



GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM

BUDGET SPEECH OF

PU ZORAMTHANGA
CHIEF MINISTER

for

2005–2006

in the

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

on

Thursday, the 17TH March, 2005

Aizawl

Mr. Speaker Sir,

May I, with your permission, rise to present before this august House, the Second Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2004–2005 and the Budget Estimates for the year 2005–2006.

2. You may be aware that the state has never been in a position to present the full budget since 1996–1997 due to the inability of the Planning Commission of India to finalise our Annual Plan size in time and we have invariably been compelled to obtain Vote on Account for the last nine years. It therefore gives me great pleasure to present the full budget for the year 2005–2006 for the consideration of this august House. This has been made possible due to the timely finalisation of our Annual Plan size by the new Planning Commission of India.

3. Hon'ble Members are aware that the country has been reeling under acute financial strain for some years now and fund received from the Central Government is far from adequate to meet the requirement of the state especially under Non Plan Sector. To regulate the imbalance of receipt and expenditure, the Eleventh

Finance Commission had recommended the drawing up of a monitorable Fiscal Reforms Programme by the state governments to increase their revenue income and reduce Non Plan expenditure. Accordingly, the Government of Mizoram also drew up a Fiscal Reforms Programme and took up various steps to achieve the financial objectives laid down by the Central Government. With this in view, the state government introduced various measures for additional resource mobilisation like upward revision of user charges on electricity and water, enhancement of the rates of various taxes and widening of the tax base. A vigorous exercise was undertaken for the introduction and continuation of various austerity measures for reduction of expenditure with special emphasis on non plan revenue expenditure. The efforts of the state government have been fruitful and resulted in the fulfillment of the objective of achieving gross fiscal deficit as an aggregate to 2.5% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) during 2004–2005. As a result of this, the Government of India has recently released the withheld Revenue Gap Grant recommended for 2003–2004 along with the Central Government's share of the Incentive Fund totalling Rs.53.43 crore. This has been possible only because of public support and the active cooperation of the state government employees.

4. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Twelfth Finance Commission's report has been laid before the Parliament. We have been expecting the Commission to recommend a higher amount of devolution of fund from the Central Government. The report has revealed that the Hon'ble Members of the Twelfth Finance Commission have understood the problems of the state and appreciated our peculiar financial difficulties and therefore recommended transfer of fund to the tune of Rs.4660.91 crore for the five year period from 2005–2010. This increase is 83.84% higher than the Eleventh Finance Commission's awards. Mr. Speaker Sir, let me mention, if I may, that the Commission has recommended specific fund for expenditure such as maintenance of roads and bridges, maintenance of public buildings, maintenance of forests and heritage conservation which has never been done by the previous Commissions.

5. However, while the Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended a much higher devolution of fund than the Eleventh Finance Commission, they have insisted on a corresponding increase in our State's Own Resources. Therefore, the Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended mobilisation of state

resources during 2005–2010 to the tune of Rs.760.85 crore which is 60% higher than the target set by the Eleventh Finance Commission for the five year period from 2000 to 2005.

6. We are all aware that the state of Mizoram is lagging behind the rest of the country in infrastructure development. To bridge this wide gap in development of infrastructure, the members of the Commission were apprised of the specific needs of the state for taking up a number of developmental activities in the state. The Commission has acknowledged the requirements of the state and recommended Rs.25.00 crore for setting up of a much needed sports complex and Rs.40.00 crore for tackling the impending bamboo flowering.

7. The Annual Plan for 2005–2006 has been fixed at Rs.685.00 crore by the Planning Commission of India against Rs.616.52 crore for 2004–2005. The Annual Plan allocation of Rs.685.00 crore includes Rs.65.92 crore as additional resources to be mobilised by the state to supplement the existing state's own revenue income. I am happy to say that the Central Government has continued to support the state Government in its endeavour of building various infrastructure by allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA).

The ACA recommended for the state during 2005–2006 is Rs.181.43 crore. This includes amongst others Rs.30.00 crore for Bamboo Flowering and Famine Combat Scheme (BAFFACOS), Rs.43.00 crore for Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) other than rural roads, Rs.28.96 crore for Accelerated Power Reforms Development Programme (APRDP), Rs.24.00 crore for Mizoram Intodelhna Programme (MIP) and Rs.15.00 crore for Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY).

8. Apart from the normal annual plan fund, we have been getting quite a substantial amount of fund from various Central Ministries for execution of schemes under Central Plan, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for infrastructure development. The peace and tranquility prevailing in the state has resulted in a conducive climate for taking up various development activities and the state government has taken full advantage of this and taken up various developmental activities through funds set aside by various Ministries outside the normal budget like Ministry of Urban Development, Rural Development, Human Resources Development and Environment and Forests.

9. Let me briefly take a view of the Revised Estimates for 2004–2005 and Budget Estimates for 2005–2006.

10. This fiscal year 2004–2005 was started with a deficit of Rs.93.46 crores as per report received from RBI, against the originally estimated deficit of Rs.316.05 crores. This improvement is mainly due to the sincere efforts of the state to bring down expenditure while mobilising additional resources and also the sound financial management of the Government.

11. The Budget Estimates of 2005–2006 I am now presenting projects Revenue Receipts at Rs. 1480.37 crore and Revenue Expenditure of Rs.1394.98 crore showing a Revenue surplus of Rs.85.40 crore, but the capital account has shown a deficit of Rs.135.40 crore resulting to a deficit of Rs.50.00 crore in the consolidated fund of the State, this has been improved by Rs.128.50 crore on account of Public Account transaction. Therefore, the Budget for the year 2005–06 is a surplus budget to the order of Rs.78.50 crore for the first time after 1998–99 mainly due to the significantly higher transfer of funds recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission. However, this surplus has not been adequate to wipeout the opening deficit of Rs.256.74 crore

and the fiscal year of 2005–06 is estimated to close with a deficit of Rs.178.24 crore.

12. Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to now highlight the achievements and programmes of various departments.

13. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT :

13.1 During 2004–05, the main thrust of the Department was achievement of self sufficiency in food–grains and vegetable crops in a short span of time. Therefore, one of the main item of works of the Department was land development for Wet Rice Cultivation by hiring bulldozers as well as terracing of gentle hillside slopes. So far, since the retreat of the monsoon season, 58 hectares of potential land has been developed by mechanisation and 29.60 hectares has also been terraced against the targetted development of 177 hectares of potential flat land for Wet Rice Cultivation under the scheme of Food–grain Development and Control of Shifting Cultivation. The Department accorded top priority to the implementation of organic farming and encouraged the production and utilisation of bio–fertilizers and bio–pesticides. 500 MT of different organic manures was procured for distribution to farmers all over the state. A State Biological Control Laboratory established

at Neihbawih produced different bio-pesticides for the control of different insect pests and diseases. This Bio-Fertilizer Production Unit's main programme will be large scale production of different bio-pesticides for discontinuing the use of chemical fertilizers. Under Food-grain Development Scheme, 805.40 qtls of high yielding varieties of paddy, 100 qtls of wheat, 300 qtls of maize, 3750 qtls of potato seeds, 400 qtls of garlic seeds and 503.46 qtls of seeds of different vegetables was procured and distributed to cultivators for large scale production. 8.50 kms of Potential Area Connectivity (Agricultural-link road) has been constructed against the target of 11 kms during 2004-2005. The on-going Mizoram Intodelhna Programme which aims at attainment of self sufficiency, food security and better livelihood for the cultivators was continued with an outlay of Rs.2000 lakhs during 2004-2005.

13.2 Under Minor Irrigation Scheme, a progressive achievement of more than 100 was made with a gross command area of 5432 hectares of land under Diversion Scheme and River-lift Irrigation Scheme with Central Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), NABARD loan and State Plan fund. 12 projects under Macro Management mode and 8 other Centrally Sponsored Schemes were taken up by the Department. The Department procured 4315 qtls of seeds of field pea, arhar, french beans,

maize, rape seed and mustard, cowpea, moong, groundnut and soya bean for distribution to farmers during 2004–2005 for implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP), Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) and Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP).

13.3 During 2004–2005, the Department commenced the implementation of the newly introduced Bamboo Flowering and Famine Combat Scheme (BAFFACOS), a programme designed to address the problems likely to arise during the anticipated famine period brought on by large scale bamboo flowering followed by rodent upsurge. Rs.200 lakhs has been allocated to the Department for achieving the objectives of the programme through adoption of intensified and diversified cropping systems through mechanisation in agriculture, post harvest technology, connectivity for market linkage, water harvesting ponds and rodent control programmes.

14. HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT :

14.1 During 2004–2005, construction of DHO Office at Lawngtlai and Kolasib, extension of DHO Office at Lunglei, construction of

chowkider quarters at Lawngtlai, staff quarter at Thingsai and HEO quarter cum office at Tlabung were under taken for which an expenditure of Rs.21 lakhs was incurred. In an attempt to impart technical know-how on different aspects of horticulture, the Department organised exhibitions/seminars and awareness campaigns in various horticulture divisions and sub divisions around the state. Besides publication of various booklets and leaflets, a magazine entitled “Huan Enkawltu” was published. Rs.5 lakhs was utilised for purchase of 180 qtls of organic manures, bio-fertilizers and soil amendments, micro nutrients and plant hormones etc. Under BAFFACOS, 600 hectares of land was developed for extension of existing orchards and farms such as passion fruit, grapes, potato and turmeric. 196 charcoal kiln were also set up.

14.2 During 2005–2006, the Department will continue its on-going programme of augmentation of its infrastructure by taking up construction and extension of offices and quarters. Promotion of organic farming will also be continued. To this end, it is proposed to purchase 120 tonnes of organic manures, bio-fertilizers and soil amendments for distribution to farmers at 50% subsidy in addition to organising exhibitions, seminars, awareness campaigns and

publishing of magazines, booklets and leaflets. Rs.5 lakhs has been earmarked for acquiring horticulture tools and implements and Rs.10 lakhs for purchase of flower seeds, bulbs etc. for distribution at 50% subsidy. Area expansion of 1150 hectares of land for cultivation of fruits and vegetables at an estimated cost of Rs.40 lakhs is also envisaged by the Department. Construction of 70 kms of horticulture link roads to connect orchards/gardens with the main road in rural areas as well as setting up of 100 rain water harvesting structures is on the agenda. The on-going area expansion schemes under BAFFACOS will be continued

15. POWER & ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT :

15.1 During 2004–2005, the 22.92 MW HFO generating plant at Bairabi was completed and commissioned on 7.5.04 at a total estimated cost of Rs.8595 lakhs. Improvement of sub-stations and distribution networks within Aizawl and Lunglei town was undertaken and the works are expected to be completed soon. Construction of 132 KV line from Bairabi to Bawktlang spanning 28 kms was taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.456 lakhs with financial assistance from Department of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) for evacuation of power from Heavy

Furnace Oil based thermal power plant at Bairabi. Construction of 1X2 MVA, 33/11 KV sub-station at Darlawn, 1X1.6 MVA, 33/11 KV sub-station at Hnahlan and 132 KV Single Circuit between Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCI) Luangmual sub-station and Zuangtui sub-station were undertaken with financial assistance from NEC.

15.2 3 MW Tuipanglui Small Hydel Project at a project cost of Rs.35.37 crores was completed and commissioned in December, 2004. 3MW Kau-Tlabung Small Hydel Project at an estimated cost of Rs.32.53 crores is almost completed and ready for commissioning. Preliminary works for the 80 MW Bairabi Hydel Project has been started by the Department and all statutory clearances have been obtained. Construction of 186 kms of 132 KV lines for improvement of power system in the northern and eastern region of the state was taken up.

15.3 During 2004-2005, the Department's on-going project of 100% metering was taken up and completed with financial assistance under Accelerated Power Reforms Development Programme (APRDP). This has led to a substantial decrease in energy consumption and a corresponding increase in revenue.

Augmentation of Champhai sub-station, lower and upper, was taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.682.93 lakhs and commissioning of both these sub-stations is expected shortly.

15.4 During 2005-2006, the Department will continue and complete improvement of sub-transmission and distribution network within Aizawl and Lunglei town and construction of 132 KV line from Bairabi to Bawktlang with assistance under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). Under Accelerated Power Reforms Development Programme (APRDP) the Department proposes to undertake reformation work on existing and new power systems within the 5 circles of the Power & Electricity Department. Construction of sub-stations and 132 KV lines is also proposed to be continued under NEC funded schemes.

16. INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT :

16.1 During 2004-2005, despite constraints in the industrial sector such as lack of infrastructure, inadequate availability of power and lack of adequate credit facilities, the Department has continued its endeavour to gradually lead the state towards industrialisation through development of small and medium enterprises and

continuing its works on infrastructure building like Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP), Industrial Growth Centre (IGC), Food Parks etc. with central support.

16.2 During 2005–2006, a Bamboo Technology Park at Sairang and several CFC for handloom and handicrafts are planned to be set up. Upgradation of Zuangtui Industrial Estate under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) scheme involving Rs.50 crores is also contemplated while avenues are being explored for providing better road connectivity, sewerage and waste disposal systems to IGC and Zuangtui through Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan. The Department will continue giving financial support to handloom and handicraft units as well as small time artisans. Fairs and exhibitions within and outside the state will be organised and participation in India International Trade Fair (IITF) and North East Expo which have given wide publicity to the products of Mizoram will be continued. It is proposed to develop permanent exhibition infrastructure at Chaltlang with Government of India funding. Establishment of EPIPs at Bairabi, Champhai and Tlabung and setting up of District Industries Centres (DICs) in the new districts are also in the pipeline. Schemes for improving

infrastructure at Bairabi and Serchhip will also be taken up under BAFFACOS.

17. PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT :

17.1 During 2004–2005, the Public Health Engineering Department concentrated its efforts towards enhancing the water supply level in rural areas. During the year, 12 non-covered habitations out of a total of 48 non covered habitations and 162 partially covered habitations out of 527 partially covered habitations will be elevated to fully covered habitations. A sanitation programme entitled ‘The Total Sanitation Campaign’, a Government of India programme is being implemented in the Mamit and Saiha Districts at an estimated cost of Rs.106.02 lakhs and Rs.113.50 lakhs respectively. Baseline survey of the remaining districts for implementation of this programme is expected to be completed during the year. Out of 23 towns in Mizoram, water supply of 70 lpcd (full coverage) has been achieved in 7 towns. Significant progress was achieved in the on-going urban water supply schemes in Mamit, Champhai, N.Kawnpui and Greater Aizawl Water Supply Phase-II during the current year.

17.2 During 2005–2006, the Department will continue to ensure the promotion and augmentation of water supply in the rural areas. In fact, it is targetted to cover at least 150 habitations. Out of an approximate 1300 government schools in the state, 396 schools have been provided drinking water and it is intended to provide at least 100 schools with water during 2005–2006. Further, with a view to complementing the ever advancing rural water supply programmes, the Department will implement urban water supply schemes in Khawhai, Tlabung and N.Vanlaiphai at an estimated cost of Rs.814.03 lakhs under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP).

18. HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT:

18.1 During 2004–2005, the Department with an outlay of Rs.3000 lakhs took up various health programmes like reconstruction of 6 doctors' quarters, 6 sub-centre buildings, 2 health workers' quarters and 1 Public Health Centre (PHC) kitchen at different places. Rural health as well as improvement of health infrastructure in the interior and remote places in the state were accorded priority. 68 buildings and quarters repaired and 17 pit latrines were constructed in these interior places. Reconstruction of PHC building

at Phuldungsei was started and works are in progress for upgradation and conversion of the 10 bedded PHCs at Thingsulthliah and Lengpui into 30 bedded Community Health Centres with funding under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). With fund allocated to the Department for implementation of BAFFACOS, the Department intends to set up BAFFACOS cells both at the state and district levels, Entomology Cell-cum-Animal Laboratory in addition to imparting training and conducting surveys. To ensure proper implementation of the programme, the Department has constituted 3 committees both at the state and district level.

18.2 During 2005–2006, in its continued endeavour to upgrade the health system in Mizoram, the Department has assigned great importance to the upgradation and renovation of its existing infrastructure. With funding under PMGY, upgradation of PHC at Khawbung into a CHC, construction of CHC building at Khawzawl, PHC buildings at Bungtlang South and Haulawng, reconstruction of Isolation Ward at Kolasib and completion of construction of PHC building at Phuldungsei are contemplated. In addition to this, the Department proposes to upgrade its hospitals at Champhai, Serchhip, Saiha, Kolasib, Mamit and Lawngtlai, reconstruct the

mortuary building at Civil Hospital, Aizawl and construct a Nursing School and Hostel at Aizawl. Establishment of Cancer Hospital at Aizawl is also amongst the agenda for 2005–2006.

19. **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** :

19.1 The Public Works Department during 2004–2005 was allocated Rs.255 lakhs under roads sector for improvement of town roads, satellite towns and village roads. Major improvement of 184 kms of state roads, rehabilitation and maintenance of 300 kms of roads under World Bank loan were taken up. It is proposed to construct 3 new roads, viz. Hnahthial – Tarphe road (32 kms), Tumtukawn – Tarphe road (24.60 kms) and Lawipu – Tlawng road with financial assistance from NABARD. Construction of the Mizoram House at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Mizoram Legislative Assembly Annexe Building, Guwahati Mizoram House additional building and staff quarters and Engineer-in-Chief’s annexe building are in full swing. The Finance Secretariat building was completed during the year. Under government housing, construction of Speaker’s bungalow and Assembly staff quarter are being taken up by the Department. Construction of Public Works Department staff

quarters at an estimated cost of Rs.45.55 lakhs was completed during this fiscal.

19.2 During 2005–2006, it is proposed to continue the on-going works of maintenance and improvement of state roads network as well as Aizawl City roads and district town roads. Completion of the new Mizoram House at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Mizoram House at Guwahati, Engineer-in-Chief's annexe building, Assembly staff quarters and Speaker's bungalow are expected. Rs.47 lakhs and Rs.30 lakhs have been earmarked for taking up construction of Excise Commissioner's office building at Aizawl and Divisional staff quarters at Lawngtlai respectively during 2005–2006.

20. FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT :

20.1 During 2004–2005, the Department has concentrated its efforts and achieved timely procurement and distribution of essential commodities to the public particularly in remote areas. Due to these concerted efforts, the problem of scarcity of foodstuff and other essential commodities has not troubled the state. 52,650 families were benefitted by the Below Poverty Line scheme and 15,600 families were assisted under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

scheme. Under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Annapurna, the Central Government's allocation of 310 MT of foodgrain has ensured assistance to 2583 destitute senior citizens in the state. The total expenditure for purchase of rice for implementation of special schemes, viz. BPL, AAY and Annapurna is Rs.13.34 crores during 2004-2005. Under BAFFACOS, the Department plans to reconstruct 31 godowns and repair 28 existing godowns.

