



OFFICIAL REPORT
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTEENTH
NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY



FIFTH SESSION
(27TH AUGUST 2024 to 29TH AUGUST 2024)

Published by

Nagaland Legislative Assembly

Secretariat, Kohima

LIST OF MEMBERS,**PARTY AFFILIATION & CONSTITUENCY****(As on 27TH AUGUST, 2024)**

Sl.No.	Assembly Constituency	Elected Member	Party Affiliation
1	1 Dimapur -I	Shri H. Tovihoto Ayemi	BJP
2	2 Dimapur - II	Shri Moatoshi Longkumer	NDPP
3	3 Dimapur - III	Smti. Hekani Jakhalu	NDPP
4	4 Ghaspani - I	Shri N. Jacob Zhimomi	BJP
5	5 Ghaspani - II	Shri Zhaleo Rio	NDPP
6	6 Tening	Shri Namri Nchang	NCP
7	7 Peren	Shri T.R. Zeliang	NDPP
8	8 Western Angami	Smti. Salhoutouuo Kruse	NDPP
9	9 Kohima Town	Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso	NPP
10	10 Northern Angami - I	Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome	NDPP
11	11 Northern Angami - II	Shri Neiphui Rio	NDPP
12	12 Tseminyu	Ar. Jwenga Seb	JD(U)
13	13 Pughoboto	Dr. Sukhato A Sema	LJP (RV)
14	14 Southern Angami - I	Shri Kevipodi Sophie	IND
15	15 Southern Angami - II	Shri Kropol Vitsu	BJP
16	16 Pfutsero	Dr. Neisatuo Mero	IND
17	17 Chizami	Shri K. G. Kenye	NDPP
18	18 Chazouba	Shri Kudecho Khamo	NDPP
19	19 Phek	Shri Kuzholuzo Nienu	NPF
20	20 Meluri	Shri Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe	NDPP
21	21 Tuli	Shri A. Pangjung Jamir	BJP
22	22 Arkakong	Shri Nuklutoshi	NPP
23	23 Impur	Shri T. N. Mannen	NDPP
24	24 Angetyongpang	Shri Tongpang Ozukum	NDPP
25	25 Mongoya	Shri Imkongmar	NDPP
26	26 Aonglenden	Shri Sharingain Longkumer	NDPP
27	27 Mokokchung Town	Shri Metsubo Jamir	NDPP
28	28 Koridang	Shri Imkong L. Imchen	BJP
29	29 Jangpetkong	Shri Temjenmenba	NDPP
30	30 Alongtaki	Shri Temjen Imna Along	BJP
31	31 Akuluto	Shri Kazheto Kinimi	BJP
32	32 Atoizu	Er. Picto Shohe	NCP
33	33 Suruhuto	Shri S. Toiho Yeptho	NCP
34	34 Aghunato	Shri G. Ikuto Zhimomi	NDPP
35	35 Zunheboto	Shri K. Tokugha Sukhalu	NDPP
36	36 Satakha	Shri G. Kaito Aye	NDPP
37	37 Tyui	Shri Yanthungo Patton	BJP
38	38 Wokha	Shri Y. Mhonbemo Humtsoe	NCP
39	39 Sanis	Shri Mhathung Yanthan	NDPP
40	40 Bhandari	Shri Achumbemo Kikon	NPF

41	41 Tizit	Shri P. Paiwang Konyak	BJP
42	42 Wakching	Shri W. Chingang Konyak	NDPP
43	43 Tapi	Shri Wangpang Konyak	NDPP
44	44 Phomching	Shri K. Konngam Konyak	BJP
45	45 Tehok	Shri C L. John	NDPP
46	46 Mon Town	Shri Y. Mankhao Konyak	NCP
47	47 Aboi	Shri C. Manpon Konyak	IND
48	48 Moka	Shri A. Nyamnyi Konyak	NPP
49	49 Tamlu	Shri B. Bangtick Phom	IND
50	50 Longleng	Shri A. Pongshi Phom	NCP
51	51 Noksen	Shri Y. Lima Onen Chang	RPI(A)
52	52 Longkhim-Chare	Shri Sethrongkyu	BJP
53	53 Tuensang Sadar-I	Shri P. Bashangmongba Chang	BJP
54	54 Tuensang Sadar- II	Shri Imtichoba Chang	RPI(A)
55	55 Tobu	Shri Naiba Konyak	LJP (RV)
56	56 Noklak	Shri P. Longon	NCP
57	57 Thonoknyu	Shri Benei M. Lamthiu	NPP
58	58 Shamator-Chessore	Shri S. Keoshu Yimchunger	NDPP
59	59 Seyochung Sitimi	Shri C. Kipili Sangtam	NPP
60	60 Pungro Kiphire	Shri S. Kiusumew Yimchunger	NDPP

NDPP : Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party

BJP : Bharatiya Janata Party

NCP : Nationalist Congress Party

NPP : National People's Party

LJP : Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)

NPF : Naga People's Front

RPI : Republic Party of India (Athawale)

JD(U) : Janata Dal (United)

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

GOVERNOR

SHRI LA. GANESAN

SPEAKER

SHRI SHARINGAIN LONGKUMER

DEPUTY SPEAKER

SHRI S. TOIHO YEPTHO

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CHIEF MINISTER

1. Shri.Neiphiu Rio - Finance and also in-charge of Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms; and all-important policy issues;

and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTERS

1. Shri T.R. Zeliang - Planning and Transformation Department, National Highway

2. Shri Yanthungo Patton - Home, Border Affairs

CABINET MINISTERS

1. Shri G. Kaito Aye - Roads & Bridges.
2. Shri K.G. Kenye - Power, Parliamentary Affairs.
3. Shri Metsubo Jamir - Rural Development, SIRD.
4. Shri C.L. John -Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Village Guard.
5. Smti. Salhoutuonuo Kruse -Women Resource Development & Horticulture.
6. Shri N. Jacob Zhimomi -Public Health Engineering, Cooperation.
7. Shri P. Paiwang Konyak -Health & Family Welfare.
8. Shri Temjen Imna Along -Tourism, Higher Education.
9. Shri P. Bashangmongba Chang -Housing & Mechanical Engineering.

ADVISORS

1. Shri Zhaleo Rio -Urban Development and Municipal Affairs.
2. Shri Tongpang Ozukum -Water Resources.
3. Shri K. Tokugha Sukhalu -Food & Civil Supply, Legal Metrology.
4. Shri Mhathung Yanthan -Agriculture.
5. Shri S. Keoshu Yimchunger -Youth Resources & Sports.
6. Shri Moatoshi Longkumer -Labour, Employment & Skill Development, Excise.
7. Shri T.N. Mannen -Law & Justice, Land Revenue.
8. Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome -School Education, SCERT.
9. Shri Kudecho Khamo -Civil Administration Works Division, Taxes.
10. Shri Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe
Disaster Management Authority. -New and Renewable Energy, Nagaland State
11. Smti. Hekani Jakhalu -Industries & Commerce.
12. Shri Imkongmar -Minority Affairs, Sericulture.
13. Shri Temjenmenba -Transport, Technical Education.
14. Shri G. Ikuto Zhimomi -Land Resources.
15. Shri W. Chingang Konyak -Geology & Mining, DUDA.
16. Shri S. Kiusumew Yimchunger
Defence. -Fire & Emergency Services, Home Guard and Civil
17. Shri Imkong L. Imchen
Conservation. -Information & Public Relations, Soil & Water
18. Shri K. Konngam Konyak -Treasuries & Accounts, Art & Culture.
19. Shri H. Tovihoto Ayemi -Tribal Affairs & Election.

20. Shri Kazheto Kinimi -Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services.
21. Shri Kropol Vitsu -Prison, Printing & Stationery.
22. Shri A. Pangjung Jamir -Fishery & Aquatic Resources.
23. Shri Sethrongkyu -Information Technology & Communication,
Economics & Statistics, Evaluation.
24. Shri Wangpang Konyak - Social Welfare

Smt. Khruohituonuo Rio

Secretary-In-Charge

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTEENTH
NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(FIFTH SESSION)**

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH SESSION (FOURTEENTH ASSEMBLY) OF THE NAGALAND
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED UNDER THE SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

THE HOUSE ASSEMBLED AT THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, KOHIMA AT 09:30 A.M. ON
TUESDAY, THE 27TH AUGUST, 2024

WITH HON'BLE SPEAKER SHRI SHARINGAIN IN CHAIR.

MR. SPEAKER: Good morning, Hon'ble Members. I now call the House to order. As we gather here today to commence the 5th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly, I once again extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you.

Hon'ble Members, this is for your kind information that during the last Budget Session, we tried our best to reduce the use of papers and so we went partially paperless this time too, we will be having paperless proceedings for a significant and progressive change. This shift is a part of our ongoing initiative to modernizing our legislative processes and enhancing the efficiency of our work. All necessary materials will be made available in your tablets, hence I encourage all the Hon'ble members to familiarize yourself and make use of the devices provided for this purpose. Let us all try to make a smooth transition.

Also, if any of the Hon'ble Members wish to get the physical copies you may kindly take the services of the Watch & Wards.

We shall now begin with our business, listed for today with item No.1-Obituary References.

Hon'ble Members will recollect that during the intersession period some of our former Hon'ble Members of this House have passed away. They are:

1. Late Shri Mhao Humtsoe, former Member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly who expired on 19th April 2024.
2. Late Shri M.C. Konyak, former Member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly who expired on 16th June 2024, and
3. Late Shri N. Zhethovi Sema, former Member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly who expired on 10th July 2024.

I would now make the obituary references.

LATE SHRI MHAO HUMTSOE

Shri Mhao Humtsoe, former member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, passed away on 19th April, 2024, at the age of 84 at Wokha Town. Shri Mhao Humtsoe was born on 10th October, 1943, to Late Shri Yantsio. He is survived by his wife, two sons and four daughters.

Late Shri Mhao Humtsoe, hails from Longsa Village, studied at Wokha Government High School, and graduated from Scottish Church College, Calcutta. He was fervently involved in Students activities and served in the capacity of General Secretary of the Lotha Students Union, General Secretary of the Naga Students Union, Calcutta, President of the B.Y.E Local Church Wokha, General Secretary of the Lotha Hoho. He was the Regional Secretary of the Naga Hoho from 2001-2003 and the Chairman of Lotha Hoho from 2014-2018. He was also one of the founding members of the Christian Medical Centre, Vankhosung, Wokha in 1984.

Late Mhao Humtsoe represented the 38 Wokha Assembly Constituency in 1974 from UDF party and got elected to the 3rd Nagaland Legislative Assembly. In 1982, he represented the same constituency and participated in the General election from the NNDP and was re-elected as Member to the 5th Nagaland Legislative Assembly.

Late Mhao Humtsoe, thus, led an active student, social and political life who had efficaciously served in various capacities during his time. On his death the Lothas in particular and the State in general has lost a prominent leader. His significant contribution and dedication for the cause of the people will be remembered.

LATE SHRI M.C. KONYAK

Shri M.C. Konyak, former Member of the Nagaland Legislative assembly, passed away

on 16th June 2024, at the age of 73 at Dimapur. Late Shri M.C. Konyak was born on 1st February, 1952, to Late Shri Mungling Konyak. He is survived by his wife, three sons and one daughter.

Late Shri M.C. Konyak, who was from Wakching Village in Mon District, did his matriculation at Government High School, Wakching under the Assam Board of Secondary School and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree from Kohima Arts College, in 1973. He had served in different capacities in various organizations. He was the Vice President of the Konyak Students Conference from 1971-1972, Vice President of the Naga Students Federation from 1972-1973 and was one of the founding members of the Tuensang Mon Students Union, Tuensang-Mon Public Organization and the Tuensang-Mon Gazetted Officers Association. He also served as the President of the Tuensang-Mon Public Union, Kohima and is one of the pioneers of Konyak Baptist Church Establishment.

Late M.C. Konyak was a government employee in various Government departments before entering into active politics. His service career spanned about 25 years, from 1972-1997. Late M.C. Konyak, represented the 42 Wakching Assembly Constituency in 2003 from BJP ticket and got elected to the 10th Nagaland Legislative Assembly. In 2008, he represented the same constituency and participated in the general election from the BJP ticket and was re-elected as a Member to the 11th Nagaland Legislative Assembly. During his brief political stint, he served as the Minister of irrigation and Flood Control, Forest, Environment, Ecology & Wild life and Excise Department.

Late M.C. Konyak, thus, led an active student, social and political life and had efficaciously served in various capacities during his time. On his death the Konyaks in particular and the State in general has lost a prominent leader. His significant contribution and dedication for the cause of the people will be remembered.

LATE SHRI N.ZHETОВI SEMA

Shri N. Zhetovi Sema, former Member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, passed away on 10th July, 2024, at CIHSR Hospital, Chumoukedima.

Late Shri N. Zhetovi Sema, son of late N. Hokheyi was born on March 1, 1931, in Nikiye Village, Kiphire District. He did his early education from Government High School, Tuensang and matriculated from Government High School, Mokokchung. Thereafter, he completed his Pre-University and Bachelor of Arts degree from the Fazl Ali College, Mokokchung.

Late N. Zhetovi Sema made a notable contribution in student, social and political spheres. He was the founding Member and Vice-president of the Eastern Sumi Students Union (ESSU) from 1961-1964 and Member of the Tuensang Regional Council from 1964-1968.

Late N. Zhevitov Sema was a Member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly from 1969-1977. He was one of the 12 selected Members representing Tuensang District in the second Nagaland Legislative Assembly in 1969, under the Nagaland Nationalist Organization Party. In 1974, he represented the Seyochung Sitimi Constituency from the same party and contested in the general election and was elected as a Member to the third Nagaland Legislative Assembly and served as a Minister of State in 1975. He was also the President of the Kiphire District Congress Committee from 1977-1999, the District President of the Nagaland State Pensioners Association and Adhoc Chairman of the Kiphire Town Council from 2009-2011. He was serving as the Gaonbura of the Nitoi Village, Kiphire District from 2020 until the time of his death.

Late N. Zhetovi's contribution in the different spheres of activity testifies that he was a distinctive leader who has left an indelible impression on the life of his admirers and his associates.

In his death, the people of Nagaland have lost a visionary leader. The works rendered by him would be difficult to replace. He was 93. He left behind his wife Smt. Kakheli Zhimomi, 6 sons and four daughters.

Hon'ble members, we will now observe a minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed leaders.

Shall we all rise.

(1 minute silence observed)

You may please be seated.

Hon'ble Members, the grief and sorrow expressed by this august House will be communicated to the members of the bereaved families by the Secretary-in-charge, Nagaland legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now come to item No. 2. Questions. Hon'ble Members, I would like to inform that it is my desire that the number of minutes that we have taken in making obituary references will be added to the Question Hour.

Let us start with Starred Question No. 1. Hon'ble Member, Shri. Kuzholuzo Nienu.

STARRED QUESTION NO. 1

PMAY-G HOUSING SCHEME

SHRI KUZHOLUZO NIENU (NPF):	SHRI METSUBO JAMIR (NDPP) MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:	
1). What is the unit cost of a Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Housing scheme?	The Unit cost under PMAY-G is Rs 1,30,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Thousand) only per beneficiary.
2). How are the beneficiaries of the scheme selected and what is the criteria for selection?	Under PMAY-G, there are two categories of beneficiaries: - a) SECC beneficiaries: - These are beneficiaries which were selected by the Ministry of Rural Development, Gol,

<p>3). How are the funds disbursed to the beneficiaries?</p>	<p>based on the date of the Socio-Economic Cate Census 2011</p> <p>b) Awaas+ beneficiaries: -</p> <p>A provision was given by the MoRD, Gol, to all the States and the Union Territories in FY 2018-19 to add those eligible beneficiaries who were left out of the SECC beneficiary list, through a mobile app called Awaas App. Addition was based on the 22 Ineligibility Criteria (Annexure I) of the MoRD. Only those beneficiaries who the Village Council officially approved could be added through the App. There was no provision for the Department to add beneficiaries. Those new additions are the Awaas+ beneficiaries.</p> <p>Under PMAY-G, implementation is 100% Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The amount of Rs 1,30,000/- is transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries in three installments viz, 1 st Installment - Rs 22,000/- 2 nd Installment - Rs 88,000/- 3 rd Installment - Rs 20,000/- by generating Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) routed through Public Fund Management System (PFMS).</p>
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SHRI KUZHOLUZO NIENU (NPF): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am quite satisfied with the answers but for the benefit of the House and also the general public, I want to put two supplementary questions.

1. There has been a lot of social media complaints about the PMAY-G implementation recently. So, I want to ask the department, whether the department has taken up any corrective measures or enquired about it?

2. How many beneficiaries have been assisted till date? Thank you.

SHRI METSUBO JAMIR (NDPP) MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Member for having raised these supplementary questions. Yes, the department is looking into all the complaints that have been received till date and we have also constituted a committee to look into all these complaints including physical verification of houses constructed, physical verification of the beneficiaries, eligibility status of the beneficiaries as per the programme guidelines. The number of houses allocated to the State of

Nagaland till date is 48,830. As of date 16,000 houses have been constructed and 32,830 houses are under construction.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, for the benefit of the Hon'ble Members, I would like to make a few observations on the complaints that have been received from the public. Sir, this programme is for the villagers and Rural Development Department is mandated to look after 90% of the State of Nagaland. From there as per the original question submitted by our Hon'ble Member, criteria of selection, there the Government of India has given us 22 exclusion criteria, I'll read out for the benefit of the hon'ble Members. Household with any member of Government employees, there should not be any member of Government employee, without agriculture enterprises, any family members in the whole family earning more than Rs.10,000/- a month, owning a refrigerator, owning a telephone, all these facilities are not included in the criteria. We are exempted from the 73rd Amendment of the Panchayati Raj Act because of our Article 371, by taking this name the department being a resource constraint State we are trying in what way we can help the villagers, so without following the guidelines we have been helping the villagers. Now, we should understand and please tell the villagers that constituting a Committee, physical verification of House constructed, this PMAY-G is a direct benefit transfer scheme, all the money is being transferred to their account. In our case some of them have not constructed the house after drawing the money, some of the beneficiaries could not complete the house, some beneficiaries who are not eligible have taken the money, that is why the department is planning to go for physical verification so please tell the villagers to be careful. From now on we will follow the government's guidelines and go accordingly. With that hon'ble Speaker, I end my submission. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall move on to the next Starred Question. Starred Question No.2. Hon'ble Member, Shri Nuklutoshi.

STARRED QUESTION NO. 2

STATUS OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY 702 D-MOKOKCHUNG TO MARIANI

SHRI NUKLUTOSHI (NPP):	SHRI T.R. ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, PLANNING & TRANSFORMATION, NATIONAL HIGHWAYS:
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<p>Will the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, in-charge of PWD (National Highways) be pleased to state:</p> <p>1. The status of NH 702D, Mokokchung junction to Mariani and its maintenance.</p> <p>2. Why has the two lane expansion of this National Highway not been initiated even after being accorded the status of National Highway (since 2018)?</p>	<p>1. Short Term Maintenance Work is ongoing on NH 702D from 0.00 (Mokokchung Jn) to Km 63.00 (Longtho).</p> <p>2. For two lane expansion of NH-702D, Project Management Consultancy Services of preparation of DPR, pre-construction activity and construction supervision of 2-laning with paved shoulder of NH-702D from Mokokchung, Watiyim (Km 0.00 to Km 70.00) has been initiated and is currently ongoing.</p>
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SHRI NUKLUTOSHI (NPP) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. I am satisfied with the answer but I have few supplementary questions.

Speaker, Sir, its almost 7 years now after being accorded the status of National Highway Road and it is the main lifeline for Mokokchung District, Zunheboto District and Tuensang District. This road is very important, it has taken considerable time even for preparation of DPR and to take up. So, my supplementary question is, how long will the department take again for preparation of DPR and submission to the Ministry of Road Transport? And second, which firm/consultancy is preparing this DPR?

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, NATIONAL HIGHWAY, PLANNING & TRANSFORMATION DEPARTMENT: Mr. Speaker Sir, we fully appreciate the question raised by Hon'ble Member and we have replied the main question. So, reply to supplementary question, yes, this National Highway was declared about 10 years back but Project Management Consultancy Services was appointed by the Ministry of Road Transport (MoRTH) on 30th March, 2023 last year. Project Management Consultancy Service for preparation of DPR, pre-construction activity and construction

supervision for 2-lanning with bed shoulder of National Highway 702D Mokokchung to Watiyim covered by 70Kms was awarded to M/s. Mark Technocrat Private Limited by the Ministry of Road Transport and the work commenced on 10th May, 2023. The Consultant group has

submitted the alignment report, they have completed the survey of alignment and submitted the report on 9th August, 2024 this year via e-mail and we are yet to receive the hard copy consisting of map is awaited.

The first question, I think questioner is satisfied since the work is ongoing and the Contractor has been appointed. So, I think, after receiving the hard copy of this report from the consultant we will take up the matter and put up for sanction of the project. Thank you, Speaker Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Starred question No.3. Hon'ble Member, Shri. Kevipodi Sophie.

STARRED QUESTION NO. 3

STATUS OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY 29, FROM LERIE TO MAO GATE

<p>SHRI. KEVIPODI SOPHIE (IND):</p> <p>Will the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, in-charge National Highway be pleased to state:</p> <p>1. What was the Observation/Recommendation of the Technical Fact-Finding Committee on the NH-29 (New NH-2/A-1) from Lerie to Mao Gate.</p>	<p>SHRI T.R. ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, PLANNING & TRANSFORMATION, NATIONAL HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>1. The Technical Fact-Finding Committee is yet to submit its observations / recommendations. In accordance with the Term Reference, documents relating to the ongoing project from Lerie to Mao Gate have been sought from NHIDCL. The directions from Competent Authority for providing sought documents to the Technical Fact-Finding Committee from Lerie to Mao Gate have been received by this office recently on 14.08.2024. The relevant details have been sought on 16.08.2024 from appropriate agencies involved in the project implementation and supervision. The details shall be forwarded to the Technical Fact-Finding Committee once the same are obtained after compilation.</p>
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2. Whether there is any proposal for the construction of a 2-Lane Road in lieu of the 4-Lane. If not why?

2. The reconstruction of 2-Lane Road is underway within existing ROW.

SHRI KEVIPODI SOPHIE (IND): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, thank you for the time given. Today, I rise to request the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Minister-in-charge of PWD & National Highway to kindly provide the report of the Fact-Finding Technical Committee regarding the ongoing constructions of NH-29 from Kohima to Mao.

SHRI T. R. ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, NATIONAL HIGHWAY, PLANNING & TRANSFORMATION DEPARTMENT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully associate with the questioner since the project in question is not only Inter-State connectivity, but it connects up to Myanmar so it is very important. But there are some problems from the beginning till today, land owners' problem was there and then the Suo Moto PIL case was filed by High Court itself and High court had issued the order to complete the project within 6 months, but the contractor has gone to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has stated the High Court's order, because of this problem we could not proceed further since the matter is pending in the Supreme court.

And reply to supplementary question, the Government constituted Fact Finding Technical Team to examine the details of the construction of the ongoing Kohima-Mao NH-2 under NHIDCL, dated 15th June, 2024. We have written three times to NHIDCL to provide us the required documents like DPR, contract agreement and milestones, all these requirements we have placed before the NHIDCL. Their reply to the first letter mentions that since the matter is pending in the court we cannot provide such documents at this stage. So, we had written another letter to them that, this DPR is a public documents, it is not a secret document DPR estimate and the contract agreement these are public documents. So, the matter is pending in the court. Despite the matter pending in the court there is no problem to provide us all these documents that is what Fact Finding Committee has written to NHIDCL but in their reply to the second letter also they did not provide the required documents so the government we had discussed and Commissioner & Secretary of PWD has written to them to provide all these documents to Fact Finding Technical Committee so that they can proceed with their fact finding works. We are yet to receive the reply from NHIDCL and in the Committee headed by Chief Engineer, National Highway, one administrator and three representatives from Southern Angami Public Organization (SAPO) that Committee is helpless because they have not provided the required documents but we have given them one week's time to provide all the documents to

this Fact Finding Technical Committee. Thank you.

