

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

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FOURTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 23rd FEBRUARY, 2024
(Time 10:30 A.M to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

2. *Resolution

(VANLALTHANTLINGI)
Commissioner & Secretary

* Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 26, dated the 22nd February, 2024 for Private Members' Resolution to be moved.

SPEAKER : *May He judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.*

-Psalms 72:2

Let me inform the House that Pi Barly Vanneihsang won't be able to attend the Session today. Let me also state that we must keep up with wearing traditional attire every Wednesday.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Will the hon. MLA of Thorang, Pu R. Rohmingliana be pleased to ask *Starred Question No.41*.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. *Starred Question No.41* is – "Are there any intentions to distribute the 1700 solar water pumps through the PM-KUSUM, a previous government initiative whose tender has already been completed?"

Pu Speaker, let me apologise for the typing error made which was the 'Public Health Engineering Department', it must be corrected as 'Irrigation & Water Resources Department'. I would be pleased if the PHE Minister could give me an answer.

SPEAKER : PHE Minister, Prof. Lalnilawma.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer for Pu Rohmingliana, MLA of Thorang is-

The 1700 solar water pumps through the PM-KUSUM shall be given out soon, within this season.

SPEAKER : Pu R. Rohmingliana, MLA of Thorang.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Pu Speaker, my first question is- Who are the vendors for Mizoram? Second, will these be installed for the farmers before the monsoon season?

SPEAKER : Pu V. Malsawmtluanga, MLA, Lunglei North to ask *Supplementary questions*.

PU V. MALSAWMTLUANGA : Pu Speaker, thank you. With your permission, I would like to elaborate further.

The people of Lunglei Town area have been facing scarcity of water for quite some time and we are uneasy about the dry winter season. Even though there were initiatives from the previous government, no practical results have been there. The water supply scheme

that we have been using was run by diesel since 1994; it was inaugurated in November 1995. We have reached its 30th year.

According to experts, the pipes could last for 15 to 30 years depending on its placements. In Mizoram, pipes could rust by 7 years since we laid it underground. Nevertheless, the new government is keen to help and with that note, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, Prof. Lalnilawma.

“Is there any hope of receiving the ongoing proposal for the Upgradation of the Greater Lunglei Water Supply Scheme under NESIDS? What is its current progress?” Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Prof. Lalnilawma may answer and if there’s anything concerning ‘irrigation’, he may mention it as well.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the concerned Minister for Irrigation & Water Resource Deptt. may answer the necessary questions. My answer to Pu V. Malsawmtluanga’s question is-

The government has heard about the scarcity of water in Lunglei, including our Chief Secretary. On 7th February, we visited the site with some officials along with our E-in-C. We found that there is a great need to take steps. As we have heard, the Greater Lunglei Water Supply Scheme was commissioned in 1995. Regarding the usage of pipes, in Mizoram, we usually exceed a lifetime of 15 years. It is estimated that 70 lpcd is required just in the city.

It is estimated that 135 lpcd is required. However, only 36 Lpcd can be pumped using two machines. On the other hand, I am glad that the people of Lunglei are not complaining about it. When we visited the site on 7th February, the State Level Empowered Committee called for a sitting to discuss the problem and gave us their priority. They brought us to the Inter-ministerial Meeting at the Central level which will be held on 28th February. Our Chief Secretary has shown her priority and we are glad to know that.

The needs of the Lunglei people will be met if our requirements are fulfilled. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : To supplement, let me invite Pu PC Vanlalruata, Minister, Irrigation & Water Resource Deptt.

PU PC. VANLALRUATA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, as hon. member, Pu R. Rohmingliana said, there was a slight mistake; PM-KUSUM comes under the Irrigation Deptt. Answering the *Supplementary question*, all the requirements have been fulfilled now. The Letter of Award was given to M/S Thanga & Sons, Mission Veng on

7.02.2024. As per my knowledge, an agreement must be written within 15 days, today is the last date.

200 units will be the start. Pu Speaker, with your permission, I would also like to assure the House about the PM-KUSUM that 30% is state share, 20% is farmer share and 50% will be received from the Central. For the 1700 units, we have received a state share of ₹979.83 lakhs. We were informed by the Central to add more but there were some complications from the vendor.

Since the landscape of Mizoram is not very suitable to their needs, so, the vendors used to withdraw in 2021-2022. Now that 'M/S Thanga & Sons' was awarded; we shall start with 200 units first. We have also received a state-matching share and we are planning to keep going. In any case, steps will be taken before the arrival of the monsoon season.

SPEAKER : Will the hon. MLA of East Tuipui, Pu Ramthanmawia be pleased to ask *Starred Question No.42*.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My question to the hon. Minister of the Fisheries Deptt. is-
“How many assistances were given out between the year 2019 to 2023 for the construction of fish ponds? Could you tell me year-wise?”.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalthansanga, Minister, Fisheries Department.

PU LALTHANSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. My answer for Pu Ramthanmawia is-
Assistance given for the construction of fish ponds between 2019-2023:

<i>Year-wise</i>	<i>Pek chhuah zat</i>
2019-2020	188
2020-2021	1759
2021-2022	1449
2022-2023	506

SPEAKER : Pu Ramthanmawia may ask *Supplementary question*.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you.

As we all know, assistance for the construction and the maintenance of fish ponds is given out annually. My first question is- Does it increase the state's fish production? Could you tell me the number of fish produced within the last 3 years? The second question is- Viewing our potential, do we have the ability to be self-sufficient in fish production? The third question is- There have been ongoing problems with the inadequacy of the fish species. So, are there initiatives to solve this problem?

SPEAKER : Pu VL. Zaithanzama, MLA of Aizawl West-III.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. My question is – Are the imported fishes hygienic for consumption? Does the department ensure this? Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from MLA of Champhai South, Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga.

LT. COL. CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Let me first state that many people of Champhai South rely on their fish ponds as their main source of income. Every year, around lakhs is spent on the purchase of various species of fish. Are there any plans to set up a ‘hatchery’ in Champhai?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalthansanga, hon. Minister may give the answers.

PU LALTHANSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my first answer is that the production of fish is categorised based on the bio-mass in India- such as *harvest* and *unharvest*. Production is calculated based on the number of fish caught and the number of remaining fish in the pond.

