



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM

BUDGET SPEECH

of

**PU LALSAWTA
HON'BLE FINANCE MINISTER**

for

2014-2015

in the

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

on

Tuesday, the 11th November, 2014 Aizawl

Mr. Speaker Sir,

With your kind permission, I am happy to lay the regular budget for 2014-15 before the seventh Mizoram Legislative Assembly on its fourth session. As we all know, we have been going on under Vote on Account for the past eight months due to various reasons, the main reason being late finalization of the State Plan size due to the Country's General Election to The House of the People (Lok Sabha) and late formation of Government at the Centre; another reason being the uncertainty on the role and fate of the Planning Commission which earlier was the authority for determining the State Plan size. The Central Government has now finalized our Plan size and I now lay, before this august house the regular budget for 2014-15 with a Plan size of Rs.3140 crore and seek its approval.

2. Sir, I deem it necessary to mention that due to the restructuring of the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the 12th Five Year Plan, all plan schemes under which central assistance is provided to the state are to be classified and budgeted as central assistance to State Plan, with effect from 2014-15 (BE). This has in effect inflated the State Plan size.

Review of the States' Fiscal Situation

3. Transparency, accountability and good governance are the pillars on which the present ministry holds fast; hence I will not try to sugar coat the fiscal situation of the State Government. There are many fronts on which the State Government needs to make more improvements; paramount among these is the collection of State Own Tax and Non-Tax revenues which ultimately are the deciding factors in the determination of the State plan size. Quality spending is also very important so as to make sustainable investment. The State Government is very conscious about the need to have Additional Resource Mobilization (ARM) and I exhort the heads of our various Government Departments to tap their respective potentials for Additional Resource Mobilization (ARM).

4. Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to make the general public aware of what the State Government has done for them. I feel that it is now all the more imperative for the members of the public to be

sensitized and informed about the commitments that the State Government has taken on for them, even at the cost of a deteriorating fiscal position. There are three items of expenditure committed by the State Government for the general public and which are highly subsidized. It is these items of expenditures which are incurred on a monthly basis which drain the State's coffers the most.

5. Firstly, the State Government spends approximately Rs. 22.00 crore every month for the purchase of rice for distribution to the public at a subsidized rate through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The monthly unrecovered subsidized amount is approximately Rs.13.00 crore. Therefore, the State Government loses approximately Rs. 156.00 crore annually for food subsidy alone, which is a huge amount for a revenue deficient State like ours. However, this expenditure for the general public is considered necessary and the highest priority is accorded to such spending that the required fund for this is always released from the State's Consolidated Fund every month even at the cost of availing 'Ways & Means' advance from the RBI.

6. Secondly, the cost of power purchase is very dear to the State Government. The State Government has spent Rs. 183.14 crore during 2013-14 for purchase of power; however, the revenue collected by the Power & Electricity Department was Rs.109.00 crore. The State Government pays subsidy at the rate of Rs.4.79 (53%) for every unit consumed and the monthly expenditure on subsidy portion is approximately Rs. 6.18 crore. It means that the State Government loses approximately Rs.74.14 crore every year for power subsidy.

7. Thirdly, supply of safe drinking water for the public is given priority by the State Government such that it has to spend Rs. 5.00 crore every month for Operation and Maintenance alone; this expenditure cannot be made good by the water user charges collected from the public. For these three items of public expenditure alone, the State Government is spending approximately Rs.24.18 crore every month. It is the duty and responsibility of the public to pay the nominal user charges regularly and without default; and to bear the burden with the State Government even if the rates are revised upward.

8. Most of the people think that the State Government may increase the Plan size and Grants from the Central Government at will, by having a good political connection with those who are in power at the Central Government. This is a misconception. In fact, the recommendations and stipulations of the successive Finance Commissions are the deciding factors that determine the distribution of share in Union Taxes and Duties between the Centre and the State Governments. Various grants of the Finance Commissions are also awarded to the State Governments subject to various conditions that need to be first fulfilled by the State Governments. The annual borrowing limit of the States is also fixed by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India as per the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission. Hence, the State Government needs to follow a conscious fiscal policy under the umbrella of The Mizoram Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2006.

9. The need of the hour is to follow a strict Expenditure Policy and a bold innovation on Revenue Policy.

10. On the Expenditure side, the State Government has introduced various austerity and economy measures. There are still many areas where we may downsize our expenditures. The State Government is committed to continue with such measures without hampering its obligations to the citizens.