20.2 Under Legal Metrology Wing, the Department in a bid to protect the interests of the consumers of the state purchased verification equipment worth Rs.3.50 lakhs. Due to the untiring efforts of the Department, 22,726 weights and measures were verified, 2,26,134 LPG cylinders were checked, 286 dispensing pumps verified, 2,195 bags of underweight cement seized and 1,261 tank lorries carrying diesel and petrol were checked.

21. SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT :

21.1 During 2004-2005, 87 hectares of land was terraced for 87 farmer families and 63 water harvesting tanks constructed. Gabionic Spurs, stream course straightening and silt retention dams were

constructed in 24 locations within the state. The newly introduced BAFFACOS scheme of the state was also one of the priorities of the Department and preemptive steps were taken covering 16 villages for which Rs.80 lakhs was expended.

22. SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT :

22.1 During 2004–2005, the Department implemented the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) with an amount of Rs.11 lakhs. Under this programme, state and district resource centres have been established under 3 prominent non-government institutes. The centrally sponsored Swayamsidha Scheme, a women empowerment programme has ensured the socio-economic upliftment of the women of the state and garnered the participation of the women population of the state to such a level that 250 self help groups have been constituted in various blocks. Various training programmes on account keeping, legal literacy and leadership training were conducted. The State Action Plan and Block Specific Projects were framed and approved.

22.2 Fully aware of the accelerating unemployment problem in the state and the need for remedial measures, Vocational Training

Centres are being run by the Department at Kolasib, Serchhip and Lunglei to address this problem and these centres have been imparting training to our youth for self employment. Rural infrastructure development works which include improvement of agricultural link roads, construction and renovation of drains, retaining walls, etc. have been taken up by the Department with central assistance under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India. Another laudable achievement of the Department is the approval and release of Rs.250 lakhs for construction of an additional 220 Anganwadi Centres under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).

23. TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT :

23.1 During 2004–2005, the Department, with a view to enhancing the efficiency of its operation of passenger bus services, purchased 6 bus chassis for replacing over-aged departmental buses. Compensation to accident victims as per Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) judgement orders was given to 17 persons; advocate fees for 3 cases and statutory deposit for 1 case was disbursed. Computerisation of vehicle registration and driving licence was implemented in all district offices. In order to generate

public awareness and to ensure effective enforcement of Motor Vehicle Acts and Rules in the State, Road Safety Week was observed in all 8 districts. It is expected to complete the on-going construction of enforcement check gates at Bairabi and Kanhmun and District Transport Officers' quarters at Kolasib during 2004-2005.

23.2 During 2005-2006, the Department will continue its programme of cutting down the high cost of maintenance of old and over-aged buses and augment its fleet of vehicles by purchasing another 5 buses. Another economy measure will be the upgradation of the Central workshop.

23.3 During 2005-2006, it will be the endeavour of the Department to strengthen and upgrade the standard of the Motor Vehicle Wing by adopting modern technology and Information Technology to cater to the needs of the people of the state and to manage the ever increasing vehicle population of the state. Induction of e-governance in the Motor Vehicle Wing is also amongst the programmes for the next year. Construction of quarters at Serchhip and Champhai, vertical extension of DTO office at Lunglei and

construction of DTO offices at Lawngtlai and Mamit are under active consideration for which Rs.30 lakhs has been earmarked.

24. TOURISM DEPARTMENT :

24.1 Development of tourist infrastructure has continued to be the main thrust of the Department. During 2004–2005, the Department completed construction of new Tourist Lodge at Chaltlang, viewing gallery at Durtlang and Tourist Lodges at Mamit and Saipum. With a view to promoting tourism, the Department organised Thalfavang Kut at Lunglei in collaboration with other departments from 3rd – 5th November, 2004. The Department has not just confined its activities to promoting tourism within the state, but has been actively involved in furthering the career opportunities of the Mizo youth. 250 students were sent to Chandigarh to undergo a 3 month Certificate Course in Basics of Service in Industry Management in collaboration with NEC and Institute of Tourism and Future Management Trends, Chandigarh.

24.2 During 2005–2006, 12 new projects will be taken up and Tourist Lodges will be constructed in various places like Zokhawthar, Sakawrdai, Khamrang, Hmuifang, Saichho, Kanhmun

and Tlabung. Tourist Reception Centre at Berawtlang and Eco-tourism at Reiek is also intended to be set up.

25. LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT :

25.1 During 2004–2005, Rs.3090 lakhs was disbursed to 2040 Government employees as composite cash loan. Housing loan was also given to 400 families falling under low and middle income groups. Housing grants to uplift the economically weaker sections in urban areas was given to 120 families. Land acquisition and development scheme was taken up in all the 8 district head quarters for which Rs.164 lakhs was spent. A number of public assets were created under the Development of Slum Areas Scheme. The Department also continued its on-going programme of constructing parks, steps, dumping grounds, footpaths, pavements and retaining walls around the state. The Department also celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Mizoram Village Councils by organising tournaments and various activities which enlisted the active participation of the public.

25.2 During the year, construction of the All India Service Officers' transit accommodation at an estimated cost of Rs.186 lakhs and 91

units of State Government Employees' Housing Complex at an estimated cost of Rs.1496.15 lakhs was completed and inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad on 4.10.2004. Foundation stone for construction of Bus Terminus at Thuampui, Aizawl and Administrative Training Institute building at New Capital Complex, Aizawl was also laid by the Hon'ble Union Minister on the same day. Construction works of Shopping Centre at Champhai and City Centre at Aizawl are progressing well.

25.3 The Town and Country Planning Wing has taken up construction of market buildings and motor parking lots under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns and Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources. With a view to reducing natural man-made disasters by regulating unauthorised and unsafe building construction and land development, the Mizoram Urban and Regional Development Act, 1990 was amended in 2004. This is expected to effectively arrest the unregulated urban development in the State.

25.4 During 2005-2006, it is the Department's programme to continue various schemes like construction of minor roads, parks, steps, dumping grounds, fly-over bridges, pavements, shops and

market centres under Urban Development Schemes. Construction of Shopping Centre at Kolasib at an estimated cost of Rs.575 lakhs to be executed by National Building Construction Company (NBCC) will be started during 2005-2006.