We did not get enough fingerlings despite the focus given to the production. We also heard from the accredited suppliers from our recent survey that the best time to supply fish roe is between April till May. If we were to make openings for tender to supply fish roe, we might not get any. That’s why we try to be more pragmatic and we also shall revise what has been done so far.

It also seems like some dishonest dealings in the process hampers the production process and we are trying hard to remove that. Within 2023- 2024, the District Level Committee will be reconstituted; whoever is believed to be efficient shall be given priorities without political selection. If we continue to go like this, we shall soon see positive results.

Answering PU VL Zaithanzama’s question- the Food & Drugs Administration takes care of the hygienic levels, not us, the Fishery Department. But we make sure that there are no ‘formalin’ contents present in the imported fish and so far, we haven’t found any. All the fish must be delivered in a box of ice and all the departments are trying our best to take care of these things.

To answer Lt. Col. Lalhmingthanga’s question, sometimes the baby fish dies in the delivery process. So, right from its birth to a fingerling stage, there are adjustments to keep them alive. Besides that, a Brood Bank is in the process of construction at Thenzawl and we believe it will be ready for commission within this financial year. This will greatly pave the way.

SPEAKER : Will the hon. MLA of Mamit, Pu H. Lalzirliana be pleased to ask *Starred Question No.43*.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, *Starred Question No. 43* for the Minister of Higher & Technical Education are-

- a) Are there plans to include Science subjects in Mamit Govt. College?
- b) If not, will the government take measures to improve the conditions of education of people of Mamit areas?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Dr. Vanlalhlana, Higher & Technical Education Department.

DR. VANLALHLANA, MINISTER: The answer for hon. member, H. Lalzirliana are-

- a) Since the NEP 2020 has been introduced, we are not sure how the government will go with this.
- b) Initiatives will be taken based on our financial conditions.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from hon. member, Pu H. Ginzalala, of Champhai North constituency.

PU H. GINZALALA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Champhai is developing and currently, we are the third largest city in Mizoram. We wish to have improved educational institutions that reach up to Ph.D. Can the government take steps towards this?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pi Prova Chakma, MLA, West Tuichawng constituency.

PI PROVA CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My constituency is 35- West Tuipui and not Tuichawng. (**Speaker:** I apologise for that.)

Question for hon. Minister of Higher & Technical Education Department- Could you please inform me why the order was cancelled for the post of a Chemistry Lecturer at Tlabung Higher Secondary School? If there are plans to revert the order, when?

SPEAKER : Pu H. Lalzirliana to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, my question is-

I have heard that recently our Minister visited the proposed NIT Mizoram Campus at Lengpui. Could you tell us the current condition and when the construction will be resumed? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Those are different sets of questions. Let's invite Dr. Vanlalhlana, Minister to give answers.

DR. VANLALTHLANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you.

Answer for Er. Ginzalala- Setting up a post-graduate institution requires a lot. There is an ongoing file about the proposal of setting up a post-graduate institution. A file was submitted to DP&AR and we can't tell how things will turn out as of now. There are rejections due to a shortage of finance, returned files about Polytechnic, Champhai and those that did not pass the Cabinet meeting. All I can say is, I shall take note of all that. Answer to Pi Prova Chakma, Tlabung Higher Secondary School falls under the purview of the School Education Department. I can include it when we wind up about the School Education Department.

Answer to Er. Lalzirliana, when we visited the NIT Campus at Lengpui, we saw that more than despite the spending of more than ten lakhs, a great development was not seen. The forest department charged us around 20 crores and we requested their consideration. As we called a joint meeting, consideration was not easy as the previous government already promised to give it to another department. We dreamt of having NIT but the authorities wished to take the institution back. What we can do right now is to request them to decrease the penal interest and a formal letter is in the process which will be sent to the Central. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Yesterday, we were able to take only two questions. If there's anything, we may kindly inform the Minister later, I'm sure he's all ears.

Let me assure the House that as per the instructions from the Election Commission of India, we may address each other using our official names. 'Dr.' or 'Er.' May be used only when we add these to our official names.

Will the hon. MLA of Siaha, Dr. K. Beichhua may be pleased to ask *Starred Question No. 44*.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : My questions to the PHE Minister are-

- a) Under the JJM scheme, how many water connections were given all over Mizoram?
- b) Which villages were not yet covered in Siaha District?

Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Prof. Lalnilawma to give answers.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, HON. MEMBER: Answers for Dr. K. Beichhua are-

- a) 728 water connections are given under JJM in Mizoram.

b) All the districts of Siaha have been covered.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, is it that the observations of the department and mine are different?

i) How many solar water pumps are not yet completed under JJM? Is the government aware of the unfinished work left by the contractors? What are its plans to go with it?

ii) Since we do not have enough power supply in Siaha and Palak constituencies, it is difficult to use pumps. In this dry season, can we have the pump run by diesel at least?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu Lalramliana Papua, Lunglei South constituency.

PU LALRAMLIANA PAPUIA: Pu Speaker, thank you.

My question is- An approach road used to be paved for the installation of solar plates under JJM. Since those approach roads are not properly maintained, there are times when the local people have to transport the unused materials which is also the case in my constituency. Is this the responsibility of the local people or the department? Also, can the required materials like solar plates be put together all at once in the same place so that the nearby residents don't have to do the shifting work?

Next, the construction of the JJM solar pump at Thangpui (located in Lunglei South) is completed but still not in use till today. When the village faced a shortage of water supply, the school children had to take a break from school and fetch water. Is there any way to improve the condition of these areas? Thank you.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu C. Ngunlianchunga, Lunglei West constituency.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, my questions for the PHE Minister are-

i) In the previous government, we used to speak about how bad were the rubber pipes used for household water connection under JJM. Is the new government planning to replace it? Can it be replaced using GI pipes?

ii) When can we finish replacing the solar pumps for those selected villages?

iii) As we listened to earlier, there are incomplete projects, especially in Ngenpuitlang village and Hmunlai village and its surrounding areas. What are the plans made by the government and can it be done within this season? Thank you.

SPEAKER : PHE Minister, Prof. Lalnilawma may give the answers.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you.

Responding to the first question, all the JJM will end by this March, according to our plans and we are planning to finish by the same month.

“Is diesel useable?”, yes, only if there’s enough money since the expenditure for a day itself would be costly. However, in case of emergency, there might come a time when we use diesel.