11. On the Receipt side, the State Government needs to tap revenue potentials and take bold policy decisions without causing undue burden to the general public. Raising of existing rates on taxes and non-tax user charges has to be introduced; however, such initiatives have long and arduous procedures and need consensus from every front and, hence, actual implementation is always difficult.

12. Even with this difficult position, the State Government is doing its best to bring development and to uplift the poor and the downtrodden. The important questions that we must ask at the end of the day are- Are the levels of poverty and unemployment reduced? Have education and healthcare improved? Has the trickle-down effect reached the lowest

section of our society? These are the challenges we have to face and they are undeniable yardsticks for the success of any Government.

Budget Estimates 2014-15

13. Mr. Speaker Sir, Let me now come to the Budget Estimates of 2014-15

Revenue Receipts

14. The Revenue Receipts of the State consists mainly of Tax Revenue and Non-Tax Revenue. The estimated Tax Revenue for 2014-15 is Rs. 1301.24 crore comprising State's Own Tax Revenue of Rs. 270.39 crore and State's share of Central Taxes of Rs. 1030.85 crore.

15. The estimated amount for Non-Tax Revenues for 2014-15 stands at Rs. 4578.22 crore in which State's Own Non-Tax Revenue is estimated at Rs. 278.48 crore and Grants-in-aid from the Central Government is pegged at Rs. 4299.74 crore. The components of grants under Non-Plan and Plan are Rs. 1114.50 crore and Rs. 3185.24 crore respectively.

Capital Receipts

16. The total capital receipt is estimated at Rs. 517.12 crore for the current financial year 2014-15. The Capital Receipts comprises of *Internal Debt of the State Government, Loans & Advances from the Central Government and Recoveries of Loans & Advances*. Non-debt receipt (Recoveries from Loans and Advances) is estimated at Rs. 40.00 crore. It is estimated that an amount of Rs. 456.07 crore shall be obtained from Internal debt, whereas, Rs. 21.05 crore is estimated on account of Loans & Advances from Central Government. The estimated receipt from total Public Debt then comes to Rs. 477.12 crore.

Expenditure

17. Mr. Speaker Sir, I may now go on to the estimates of expenditure.

18. Sir, the Gross total expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State for 2014-15 is estimated at Rs. 6951.06 crore. Gross Revenue

Expenditure is estimated at Rs. 5766.41 crore, whereas, the Gross Capital Expenditure is estimated at Rs. 1184.65 crore. Excluding the recoveries on account of stock suspense, the estimated net expenditure on the Consolidated Fund of the State is Rs. 6478.68 crore, of which net revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs. 5764.40 crore and net capital expenditure is Rs. 714.28 crore.

19. Annual Plan Expenditure has been fixed at Rs. 3140.00 crore whereas the Non-Plan Expenditure is estimated at Rs. 3811.06 crore.

Annual Plan 2014-15

20. Mr. Speaker Sir, I may now go to the Annual Plan 2014-15.

21. Within the approved outlay of Rs. 3140 crore, I propose to allocate the following amount to different sectors as follows: (i) Agriculture & Allied Activities – Rs. 513.77 crore (ii) Rural Development - Rs. 242.22 crore (iii) Special Area Programme – Rs. 131.47 crore (iv) Irrigation & Flood Control – Rs. 70.96 crore (v) Energy – Rs. 84.57 crore (vi) Industry – Rs. 92.15 crore (vii) Transport –Rs. 229.64 crore (viii) Communications - Rs.14.06 crore (ix) Science, Tech. & Environment – Rs.1.90 crore (x) General Economic Services- Rs 363.36 crore (xi) Social Services – Rs.1279.09 crore (xii) General Services – Rs. 116.81 crore.

Priority Sectors

22. I will now give a brief highlight on the plan commitments, developmental initiatives and achievements of the State Government.

NLUP-State Flagship Programme

23. New Land Use Policy will continue to be the priority of the present Ministry. A Special Plan Assistance to the tune of Rs. 317.32 crore has been earmarked for the implementation of NLUP by nine departments during 2014-15.

24. We have formally launched the NLUP on 11th January 2011 as a massive socio-economic development programme. It has enhanced our

pace of development and progress, heralding inclusive growth with significant improvements, particularly in agriculture and allied sector. The primary objective of NLUP is to let the rural poor abandon the Jhum system of cultivation and to let them take up sustainable livelihood activities in various identified areas so as to improve their economy.