SHRI KEVIPODI SOPHIE (IND): I am satisfied with the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of National Highway but Speaker Sir, allow me to brief this august House about the importance of this National Highway-29 and the progress of the road going on. Speaker Sir, sanction for this road construction was awarded to Fortune Group by NHIDCL in the year 2020 for a two-lane road specifically from Lerie gate to Mao gate. The scheduled date of completion was April, 2022 which is about one year and six months, however as the contractor failed to meet the deadline an extension of 314 days was granted, moving the new deadline to 2nd March, 2023 despite this, the road remains in deplorable condition with frequent vehicle breakdowns, landslides caused by inadequate drainage maintenance and significant delays affecting students trying to reach the schools and colleges, ambulances are unable to pass through, despite repeated sirens leaving sick individuals and pregnant women without timely medical care. It is worth noting that the road has gone from bad to worse after it was taken over by NHIDCL. I do not intent to blame the present Government or any individual, but I strongly believe it is time to review our agreement with the central government and take corrective actions to address these pressing issues. The State Government must be involved in facilitating, monitoring and controlling the activities of this agency rather than allowing them to operate with unchecked authority granted by the central government.

Speaker Sir, Nagaland is granted special status under 371 (A) (4), which means that ownership and transfer of lands and its resources in Nagaland are governed by the State's customary law and practices. It is imperative that we assert our control over any agencies or contractors executing works in our State. The State Government must be included in facilitating, monitoring and controlling these activities.

Speaker Sir, National Highway-29, now NH-2 is the first National Highway in Nagaland and is economically and strategically vital not only to our State but also to Manipur, Myanmar and beyond other neighboring Asian countries. However, the current road design is unstable and incapable of accommodating 16 to 22 XL vehicles unless the full-fledged two-lane road is constructed along with the necessary bridge reconstruction. This is essential to prevent potential hazards and ensure the safety of our people. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, according to the Government of India's Act East Policy, this road is intended to connect South East Asia countries. Therefore, if the land terrain does not permit construction of four-lane road an alternative two-lane parallel road up to Mao gate should be proposed for consideration to fulfill the commitment of Government of India's Act East Policy. Thank you.

Er. KROPOL VITSU (BJP) ADVISOR, PRISON, PRINTING & STATIONERY: Speaker Sir, can I take little time?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you may.

Er. KROPOL VITSU (BJP) ADVISOR, PRISON, PRINTING & STATIONERY: Thank you, Hon'ble Speaker Sir, supplementing to what our Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Hon'ble Member, Shri Kevipodi Sophie has said, I am also to talk about National Highway-29 starting from Lerie junction to Mao Gate, having a stretch of about 30 kms only. Now, this portion can be divided into two, one is about the present work addressed by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister. The present work comes under the strengthening of the existing surface of that stretch of road, the other issue is, we the people of Southern Angami particularly and users of that road from Imphal, Manipur side are talking about converting this existing road into either two-lane or four-lane road. These two clarities have to be separated and when we talk about the existing condition, it is horrible and it is in a very pathetic condition and it has been going on for long and for so many years. Let us recall and remember the days of our National High way between Kohima and Dimapur prior to the coming of Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji in the State. The road condition are same, a stretch of about 30 kms it takes us about two hours and now during the past few months some repair works were done but on reaching this monsoon season all these roads as suspected earlier was not going according to the standard and specification given in the DPR. And now with this, onset of monsoon seasons our road has been rendered into such a condition that roads are not pliable for light vehicles and even by the heavily loaded trucks. So, in this very regard, in consultation with our Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister I spoke to the concerned authority in Delhi also but they are not very concentrative in this particular stretch of area, may be because we have not presented our case very carefully or maybe we have not given good attention to the concerned authority. So, my request to our National Highway Authority of Nagaland is to approach the authority to maintain and complete the adjacent strengthening work and subsequently converting this stretch of road into the two-lane road or four-lane road. We are not demanding even four-lane road also, two-lane is more than enough but that also is not made possible on the pretext of complain given by the land owners, asset owners in the form of damage compensation, that is not the real issue. Our people are not complaining against the Government's decision, the Government's decision is final and binding for us and that is the decision of the Southern Angami Public Organization (SAPO). So, No.1 is land compensation should not be the objection in this very development. No.2. Court case, a Committee should be set up to supervise in the form of tackle Committee of this stretch of road. Their progress is being hindered by the court cases, and if they keep on talking about court cases, this contractors Fortune or other sublet contractors they will keep on taking

advantage on this so, my request is to our National Highway Authority in-charge of Nagaland to do something in order to avoid going to the court after signing all the agreements before receiving the ultimate work order. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI T. R. ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AND MINISTER, PLANNING & TRANSFORMATION, NATIONAL HIGHWAY: Mr. Speaker Sir, we appreciate the concern made by two Hon'ble Members but as I said, initially, we have proposed for four lane road on this stretch from Lerie to Mao Gate and then up to Imphal, then from Imphal up to Moreh, that was the original proposal in line with Act East Policy but unfortunately the NHIDLC after taking over this project, they have come back to two lane road because of the geological difficulties like landslides or sinking areas that was their reason given. Now, as mentioned by Hon'ble Member, either to have four lane road or to have two parallel two lane road we need technical survey that is the reason why we have constituted fact-finding technical team to study the nature of the land gravity in that area so that technically tomorrow there should not be any complain. So, either two parallel two lane road or four lane road or to have only one two lane road that we will decide only after we receive the report from the Fact-Finding Technical Team. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: If there are no more supplementary questions to Starred Question No. 3, we shall now move on to Starred Question No. 4 Hon'ble Member Shri Achumbemo Kikon may take the time.

STARRED QUESTION NO. 04

JOB RESERVATION POLICY UNDER THE STATE GOVERNMENT

<p>SHRI. ACHUMBEMO KIKON (NPF)</p> <p>Will the Chief Minister of Nagaland be pleased to state:</p> <p>1. Since when was the job reservation in the Government sector introduced. Is the reservation indefinite or for a specific period of time?</p>	<p>SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER AND MINISTER-IN-CHARGE OF P & AR:</p> <p>I. (a) 80% reservation for all Indigenous Scheduled Tribes of Nagaland was earmarked from 26th July, 1967.</p> <p>The reservation was made with no end date.</p>
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(b) Further, in 1973, the percentage of reservation was revised at 100% for Non-Technical Grade-III and IV Posts and 80% for all other Posts. This reservation was made for all recognized Indigenous Scheduled Tribes of Nagaland belonging to

- I. Any Naga Tribe
- II. Kuki
- III. Kachari
- IV. Garo
- V. Mikir

(c) Reservation for the Backward Tribes in Nagaland began in 1977 with 25% reservation in non-technical and non-gazetted posts for 7 (seven) Tribes which were identified as Backward Tribes on the basis of economical backwardness and also having insignificant representation in the services in the State for a period of 10 years. Further, 25% of 80% of all other posts were reserved for them. Presently, the Backward Tribe reservation stands at 37% with 25% for the 7 (seven) Eastern Naga BT tribes and 12% for the other 4 (four) BT tribes.

2. (a) the nature of job reservations in the Government of Nagaland.

2 (a) the nature of job reservation in Nagaland is made on the basis of the following:

I. Indigenous Scheduled Tribes with the reason that the population of Nagaland primarily consists of Scheduled Tribes.

II. Backward Tribe Reservation on the basis of insignificant representation of some tribes in Government services, Educational and Economic Backwardness.

	<p>III. Reservation for Persons with Disability as per the Rights of Persons with PwD Act, 2016.</p> <p>IV. Sports for meritorious sportsmen and sportswomen.</p>
<p>2. (b) Whether the job reservation is based on Tribe or District wise.</p>	<p>2.(b) Job reservation is earmarked on the basis of Tribe wise and not District wise, except for Sumis of Kiphire which is both Tribe and District wise.</p>
<p>2. (c) Whether the job reservation is shared on the basis of population ratio or geographical area of a district.</p>	<p>2.(c) Job reservation for Indigenous Scheduled Tribes is made on the basis of Nagaland being primarily inhabited by Schedules Tribes. Backward Tribe reservation is made on the basis of the respective Tribe and not on the basis of population or geographical area of the Tribe with the exception of Sumis of Kiphire which is based on both population and geography.</p>

SHRI ACHUMBEMO KIKON (NPF): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I have asked a very simple question but Hon'ble Chief Minister has given me very complicated answer. I want some more clarity on his answers. Before I come to my argument, the supplementary question, actually what I have sought for was whether there is any specific duration for the reservation of the backward quota in the Government employment sector. The answer to the first question was of course reservation started from 1967 onwards that is about general quota. I am not talking about general quota; I am asking a question within the reserved categories, in this there was no reply and therefore my supplementary question is whether there is any plan or intention on the part of the Government to specify the duration. How many more years to go for reservation that is one.

No. 2. Whether there is any proposal on the part of the Government to review the existing quota reservation in the Government Sector. I will come later on to my point of view but these two questions I would like to request our Hon'ble Chief Minister to answer.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER AND MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, P & AR:

Speaker Sir, I will come to the supplementary question raised by the questioner. The specific duration was not mentioned, I will reply those two questions together. In the cabinet, we had discussed that we must re-visit the backward reservations and we also decided that there should be specific jurisdiction however, we will re-visit only after we conduct census but we are not being able to conduct the census and it is being kept on hold because some tribes has gone to court and it is not being settled and only when proper census is conducted, we will re-visit the backward quotas and at that time we will also specify the duration.

SHRI ACHUMBEMO KIKON (NPF): I am thankful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the little clarity. Speaker Sir, there is actually a contradiction in the Government policy. Why I am saying contradiction is, because the answer to my question is, it is reserved on the tribe basis. I have asked very categorical question whether it is reserved on geographical basis or tribe basis. The answer to the question is tribe basis but again in the bottom part of the answer it is also said that somewhere it is geographically identified which means the Sumis of the Eastern areas, the Kiphire Sumis, I do not know how many percentage was given but that is the geographical basis, we are talking of the reservation in the Government sector, it is now a geographical area because Sumi as a tribe are advanced tribe like the Lothas, Angamis and the rest. However, the Government in its policy has contradicted in framing the policy. On one hand, they are telling me that it is on the tribe basis, on the other hand, it is being reserved on the geographical area. Now, the question is since Hon'ble Chief Minister has answered, I do not want to argue further and since the cabinet has decided to re-visit I think, it has to be done at the earliest. The policy which is adopted at the moment is from 1997 onwards 25% reservation. Then it has now increased to 37% of the job reservation, out of this 37% reservation, 25% goes to our ENPO areas. Sir, let us come back to the ENPO areas. The ENPO initially comprised of about 7 tribes, now with the addition of Chakhesang and Pochury tribes it is 9. So, 9 tribes were a part of the job reservation quota. Within these 7 tribes, let us exclude Pochury and Chakhesang tribes because they are from Phek district, how do you distribute. There is another problem compounding to that is Tikhir as Tikhir has also been recognized officially as a tribe, there is a lot of complications here. Hon'ble Chief Minister is telling us that the 2001 Census is under challenge as far as the census is concerned, I am aware of that but I am not very conversant with 2001 census whether it is under challenge or not but if we go by that record, 2011 census, Mon records 2.50 lakh population. From that 25 % how do the Government distributes. I am

only comparing the statistics which is available on the record. Kiphire records about 74,000, Longleng records about 50,000, Tuensang records 1.96 lakh. So, a population having 2.50 lakh in Mon district, if they are getting one EAC this year, then a population having 50,000 of that particular tribe also will get one EAC. Where is the justification, Speaker Sir. Where is the equilibrium in distributing the quota even within the reserved groups. So, this backward quota will never come to them and Government is saying that there is no specific duration for this. No, we have to have a specific duration, we have to take our people forward, we cannot keep them years together, hundred years together to be backward. Therefore, I must insist that there should be a duration in the backward reserved group and I am only giving an example, I have no grudges to any other individual, locations or tribes but the Konyaks will keep demanding even if we decide that we will end the backward quota reservation by 2 or 3 years from now but they will still tell us that, look we have this much population, our other friends got it 10 EACs, 10 DSPs, we are still standing at 10 EACs, 10 DSPs, we are yet to recover this much. There will be a fight within the backward quota again.

Now, pocket-wise, the Government in fact, unintentionally has implemented the quota reservation on pocket-wise, there should be no problem though. Why I am saying this because the Sumis of Eastern areas have been given. They have been already given identifying from the pocket-wise. Now, my people from Bhandari area have started demanding that we should also be given a backward reserved quota. Likewise, in some of the Ao areas like Alongtaki where my younger brother Shri Imna Along, Hon'ble Minister represents and in most of the Southern Angami areas. We are tagged as forward tribes. So, I think we have to start identifying pocket-wise. For example, the Chakhesangs, Chakhesangs of Pfutsero and Chozuba are no more backward, Speaker sir. They are as brainy as anyone of us, they are as good as anyone of us but Chakhesangs of my hon'ble MLAs areas from Phek, Chizami areas they are still backward, I am aware of that. So also with the Sangtams, the Sangtams of the Longkhim - Chare are very close to you, Speaker Sir, very close to Longsa, Mokokchung district. They are also far advanced but Sangtams of Kiphire district Seyochung and Sitimi are backward.

If you have seen the Supreme Court's latest decision on the creamy layer, of course, it is subject to debate but we also have to identify within the reserved groups who are the creamy layers and start segregating them, then the real meaning of quota reservation will come in, the real deserving ones do not get even within the reserved groups because those who are living in urban areas actually send their kids to good schools, good colleges, get better education and they come back with this backward certificate and they get the job. The one who studied from High Schools in the village or graduated from the colleges in the district headquarters does not get that opportunity. So, where is the equilibrium, where is justice here. Therefore, I would

suggest that there has to be overhauling of the backward quota reservation and it has to be identified pocket-wise.

Let's come back to the reservation even on the IPS, NPS category, that NCS, IAS quota. There also some restudy is required because most of this are being occupied by the services from the outside State. Now, our State cadres are also being neglected in many ways. So, when you say reservation, I think overhauling, a wholesome approach is required. You see what has happened, the backward quota reservation, it is not only a debate. If you see the recent incident in Bangladesh, Speaker Sir, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to resign on the 4th of August 2024, the protest started by the student group, on what? 30% reservation for the dissidents of the freedom fighters. The issue started from there, it polarized to a higher political magnitude, of course, but it all started from that backward quota reservation within the Government job sector. I am not evoking such situation here but if we are not careful on this job reservation, now the advanced tribe like the Aos, Semas, Lothas, Rengmas, we have also started ganging up that we also have to demand our pound of flesh. Where will be the end, there's going to be a big war within the Naga family.

Therefore, unless Government comes out with a very practical proposal, it is going to be a big problem for the State and for that I would like to insist that the Government, since Chief Minister has already announced that there will be a re-visit, I am happy with that but there is a lot of things to be done in this and proper rationalization of the backward quota is required. Even for the people with disability, there is also a reservation, there's reservation after reservation. So, how do we synchronize all this for the betterment of our society. So, this is what I would like to put across my point of contention. Thank you, Speaker Sir.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER, MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, P&AR: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to thank the Hon'ble Member for speaking out his mind and what he thinks about it. As clearly mentioned, I said, review can be done only when we conduct a fresh census. Regarding the ENPO area of 6 tribes, now 7, in this issue, I am aware that the population in the tribes is different. Konyaks having 1.50 lakhs while some small tribes have very less population, not even half or a quarter. But let me tell you, I questioned at that time our Honourable Members that if you go by your proposal, big or small if tribes go by rotation and get equal percentage, it is not justified and you will quarrel again but they told me that it is decided by the ENPO and we all agreed so it can go ahead. So, with their proposal we had done like that. Recent times, particularly Mon district, they started complaining that they should be given according to the population ratio. This will be possible only when the new census is conducted and the whole State, not only ENPO or now the present backward tribes but everything has to be overhauled and as mentioned even specific duration should be kept for not the whole

State but even for the different tribes also. Another issue you are aware in the month of January 2022, Tikhir tribes were recognize after a long struggle and I am happy that the Yimkhiung's and Tikhir's resolved their issues which make our jobs easier and the brotherhood of the area has been restored. Now in this the Tikhirs wanted a separate percentage or quota but the government decision was till such time review is taken they should be within the Yimkhiung preview so they should make them understand that is the stand but I learnt that they have gone to court to fight for their right which nobody can stop them from going to the court. I fact, the whole Nagas we are tribals, we are all backward but among the backward some are little more advanced we agree to that yes, we should bring the backward areas or the people at par with the rest but in this no body including myself or yourself we don't get hundred percent justice. So, as a family of the Nagas, we have different tribes but we have to conform and to work out the formula to co-exist and live in peace. But we fight individually and that's how tribalism becomes very strong, and that way we are promoting more of our own tribes. Naga movement why it could not be resolved? It is because of tribalism we have been fighting among the tribal level. Our tribes come first, our Naga issue come last, we are still at the level of individualism and tribalism we have not come to the Naga ism and that's how we are in this from of situation. Therefore, we as an elected member we have to guide our people and instead of making it more complicated we should contribute to resolve when the time come. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Anymore supplementary? If not, we shall move on to the next question Starred question No.5 Hon'ble Shri. Kuzholuzuo Nienu. May take the floor.

STARRED QUESTION NO. 5

ANGANWADI WORKERS AND HELPERS

<p>Shri Kuzholuzo Nienu (NPF)</p> <p>Will the Minister-in-charge of Social Welfare Department be pleased to state:</p> <p>1. What was the amount sanctioned under CSS, the incentives to AWWs and Helpers in the year 2022-23.</p> <p>2. How many AWWs and AWHs are there</p>	<p>Shri Neiphiu Rio (NDPP) Chief Minister and Minister-In-Charge</p> <p>1. No specific amount earmarked for incentives</p> <p>2. There are 3980 AWWs and 3980 AWHs in the state. An amount of Rs.500 each for</p>
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in the State and what was the amount disbursed to each AWW and Helper.

AWW and Rs. 250 each for AWH is transferred to the respective accounts of the AWWs and AWHs whoever has fulfilled the eligibility criteria as per the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) guidelines (copy enclosed). During the FY 2022-23, 27 (Twenty-seven) AWWs and 46 (Forty-Six) AWHs were eligible for the incentives and payment was made to them through Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT). The eligibility list is auto generated in the POSHAN Tracker APP.

SHRI. KUZHOLUZO NIENU (NPF): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am not actually satisfied with the answers, the department is misleading the House and also the leader of the House because he is not in-charge of this department but he is made to answer. I have the demand number with me, demand number was distributed to all the Hon'ble members in the budget session. In the demand number itself it's written incentives to AWWs & Helpers, AWHR 3000 per head and the number of AWWs is 3988. Now here the answer is per head for AWWs is 500, AWH is 250. This is misleading, if we are having a strong opposition the department is going to lend this government into trouble. So, I want to advice the department to give correct answers, they cannot fool us, in the demand member is different and here is different that is number one.

Number two, now they have written out of 3988 AWWs only 27% have been identified and their money has been disbursed through direct beneficiaries' transfer (DBT) that means 3953 are left out. Now another section is AWH out of 3980 only 46 AWWs were eligible for the incentives and so payment were made to them through DBT. That means 3934 is being left out so I want to asked supplementary question to the Hon'ble Chief Minister about the left-out persons which incentives has not been given. Even though the figure is wrong when are they going to receive it?

SHRI G. KAITO AYE (NDPP) MINISTER, ROADS AND BRIDGES: Speaker Sir, answer to Starred Question No.5, I fully agreed that the Hon'ble Member will not be comfortable with the reply laid by the department. The incentives are not fully implemented as desired. In 2022 as you have asked for the amount sanctioned, the department received Rs. 11,1,18,000/- (**Eleven crores one lakh eighteen thousand rupees**) was sanctioned for implementation of Poshan Abhiyan in Nagaland. However, those specific amount has been earmarked for incentive to Anganwadi workers & Anganwadi helpers. An amount as you already pointed out that twenty-five thousand rupees was paid as incentive during financial year 2022- 23 through direct beneficiary transfer auto generation. Another 13,500 to 27 eligible Anganwadi workers are 11500

to 46 eligible Anganwadi helpers. The reason for low eligible beneficiaries is during financial year 2022-23, though the Poshan Tracker app was launched during the last quarter of financial year 2021, during the initial rollout the app was not fully functional because of the technical glitches, frequent updations and modifications, application infrastructure etc were fully following the guidelines issued by the ministry, moreover several factors like the Covid and then during the certain period of election code of conduct had to be observed and the department could not take up fully but department is trying its best to improve this tracker system and then the beneficiaries who are supposed to get will definitely be given. I think what is available within the provision will translate into reality. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Members to see that the question raised by the Hon'ble Members are already taken into consideration and the department is aware of improving their department. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KUZHOLUZO NIENU (NPF): Mr. Speaker Sir, I only want an assurance that those AWWs and AWH who have not received the small amount i.e. their incentives should reach them.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER, MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, P & AR:

Mr. Speaker Sir, we distributed the question to be replied by my colleague minister in another department, and I am happy that Mr. Kaito had replied as he had already mentioned and supplied in the reply. The reason for low eligibility beneficiaries during 2022-2023 Poshan Tracker App was launched during the last quarter of the financial year 2020-2021. During the initial roll out the App was not fully functional because of technical glitches, frequent updating and modification in the infrastructure of Apps, and our people are not very handy, and sufficient training was not provided. Capacity building and training programmes for the field functionaries and AWWs could not be organized to full capacity due to delay in release of funds by the ministry which was sanctioned only in the month of April, 2023. It may be noted that in the financial year 2021-2022 no sanction was again released by the Ministry because of the strategic shift in Mission Mode and the introduction of new guidelines by the Ministry. So, the department is also struggling because of frequent modification and the App problem. However, it is a Staff Saving Trade and things are gradually improving till date. Those beneficiaries who qualified will definitely be given what is due to them and that is my assurance. If there are lapses in the note as mentioned for AWWs and AWH reflected under the Demand for Grant is 4500 and 2500. The incentives are based on performance so it will vary. However, I will also direct the department to be very clear and specific to the questions so as not to confuse in the replies because it is not only the questioner but it concerns to all the elected Members. They want to know what activities are taken up and whether the beneficiaries are getting their due share. So the department should undergo various trainings and I assure that it

should improve and we will see that they will improve. Thank you.

SHRI NAIBA KONYAK (LJP(RV)): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I just want to know from the Leader of the House why the answer is replied by the Project Director and not by the Director of Social Welfare. I think the Social Welfare Department has only one Director. Is it right to give answer by the Project Director? Or are we having two Directorates i.e. the State Project Directorate and the Directorate of Social Welfare? I just want to know who will be the right person to answer this question.

SHRI G. KAITO AYE (NDPP) MINISTER, ROADS & BRIDGES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Project Director has been appointed on need- based. Otherwise, the Director is the head of the Department and he does all the works. So even if the Project Director replies everything will be routed through the Director of the Department. So, if there is any other query according to you, we will see to it and corrective measures will be taken instantly.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no supplementary questions, we shall now move on to Starred question No.6

STARRED QUESTION NO.6

STATUS OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY 2- DOYANG BRIDGE TO VK TOWN

<p>SHRI NUKLUTOSHI (NPP) MEMBER</p> <p>Will the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister-in-charge of PWD(National Highway) be pleased to state:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The reason for delay in starting the two-lane expansion of NH-2(NH 61 old) from Doyang Bridge to VK Town i.e. from 101 km to 125 km. 2. To which firm the work has been allotted for the specific portion of the highway. 	<p>SHRI T.R. ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AND MINISTER—IN-CHARGE (PWD) NATIONAL HIGHWAY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The work had to be rendered due to termination of the first contractor on 3rd July 2023. The appointed date of the project for the new contractor has been declared as 18th June, 2024. Presently, the Landowners Union NH-2(VK Area) has stopped the work on account of non-receipt of Land Compensation. 2. M/S Kaushal Sharma, Tinsukia, Assam.
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SHRI NUKLUTOSHI (NPP): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied with the answer but still I have a supplementary question. What further steps the department is taking regarding the land owner compensation issue? Has the Minister of Road Transport released the funds for the compensation?