The answer to the second question is- We have received a report from the MLA of that constituency regarding the poor condition of the roads. We are glad that we have effective communication among us. The previous government allotted workers to do the duty however, it is also good to hear that the nearby residents also helped in shifting. We shall inspect the place soon with the MLA.

About Thangpui, we plan to finish within March 2024.

In response to the Lawngtlai West MLA, ‘rubber pipe’ is supposed to be ‘PVC’, I believe. If the right quality of PVC is used, it must be as strong as GI or the like. However, if there’s any defect, we shall look into that. If GI pipes were used, I believe the quality can be trusted. I believe we can’t replace it right now since the department does not have enough money. But if it is in poor condition, we can find ways to utilise the funding source. Right now, there is no money.

Regarding the last question, 728 connections were completed based on our reports. We are currently working to complete household connections. The ongoing work done by the NHIDCL is a bit of a problem. The main aim of this scheme is to provide 55 lpcd for each household. Augmentation shall also be done with the existing solar. After completion of the solar projects, we hope to get what we aim for. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : It is important the members speak up on that matter. Indeed, a closer inspection is needed in that area and the department may also take note of this.

Will the MLA of Aizawl West – III, Pu VL Zaithanzama be pleased to ask *Starred Question No. 45*.

PU VL ZAITHANZAMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My questions for the Minister of PHE Deptt. are-

- a) How many litres of water are required daily by the people of Aizawl city?
- b) How many litres of water can be pumped daily in this condition?

SPEAKER : PHE Minister, Prof. Lalnilawma may give the answers.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. Answers to Aizawl West- III MLA, Pu VL Zaithanzama are-

- a) It is estimated that there are 3,78,500 people in Aizawl currently. The guidelines by the Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) mention 135 litres per capita/day (LPCD), so 66.43 MLPD is required.
- b) Currently, 28.77 MLPD of water is pumped daily.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary question* from Pu R. Rohmingliana, Thorang constituency.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Pu Speaker, my question is-

In my constituency is a village named Terabonia, which happened to be located outside when the Bangladesh Border fencing was done. The problem is that we still have voters and had to go for campaigns there but were blocked by the BSF. We still provide rations but were hindered from repairing the schools and giving them enough water supplies. I want to know if the PHE Minister could arrange the provision of water supply for them at least through gravitation. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte, Hrangturzo constituency to ask *Supplementary question*.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. In my constituency, Lungchhuan village is almost covered by JJM. While 40,000 litres is required to be pumped, only 20,000 litres could be pumped, can it function at its full capacity?

Second, under the Multi-Village Water Supply Scheme, JJM, connection pipes were already fitted in the villages of East Lungdar, Leng and Sailulak but the machine is not yet installed. Can it be done by March since one of the villages is going to host the Presbyterian Men's General Conference in April?

Besides, progress has been slow in Khawlailung and Piler, when will it be completed? Can we also arrange an additional water supply from Mat or Tuichang for Bungtlang since they do not have enough water supply?

SPEAKER : Pu VL Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Speaker, my questions for the PHE Minister are-

- i) Is there ongoing work to pump down the waters from Tawitlang to Aizawl? If so, when will the completion date be?

ii) Till today, the Greater Aizawl Water Supply Scheme Phase-III, which is expected to be completed in September 2020, has not yet been completed. When can we pump the water?

SPEAKER : Prof. Lalnilawma, PHE Minister.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. As the MLA of Thorang stated, Terabonia is located outside our border. Under JJM, the Ministry produced a habitation list which might not include the said village. We shall look together into that matter.

Regarding East Lungdar and Lungchhuan as mentioned by Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte, I appreciate how well he knows about his duties. An augmentation with solar to have 55 lpcd is currently being worked on and we hope to see productive results.

Sources of water is not enough for West Lungdar, Leng, Sailulak and Khawlailung areas because the previous government should have looked for a better source. Since it was already started in the previous government, we can't promise another one before the ongoing scheme comes to an end.

Regarding the third question- the work is ongoing and March 2024 is our target of completion.

Answering the second question, the previous Ministry might have been slow in its performance. The Minister inaugurated it on 26th September, 2023 even though it was not fully functional. Maybe they were in a hurry.

When our Minister inaugurated the Phase-III, a trial run was done using diesel. We pumped up the water from Tlawng to Laipuitlang without any problem. Using diesel would require at least 1000 litres per day which we can't afford. There needs to be a financial deposit to the Power Deptt. from the PHE Deptt for the load security. A three-month expenditure was calculated for the load security and for that, 5.9 crores were deposited to the P & E Deptt. on 9th February, 2024.

Pu K. Sapdanga, UD & PA Minister gives his priority and through his leadership, the SIPMIU will start their work. Within the first 30 days, SIPMIU will do a test and if everything is functioning well, then within 30 days, the water supply is expected to be given. We might re-inaugurate once everything is fully functional and we hope to finish before March. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Will the MLA of Mamit Pu H. Lalzirliana be pleased to ask *Starred Question No. 46*.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. My questions for the hon. Minister of Tourism are-

- a) What norms were made during the previous government (December 2018 – December 2023)?
- b) Are they utilizing this?

SPEAKER : Pi Lalrinpuui, Tourism Minister.

PI LALRINPUUI, TOURISM MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The former Tourism Minister seems like an active person along with his officials. I thank them as we follow in their footsteps. My answer to Pu H. Lalzirliana is-

- a) These are enacted:
 - i) The Mizoram Responsible Tourism Policy, 2020.
 - ii) The Mizoram Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 2020.

The following Rules are formulated:

- i) The Mizoram Registration of Tourist Trade Rules, 2020;
- ii) The Mizoram Aero-sports Rules, 2020;
- iii) The Mizoram River Rafting Rules, 2020;

Guidelines were also made:

- i) Guidelines for Dormitories/Hostel in Mizoram;
- ii) Guidelines for Homestays in Mizoram;
- iii) Guidelines for Tour Operators in Mizoram;
- iv) Guidelines for Tour Guides in Mizoram;
- v) Guidelines for Ticketing Sales Agent/ Travel Agent in Mizoram;
- vi) Guidelines for Caravan Tourism in Mizoram;
- vii) Guidelines for Recognition of Tourism Service Providers Association in Mizoram;
- viii) Guidelines for Organizing Festivals other than Government;
- ix) Guidelines for Registration of Standalone Catering Units in Mizoram.
- b) The above have been efficiently utilized. Pu Speaker, thank you.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS:

SPEAKER : Question & Answer time has come to an end. 'Private Members Business' is mentioned in Article 27 (1) of our law. On 19 February, 11:30 A.M., we balloted at the Joint Secretary's office as mentioned in Bulletin Part -II, No. 26, 22 February, 2024. I hope the members noticed that.

