

**NINTH MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(SECOND SESSION CUM BUDGET SESSION)
LIST OF BUSINESS**

FOR FIFTH SITTING ON MONDAY, THE 26th 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.

LAYING OF PAPER

2. **PU V. MALSAWMTLUANGA**, to lay on the Table of the House a copy of Statement on Action Taken on the further recommendations of Committee on Government Assurances contained in the Ninth Report relating to General Administration Department. (Government Assurances No. 36)

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO FINANCIAL COMMITTEES

3. **PU VANLALHLANA**, Minister to move Motion for Election to Financial Committees.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bill for introduction, consideration and passing

4. **DR. VANLALHLANA**, Minister to beg leave of the House to introduce "The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024."

ALSO

to introduce the Bill

to move that the Bill be taken into consideration

AND

to move that the Bill be passed.

WELCOME ADDRESS

5. Welcome Address by the **hon. Speaker**.

SPEECH BY HON'BLE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

6. **PU LALDUHOMA**, hon. Chief Minister to give a speech.

ADDRESS BY THE HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

7. **SHRI JAGDEEP DHANKHAR**, hon. Vice President of India to address the House.

GROUP PHOTO

8. Group Photo to be taken at Golden Jubilee Monument, Annexe Building.

VANLALTHANTLINGI
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : *'For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them'.*

-Isaiah 61: 8

QUESTION & ANSWER

We will start with the question hour. Hon. Member Dr. Beichhua to ask *Starred Question No.61.*

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, will the concern Minister of GAD be please to state :-

If there are any intentions to permit MLAs to reside in government quarters/ bungalow?

SPEAKER : Since the hon. Chief Minister needs to receive the Vice-President at Lengpui, the hon. Home Minister will answer the questions as hon. Chief Minister assigned him the responsibility.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. Member question is –

As per GAD O.M. No. D.11014/1/2019-GAD (GM) Dt.14.4.2021 para 1(g), VIP/Ministers and others can occupy Type VII/VIII/Bungalow.

SPEAKER : Shall we take *Supplementary questions*, since the House agree, hon. Member Pu H. Ginzalala to ask *Supplementary questions*.

PU H. GINZALALA : Thank you Pu Speaker. What is the reason for inadequate service of helicopters in Mizoram? How can we utilize the full service of our allotment flying hours?

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Supplementary questions*.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, there are legislators like me, who does not have a residence here in Aizawl, so, is there a possibility to provide us accommodations at the secretariat quarters and also to check on employees who still retain quarters though they are transferred in other areas? Is there a possibility to provide more helicopter service in order to meet our high demands specially for people residing outside Aizawl?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP LEADER: Pu Speaker, thank you. What is the grace period for evacuation of government quarters for previous occupiers?

Secondly, what is the number of government quarters in the area of Govt. Mizo High School? Also, is there any quarters presently under construction?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to answer.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, as GAD is having an important programme today, I request this House to allow me to reply in written form at a later date to avoid giving wrong information.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Starred Question no.62.*

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Home Minister be pleased to state-

The number of vacant posts in Police Department? If so, are they to be filled up?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to answer.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker,
Number of vacant posts in Police Department is 4268 and it is intended to be filled up as soon as possible.

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

PU T. LALHLIMPUA : Pu Speaker, police housing project is ongoing in Aizawl District, which district will be the next in line? Will it be possible to start this project at Lunglei?

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

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Pu Speaker, these vacant posts need to be filled as soon as possible as the department needs strengthening particularly the border areas.

Bunghmun Police Outpost in my constituency covered a wide and scattered area with minimal equipment. Requirement for two-wheeler besides many others is intensely high. Will the hon. Minister take immediate action to strengthen this outpost?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu W. Chhuanawma.

PU W. CHHUANAWMA : An order was issued for establishment of Khawhai Police Outpost on 9.3.2018 during the previous ministry. When will it be established?