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, MINISTER-IN- CHARGE, NATIONAL HIGHWAYS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are fully aware that the Committee in this stretch of road between Doyang towards Mokokchung and five villages from Zunheboto district are suffering and there is urgent need to carry out the work. But we have several problems in this road. The first problem was that Fortune Company Ltd was awarded on 22nd Sept, 2022 and later on it was detected by the department that he had produced a fake bank guarantee so ultimately the contract agreement was terminated and the new tender was invited, and now the new contractor has been appointed i.e. M/S Kaushal Sharma Pvt. Ltd. Here, I would like to elaborately explain for the benefit of the Members. Initially, after I took over as National Highway-in-charge we coordinated the first meeting in the Chief Secretary's Conference Hall inviting the Border Road NHIDCL and NH (PWD). I questioned NHIDCL that other states are getting land compensation on every National Highway but why Nagaland is deprived of this privilege? That was my question to them, and then the ED (Executive Director) NHIDCL replied that your state Chief Secretary has written to us that the state doesn't require land compensation but requires only damage compensation. That is why we did not include the scope of the land compensation in preparation of DPR, only damage compensation is incorporated in the DPR. So, I asked them to show me that letter and they told me to give them 2/3 days to bring the letter. So, after 2/3 days, they brought the letter written by our former Chief Secretary Lt. Temjen Toy. And Temjen Toy's letter was based on the minutes of Chief Secretary and another Chief Secretary Benchilo Thong's meeting with Secretary, Works & Housing and NHIDCL official, i.e., General Manager, NHIDCL at Dimapur. The meeting minute clearly mentioned that will claim only for green area damage compensation and will not claim for land compensation. That was minuted on 20th November, 2015. So, based on this, Temjen Toy has written to MD, NHIDCL, that this letter has generalized. The first meeting minute was confined to Kohima-Jessami road, but this Temjen Toy's letter has generalized for the whole of Nagaland.

I will read only a portion, but I will give you the whole copy, 'it will also be appreciated that with the aim to have faster development of Inter-State connectivity project, provision of land free of cost for two lane project in Nagaland has been adopted unlike that in other State.' Another portion is, 'May I therefore request you to consider compensation in lieu of land compensation

for Kohima-bypass portion passing through green field and apply free land policy on alignment passing through existing road where only damage compensation is to be entered. I also assured that judicious land rate will be apply within the normative cost in the State for this project. In view of this, I request your personal intervention for speedy implementation of Kohima-bypass also the Kohima-Mao sector may kindly be taken up in order to provide seamless corridor'. So, based on this letter, the whole of Nagaland was deprived of getting land compensation.

No. 2, Initially, when the DPR was prepared for this particular stretch of road Doyang passing through V. K. Town upto Ajiqami village, 6 villages are there. Before preparation of DPR all the land owners informed through an affidavit, they have issued NOC that they will not claim for land compensation in all the 6 villages, countersigned by DC, Head Dobashi and Executive Engineer, National Highway which was registered in Notary Public Office in Mokokchung. So, accordingly, the Department of National Highway, PWD, they prepared the DPR only for damage compensation so after sanction was accorded damage compensations were paid in all the 6 villages and since land compensation was outside the scope of the DPR that was not paid. But now, after the first contractor was terminated, tender was invited to appoint the second contractor, so, second contractor was appointed, till such time the land owner also kept silent. But, before starting the work by M/s. Kaushal Sharma Pvt. Ltd, the land owner's association approached the State Government that land compensation should be paid to them. And they came and met me representing these 6 villages. I explained to them that you have issued NOC that you will not claim for land compensation. Accordingly, DC, Zunheboto has issued NOC and Right of Way (RoW) to the Department. Now, after seeing that 2 Chief Secretary's letter, I went to our Chief Minister, whether any Cabinet decision is taken that we will not claim for land compensation or any decision is taken in the Assembly, then Hon'ble Chief Minister, said, 'no' we have never taken such decisions, so, in that case, we have to supersede this two letters because there is procedural lapses, Chief Secretary cannot take political decision on issue of land, decision should be taken by Cabinet or by this House. So, Chief Minister advised me to take up the matter in the Cabinet and let us supersede these letters. Accordingly, we prepared a Cabinet Memo and cabinet had decided on 6th November, 2023 that we will be having the right to claim land compensation which was notified on 29th November, 2023. But, in that Cabinet Memo, we have clearly mentioned that, henceforth, either rightly or wrongly when Chief Secretary has communicated to the NHIDCL head office and MoRTH that is State Government letter because every communication is made by the Chief Secretary and not by the Chief Minister, Minister or anybody, Chief Secretary has to communicate the decision of the State Government to Central Government. So, if you have

problem, it is your internal problem, we have received from Chief Secretary so prior to that Cabinet decision we cannot do anything. So, this is the position where we cannot help our land owners because this road was sanctioned in 2020 whereas, Chief Secretary's letter minute was in 2018 which was before the sanctioning of this road, it falls in between so, Cabinet superseded the letter of Chief Secretary for this portion of road. However, if they still claim for land compensation, for State Government we are helpless but at the most if they want, they can go to court and let the court decide.

Now, the present contractor has written two letters to DC and Executive Engineer, National Highway, Mokokchung to start the work, they want to start the work, they have written a letter to settle the issue of land owners first but we could not settle the issue of land owners because of these factors. Somewhere the State Government also we had mistaken but most important is not only on this road, most of the National Highway land owner used to issue inform through affidavit that they will not claim for land compensation, in non-judicial stamp paper countersigned by DC and all. But latter on they want to claim land compensation in most of the roads, today we are suffering because of that. Niuland to Zhadima is not completed and package-I, Niuland area, 3 villages stopped the contractor for not paying land compensation. So, it is now 3-4 years that the road could not be completed but in the first place they have issued the NOC in this manner I want to hand over this paper to Hon'ble Speaker containing the Chief Secretary's letter and the NOC affidavit of the landowner's of six villages stating that they will not claim for land compensation so these are the problems now at hand. Of late we have met the Land Owners Association two three times and we have explained the position of the State Government, any sanction that comes after 28th November, 2023 we will be claiming land compensation and Government of India also has agreed to that for example Mokokchung to Tuensang then Tuensang to Shamator iron bridge that portion Government of India is asking us to incorporate land compensation and damage compensation in the DPR. Accordingly, now we are preparing the DPR incorporating land compensation provision and damage compensation provision but the problem that we are facing is on this particular stretch of road that was sanctioned before we took a decision. So, the concerned MLAs of that VK area and concerned MLAs from Mokokchung District if you can also discuss with the land owners and resolve this issue the contractor is ever ready to start the work any time, thank you Speaker Sir.

SHRI NUKLUTOSHI (NPP): Speaker Sir, I am satisfied with the replies from the Minister-In-Charge as we all know that this road is very important and we are facing problems every day and since the six villages have given the undertaking that they will not take land compensation Government should take action, after giving the undertaking how can they say that they can claim the land compensation because Minister of Road and Transport before receiving the work

order pay the compensation while preparing the DPR we include the compensation so, to get this compensation from the Ministry is impossible now so since they have taken the undertaking we did not claim the compensation in the DPR. So, I think the Government should take action against these six villages since we have their undertaking we cannot continue delaying this we have to do the work. I want assurance from the Leader of the House that something should be done immediately whether action taken or from Ministry because there is no option to get compensation, thank you Sir.

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, PLANNING AND TRANSFORMATION, NATIONAL HIGHWAY:

We will take up the matter with Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner will have to handle the situation not by PWD Department, thank you.

SHRI IMKONG L. IMCHEN (BJP) ADVISOR, INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS, SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION:

Sir, just a supplementary to the relevant question and answer. The government any given government has the mandate to take decision in matter of policy under Article 309 I think in the Indian Constitution the Cabinet has the mandate to take policy decision here as rightly mentioned by our Deputy Chief Minister in-charge of National Highways or the Chief Secretary who ever may be cannot take decision on behalf of the government, in other words he is not empowered to take shelter under Article 309 but the Honorable Cabinet has the mandate to take this power conferred under Article 309 and therefore superseding the Chief Secretary's letter not requiring land compensation other than damage compensation, the Honorable Cabinet has the full competenceto supersede the Chief Secretary's letter. Secondly, talking in terms of policy matters and procedural things years and years have been lapsed people are losing economy and it is losing in a big way. Doyang to VK it takes almost one hour which should be covered by 30 minutes or in a good road condition it will take only 20 minutes. Now Sir, to take by force I do not think it will be a wise step on the part of the Government to initiate forceful action on these six mentioned villages, I think they have become hostile to their own Affidavit that they will not claim land compensation but only damage compensation. They have become hostile to their own Affidavit and therefore the latter position has taken precedence over the former and therefore whatever the land owners as conferred under Article 371A which is a Parliamentary law we cannot supersede to that and therefore while talking over the procedural things people of that area are suffering every day and therefore I wanted to supplement in this way that the matter should be taken up at the Chief Minister level, to the Union Transport Minister and to the NHIDCL. It is only an organisation of public undertaking but not a full fledged Government of India organization. The Minister-In-Charge is the nodal authority to take decision in this context, now if we follow the reply made by the Hon'ble Deputy

Chief Minister right now in the House if we follow that line it will take another 10-20 years by that time the road will be vanished and therefore, I want to appeal to the Leader of the House to kindly intervene from his level so that a political decision is taken properly and effectively and work is being implemented. This is the issue I was raising in the Budget session also and therefore supplementing to our Hon'ble Members I wanted to urge the Government and the Leader of the House to kindly take up the issue at his level to the Government of India, thank you Sir.

SHRI N. JACOB ZHIMOMI (BJP) MINISTER, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING,

COOPERATION: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, please allow me few minutes, as pointed out by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister-In-Charge of National Highway in most of the portions we have paid damage compensation as far as this Capital Road is concerned in Package-III, I am just taking one example but the roads have not been completed this work was issued during 2017 towards the end of 2016 and 2017 so, we have paid the damage compensation but works have not been completed in those stretches and since we agree now as shared by National Highway Hon'ble Minister, henceforth we are going to proceed and we are going to pay land compensation to the land owners that is the PWD, we are going to submit to the ministry. But here, I am seeing some sort of uprising from the land owners especially in some areas, for example Niuland package-3. They have paid them damage compensation but if we start paying land compensation after taking cabinet decision though we are yet to discuss, but since we have laid in the Assembly today, we will be superseding those letters of the then Chief Secretary. So, this is going to create a problem unless we try to find out some solution because they are not going to agree and we are going to suffer. They will also suffer but government will also suffer because they are not going to let the contractors start their work and this road is going to play a very crucial role for the entire Nagas. Till 10th Mile if you come towards that bridge junction, it is completed but that side is going to be a problem, I foresee those issues. So this is not the fault of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, he has nothing to do with it, it is the fault of some officers who have taken the decision perhaps but if we say henceforth, what is the solution for those projects which are not completed? If it is completed its not an issue because it is completed since they are bringing NOC they may not take land compensation but they are aware of this situation and the government is taking the decision to pay land compensation henceforth. In many places in the entire State, considerable amount of projects have not been completed where work orders were issued in 2017 and early part of 2018. So, these are some of the concerns of the land owners and the contractors and this matter has been brought up to the government, it is a very important issue. So, these are also same for those projects not completed, which are half way. So what solution are we going to contemplate I think it is very

important since they are not going to agree as far as my knowledge is concerned so I think we should do something about this issue also. Thank you.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER: Speaker Sir, I want to intervene it's good that Deputy Chief Minister who is in-charge of National Highway had highlighted the issue of land National Highways compensation to be carried out. I want to also inform the House, I was fortunate to hold the Work & Housing Department not R & B but Work & Housing Department in the year 1993 as a Minister. And why I am going back to 1993 during my time, even today everybody wants development and first development is road connectivity to their respective districts, administrative quarters and the villages. And under our State no road construction land compensation was paid. Only the National Highway they have provision for land compensation. This should not be mixed up because we don't have money also to build the road for the State how can we pay compensation, you want development you give your land, you give cooperation, it's a joint venture, so let us not mix up with this. But as stated by the Deputy Chief Minister in-charge of National Highway that mistake was seen, now I don't want to blame the villagers either, they want the road, they want good road that is why like any other district roads, state roads they may agree to not take land compensation, they must have volunteered and the department is habitual of not to give land compensation so some gave no objection, even in the Foothill road which we have been talking in this House for a long time. This time I met the Minister-in-charge of MoRTH and he confided to me what the Prime Minister told him and that we should formulate these bigger projects and come to the Prime Minister level for this issue, so he gave a hope. Now in that also since it is not a National Highway we requested the land owners to donate and since it is a State road, the day National Highway is taken over then we can ask for compensation but still in this also if the PSUs, NHIDCL can take the road we may have an opportunity to discuss also but since this road is not National Highway, we have no right to claim. Regarding the old cases I think with legal opinion State Government should make a study whether we can claim, whether we have the right, we must go for legal consultation and not individually but as a State we should go to court if National Highway compensation is not given to us. We are not committing but I think it is a mistake which was committed because of the system we have but any kind of development, road sector or land ownership issue, development cannot be accelerated. It takes a long time to resolve land issues. So I think now whoever is Minister-in-charge should have more studies on your department and if you have doubt then you should also discuss with the ministry at the department level or even at the state level. We have made the wrong and we have taken cabinet decision, communication is given to the ministry and from the ministry they had agreed, So henceforth, there will be no issue but National Highway they have specific rates so don't

demand what you call market rate or your rate it should be ministry rate, only then we can have some development in our State. We have gone well ahead but anyway thank you for giving me time.

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, NATIONAL

HIGHWAYS: Speaker Sir, for clarity Chief Minister has clarified and one portion is very clear. Under CRIF, under Road and Bridges ISC, Inter State Connectivity or Mission Road under NAC there is no provision for damage compensation, there is provision for land compensation that should be very clear. Land owners should not claim any damage compensation or land compensation in the one road. Niuland to Zhadima road is under ISC, Inter State Connectivity, not National highway road, so demanding the land compensation is outside the preview of our guideline. Whatever has been paid is from contractor's pocket, not from the Government let us be very clear on that. Now National Highway, till 2018 February, we had paid all land compensation. For example, Dimapur to Kohima four lane road, there is no complains from any land owner because all land owners has been paid damage compensation plus land compensation. Dimapur bypass four lane roads, Khakati to Patkai junction all compensation has been paid, land compensation plus damage compensation, so there is no problem from land owners. The problem starts from the Chief Secretary's Minute with NHIDCA, 2018 and 2020 November letter, so between 2018 – 2023, whatever has been sanctioned we have less right to claim for land compensation. But the word henceforth, we have mentioned now, so from 28th November 2023, all National Highway in Nagaland, we have every right to claim for land compensation plus damage compensation. But the problem is between 2018 and 2023 let us be very clear so that we can inform our land owners they should understand the situation that we are facing in the State. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Hon'ble Members. We have gone beyond the period prescribed for the Question Hour, so that will be the end of Question Hour. I want to inform the House that I have received a notice for Zero Hour Discussion moved by Hon'ble Member Mhonbemo Humtsoe, however, I would like to take the sense of the House to take a small break before we take up the Zero Hour. By convention set by Rule of Procedure, the Zero Hour has to be taken up immediately after the Question Hour. But in this case since we have taken much time in the Question Hour, I would like to take a small break.

(The House Agreed)

In that case I would adjourn the House for 15 minutes tea break

(The House adjourned for tea break at 11:20 A.M)

(The House re-assembled at 12:00 Noon)

ZERO HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I now call the House to order, we will resume with our business. Before we move on to Item No. 3 as I have announced earlier before the adjournment for tea, I have received a notice from Hon'ble Member Shri. Y. Mhonbemo Humtsoe seeking for Zero Hour discussion to raise an important matter pertaining to Oil and Natural Gas Exploration in Nagaland. I now request the Hon'ble Member to take the time, for 10 minutes.

SHRI Y. MHONBEMO HUMTSOE (NCP): Hon'ble and most revered keeper of this fountain of liberty and justice Mr. Speaker Sir, in all humility I rise before your seat of grace to thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of Urgent Public Importance under Rules-49 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in this august House during this Zero Hour. Most honorable and learned leader of the Fourteenth House and my dear esteemed honorable Members, I take this opportunity to raise a brief abstract about the exploration and extraction of Oil and Natural Gas in the State of Nagaland so as to ponder upon the interest of every Naga and their future.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Champang Oil block spanning an area of 12 sq.kms consisting of Champang and Old Tsori Villages under Wokha District was awarded to the ONGC 51 years ago by the Government of India, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in the year 1973, during the erstwhile nomination era for the purpose of exploration and exploitation of crude oil from the fore mentioned areas. There upon, the ONGC drilled a total number of 31 oil wells in this block, production of crude oil from this block started in 1980 and out of the 31 number of wells drilled, 21 wells produced high quality crude oil and 2 wells produced Gas. As per the statement of the then Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in response to an Unstarred Question No. 1093 asked by Shri Tokheho Yepthomi the then Hon'ble MP of Lok Sabha on 7th December 2008, it is ascertained that from 1980-1994, the cumulative crude oil production by ONGC from these fields was 1.036 million metric tonnes. However, in May 1994, the Government of Nagaland as well as the ONGC was pressurized by the student's community and mass based social organizations to abruptly stop ONGC operation in Champang and Old Tsori Block. As per the report published in the Telegraph newspaper on 11th May 2012, the production rate of crude oil from Champang oil block during the period 1980-1994 was approximately 250 metric tonnes per day which is approximately 4453 barrels per day. Furthermore, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Estimates Committee in its 1998-1999 second report stated that the ONGC paid an amount of Rs. 33,29,17,727.70 /- only to the

Government of Nagaland as a crude royalty for the period from 1980-1994, i.e for 14 (fourteen) years. From this, an amount of Rs. 67,57,000 /- only was paid to the oil bearing land owners and the affected villagers of Champang and Old Tsori Villages by the Government of Nagaland as a commission to be distributed among the oil bearing land owners and every affected household of Champang and Old Tsori Villages under the direct supervision of the District Administration Wokha, Nagaland. This matter of Urgent Public Importance much as I wish cannot be brought to the knowledge of the Members of this august House merely for want of time but I have a hope for detail discussion in the near future.

Mr. Speaker Sir, now the loss of Revenue royalty by the State of Nagaland from May 1994 till today from Champang Block alone will be in terms of thousands of crores if calculated using the administered pricing mechanism era and the post administered pricing mechanism era calculations. In reality, if ONGC or any other National Oil Company had continued exploration and production activities in the last 30 years commencing from 1994 not only in Champang Oil Block but also in other probable oil bearing areas in Nagaland, the actual production of crude oil would be more than tenfold of the production of the period from 1980-1994.

Hence, anybody can conclude that the State of Nagaland has actually incurred a loss to the tune of tens of thousands of crores of rupees for not utilizing our natural resources till date. Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a considerable amount which would have significant impact in the economic development of the State. Needless to say that, this amount could have also contributed to affecting the improvement in the quality of living standard of the citizens of the State. Looking back at our past experience Mr. Speaker Sir, and learning from it, and with the objective of harnessing our rich and free natural resources to benefit the State and the people, it is imperative that the impasse as bitter to experience be addressed at the earliest possible time and that resources be leveraged so as to impact the economic goals that the Government of the day so eagerly desires. I must also add that the stake holding land owners too are now in earnest and forthcoming to support the Government in its effort to justly utilize our God bestowed gifts in the form of our abundant natural resources such as oil and natural gas and many other minerals to benefit all the Nagas.

Furthermore, as per the data provided by the then Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India to Shri Tokheho Yepthomi the then Hon'ble MP of Nagaland on 21st July, 2022 on the amount of crude oil being extracted by ONGC in the eight numbers of oil fields that operates in the Disturbed Area Belt (DAB) areas within Assam and Nagaland in the last five years i.e. from 2018 to 2022 in total is 6,57,432 metric tonnes that is 49,04,442.72 barrels. Calculating the royalty at the then current rate of crude oil, it amounts to

Rs. 3399.79 crores out of which the royalty amount paid entirely only to the Assam Government is Rs 553 crores. Therefore, if the Government of Assam and Nagaland agreed to share 50/50 of the royalty proceeds of DAB oil areas, Nagaland Government would have Rs. 276.50 crores as the share of their royalty from sale of crude oil extracted from the DAB areas during the period mentioned above. For reasons of unresolved issues Mr. Speaker Sir, we are unjustly deprived of huge monetary benefits. For a small State like ours, this amount could fund numerous infrastructural developments for different modes of transport mobility, factories for Agro based products, health care, education and sports etc. that in turn will transform our State and will also generate employment opportunities for a young and energetic generation. Taking all the Nagas into confidence Mr. Speaker Sir, I am convinced of the good will and the desire of every Nagas especially the Members of this august House for building a future where every citizen of our State will enjoy the benefits of our economic vision and concerted efforts for the common good. This issue is solely taken up for the benefit of all concerns so that the Nagas could at least one day salvage an economic independence for our people in the near future.

Thank you all.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon'ble Member, let us now move on to item No. 3. Reporting on Assent to Bills. The Secretary-in-charge of the Assembly to report the assent of the Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland to the following Bills as listed.

SMT KHRUOHITUONUO RIO, SECRETARY-IN-CHARGE, NLA: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I beg to report the assent of the Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland to the following Bills passed by the Assembly.

1. The Nagaland Salaries, Allowances & other facilities of the Chief Minister, Speaker, Deputy Chief Minister/Minister, Leader of Opposition, Deputy Speaker and other Members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly and Pension for Ex-Members (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024.
2. The Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Eight Amendment) Bill, 2023
3. Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2024
4. Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now move on to item No. 4. Discussion on Matters of Urgent Public Importance Under Rule-50. I have received a noticed from Hon'ble Advisor Shri Moatoshi Longkumer, Hon'ble Minister Shri Temjen Imna Along and Hon'ble Advisor Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome for discussion on Matters of Urgent Public Importance pertaining to Health Hazards of Spurious Liquor under Rule-50 and I have admitted it to be taken up today. I have also received

a list of Members who wish to participate and speak on this subject matter. I will call out the names of the participants one after the other. I encourage all the Hon'ble Members to be judicious and concise to the point in your submission. Now to start the discussion I would like to give time to Hon'ble Advisor Shri Moatoshi Longkumer to initiate the discussion.

SHRI MOATOSHI LONGKUMER (NDPP) ADVISOR, LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT & SKILL DEVELOPMENT, EXCISE:

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I rise to initiate the discussion on the issue of NLTP Act, 1989 for which I would like to thank our Hon'ble Speaker for giving us the privilege to discuss this subject under the Matters of Urgent Public Importance Under Rule-50. Hon'ble Speaker Sir the NLTP Act, 1989 came into force in 1990 with high expectation of bringing about social change and a peaceful environment but unfortunately the success of the NLTP Act, 1989 has been widely impaired in spite of more than three decades of enforcement due to many underlying factors that undermined to achieve the intended objectives, such as lack of awareness campaign and dissemination on adverse effect on consumption of alcohol, lack of providing alternative source of income to the traditional local brewers. One of the major impediment on the effective implementation of the Act is the porous border of Nagaland that we share with Assam, 510 km which makes it impossible to be curbed against smuggling by any law enforcement agencies be it Nagaland police or the excise personnel of the State. Besides, there are not less than 19 bonded warehouse and distilleries in the bordering State of Assam, taking advantage of its proximity with Dimapur, township like Lahorijan, Khatkhathi Assam have basic economy on liquor supply to the State. Effective enforcement of the Act is not possible with a meager 336 Nagaland excise personnel for the entire state coupled with outdated firearms such as 303 air rifle and shortage of motor vehicles for mobility. Now I would like to highlight the negative consequences of the NLTP Act, 1989.