The resolution is, *"Government should review the dissolution of the Mizoram Subordinate Service Selection Board (MSSSB), which served as a reliable and serviceable board for the job-seeking Mizo youths."* Let's invite hon. member, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo, Dampa constituency to move his resolution.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, thank you. Let me elaborate on the resolution. It is questionable that the ZPM government might have received feigned information about the previous government assigning their favoured people to be a part of the Board. Pu Speaker, I request the government that stands for 'reliability and transparency' to review the dissolution of MSSSB.

When MPSC was established, it was meant to conduct exams for Group A posts only and was later assigned to conduct exams for Group B posts. Next, the pressure might have come from the students, so, the government took back Group B in its hands. It was felt that the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) should not conduct recruitments for Group B so it was returned to MPSC. The new government in 2019 planned to fill up both Group A and B posts but at that time, the MPSC's schedule was full till the end of the year. That means recruitment was to be delayed. This gave the need for the birth of a new idea.

Due to a lack of finance around 2018, various non-gazetted posts were not filled up. On the other hand, the MCS exam was conducted almost annually. Due to a shortage of the working group that is the non-gazetted employees, the qualifying years needed to be relaxed for promotion and that creates a gap. The MPSC said that due to a shortage of employees, the rate of efficiency was disturbed and requested the creation of more posts. At the same time, the DP&AR examined the case and rather than expanding the MPSC, the formation of DPC to take charge of Group B was again pushed. The Ministry thought that such kind of formation of DOPC to recruit Group B posts could pave the way for unauthorized actions so a separate selection board was on the need.

Therefore, the MSSSB was formed on 19 June 2019. The Board was given autonomous powers. It consisted of a Board Chairman and a Member who were experts with years of experience. The DP&AR assisted the Board at the time of the interview. The Board also tries to minimize expenditures as much as possible. It was useful for the promotion, regularization and upgradation of government employees as well. Let me also mention that positions have been earned based on merit.

We know that UPSC conducts the posts for Group A at the Central level. The Staff Selection Commission is also there to conduct Group B posts to work for the Central Secretariat and various Ministries. Based on these, states also continued to have their State Selection Boards and the name differs. Some of these states are- West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Some State Boards also conduct examinations for Group C also.

Mizoram is the first state in the Northeast to have a State Selection Board which was followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. Till today, they have recruited many people. Manipur also published in their Gazette but is not yet fully functional.

Meghalaya has a District level selection board. That is how our neighbouring states gave importance and, sadly, we have to come to a dissolution of the MSSB.

Pu Speaker, recruitments were unfair without the existence of MSSSB and the DPC used to act unfairly too. We saw that it was a chance for the Ministers and bureaucrats to pressure each other. If it were not re-examined, these new systems would not make sense.

Lastly, till today, I have not heard any complaints about the functioning of the MSSSB. So, to assist the government and to help the job-seeking youths, bringing back the MSSSB would be a great help. So, Pu Speaker, I brought this resolution to the House to let the members realise the importance of this Board. Thank you.

SPEAKER : 5 minutes shall be given and let me first give time to Er. H. Ginzalala, Champhai North constituency.

PU H. GINZALALA : Pu Speaker, thank you. As we start this new government with a new system, it will be an important milestone. We heard from the Governor about the ‘Viksit Bharat, do hazar sentalis’; he spoke about an ‘effective government’. We meant to say that the expansion of bodies or boards hampers the efficiency of the government. We agreed and applauded the Governor’s speech but today, it’s like “the ones who said Hosanna the previous day became the ones that cried to crucify Him on the next day”.

‘Maximum government; minimum governance’ is our current state and that decreases the efficiency. In this new government, we want ‘minimum government; maximum governance’. So, we believe that we haven’t made any wrong decisions so far, we do not have any regrets and we believe that we must continue to scale down government departments.

If we want to, we can certainly make use of MSSSB by appointing our people as Board Chairman or a member. But that is not what we believe in and it shows our healthy mindset as well.

When I visited China, I questioned our friend who set up a factory there, “Why don’t you set up a factory in India?”. He replied, “Your politicians in India do not have a vision. In China, decisions are made with a vision that aims for at least 50 years”. That means we need leaders with a strong vision, at least someone that can vision the next 100 years. As we commence with our CM with a strong vision, we believe we made no mistakes. I invite all of us to work together. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte, Hrangturzo constituency.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. Right from the start, MSSSB was not supported by other parties except the MNF party since the former believed that it was a way to show political favouritism. Students Union had to block their entry to work; NSUI, one of the wings of the Congress party also made a PR in opposition of the Board.

The Board was passed by the Council of Ministers on 10 June 2019 and a notification was issued on 19 June 2019. Around that time, Pu Lalrammawia was appointed as MNF Adviser on 2 February 2020, but only 8 days after he sat on his post, he submitted a resignation letter on 10.2.2020 and this was accepted on 12.2.2020. Then, on 24 February 2020, he was appointed as the Chairman of MSSSB. When we observe closely, it is disorganised.

When MPSC is existent, we must continue to strengthen it. There were lots of opposition at that time so we promised that once we formed a government, we would remove that. When Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo said that DP&AR personnel used to be a part of the interview board, that was just a way for government employees to show their favouritism. So, Pu Speaker, our wish is that we do not pass this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu V. Malsawmtluanga, Lunglei North constituency.

PU V. MALSAWMTLUANGA: Pu Speaker, the moment we were elected, we asked what kind of service should we do for the people. So, our House Leader, CM Pu Lalduhoma suggested the dissolution of MSSSB.

First, I am in favour of this resolution. Second, we want to be pragmatic. Article 315-323 of the Indian Constitution said that there must be a PSC at the Union and at the State level. So, we agreed to that as well.