26. **TRADE & COMMERCE DEPARTMENT** :

26.1 During 2004–2005, the Department undertook works for improving and rehabilitating the market places in the State. Construction of District Market Officer's office at Kolasib was also undertaken.

26.2 During 2005–2006, the Department will continue to revamp various markets in Mizoram. Special attention will also be given to disposal of garbage from various markets being looked after by the Department.

27. **HIGHER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** :

27.1 It has always been the aim of the Department not only to ensure the maintenance of standards of higher education but to nurture the talents and potential of the youth of Mizoram. Toward this goal, a state level Quality Assurance Coordination Committee and Quality Assurance Cell was constituted.

27.2 During 2004–2005, 229 students were selected to pursue job oriented courses like Engineering and Medical Science outside

Mizoram. As an economy measure and in order to elevate teaching quality, the Aizawl Law college and Liandingpuia Law College were amalgamated and renamed the Mizoram Law College. The externally aided Third Technician Education Project ensured the continuance of construction of Directorate of Technical Education Building, Chaltlang, Women Polytechnic Building, Durtlang and Mizoram Polytechnic Building at Lunglei.

28. SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT :

28.1 During 2004–2005, the Department undertook to address not just the problem of inadequate infrastructure in the education system but also the health and recreational needs of school children. Rs.3.31 crores was spent for acquiring various recreational implements for distribution to primary schools. 550 bookshelves and 550 steel almirahs, 1100 water filters and 3,50,251 exercise books were distributed to 1100 Government Primary Schools. Rs.246.87 lakhs was utilised for implementation of Midday Meal Programme.

28.2 During 2005–2006, the Department will continue to implement various Government of India programmes and schemes

like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Midday Meal Programme and Modified Computer Literacy and Studies in School (CLASS).

29. **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY DEPARTMENT** :

29.1 During 2004–2005, the Department implemented various centrally sponsored schemes for upgradation of livestock health and ensuring the sustainability of livestock farming. 1,95,183 animals were treated at various veterinary hospitals, dispensaries and Rural Animal Health Centres. Mobilisation and Development of Animal Feed and Fodder Resources (MODAFAR), a centrally sponsored scheme under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources paved the way for the establishment of an animal feed plant and during 2004–2005, 456 qtls of animal feed was manufactured from locally procured agricultural crop and sold at a substantially lower rate as compared to imported animal feed. Under the on-going Development of Sustainable Base for Pig Production (DESBAPP) in addition to the establishment and maintenance of piggery villages at Kawlkulh, Sairang and Pukpui, 120 pig stys and 135 buildings were constructed for which Rs.266.14 lakhs was expended. With funding from NEC, works on construction of a modern slaughter house is progressing well. A dairy plant at Kolasib with funding

from the Central Government is also being established. 4 veterinary centres and Disease Investigation Laboratory are being established under Assistance to State for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD). Under this scheme 1,66,743 animals were vaccinated during 2004–2005. 195 bio–gas units were installed all over the state.

29.2 During 2005–2006, the Department besides completing their on–going project of establishing a slaughter house, will implement BAFFACOS and take up construction of various buildings in different parts of the state. 25 young breeding bulls will be purchased for distribution to deserving farmers. Grants–in–aid will be given to 500 chick rearing families, 700 pig farmers and 25 hill cattle rearing families. 200 bio–gas plants at the rate of Rs.7500 per unit will be installed.

30. RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT :

30.1 In pursuit of improving the quality of life of people living in the rural areas, the Department, during 2004–2005, endeavoured towards providing housing to the poorest of the poor and creating durable infrastructure where such facilities are not available. Under PMGY, 1594 new houses were constructed at the cost of Rs.438.35

lakhs and 1002 houses were upgraded at the cost of Rs.125.25 lakhs. Rs.62.40 lakhs was also utilised for creation of infrastructure. Under IAY, 519 new houses were constructed. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), a scheme aimed at providing employment and food security to BPL families whilst at the same time creating community, social and economic assets was implemented and construction of 25 kms of roads, culverts, playgrounds, community halls, water points, waiting sheds, pavilions and Anganwadi centres was taken up. Under Swaran jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), 53 self help groups were given financial assistance. Construction of truckable as well as jeepable roads along with their maintenance and setting up of various building infrastructure, bridges, playgrounds, water points and water reservoirs was taken up under Border Area Development Programme (BADP).

30.2 During 2005–2006, it is proposed to continue implementation of Border Area Development Programme (BADP). It is also proposed to construct 4956 new houses under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), 1594 new houses and upgrade 1002 houses under PMGY. Under SGRY, the Department aims to distribute 3200 qtls of food–grains and Rs.248.98 lakhs for wage employment in the rural areas.

31. FISHERIES DEPARTMENT :

31.1 During 2004–2005, development of fish farming under BAFFACOS was the priority of the Department. Under this scheme, 60.70 hectares of additional water area is anticipated to be brought under fish farming by constructing new ponds and renovating existing ponds. 85 MT of ice blocks was produced in the 3 departmentally maintained Ice Plants and 2 Cold Storage at Bawngkawn, Kolasib and Bilkhawthlir for catering to the needs of fish farmers and sellers at 50% subsidy. To promote and generate public awareness and also to heighten the knowledge of fish farmers, a state level workshop on Capture and Culture Fisheries was held on 3.9.04 wherein 400 farmers from around the state participated. Training in modern technology of fish farming was imparted to 150 farmers at Aizawl, Lunglei and Saiha. A pilot project of giant fresh water prawn farming and polyculture was taken up in 12 selected plots in collaboration with Central Inland Fishery Institute, Mumbai. 357 lakhs fingerlings were distributed to fish farmers at 100% subsidy. It is envisaged to complete distribution of 20 MT of fish feed to the fish farmers by March, 2005.

31.2 During 2005–2006, the Department contemplates the development of fish farming by renovation of 330 hectares of existing fish ponds under Fish Farmers Development Agency and another 120 hectares for construction and renovation of ponds under BAFFACOS. This is expected to hoist the fish production level to 2500 MT. 200 lakhs fish seeds along with fish feed is targetted to be distributed to fish farmers under NEC scheme.

32. HOME DEPARTMENT :

32.1 a) **Police Department** : The Department during 2004–2005, has excelled in its crime fighting activities and have extended their investigations not just outside the state but outside the country as well. The Mizoram Police has concentrated its efforts in the betterment of Police Housing and refurbishing of its Forensic Science Laboratory to ensure a competent and productive Police Force.