SPEAKER : Our present topic is about police outpost, housing and facilities. Shall we let the hon. Minister finish his answer before asking *Supplementary Question*?

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP LEADER: Pu Speaker, that will be too difficult for the Minister.

SPEAKER : We can go on if needed.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the questions are balloted and the owners looked forward to their turn. Let us continue as balloted.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Dr. K. Beichhua.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker,

- i) When will the vacant posts be filled? What norm is to be followed when recruitment is done?
- ii) Also, is there any intention to reconstruct or renovate Siaha SP Office and quarters which was constructed during the time of UT?
- iii) Fencing of Siaha District jail is ongoing, who is the contractor? What is the expenditure incurred and set date for its completion? Also, is there any intention to reconstruct prison building and the building of prison superintendent?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to reply.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Sanction for Police Housing Scheme is from SASCI to the tune of ₹50 crores wherein ₹25 crores have been received. It is intended that funds from the first phase will be utilized for Aizawl District and Lunglei District will be next.

For the recruitment of police, the department has its own norms and that will be followed.

In regards to need for good condition vehicle at Bunghmun Police Outpost, I regret that our police outposts have no additional vehicles presently. We will do our best to provide and repair vehicles needed for police outposts.

We have not yet seen an order for the establishment of police outpost at Khawhai. If there is one, we will make an effort to find it.

In regards to filling of vacant posts asked by Dr. K. Beichhua, it is actively pursued. However, it will not be possible to fill all posts due to financial constraints.

Proposal for reconstruction of Siaha Police Station, housing and prison building is there. Measures that can be taken for all the district is under active consideration.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu Lalchhuanthanga to ask *Starred Question* no.63.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Home Department be pleased to state –
The number of areca nuts that were seized while transported illegally?

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker,
2868 bags of illegally transported areca nuts have been seized.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary Questions* are-

- i) What is the disposal system for these areca nuts that were seized? Were they put in storage or were they burnt?
- ii) Is action taken against these carriers? If so, how?
- iii) Such carriers were caught since a long time ago. However, illegal transportation is still ongoing. It not it the time now to take more severe stance against such defaulters?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Lalramliana Papuaia.

PU LALRAMLIANA PAPUIA: Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary Questions* are-

- i) What is the manpower entitlement of police officers such as PS, cooks etc.?
- ii) Are there any police officers enjoying beyond their entitlement? If yes, what action will be taken?
- iii) Are there any police officers keeping government vehicle after retirement? If yes, who are they and how many vehicles are still at their disposal? Is there any intention to take back these vehicles?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, my *Supplementary Questions* are-

- i) What is the reason behind the suspension of SI Vanlalnghakmawia and Merry Rosangpuui ASI from Vairengte?
- ii) Can it be due to delayed receipt of information regarding entry fee collection?
- iii) Were they wrongly reported? Is there any verification done to prove the authentication of the report?
- iv) Does the new government intend to implement the proposal made by the previous ministry for the opening of Kanghmun police outpost?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to reply.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Manpower and vehicle entitlement for police officers is not specifically mentioned in police manual. They are provided as and when necessary. We are seeking information for officers keeping such facilities which were beyond their entitlement. If there is any, we expect and have made a request to sort this out within February.

Based on careful investigation, we do not find any encroaching entitlement or keeping government vehicle after retirement for which we are thankful.

Seized areca nuts are safely kept in storage. Defaulters are held in custody and penalty for these defaulters will be known when judgement is out. It is an ongoing court case.

The reason for suspension of SI and ASI at Vairengte is due to the fact that they demanded pocket money from vegetable carrying trucks going down from Mizoram. An enquiry is conducted while they are under suspension. We will see what action will be taken based on the result of the enquiry.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, *Point of clarification*, the suspended SI and ASI were at the office and not at the gate. Did they actually take the money?)

Pu Speaker, they were responsible for gate duty and as such, the government deemed it necessary to investigate the case.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Pu H.Ginzalala to ask *Starred Question* number. 64.