Next, if we talk about the advantages of MSSSB, there will be some points. But from my point of view, it is similar to taking substitutes to do the job. Besides, we opted towards austerity measures. SEDP was unsuccessful, which means we should also go against MSSSB. ₹9,61,595/- goes monthly for the remunerations and with some miscellaneous expenses, 11 lakhs is spent monthly. So, we should avoid expenditures such as these.

I would not further add on to what Pu Lalmuanpuia Punte said. Pu Lalnuntluanga posed an RTI question, “Do the MLAs and Ministers have a say in recruitments conducted by MSSSB?”. The answer was, “Yes”. Despite our respect for the past recruitments, it could be a political advantage for some people so I support the dissolution of the Board. The same paper was answered at the Common Recruitment Exam conducted on September 2023 wherein posts such as Local Administrative Officer, Circle Officer and Centre Commander. Is this the right way to conduct an exam, when the posts are

different from each other. Sometimes, candidates with a strong foundation in Math and Science might have the ability to score better marks. Is it the best when a candidate proficient in Math is recruited to teach History? I have these kinds of questions.

MPSC is fit enough with its three levels of the recruitment process. In 1993, some of the MPSC regulations were amended by the ruling party and the 1998 Higher Secondary School teacher recruitment was taken by the government from the MPSC. For all these reasons, I support the MPSC, which was established under the provision of the Indian Constitution. So, I do not support the resolution and do not favour the reconsideration of the same. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Ramthanmawia, East Tuipui constituency.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I believe that the ones to your right aren't able to proceed from their convictions. When our daughter was not selected for a post, she applied because she got 2 marks less than the appointed candidates, and I realized how fair it was. Now, we have failed many youths out there.

Besides recruitment, they also work on promotions for both regular and provisional employees. Between 2021 to 2023, 328 direct recruitments were conducted. Recently, 50 Hugh School, teachers were recruited. From various departments, Group B post regularization was done for 166 people with 1355 people on the recommendation list. For Group B post, *Recommendation for Conversion* for 43 people and 43 people for *Absorption* was their work too.

Till 2023, the promotion of 149 people through LDE was done. In total, 3097 promotions of government employees were recommended by the board. Even a delay by a day could be a great disadvantage for government employees and it could affect the upcoming promotions. So, I appreciate the extensive work they have done.

Meanwhile, it is disheartening to know that there are ambitions to dissolve the Board. There are three papers- Paper I, II and III and these marks are added together with their interview marks. If they secure the desired marks for the post, they are appointed, if not, they cannot be appointed. These days, everything seems to be transparent now so, I am speaking because I care the future of our youths. I request that we reconsider this. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalramliana Papua, Lunglei South constituency.

PU LALRAMLIANA PAPUIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. We heard about how MSSSB was formed and how the new government opted to dissolve the Board in pursuance of austerity measures. Rather than spending around rs.10 lakhs monthly, let the MPSC handle it which I support. MPSC has a constitutional status; Part IV of the Indian Constitution, Article 315 mentions the establishment of Public Service Commissions

and that the said commission shall conduct recruitments. It has been believed that the MSSSB would ease the burden of the MPSC. During that time, the Chairman of MPSC, Rev. Zosangliana Colney said that all recruitment processes were conducted as scheduled from 2019. It would not make sense to do some of the work that the MPSC is supposed to do. I also don't think we should compare the Staff Selection Commission at the Central with MSSSB. When the SSC fills vacant posts, scoring well in written exams is an important pathway and interviews are not separately conducted. It means there are no chances of political influence. After verification of documents, the job is offered to them. Meanwhile, in MSSSB, some higher authorities seem to have a say on certain things.

The only issue with the MPSC has to do with lack of space to fit numerous candidates to give examinations. As an MLA Of other districts, our districts would have chances of hosting examinations which would benefit or ease the expenses of many aspiring candidates. There can be no excuse and this resolution about reviewing the dissolution is not required is what I stand for. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu R. Rohmingliana, Thorang constituency.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Kindly excuse me for a minute or two if I have exceeded the given 5 minutes.

First, I support the Private Resolution. Let me also state that the MSSSB only conducts examinations for Group B Non-gazetted posts. At Union of India, there is a Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and above that is the UPSC (a constitutional body). In the state, we have the MPSC (a constitutional body) and under that we have the MSSSB, a board established under the state government's power. That is the power given to the states. Subordinate Service Selection Board (SSSB) may differ in names in different states. Why should we dissolve what we currently have is the biggest question.

Our members have spoken about others based on their positions in the party, they shouldn't have to do that. We only want good people in the MNF party and we have those people.

Regarding expenditures, our House Leader mentioned how driver barracks need to be constructed, but that was not the only one. If the MSSSB is dissolved, then the MPSC need to take the sole responsibility of creating new posts which is against the austerity measures put forward by the government. The MSSSB Chairman and the member used to enjoy a salary given by the government. If they are retired, their benefits are less. In addition to their pension, they also got a compensation balance during their time in service. Today, the MSSSB Chairman shall be the MPSC Secretary with the same salary and the current Secretary will hold the post of an Additional Secretary with a pay level of 13A.

Besides that, when we calculate one month's salary for Joint Controller 1 post (Level 12), Assistant Controller of Examination 1 post (Level 10); Assistant 2 posts (Level 7): UDC 4 posts (Level 6); LDC 4-5 posts; Group-D 6 posts (Level 1), the total amount might be around ₹9,33,270/-. In a year, it will amount to ₹1,08,39,240/-. That means when there will be more expenditure if there's only the MPSC.

The staff under MSSSB were selected to be attached staff from various departments and received their salaries from the government. I also believe that it is fair; the only time the MZP complained was when they submitted a letter to the former CM stating their dissatisfaction with the appointment of three non-Mizo candidates. Pu Speaker, for the ones who are about to attain their maximum age limits, they might not get a government job within this period if things go on like this.

I also believe the recruitment process, promotion and other things will be delayed in many ways due to the amount of work they will have to sort out. I hope we look into these matters again and I would be glad if we could all support this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu TBC Lalvenchhunga, Aizawl West-I.

PU TBC LALVENCHHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I don't think there is a need to reconsider the Private Member's Resolution. These are all for the future of our youths.