32.2 During 2004–2005, it is anticipated to take up construction and renovation of various types of buildings in all the districts and battalions. The Forensic Science Laboratory will also be

strengthened with the purchase of various essential Forensic Science Laboratory equipment.

32.3 During 2005–2006, the Department will take up construction, extension and renovation of 42 buildings. Forensic Science Laboratory equipment will also be procured.

32.4 **b) Prisons Department** : The Department has taken up various works for the implementation of Prison Reforms. Vertical extension of RCC staff barrack of District Jail, Aizawl was taken up. With a view to improving the poor housing facilities of the Department, 4 administrative buildings at Lunglei, Champhai, Serchhip and Lawngtlai, 7 type–III staff quarters and 4 type–II staff quarters were constructed. 5 prisoners’ barracks at District Jail, Saiha, Champhai, Serchhip, Mamit and Lawngtlai and security wall at District Jail, Serchhip, Mamit and Lawngtlai were constructed.

32.5 During 2005–2006, 3 new jails at Serchhip, Mamit and Lawngtlai will be constructed alongside expansion and renovation of 6 existing jails, 6 staff quarters. Sanitation and water supply to the inmates will be one of the priorities of the Department.

33. PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT :

33.1 During 2004–2005, the Department purchased an Image Setter for colour printing works which will greatly enhance the printing quality of all works undertaken by the Government Press. Revenue to the tune of Rs.23.29 lakhs has so far been collected and credited into Government account.

33.2 During 2005–2006, the Department, recognising the need to modernise and promote the efficiency of its Printing Press, envisages the procurement of a Web Offset with numbering units for the replacement of its outdated and defective Letter Press.

34. ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS DEPARTMENT :

34.1 During 2004–2005, the Department in its on-going programme of afforestation and reclamation of degraded lands took up the task of afforestation of 4955 hectares of land through 19 Forest Development Agencies covering 272 Village Forest Committees under the National Afforestation Programme. In order to meet the site specific requirements for forest development in addition to providing employment to the common man, the

Department solicited the participation of the people at the grass-root level and established Forest Development Agencies in all the districts. The infrastructure building activities of the Department were continued and various offices and residential buildings were constructed. Training and awareness campaigns were conducted. Many new innovative steps to ensure the active participation of the residents of the villages situated in the fringe areas of the Department's Wildlife Sanctuaries were taken. Some of these steps included offering of incentive to the villagers in return for their help and co-operation in protecting and conserving wildlife as also their active involvement in the eco-development programmes of the Department. Bamboo harvesting and creation of bamboo plantations were one of the priorities of the Department during 2004-2005. The Department is fully geared up both in its policy programmes and infrastructure to deal with gregarious flowering of bamboo anticipated during 2005-2007.

34.2 Rs.1.98 crores has been earned by the Department from the sale of various forest product mahaals during the current year upto December, 2004.

35. **SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT** :

35.1 Recognising the potential of sericulture as a means of replacing the devastating jhum cultivation and the vital role it plays towards reconstruction of the rural economy, the state Government has increasingly given importance to the systematic development of sericulture in the State. During 2004–2005, the production of cocoon and raw silk has shown a commendable increase. This boom in sericulture farming is clearly indicated by the fact that nearly 3000 families have planted mulberry cuttings against the target of 500 families. 2.40 lakhs silkworm seeds, 45 MT cocoon and 4 MT of raw silk were produced during 2004–2005. 500 acres was brought under sericulture farming and 20 lakhs mulberry cuttings were distributed to farmers. To ensure a high quality yield, 500 farmers were given training in sericulture farming. The special SGSY Mulberry Development Scheme implemented in the 3 Autonomous District Councils has shown encouraging results and about 400 kgs of cocoon has been produced from the trial rearing at Lawngtlai.

35.2 During 2005–2006, the Department will promote mulberry sericulture by giving assistance in the form of rearing appliances, land development, cultivation cost and provision of GCI sheets

under BAFFACOS. It is also proposed to produce 2.70 lakhs silkworm seeds, 20 MT dry cocoon and 2 MT raw silk.

36. ECONOMICS & STATISTICS DEPARTMENT :

36.1 During 2004–05, the Department took up statistical works and surveys particularly of state income and related aggregates. Various data was collected for survey of farm harvest price, personal service, trade, hotel and restaurant service agricultural census, annual survey of industries, imported essential commodities, building and published. The department is particularly proud of its having been able to estimate and release the State Domestic Product of Mizoram at constant prices (1993–94) for the first time. The price situation in the state was also monitored and studied extensively in various selected towns and the information/data so collected was published in the 'Quarterly Price Bulletin'.

36.2 The 2nd sub round of the 60th and 61st National Sample Survey was conducted during 2004 and will concentrate mainly on survey of household consumer expenditure and employment and unemployment.

36.3 The Civil Registration System in Mizoram has been slowly but surely improving. Mizoram is now covered by 693 local Registrars of Births and Deaths and it is the constant endeavour of the Department to ensure that no event is left unregistered. 90% of all births and deaths are being registered and this is one of the highest percentage of coverage in the country.

37. **LAW & JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT** :

37.1 During 2004-05, the Department, for the development of infrastructural facilities, took up construction of their on-going projects and completed construction of the Judicial Officer's quarter at Saiha. Construction of Senior Judicial Officer's quarter at Aizawl, District Court building at Saiha and Judicial Officer's quarter at Lunglei are expected to be completed soon. The 3 Fast Track Courts established under the Eleventh Finance Commission's recommendations have so far disposed 442 cases out of 658 cases transferred to them.

37.2 During 2005-06, in addition to completing its on-going projects, the Department will take up construction of quarters for

various categories of Judicial Officers and Judges. District Court buildings will also be constructed at Saiha and Kolasib.

38. INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT :

38.1 During 2004–2005, the Department continued its works of propagating and promulgating the various developmental activities and programmes implemented by the State Government. Live telecast of the proceedings of the State Legislative Assembly was carried out and all tour programmes of visiting dignitaries as well as our state VIPs were given full photo and video coverage. 30,000 Mizoram State calendars were published. Two tribal representatives were sent to New Delhi to witness the Republic Day Celebrations. Rih Dil Darshan and Aizawl Darshan were conducted for various voluntary organisations. The 30 minute documentary film on the achievements under BADP produced and released by the Department is praiseworthy.