1) Mushrooming of illegal bootleggers and formation of syndicate to ever rising demand of the market.

2) The spurious and inferior quality of alcohol which flooded the market that is causing serious health hazard leading to untimely death amongst the Naga youth and also on the regular users. It is plain to see for everyone, hundreds of liquor outlets in and around Dimapur and Kohima along have flourished in the guise of soft drink corners. These outlets are operating openly without fear of the law enforcement and public outrage. To this issue hitherto no civil society organization have come forward to point fingers or raise questions.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, other negative impact such as diversion to deadlier substitution. Many youths have taken recourse to other substitutes like drugs and narcotics in the absence of

alcohol. The diversion to deadlier alternative has the potential to wipe out the whole generation if left un-addressed. The alarming rise in the abuse of drugs such as sunflower is prevalent in rampant scale among the younger generation today. This is a disturbing trend emerging in our society which is perilous and will have serious consequences for the younger generation in future. The spurs in the incidence of AIDs in Nagaland prevalence rate as per the data is 0.76 among adults, third largest in the country, is the direct result of the liquor being confined to the dark fringes of our society. All along the border vicinity of Assam-Nagaland there is numerous liquor joints which promote promiscuity and the recent phenomena in the rise of the number of local call girls threaten to eat into the very fabric of our social setup. The unemployment scenario in the State amidst the financial constraint unemployment rate is at all time high which can only accentuate with the yearly influx of fresh graduates as there are no other avenue in the absence of private sector participation. In this scenario, the State needs to capitalize on whatever available means of employment generating mechanism to develop its human resources and its infrastructures. Adverse effect on the sector of economy, sectors like tourism, hotels industries, hospitality sector and horticulture are some of the ancillary industries that has been badly affected due to the prohibition law which unfortunately stifle the growth potential of the income and employment generating sector. These industries will greatly benefit from a regime change. Therefore, Hon'ble Speaker Sir, a revisit to the NLTP Act 1989, will be an important step. In this direction, I assure you, in the events of any amendment of the NLTP Act 1989, the Department shall intensify the enforcement of the NLTP Act 1989 in certain manner that weekly, dry day, Sundays, all State and National holidays shall be strictly enforced, timing regulation in retail stores business hours shall be maintained, regulated timing of bar, retro's, lounges where licenses is issued, maximum age bar for the consumer shall be 21 years, and above and many other restrictions deem fit shall be enforced by the Department, and other stringent clause and penalty on violation of Government Notified stipulation. With this submission I would invite all our Hon'ble Members to have a serious discussion and deliberation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, Shri Temjen Imna Along.

SHRI TEMJEN IMNA ALONG (BJP) MINISTER, TOURISM AND HIGHER EDUCATION: Thank you Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on Matter of Urgent Public Importance under Rule-50, issue pertaining to Health Hazard of Spurious Liquor. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, for more than 30 years the NLTP Act 1989 which came into effect in 1999 has been enforced as a direct result of the effectiveness which is happening today. The Police, the Excise and the concerned Departments had tried their best and the

result of its assertiveness towards enforcing this by the concerned Department has raised to more bootleggers and resorting to spurious liquor in all forms all over the State which is completely ruining the health of especially the young people all over the State. Needless to speak and much ado about the NLTP Act 1989, being able to be enforced in our State there are many things and many people voicing out. As I was looking in the newspaper this morning and pondering on how to go about speaking in your august leadership and in the presence of the august Members, it came about in the newspaper in the Nagaland Post and I thought this would be best. I will read out a little bit and to be pondered upon by all the people. In the Page 6, Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I assure you I have not ask them to write this today morning, and I believe responsible citizens have written this by one Dr. Kahuka Sema, Family Health Clinic Hospital, Dimapur. I will just read it out fast, 'Observation on NLTP Act 1989'. Nagaland has been a dry State since 1989 following the enactment of the Nagaland Liquor Total prohibition (NLTP) Act which was passed under pressure from churches, NMA and the civil societies due to rising social issues related to alcohol abuse. Over three decades later, discussions about lifting/revisiting the NLTP Act have been tabled to be discussed in the upcoming Assembly Session.

His opinion on the potential outcome of the situation following the decision in the Assembly can be any one as below that is the writer's presumption:

1. **Lifting the Prohibition:** The State Assembly may pass a Bill to lift the prohibition. This could lead to protests from churches and others. However, the government might ultimately succeed in implementing the change.

He has a wonderful perception

1. **Status Quo Maintained:** The Act may not be lifted, resulting in continued partial restrictions as it is now. This scenario could be embarrassing for all. The people may lose more faith in the Church as well as in the government although this may not be a new thing.

It has been going on for the past more than 30 years

1. **Strengthened Enforcement:** The Act might remain in place with intensified enforcement although this may remain for sometime only. This could lead to an increase in the sale of spurious liquor, exacerbating health issues and economic costs due to restricted sales. The situation will be far worse than the very reason why the Act was enacted in the first place. We can expect our own version of Hooch tragedy and an increase in mortality and morbidity from alcohol use disorders.

The writer says, I personally favour the NLTP Act to continue. However, if prohibition is lifted, there may not be significant increase in the alcohol related health issues. On the contrary, alcohol users may benefit as spurious liquor consumption will be decreased significantly.

In such a scenario, the Church can continue to play a significant role in addressing alcohol related problems within a community through various strategies and initiatives like Education and Awareness Workshops and Seminars for church leaders as well as for its congregation.

Integration of spiritual and psychological approaches through counseling will have a significant impact on those seeking spiritual healing alongside recovery.

I believe that the best counselor to deal with a person with alcohol related disorder is a trained counselor with a spiritual background. After all, the time a person repents is often when the person is physically and spiritually at their lowest. And a little bit on the liquor prohibition, let Government decide what is best by Mr. Along Longkumer, former Editor, The Morung Express. At the end of his paragraph, he writes, interestingly the Church while asserting that “revisiting the NLTP Act was not the solution”, has instead advised the Government that “the focus should be on increasing transparency and accountability in governance”. I believe this advisory is equally applicable to the Church in Nagaland. Both should take steps to cleanse the corrupt system from within including the problem of illegal black money.

Lastly, if at all the NLTP Act is lifted (partially or fully), the public should demand that a specific provision is inserted to the proposed amendment where it is clearly mentioned as to how and where the revenue collected will be used for. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) may be created under an appropriate authority to use the revenue for specific sectors like health, education and road infrastructure. Hon’ble Speaker Sir, out of the many that comes out in the paper and in social media, out of the many opinions generated some totally banning it, taking it into moral consideration, some saying that a responsible State with responsible people, youngsters in the new generation, the 22nd generation coming up where responsible drinking is also part and parcel of a social structure and community.

Under Rule - 50, Sir, you have considered to receive this notice and bring into discussion. And yesterday as the Cabinet was speaking with all the Members of the opposition less Government, I was very much excited to know the fact that the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Nagaland, our Leader and you our Hon’ble Speaker have decided to admit this to discuss and discourse on this health hazards of spurious liquor. Before it has been admitted to consider for

any kind of amendment or not which is not possible. According to our learned leader uncle Imkong Imchen, it is to discuss and discourse on this health hazards and all these problems that are being created in varied ways touching various strata of our society. I believe that Hon'ble Chief Minister and your leadership has brought about a time where all Nagas of Nagaland, all the citizens have to hear out and then come to a conclusive idea where the best for our people can be meted out. I would like to also request all opinions in the society, all opinions in the community and in the organisations to be able to come forward to discuss and discourse. Until and unless we do that just threatening each other or talking from backdoor and side door and throwing stones at each other will never be able to mitigate the actual need and the aspiration of our people. No man is more learned than anyone else other than when we come together and sit to discuss and discourse for the growth and prosperity of our people in every way. And such is an issue of the Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition Act, 1989, times have changed, 30 years plus have gone by, it is time that we resonate to the problems which are effecting our society, to be discussed and discoursed, and the government of the day under the Hon'ble Chief Minister and all of you have to take a decisive decision, knowing very well both the implications, the pros and the cons of this NLTP Act which is going on today.

Lastly, I would like to conclude by just saying that no country or no state, many would call it as a sarcasm but which have put total liquor prohibition has ever been able to effectively go ahead within. There are always the bootleggers who benefit out of it in the greatest manner. We hope that even after this discussion and discourse on the NLTP Act, 1989, we hope that the bootleggers of Nagaland are not the winners. Thank you, Hon'ble Speaker Sir.

MR SPEAKER: I would now like to give time to Hon'ble Member, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome.

Dr. KEKHRIELHOULIE YHOME (NDPP) ADVISOR FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION AND

SCERT: Hon'ble Speaker, thank you so much for giving us the time and also under Rule-50 we have put our submissions so, I thank you on behalf of my two other Hon'ble Members also.

Under Rule-50, the discussion on Spurious Liquor and its effects, hazards, we are here not to make an amendment neither can we put a resolution on this. So, I thank you for putting up this matter of public concern which should be a matter of discussion. My fear for public nouns will not allow me to use certain nouns but the debate, the crusade against this chemical in the form of spirit has been there before us. I for one, the younger generation, we have our own ideals and I know specially for the older generation 30 years is a long time.

I also represent a constituency where we have the highest church density, i.e., 10th Northern Angami and I am also proud or not proud to say that we have the highest density of bootlegger

shops. The lifting of prohibition, I believe will not increase the existing flow of liquor in my area, given our geographical challenges there are pockets where liquors are flowing up and down. And of course, when you hold the bottle, when you hold the spirit, there is already a consumer advisory, that it is injurious to health, we need not mention, the State regulates certain food items, certain food choices for the public and accordingly it is put into the market, alcohol being one. And therefore, whether we should open it or not open it, I think, it is a matter of discussion.

There are two thoughts here, one is, we need to deal with the public society, we need to deal with civil society, the church and stakeholders, discuss with them because there is a common feeling that lifting of prohibition is going to create anarchy, it will take away from our God, it will bring a lot of dis-harmony. We all know the ill effects of drinking and smoking, there is nothing to say. But, here, we are talking about the presence of spurious liquor because there has been no regulation in the flow of liquor into our State. And therefore, today the discussion here is, we are elected by the public and we cannot afford to go against the public. And therefore, the other school of thought is, do we discuss with them or we do not. For those who feel that we should discuss with them that is what we are playing our role as public leaders, for those who do not feel that we should not discuss with them, the fear is that it will be like the frog inviting the snake for his birthday party.

No civilizations have been destroyed by booze or liquor, there is no such history like that. As a younger generation I would like to impress upon everybody that the color of food has got nothing to do with eating, food culture has got nothing to do with cultures or civilizations. Today, we are demonizing liquor and I think this taste very bad for the young society and for the younger generation, the rule of law must be applied, there shall be respect for rule of law. At this rate there may be anti-Christian movement even the crusades, there will be total anarchy so the patrimony of the white men's burden which we have inherited is what we see today and therefore, for us to educate our people I think we need to walk together. Today, the locus standi of certain sections of society is based on the believe that individual's liberty must be controlled in the interest of the public welfare and here I would also like to mention that personal liberty should not be allowed to mitigate or upsurge the interest of the community as a whole and here today, I must bring to your notice, when we fly over the Syrian States of the Arab world where liquor drinking is prohibited, the aeroplane flying over these countries do not serve alcohol till we cross their borderlines. Have we applied that same principle as a prohibition State, because in the middle of the night so many international flights are crossing over Nagaland, shall we put to rules that there shall not be serving of liquor? So, to bring to the point here and I will end here, the idea of demonizing liquor is bad state, it is bad for the younger

generation, the kind of multi crore buildings which exist even in the poorest of poor villages and the kind of Shariah laws, kind of fanaticism which is driving us against the demonization of a particular food, I think this are personal choices we need to also know that, with the prohibition individual liberty has been curbed in the past, we cannot afford to go back to the medieval age or apply rules of medieval legislations because we definitely as my colleague Shri Imna Along has said, we are the 22nd century generation and our children should be taught that there cannot be anarchy and there has to be respect for rule of law and there is nothing wrong in drinking that is what I can bring to your notice Hon'ble Speaker Sir. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I now give time to Hon'ble Advisor Shri Kudecho Khamo.

SHRI KUDECHO KHAMO (NDPP) ADVISOR, CIVIL ADMINISTRATION WORK DIVISION, TAXES: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I thank you so much for giving me this time to participate in the discussion on the matter of Urgent Public Importance Under Rule-50 on "Health Hazards of spurious liquor" inline with the Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition Act (NLTP), 1989.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I take this privilege to express my profound gratitude to our almighty God and giving him all glory and honour for his faithfulness, his unfailing love and guidance. I must also thank the church leaders specially NBCC leaders of the bygone days who gave their hearts and souls to salvage our society when they saw the consumption of alcohol was destroying our society which some of the younger legislators like me have not seen in full nevertheless, we have all been adversely affected by it in one form or other way. It has adversely affected individuals, families and the society as a whole, it drains away our resources, economy, damages are talents, destroys our relationships and many more. Seeing these situations our churches backed by the civil society organisations spearheaded the movement and brought the NLTP Act of 1989 in which there may be some short comings in the Act and also failures in the implementation.

However, I consider the passing of this NLTP Act as a great achievement and a great blessing to all of us. Therefore, I thank those leaders who have listened to the voice of our churches and the civil society organisations for making the movement a success. We must also thank our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Neiphiu Rio for his tall leadership, his deep understanding of the sentiments and the voices of the churches, despite facing difficult situations many times when it comes to the NLTP Act.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, if we look at the positive aspect of the NLTP Act, the prohibition reflects the image of Nagaland as the land of Christianity and Nagaland for Christ which we all must cherish, uphold and strengthen it as a Christian and as people of God.

Hon'ble Sir, I as a representative of my constituency in particular and my Chakhesang tribe in general would like to state with confidence that we will continue to pray and support for strengthening this law. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would also like to make a mention in five perspectives here:

No.1. From the biblical point of view: *"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise"* Proverb 20:1. Drunkenness is abominable and a curse from God as it contradicts the righteous nature of God. Liquor has many ill effect on human life so indulging in it is against the Christians principles of upright living. If you look at the bible 1st Cor 6:9-11, it is made clear that the bible is against drunkenness.

No.2. Moral perspective: Consumption of alcohol liquor leads to drunkenness which destroys the morality and integrity of a person. Consumption of liquor has never and will never boost a personal morality, a moral person is always a sober person, indulgence in a wine or liquor damages one's integrity because there is nothing as such responsible drunkenness, they even compromised the societal moral standard of right and wrong, good and bad.

No.3. From the health perspective: Liquor is health hazardous as we already mentioned in our topic and whether it is spurious liquor or non-spurious liquor it is hazardous and it destroys our body which is abomination to God as we are created in the image of God. Although health is an individual concern it also affects the overall health of an individual, communities and State in general. Bootlegging business and spurious liquor etc. are few points which people argue with it but it will remain as a challenge in reality whether we ban it or open it. The only way forward to overcome these health and spurious issues is to strengthen the law which is in our hands. We find it difficult to control even with the law in our hands, it will be more disastrous if we give more rooms on the ground of health, bootlegging, spurious or any other excuses. From the financial perspective Sir, lifting of the Act will enable us to generate some revenue of few hundreds, crores but expenditure on consumption of liquor, health care services etc. will drain out more than what we earn. No one has saved money by drinking instead many people have become bankrupt just because of drinking habit as we all know. From the social point of view, alcohol consumption disturbs the very fabric of a family and personal relationship. One of the main causes of broken families in Naga society is consumption of alcohol. Liquor has not only affected families but brought social chaos and shame. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, as we all know that NLTP Act of 1989 has been instrumental in fostering healthier, safer and more cohesive atmosphere in Nagaland. Despite its challenges and limitations including enforcement issues and the potential of bootlegging business, flow of spurious liquor, the potential harm of

repealing the Act appears to outweigh any perceived benefits. The social and moral consequences of increased alcohol consumption, erosion of cultural values and strength of family structures must be carefully considered before thinking of altering the NLTP Act. Unless we take a decision to strengthen it, it will be a time not very far for us to call ourselves as Christians. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, as our state navigates these broader dilemmas, it is essential to prioritize the well-being of individuals and families more than anything else as money and development will have no value when our citizens are destroyed. Therefore, let us commit ourselves to freeing our home, streets, markets, offices, our work places, villages and our towns from the evils of liquor and project ourselves as a Christian state to the rest of the world so that God will continue to bless us, God will bless our leadership and God will bless our State. With these few words, I want to conclude. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I now give time to Hon'ble Advisor Shri. K. T. Sukhalu.

SHRI K. T. SUKHALU (NDPP) ADVISOR, FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLY, LEGAL METROLOGY:

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I like to thank you for giving the opportunity to discuss the Matter of Urgent Public Importance. I would like to inform all the Hon'ble Members, in 1989, I was the Under Secretary of Excise Department and I was given the responsibility to prepare the draft of this NLTP Act. As a young officer, I was just wondering, why are the Church leaders coming up with this demand, fasting unto death for imposition of NLTP Act? But perhaps, I was thinking that it will be good for our society because we, Nagas as usual do not have limits and when we go about doing a thing, we just go beyond the line. So, I was thinking perhaps this will bring in some sense of semblance in our social life. However, over the years past 30-34 years, we have seen whether it is a success or not. When it was announced all the liquor shops had to immediately sell-off or I do not know how they disposed off to the wind. But I do remember, reports that came to me saying that even the bounded warehouse were all shifting their goods to certain locations. And from day one of the imposition of NLTP Act goods has been flowing in Nagaland, it's a reality. Yes, we are all Christians and as mentioned by some of our Hon'ble colleagues, we said that we have declared 'Nagaland for Christ', a very good slogan not only for the State but for the world. Everybody appreciated that Nagas are really truly Christians. Perhaps, some even thought that we are going to overtake America who brought us Christianity. You know what is going on in Europe and America, what is happening to the Churches but here let us honestly sincerely look at our own State of affairs. As I mentioned we are all Christians, we all go to Church but as I was going through some messages, it said like this 'We all go to Church but are we going to the Church or are we going to Christ?' I am not a very regular Church goer but the days that I go, I see that we all are well-dressed and even if we look at each other, everyone seems to be very holy and at that rate I feel that our society is

so serene but when we go about our day-to-day activities, are we really Christians? Are we really Christians in our office? Are we really Christians in our private life? I have been very vocal about lifting of this prohibition Act. Earlier also I have been advocating that. Why? I see what is going around in our society. Spurious liquor, if I am not mistaken in the earlier ministry, our Hon'ble colleague Mr. Zhaleo Rio was the Excise Advisor. They had a meeting with the Civil societies, a presentation was also given in the Chief Minister's Office when the office was up there in the Old Chief Minister's Bungalow. The amount of alcohol contain in Beer is more than 20-30%, the amount of alcohol spirit in the Scotch whisky or in a rum is more than 50-60%. Many countries, many States in our country have tried to imposed this prohibition Act. Unfortunately, tested, tried but it failed. Look at Mizoram, they have also tried their best. I have gone to Mizoram on two three occasions for a meeting. We are not even allowed to take in liquor when we fly in but when we landed there during our meetings it was available. Today, Mizoram has also reconsidered their earlier decision. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it is time that we also seriously ponder over this. I believe, the 60 of us, when we went for our elections, we have also prayed to God if it is His will. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it is time that we also seriously ponder over this. I believe the 60 of us when we went for our elections, we have also prayed to God if it is His will. God has ordained us to be responsible for the governance and I am glad that we are taking this decision. I am not saying that it has to be lifted but we are discussing the various aspects of Prohibition Act. It's been 34 years now and we have given enough time for our societies to understand. Look at the daily newspapers, you will see organizations boldly stating that underaged people should not be allowed to the night clubs. Has the Government approved opening of clubs? Every nook and corner of all the towns, liquor is available. You go to the interiors, I have mentioned, you go to the Nagaland-Myanmar borders, our towns, I can assure you, liquor is available and if good liquor is available then it is alright but spurious as mentioned by our former Members, the hooch tragedy in Bihar and in the South and other parts of the country. Fortunately, may be our physical build are quite strong enough that even drinking all this spurious liquor does not have much affect resulting in mass deaths. But how many liquor cirrhosis are there, how many liver transplants are there. We have been mandated to take serious discussion on whether it has been beneficial for our State.

We talk about the youths, yes, employment is a big issue. I would like to refer to the earlier instances when we were in service, our Hon'ble Chief Minister had mooted an idea of Economic Zone in the border areas but then civil societies said 'NO'. If only we had developed the Economic Zone, many industries would have come up and many of our youths would have been engaged in one form of service or the other but today employment is another big problem, youths are becoming restless. Whoever can manage some resources are trying to make a living

but you know the situation in Nagaland, to open up a small shop also a number of taxations has come and youths get discouraged and, in their frustration, perhaps they are going into liquor and those who cannot afford to buy wine or whatever things they want to have, are going into drugs. For example, in the earlier House I had mentioned, one officer from the Intelligent department at Zunheboto, came and told me; Sir, we have a very serious problem, I said tell me. Young boys and girls are indulging in drugs, they cannot afford to buy drinks which is very expensive. How do they bring and how do they distribute, it's a shameful thing also, I would say but I believe young girls in small pouches can put in their undergarments and they go around. Who will suspect that young girls have been peddling drugs. Children wear school uniforms and go to school, parents are confident they have gone to school but in their school bags they carry their other dresses, they never attend classes, they change their dress and they are out and about. I am sure all the districts are having this problem. We cannot afford to be like ostrich burying our head in the sand. When we see reality, we must admit 'YES' we have a problem but just wishing it away it will not decipher by itself. So, if we are to continue with the NLTP Act, re-enforce it but like our honourable Advisor Excise had mentioned, the manpower is so less. This has been a matter of long discussion from before, the equipment that they have, the logistic issues that they have, we must take all these into consideration. Yes, I do respect my colleague who had mentioned about our faith and our lives, I do agree, there's no doubt about it but we must see what is in front of us, what we are holding in our hands and as legislators, 60 of us, it is time for us and it is our responsibility to legislate laws, amend laws if required for the betterment of our State, for the betterment of our society. Otherwise saying, ah! it will surely happen but it's never happening, 34 years is not a matter of joke. I wish to leave a good legacy for the younger generation, I wish that we the 60 legislators take decisions which will make life easier for our younger generation so that they can build on what we have built. But look at the social connectivity of today, the haves and have nots, the frustrated young people, how do we counsel them. I was hoping and I am sure some of our Medical Doctors here will also explain the hazards of illicit, adulterated things that is flowing in Nagaland.

I know we are only discussing, we are not saying that we are going to revoke today, if I am not mistaken. The honourable Leader of the House will amplify up the matter but I would like all of us to seriously ponder whether truly NLTP Act has been successful, thank you Hon'ble Speaker Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, since this is a very pertinent matter under discussion, we have a lot of participants who want to speak and participate. However, it is now time to break for lunch. Before I break for lunch, I want to inform the honourable Members and the House that today's lunch is hosted by Smt. Hekani Jakhalu, honourable Advisor, Industries &

Commerce. All the honourable Members including Ex-Parliamentarians, AHoDs, HoDs and our Media friends are requested to join for lunch at the Legislators' Home.

I would also like to make an announcement and bring it to your kind attention, a special request made by the honourable Advisor of Industries & Commerce, there is a launch programme of Raising and Accelerating (MSME) performance today at 2:30 p.m. after lunch at the Assembly Conference Hall. This will be held immediately after lunch break, this arrangement is made on the convenience of all the honourable Members as the honourable Advisor has expressed the importance of having your presence to support the initiative, your participation will greatly contribute to the success of the programme. So, all are requested to gather near the Assembly Library Hall at the time as mentioned, this is for the honourable Members.