PU H. GINZALALA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister for Home Department be pleased to state whether there is any intention to establish DIG Eastern Range at Champhai?

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, I kindly request that during discussion for *Starred Question*, only topic within that question be discussed.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister to reply.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, currently, there is no proposal for establishing DIG Eastern Range at Champhai.

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

LT. COL CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Is there any plan to renovate or reconstruct Champhai District prison? It is shared between Champhai District and Khawzawl District and is severely overcrowded. If such plan is not in place, will the government be able to construct a separate prison building for Khawzawl District? Also, is there any mean to fill the post of jail superintendent and jailer at Champhai District Jail?

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

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Is there any intention to establish sub-jail at Chawngte? The nearest jail is at Lawngtlai and due to the distance, offenders often have to be kept in lock-up longer than judicially permissible. Is it a norm to provide old vehicles to police outposts and SDPO? Is it not possible to allot new and well-conditioned vehicles to them?

SPEAKER : *Supplementary Question* from Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, illegal transportation of areca nut is rampant. Seized areca nuts are stored in different godowns. Are these kept under the law? Is it only when transported from the godown that dried areca nuts become illegal goods?

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Minister to answer the questions.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The government is aware of the conditions of prisons around Mizoram. Every prison in Mizoram accommodates inmates beyond their capacity. We will do our utmost to resolve this issue. Fortunately, ₹550 lakh from SASCI is expected for improvement and renovation of district prisons.

The government is aware of the problem faced by Chawngte area. Though there is no proposal yet to establish sub-jail at Chawngte, we have asked the concerned authorities to help solve this issue.

I do not know how it was in the previous ministry, but under the new government, we do not have such norms of allotting old vehicles to far-flung outposts.

The government has no knowledge that areca nuts are kept in different godowns and no report is received either. If there are such cases, I request the members to inform us and make immediate report. Transportation of areca nuts other than locally produced is legally prohibited and those that are illegally transported are seized.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Starred Question* number 65.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister for Information & Public Relations Department be pleased to state-

- a) Is there any action taken by the government to alleviate shortage of I & PR staff in the district office?
- b) If yes, what are they?

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister in charge of I & PR has accompanied the hon Chief Minister to receive the Vice President. As per the rule, he submitted leave of absence in writing and has authorized Pu K. Sapdanga to reply in his stead. Pu K. Sapdanga may stand.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, at the end of 2023, two LDC's, five AVPA-III and ten IV-Grade were recruited to be posted in the district office. They will be posted in the district office after undergoing training. Permission for appointment of ten Junior Grade MIS is also submitted at DP&AR.

LAYING OF PAPERS

SPEAKER : *Question hour* has ended. We will move on to *Laying of Papers*. Let us call upon Pu V. Malsawmtluanga to lay on the table of the House, "Statement of Action Taken on the Ninth Report relating to General Administration Department".

PU V. MALSAWMTLUANGA: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I lay, "Statement of Action Taken on the Ninth Report relating to General Administration Department".

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO FINANCIAL COMMITTEES

SPEAKER: Let the copies be distributed. The hon. Minister, Pu Vanlalhlana has submitted leave of absence in writing and have authorized Pu Lalthansanga to move his motion in his stead. Pu Lalthansanga may stand.

PU LALTHANSANGA, MINISTER: With your permission sir, motion in regard to the election to *Financial Committees* that 'the member of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule 1 of rules 202 read with rules 205, 205 (b), 252 and 254 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly to such as to *Member of Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Estimates, Committee on Public Undertakings and Committee on Local Fund Accounts*, Mizoram Legislative Assembly for the period of 30 months'. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister has moved the motion. As a rule, election is to be held. But as practiced earlier and as suggested by Legislative Parties, consensus nomination can be made. Are we in agreement? Last date of nomination is in the Bulletin Part-III No.4 dated 23.2.24 till 1:00 pm noon.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

SPEAKER : We will proceed to *Legislative Business*. As authorized by Pu Vanlalhlana, let us call upon Pu K. Sapdanga to introduce the Bill.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and the permission of the House, I beg to introduce 'The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax Amendment Bill, 2024'.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has introduced his bill. Do we agree? (Members agreed). The hon. Minister can introduce the Bill and move for discussion.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. It has been almost seven years since India introduced and implemented goods and services act. Taxation is the nodal department, and since then our revenue has also increased. It is not an act that can be amended by state governments as and when they desired. Co-ordination between state and central government is essential for implementation and amendment.