25. NLUP has made significant impact on our economy by providing alternative and sustainable livelihood opportunities to farmers by reducing their dependence on Jhumming. Package of activities targeting commercial farming, primary processing, promotion of livestock, pisciculture, sericulture, plantation of cash crops and similar activities have uplifted the economic welfare of the beneficiaries.

26. Since it was formally launched in 2011, the original project target of covering 1,20,000 beneficiaries for 5 years has been achieved in three successive phases during the last three years. The State Government has increased the target by 15,000 beneficiaries for which selection has already been made for 10,000 families to cover a total of 1,35,000 households.

27. Continuing our Government's efforts to usher in sustainable development and progress that will affect all sections of the people a dialogue was opened with different UNO agencies to work out a collaboration in order to solve our problem with the aid of the scientific expertise of the UN in the key areas of economic development. Thus on 16th October, 2014 an agreement was signed between Mizoram State Government and the UNO for "Joint Initiative on Eco-System based Livelihood Promotion in Mizoram. Our State will utilize the expertise of those who work under the United Nations.

28. The initiative will encompass key issues relating to food security, livelihood security, energy and environmental security, ecological balance, income generation, promotion of sustainable livelihood and protection of the eco-system. In addition to these, trans-border animal diseases control system is another important area to be covered in the project.

Healthcare

29. The Government of Mizoram has been implementing the Mizoram State Health Care Scheme since 2008. It is operating in tandem with Rastrya Swasthaya Bima Yojana (RSBY). While RSBY covers BPL families, the Mizoram Health Care Scheme covers APL families having no member serving with the government for a comprehensive health insurance coverage, with reimbursement of medical expenses of up to Rs. 3 lakhs in case of hospitalization.

30. 150-Bedded State Referral Hospital, Falkawn has been functioning after the inauguration on 10th Dec, 2012 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Mizoram. To run the said Hospital successfully, 137 posts have been created and filling up of the same is being taken up. It is being proposed to be upgraded to 400-Bedded Hospital.

31. The Government of Mizoram has taken initiative to establish a Medical College which will be housed at State Referral Hospital Complex. Various committees for the same have been constituted so as to open the said Medical College at an early date. It is proposed to be opened in August, 2015 with an intake capacity of 50 students. Permission for establishment of Medical College is being submitted to the Medical Council of India and the outcome is being awaited.

32. I propose to allocate Rs.164.55crore for Health Services and Rs. 39.18 crore for Hospital & Medical Education, of which Rs. 4.65 crore CSS is earmarked for Social Security for Unorganized Workers including RSBY .

Education & Human Resource Development

33. Education remains a thrust area of the State Government and this is reflected in the teacher-pupil ratio of 1: 14, which is among the best in the country and the literacy rate of 91.28% which is amongst the highest in the country. With an enrolment ratio of almost 100 percent, the focus is now on quality education across all levels.

34. Mizoram became one of the first States in the country to set up an Education Reforms Commission to study the existing educational scenario and suggest changes to reform it; the recommendations of the Commission are being implemented in a phased manner. Hindi Education has been stressed in the last couple of years and for this 1305 teachers have been engaged under CSS.

35. As per the recommendations of the Education Reforms Commission (ERC), the following actions have been taken to improve the quality of education.

- (i) A good number of small and unviable schools were identified and amalgamated.
- (ii) In order to clear the backlog of untrained teachers, as many as 2035 teachers serving in various schools (including private schools) have been deputed for training.
- (iii) In order to conform to the Government of India norms and as recommended by ERC, Class VIII, which used to be a part of High School was shifted to Middle School, for which additional class rooms for Middle Schools were constructed.
- (iv) Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) has been set up in all colleges.
- (v) To improve the administration, panels of inspectors have been set up.
- (vi) For effective teaching of Hindi, Roman script and Devnagiri script have been introduced in Hindi text books. Also, all Governments and Aided High Schools and Middle Schools have been provided with Hindi Teachers.
- (vii) In order to improve the literacy rate in Mizoram, intensive literacy drive and revival of State Level Mission Authority (SLMA) have been carried out.

36. For School Education, I propose to allocate Rs. 417.283 crore, Rs. 17.60 crore for SCERT, Rs. 117.65 crore for Higher Education, Rs. 0.40 crore for Scholarship Board, Rs.16.68 crore for Sainik School and Rs. 4.50 crore for Technical Education.

