

BUDGET SPEECH

of

PU LALSAWTA HON'BLE FINANCE MINISTER

for

2015-'16 (Vote on Account)

in the

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

on

Thursday, the 19th March, 2015

STATEMENT OF FINANCE MINISTER ON 'VOTE ON ACCOUNT' FOR 2015-16 ON 19TH MARCH, 2015

Mr. Speaker Sir,

With your kind permission, I am obliged to present before the fifth session of the Seventh Mizoram Legislative Assembly a Vote on Account for the first four months of the financial year 2015-16, the Supplementary Demand for Grants 2014-15, Economic Survey 2014-15 and the Supplementary Demand for Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for 2010-11 & 2011-12 for approval.

It is indeed imperative on my part to inform the Hon'ble members that due to the replacement of the Planning Commission by the NITI Aayog and the subsequent unresolved role to be played by the new institution, I am not in a position to present the full Budget for 2015-16.

We are in a transitory phase from the ending of Thirteenth Finance Commission to beginning of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the latter's report of which was received only on the 24th February, 2015 thus leaving the Government of Mizoram no time to prepare a regular Budget, with the Budget Session already fixed to commence from the 17th March, 2015.

The report of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, as accepted by the Government of India, and the speech of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, indicate that changes in the devolution of resources from the Central Government to the federating States are being made to ensure that more financial responsibility to the States would now empower the States for more meaningful fiscal roadmap. It is expected that when detailed guidelines on the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission and NITI Aayog are received, full Budget will be presented in the subsequent Assembly Session.

It has become evident, therefore, that with the new arrangements on the horizon, the efforts being made by the Government of Mizoram to create a financially

robust government through generation of more revenue on one hand, and economy measures on the other hand, would need to be pursued relentlessly. I would, therefore, request the active cooperation and advice from the honourable members of this august House on this pursuit, whose support, earnestness and initiatives I can count on. Needless to say, Sir, that the people of Mizoram would be ready to pay the price for making Mizoram a viable and hard working State to become one of the most envied States in India.

I, with your kind approval, Sir, and on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Mizoram, present before this august House the 'Vote on Account' for expenditure of the Government of Mizoram for April to July, 2015 amounting to ₹ 32,77,22,61,000/- (Rupees three thousand two hundred seventy seven crore twenty two lakh sixty one thousand) only, the Supplementary Demand for Grants 2014-15 amounting to ₹ 21,54,90,86,000/- (Rupees two thousand one hundred fifty four crore ninety lakh eighty six thousand) only and the Supplementary Demand for Grants for Regularisation of Excess Expenditure for 2010-11 & 2011-12 amounting to ₹ 4,69,38,000/- (Rupees four crore sixty nine lakh thirty eight thousand) only and ₹ 59,35,000/- (Rupees fifty nine lakh thirty five thousand) only respectively.

I hope the House would appreciate the situation and give its approval as proposed by me.

Thank you, Sir.