If an amendment is required, it has to go through Finance Bill of Union Budget to be sorted out along with Income Tax Act and Customs Act. After notification of Amendment Act, 2023 from Central government, we too took the initiative.

Sections amended by the Mizoram Goods & Services Tax Amendment Bill, 2024 are- Definition of Section 2, clause 80 (a), 80 (b), 102 (a), 105 and 117(a) were added. Specified actionable claim were also amended.

Under clause of Section 24, the ending word 'and' is removed and clause 9 (a) is added. This signifies foreigners and outsiders doing business within Mizoram have to register under GST.

Schedule 3 of 'activities or transaction which shall be treated neither as a supply of goods nor supply of services' implies more venue for GST. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister has moved the amendment motion. We will proceed with the discussion. Let us call upon Pu R. Rohmingliana to start the discussion.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I kindly request the hon. Minister to clarify later what betting will mean in Mizoram.

GST is to be levied on online money gaming. What gaming will be under this coverage?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The Vice President is coming today and protocol has to observe and some ministers have gone to receive him. However, Taxation Minister, who is to introduce and present an amendment bill is not present which is quite unusual. I believe that the ruling government should be more aware of the sanctity of this House in the future.

How many state assembly has passed this amendment bill? If this bill is passed as an amended form, will this clash with our beliefs as a society in terms of gambling?

SPEAKER : Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, thank you. In the amendment, there is mention of online game which makes me realize a big issue in our area.

There is an archery game named 'thir' involving large amount of money transaction. Many families have been adversely affected by this social evil. Is there a way to stop this game as it is illegal? If not, can we legalize this game and include under taxable list.

SPEAKER : Pu TBC. Lalvenchhunga.

PU TBC LALVENCHHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. The public needs to know what the government aimed by inserting those found in the amendment bill. 'Public Gambling Act' we have is '1962 extension to Mizo District' and is outdated. I believe an amendment to such act was initiated since the previous ministry.

SPEAKER : Let us call upon the hon. Minister Pu K. Sapdanga.

PU K. SAPDANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, GST is a difficult subject and the central and state governments are constantly studying its end results even while implementing it.

All state legislatures in India have adopted this bill. Mizoram too has implemented its ordinance. We are the last state that has not made it an act.

Amendment under GST Act is not prepared or laid out by the state, it is done by the central government. We cannot insert what we want and remove what we do not want even if some provisions do not suit out society or culture.

As the GST Act is adopted and passed in every state legislature, I request this House to pass the amendment bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has beg the House to pass his Bill 'The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024'. Those who are in agreement say 'agree' and those who do not say 'not agree'.
(MEMBERS: Agree)

'The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024' has been unanimously passed by the House.

Sitting will be adjourned for the morning. The Vice-President of India, Shri. Jagdeep Dhankar will address the House at 12:45 PM.

(Recess)

12:30 PM

WELCOME ADDRESS

SPEAKER : It is indeed a great privilege and blessings for me to be able to host the Hon. Vice President of India and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar-ji. I am also honored with the presence of the Hon. Governor of Mizoram, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati-ji, the Hon. Chief Minister of Mizoram, Pu Lalduhoma and hon. members of this House.

Sir, I, on behalf of this House welcomes you wholeheartedly. Our Hon. Chief Guest, the Vice President of India is a visionary leader, who has rendered timeless service to the nation and made substantial contributions to the country in what it is today. We cherished this visit; it will go down in our memories as an auspicious moment in the times to come. May I now call upon the Leader of the House, Pu Lalduhoma to deliver a speech.