Now, the discussion under Rule 50 will be continued after lunch. So, I adjourn the House for lunch break for one hour twenty minutes.

(The House Adjourned for lunch break at 1:11 p.m.)

(The House Re-assembled at 3:55 P.M)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, we will now resume our business and continue with item No.4 discussion under Rule-50 pertaining to "Health Hazards of Spurious Liquor". Before I had adjourn the House for lunch there was a programme which I had announced as we have all attended due to which we are delayed in resuming our business. There is just half an hour left till the prescribed time so I want to take the sense of the House so that we can continue to finish our business listed for today which may go beyond 5:00 PM. So, in continuation of our discussion now I shall give time to Hon'ble Member Shri P. Longon.

SHRI P. LONGON (NCP): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, thank you for the time. If this august House take up the NLTP Act into discussion, I would also like to join in the debate on behalf of my party NCP and on my own behalf. Whether or not it is always good to discuss and deliberate of such important Act, not only NLTP Act but also other Act so that all of us including our people in the grassroot level should know the merits and demerits of the Act, particularly this NLTP Act. Well, it has been 35 years since NLTP Act was enacted on 26 November 1989 but came into force from 1st December 1990. This Act was necessitated following the ill-effects of the consumption of liquors, effecting individuals, families and ruining the social harmony. Seeing this alarming distracted effect the demand for declaration of Dry State was launched which was spearheaded by Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) where church workers from all over Nagaland gathered in Kohima and declared fast unto death till government would agree to the demand for the total prohibition.

Speaker Sir, for Nagas's consumption of Liquor is a moral issue because it destroys both physical as well as spiritual aspect of life, ruining into your life, family and society. Alcohol is considered as mother of all evils. When a person is under the influence of alcohol one would not be aware of himself and the surroundings thereby decency and modesty of life is at stake. I would like to remind all of us from the scripture which discourage the consumption of alcohol, here quote "Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after the drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine. They have harps and lyres at their banquets, pipes and timbrels and wine, but they have no regard for the deeds of the Lord, no respect for the work of his hands. Therefore, my people will go into exile for lack of understanding; those of high rank will die of hunger and the common people will be parched with thirst". Isaiah 5:11-13. Thus, the words of God caution the people on the abuse of alcohol.

Speaker Sir, we presume and thought that we loss State revenue because of the imposition of NLTP Act yes, there is some element of truth in it we cannot deny but that is not only the reason. We can see the other side of the coin, for instance we have certain departments where we can earn or generate revenue like Power department, PHE department, NST department etc but the revenue generation is always less than the financial imputes made by the State government. There is no profit, it shows that our people is not honest and civilized as it ought to be. Therefore, even if we do lift NLTP Act partially or totally, it would come back to square one there won't be much impact as far as revenue collection is concerned rather, they will be a disastrous impact in our social life. I do not think this is wise move on our part as law makers and representatives of the people because it is against the wishes of majority citizens of the State.

Speaker Sir, in all aspects Nagas are still young not fully matured we still need prompting and guidance in one way or the other. We need some regulation to be guided to be matured and responsible citizens, we cannot compare our people with other people who have long stories of civilization in all aspects. If people of other State or people of other countries have no prohibition and face no issue of not having one, we have no reason to compare with them because we are not Americans, we are not Europeans or even immediate neighbor like Assamese, we are Nagas who still need some kind of guidance and rule of law to enforce upon the people to behave in certain desired ways. Naga's have the strong tendency of indulging till we are destroyed because we cannot draw lines and limit. Instead of lifting partially or totally let us strengthen the act and re-enforce by way of increasing man power in the department and thrust out the obstacles in a collaborate accord by involving Civil Society Organization and the Churches as well.

Most of our population live in the rural areas who are mostly innocent and ignorant, once we lift the act the most victimized population will be those from the rural areas. The people in Dimapur, Kohima, Mokokchung and urban areas will not be affected much because they know the limit, they can differentiate good and bad, can afford the quality wine, while the rural people in the villages can't afford to buy quality wine and therefore, they will go for low price wine which is spurious wine. Looking at the Act we have no moral authority to consider it as failure because we have not put our efforts and tried to implement the Act, enforce it in letter and in spirit. Instead, we must re-affirm and strengthen the Act and save the people from the evils of alcohol. However, the intended NLTP Act was to improve and provide a better and healthier social life for the Nagas. But sad to say that it did not happen as expected and the fault lies with you and me and the people but not the government. Desired result will happen only if all of us give up drinking alcohol whether genuine or spurious. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all individuals to do away with alcoholic life so that the NLTP Act becomes a total success story. With all these reasons my stand in lifting the NLTP Act whether partial or total is not the right option. Thank you, Sir.

SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member I would now like to give time to Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso,

DR. TSEILHOUTUO RHUTSO (NPP): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me time to participate in this discussion on NLTP Act, and as it is an Urgent Public Importance. Well, I have a lot to say but I will try to cut short my speech. Alcohol is nothing but it is just a clear colourless liquid that is commonly consumed as a beverage. It is a psychoactive substance that can alter your mood, your cognition and your behaviour. Chemically it is available as Ethanol, Methanol and Isopropanol, when we say alcohol, we mean Ethanol. There are three types of alcohol that are available to us, beer, wine and spirit or we call it whisky and scotch. Here the content of alcohol is 4% to 40%. Alcohol is one of the oldest and yet it is still one of the most widely used drugs. Right from the time of 6000BC during the time of the civilization of Mesopotamia, Egypt and China beer was available. In the 1700AD when Gin was discovered in England, widespread of alcoholism was rampant in England and it spread to other countries. So the advanced countries enact total prohibition of alcohol 100 years before us like the USA, Canada, Russia, Finland, Sweden and Iceland. They have imposed total prohibition 100 years ahead of us and they failed. In the case of India, it varies from state to state, some states like Gujarat and Bihar have implemented prohibition laws, but other states like Goa and Kerala have relaxed alcohol policies. And in our case, it has been total prohibition since 1989. As a professional, I would like to talk about the benefits of alcohol for moderate or responsible drinkers. If you drink once or twice a peg or two in a day, we call it a moderate or responsible drinker. There is a benefit in the social and cultural aspects of your life, by that I mean, your

interaction with your colleagues, celebration time as well as the relaxation you get which improves your positivity, productivity and efficiency. If you are a responsible drinker your cardiovascular system is much better which means heart problems, stroke and diabetes are reduced. Even your cognitive functions are much better, it reduces the chances of dementia and Alzheimer's disease as well as the onset of cognitive declination is delayed if you are a responsible drinker. It has an anti-inflammatory property called the "painkiller effect" at the same time it has anti-microbial effects which can act like antibiotics if you use it to apply on wounds or infections. However, these benefits are not without side effects if you become a heavy drinker, you become addicted and dependent on alcohol, it impairs your judgment and your coordination and also it declines your decision-making process. Alcohol also increases the risk of accidents, injuries and violence and increases the risk of health problems like liver damage. Your mental status, nutrition status, everything is affected. However today, our topic on Spurious Liquor, here spurious liquor is also called counterfeit or it is also called illicit liquor, these liquors are not made out of ethanol but are made out of methanol or ethylene glycol or other alcohols which are not consumable. We cannot consume such alcohol and if you consume such spurious liquor, it damages your kidneys and liver, causes blindness or injury to your gastrointestinal tract known as Ulcer which results in bleeding, if this bleeding comes out of the mouth it is called Hematemesis and if the bleeding occurs in the anus, it is called Melena. And even if you survive these side effects you will still have some neurological problems such as seizures, tremors, addiction and withdrawal. It also increases the chances of HIV or sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis because when you consume alcohol, more so the spurious kind, your inhibitions turn into exhibitions. So, all these things can happen to you. Apart from the personal body side effects, it affects our economy and increases medical health costs because apart from the expenditure caused by drinking, to go for treatments the cost can double and triple in amount. It also affects the education of our children. There are many things I would like to mention but seeing the number of speakers I am sure everyone is now saturated. So, in conclusion, while prohibition may have some benefits, its drawbacks and unintended consequences cannot be ignored instead of a blanket ban we should focus on education and awareness about responsible drinking. Strict regulation on alcohol sales and consumption, support for addiction treatment and rehabilitation and encourage a culture of moderation and responsibility. Let's work together to find a balanced approach that promotes public health and safety while respecting individuals freedom.

Well, to conclude, I would like to say that inspite of having so many pan shops those who are not going to take pan, still do not take it, like wise even if we repeal the Act, those who are not going to drink will not drink, however, in my opinion proper alcohol rules and regulations will be

the choice. And I would suggest a proper consultation with the church leaders, civil societies and to give a trial maybe for a year or two and see if the incidence of crime has increased, if alcohol related diseases are increased or if as feared by the church the side effects of the 80's comes back we may reinstate the Act again, if not it is time to have consultation and take a proper step at the earliest. Thank you so much for the time.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you Hon'ble Member. Now, I give time to hon'ble Member, Shri Kuzholuzo Nienu.

SHRI KUZHOLUZO NIENU (NPF) : First of all, I want to thank hon'ble Speaker and the Leader of the House for admitting this very important issue for discussion.

To me, there is nothing wrong in discussion, we must discuss thread bare about any issue that is confronting the society but, the more important thing is the outcome of the discussion. We pray that God's wisdom will prevail so that the outcome will be in a very positive manner. We have heard lots of our friends speaking on the pros and cons of lifting the Act and also implementation of NLPT Act, 1989.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in agreement with all my other former speakers, I will admit that the Act is a total failure. I also fully agree that there has been so many States and countries, worldwide which has tried to implement but have failed in the process. I also will admit that there has been a huge revenue loss due to this Act itself. I also will fully agree to our other friends, many lives have been lost and properties as well, due to consumption of spirituous or adulterated liquor. But, remember, Sir, that everything goes according to God's plan, you are not dying because you are drinking liquor, you are not dying because you have met with an accident, you are not dying because you have had a sickness, it is God's plan that your life was taken away on that certain day.

Many of my friends have been questioning me why I took a u-turn. Mr. Speaker Sir, I was also in full support of the lifting since many years back but lately when the Government made an announcement that they were thinking of partially lifting the ban or the Act, we have seen so many commotions, hue and cry. And so, therefore, I thought that as a human being, as a leader we must listen to those commotions, hue and cry and also take a U-turn sometimes. For example, Mr. Speaker Sir, you are travelling to a certain destination, while travelling to that destination, when suddenly there is a landslide fall or there is a deep pit, if you continue to drive along that road then you are falling to the pit which we will die so maybe at that point of time you have to stop your vehicle, change the gear, reverse it and go back to save your own live. Mr. Speaker Sir, I believe this Government is a people's government, by the people and for the

people and therefore, come what may I think, sometimes we should hit to the demands of the public. I am happy in one way that the church was sleeping for a very long time and all of a sudden, we have given them a wakeup call. So, now the church has a wakened and with the support of the public and the churches I think, there is no other way. There is only two ways, one is to either lift it or to completely implement the Act. So here, I know the constraints of the department for manpower and financial power. The Excise Department has very less manpower, maybe not reaching hundred also, maybe 70-80 staff, so with that 70-80 how can we expect the department to deliver goods or to function. If the State really wants to implement the Act, I think, we need to reinforce the Department or for a moment, for a while, I think, they can club together with the police force because as far as the police force is concern, huge amount of constables are doing nothing. For a moment they can be used and complete banning can be enforced in this liquor.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we all know this is a big lapse and there is lot of lapses, there are lot of liquor kingpins that is taking place in the State and the Government is in no way and not in a position to control such things. But, as I always stated, today we are running an opposition-less Government, we have 60 Members together, if we have a political will, we can implement it. There are so many undergrounds, jut few minutes and moments back also our Advisor to Excise was narrating, when his Excise personnel ceased some liquor so many phone calls came and other friends also were narrating some few stories of the same nature. Today, the Department or Police or the Excise, when someone passes with four/five bottles they are being confiscated and taken away but what is happening to those truck loads that is passing by, they are set free, they are allowed to go. So, here one thing we are lacking behind is rule of law, I always give this statement, 'rule of law.' We need to enforce the rule of law, we need to be bold enough to catch those culprits in order to enforce this NLTP Act. So, I for one, I would suggest to the Government of the day, that we should try to fully enforce the NLTP Act, 1989. With these few words, I want to thank you for giving me the time.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. Now, I give time to Hon'ble Member, Shri. Nuklutoshi.

SHRI NUKLUTOSHI (NPP): Speaker Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion under Rule-50 motion against dry law Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition Act 1989. Speaker Sir, I am a Christian though I may not be a very one and I belief in my God that he will not punish me for speaking the truth. Speaker Sir, this NLTP Act 1989 dry law was first and a total failure not only total failure but instead created more problems for our State and its people. This dry law in Nagaland is a misnomer since Nagaland is among the wettest dry state in India or maybe in the whole world, an Act no matter how good it may sound is not based on sounds and reasons then what is the

purpose of having such Act that only brings negative ramification to the State, this dry law in our State has only flourished the breeding of illegal spurious bootleggers and drug menace rather than bringing any positive changes in the State. Before dry law we had wine shop in our capital maybe about 5 or 6 liquor wine shops, Dimapur maybe 6 or 7 and other districts maybe 2 or 3 like that but today after dry law how many illegal wine shops are running in our State. All the paan shops and almost all the hotels sells alcohol and there are illegal wine shops maybe around 2-3 hundreds in our State capital maybe thousands in Dimapur, uncountable maybe some hundreds in other districts which we never see, police people never see, excise department never see, church people never see, Mother Association never see, national workers never see. Speaker Sir, Naga people * * * * * (Expunged as ordered by the Chair) where it has reached even the heavens, who is fooling who, enough is enough, let us not fool ourselves, let us not fool God, speaking of 'fast to death'. After dry law as per the National Family Health Survey report in the age group of 15 to 49 dry state of Nagaland is the highest in the national average, so this Prohibition Act is doing more harm than good to our people, 90 percent of the liquor consumed are spurious and adulterated which have caused death to lakhs of our people in the last 30 years plus, mostly youths and lakhs of youths have turned to drugs because they cannot afford the costly wine so they turn to cheaper drugs in other words the Prohibition Act has given fast road to grave to lakhs of naga people and thousands are in hospital getting ready to die. So, if this Act could not serve its purpose even after more than 30 years of its implementation it will not bring any positive changes in future also. Naga people have spent thousands and thousands of crores of rupees in the last 30 years for treatment of alcohol related diseases and drugs abuse treatments. Thousands of crores of rupees are pocketed by the alcohol and drugs mafias instead of government revenue. Speaker Sir, our Nagaland State is not a Theocratic State like Afganistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Vatican, Nagaland is a democratic secular state. A church must base its teaching on scripture and not compare itself with other religious or cultural practices, church and politics should play their own respective roles in other words a church must do a spiritual battle and not economic battle. We honour and respect our religious leaders but they must also understand their jurisdiction and our political jurisdiction, the duty of a church is to bring salvation to the people and the duty of the government is to foresee the economy of the people. Speaker Sir, the government may have failed in many ways but the church had also failed in their part, the church and the government should have worked hand in hand to curb this menace that has been created after the dry law however, nothing as such has been done for instance seminars, educational workshop could have been conducted by the Church thousands of times by now but even to this day I have not seen or heard in any print media or social media of such awareness programmes of alcohol related issues by the Church. Till today the church is pressurizing the

government to pass more stringent laws only so the church also have fail to conduct their rightful duty and not only that the government of the day ultimately leading to total failure of the of the dry law so, it is almost about time that this Act be lifted fully and not partially because there is little to no hope that this Act can be fully implemented even in the future also, thank you Speaker Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon'ble Member. Hon'ble Members it is just a small suggestion from my side, it would be in the interest not to refer to institutions as a religious organization or institution. I think that will be more appropriate. Now I give time to Hon'ble Member Dr. Sukhato A. Sema.

Dr. SUKHATO A. SEMA (LJP (RV): Praise the Lord for this opportunity, Hon'ble Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to discuss the issue pertaining to "Health Hazards of Spurious Liquor" under Rule-50. Well so much has been spoken and now I want to draw the attention of the House to focus our attention on this because we want every Naga to live a healthy life. And so let me begin, life begins bio-chemically when a male sperm and a female Oocyte-egg becomes united; joined together through the process called fertilization, resulting in the formation of the human embryo either in the mother's womb by natural conception or in the IVF (in vitro fertilization) or ICSI (Intracyto-Plasmic sperm injection) Laboratory and life is said to be established with the demonstration of the fetal cardiac activity which happens by 5/6 weeks following fertilization although in reality the fetal myocardium may begin to contract rhythmically by 3 weeks after fertilization or conception. And as a practitioner of the human reproduction I also would like to share with the House that so much measures are taken for the safety of early human life scientifically, biologically, the cleaning or the sterilization process to secure the safety of the small human life, the agents used for sterilization or cleaning is only the absolute alcohol, safe, highly-purified after standard filtering and treatment process are done seriously, meticulously and sincerely thus fulfilling and meeting all the strict standard safety requirements for early human life. I also would like to draw the attention of the House towards the kind of the liquor or the alcohol, one is known as the spurious and so there are main differences between the wines, the liquor, the spirit used. One is for human consumption that is known as the potable spirit and the other is only for industrial uses. So the one used for human consumption, the pure wine or the pure alcohol; potable spirit the entire content is the ethanol and which is typically below 35% ABV (Alcohol by volume) and as far as the spirit is concerned this ethanol is 100% pure meeting strict standards for human consumption when consumed in normal quantity causes no toxic effect. Filtering and treatment: filtered and treated through various processes to remove all the impurities and thus makes the end product ethanol safe for consumption. Now even the packing of the bottles or canning they are done so

judiciously with high standard.

Now coming to the Industrial Spirit: the Ethanol content of more than 90% that is Alcohol by volume; high concentration that is meant only for the industrial use and in purity may contain so many impurities and the products making it unfit for human consumption that is also known as the spurious liquor. The filtering and treatment process are done in a very minimal way or no filtering at all and so as far as the purity is concerned it is not there at all and even the packing is different. Now industrial spirit is used not for human being but for various purposes such as cleaning and degreasing. Manufacturing processes like pharmaceuticals, cosmetic laboratory applications, fuel and energy production and remember that what we are discussing today is pertaining to the spurious liquor that is industrial spirit which is not intended for human consumption and can be harmful as and when ingested. I was referring to the absolute alcohol and so not to consume inside but even to clean the in vitro fertilization lab or the Intracyto-Plasmic sperm injection lab only the absolute alcohol is used because in that lab when we are trying to assist the human reproduction if we use the normal soap, if we use perfume, the toxic because they contain some amount of spirit to the human egg or the human sperms and so consuming industrial spirit otherwise known as the Spurious Liquor can cause severe damage to the human brain cells leading to neurotoxicity. So consumption of Spurious Liquor contains a substance known as methanol which is very toxic to the brain cells specially the reasoning, the learning and the memory cells causing permanent damage and even death. The cell death; consumption of spurious alcohol particularly in the form of methanol or even ethanol of more than 85% can lead to apoptosis (programme cell death) in the brain cells and destroy the memory. It can also cause Neural inflammation that consumption of Spurious liquor can trigger inflammation in the human brain leading to the damage and oxidative stress, that means it will destroy the oxygen supply by destroying the oxygen supplying cells. It will also cause Demyelination, now the myelin sheath which protects our nerves can be damaged, disrupting the communication between the brain cells. It can cause severe cerebral edema, the collection of water or swelling in the brain so fluid buildup in the brain can lead to increased intracranial pressure thereby causing damage to the brain tissue resulting in cerebrovascular accident or the layman call it most of the time stroke and this is also one of the responsible causes of not only the elderly but the young death. Now, more than that consumption of this Spurious liquor can cause severe hippocampal damage, we have in the human brain the hippocampus crucial for memory and learning and that can be irreversibly damaged by consumption of Spurious Liquor. The cerebellum damage; the cerebellum, responsible for coordinating our whole activities, balance in our work, in our talked can be adversely and permanently damaged, it can also cause neurotransmitter imbalance, disruption of neurotransmission systems, the

communication system such as dopamine and serotonin which can lead to mood disorders and cognitive impairment which may be irreversible. Long-term cognitive impairment; repeated exposure to the spurious liquor can also lead to persistent cognitive deficiencies and so consumption of Spurious liquor always has the risk of coma and death and the consumption of industrial spirit or the spurious spirit can always be life-threatening. We also have come across many young children and the youths all of a sudden developing permanent loss of eye sight because here when the spurious liquor is concerned the methail alcohol that is methanol is converted into formic acid which is highly toxic and damaging the nerve fiber especially the eyesight and so consumption of spurious alcohol can have severe and long lasting effects on a young teenager's potentiality, in a young children specially the upcoming children below 15 years.

1. Brain damage: Consumption of spurious liquor can cause permanent damage to the developing brain, leading to cognitive impairment, memory loss, and reduce the IQ thus, making them unfit for competitive exam and employment.
2. It can cause mental issue, increased risk of depression, anxiety, suicidal tendency due to altered brain chemistry and neurotransmitter imbalance.
3. It can also cause addiction and so high risk of developing spurious liquor alcohol dependence and addiction, leading to the lifetime of struggles and making them loss of interest in any kind of work or get themselves involved in any work that will make them earn their livelihood. It can cause the liver damage not only in the elderly. Of late we have come across thousands of liver damage in the young youths because of the consumption of the spurious liquor causing liver scarring, fibrosis, and cirrhosis, leading to liver failure ending up in death or liver transplantation. And when we conduct free liver scanning we are coming across liver failure problems among the youths, so common that was unimaginable 40 years ago or 35 years ago. It can also causes so much of hormonal imbalance in the young women life, destruction of hormonal development leading to issues like stunted growth, delayed puberty, and reproductive problems. Also the consumption of spurious alcohol causes infertility. A couple may get married, and may never have issue if they are used to consuming the spurious liquor because the action of alcohol on the human hormonal that it only provokes the desire but it impairs the function and so even their productive life is affected adversely. It can cause social and emotional problems in our society, strained relationships, social isolation, and emotional instability and therefore, always remaining inside the room or in the bathroom. Thus departing themselves, isolating themselves from any social life and so they suffer depression and even go for suicide, it also produce poor economy performance. Now consumption of spurious alcohol in the young age group causes impairment

of the cognitive function, reduced concentration, and decreased academic achievement, thereby, making them unfit to go for competitive exam or to make themselves fit to work for themselves and for the society. It also causes increased risk of accidents and injuries, impaired judgement, coordination, and reaction time, leading to accidents and injuries. Consumption of spurious liquor weakens our immune system. We have God given immune system to protect ourselves from various diseases, infections and other diseases and so when people end up in consumption of spurious alcohol, the spurious alcohol will defiantly suppress the immune system making teenagers more susceptible to illnesses. Cold, cough, fever and so on. Consumption of spurious liquor also reduces the expectancy, it always leads to premature death either in the form of developing gastritis, gastric ulcer, gastric stomach or colon cancer. And now, in the book it is written but genetically the Nagas and also most of the South East Asia are predisposed to cancer stomach maybe because of some genetic factors and didactically because of the smoked food. We Nagas are predisposed to cancer, cancer of the throat and also I would like to add that life style of consuming the spurious alcohol produces in the young adults, frequent cases of Pancreatitis that is the inflammation of the pancreas which is a very vital organ, where the insulin is produced and if this is disturbed it leads to diabetic and it leads to incurable disease. It causes liver damage, liver failure, causing death, liver cancer and also even renal failure. And so here, we want to bring to the attention of the House that consumption of spurious liquor can at any cost has to be stopped before it destroys our society. It is very crucial for young teenagers to avoid consuming spurious alcohol altogether, as it can have devastating and long-lasting effects on their physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being, and apart from the spiritual well-being. If you or someone, you know is struggling with consumption of spurious liquor, we must seek help from medical professional or the addiction specialist and help them out. Genuine and locally made wine products contain the chemical ethanol, which can be drunk safely in moderation without causing any harm to the human body. However, counterfeits will look to cut cost by substituting ethanol with cheaper and possibly toxic substances such as methyl spirit or methanol. And these include heavy metals like lead and arsenic, organic solvent and sometimes even sedative drugs like benzodiazepines and barbiturates which can also have adverse effects on their memory and on all the vital organs in the human body. However, the most dramatic effects are seen when spurious alcohol in the form of methyl alcohol is added. This almost always led to death or serious organ damage, irascible damage, including loss of eyesight. Once ingested spurious liquor the methanol is metabolized in the liver by hepatic alcohol dehydrogenase enzyme to the highly toxic formic acid which inhibits mitochondrial respiration and accumulation of formic acid leads to metabolic acidosis causing to the optic nerve, damage and retinal nerve fibers, leading to the permanent loss of eyesight, necrosis of the basal ganglia, leading to irreversible

neurologic damage and death. Since the sale, production, and consumption of spurious liquor are legally prohibited in some States of our country, there is a high possibility of portering and fraud in their illicit production. There is not any detailed report available on the prevalence of methanol alcohol or methyl consumption in our country officially but the increase in consumption of spurious liquor poisoning and even death indicates that the substandard and counterfeit alcoholic beverages have targeted the young population's health in a very large way. Indian youth suffer from frequent casualties after consuming the spurious liquor and cause poisoning because of the drinking of the Wines, Beer, Arrack, Country liquor, Indian made Foreign liquor and different other branded alcohol beverages counterfeited illegally. The alcohol produced illegally is called illicit alcohol or spurious liquor. They do not follow any set of standards and thus have no quality control, food safety control is not there. The liquor produced from these units is usually adulterated and may contain highly fatal substances such as methynal spirit or the methanol and so. When methylated spirit is added to the drink it leads to blindness and death. And so, this illicit trades also evades all National and State-level taxes and duties, thus making it very cheap and affordable and making it easily available. Illicit alcohol is produced under unregulated circumstances and is often adulterated with methanol to save costs.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, I will give you last 3 minutes, if you can come to the conclusion.

