

tion It is a great country which has produced a great literature We have to build on the past

Now that the Education Minister has asked me to withdraw my Resolution.—I shall—but let me thank the House for its very good response to the Resolution The discussion has been exhilarating I am sure we all enjoyed it We travelled into a realm where the sky is always blue and the willow is always green I am proud that the Parliament of India has been discussing art literature and national monuments, I suppose the Upper House is earning its wage

Sir, may I conclude my speech with expressing the hope, in the language of Shelley, that this country will be greater in the future as it has been great in the past in respect of literature and all that makes for the glory of the fine arts

'Another Athens shall arise,
And remoter time bequeath
Like sunset to the skies,
The splendour of its prime
And leave if naught may live,
All earth can take or Heaven
can give"

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Does the hon Member press the Resolution? Or does he withdraw it?

SHRI RAMA RAO I beg leave to withdraw it

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Has he the leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution?

SHRI C G K REDDY I would only make a submission, Sir I suggest that hereafter when a Member moves a Resolution, it should be done in all seriousness

SHRI RAMA RAO You don't charge me with lack of seriousness?

SHRI C G K REDDY I do not say that I wish Resolutions are pressed, otherwise we discuss it merely and

no satisfactory answer, as was admitted by the hon mover of the Resolution himself, is forthcoming I would, therefore suggest that when Resolutions are moved, they may be pressed and a certain opinion of the House taken

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN You cannot force any Member Rules do provide for withdrawal and a Resolution may be withdrawn by the leave of the House Has the leave of the House to withdraw?

(Hon Members signified assent.)

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn

SHRI S N MAZUMDAR What about my amendments, Sir?

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN They lapse automatically, when the main Resolution is not there

SHRI S N MAZUMDAR I know, Sir But in order to register my protest

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Order, order

SHRI M S RANAWAT When Resolutions are framed, I think, they should first seek the permission of the party leaders so that there may not be this kind of unceremonious funeral

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN We are not concerned with parties here We are concerned only with the conduct of the business in accordance with the rules of procedure

RESOLUTION RE CHANGE IN NAME OF "LUSHAI HILLS DISTRICT" TO "MIZO RAM"

SHRI R THANHLIRA (Assam) Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Council is of opinion that the name of the tribal area 'Lushai Hills District' specified in

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Part A of the Table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution be changed to 'Mizo Ram' and a Bill for the purpose be introduced in Parliament by the Government."

Sir, I am very glad that I have been given a chance of moving this Resolution at long last. I shall however try to be very brief and shall confine myself to the essential points only. It will be obvious, Sir, from a glance at the Resolution that it seeks to change the name of "Lushai Hills District" to that of "Mizo Ram". This change of name has been the earnest wish of the people inhabiting this District for a long time now. It is indeed unfortunate that this change was not effected when the Constitution was in the making, when the name of the United Provinces was changed into Uttar Pradesh, when the name of the Central Provinces was changed into Madhya Pradesh, and when the names of towns—such as, Cawnpore was respelt as Kanpur and Vizagapatam was changed into Visakhapatnam—were changed. Sir, I believe it was due to absence of the proper representation in the Constituent Assembly at that time.

Sir, the Lushai Hills District is one of the backward districts of Assam and it lies in the southernmost part of the State. It is very much out of the way and it is a very isolated area and so people do not know much about it. But it has, however, come into prominence ever since the hon. Home Minister paid a visit towards the end of last year and also the hon. Prime Minister visited the place in the beginning of this month. It is also well-known for the construction of about a hundred mile long Aijal-Lungleh jeep road by the voluntary labour of the people inhabiting there.

While I move this Resolution, Sir, I think it is only natural for hon. Members to be curious to know what is the difference between the existing name of "Lushai Hills District" and "Mizo Ram" to which I am trying to

change. Actually there is not much difference. The word "Lushai", which is the existing name, is decidedly derived from the word "Lusei", and this Lusei is the name of one of the many sub-tribes or clans in the Lushai Hills. When the British people first came to that area and conquered that area, this Lusei clan was in power, so to say, and it was with the Lusei clan that the British people had first contact in that area. Hence the name "Lushai", derived from "Lusei", was given to that district. Therefore, I feel that the name "Lushai Hills" is very exclusive and discriminatory, because the name is taken from one of the many sub-tribes and clans living in the Lushai Hills District itself. But the word "Mizo" is the common and collective name by which all the tribes and sub-tribes including the Lusei themselves in the Lushai Hills District are known, and they call themselves by this name. Hence the term "Mizo" is all-embracing and inclusive. I think, therefore, it is quite proper that the name "Lushai Hills District" should be substituted by the name "Mizo Ram". "Ram", of course, stands for the word "country". "Mizo Ram" therefore will mean the country where the Mizo people are living. To call this area by the name "Lushai Hills" seems to me as improper as to call India by the name "Bengal" or "Andhra" or anything of that kind.