SPEECH BY HON. LEADER OF THE HOUSE

PU LALDUHOMA, HON. CHIEF MINISTER:

The Hon. Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar-ji,
The Hon. Governor of Mizoram, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati-ji,
The Hon. Speaker of the House, Pu Lalbiakzama,
My colleagues, Members of this House,

As we gather here today in this august House, it is with profound gratitude that we extend our deepest appreciation to the Hon. Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar-ji, for taking the time out of his demanding schedule to grace us with his presence and address the 9th Mizoram Legislative Assembly, on his maiden visit to the State as Vice President of India.

It brings me great joy to reflect upon the recent celebration of our 38th State Day across Mizoram and I am delighted to share my colleagues here today that the Hon. Vice

President has extended greetings to the people of Mizoram through social media, expressing his sincere wishes for the progress, prosperity, and well-being of the people of the State. It is, indeed, a privilege to have him with us in person today.

We anticipate with hopeful hearts that this visit is the first of many more to come in the future. We only wish he would have stayed longer to relish our captivating weather, breathtaking landscapes, and the warmth of the people of Mizoram.

When Mizoram attained status of Union Territory in 1972, India had already surged ahead with its fifth Five-Year Plan, placing us 25 years behind in terms of development. Moreover, for two decades until 1986, our state experienced troubled times, slowing our progress a great deal. Despite facing numerous obstacles, we take immense pride in our efforts to catch up and align ourselves with the nation's trajectory and in the remarkable achievements that have come to characterize our State and its people.

Foremost among these accomplishments is the transformation of a once strife-ridden state into the most peaceful state in our country. Additionally, our impressive literacy rate, ranking third highest nationwide, stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication to education and progress.

However, as echoed in the timeless words of Robert Frost, "I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep", we acknowledge the arduous path that lies ahead, driving us with renewed determination within the chambers of this August House.

Recognizing the enormity of our tasks and the constraints of time, we are acutely aware that the journey of governance is far from easy, contrary to popular belief. Our new Government is humbled by the overwhelming mandate it has received from the people of Mizoram and as it embarks on its journey to serve them, it will be our collective endeavour to be true to this mandate and aspirations of the people.

To realize our vision of a transformed Mizoram, characterized by inclusive and equitable growth, we rely heavily on continued guidance and support from the Central Government. Additionally, we require adept advocates who can effectively champion our cause before the authorities in New Delhi.

I, therefore, seize this opportunity to humbly request him to assume the role of an ambassador for Mizoram upon his return to New Delhi, as well as during his travels across India and beyond. Such advocacy on the part of a dignitary as important as the Vice President will undoubtedly bolster our efforts and pave the way for our collective aspirations to come to fruition.

I am confident that today's visit by the Honorable Vice President will not only inspire my fellow legislators in this House but also strengthen their dedication as representatives of the people of Mizoram.

Reflecting on the trajectory of Shri Jagdeep Dhankarji's life journey - from his modest beginnings as a young lawyer in Rajasthan, and then Member of Parliament, and then Union Minister, and Governor of West Bengal and now to his current esteemed position as Vice President of our great nation - one realizes what a truly remarkable individual he is. We are blessed to have him in our presence and I am sure that I speak for everyone present here today in wishing him a very successful tenure as Vice President.

In conclusion, I extend my sincere wishes for the Honorable Vice President's safe journey back to Delhi. We hope that he has found as much enjoyment and significance in this visit as we have, marking a truly momentous occasion for the State of Mizoram.

Jai Hind

HON. SPEAKER : Thank you, Mr. Chief Minister. May I now invite the Hon. Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep-ji to address the House.