38.2 During 2005–2006, the Department will undertake the improvement of its Auditorium and Conference Hall and renovate its old Directorate building. Office quarters will be constructed and fencing of all departmental land in various districts will be taken up.

39. LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT :

39.1 During 2004–2005 construction of new Industrial Training Institutes for Lunglei and Saiha were taken up under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Establishment of ITIs in North Eastern States and Sikkim’ and completed. Fully aware of the need for streamlining the welfare of labourers in the state, The Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Rules, 2004 was laid before the Legislative Assembly and is under active consideration. Efforts are also on to lay the Mizoram Inter–State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Rules before the Legislative Assembly.

39.2 During 2005–2006, new ITI at Champhai and Women ITI at Aizawl is proposed to be established.

40. ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING INSTITUTE :

40.1 During 2004–2005, in its programme of capacity building, the Administrative Training Institute started construction of a new Administrative Training Institute in the Khatla Capital Complex at an

estimated cost of Rs.8.90 crore sanctioned by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. The Institute successfully conducted amongst others, the prestigious Foundational Training programme for 2 batches of the Mizoram Civil Service Probationers. A Foundational Training Programme was also conducted for the Mizoram Finance and Accounts Service Probationers for the first time.

40.2 The Institute will also be imparting large scale training to Government employees and Non Government Organisations in Disaster Management under the aegis of the State Government. This programme will be implemented with fund provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

41. LAND REVENUE & SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT :

41.1 During 2004–2005, Cadastral Survey was continued and 28 villages were covered which involved an expenditure of Rs.10 lakhs. 1451 sq km of Aerial Cadastral Survey was also covered for which Rs.13.50 lakhs was spent. Summary survey covering 10 RD Blocks was also undertaken with financial involvement of Rs.10 lakhs.

20,000 hectares was surveyed for setting up of bamboo plantations under BAFFACOS with a provision of Rs.150 lakhs.

41.2 During 2005–2006, the Department will continue the previous year's on-going survey of the state.

42. CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT :

42.1 The Co-operation Department has been looking after 1374 primary societies, 10 state level societies including the Mizoram Co-operative Apex Bank Ltd. and Primary Urban Co-operative Bank. During 2004–2005, financial assistance in the form of Managerial and Transport Subsidy, purchase of raw materials, fencing of farms and public awareness campaigns was given to 10 state level societies, 2 district level societies and 1 Primary MUCO Bank. Through the network of state level societies, 17 lakh litres of fresh milk, 20,740 qtls of compound feeds, 134 MT of fertilizer was procured and distributed to the societies as well as private sector. The Mizoram Co-operative Apex Bank disbursed loan to the tune of Rs.2718.97 lakhs. Recovery against the said loans stood at 48.85%. 5518.50 lakh litres of MS, 5020.40 lakh litres of HSD, 4056 lakh litres of SK Oil and 2,29,485 filled gas cylinders were procured and

sold to consumers. In addition to this, the Junior Cooperative Training Centre at Luangmual became fully functional during the year. Vigorous public awareness campaign to educate the general public on the importance and role of the cooperative movement in the state was conducted by the Cooperative Union in both the state and district level.

42.2 During 2005–2006, the Department's agenda will be to strengthen the existing societies at both the state and primary level as well as the Cooperative credit movement to make all cooperatives viable and productive institutions for the socio-economic upliftment of the people. Financial assistance will be given to 7 state level societies, 2 district level societies and 1 primary MUCO Bank.

43. SPORTS & YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT :

43.1 During 2004–2005, reaping the rewards of its relentless pursuit of excellence in the field of sports and youth activities through construction of sports infrastructure across the state, the department witnessed the success of a host of young Mizo sports persons in various disciplines. Noteworthy amongst these achievements is the gold and silver medal won by the mixed

doubles team and men doubles team at the All India Civil Services Badminton tournament hosted by Mizoram. Boxer J.Hrokhu brought home a gold medal and was awarded best boxer in the All India Chandiwala Boxing Championship, 2005 held at New Delhi. Pu R.Biakliana was given a cash incentive award by the Government of India for his outstanding performance as a boxing coach. India was represented by Mizo local talent, Pute Lalrinkima and Zabiakthara at the World Veteran Badminton Championship 2004 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Ms.Jenny R.Lalremliani continued her winning streak and brought home the gold medal from the 5th National Senior Women Boxing Championship held at Kollam, Tamil Nadu.

43.2 A bronze medal was won by Ms Zothanpuui in the 4th Senior Women Boxing Championship held in Kokhrajhar, Assam. 8 young Mizo footballers received a one time special scholarship award for their commendable performance in the Subroto Mukherjee Cup Football Tournament Society held at New Delhi. The Mizoram Women's Hockey team were declared runners up in the East Zone Women Hockey Championship at Ranchi, Jharkhand. The Under-16 Sub Junior National Football Championship held at Goa was won by the Mizoram team.

43.3 During 2005–2006, the Department will continue its on-going programme of construction of state level and district level sports complex hand in hand with promoting sports in different disciplines.

44. **DISTRICT COUNCIL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT** :

44.1 During 2004–2005, 126 hectares was developed for WRC and 91 hectares for coffee plantation etc. 23 kms of truckable and jeepable road was constructed by the Lai Autonomous District Council and Mara Autonomous District Council at an estimated cost of Rs.42 lakhs. Council Session Hall for the Lai Autonomous District Council is under construction. 125 RCC water tanks, rainwater harvesting tanks and village spring sources were constructed. Bazar sheds, slaughter houses, super markets, retaining walls and culverts were constructed in 107 locations. The 3 Autonomous District Councils have collected revenue of Rs.72,27,550 against their target of Rs.84,49,000.

45. **TAXATION DEPARTMENT** :

45.1 Collection of tax by administering various tax laws being the primary function of the Taxation Department, the Taxation Department has through the years been the biggest contributor of revenue receipts in the state. During 2004–2005, the Department has collected Rs.2734.35 lakhs as on 31.1.2005 against their target of Rs.2385.00 lakhs. As of today, every Rs.9/- spent in the Taxation Department yields revenue of Rs.100/-. The Department is fully geared up for the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) regime from 1.4.2005 in place of Sales Tax. The implementation of VAT is expected to augment revenue collection without being too much of a burden on the tax payers. In order to ensure a more effective and transparent administration, the tax administration will be fully computerised with networking. Steps are also being taken for the introduction of Entry Tax, Luxury Tax on hotels and lodging houses and other luxury items. These levies will mobilise internal resources and fetch an additional revenue of Rs.5 crores per annum.