Dr. SUKHATO A. SEMA (LJP(RV)): Adverse effects on cognitive function may in turn influence educational achievement, important determinant of vocational success, income, health, social status, and quality of life.

Nagaland is a land of festivals, a land locked with many intellectual youth to excel in all areas of education- science and arts, sports and games, music and arts etc. to take the state of Nagaland towards a state of excellency under the able leadership of our Hon'ble Minister Shri. Neiphiu Rio and his remaining 59 elected Members who have been brought to this august House by the grace of God in his appointed time for his purpose. I therefore, would like to suggest to the Hon'ble Speaker and also to the House and request the Members to do away with the spurious liquor consumption and allow the youth and the future generation to explore God given talents to the fullest extent and take the state of Nagaland towards a state of excellency. Thank you all.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Hon'ble Member. Now, I give time to Hon'ble Member Shri. Achumbemo Kikon.

SHRI ACHUMBEMO KIKON (NPF): Speaker Sir, I rise to participate in the Discussion of

Public Importance on the NLTP Act. You have given enough time to the Doctors and since both of us are from the legal background I will speak on your behalf also and I hope, you will give me sufficient time. Since the House is very tense, the topic itself is serious definitely it is expected to be tensed. So, let me start with the humorous quote; Winston Churchill, he was the Prime Minister during the World War II, you are aware, one evening he approached a lady, of course after consuming liquor, he proposed her then the lady said, you are drunk Mr. Churchill, Mr. Churchill replied to that lady you know that, 'I am drunk tonight but tomorrow morning I will be sobered but you will still be ugly'.

Speaker Sir, this topic is very dear to my heart like the Naga Political Issue. I was the President of NSF in 2003-2005 and I opened a debate with the students' group and with the NBCC also. This has to be debated very thoroughly, that was in 2003, 21 years back. Today, I am in this House participating and therefore, I wanted to be consistent where I have stood. So, therefore, this topic is not new for me and I am interested and I have suggested this debate even in the last House, I am happy that everyone has participated. Doctor's language is very difficult to understand but I think they have also given their inputs. In 1989, when we passed this Law the world was also having lots of history, you are aware that in 1989, George H.W. Bush was taking over as President, Margaret Thatcher was completing 10 years in the office as Prime Minister. Then what happened in Iceland in 1989, they were lifting the prohibition so it is called a Beer Day, lifting the prohibition in Iceland but in that year, we were adopting an Act, passing a Resolution in the House prohibiting sale/consumption of liquor.

Let us now examine from the legal aspect, they have lectured us from the Medical point of view. If you see the world history, no country, no states Speaker Sir, have succeeded in executing and implementing Prohibition Act including the most advanced country like United State, 300 years advanced than us, they have also tried from 1920-1933 when Woodrow Wilson was the President, at the later stage of his tenure, the Prohibition Act was implemented/enacted then succeeded by another 3 (three) Presidents, they tried. So, during President Herbert Hoover's time, they were compelled to lift the prohibition because a lot of gangsters, mafia, drugs business, all these were mushrooming. It was not helping the citizens of United States and as previous Members have also mentioned, our Christianity especially Baptist Christianity comes from America. We are no different from them, the American Christians and Naga Christians cannot be different. I have directly encountered, debated with the NBCC officials during my Presidentship. One of the argument was that, the matric result has drastically reduced because of non-prohibition. I said, well then after enacting 1989 Act, what was the improvement? Now, the times have changed. In 1989, of course it could be relevant, it would have been relevant passing the Act because of the abuse of alcohol and everyone has mentioned, that time it was

relevant, 34 years back exactly today is 34 years 4 months, after enacting this Act. So, 34 years ago the NLTP Act was relevant but Speaker Sir, after 34 years in 2024 it is no more relevant and it is a time tested Law which we have learned from the most advanced countries. This Law has not been a successful one, I am from the legal background and you are also from that background and you are fully aware of it Speaker Sir, even if we try enacting a stringent law, more stringent than this one it is not going to be successful, we cannot blame the present Government, present Chief Minister. It was enacted when he was not Chief Minister, when we were not in the Government. Every Chief Ministers have tried and every Presidents in the United State have tried, 4 Presidents they could not succeed even in other states. Therefore, in my humble submission and opinion, the Doctors have briefed us, lectured us from the health hazard point of view, yes that is also important. I would like to emphasize more on the economy, everyday we talk of young people, our young people after getting degree, people are going outside the state looking for a job in the company which in the recent past also we have seen a lot of people being caught. Our youth being caught working in some of the companies, those are called fake companies. But how do we engage these people without resources, without revenue of our own and how long can a state run a Government without having a revenue of our own? We cannot be beggars for years together Speaker Sir. If you see the revenue of the Assam Government, the last 2023-24, Assam Revenue from the sale of liquor is Rs. 3,816 Cr. I am sure half of that amount is our money because I come from the Bhandari Constituency bordering Merapani, you will find lot of liquor shops. Then Dimapur, Khatkhathi, Golaghat, these are very near to our border therefore, half of that money is our money, that revenue. You can enact Law but how can you stop people to consume? For example, my area Bhandari is bordering with Merapani, there are of lots people/youth indulging into drugs even if you don't get alcohol yet you go down drink whatever you like and get drunk and come back. You cannot arrest them, what will you do? It is not possible. We have tried, experimented for 34 years, how long can we experiment, you tell me how long will you experiment? It is enough, 34 long years, I think it is time for us to also face the church and face is truth. I may be very harsh in my approach but I have been encountering 21 years back, you tell me how you will implement? We cannot blame the Government. Other Government, other Countries have tried it is not possible and a composition like Naga society with lots of Government, with lots of societies, how you will implement? Is it possible? No, Speaker Sir, and therefore, yes, we have opened the debate today, I am really happy that this debate must go on but I would suggest that the Government should give some options that whoever the community or the districts or the areas wherever they want, whoever wants to lift this prohibition, or rather give permission, or a permit or a license to open a liquor shop license for sale or consumption or for procuring, I think that option has to be explored by the Government. In the meantime, Government can also

say that constitute a Committee, a Committee comprising of various experts, also pick up someone from the present alcohol addicts those who have under gone and the abuse, they can suggest better avenues for us. A Committee comprising of experts who can also guide the Government how do regulate, regulating in a sense that regulated form of prohibition in a sense that this much volume of liquor can be sold, this much volume of liquor cannot be sold. So many ideas can come in if we all can put our heads together. If you see the Nagaland Total Prohibition Liquor Act, Speaker Sir, in the Section 17 permission to use or consumption of liquor in mess and canteens of Armed Forces, there is an exemption. Now if Nagas get independence, we will have our own army that is altogether a different issue but so long as we are within the Union of India, we have Assam Rifle camps, we have para military presence in our State, we have Border Security Forces how can we stop the forces of the Government of India to come and settle in the State of Nagaland. There is an exemption where the sale of liquor, the purchase use of consumption of such liquor in the State to the members of the Armed Forces and paramilitary forces in their mess and canteens and even if we enact a law Speaker Sir, we cannot prohibit these people, these are under the direct control of the Government of India, so the alcohol is readily available. Some of our friends have spoke about pan shops selling uncle chips, selling juice, these are actually all liquor shop. Forget about that, legally where are the authorized shops? The canteens of this paramilitary forces because the law cannot prohibit them so as long as we are within the Union of India it is not possible. Therefore, in any cases there is no mechanism to comprehensively check flow of liquor in our state and therefore, in any case we must advocate a mechanism how to regulate and the church and individual whoever are against this should also give the Government an opportunity. Okay, since we tried prohibiting it for the past 34 years we cannot do it, let us now lift it and see how much the Government can regulate. Now because of the advancement in social media you are aware there are also lots of negative aspect of the social media like watsapp, Instagram, facebook whatever terms but there are also lots of positive aspects Speaker Sir. If you see Naga population today, many of us are not conscious of our health but one positive aspect which I have seen out of this social media is, this days people have started controlling their diet because of social media if you eat these much your calories will go up, doctors know all this terms better, your pressure will go up, your pressure will go down, many of us are being influenced by the social media and not by the advice of the doctor. So also, in 1989 there was an abuse and therefore, it could be relevant but I am assuring you Speaker Sir, because of the advancement of this social media, because of the advancement of education there will be hardly any abuse, the person there should be very minimal I can tell you with confidence that it will be 1% only of the abuse of alcohol, 99% people will use it. We were talking in the lobby that forbidden foods are always sweeter and therefore if we continue this prohibition people will

look for more alcohol but if it is open in the market there will be a proper regulation and therefore, even in terms of selling and acquiring everything will be properly regulated but as of now it is not possible therefore I would insist that the Government form a Committee and if necessary we must table this again for a more debate and discussion and either review or revoke that way I would like to put across. To the church I think they must concentrate as some of our former Hon'ble speakers has suggested for more of a spiritual approach than interfering in the running affairs of the Government. Many of our friends have quoted from the Bible, I would also like to quote one or two of them, you will find in the scriptures in Mark, Luke, when the Pharisees asks Jesus whether they will pay tax to the Caesar then Jesus was asking whose head was there in that denarius, the rupee. Caesar's head is there, so pay to Caesar what is due to him but pay to God what is due to God. I think there is no further more interpretation on this. The church must concentrate on its spiritual aspect, let the Government also concentrate on the welfare of the people. In the statement issued signed by lot of church Executives Secretaries and individual Reverend, there is one sentence the majorities welfare should always be prioritized in any decision-making process this is one statement which they have issued. It is a very long statement and I am not interested to read out. So I think we are talking of majority's interest in prioritizing while the Government is in the decision process. It has become majority's interest that this Act be do away with because we have seen even if there is opinion poll today I am confident that 99% are of lifting the Act. So they themselves have inserted this sentence that the majority's welfare should always be prioritized in any decision making process this is the Baptist group. Now if you see the Catholic Association, the catholic association group says that the reduction of supply and reduction of demand this is their whole central idea of their write up. Reduction of supply and reduction of demand, I think this is also a very positive approach. We are not saying that we will do it randomly but this is a way that the church is expected to approach in which way they can give a very good feed back to the Government but not in the way of protest or threatening or blackmailing us I think we all are Christians and we are all part of the Church but we have to called a spade a spade. Let me conclude, since I have started with Winston Churchill when he was asked what do you meant by whisky, I will just read out the relevant one, "if you meant that evil drink that topples man and women from the pinnacles of righteous and the gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation, shame, despair, helplessness and hopelessness then my friend, I am opposed to it with every fiber of my pin". Sir, you know Winston Churchill is a noble laureate, he is known for his literature. "However, if by whisky you meant that drink that enables man to magnify his joy and to forget life's great tragedies and heartbreaks and sorrow, if you meant that drink the sale of which pours into our treasuries untold millions of pounds each year, that provides tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our dump, our pitifully aged and infirm, to build the finest

highways, hospitals, universities and community colleges in this nation, then my friend I am absolutely, unequivocally in favour of it". How can we forget revenue there will be enough revenue and we will be building without depending on the Government of India, a lot of facilities for our aged, for our children, for our woman and for our disabled, so, many things can be done out of this. Therefore, it is my humble submission that yes debate must continue, but in any case we cannot go on with this Act any further, there has to be a review on this and I am suggesting this at the expense of risking repetition again that whichever district or community wants let us have an opinion poll and also form a Committee to study into it, and I am sure the Committee will recommend that it is possible to implement effectively. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon'ble Member. Now I call upon Hon'ble Member, Ar. Jwenga Seb.

AR. JWENGA SEB, JD(U): Thank you, Hon'ble Speaker Sir, for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the Matters of Urgent Public Importance under Rule- 50 on the issue pertaining to Health Hazard of Spurious Liquor. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the core issue at helm is whether the NLTP Act of 1989 should remain as it is, be partially lifted or be completely lifted. I advocate for the lifting of the Act. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the choice of food and drinks is up to the individual's decision. And, now here Speaker Sir, I want to talk about the measures to mitigate those who have chosen and those who choose to consume alcohol. Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to elaborate on some key points of advantages in case of lifting of the NLPT Act 1989:

1.The Reduction in Health Risk: How can that be achieved is that as we have seen and we also have heard from many of our Hon'ble Members that the prohibition has inadvertently led to the proliferation of spurious liquor which possess significant health risk to the consumers. So, by lifting the ban and regulating the production and sale of legitimate alcohol, the Government can ensure that the consumer have access to save quality products. This could lead to a decrease in alcohol related issues including poisoning, liver disease and other long term health complications associated with the consumption of unregulated alcohol.

2. Decrease Premature Death: The consumption of spurious alcohol has been linked to numerous premature deaths in Nagaland. By allowing regulated access to legitimate alcohol, the Government can help mitigate this risk ultimately saving lives and reducing the burden on the health care system.

3. Control and Regulation: A regulated lifting of the prohibition would enable the Government to establish a framework for the production, distribution and sale of alcohol. This would include

quality control measures, license for vendors and age restrictions which could significantly reduce the availability of dangerous unregulated spurious liquors.

4. Public Awareness Education: Lifting the prohibition provides an opportunity for public health campaign to educate consumers about responsible drinking and the dangers of spurious alcohol. This could empower individuals to make informed choices and reduce the stigma associated with alcohol consumption leading to healthier drinking habit.

5. Addressing the Syndicate system: In case of only a partial lifting, the prohibition could lead to the establishment of syndicate system where a few individual control the distribution of alcohol potentially leading to corruption and further economic disparities. Comprehensive lifting with proper regulations can prevent such monopolistic practices and ensure fair competition in the market.

6. Harm Reduction: Some Churches and organizations as we have already heard and most of us must have seen in the social media, by acknowledging that individual would seek alcohol regardless of legal status, a regulated approach for harm reduction strategies, this includes providing access to safe drinking option, support for addiction treatment and resources for those affected by alcohol misuse.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in conclusion, lifting the Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition Act 1989 in regulated manner can significantly improve public outcome by reducing the consumption of spurious alcohol, decreasing pre-mature death and fostering a safer drinking environment. It is essential to prioritize the health and safety of the consumers while also considering the broader social and economic implication of alcohol regulation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon'ble Member. Now I call upon Hon'ble Advisor Shri T.N. Manen.

SHRI T.N. MANEN (NDPP) ADVISOR, LAW & JUSTICE AND LAND REVENUE: Thank you Speaker Sir. Perhaps, I was wondering whether you will give me time. I would like to request the Members of the House even though we are all very tired to give me little time to say what I had in my mind about this particular important topic. I would like to make it very brief avoiding unnecessary reference on the point covered by the earlier speakers.

My initial remark is that recently when Hon'ble Minister Parliamentary Affairs announced the decision of the cabinet to have a relook at this particular Act, I was very happy that it is really overtime for the government to have a serious look into the issue related to this particular topic.

But unfortunately, over the few days the kind of remarks given in the social media and printed media's was quite alarming but it is good that we have decided to have this discussion today here in this context, allow me to say what I have in my mind.

Firstly, since 1989 as I said 34 years, I think no other topic except perhaps the political issue of the Naga Movement has generated so much of interest in the cross section of the Naga people. On the merit and the demerit of this particular topic on alcohol consumption, the consumption of alcohol is a sin to the Church leaders as we all know and it is a crime to the State Government in the sense that when it is abused definitely a crime is committed so it is considered as a crime by this very Act, and it is a social evils to the mothers and other concerned citizens who are really concerned about the destruction of family lives through this consumption of alcohol. And of course, for many people it's a food item. And as we all know since a dawn of history, alcohol is a part of human life. Now, in the last more than 30 years we have been debating on this issue with intense interest by all the section of the people. Therefore, I think, we have had enough discussion on this issue not only among the Members of this august House but even among the people because as I said, interest is created and so much of knowledgeable discussion, so much of knowledgeable remarks are all given in almost every day on this issue. But, unfortunately, the legal and also moral and social diversity and controversy still persist. Now what do we do, this is a kind of challenge, so I think, we as elected Members here, who are the representatives of the people should really think seriously, we should really go now, speak and rational discussion and decision is needed to arrive on the basis of the ground reality. It is a fact that enforcement of the particular Act has not been very appreciable, not very successful as we all know because as mentioned by the earlier speakers also that most of the hotels, restaurants and the tea-joints or anywhere, it is freely available, whether spurious or other products. Now, what does it mean, once in a while the implementation of that total prohibition, is shown by destructions of those few seized alcohol bottles but not on a regular basis.

In spite of the Total Prohibition Act, in the last so many years, now consumption of alcohol has not really been reduced, it is an indication that people still want alcohols. Unfortunately, we have not been able to solve this problem through this particular Act, rendering it ineffective.

Now, as we all know, alcohol consumption has a multi-dimensional implication, such as spiritual, economic, health and also social disharmony. So, therefore, to find a consensus solution is really not possible as it is very complicated. As mentioned by one of the speakers, if you look into the history of how this prohibition experiment is done, apart from other countries, I would also want to just make one remark, in USA as mentioned from 1920-1933, they called it

“Noble Experiment”, prohibition was imposed. It was aimed to reduce crime, corruptions, social problems, reduce tax burden, improve health and hygiene in America but, it is sad that it had miserably failed. The lesson of prohibition from this experiment is very important today. It leads many drinkers to switch over to opium, marijuana, cocaine and other dangerous substance which would not have happened in the absence of prohibition. It further encourages rather bootlegging, smuggling, spurious liquor drinks, among the people making some of the influential people much richer such as Kennedy’s family was one of the beneficiaries out of the liquor smuggling in USA by the prohibition experiment there. So, learning from the history, it is not really very encouraging now in that context, everyday if we indulge in this discussion, it is only a repetition of the last so many years argument. So, therefore, I think it’s high time that Government should now take a very firm stand and try to find a solution on a rational way.

In this context, I think, this issue has revolved around three groups of the people in Nagaland which can effectively influence firm decision. One, is the Church because we are all Christians, second, is the Government definitely, the third, is the Tribal Bodies such as Hohos and the NGOs. But somehow the 3(three) influential bodies are not coming into understanding though every organization is concerned about the welfare of our people as everybody professed, but each group has different way of looking at an issue. In order to find a rational kind of an understanding of the whole issue, I would like to look into one of the main arguments of the church leaders, that touching alcohol is a sin which will deny you from salvation of going to Heaven and that, it is a spiritual issue. I was trying to look into the Bible trying to understand what it really says. The Bible’s stand in the liquor is that, in moderation, it is not a sin. But, drunkardness, abuse and excessive indulgence, then, it becomes a sin, as Psalm: 104, 14-15 says that Lord makes wine to gladden their mind. Even John: 2 versus 9-11, the first miracle of Jesus Christ is that He turned water into wine in a wedding feast in Galilee. So also in the book of Timothy, Paul also has advised Timothy to have little wine for the sake of curing stomach illness. So therefore, it has definitely got health benefits provided it is consumed in moderation. There are so many references in the Bible that alcohol itself is not tainted by sin but abuses, drunkardness, addiction lead to sinning. For instance, even in Genesis: 9, Noah became drunk resulted in indecency and family trouble followed and also another references about Lot family, Genesis: 19, 30-38, Lot got drunk and committed incest. So also there are so many references in the Bible where the Church leaders are led to astray through over indulgence in drinking wine and committing all these debauchery and other crimes. So therefore, if we look into the Bible, in my opinion looking in rational-balanced way, drinking itself in moderation, it has lot of benefits. The doctor who spoke before me has given a lot of technical justification explaining how alcohol can benefit in health, provided it is used in proper way. So, in such a situation in my opinion,

finding a balanced decision is definitely required so that the dilemma and confusion is put to an end. Whether we like it or not we are the representatives of all the different sections of the people, we are real decision makers ultimately. And as we all know that we are talking about spurious liquor that affects our health, without elaborating much on that, even the good products if you exceed, it becomes harmful to your health. So, Spurious is something which we should all try to stop but again unless the implementation agencies are really strong this spurious or smuggling of alcohol into our society or Nagaland is definitely an impossible task, unless the system of implementation machinery is improved. Whether we really do away with this particular Prohibition Act or review it or partially lifting, I would not like to comment on that issue at this moment but what I want to say is that, the church leaders should also try to understand. I would like to mention here without really making any aspersion on the leader of the church, I really appreciate the church leaders for coming out strongly against the abuse of alcohol and how it adversely affects our society, family life and economy etc. I feel that emphasizing only on the Spiritual aspect actually is not really complete, it is incomplete. The church leaders also should look at the life in the holistic manner that evolve both body and soul, it is wrong to say that churches duty is spiritual and soul winning alone. Rev. Dr. Wati has said so in a sort of conference of the Church leaders. I really appreciate such kind of balance opinions because church leaders only talk about spiritual things but when you talk about this Prohibition Act, besides spiritual implication, it has social, economic and other implications too. Therefore, the church leaders should not mislead the innocent public only talking on spiritual aspect of it. They should know and make the people understand the merit and demerit of alcohol consumption, in moderation on excessive consumption which will affect health, family harmony, economy and overall social affects. Both church leaders and public and political leaders have that common welfare responsibility. It is high time that we all take a collective and firm decision what could benefit us all. We, 60 (sixty) Members sitting here have the responsibility to realize that maintaining the present impasse of indecisive status quo for the last 35 years must be put to an end.