Apart from this, I would like to mention also that the retention of the present name is very detrimental to the society there. The district is inhabited by many tribes, who are now living in harmony. But political consciousness having been aroused in that area, people begin to feel that by calling this area by the name of Lushai Hills the non-Lusei people are being excluded. Consequently, this creates clan feeling and clan consciousness and it also promotes strife among the various clans, and ultimately it sows the seeds of social disharmony in the district. Hence I am strongly of the opinion that the sooner the name is changed, the better it will be for all concerned.

When I am advocating the change of the name of this district, I am not voicing my own opinion alone, rather I am simply presenting the earnest wish and demand of the people living there. I think I should quote some instances to prove that I am representing the real voice of the people in this respect. First of all, I would like to say that I myself come from that area. I was born and brought up in this district itself, and I had the privilege of being the political leader there when I was the President of the premier political party called the Mizo Union for about four years preceding the general elections. In that general election my party put up three candidates for the three seats allotted to the district in the State Assembly of Assam. All my candidates fought the general election on my party ticket, and all three of them won the seats. That means that there was cent per cent success. And we fought the election also on the basis of the change of the name "Lushai Hills District".

SHRI S N DWIVEDY (Orissa) Was there any Congress candidate opposing your candidates?

SHRI R THANHLIRA There was a contest. I was one of the candidates and I had an opponent also, but I secured an overwhelming majority in the election. There were no Congress candidates. In the Lushai Hills District there was no Congress organisation at all. There is no Congress Party in that area.

Besides what I have said, there had been many occasions also when resolutions demanding the renaming of this district had been passed in the plenary session of the Mizo Union.

I think I have made out a convincing case that this change of name that I have suggested is really wanted there. But I would like to give some more instances. There is a District Council in Lushai Hills and that District Council was constituted under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. Three-fourths of the members of that District

Council were elected on the basis of adult franchise. So, this District Council is really the direct representative of the people of that district. As recently as in October last year, this same District Council passed a resolution urging the change of the name of this district. Sir, in this connection I would like to read out the Resolution passed by the District Council.

SHRI M MANJURAN (Travancore-Cochin) Sir, there have been some instructions given for withdrawing this Resolution. Then why should it be discussed here?

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Order, order. This is not the time.

SHRI R THANHLIRA That Resolution passed by the Lushai Hills District Council on the 9th November 1952 reads like this:

'That this Council is of the opinion that to give more proper name to this district, 'Lushai Hills' should be supplanted by 'Mizo Ram'. Further, if the implementation of such alteration falls outside the jurisdiction of the State Government, the Council resolved that it be referred to the competent authority to materialise this resolution.'

And I am of the opinion that this Parliament is the competent authority to make the change as desired in this Resolution and it is therefore that I have moved this Resolution here.

Sir, I would also like to say that there is a students' organisation in that district. There is only one and that students' organisation used to be called "The Lushai Students Association". But here also the word 'Lushai' has been substituted by the word 'Mizo' and now they call it "The Mizo Students Association". And, Sir, also there is an organisation for social welfare work and it has got a very large following. That organisation was called "Young Lushai Association". Here also the word 'Lushai' has been substituted by the word 'Mizo'. Sir, I think I can go on quoting instances

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after instances like this to show that the people living in Lushai Hills really accept the word 'Mizo' for the word 'Lushai'. But what I have already mentioned is, I believe, quite enough to prove the popularity of the word 'Mizo'. And, Sir, I beg to add also that so far as I know, the Prime Minister of India also has no objection to changing the name. When the Prime Minister visited Shillong last time, some of our leaders discussed this point with him and I myself also had an interview with the Prime Minister when he came to Aizawl and we discussed this very point. And as far as I can remember he said that he had no objection to giving any name to any part or area so long as it was the wish of the people concerned. I have also sounded the leaders of the Assam Government and as far as I can gather, they have no objection to changing the name. I can say also with some certainty that my proposal is accepted by all the people there. If there is any one raising any objection, it is only those handful conservative people who belong to the Lusei clan itself. Sir, even among the members of the Lusei clan, quite a number of them are in favour of this change. The term 'Mizo Ram' embraces all the people inhabiting there including the members of the Lusei clan itself.