At the start of the Mizoram Public Service Commission, there were cases of nepotism all through the DPC. Then, the MPSC was formed constitutionally but still, the politicians and the powerful ones managed to get what they wanted and the MSSSB is one of the results of these things. So, it makes me question if we care about the youth today.

At the same time, the MPSC might also need reforms in various ways. Before we even formed a government, one of our slogans was about the dissolution of the MSSSB. I have been a member of some aspirants and job-seekers group and the consensus is they do not have issues about the dissolution. The *Limitation of Functions Regulation, 1994* of the MPSC was taken hold of by the government on June 25, then the MSSSB was formed six months later. There is a lot to think about as to why the government wanted to seize the authority of the MPSC so much. Let us remember that it is not an independent body but a body in which the ruling gets to choose the Chairman based on their whims and fancies. Rather than the unfair means, we should discuss strengthening the MPSC for its efficiency.

There is also a need to check the weightage of marks under the MSSSB syllabus. There has been a saying that it is unfair for social sciences and arts students since Matha and Computer carry 100 marks each at the H/S teacher examination. We have to understand the aspirants, the youths, their hopes and aspirations.

So far, I haven't received complaints about the MPSC from the youths. The MPSC also feels capable enough to conduct examinations on its own. So, I support the aims of the government. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu W. Chhuanawma, Tuichang constituency.

PU W. CHHUANAWMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. As we all know, due to an MoU, the MPSC was unable to function properly and as a result, the ongoing works of various departments were affected. Then, the government set up a committee to study the requirements of posts for direct recruitment. 1000 posts were required as per the committee. So, 1000 posts for 30 departments were to be taken and the MSSSB was appointed to conduct these examinations. Despite the lack of staff, the MPSC continued to work hard.

Even after the MSSSB was formed, they were not given financial autonomy and were instructed to work with the DP&AR; something needs to be keenly observed here. It might be fair to some extent, but appointing three non-Mizos for a party that wants to stand for the Mizo people is quite contrary.

I don't think there is a need to work together with the DP&AR since there could be too much involvement. The excuse of the MOSC having too much to work on is not acceptable at all. It is a constitutional body and when we look it from the perspective of democracy, there can be no better board for the state. It should not be compared to the Staff selection Commissions in other big states that recruit Group B and C posts for a huge population. MPSC is always reliable and let us strengthen it. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma, Tuichawng constituency.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. As we discuss the Private Members Resolution, it is clear that the ones to your right are clear about their intentions and I believe they stick to it no matter what. The ones to your right think this will have long-term consequences; promotion won't be there at the right time and they'll be overaged for regularisation. It'll be detrimental for them in the long run.

Due to the workload, the MPSC won't be able to complete things on time. We just advocate for the dissolution without having concrete proof. For the good of the people of Mizoram, I request that the Private Members Resolution be reevaluated and that it be supported. I am in favour of this resolution. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte, Serlui constituency.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. Today, hon. member, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo, Dampa constituency brought up a Private Members Resolution about the dissolution of the Mizoram Sub-ordinate Services Selection Board.

Pu Speaker, I am glad that this Resolution is presented in the H.Ouse. Pu Speaker, are there any proof that MSSB is not fair in conducting their work? If so, please provide us with those documents. It has been utilised fruitfully by job seekers, is it because the resolution is moved by the opposition that it is opposed? Due to the heavy workload of MPSC, DP & AR established a work study team and after careful consideration it was suggested that MSSSB should be established and that Group 'B' non-gazette and other designations lower than Group 'B' should be under their wing. Works like, recruitments of contracts and regular works which is more than 240 nos have been conducted and many due promotions have been cleared. So, I request the treasury bench to review this matter carefully. The only expenditure by the government is for the Chairman and the member which is in level – 14 and level – 13. Is the dissolving of MSSSB based on research? If not, I suggest it should continue to function as before and I request my fellow members to pass the Resolution, "The dissolvment of Mizoram Sub – Ordinate Service Selection Board (MSSSB) which is reliable and useful for Mizo Youth job seekers, should once again be reviewed" Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. member Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Mizoram Public Service Commission had been established by Mizoram Government as an appropriate authority under the Constitution of India. Mainland India and other States have also established a Subordinate Common Commission or Specialized Subordinate Service Board. States like Arunachal and Tripura have also establish such body. It is important to review on how MSSSB conduct their work, the output and the outcome. It strengthens the government in executing their duties more efficiently. So, I request the hon.members to review this matter and pass the resolution by Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu V.L Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Speaker, the ministry had ponder upon the dissolvment of Mizoram Subordinate Service Selection Board and concluded that MPSC can function efficiently without MSSSB. Based on the Constitution of India, recruitment process of government employees should be conducted by MPSC. States bigger than ours also rely on their Public Service Commission and we believe MPSC have performed their duties efficiently.

SPEAKER : The allotted time for the morning session has come to an end, shall we let the member finish his speech? With the permission of the House, you may continue with your speech.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: If it is not for the betterment of our state, we should be courageous enough to exempt things that are not beneficial for us. So, I express my disagreement in passing this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We have come to the end of our morning session and we will resume our sittings at 2:00 PM.

(Recess)

2:00 PM

(Dy. Speaker in the Chair)

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will continue with our business. Hon. Member Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, I want to start by stating that we need to have thorough knowledge of our status. We the ZPM Ministry declare a year of consolidation, so, we need to be frugal and take steps to make arrangements in such a way that our expenditure may decrease. So, the dissolving of MSSB is a very sensible step and I request the hon.ble member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo to withdraw his private resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu K. Laldawngliana, hon. member.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am glad that Pu Lalrintluanga present this resolution and I believe most of us have studied this through. In my opinion, the main reason for dissolvment of MSSSB is that it was initiated by the previous ministry. They have executed their duties and responsibilities skilfully and there has been no complaint in such matters so far. If research had been conducted and the results are disappointing, we will agree to the elimination of the Board, but since there are no such findings, I request the treasury bench to reconsider this as presented by the hon. Member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Jeje Lalpekhlua, hon.member.

PU JEJE LALPEKHLUA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. After careful consideration on this resolution, I believe it is wise to move forward with the decision of the ministry. We believe MPSC, which was established under Article 315 is reliable and efficient enough to conduct their duties and responsibilities. In comparison to other states, our strength is still very weak and I believe MPSC is quite sufficient and a bonafide body.