ADDRESS BY THE HON. VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA:
SHRI JAGDEEP-JI, HON. VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA:

Greetings to all of you! I am indeed overwhelmed. What I see in the house that is nearly in full strength is a message I will take from this place to all the legislatures and Parliament. It is a privilege and honour to address this august assembly. It is a matter of pride that this assembly has three women members for the first time. Congratulations to them. Their presence in this house reflects increasing participation of women in governance and policy making. We are fast heading towards women-led development. The spectacular performance of our girls on the Republic Day at Kartavya Path was a defining moment of welcome change. On September 20 and 21 last year, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed a constitutional legislation - *Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam*, providing for 1/3rd reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state legislatures. This became law and a constitutional prescription with the signing by the Hon. President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the first tribal woman to occupy the highest constitutional office in the largest democracy on the planet, home to 1/6th of humanity. What a glorious moment! An epochal event! A tribal woman president embedding this historical change, this game changer provision in the Constitution. This involvement of women in Lok Sabha and Legislatures will be transformational in evolution of policies and governance. So, be prepared in the state assembly elections to come, witness amazing soothing spectacle in this House of 40, where 13 or more members will be women participating in policy making and governance.

It is a matter of joy for us all that our nation is on a path of unprecedented progress. Our economy a decade ago was at number 11 in the world. Now we are the fifth largest global economy, ahead of Canada, UK and France. As a nation, we are already 3rd largest in terms of purchasing power. In coming two-three years, we'll be third largest global economy, ahead of Japan and Germany. The country now has world class infrastructure of roads and connectivity. In all this development, North-East, including state of Mizoram has been a significant partner. The region has seen unprecedented, exponential growth in last decade. The government's policy of Look East-Act East has been a game changer. Last decade has been the Golden Era of the North-East. The NE council played a crucial role with achievements of over 12000 kms of road, 700 MW power plants and establishment of many national institutions. Friends, the entire world applauded India's presidency of G20 giving us high global image. G20 meetings were held all over the country including Mizoram. Thereby, Mizoram has gained significant footing in tourism. The International Travel Mart, 2022 that concluded in the capital city of Mizoram witnessed laying of the foundation stone of the Aizawl Convention Centre at Chite, a PRASAD Project in Mizoram and two Bamboo Link Roads. The Aizawl Bypass Road and Bamboo Link Roads are being developed at a total cost of INR 600 crores under the PM-DevINE scheme, out of which two Bamboo Link Roads are being constructed at the estimated cost of INR 66.42 crores and INR 33.58 crores, respectively. With the development of Aizawl Tourism Convention Centre and two bamboo link roads, there will be upward surge in tourism in the state. Aizawl Convention Centre will be critical in making significant economic contribution to Mizoram. Mizoram is gifted with incredible beauty and cultural richness. Mizoram is a dream destination of tourists, surrounded by lush green hills and villages. These developmental activities will enhance tourism in the area.

I commend members of this august assembly for reflecting discipline and decorum worth emulating by others. I look back at the Constituent Assembly debates, for about three years, the Constituent Assembly debated, discussed, deliberated and grappled with issues that were contentious and highly divisive. There was never an occasion for them either to engage in disturbance or disruption or come to the well. I find in this house- what I have seen and heard about it- quite close to the performance of Constituent Assembly members of which assembly gave us the Constitution. I will take this message in all earnestness, because I am motivated, inspired that if such an ecosystem is there in temple of democracy, the nation benefits, the state benefits and the people prosper. We all in the nation are part of marathon march for Viksit Bharat@2047.

This august assembly needs to roll out a road map of growth and development that is futuristic and contributes to the success of this glorious marathon for Viksit Bharat@2047. Your enormous potential in tourism and horticulture, local art and products needs to be fully exploited. It makes available for young minds great opportunities. The remarkable focus on North East India with a separate department, DONER has yielded results. The exponential rise in physical and digital connectivity,

roads has been a game changer. Friends, it is time for us to keep our nationalism uppermost and take pride in being Indians and in India's historic achievements. We all in the country, have to keep our nationalism uppermost. We have to take pride in being citizens of this great nation. We have to be proud of our exponential, phenomenal rise in all sectors that is being applauded by global institutions. It's time for us to be guided by what Dr Ambedkar has reflected, "*You should be Indian first, Indian last and nothing else but Indian.*"