And lastly, Sir, I beg to say that there may not be any constitutional difficulties in changing the name of "Lushai Hills District" into "Mizo Ram". The name of 'Lushai Hills' is found in the Constitution of India only in the Sixth Schedule. So the change entails only an amendment to the Sixth Schedule and this amendment to the Schedule does not amount to an amendment of the Constitution itself. Hence, I think, if the House is in favour of my resolution, the change of name can be effected by introducing an ordinary Bill and not a Bill to amend the Constitution.

With these words, Sir, I move my Resolution and I hope it will come through.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Resolution moved

"That this Council is of opinion that the name of the tribal area 'Lushai Hills District' specified in Part A of the Table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution be changed to 'Mizo Ram' and a Bill for the purpose be introduced in Parliament by the Government."

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR K. N. KATJU) Mr Deputy Chairman, may I at the outset tender my congratulations to the hon. mover of this Resolution for the very admirable and moderate manner in which he has put his case before the Council? All the facts that he has stated are correct and he has given expression to the general opinion of the residents of this area. The Government has got sympathy with the motives which have prompted this Resolution and I can assure the hon. Member that we shall examine this problem with the most sympathetic consideration.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY (Mysore) What is the problem, Sir?

DR K. N. KATJU The problem is whether the name should be changed. Sir, my hon. friend was a Member of the Assam Legislature and he, I understand, moved a similar Resolution there giving expression to these views. There have been some contrary opinions expressed by my hon. friend referred to those contrary views. He said that they were the views of a handful of people. I have visited this area and if I may strike a personal note, I have almost fallen in love with it. It is an admirable country, fine people, fine surroundings and everything fine. And we should do everything in our power to meet their wishes and it is literally true that for some time the Lushai Hills have come on the map of India and they have come in the lime-light for their wonderful efforts—the efforts of those people—which they made and which I mentioned when I returned from my visit.

there These people, by their voluntary effort have constructed a very difficult terrain across the hills—from Aijal to Lungleh, jeepable road—and I am sure that if that road had been constructed by the Public Works Department it would have cost the public Exchequer something like Rs. 30 lakhs and that road is not only a matter of public convenience, but it is a road of great strategic importance. The place—Lungleh—was absolutely inaccessible and the House can judge by these facts how useful these people have been. The food supplies had to be dropped from the air and there was no other method of transport. Therefore I say that those people are fine people. Therefore, the people there are a fine people and are a matter of pride to everyone of us throughout the length and breadth of India. What I propose to do is this. We have got the views of the Assam Government and we have got the views of my hon friend and also those of the Advisory Council. I should like to have a little more time just to find out how this can be done. As my hon friend said, the Prime Minister had told him that he wanted to act in these matters in accordance with the wishes of the people. I do not want that a controversy should be raised on this matter, maybe a very minor matter but of great sentimental importance to the people at large there, and I imagine that the preponderance of opinion would appear to be on the lines suggested by my hon friend. The next question arises as to how to bring about this change. It has been entered in the Appendix and the Schedules of the Constitution. The change of name will have to be not merely in administrative papers. An amendment of the Constitution will have to be made and the question for consideration is whether we will have to bring a Bill or something else for the purpose of introducing this change. So far as the people themselves are concerned, when I went there, I met with sign boards everywhere throughout the hills, like Mizo Union, Mizo Association, etc. They call their land Mizo Ram Mizo

is the name of the tribe. Ra'n' means place just like our 'khand', Rohilkhand, Bundelkhand, etc. What I suggest is this. Probably my assurance that this will receive our most sympathetic consideration and a final decision will be taken within a month or two would very likely satisfy him, as his views will be met. I should like my hon friend to give me some time so that there may be no controversy about this. This should be done gracefully, so that it will be met by the people concerned with acclamation. If it raises any controversy, then it loses its grace, it loses its charm. With this assurance on my part, I would request my hon friend to withdraw his Resolution. Anyhow, his object has been served.

SHRI R. THANHLIRA I am very grateful for the nice speech of the hon Home Minister and for the nice sentiments he has expressed about the Lushai Hills. In view of the assurances given by him, I withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was by leave of the House, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE THE ALL-INDIA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE CORPORATION

PROF. G. RANGA (Madras) Mr. Deputy Chairman, I move

"That this Council is of opinion that Government should take early steps to organise an All-India Agricultural Finance Corporation and provide adequate funds for the purpose."

Sir, I am extremely anxious, rather I was to have a reply from the Government side on its attitude to this, so that further progress on the discussion of this Resolution can take place in the light of the reply, but I find unfortunately that there is not enough time left and I do not know whether my hon friend would be good enough—more members may take part in the debate later on—to follow me