With the increasing rate in the government liabilities, establishment of sub-ordinate body is not required for our state. So, I express my opinion in the termination of MSSB. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The concern MLA of Mamit, hon.member Pu H. Lalzirliana.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I express my support in passing this resolution as MSSSB was established by the former ministry after conducting research on the practicality of other states and past experiences. It was established to aid MPSC in executing their duties more efficiently. I request the treasury bench to conduct thorough research on this matter and since it is the motives of ZPM party to advocate maximum governance, this is a stepping stone. So, I suggest it will be wise to review this once again. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Pu F. Rodingliana.

PU F. RODINGLIANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. As the Vice-Chairman of Policy Drafting Committee, we have carefully considered the benefit and drawbacks and we concluded that it is best to terminate this sub-ordinate body. Judging and reviewing from past experiences, MPSC is the best for our youth and their future . Are recruitments fairly conducted under MSSSB, are only eligible candidates recruited? These are the questions raised by our youths. For their future and our state, we believe it is best to eliminate this body. So, I suggest we do not pass this resolution of our fellow member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The concern MLA of Champhai South, Lt.Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga.

LT. COL. CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Thank you. Pu Deputy Speaker. My fellow members made a comparison regarding sub-ordinate body with other states, it is obvious that our population is far from dense. So, I believe MPSC, which is a constitutional body is dependable enough to perform their responsibilities in our state and we should give attention regarding their development if needed. The only hindrance they face, I believe is the lack of manpower and the inadequate accommodations of exam halls during conducting exams. Regarding such issues we, who are not from Aizawl District are more than happy to make our schools available for them during the examination period. So, I do not find any requirement to review this issue and I will conclude by stating that the ministry should continue to stand its ground. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. member Dr. Lorrain Lalpeklia Chinzah, the concern MLA of Lawngtlai East constituency.

DR. LORRAIN LALPEKLIANA CHINZAH: Pu Deputy Speaker, I am glad that we could have a discussion regarding the termination of MSSSB and with the execution of our austerity measures where an amount of ₹10,00,000 /-is utilized every month. MSSSB is in one way a means to by- pass MPSC, a constitutional body. Exams

conducted under MPSC are evaluated carefully and from the information we received, it has been conducted fair and square, so, I do not find the requirement of MSSB service. Looking at how it was established, the rushing appointment of one of the party advisers as the board chairman is a good example on the shady foundation and cannot be considered fair. So, I will conclude by expressing my disagreement in the resolution of Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu B.Lalchhanzova.

PU B. LALCHHANZOVA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. During our campaign the present House Leader often mentioned that MSSSB will be dissolved. There may be incidents we do not want to mention in the hon. House regarding the unfair connection or circumstances regarding MSSSB. Anyway, we need to strengthen MPSC which is a constitutional body, where political parties cannot have any infiltration in conducting their work. Anyway, I express my opinion in supporting the government's decision of dissolving MSSB. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The concern MLA of Aizawl West – II, Pu Lalnghinglova Hmar.

PU LALNGHINGLOVA HMAR, MINISTER: Thank you Pu Speaker. The elimination of MSSSB had often been mentioned before and from my record, our Chief Ministerial candidate had mentioned this on the 9th April, 2022 at Lengteng Constituency and also on 1st Feb, 2023 at Chanmari Hall stating that, it will be terminated within 100 days, counting from the day ZPM holds the Ministry and that MPSC will also be strengthen if required. The establishment of MSSSB had also been opposed by Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee Media Department making a press release on 12th June, 2019 and also a statement by Pu Lalsawta, V. President MPC on 4th June, 2021.

Pu Speaker, recruitment of jobs will continue to be conducted fairly under MPSC, which as mentioned before is a constitutional body. From the year it was established in 1991, it does not have a defamation issue till date, so recruitments under MPSC is decent enough. On December 2016, at a committee conducted by Pi Renu Sharma regarding recruitment of jobs where the committee consulted to assess the necessity for filling up post under direct recruitment, it was founded that there are 1024 vacant posts from 34 nos. of departments and since the evaluation process have to go through 3 stages, it was a little bit time consuming, but now recruitment calendar has been properly drafted which will be used by the Commission and also by the concern department. So, we want to reinforce MPSC and I support the elimination of MSSB, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. The Private Member Resolution by Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo regarding reviewing of the termination of MSSSB is a very valid point. I suggest we review this matter carefully on the advantage and the disadvantages and also make amendments if needed.

Though we are aware of the fact that MPSC is a constitutional body established under Article 315 and are quite efficient in their duties, but with their heavy workload, the MNF ministry after carefully examining the situation, DP&AR on the 10.3.2019, a proposal was submitted to the Cabinet and was approved. The Board members selected were Bonafide workers in their time, who are trust worthy even in the service of churches. There has never been a doubt regarding unfair jobs recruitments under MSSSB, elimination of this board means a termination of our state treasure. Regarding the number of job recruitments, so far, there has been only 328 nos of recruitments under MSSSB within 4 years. So, I believe the number of recruitments, which was 3018 mentioned from the treasury bench was not accurate. Under 'limited department' 149 nos were recruited and under departmental examination, 52 nos were recruited. 3097 nos of departmental promotion under group B were cleared and 166 nos of post had been recommended for regularisation. 1355 nos of posts had been confirmed under Group 'B' and 43 nos had been cleared for conversion and 43 nos had been recommended for absorption. Within 1460 days and through the pandemic, there has been 5233 nos of families which have benefitted from the service and work rendered by MSSSB.

The expenditure for this board is only Rs 1,40,000/- per month since most of the employees are from different departments attached to the Board. We have not encountered any kind of unfair issues regarding the recruitment of jobs, whether it is directly recruited or departmental or an unfair means regarding the questions. The present workload of MPSC is a handful for them with only 66 nos of employees. The needs and requirements submitted by MPSC are not attended till date, and with the elimination of MSSSB their work load will multiply immensely resulting in the expand of job recruitments, promotions and others which had been taken care of by the subordinate board. So, many of our youths will cross their age limits and many will reach their pension age.

Pu Deputy. Speaker, elimination order is out today but what about the advertisements for recruitments of 43 nos of posts, AAO under Finance Department and 7 nos of posts for Sub- Inspector under Excise Department. There has been 8429 applicants and an amount of Rs 17,66,400/- had been collected in the government's account. Does it mean that exams will not be conducted. Will you provide compensation for the applicants?