Sports, Youth and Skill Development

37. The State Government's unique sports promotion and talent spotting policy, "Catch Them Young", has started paying dividends in various sports disciplines. Under the Olympic Vision 2016, sportspersons are being given special intensive training in Archery, Taekwondo, Judo, Badminton, Shooting and Hockey as this Government is keen to ensure the State's representation in the Olympic contingent of 2016.

38. Mizoram has emerged as a front runner in the field of football in the country when it recently lifted Santosh Trophy, the National Football Championship and Dr. T. Ao Memorial Football Tournament titles. Major sports infrastructures have been created across the State, in order to ensure further success in other sports disciplines and thus fulfill the aspiration of our talented sportspersons. Achievements in sports are one indicator of the advancement of State's economy.

39. Mizoram Youth Commission has facilitated vocational training of youths outside the State which has benefited a large number of youths in the last two years. Mizoram Skill Development Board, which has been set up recently, is exploring avenues for various kinds of skill development for gainful employment of our workforce.

40. I propose to allocate fund to the tune of Rs. 21.43 crore for Sports & Youth Services.

Energy Sector

41. Mizoram has harnessed only 2 percent of its potential in the hydro electric sector, with its installed capacity at present being only at 29.35 MW. The much awaited 60 MW Tuirial Hydro Electric Project, which is expected to be commissioned in the next two years, will help Mizoram inch closer to its goal of self-sufficiency in energy.

42. To enhance Hydel generating capacity, the Government of Mizoram is taking up the construction of various Hydel Projects, which are in various stages of construction.

Small & Micro Hydel Projects under execution

43. Tlawva SHP (5MW) and Kawlbem SHP (3.5 MW) are being targetted for completion within March 2017 while Tuiriza MHP (0.5MW) and Tuiching MHP(0.5MW) are being targetted for completion within March, 2015.

Hydel Projects which are being allotted to Independent Power Producers(IPP)

44. Kolodyne Phase-II (460MW) , Bairabi Dam Project (80MW), Tuivawl HEP (42MW) , Mat HEP (75MW), Chhimtuipui HEP (635MW), Lungreng HEP (815MW) and Tlawng HEP (54MW) are being allotted to Independent Power Producers with whom the State Government has already signed the MoUs.

Small Hydel Projects for which DPRs are ready (1MW to 25MW)

45. Detailed Project Reports have been prepared for Tuirini SHP (25MW), Iva SHP (3MW), Ngengrual SHP (1MW), Tuikum SHP (3.5MW), Tuisih SHP (2MW) and Khawchhaktuipui SHP (3MW)

Hydel Projects for which DPRs are to be prepared

46. Detailed Project Reports are to be prepared for Tuichang HEP (106MW) and Tuipui HEP (60MW).

47. Under RGGVY scheme 111 unelectrified villages have been provided electricity, 378 villages were covered under Intensive Electrification (IE) and 15893 BPL households have been given free connection. All the 10th and 11th Plan RGGVY schemes will be completed within December, 2014. To strengthen the distribution network in the rural areas of the State the Central Government has approved 33 KV and 11KV sub-stations at various interior locations at an estimated cost of Rs.73.36 crore.

48. I propose to allocate Rs.84.57 crore to energy sector, of which Rs. 84.03 crore is for power, Rs. 0.42 crore for Non-Conventional Sources of Energy Programme (NCSEP) and Rs.0.12 crore for Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP).

Transport and Connectivity:

49. Improvement of a 55.00 kms long “Serchhip –Buarpui road” is proposed to be taken up with the help of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at a total project cost of Rs. 252.90 crore and the work has started recently.

50. Three roads are selected to be taken up under the Mizoram State Roads-II Regional Transport Connectivity Project with the help of the World Bank, namely,

- i) *Improvement & Upgradation of Chhumkhum - Chawngte Road*, with a total road length of 41.53 kms at a total project cost of Rs. 270.27 crore.
- ii) *Improvement & Upgradation of Champhai - Zokhawthar Road*, with a total road length of 27.25 kms at a project cost of Rs.222.32 crore.
- iii) *Improvement & Upgradation of Tlabung - Kawrpuichhuah Road*, with a total length of 12 kms at a project cost of Rs.180.16 crore.

51. Under Central Road Fund (CRF), two roads are proposed to be taken up-

- i) *Strengthening of River Tuipui - Biate Road (22kms)* with the estimated cost of Rs.8.80 crore and
- ii) *Strengthening of Aizawl - W.Lungdar Road (37kms)* with the estimated cost of Rs.11.56 crore.