Therefore, I would like to suggest as decided by the Cabinet, relooking into the issue is very important and I think lots of suggestion has to be made as to what should be the solution to it. I also would like to see that strict enforcement rules and regulations has to be done and that has to be implemented in letter and spirit in the sense that, any law is as good as it is implemented. Even if we make the best law, best regulation if you don't implement in true spirit, it will be rendered an impotent kind of an Act. Therefore, it is high time that we should really look into it and if necessary, this house Members should take a firm decision however unpopular it may be, provided it is going to benefit the people. As a welfare State, the concerns of the

welfare of the people is our outmost important concern, that is our responsibility as a Representative of the whole Naga people. It is in the right move that the government has decided to look into this in a really rationalized way. With this few remark, I thank you for the time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, now I call upon Hon'ble Member Dr. Neisatuo Mero

Dr. NEISATUO MERO (IND): Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me this time to participate in the matter of Urgent Public Importance, the Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition Act, 1989. The Act prohibits possession, sale, consumption and manufacture of liquor in the State of Nagaland. When we reminisce our history and look back to the roots of the movement of the erstwhile years, the religious body NMA and the civil societies stood firm as pressure groups, they foresaw the negative impacts of alcohol on the individual, the family and the society at large whereby the Government finally passed the Act and till today we are bind by the law of the land. Referring to the various States, if I am not wrong like Bihar, Gujarat, Nagaland and Mizoram are under prohibition, in some States instability exist between prohibition and lifting due to prohibition politics for instance, State like Mizoram lifted but prohibited it again with the formation of new Government. In the recent years there have been debates revolving around the Act periodically such as revenue that could have been generated by our State is benefitting our neighboring State that is Assam and fattening the wallet of traders of Assam. Operation by the syndicates who are hand in glove with various agencies and making easy access by the bootleggers. Many Naga leaders utter that our State is the wettest dry State, meaning to my understanding that NLTP Act need to be enforced upon the lawless business traders, distribution or sale and consumption of spurious liquor are the main concern to the medical professionals and related forces by seeing the increase in statistical graph of the premature death and lots of health complications that cripple one's normal life. I want to stress on few points, spurious alcohol often referred to as illicit alcohol is typically produced without proper regulation and contains harmful substances such as methanol which can lead to acute poisoning and even death, socially consumption of spurious alcohol contributes to increase of crime rate and social unrest. The social stigma associated with alcohol related problems lead to mental health problem as a person is marginalized from the society. Some of the side effects: people who cannot afford even spurious drinks use to opt for drugs which is more injurious to health. Many young boys and girls have untimely passed away due to drug abuse. Transportation of drugs is easier than alcohol if we make survey on alcohol drinker and drug abuse, the later will be more in number which is more dangerous. Our State is in a crossroad whether to lift or not to lift the NLTP Act, this touches the core of religious morality, health implications and so forth. Therefore, I feel there has to be a wide range of consultation with the

stakeholders because the success story of the Municipal Act, 2023 was the result of adequate consultations. Furthermore, sharing the Government policies and plans to them and as to hear from them and come out with a conducive understanding. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, I call upon Shri K. G. Kenye, Hon'ble Minister.

SHRI K. G. KENYE (NDPP) MINISTER, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, POWER: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, much have been said, I will not go back on those points. At the outset, I wish to appeal to the Members of the House first and to our State in general not to look at this as a religious issue. NLTP Act, the effects positive or negative should not be looked at from the religious perspective. This has no connections to our beliefs, to the principles, to the doctrines of any religion in the world. I would rather say that this be taken as a human habit, a menace to the human society across the world be it from any race, any culture, any religion across any part of this globe. This is a social menace which governments and leaders cutting across different walks of life have been battling through the ages to curb its usage but have been failing repeatedly. So now we should rather take pity and sympathize on the citizens, old and young, men and women who have fallen prey to this menace and have become addicts and alcoholics. Our hearts goes out to them that they have to be under a compulsive behavior which is not conducive to the contemporary society anywhere in the world. Unfortunately, we feel for their near and dear ones with whom they live daily, causing so much anguish and God knows, in so many aspects of their lives causing misery to the people around them. But they are humans, they are citizens of certain countries and states, they are the members of some community and society in the world, they cannot simply be damned and condemned and leave them as outcast from within the great human society. So, it is a responsibility which all governments and leaders of all walks of life at all levels from any background must come together to try and address this chronic problem to mankind in the most amicable way without we having to resort to such kind of rush conclusions, rush decisions, resorting to ultimatums and especially with our issue this time, portraying ourselves as being a loggerhead with each other. The two last institutions in our society, the highest most respectable institution, our soul keepers, our moral custodians, the savior and sound voice which we turn to for advice and look for guidance when we are at a loss at many points in our own individual life or collectively as a society. Even the government turns to them to seek their advice and guidance. I do not know; I think this time such respectable body in our society has over reacted to the situation. Why? Why not be more calm when we deal with this kind of social issue? If we do not confront, handle, discuss and try to solve, we do not expect the government of other States, nations or the social leaders from other parts of the world to come and solve our domestic problems. So as mandated people of our State, holding the ranks of Government in our hands, we thought it is wrong to turn a deaf ear, a blind

eye to something which is burning just below our nose and yet choosing to confront this issue we handle, address this issue in an appropriate manner. For three and half decades, 35th year of its enactment, I think, the Government has never looked back after enacting this law and how much it has impacted on our society's head in every sense. So, here I think, we are trying to discharge our duties, trying to shoulder the responsibilities that the people have placed on us to settle/resolve the issues that are confronting us. On a personal note, Speaker Sir, at least 3 (three) of us are here who have casted our votes in 1989 on the 26th of November when NLTP Act was brought to the State Legislative Assembly. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and myself, we are honoured to be Members of that House when this Act was brought. Reasons, issues have not changed, we still have our highest respects for the values which the people, leaders, organizations of those years have attached to the stand taken by them to impose this Prohibition Act in the State. It is still the same, the dynamics have not changed, we are not saying that after 34 years, ah! this issue has matured, the circumstances, the ill effects of this Prohibition now have improved, so we will lift it. It is not that, but after having enacted a law, it is appropriate for the Government of the day to visit and have a look at it, evaluate it, weigh the pros and cons and try to look at it how it has fared over all these years and I think it should be more frequent than 35 years, once in a decade, every 10 years, certain laws should be revisited, not only the NLTP. And we mean that it should still continue to be affected but in what way, what will be more efficient, what will be more effective in trying to tackle this menace and keep it at bay. There are completely unregulated way by enacting this law and prohibiting the use of it completely or by regulating it by way of a partial lifting of this Prohibition Act. I think that is with the Government of the day, the leaders here, honourable Members thought that it is the right time to reconsider or consider this Act. So, it is with that intention that the Government thought it should initiate a discussion and elicit the opinions, the minds of first the honourable Members of this House and the organizations and leaders of our society in the State. It is only a process/beginning, the Government's intention should not be misconstrued, I think many organizations have drawn a rash conclusion on the Government's initiative this time, which I would request through your honourable office, Speaker Sir that this message should go out to our people, don't let them parley like this. Let us not start stripping each other's pants and wash our dirty linens on the streets of the world. The world is watching as it is we are hyper-political region in the world. Everywhere people are looking at us, reading, watching, listening, observing us on a day-to-day basis, studying us, we are under the scanner of the world. Perhaps they are confused as to what we are made of, who we actually are and how to treat us. So let us be careful that we should not paint a picture where we are clashing, fighting, at loggerheads because of issues that pertains to our society. We have to approach all the issues, handle it with tolerance and endurance as we are doing with

our other more larger issues. We are a pre-matured developing society as many of the Members have stated already. We have very serious and larger issues looming above our head so if this is the way that we are going to tackle, handle and approach issues that surrounds us, God only knows what will be the outcome. We seek, we appeal for more tolerance, let us be a more tolerant society and we have to extend cooperation, work hand-in-glove because we have to complement and supplement each other at all levels. We have divisions everywhere and at every level. Why the last two institutions should be at loggerheads like this, one word is enough. Certain quarters are highly respected despite the fact that we live in a secular country. We are not under a theophoric State, we are averse and we also rebel and protest against any move which has a religious favor or stigma. In any Act of the Parliament or any other neighboring States, anything which is bias and averse to secularism, we oppose with all our might. In the last House, you have seen how we have reacted to certain statements/laws that are not in our interest. The House had resolved, we have put it in writing to the different authorities and that is how we work in cohesion. So, today if the Government is taking up certain contentious issues, we will not rush to a conclusion. Our honourable leader, the Chief Minister of our State is here, one of the longest serving Chief Ministers of this country and we have so many senior colleagues with him in the government and with the same reasonable and very honest Members of this 14th House, there is no way that this Government will go against the people. Time and again we have said, it is a people's Government, we will seek their views, opinions and have thorough consultations again and again until we can reach a broad consensus to resolve such kinds of issues which touches the life of every citizen of our State. So, there need not be any apprehensions, any fear that we will draw to a conclusion.

Today, under Rule 50, this discussion has been initiated, I think it exemplifies the intention of the Government that we don't intend to arrive at a resolution, at a certain decision which is against the interest of our people.

Speaker Sir, if we talk about revenue, my last point is, this afternoon our honourable Advisor, Industries, she had brought her entire Industries department and she has launched this "Raising and Accelerating (MSMEs) Performance. All of us were there, it is to do with Rs.52 crores as a share of our State for the sector and with this Rs.52 crores we are covering, according to them some 25 MSMEs, 25 thousand imagin from the statements and the calculations that we have from the former Members who have spoken. In terms of a thousand plus crores every year if we calculate for the last 34-35 years it comes to thirty-four thousand crores, thirty-five thousand crores. If with 52 crores we can cover so much, do so much than how much we could do with 34-35 thousand crores but the government is sacrificing all these revenues in order to uphold the morality of our society and people so the people should not

accuse. The government is trying selflessly to revert, take a U turn to make money out of exploiting the people's belief and habit. The government have been sacrificing, government continue to sacrifice under such a dynamic leadership so do not accuse the government of being selfish and try to raise revenue. We as much as any other who has concern have the interest and the welfare of the people at heart so our intention is clear. Thank you, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon'ble Minister. We have now heard from all the Hon'ble Members who have submitted their names for participation. To wind up our discussion, I would now like to call upon our Hon'ble Leader of the House to make the concluding remarks.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER: Speaker Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on matter of Urgent Public Importance on "Health Hazards of Spurious Liquor" and I thank the Hon'ble Members for raising this very pertinent issue and I want to thank the Hon'ble Speaker for allowing the discussion on this topic. I extend my thanks to all the Hon'ble Members who have participated in the discussion for their views and inputs which were very positive and very educative and the participation. Those who had listened we will handle this issue with more knowledge and this topic Health Hazards of Spurious Liquor in our State and the people affects will have further discussion in this House and outside the House with public leaders and various organizations.

As the Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition Act (NLTP) has been enacted in the State in the year 1989 with the intention of addressing social issues related to alcohol abuse such as domestic violence, health problems, drunken driving and public disorders. The Act envisage that reducing alcohol consumption will in turn lower the rate of alcohol related diseases there by improving our all-community health. Among others this policy was put in place in doing with the circumstances of that time. The Statehood has been in place for over 34 years and the impact deserve for all of us to see looking back we cannot see that it has been successful and there were various factors for which we will briefly touch upon.

Historically, and contemporarily the first to ban alcohol had been laid to unintended and often detrimental consequences that highlight the challenges of enforcing such policies. The rise of black markets increased criminal activities such as rise in syndicate suppliers, spurious and inferior quality among many others which the Hon'ble Members had expressed. It may be appreciated that the State government can only regulate and restrict sell and flow of liquor but the government cannot outrightly prohibit individual from drinking which is essentially a matter of personal choice and decision. Further, this is also a subject that is largely devoted on the dynamics of demand and supply as long as people drink there is bound to be demand and that

follows maturely is the supply base on such demand. If we see the pitiable history of the prohibition policy there has been observed that the policy had been largely effective in rural areas in the State. On the other hand, in the Urban areas, we had witnessed a huge failure, the Church has also been vocal on these matters and we genuinely appreciated the apprehension of the Church. In fact, all these years the State government had been consulting all section of the society on important public matters such as this before taking any decisions.

As one of the Member had stated in the Urban Local Bodies also this was the Civil Societies and Tribal Hoho's who are totally against the Municipal and Town Council Act which has reservation of 33% for women and we went to the extent of rebelling the Central law and we got contempt of Court. When we passed a law after convincing the tribal leaders with 33% reservation and people support, peaceful conduct of election was held that means consultation, listening to one another bring success and therefore in this issue also, we need a huge consultation of all stake holders. The State government genuinely appreciate the gaps in the enforcement of the NLTP Act. With that as it meant simply blaming the state government will not improve the situation. This needs a collective resolution and participation from every section of the community. Let us understand that the State agencies such as police or the excise department alone cannot address this challenge by themselves. This challenge can be effectively addressed only when cooperation is extended by all the sections, starting from the family, the colonies, wards, and civil societies at large. If we really see, few people have actually benefitted from this system since the business went underground and bootleggers stood out as the major beneficiaries. The benefit going into the wrong hands is a very dangerous thing for the society. The common citizens at large have suffered, there are several examples of our citizens suffering from various diseases owing to the consumption of illicit liquor, it pains us to see many men and women lose their lives at a very young age on account of drinking spurious liquor. If we look around many people in the society suffer from liver diseases or alcohol-related complications essentially because they are accessible only to inferior and adulterated liquor. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to explain some of the news items you might have come across recently where the consumption of illicit liquor caused 65 deaths in Kallakurichi district in Tamil Nadu in June this year. In fact, according to the source of Home Ministry, 947 deaths occurred in 2020, 782 deaths in 2021 on account of the consumption of spurious liquor in the country and I have checked up with some of my friends through my contact and I am informed that many cities with good hospitals are there all over the country. My information about one particular hospital in Delhi, every year they get patients registering for liver transplants and in a year the registrations are about 100 patients, and this includes Nagas and others. But last year i.e. 2023, 14 Nagas had liver transplants in that hospital and surviving, those registered waiting for

the donor may die or they may go elsewhere. Among the 14 Naga liver transplant patients, I am informed that 9 were Naga men between the ages 30-40 years, these are very young men who should have been at the peak of their life but they are dying and suffering from drinking spurious liquor. This is only about one hospital in Delhi; Nagas prefer to go to cities like Guwahati, Kolkata, Vellore, Delhi, and Mumbai for their treatments, so we don't know how many more similar cases there will be. I think a concerned citizen or a team should look deeper into this issue and find out things which we are still unaware of. The unregulated alcohol in the black market is often of poor quality and causes severe health risks. As our doctor friends had mentioned various chemical combinations which are very poisonous and can harm the vital system in our body. Regulation will allow for strict quality measures to reduce the incidents of health complications associated with unsafe alcohol consumption. Besides this alcohol as mentioned by some speakers for about easier and cheaper formula/method, many become a drug addict and use drugs. There are so many drugs which can be transported or carried easily. Therefore, these stories and the issues which lie in our society is a concern not only for the mothers or the Church but the whole society as a whole are fully concerned. So instead of pointing fingers at one another it is time we all come together and reason together so that we can collectively and resolutely address these problems and make our society free from the hazard of spurious illicit liquor rather than judging one another. Let us have an open mind and positively share views in order to make our community healthy and resilient. We respect the views of the Churches, NMAs, the public and other organizations. On 22nd August, 2024 i.e. last week the Cabinet decided to revisit and discuss on NLTP Act, 1989, because many organizations are writing to the Government to discuss and to revisit, and so to have further discussions we should discuss-What to discuss and how to discuss? In this, our Cabinet discussion went viral on social media and circulated and a lot of interest developed on this issue. Newspaper headlines and organizations began to voice their opinions and arguments, with some supporting and others opposing, this was seen both on social media and in newspapers, against both in social media and news. It has generated a lot of interest in discussion like today in the House our views are different, in that manner we should discuss so that we can hammer out our difference, make one another understand more. Not only newspapers, social media, see now it is 6:25 P.M. and whole day we had meeting, lunch break, one meeting we had, we had lunch and came back and from morning till now no hon'ble Members are feeling sleepy, very alert taking interest, either you are speaking or listening, even our officials and the gallery people who are sitting, nobody is sleeping today, everybody is giving their attentions.

So, as you are aware, in this 5th Session of the 14th House, in the business list on this NLTP

issue is not listed. This Session in the business it is not listed and discussion on Matter of Urgent Public Importance under Rule-50, it is only a discussion on urgent public importance, no resolution, no decision, it is discussion inside the House or outside the House. Therefore, be positive and let us come together and share our mind. In the Cabinet what we discussed, if at all we have to relax there is no issue of lifting, our discussion was it has a provision for diplomats and their delegates and Nagaland has become a tourist destination so, how do we deal people who come from outside the State, only that discussion. In one area we discussed, if anybody needs, that district after consultation with the civil societies and the ULBs, they should write to the Department and there should be a Committee to access, so, it is not the State Government but on the demand because many district and many organization have started writing letters because it is better to be regulated and controlled, otherwise, if it is a failure the Government will be the first to be blamed, we can take the blame. But, as I had mentioned, without the support of civil societies and all stakeholders it is not possible.

I asked the Intelligence Department some days back since this issue was coming, so I had mentioned, I want to know how many shops in between that location to that location, that is about less than 2Kms, how many wine selling shops will be there? Intelligence had reported to me that there are more than 100 shops, so that means I had asked only for one street and there are many places like that. Therefore, I think, together we have to not only discuss but we have to enforce and regulate. When you declare a war, you have to win, you have to fight for it, otherwise, you will lose the battle. And therefore, since Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition Act, 1989 is in place with everybody's support only Government can activate and check particularly the spurious liquor and also to control the bootleggers or the black market. We have to clean up but first we have to understand one another to enforce if we want to be successful.

I once again thank you and thank all the participants for your inputs and for other Members who could not get chance but had given a patient hearing. So, with these few words, I conclude our discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you hon'ble Leader of the House. I also want to thank all the hon'ble Members for your participation in the discussion. With that we have come to end of Item No. 4.

We have another half an hour discussion listed in Item No. 5. But before we come to Item No. 5, I would like to adjourn the House for 10 minutes for a short break.

Also before the House is adjourned, I wish to make a small announcement, that there is an inadvertent error made in the official report of the business proceedings of the 4th Session of

the 14th House on Page No. 88, which is distributed to all the hon'ble Members. Wherein, Hon'ble Advisor, Shri. Imkong L. Imchen is shown as belonging to the 'NDPP' party. The error is sincerely regretted on behalf of the Assembly and stands corrected. Secretary-in-Charge may note.

With that I adjourn the House for 10 minutes to resume and continued with the business.

(The House adjourned at 6:33 P.M)

(The House re-assemble at 6:55 PM)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members I now call the house to order. To resume with our business we will start with the Item no- 5. I have received a notice for half an hour discussion on issue arising out of answers to questions under Rule- 48 from Hon'ble Member Hon'ble Shri Imkong L. Imchen and Hon'ble Member Er. Kropol Vitsu pertaining to Landslide and rock fall in National Highway 29. Now, I have allotted 20 minutes for discussion and 10 minutes if the Minister-in-Charge have to reply. So, I would now request Hon'ble Member to make the submission.

SHRI IMKONG L. IMCHEN (BJP) ADVISOR, INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS, SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION: Speaker Sir, thank you for entertaining my notice under Rule- 48 (1) discussion on Matters of Urgent Public Importance. Hon'ble Members we were somewhat getting exhausted with our liquor, with our spurious or beer or whatever we were infact exhausted, now let us come to road portion. Speaker Sir, I recall my notice on 22nd September, 2022 under Rule- 54, I am calling on this motion in regard to the construction of the Foothill road. I was overjoyed with the response of the Leader of the House on my notice that on that day the Hon'ble Leader of the House even went out of the way to call and appeal the Hon'ble Speaker to seek the assent of the House. I was praying on that day that for this financial year let us waive all other departmental proposal to NEC or DoNER but of this Foothill Road from Tizit to Kalma because it is a long yearand the Leader of the House responded positively and then he said that Speaker's intervention to seek the assentof the House is required. The Hon'ble Speaker admitted the notice of the Leader of the House and accordingly the Hon'ble Speaker called the assent of the House and it was adopted unanimously and I was watching for over 23 years. 2023 and 2024 in the Budget it was reflected positively by setting aside of Rs. 148 Cr for this Foothill Road construction, I am so happy that even though one calendar year has lapsed the Hon'ble Leader of the House has reflected in his Budget Speech for the necessary allocation of fund for that road. Today also I call upon the Hon'ble Members and also the

Hon'ble Speaker to this Matter of Urgent Public Importance, I thought that there is no other Urgent Public Importance than this one, I was pondering over this Rule- 40, 49, 54 and 56 to which Rules I should keep the notice then I decided to fall on Rule- 48 (1) here there is no house debate but it is up to the Leader of the House and the Hon'ble Speaker's discretion to make necessary decision. Sir, myself and my Hon'ble colleague Er. Kropol two of us have submitted this on the road condition of National Highway 29 Dimapur to Kohima, Kohima to Dimapur when we recall in 2003 our Hon'ble Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was here in Kohima he committed Rs.400 Cr for this four lane road between Kohima and Dimapur, Dimapur to Kohima and the Cabinet, we were discussing in 2003 and 2004 on several occasions I do not exactly remember but in the Cabinet the discussion was held and I remember what I have said in the Hon'ble Cabinet meeting that day, my contention at that point of time was the soil condition and then the demographic layout of our State does not show feasibility for construction of four laning in our state and therefore, I thought it will serve us better if we construct two lane road, one for up and one for down two parallel road. But later on the Hon'ble Cabinet decided that it has to be four laning road Kohima to Dimapur, Dimapur to Kohima so, accordingly the government decided to start construction of this four lane road from 2015 I think, now it is 2024 and that four lane road the famous so call four lane road between the two biggest cities of the State i.e. Dimapur and Kohima is not even becoming one laning road, instead of four laning road it is not even one laning road. For the last more than one week there is not even one laning road also because land slide has already clubbed all the road. I remember even in the Eleventh House I was talking that the road connecting from Kohima to Dimapur via Jotsoma should be constructed on a two lane road which is very important Kohima to Dimapur via Jotsoma bypass, I still reiterate today that Kohima to Dimapur via Jotsoma byroad diversion road should be constructed on the two laning road that is one of my alternative proposal. It may not be joining with the Dzudza river but we can go towards Mezoma side and then come down towards Zubza so, I thought that will also serve our purpose. Now Sir, in 2023 also we were discussing over these Chumoukedima Kukidolong portion the so call Pagala Pahar. I remember, I was saying in this august House that this Pagala Pahar road has made all the nagas pakala. Rock falling is not stopping, so many casualty has happened, lives were taken and still there is no guarantee that this rock falling will stop because if you cut little further the whole mountain is about to drop down and therefore, here I wanted to draw the attention of the Leader of the House why not we think of digging a tunnel from Patkai college gate (Chumukedima) to Kukidolong area or Medziphema, and the other areas also some sort of alternative measures and I feel that cutting of tunnel inside the pakala pahar mountain should be the best and stable alternative because if you cut the present road the rock sliding will continue to fall down and commuters will be in danger and we have all cared to understand, we

all know that there are casualties, life casualties on this very particular road and there is no guarantee that it will not fall any further. Rather there is guarantee that it is going to fall down more and more, and this is the arterial route of Nagaland. Dimapur - Kohima, Kohima - Dimapur, one is the State capital and the other is commercial capital of the State. So, this is such an important and vital route.

