 34,000/— are denied of this facility. Consequently, the number of students eligible to receive the Post-Matric Scholarship is greatly lowered. So, the Government should rectify the injustice as it hampers the welfare of the students.

Further, in accordance with the all India Norms, 6% of the Budget is set aside for Higher Technical Education. But in our state the Budget Allotment for Higher & Technical Education is only 1.45%. Besides, regarding the Cash Award for successful candidates of Civil Services Examination, Sanction is made only

for 6 candidates. How can we produce successful students under such circumstances? So; I request the Ministry to give top priority to Education and Settle the problems of scholarship faced by the students.

Thank you.

SPEAKER :

The Hon'ble Home Minister has begged leave of the House for presentation of a statement.

This is not included in our List of Business, but the Speaker has special power to permit the same.

PU LIANSUAMA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, Thank you for permitting me to present statement on behalf of the Hon'ble

Home Minister.

At the out set, I would like to emphasize on matter concerning the Brus in Mizoram. In the month of April, 1997, the Bru National Liberation front was established at Tuipuibari. Later, on 23rd and 24th September 1997, the Bru National Union (BNU) held a Special Assembly at Saipuilui and passed a Resolution demanding Autonomous District Council for Brus in Mizoram, which was strongly opposed by the MZP. from there on, the Brus made preparation to flee from Mizoram. Consequently, large number of families fled to Tripura. As such, on 19.10.1997, the SDO (C) Damcherra, BDO Zawlnuam and SDPO Aizawl met at Damcherra and asked the Brus to return to Mizoram. The date fixed for their return was 22.10.1997. In the mean time on 21st October 1997 Pu Lalzawmliana, a Wildlife Camp Watcher was murdered, his body was found near Phersang Village. The Killing greatly enraged the public, and as a result, several houses of the Brus were burnt down, which forced them to flee to Tripura. At this, the R.D. Minister, I.G.P, S.P, D.I.G, 3rd MAP Commandant and other Officers went to the spot immediately.

On the 25th October, the suspected killers were arrested, and with this we hoped the atmosphere would be back to normal. Instead more of Brus left for Tripura, which was strongly opposed by the Tripura Government. As a result of talks between the Chief Secretaries of Tripura and Mizoram, more than 2290 Brus had returned to Mizoram. While the situation is back to normal, another incidents occurred at Falkawn and Dintar Villages on 9.11.1997, where several houses were burnt down. Presently, this matter is being investigated by the Police and the atmosphere is improving gradually. It is quite likely that a new Extremist group is emerging from this area, and I request the entire people of Mizoram to assist the Ministry in curbing the violences.

My next statement is concerned with the refugees from Manipur. As a result of racial trouble between Pahiite and Kuki in Manipur, there was a great influx of refugees to Mizoram. Learning this, the Council of Ministers summoned a meeting, and set up a Co-ordination Committee under the chairmanship of the Commissioner, DP & AR. Following the instructions of the Government, the said Committee took up immediate step to provide relief measures to the refugees. Initially, camps were set up at Mimbung, Teikhang and Khawlian villages under the supervision of experienced officers. Certain conditions were laid out for the refugees such as registration for their names, non-allotment of house-sides and Rationcards and to return to Manipur as soon as the situation improves. So far, 5287 refugees had been registered, while the expenditure incurred for them is Rs. 23,44,998/- till 15th November 1997. The Mizoram Government had several talks with the Manipur Government for their deportation by pressurising the Manipur Government to set up camps for their return.

Meanwhile, considering the population-explosion in our state, we decided to issue Inner Line Permit (ILP) to refugees for preventive measures. However, this decision was strongly condemned by the Pahiite Community here. But I would like to remind

our Paihte brothers that they should not be disheartened, because the said decision is being reconsidered by the Government.

Mr. Speaker Sir, another statement is concerned with the incident that occurred in the southern belt of Mizoram. On the night of 31st October 1997, two dead bodies were found near Adhubabgasara and the Police of Chawngte were informed immediately. Besides, on hearing the news; the D.C, SDPO, VCP and YMA's President of Chawngte went to the spot immediately. Later, the bodies were identified by Numeni, w/o Lalkhuma of Lawngtlai. On 5th November, the killers were arrested by the Police, they belong to the Mawk clan of Arakanese Myanmar. Besides, the Police verified that the killing was intentional and no Mizo was involved in the killing. Mr. Speaker Sir, I present this statement so that the House and the public could learn the actual facts of this incident, which will go a long way in preventing any communal troubles.

The last statement is concerned with the trouble, that broke out between members of Ramthar YMA and Durtlang YMA on 14.11.1997, there was a misunderstanding between the said members at a picnic-spot. Incidentally, Lalchhuanmawia, a member of the said Ramthar YMA was missing. His body was found on 17.11.1997, and a Police case No. 716/97 dt. 17.11.1997 was registered accordingly. To find out the truth, some members of Durtlang YMA were apprehended by the Police. At the moment, the matter is under investigation.