For these two roads project under CRF, Rs.12.68 crore is earmarked for the year 2014-15

52. Under PMGSY (CSS), 29 roads have been selected and works are in progress. Total project cost is Rs. 284.56 crore and Rs.56 crore is earmarked during 2014-15. As many as 164 unconnected villages have so far been connected under PMGSY.

53. I propose to allocate Rs.225.43 crore for Road & Bridges, Rs. 0.05 crore for Inland Water Transport, Rs. 3.00 crore for Road Transport, Rs. 0.85 crore for Motor Vehicle Wing and, Rs.0.30 crore for Civil aviation with a total sectoral allocation of Rs. 229.63 crore under Transport.

Industries and Minerals

54. Industrial growth is very important for the State economy to prosper. Mizoram Industrial Policy 2012 has therefore been formulated. Stress and impetus on value addition is being given to bamboo based industries, handloom and handicrafts, micro enterprises and cottage based industries. Sericulture has also been given high priority by the State Government. A large number of families earn their livelihood by silk rearing and the subsequent supply of high quality raw silk gives further impetus to Handloom industries in the State.

55. The Petroleum Exploration activities carried out in the State cover about 58.9% of the geographical area of the State. It is being undertaken by ONGC in two Blocks, Oil India Ltd in the central part of the State and Reliance Natural Resources in the southern parts. ONGC has struck natural gas at Meidum in Kolasib District, reserves of which are yet to be estimated. Drilling by Oil India Limited at Maubuang in Aizawl District has commenced with further drilling in two more locations, Thenzawl and Keifang to be shortly started. The State Government receives Rs 2.35 crore from the Petroleum Exploration Licensing Fees from these Companies up to October, 2013. It is hoped that the economy of the State can be uplifted with these resources in the near future.

56. I propose to allocate Rs. 92.14 crore for Industries & Minerals sector.

Drinking Water and Sanitation

57. The PHE Department has targeted 51 rural habitations to be provided with safe drinking water supply under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) during 2014-15. The Government of India, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has made allocation of funds under NRDWP for Support, Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Components as Rs. 39.57 crore, Rs. 2.21 crore and Rs. 1.33 crore respectively, totaling Rs. 43.11 crore during 2014-15. The Department has so far completed water supply schemes in 9 villages and steps are being taken to cover the target during 2014-15.

58. For urban water supply, 8 projects have to be taken up under SPA at various places during 2014-15 at a total estimated cost of Rs. 16.66 crore. Another 10 schemes are being taken up under NLCPR at a total approved costs of Rs. 107.78 crore. Under 10% Lumpsum Grant, Greater Saiha Water Supply Scheme, Tlabung Water Supply Scheme and Greater Khawzawl Water Supply Scheme are being executed. Under NEC fund, 7 projects are also being taken up.

59. Under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), 84,647 Individual Household Latrines have been constructed for BPL families. In addition 4050 Schools and 1455 Anganwadi have been provided with Toilets. Also 567 units of Community Sanitary Complex and Solid Waste Management sites have been provided in 72 places in the State.

60. I propose to allocate a plan fund to the tune of Rs. 103.79 crore to Water Supply & Sanitation

Trade & Commerce

61. The Land Customs Station (LCS) at Zokhawthar in Champhai district which aims at promoting Indo-Myanmar trade has been completed and is expected to be operational shortly. Trade Facilitation Centre at Tlabung has been commissioned to promote trade with Bangladesh. Another Land Customs Station at Zorinpui in Lawngtlai District along the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project has been approved. The Multi-Modal Project once completed will open up the entire North Eastern region to the vibrant economies of South East Asian

countries with the hope that Mizoram will then become a gateway to South East Asia.

62. I propose to allocate Rs. 6.30 crore under Trade & Commerce.

Rural & Urban Development

63. Centrally Sponsored Schemes have markedly changed the rural landscape in terms of empowerment and addressing the gaps in physical and social infrastructure. BRGF has, to some extent, redressed regional imbalances while BADP has been able to meet the special development needs of the people who are located in remote and inaccessible places situated near the international borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh.

64. I propose to allocate Rs. 242.21 crore under Rural Development, Rs. 40.17 crore for BADP and Rs. 66.47 crore for BRGF.

Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP):

65. For provision of housing and other basic amenities to families below poverty line and economically weaker section of the society, 3 (three) housing projects namely, *Chite Lawipu Combine EWS Housing Project*, *Rangvamual EWS Housing Project* and *Durtlang EWS Housing Project* are implemented under Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP). These three projects, together, will provide housing to 1096 urban poor families. The Central Government has already released an amount of Rs. 52.85 crore out of its share and the full State Matching Share of Rs. 8.59 crore has already been released so far. The remaining Central Share of Rs. 26.87 crore is expected to be released before the end of the current financial year.

Upliftment of the Urban Poor

66. Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozjar Yojana (SJSRY) has now been restructured and renamed as National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM). The Mission's aim is to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in an appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis,

through building strong grassroots level institutions of the poor. The mission would also aim at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner. In addition, the Mission would also address livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security and skills to the urban street vendors for accessing emerging market opportunities.

67. The allotted amount under CSS for NULM is Rs 13.07crore, out of which Rs 5.24 crore is already released by the Central Government during 2014 –15.

10% Lumpsum Grants for NER:

68. Various urban infrastructure development projects and slum area development projects are being implemented under *10% Lumpsum Grant* provisions for North East India, both under the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India. Taking advantage of this provision, various projects are being prepared and executed. Aizawl, Lunglei, Saiha, Champhai, Serchhip, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Saitual, N. Vanlaiphai, Tlabung, Khawzawl, Zawlnuam and Darlawn are being covered under this provision, and efforts are being taken to expand its coverage to all the 23 notified towns. Till date, as many as 17 projects with a total cost of Rs. 220.90 crore have been completed. 14 projects with the combined total project cost of Rs. 186.53 crore are currently in progress.

Solar City Scheme for Aizawl

69. Aizawl City has been declared as ‘Solar City’ and the Government of India, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has sanctioned Rs.0.48 crore towards setting up of a Solar City Cell and for taking up preparatory activities including preparation of a Master Plan. The Master Plan for Aizawl City with an estimated investment of Rs. 190.58 crore for 5 years has already been prepared.

70. I propose Rs. 206.67 crore for Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation; of which Rs. 81.93 crore is for JNNURM, Rs. 13.07 crore for National Urban Livelihood Mission and Rs. 1.58 crore for ADA/AMC.

Computerization of Tax Administration in Mizoram

71. The Taxation Department has undertaken the development of exclusive citizen-centric web-based VAT and CST, MIS, a scheme under National e-Governance Project (NeGP), Government of India. The new system caters to the State's specific tax administration needs. In keeping with the Department's efforts towards a streamlined and efficient e-governance system, it is the first time that an electronic tax portal has been put into operation within the State. It offers online service such as e-payment, e-registration, e-waybills and e-returns. This has in effect increased the Sales Tax collection of the State Government. While the revenue collected under Sales Tax during 2012-13 was Rs.175.87 crore, it has increased to Rs. 190 crore during 2013-14 and Rs. 218.08 crore is expected during 2014-15.

72. The Mizoram Entry Tax Draft Bill 2014 was submitted to the Government and is being under consideration for its implementation in Mizoram.

The Mizoram Liquor Prohibition and Control Act, 2014

73. With the initiative of Excise and Narcotics Department, 'The Mizoram Liquor Prohibition and Control Act, 2014' was passed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly. Once implemented, it is expected to earn huge revenues for the State Government.

Stamps and Registration

74. Directorate of Stamps and Registration was inaugurated on 27th September, 2013 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. As of now, it has no separate building or office and runs as one wing under Revenue Department with a skeleton staff posted from Revenue Department in addition to their normal duties. Registration Offices at 6 (six) District headquarters are also put into function by now.

75. Under the new Land Revenue Rules, 2013 every transaction on land/immovable properties has to be registered now. Since September, 2013 when registration of land holding was started in full swing, Rs.42.87 lakhs have been generated as revenue for the State

Government. This, in itself, is a huge achievement for the Department and the State Government.

Conclusion

76. Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to stress once again the necessity of generating our own State resources as well as the essentiality of tax compliance. As Hon'ble Members are aware, 90 per cent of the State's requirements depend on various resources defrayed and devolved by the Centre. Therefore, it is my sincere appeal to the general public, Government employees and policy makers to realize the importance of tax payment and to extend their support to the Government policies and programme.

77. I would like to thank all the Hon'ble Members of this august House for giving me a patient hearing.

78. With these words, I commend the Regular Budget Estimates for 2014-15 for approval of this august House.

Thank You, Sir