46. **EXCISE DEPARTMENT** :

46.1 During 2004–2005, the Department was fully occupied in dealing with the rising drug trafficking and drug abuse problem in the State and 1183 drug traffickers and abusers were arrested. The

Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act in force in the state inspite of a heavy revenue loss sustained by the Government has ensured the maintenance of public safety and health. 2675 persons were charged for contravention of MLTP Act. Rs.117.20 lakhs was collected as revenue against a target of Rs.136 lakhs.

47. ART & CULTURE DEPARTMENT :

47.1 During 2004–2005, the Department has made great strides in its quest for promotion of art and culture as well as protection of the cultural heritage of the state. The Institute of Music and Fine Arts imparted mobile training in traditional dance to young boys and girls throughout the state. These trained artistes participated in state festivals held in various parts of the country. Certificate courses in traditional dance and modern music were conducted twice during the year and successfully completed by 75 students. 11 seminars and symposiums on culture, language and literature week was organised in collaboration with various Non Government Organisations. Various cultural meets were organised as a means to promote and preserve Mizo culture and its traditional values. 410 rural libraries were given assistance and 172 NGOs were given grants in the form of cultural costumes, instruments, etc.

47.2 Under the sponsorship of DONER and the Department of Culture, Government of India, a 35 member cultural troupe was sent to Scotland to participate at the Military Tattoo, 2004 held in Edinburgh. The Mizoram State Archives collected and preserved 1000 important documents in addition to the records already collected over the years. 5 books based on scientific and systematic research were published by the Tribal Research Institute. The Department is very proud of its State Museum which houses a huge collection of rare historical artifacts. During 2004–2005, a large number of rare objects were added to the already existing collection for display in the museum bringing the total number of artifacts in the museum to 3034 and has attracted visitors from within and outside the state.

47.3 During 2005–2006, the Department plans to organise various cultural meets, seminars–cum–workshop around the state. It is also envisaged to organise music festivals, painting competitions, song competitions, drama competition, library seminars and cultural dance competitions at both the state and district level. Infrastructure building will not be neglected and a State Museum Building at Berawtlang, Multi purpose Cultural Complex at Lunglei, 3

District Library buildings and a State Library building at Khatla are also proposed to be constructed during 2005–2006.

48. **RELIEF & REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT :**

48.1 During 2004–2005, the Department has been putting its best efforts in creating public awareness on how to deal with unforeseen natural calamities. Simultaneously to ensure prompt and efficient management of any natural disasters and rescue works thereof, the Department undertook the task of stocking various relief materials like silpaulines, tents and tools like jumper, shovel, dao and torch lights. 15,200 silpaulines were distributed free of cost to families living in houses which were at a risk of being damaged by landslide. 5000 bundles of GCI sheets was distributed to victims of natural calamities and Rs.85 lakhs was spent for giving housing assistance to Mizo National Front (MNF) returnees for their rehabilitation.

49. **PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT:**

49.1 During 2004–2005, the Department through the State Planning Board continued its usual works of Plan formulation,

evaluation and monitoring of State Plan as well as NEC Schemes, NLCPR and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

49.2 The Science and Technology Wing took up various projects using satellite remote sensing technology like wasteland mapping of Mizoram, Urban Sprawling Mapping of Aizawl, vulnerability analysis of cyclones in Mizoram, environmental studies of Aizawl city and natural resources mapping of Mizoram . Installation of a full fledged meteorological observatory was taken up and is expected to be completed soon.

50. VIGILANCE DEPARTMENT :

50.1 During 2004–2005, inquiry into 12 cases was conducted by the Anti–Corruption Branch (ACB) and 5 cases were completed and submitted to the Chief Vigilance Officer, Mizoram. The Department participated in the Biennial Conference of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and State ACB held at New Delhi. A training course organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross was attended by 3 officers of the Department.

50.2 During 2005–2006, the Department proposes to purchase several electronic equipment and materials for strengthening and upgrading the Anti Corruption Branch.

51. **ELECTION DEPARTMENT** :

51.1 During 2004–2005, intensive revision of electoral rolls with a reference to 1.1.2005 as the qualifying date is being conducted as per guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. The general elections to the 14th Lok Sabha from 1 Mizoram (ST) Parliamentary Constituency and the bye–election to the Mizoram Legislative Assembly from 23 Kolasib (ST) Assembly Constituency were held on 20.4.04. These elections were held simultaneously for the first time in the election history of Mizoram.

52. **FINANCE DEPARTMENT** :

52.1 The Finance Department, despite various financial constraints during 2004–2005, has worked relentlessly to keep the state's finances within manageable proportions. As a result, the state sailed through this fiscal year without any untoward financial setbacks.

52.2 The Accounts & Treasuries Department settled 2159 pension and other pensionary benefit cases. Final payment was made to 1244 General Provident Fund cases and 223 Deposit Linked Insurance (D.L.I) cases. 50 Government offices and Local Bodies were audited during the year and 2956 pay slips were issued following the increase in the rates of Dearness Allowance.

52.3 During the year, the Institutional Finance & Small Savings and Mizoram State Lottery which were functioning independently as minor departments were amalgamated and renamed as the Small Savings and State Lottery Department as a means to enhance the working capacity of the Department and boost revenue collection whilst simultaneously reducing administrative cost. The Department has so far collected revenue of Rs.7.54 crores against the target of Rs.7.00 crore during 2004–2005. The Department is also confident of achieving the targetted Rs.25 crores as net collection from Small Savings Scheme.

53. Lastly, I would like to place on record my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Mizoram who came together from all walks of life to provide relief to Tsunami hit areas. Our symbolic despatch of

indigenous bamboo to Tamil Nadu has given much needed publicity to Mizoram bamboo. Let us take this show of unity one step further and join hands in the march towards the development and self sufficiency of the State.

54. I would like to thank all the Hon'ble Members for giving me a patient hearing. With this, I commend the Second Supplementary Demand for Grants, 2004–2005 and the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2005–2006 for the consideration and approval of the House.

Thank you