Now, coming to the points raised by the Hon'ble Member Pu F. Malsawma, students whose annual income is less than Rs. 33,400/- are eligible to receive the full amount of Post Matric Scholarship, whereas the annual income not exceeding Rs. 44,530/- are eligible for half the amount for a long time, students freely enjoy the scholarship wrongly considering it as their entitlement for being a Tribal. But of late, it is realised that such easy-money could lead them astray. So, after a thorough consideration

by the Government, the Education Board of Synod and the leaders of YMA, a decision was made to strictly verify the income certificate. At the same time, realising the price-inflation, steps are being taken up to amend the amount of annual income, fixed way back in 1995. Besides, we are also considering ways of increasing the amount of scholarship for students qualified to receive the same.

Finally, the subject mentioned by the Hon'ble Member from Lunglei 'N' will be duly considered, and the Employees of Pachhunga University College should not panic. The Government will take up active actions for their welfare. Thank you.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, can the matter be forwarded today to the Council - meeting.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have already stated that the Government is rendering its best efforts in this matter.
Minister

SPEAKER : We shall have a recess now, our meeting will resume at 2:00 PM.

AFTERNOON 2:00 P.M

SPEAKER : Our next programme is to give a Report of Time-Table. Let the copies be distributed.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, can you give me time to present statement.

SPEAKER : Copies of the Hon'ble Home Minister's Statement will be distributed later. As decided by

the B.A.C, 19th and 20th will be holidays as there is no Government's Business and Private Member's Resolution will be taken up on the 21st. I request the Hon'ble Members to kindly accept the decision of B.A.C.

PU LALSAWTA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, the absence of any Government's Business is humiliating for the Ministry.

PU J. LALSANGZUALA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, when we prepared the Programme under your guidance, representatives of the M.N.F and the P.C were also present. As the approval of the union Government is not received before the session started, no Government's Business could be presented. Once again, I request the House to accept the Programme reported by the Hon'ble Speaker.

PU ZORAMTHANGA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, the absence of any Government's Bill is disgraceful for the Ministry. In such cases, what is the use of Summoning a Session ?

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, for the current Session, around 300 questions were submitted, so the Question hour should be availed by the Members. It is meaningless to cut-short our Programme. Moreover, it is learnt that the Enquiry Report of Greater Lunglei Water Supply Scheme had been submitted. If so, can the Report be presented in this Session ?

PU LALSAWTA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Programme reported earlier cannot be accepted. As a matter of fact, there

are more than 200 central Acts and State-Amendments could be made as found necessary. Besides, right from the date of attaining statehood, we acquired a new status and in accordance with the constitution List 1,2, and 3, laws should be enacted to enhance the functioning of the various Departments. How can the Government proceed without having any Business. So, our session should not be put off for tomorrow, instead, the Enquiry Report mentioned by the Hon'ble Member could be presented.

PU LALHUTHANGA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, recently, the Ruling as well as the Opposition Parties decided to organise the Session thrice a year. As heard earlier, the central approval is required for any Government's Business. So, instead of raising objections, it is wiser to follow the decisions of the B.A.C.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, as mentioned by the Hon'ble Member from Aizawl South II, being the elected representatives of the people, it is our responsibility to enact Laws. In fact, even after a lapse of 4 years, we have not made any progresses in this respect.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, if we look at the Assembly's Record, the Congress Ministry has constituted the most number of Laws. But these laws are in the Concurrent List of the centre, and they cannot be presented tomorrow. Since the Indian Government has not yet given its approval, there is no programme for tomorrow. Mr. Speaker Sir, we respect and accept your decision.

Dr. J.V. HLUNA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, we have no choice but follow your decision. During the Budget Session of March, the Hon'ble Minister of Education has given an assurance

for the amendment of MBSE Rules, so that the classes 11 & 12 of Private School could be directly affiliated to CBSE. Can the amendment be taken up now? If not, there could be problems for the said school.

SPEAKER : Now, we shall call upon the Hon'ble Minister Pu Liansuama to lay on the Table a copy of the Mizoram (State Award to Meritorious and outstanding Teachers) Rules, 1997.

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Mizoram (State Award to Meritorious and outstanding Teachers) Rules, 1997. Thank you Sir.

SPEAKER : You may distribute the copies along with the copies of statement presented earlier. Our programme for today is over.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, kindly grant me permission to present the Enquiry Report of Lunglei Water Supply Scheme?

PU LIANSUAMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, certain corrections have to be made on my statement concerning the incident at Lengpui. On the last page, instead of 'Durtlang Taitesena Section', it should be, 'Durtlang Mel 5, YMA Chawngbawla Section.'

SPEAKER : Regarding the Enquiry Report of Lunglei Water Supply Scheme, the term for its presentation has

expired. So, I forwarded the copy to the Government so that necessary actions could be taken up. The same could be laid on the Table of the House if found necessary.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, you set up the Enquiry Committee, so the matter is in your hand.

SPEAKER : Since we do not have an Executive power, recommendations of the Committee will be reviewed by the Government.

PU F. MALSAWMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, as far as the Enquiry Report is concerned, you are the one to make a decision.