Another suggestion I wanted to put across is, this Kohima via Zhadima via Niuland road should be constructed. I was studying this NHIDCL, this is a public undertaking engineering group. I think their approach to the National Highway 29 is very casual. There is no sign of proper study appraisal condition of this Dimapur- Kohima geography, geo formation and then their approach to the problem is so casual that they will never be able to solve and give us a quality road. I wanted to draw the challenge to the Naga Engineers led by Engineer in Chief that we have thousands of Naga qualified civil engineers. Why not this engineering community give a thought over this issue. Since the inception of the State, how much money we have invested on this particular road, I don't think anybody can calculate accurately from 1963 till date. Yearly in every summer how much money we are spending on this particular road and no solution in sight till today and therefore this road should be taken up by the Chief Minister or the cabinet should take up this particular road on a special dispensation mode. I want to propose on a special dispensation mode or for a one time dispensation to the Government of India for funding with proper preparation of DPR and then execute the work, otherwise we are going to have this Kohima city problem and so also we are going to have in Dimapur. I am talking across the party line, and across tribal line or whatever line or any line I am transcending it today that this Kohima-Dimapur road deserve to have a riding quality road and NHIDCL firm I could not trust them anymore. Even though I am not the Minister-in-charge of National Highway or the R & B for that matter, I am also a Member of this House and as a Naga I have been observing and I have been travelling on this road for a long period and therefore till today there is no semblance of road. Now Kohima & Dimapur is not connected today even in this morning discussion, even this Niuland road is also not through and therefore we deserve to have a riding quality road between State capital and commercial capital. And therefore, I wanted to take the privilege of the time allotted to me and my colleague Er. Kropol will also supplement on the notice given under Rule 48 (1) that only sufficient. So I wanted to appeal once again to our Leader of the House to kindly take up this issue on a special dispensation mode so that the Hon'ble Cabinet or for that matter any competent authority may like to study and take up with the relevant authority with the Government of India on a special funding dispensation, that is what I wanted to propose here. Thank you Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Member, Er. Kropol Vitsu

Er. KROPOL VITSU (BJP) ADVISOR PRISON, PRINTING & STATIONERY : Thank you Hon'ble Speaker Sir for giving me the time to discuss under Rule 48 on the topic "Landslide and rock fall in NH 29". Now when we talk about this very topic, I want to separate this very topic into 2 parts. One is about National Highway between Kohima & Dimapur. The other one is the alternate route. Firstly, about our National Highway being looked after by the NHIDCL, this patch of road every year we are accumulating road blockages due to subsidence, due to landslide from above during the monsoon season. Though it is a yearly affair our NHIDCL authority are also not well aware of how to maintain and to keep the road through for the commuters. Also, we the State Government also, what are the alternative ones we have to look carefully at perspective also. We know our Nagaland earth is very fragile in nature because of our age, according to the scientist it is about 40-50 million years old only whereas, when it is compared with the other parts of the world, the age of the earth is said to be 4.3 billion years old, because of this young earth's age our fragility will keep on going and this fragility has been further added by our man-made deforestation, excavation, cultivation etc. In addition to all these NHIDCL are looking after this very stretch of road are not doing the work according to the specification and the standards as required under India Road Progress, though many of us may not know the technical aspect but common sense tells us that they are not following the specification. Why because, in the road construction camber is a must but throughout the stretch of the road, we don't see them maintaining the camber properly. The other one is proper construction of drainage system, because of not maintaining this drainage properly, our road is being badly impacted by this consequences. Of course, even if they keep on maintaining the drainage system in a regular manner still there could be calamity and of course it cannot be stopped maybe because of the type of soil, yet, when there's any earth falls or any rock falls, we tend to blame the authorities, including the Government, NHIDCL, Contractors, and Engineers. But it should be a common sense that more amount of pressure or more amount of human work will never ever stop nature's fury, this will keep on going. So talking about the Kohima side of this National Highway, starting from below Paramedical and then before reaching Piphema, I believe, we have a stretch of about 15 — 16 KMs. This stretch of road is very, very vulnerable. But when the monsoon season comes road blockages happen every year, so our State Government also, we have to keep ourselves ready with alternative route that is number one. From Kohima town to Indira Gandhi stadium, down to the river, then to Peducha and National Highway, this portion of the road the terrain is very good. This stretch is not prompt to landslide so much, especially the roads from down the river, the road headed to national highway via Peducha, the terrain is also very good, the earth is also very stable, so this can be utilized during the monsoon season. Otherwise, during the monsoon season if we

are to stop all our activities including stopping the tourists from India or for that matter from abroad it is not worth calling Dimapur as our commercial hub, business hub or Kohima as our State Capital. So, that stretch is one possibility and since, this portion of the road will not be maintained by the NHIDLC, it is the duty of the State Government, the responsibility of the State Government to take care of this stretch of road. So, instead of harassing our people, instead of bringing up the price rise, commuters difficulty, giving troubles to vehicles, consumption of fuels unnecessarily and also wastage of our time, why not we State Government give priority to this stretch of road about this Kohima side. The other one is via Khonoma, Mezoma and then up to Peducha that also, this passes through many village roads that means it is very long, very widening and very narrow also. But still that is now serving as a lifeline for all of us, you can go to Dimapur and to come back from Dimapur. These areas the State Government need to be prepared in order to face any unexpected eventualities and calamities.

The other one is as pointed by our Hon'ble Member, Shri Imkong, towards Pakala Pahar side, in between Pakala Pahar and Peducha there is no much problem, so I will leave aside. Sir, Pakala Pahar side, we cannot put anything and that very stretch of Pakala Pahar side the road is very narrow. Calamity can happen anytime because of rock falling from above, earth falling from above and we just cannot blame the NHIDLC or any other authority with the of the expansion of the road definitely and naturally the road will be spoiled and we can foresee earth falling or landslide by looking at the terrain or the hillock, this calamity will keep on going. So, there in order to save human lives and to keep the travelers safe and also to keep ourselves busy and for smooth functioning our daily activities why not we propose the authority to have a tunneling road that way we can make a road which will become permanent and very safe road for all of us. Meanwhile, while doing this road we have to remember the other side of the alternate road, starting from Kohima, Indira Gandhi Stadium, 10th Mile, Zhadima, Nuiland, Referral Hospital, then to our main National highway. Why not we keep this road as permanent an all-weather road, so that commuter's vehicle movement can be there all the time in this all-weather road even now that is only road connecting to Dimapur and Kohima. So, also when we intent to take up this road, I think, our Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, in consultation with our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland will be able to do something or else it is very embarrassing. Friends coming from outside, they are not able to reach Kohima, they are afraid to come via the present road. So, in case the national highway is blocked completely and even if it is not motorable the Nuiland, Zhadima, Indira Gandhi Stadium road can be kept as an alternative throughout the year and not only during the monsoon season. I believe our State Government take note of this and in the coming days and take prompt steps so that community fear or

natural catastrophe may be avoided in future. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, Shri Kuzholuzo Nienu wants to contribute to the discussion, are you comfortable with it?

(The House agreed)

SHRI KUZHOLUZO NIENU (NPF): Thank you Hon'ble Speaker. I really want to thank you for giving half an hour discussion under Rule-48 on the issue pertaining to Landslide and Rock fall area in NH-29. Mr. Speaker Sir, if you look at my Unstarred Question No. 2, its related to this road only, Package- I, II, III. I am very happy to see the Press Release issued by our Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, National Highways, highlighting the slackness and lackadaisical attitude of NHIDCL and also requesting them to clear the road within 72 hours. With my little knowledge Mr. Speaker Sir, if I am not mistaken any National Highway agreement with the NHIDCL is, they should clear the road within 48 hours but looking at that road they have taken more than 2 weeks to clear it and looking at the machineries deployed in the landslide area, it is also truly disturbing, hurting and it shows the slack attitude of negligence. Mr. Speaker Sir, if you go through my reply, NHIDCL has totally misled the House again. The answer to my queries itself is truly misleading the august House and the answer itself shows their lack of seriousness. Now in the Package-I, that is the Pakala Pahar area, I have asked for physical progress, they have written 99.81% that means only 0.19% left now but we all know it is never 99.81% completed it will be hardly 80% completed. Then Package-II, come to my answer No.3. In the new Amendment Act, Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business, you have given a provision under Chapter VIII Point 38 (ii) that Members shall be permitted to put a supplementary question on ordinary Unstarred Question with the permission of the Chair, so with your permission I am also putting some few queries. If you look at the answer, there are some very grave mistakes in it. Now, for Package II, 4 lanning Dimapur road, appointed date is 3/8/2016, scheduled completion is 2/8/2016 means their appointed date is today and the completion was yesterday as per the answer. That means they are not serious at all, they have no concern for us therefore I think its time, the Government take very seriously and for me this road we can call it as or rather we can term it as criminal negligence, it's a criminal negligence. There have been lot of loss of lives. The other day, while I was crossing, just five seconds had I speeded my car, my car would have been smashed, I escaped by just a few seconds. Now, in order to wake them up I feel that the Government of the day should file a criminal case against NHIDCL, we can file, there are provisions to file criminal cases or if not also the Cabinet should give a Suo Moto CBI inquiry on NHIDCL and wake them up, otherwise all the roads that are taken up within Nagaland is in hopeless shape. With these few words, I want to thank you once again for

bringing up this topic and please look at the answers, the way they have given their answers.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Hon'ble Member for your participation. Will the Minister-in-Charge want to give a statement or reply?

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG (NDPP), DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, PLANNING AND

TRANSFORMATION, NATIONAL HIGHWAY: Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to participate and set some record in the discussion pertaining to landslide and rock fall on NH-29 which was raised by Hon'ble Members Shri Imkong L. Imchen and Er. Kropol Vitsu and now associated by Hon'ble MLA, Shri Kuzholuzo Nienu. Sir, we are all aware regarding the blockade of NH-29 owing to the landslide near Dzudza bridge. The commuters are being made to take alternative routes making travelling between Dimapur and Kohima extremely difficult and time consuming. Besides, hundreds of trucks having been stranded for days together awaiting the opening of the said National Highway. This is the most critical lifeline as it connects the State capital Kohima and several other districts of the State and further to Manipur State. Speaker Sir, NHIDCL is the implementing agency for construction of the 4 Lane Dimapur-Kohima National Highway and the State machineries have been taking up the issue of quality and safety with the NHIDCL at different level on several occasions. I may not mention all the dates but for the information of this august House, we have had as many as 20 times Coordination meetings relating to pre-monsoon preparedness since 11th April 2023 till date. The implementing agency has divided the construction of Dimapur-Kohima into three packages. From Patkai bridge under Chumoukedima upto Jotsoma By-Pass junction under Kohima. In the past little over one year, two major incidents of rockfall had been witnessed in the Pakala Pahar stretch under Package-I. First on 4th July 2023 and again on 5th August this year, the 4th July 2023 incident unfortunately claimed 2 (two) precious lives and injured few others. Thankfully in the incident in August this year, no casualty occurred but 2 (two) passengers were injured and their vehicle were badly damaged. Sir, State Government through the department and the District Administration had been flagging the concern on the safety specially under Package-I considering the terrain and the way construction had been undertaken by NHIDCL. The matter was taken up with the Union Minister, MoRTH Shri. Nitin Gadkariji, impressing upon him the grave concern of the State Government and to initiate necessary enquiry into the rockfall incident, so that appropriate action can be initiated. The State Government has also taken up on several occasions with NHIDCL to put in place adequate safety measures. The State Government persistently insisted NHIDCL to constitute Technical Expert Committee and work out long term safety measures on this stretch of National Highway. Subsequently, the NHIDCL had constituted an Independent Technical Expert Committee in July, 2023 comprising field

experts and specialist from IIT Mumbai to suggest suitable safety measures for immediate and long-term protection measure as well. Over and above this, the State Government has also started constructing Bypass Pakala Pahar starting from Old Chumoukedima gate to New Chumoukedima which is under construction and I was informed that vehicle would be pliable within few days' time. In fact, considering the gravity of the situation the State Cabinet had decided to engage an Independent Technical Body to assess the safety and quality issues on the Dimapur - Kohima highway. Accordingly, IIT Guwahati had been roped in to undertake this exercise and to suggest measure to the State Government which will then be conveyed to NHIDCL. A two-member team from IIT Guwahati had visited the State in early part of August this year for preliminary studies. Further, Speaker Sir, the Cabinet during its meeting in January this year have taken serious note of the fact that the NHIDCL had issued Completion Certificate to the contractor under Dimapur - Kohima package 2 (two). The State Government had earlier made it very clear that Completion Certificate should be issued only after joint verification and in consultation with the State authorities. This matter was also flagged by the department to the Managing Director of NHIDCL headquarter Delhi asking why and how such direction had been ignored.

Speaker Sir, this landslide that has occurred blocking the National Highway 29 falls under package 1 (one). While we appreciate that excessive rain this year may have triggered the massive landslide and mudslide and also added to the difficulty in clearing the debris, the State Government has also observed that the efforts put in by the NHIDCL in clearing and opening the highway for traffic has been far from satisfactory. This dissatisfaction was flagged to the NHIDCL by the Department of Work & Housing in the meeting held on 28th August, 2024. The department, District Administration Kohima and Official from Geology & Mining had visited the site for the same day along with NHIDCL official and gave suggestion and offer all possible support in the presence of the villagers and local youth. However, since the performance of the NHIDCL was not satisfactory, another meeting was convened at the Chief Secretary's level on 26th August, i.e. yesterday 2024 considering the indifferent attitude of the NHIDCL. The State Government has issued them notice directing them to clear and open the highway for traffic within 72 hours, otherwise the State Government shall take over the task of deploying machinery and man power to open the road and charge the NHIDCL for such expenditure. This letter as mentioned by our Hon'ble Member Shri. Azo that we have written yesterday to Executive Director, NHIDCL, RO Kohima. I think, it will come out in paper so I will not read out the contents of the letter which we have sent to the print media and social media. Speaker Sir, we have been trying to work out the remedies for short term and long term safety measures but from the beginning itself the construction on this National highway of package1(one) to

package 3 (three) particularly the stretch of this Pakala Pahar area was totally wrong from the beginning. If they could have constructed benching step by step up to the road then rock falling would have fallen on the first bench or the second bench then on the road side the rock fall would not have fall straight on to the road but they have constructed vertical, straight to the road that is why mud fall or rock fall is falling on the road. That was the serious mistake that they have committed at the time of a construction of this road which we have made known to MoRTH and MoRTH requested us to submit the proposal. So, we have submitted a proposal in the annual plan of last year that expert team should be sent and then they should study on the ground and then safety measure should be taken up and that proposal is under consideration. Speaker Sir, the State Government is fully serious of the matter mentioned by the Hon'ble Members and of the difficulties being face by the commuters and the stranded cargo truckers. We are continuously exercising our efforts and raising this issue at every level and we will ensure that the highway is open for regular traffic at the earliest possible time under any circumstances. Another point raised by Hon'ble Member Shri. Kropol is that Niuland to Zhadima is the shortage road and the road is very stable, there is no sinking area there is no rock fall area or landslide area. But as I said package 1, 2, 3, package 2 and 3 is completed and package 1 (one) could not be completed because of land owner issue, 3 villages land owners are not allowing the contractor to construct the road without payment of land compensation. Whereas there is no provision from the Government side to pay land compensation on inter State connectivity that is the problem. Otherwise this road would have been opened three years back and we would not have faced such kind of problem if we would have completed this road. So, I request our Hon'ble Members that though Mr. Jacob is not here today it falls under his constituency, the elected Hon'ble Member also should take serious note of it and try to convince the land owners with facts and figures that there is no provision for land compensation. So, land owners should not demand land compensation, that way I think if that land owner's problem is resolved, it is only a matter of 3 Km now. Once 3 km is completed, I think in future we will not face such kind of situation that is what we want to impress upon this House and then the Hon'ble Members also should take serious note of it and resolve land owners' problem. I think with these few words, I would like to conclude my statement. Thank you Sir,

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister. Now let us come to Item No.6- Introduction of Government Bills.

Item No.6 (a)The Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024.Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister may move for leave of the House to introduce "The Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024."

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce the Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are in favour of granting leave to introduce the Bill may say “AYE”

Those Against may say “NO”

The Ayes have it, the Ayes have it.

Leave to introduce the Bill is granted.

Now, the Hon’ble Chief Minister may move for introduction of the Bill.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon’ble Members, consideration and passing of this Bill shall be taken up on the 29th August, 2024. Amendments, if any, may be submitted till 8.30 P.M. today the 27th August 2024.

Item No. 6 (b) – The Nagaland Road Safety Authority (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024.”

Shri T.R Zeliang, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister may move for leave of the House to introduce the “The Nagaland Road Safety Authority (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024.”

SHRI T.R ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce the “The Nagaland Road Safety Authority (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024.”

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are in favour of granting leave to introduce the Bill may say “AYE”

Those Against may say “NO”

The Ayes have it, the Ayes have it.

Leave to introduce the Bill is granted.

Now, the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister may move for introduction of the Bill.

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG (NDPP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Once again, Hon'ble Members, consideration and passing of this Bill shall be taken up on the 29th August, 2024. Amendments, if any, may be submitted till 8.30 P.M. today the 27th August 2024

Item No. 6 (c) The Nagaland Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Item No. 6 (d) — The Nagaland Work-Charged and Casual Employees Regulation (First Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Item No. 6 (e) — Disqualification on ground of Defection in Urban Local Bodies Bill, 2024.

Since all these three Bills is stated to be moved by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, may I suggest that all these three Bills may be moved together to save time.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce that (c) The Nagaland Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2024. (d) The Nagaland Work-Charged and Casual Employees Regulation (First Amendment) Bill, 2024. (e) Disqualification on ground of Defection in Urban Local Bodies Bill, 2024.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are in favour of granting leave to introduce the Bills as just read out may say "AYE"

Those Against may say "NO"

The Ayes have it, the Ayes have it.

Leave to introduce the Bills as read out is granted.

Now, the Hon'ble Chief Minister may move for introduction of the Bills.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to introduce these Bills.

MR. SPEAKER: Once again, Hon'ble Members, consideration and passing of the Bills as read out Item No.6 (c) The Nagaland Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Item No.6 (d) The Nagaland Work-Charged and Casual Employees Regulation (First Amendment) Bill, 2024. Item No.6 (e) Disqualification on ground of Defection in Urban Local Bodies Bill, 2024. Consideration and passing of the Bills will also be taken upon the 29th August, 2024. Amendments, if any, may be submitted till 8.30 P.M. today the 27th August 2024.

Let us now come to Item No. 6 (f) – The Global Open University Nagaland (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Shri Temjen Imna Along, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education may move for leave of the House to introduce "The Global Open University Nagaland (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024."

SHRI TEMJEN IMNA ALONG (BJP) MINISTER, TOURISM AND HIGHER EDUCATION: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce "The Global Open University Nagaland (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024."

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are in favour of granting leave to introduce the Bill may say "AYE"

Those Against may say "NO"

The Ayes have it, the Ayes have it.

Leave to introduce the Bill is granted.

Now, the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education may move for introduction of the Bill.

SHRI TEMJEN IMNA ALONG (BJP) MINISTER, TOURISM AND HIGHER EDUCATION: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, consideration and passing of this Bill shall also be taken up on the 29th August, 2024. Amendments, if any, may be submitted till 8.30 P.M. today the 27th August 2024

Let us now come to Item No. 7 – Laying of Reports/Rules.

(a) Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Leader of the House to lay on the table a copy each of the Reports and Rules of the following Departments:

1. Nagaland Agricultural Produce & Livestock Marketing (General) NAPLM Rules, 2024.
2. Notification of the Nagaland Lotteries (Regulation) First Amendment Rules, 2024.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy each of the Reports and Rules of the following Departments:

1. Nagaland Agricultural Produce & Livestock Marketing (General) NAPLM Rules, 2024.
2. Notification of the Nagaland Lotteries (Regulation) First Amendment Rules, 2024.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us come to Item No.7 (b). Shri K.G Kenye, Hon'ble Minister for Power & Parliamentary Affairs to present to the House a copy of the Nagaland Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) Separate Audit Report (SAR) for Financial Year 2018-2019 & Financial Year 2019-2020.

SHRI K.G KENYE (NDPP) MINISTER, POWER & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to present on the table a copy of the Nagaland Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) Separate Audit Report (SAR) for Financial Year 2018-2019 & Financial Year 2019-2020.

MR. SPEAKER: Item No.7 (c).

Shri Temjen Imna Along, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism & Higher Education to present a copy of the Notification based on the Cadre Review of 2018 in respect of Tourism Department.

SHRI TEMJEN IMNA ALONG (BJP) MINISTER, TOURISM AND HIGHER EDUCATION: Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to present to the House a copy of the Notification based on the Cadre Review on 2018 in respect of Tourism Department.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members all the copies are uploaded in the system for your reference.

Let us come to Item No. 8 — Laying of Annual Reports.

(a) Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Leader of the House to lay on the table a copy each of the following :

- (i) Nagaland Lokayukta Fifth Annual Report 2023.
- (ii) Nagaland State Mineral Development Corporation Limited Annual Report 2021-2024.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NDPP) CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to present to the House a copy each of the following Departments :

- (i) Nagaland Lokayukta Fifth Annual Report 2023.
- (ii) Nagaland State Mineral Development Corporation Limited Annual Report 2021-2024.

MR. SPEAKER: Item No.8.

(b) Shri Yanthungo Patton, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister to lay on the table a copy of the Nagaland State Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2023-2024.

SHRI YANTHUNGO PATTON (BJP) DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to present to the House a copy of the Nagaland State Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2023-2024.

MR. SPEAKER: Once again, Hon'ble Members, the reports have been uploaded in your system for your reference.

Let us now come to item no 9. (a) Hon'ble Shri Imkong L. Imchen, Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings (2024-2025) to present to the House a copy of the following Reports:

- i. 140th Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-2019 relating to the Nagaland Hotels & Tourism Development Corporation (NHTDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.
- ii. 141st Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2019-2020 relating to the Nagaland Hotels & Tourism Development Corporation (NHTDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.
- iii. 142nd Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-2019 relating to the Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.
- iv. 143rd Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2019-2020 contained in the Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.
- v. 144th Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-2019 relating to the Nagaland Handloom & Handicraft Development Corporation (NHHDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.

SHRI IMKONG L. IMCHEN (BJP) ADVISOR, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION: Speaker Sir, I, Shri Imkong L. Imchen, Chairman of the

Committee on Public Undertakings (2024-2025) having been authorized by the Committee to present a Report on its behalf do hereby present a copy each of the following Reports.

- i. 140th Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-2019 relating to the Nagaland Hotels & Tourism Development Corporation (NHTDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.
- ii. 141st Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2019-2020 relating to the Nagaland Hotels & Tourism Development Corporation (NHTDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.
- iii. 142nd Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-2019 relating to the Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.
- iv. 143rd Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2019-2020 contained in the Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.
- v. 144th Report on the Examination of the Audit Paragraphs that appeared in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2018-2019 relating to the Nagaland Handloom & Handicraft Development Corporation (NHHDC) under the Department of Industries and Commerce.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon'ble Members, the copies are being made available for your reference. Now, let us come to Item No. 9 (b). Shri Kuzholuzo Nienu, Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances (2024 2025) to present to the House a copy of the Reports:

- (i) 107th Action Taken Report on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 100th Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.
- (ii) 108th Report of the Committee on Government Assurances. (7th Session of the 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly).

(iii) 109th Report of the Committee on Government Assurances (9th Session of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly). 13th

(iv) 110th Action Taken Report on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 101st Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

SHRI KUZHOLUZO NIENU (NPF): Mr. Speaker Sir, I, Shri Kuzholuzo Nienu, Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurance, Nagaland Legislative Assembly beg to present to the House a copy each of the following:

(i) 107th Action Taken Report on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 100th Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

(ii) 108th Report of the Committee on Government Assurances. (7th Session of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly). 13th

(iii) 109th Report of the Committee on Government Assurances (9th Session of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly). 13th

(iv) 110th Action Taken Report on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 101st Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us now come to Item No. 9 (c) Hon'ble Member Dr. Sukhato A. Sema, Chairman of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation (2024 2025) to present to the House a copy of the following Reports:

(i) Eighty-Third Report on the Nagaland Health Service (Amendment) Rules, 2017.

(ii) Eighty-Fourth Report on The Nagaland Industries Service Rules, 1986.

Dr. SUKHATO A. SEMA (LJP (RV)): Praise the lord. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I, Dr. Sukhato A. Sema, Chairman of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation (2024 2025) do hereby present to the House a copy each of the following Report

(i) Eighty-Third Report on the Nagaland Health Service (Amendment) Rules, 2017.

(ii) Eighty-Fourth Report on The Nagaland Industries Service Rules, 1986.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon'ble Members, the copies are made available in your system for your reference.

Hon'ble Members, we have now come to the end of the list of items listed for today. I want to thank all the Hon'ble Members for your patience, your indulgence, your participations and contributions towards the business listed for today, and since there are no unfinished business, I adjourn the House to meet again at 9.30 Am on 29th August, 2024.

(The House adjourned at 8.00 pm)