Pu Deputy Speaker, I implore the government to reconsider this and, in the meantime, to equip MPSC on their needs so they may execute their duties more efficiently. So, I appeal the treasury bench pass the resolution of our hon. Member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will now call upon the concern Minister of DP&AR, Pu K. Sapdanga.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. Regarding the resolution by Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo, it has been decided that all necessary documents to eliminate the Board should be cleared by the 16th of February and will be dissolved on the 29th February, which is the coming week, so, literally it has not been dissolved yet.

The Cabinet decided to establish MSSSB on the 10th June, 2019 and notification was published on the 19th June, 2019, there were many applicants for the post of the Chairman but the ruling party adviser was appointed. It started functioning on the 30th March, 2020, and problems arose regarding file movements with MPSC resulting in the pending of many works.

Later on, a question arose through RTI on the involvement of politicians in job recruitments and the answer was positive.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, for *Point of Clarification*, the answer regarding that question was – Though parties may be involved, it does not have any consequence upon the results.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Deputy Speaker, *Point of Clarification* please.

With your permission, I would like to state the RTI question – ‘After the establishment of MSSSB, are there any instances where recommendation letters are sent by Ministers, MLA’s or other government officials or verbal recommendations? If so, please provide a xerox copy of those letters?’ The answer provided to these questions were – ‘There are instances where verbal recommendations are received for the recruitment of Group ‘B’ non – gazetted, but there has been no influence of such recommendations and this can be enquired and cleared anytime.’

PU LALNGHINGLOVA HMAR, MINISTER: Pu Speaker they have had this discussion during their time which is believe is quite enough.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, it already opposes the *point of clarification*.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, if MPSC had propose to establish a sub ordinate body, it is understandable but they also do not find the need for such body and it was established due to pure political pressure. It is not secure for the career of our youths where the executive body can make amendments as their wish.

The monthly expenditure amounts to Rs 11,02,895/- which adds up to Rs 132 lakhs annually. We have a constitutional body functioning efficiently and it will be wise to strengthen this body and provide more man-power according to their requirements. The people were doubtful of MSSSB from the time it was established and their doubts have been proved right and all the works under MSSSB could be conducted efficiently by MPSC. So, I request the hon. Member to withdraw his private resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will now call upon the hon. House Leader, Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. Our state has been depending on MPSC for job recruitments for a long time. In 2019 more than 1000 vacant posts were to be filled up and this results in the eagerness to establish a sub – ordinate body and hence MSSSB was born. Though there was a rumour that MPSC was not efficient enough in their responsibilities but the chairman at that time, a Reverend clarify this rumour by stating that responsibilities under MPSC has been efficiently carried out. It was also opposed by every other party except for the ministry. Between the year 2023 – 2024, an amount of Rs 174.86 lakhs had been utilized and there is a balance of Rs 47.96 lakhs, the total amounting to Rs 222.82 lakhs. The termination will save us these amounts and functional property assets will be handed over to MPSC and repatriation will be done.

There are times when the examinations are held on the same date for different posts and this creates complications for applicants who wants to appear for different posts. Apart from these, it also creates problems regarding exam halls and since it is not a constitutional body, the executive board can make amendments as desired which does not ensure security for job seekers. The advertisement of the Chairman post was also not seen by all department heads, though it was noted that the copy was sent to all the heads of Departments. Hence, appointment of the Chairman cannot be fair-minded.

There are times when political fitness counts and which clearly shows from the answer provided for RTI inquiry. During the bye – election at Serchhip, the Chief Minister during the time, mentioned in his speech that their candidate was someone who allots jobs at Hnam Run. How did the candidate for bye – election allots job? Does it mean he allots those jobs through MSSSB?

MPSC was established in 1991 and as a constitutional body it does not have any case of defamation. We will continue to strengthen this board and approval had been given to create 11 posts and examination wing had also been set up. If we continue to expand on the physical infrastructure and also holds exams in different districts, we will no doubt clear many of the issues we face today. Forms that were filled up for job applications will be taken over by MPSC and they will conduct the examination. They now have an annual recruitment calendar and with the introduction of combined examination and we have also discussed various issues which needed attending from

MPSC and these matters will be taken care of as soon as possible. Apart from these the former ministry had decreased their allotment funds by Rs. 53 lakhs, resulting in many complications faced by them. If we deem fit, it is the vow of ZPM to continue any kind of schemes, projects or others initiated by the former ministry but MSSSB is not one of them. So, I will conclude by stating that I cannot support this resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Thank you, Pu Deputy Speaker. 20 nos of my fellow members have reacted, 16 numbers from the ruling party and 8 numbers from the opposition. From the speeches from my fellow members, it is obvious that they do not try to find the basic principles of the Motion. The calendar for MPSC was already full till December and with the recruitment of 120 school teachers, they were unable to call the interview within the year, so, after these situations were carefully examined by DP&AR, MSSSB was established. Appointing a retired additional secy for the Chairman was very reasonable as we find him eligible for the post to recruit non-gazetted posts. The monthly expenditure amounts to ₹1,41,300/- .

Staff in MSSSB are deputed from other departments and the only expenditure utilize is for the Chairman and the board members. Regarding the answers provided by RTI on recommendations received, it shows the undeterred effects on the results as those recommendations does not have any impact on the recruitments, showing the fair conduct of MSSSB. We are all aware of the fact that MPSC is a constitutional and autonomous body, but their workload is heavy. It takes time to chalk out promotions, regularizations etc, so the work and importance of MSSSB should not be ignored. The impact it will have on all these issues needs to be reviewed and considered carefully. If this board is terminated, soon we will hear the pending work effecting many, so, I request my fellow members to support and adopt my private resolution, that 'The government should review the termination of MSSSB which serves as a reliable and useful body for job seekers and our youth'. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member appeal to adopt his resolution and all in favour may say 'Aye' and those who oppose may say 'No.'

Since the majority of the House oppose, the private resolution of Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo, that 'The government should review the termination of MSSSB which serves as a reliable and useful body for job seekers and our youth' is rejected by the House.

We have come to the end of our business for today and we will resume our sitting on Monday, i.e., Dt. 26th Feb, 2024.

Sitting is adjourned. (3:52 PM.)