SPEAKER : Shall we consult one another.

DR. R. LALTHANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Enquiry Report will not stand in the way of the Government. As long as the Report reaches your hands, the Hon'ble Members should be given information.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, you have submitted the Enquiry Report to the Government and if you wish, the copies may be distributed to the Members, or Action taken report may be furnished to the Members. If Members are not satisfied, we can make a request for discussion. Mr. Speaker Sir, the way you processed the Report is up to the mark. If the said Report is no longer a confidential matter, the copies could be distributed to the Members as we are the ones to set up a Committee.

Minister

PU HRANGTHANGA Colney : Mr. Speaker Sir, what is the actual situation of this matter? As mentioned earlier, the Enquiry Committee was set up by the House, so the copies should be provided to the Members.

SPEAKER : We shall have a talk with the Government in this matter.

PU LALHUTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, if the said Report is still a confidential, Members who are in possession of the copy should return them immediately.

PU R. TLANGHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is quite likely that persons in-charge of setting up a Committee and sending representatives should be given information. Besides, whether or not Members are satisfied with the copy should also be taken into account. We assumed that the said copy should be provided to the Members through the Hon'ble Speaker. Instead, we have to beg for the same, this certainly hampers the privileges of the Members.

**PU LIANSUAMA :
Minister** Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, the Enquiry Committee, represented by the various Parties was set up, who promptly submitted the Report to you. If the Members are responsible for the leakage of the Committee's Report, any forms of Parliamentary Committee should no longer be formed by the House. In any case, disclosure of any such Report is extremely wrong. So, if any Members are in possession of the said copy, they should submit the same to you.

PU LALSAWTA : Mr. Speaker Sir, during the recess, we learnt that 5 copies of the said Report were sub-

mitted to the Chief Secretary, and the whereabouts of these copies is not known today. While the entire Mizoram has learnt about the leakage, the copies have not yet reached the hands of the Members. This is extremely wrong. So, I demand that copies should be provided to the members.

PU SAIKAPTHIANGA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, if 5 copies had been submitted to the C.S., the report is no longer a confidential matter. So, I support the demand of the Hon'ble Member.

SPEAKER :

The 5 copies were personally handed over by the concerned officer to the C.S. The main reason for setting up the Enquiry Committee was to probe whether there was any misuse of funds in this scheme. The Committee has submitted the Report, which is being deposited in the Government. We shall have talk with the Government regarding its progress.

PU ZORAMTHANGA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is wrong to keep the copies away from the Member after the Report has leaked out.

PU F. LALREMSIAMA :

Mr. Speaker Sir, the House should be in possession of the said copy. Besides, it is your duty to protect the honour of the 2 Members, Dr. J.V. Hluna and Pu Lalrinchhana, who are in possession of this copy. A month has hardly passed and why is there a leakage?

PU EPANSUAMA :
Minister

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee should review the whole situation in order to discover the actual persons responsible for the leakage.

PU LAL BIAKZUALA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee was represented by the Members of different Political Parties, and worked extremely hard for the benefit and interest of the entire Mizoram. In no way can the Committee be blamed for the leakage. So, I suggest that enquiry be taken on this matter.

PU P.C. ZORAM SANGLIANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, the Enquiry Committee, represented by Members of various Political Parties was set up. The leakage of the Report is a Breach of Privilege particularly for Members involved in the Committee. So, a Breach of Privilege be moved in the House and Summon the Responsible Editor, who published the Report. If not, the said copies should be furnished to the Members.

PU LAL THANHAWLA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Enquiry Committee is the first of its kind in the Mizoram Legislative Assembly. At the meeting of the Congress Legislative, the Chairman of the Enquiry Committee stated that the said Report was officially submitted to the Speaker, who, in turn forwarded the same to the Government. A copy of the Report has not reached my hand till date. Anyway, the Hon'ble Speaker assured the House that the said matter would be processed in the most efficient manner by consulting experts and experienced persons. The leakage of the Report is most unfortunate, and it is our responsibility to safeguard the prestige of our Hon'ble Members. The copies will be given to the Members if that is the right procedure. So, let us no longer debate over this issue and leave it in the hands of the Hon'ble Speaker, who had given assurances confidently.

Thank you.

PU LALRINCHHANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, though the copy is with me, I have nothing to do with the leakage. The responsible person should be detected.

SPEAKER : As mentioned, the Enquiry Committee is the first of its kind. So, I will consult the Secretary of Law and other Experts.

At the formation of this Ministry, the House was divided into 2 Groups, one is the Ruling Group, formed by the MJD, Independent and Congress, while the rest formed the Opposition Group. In course of time, certain Members formed the un-attached group, who are regarded as the Opposition Party. Such is the actual condition of the House. Our programme for today is over.

PU LALHMINGTHANGA : Mr. Speaker Sir, complying to our request, you placed us in the Opposition bench as a group.

SPEAKER : Our Session is over for today, the same will resume on the 21st at 10 : 30 A.M.

Meeting Adjourned at 3 : 09 P.M.