I invite all the Members of this august Assembly to visit the new building of Parliament, Bharat Mandapam - venue of G20, and Yasho bhoomi - venue of P20 as my guests. It will be an honour for me and for the members in the Parliament as they will be able to interact and give a different kind of thought process about how a House can be handled so decorously and in a dignified manner, giving highest productivity. Hon'ble members, we have to look at the contemporaneous scenario for India at the moment which is upbeat in every walk of life. If you talk in terms of economic development, the world is taking us to be the hotspot of opportunity and investment. We have been ranked very high by Global Institutions like IMF and World Bank. When we think in terms of infrastructure, something which was beyond dreams and accomplishment, is now a ground reality. I had the occasion to be your member of Lok Sabha in 1989.

We know the situation then and most of you gather about it, we were in a very difficult situation economically and otherwise. Imagine the plight of the nation that once known as a golden bird, the gold has to be airlifted, placed in two banks in Switzerland to sustain fiscal credibility and now that is something which we can't recollect. We are marching ahead of other nations, developed nations. Those who sought to give advice to us, are seeking our advice. They are coming this country with hope and optimism to make opportunities available to them. In this kind of scenario, it lies in the domain of Legislature to play the decisive role of enlightening the executive and ensuring that we are on a passage that is fastest so that we become a global power.

Never before, our youth had any ecosystem available to them that they could, by virtue of governance policies and initiatives, exploit that talent, realise their ambitions and dreams. This state is full of hope and possibility, this state has to work through the wisdom of legislature to unleash the opportunities, be it in hydro power, be it in tourism, be it in start-ups. These are the times where a constraint of place is no longer a constraint, with digital penetration taking place in our country that has stunned world institutions. Our digital penetration was remarked upon by the World Bank, which stated that India achieved things in 6 years which could not be achieved by others in four decades and more.

If you take it our transactions in this forum in 2022, they were four times the transactions of USA, UK, France and Germany taken together. Look at the genius of our people, their adaptability to technology, that per capita internet usage in our country is more

than that of China and USA taken together. The entire country could weather the storm of pandemic COVID because we had a mechanism of having inclusive growth. It is difficult for the world to recognise that this country has 500 million bank accounts that reflects adequacy of banking inclusion of the ordinary person. The person in the last row is being benefited by governance. The nation stands for all. The kind of development I can assure you friends is taking place not in periodical manner. Everyone is benefiting thereby and this part of the country in particular is gifted by nature with beauty, elegance forests, there could hardly be a rival place where there are opportunities for tourism.

I call upon the members of this House: in tandem and togetherness, evolve a mechanism so that youth of your state are able to take full advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead on them, including in areas of which you all are aware- disruptive technology. We have to live with them, we have to use them we have to face the challenges they offer us and that can be done only when in one voice, this august house, gifted house, shows the way to the youth and other people that yes, it is time to unlock the lock and reward the nation and state with progress that is ours!

I thank each one of you for sparing time. I know having been junior Parliamentary Affairs Minister in 1990 and Chairman Rajya Sabha, the presence in this number, it could not be more. I will carry these memories in my heart all my life. Best of luck to all of you! Best wishes and I look forward to receiving you as Chairman, Rajya Sabha as and when you make it convenient, in groups or individuals. Thank you so much for the time and opportunity made available. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Thank you, Sir, for the inspiring words. I am sure the honourable members would like to make your invitations a reality especially to the new Parliament building and other places of importance. I request all the members to assemble at the Golden Jubilee Monument Hall for the photo session with the Vice President of India. We will resume sitting on the 27th of February at 10:30 AM to continue the ongoing session. The proceeding of this session with the Vice President of India is now concluded.

The session is adjourned. May we all rise up for the National Anthem.

The House is adjourned. (1:19 PM)