Chapter 5

FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT
Chapter V
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Monarchy was the form of government in early Manipur and the king was the head of the state. The administration of Manipur was a mixed and mediatory one in which the element of monarchy, the element of aristocracy and the element of democracy were blended.¹ In the administration of the state the king was assisted by his council of ministers.

During the time of the British rule i.e., 1891 to 1947, the form of government was monarchical. All the three functions i.e., executive, legislative and judiciary were combined in the hand of the king. A Darbar was constituted in 1907 to assist the Maharaja in the administration.² The centre of the state was the Maharaja, and, while he himself took no direct part in the administration of the state, except on formal occasions, when he presided at Darbars, or meetings of the high officials, all was made to serve his interests.³ Thus, politics was confined to a very restricted circle, covering the Maharaja, his nobles and a few ambitious men.

The Maharaja following an oppressive policy, forced upon the people a number of formalities. The revival of the Lallup by the then Political Agent Lt. Colonel H. St. Maxwell in 1904 led to the outbreak of the violent agitation and demonstration in the town by thousands of women to protest against the order. The system of Pothang which was forced, unpaid and compulsory carriage of bag and baggages of officers was also in force. There was a widespread agitation against the system

of Pothang towards the end of 1913. Practically every villages in the valley except
the Imphal villages which were exempted from the system of compulsory labour by
the Darbar a few years ago combined in a passive resistance against the system.\(^4\)
Thus, the socio-economic movement preceded the political movement in Manipur.

In the early 1930s the people of Manipur started movement against the
monarchical government for the establishment of a democratic and responsible
Government. There were agitations against the British Government by the hill rebel
groups. In the year 1934, a socio-religious organisation named “Nikhil Hindu Manipuri
Mahasabha” was formed. Later on, this organisation became the first political party
of Manipur in 1938, and the name was changed into Nikhil Manipuri Mahasabha.
This political party was responsible for spearheading the people to come across a
series of political movements for the establishment of a responsible government in
Manipur. In the meantime several movements demanding the establishment of
responsible government had taken place. The 1939 Manipur Women’s Movement
popularly known as the Nupee lal II was quite remarkable. The Nupee lal II was not
only a great protest against the export of rice from the state, but a continuation of
freedom struggle on the part of the thousands of women.\(^5\) When the Government
of India Act, 1935 was passed the people of Manipur started mass movement for
freedom of the state.

As a result of the growing political conciousness among the people, the
Maharaja passed the Manipur Constitution Act, 1947 and announced his desire to
introduce a fully democratic and constitutional form of government in the state. On
July 1, 1947, the Manipur State Darbar was abolished and Manipur State Council


was established in place of it. However, on August 13, 1947, the Maharaja issued a new order and accordingly Manipur State Council was dissolved and a new Interim Council was established. A constitutional monarchy was established under the Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947 and elections on the basis of Universal adult franchise and the secret ballot were held in 1948, much before the first general election in the country in 1952.⁶

The first general election in Manipur was held on 1948, under the Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947 by framing Manipur State Election Rules, 1948. It began on July 11, and continued upto July 27, 1948. The election was held on the basis of single-member constituency. The Assembly was for a period of three years and comprised of Representatives freely elected by the people on the basis of adult franchise and on the principle of joint electorate. Elections were in such manner and by such franchise as may be laid down under the Rules for the elections to the State Assembly provided always that the Representatives returnable from General, Hill and Mohamadan Constituencies were in the ratios of 30:18:3 respectively with an additional two seats for the Representatives of Educational and Commercial Interests.⁷

The political parties which contested the elections were the Manipur State Congress, the Socialist Party, the Manipur Krishak Sabha, the Praja Shanti Seva, and a host of independents both in the valley and hills under the name of many ethnic local parties. The elections in the hills were held after the election result of the valley was declared. The Praja Shanti Seva, an ally of the Maharaja fiercely attacked the Congress Party and the Manipur Krishak Sabha. On the other hand,

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the Manipur Congress, in its manifesto highlighted a democratic political system in Manipur. Results of the election were announced in batches, the final list was come out on August 2, 1948.⁸

Table No. 11
Election Results, 1948

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the political party</th>
<th>Seats secured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Manipur State Congress</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Socialist Party</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Manipur Krishak Sabha</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Hill Areas</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Praja Shanti Seva (Independent)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Nomination</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 53

The election result of the valley was announced on July 14, 1948, while that of the hill areas declared on August 29, 1948 respectively. In this election, no party could win absolute majority to form a ministry. Therefore, the popular coalition government was installed. Twelve independent candidates were elected. This shows that the influence of the personality cult of the candidate was considered more important than a political ideology. However, the ministry was short-lived as it was dissolved as a result of Manipur's merger into Indian Union on October 15, 1949. As a result the administration of the State was transferred to the Dominion Government. The entire administration was taken over by the Chief Commissioner. With the enforcement of the Constitution of India, Manipur became a Part C State on January 26, 1950.

Electoral College Election, 1952

Under the Constitution of India, the first General Election was held in January, 1952 on the basis of adult franchise. Manipur went to polls to elect 30 members of the Electoral College, a body formed to elect a Rajya Sabha member from Manipur. In the polling for the Electoral College the state was divided into 30 constituencies, 20 in the valley and 10 in the hills. There was no contest for two of the hill constituencies, Jiri and Ukhrul, where Congress and All Manipur National Union candidates respectively were declared elected. For rest of the seats, numbering 28, there was a keen contest between various national and regional parties.

The total electorate strength of the State was 2,98,552. The number of electorates in these constituencies excluding Jiribam and Ukhrul, was 2,80,749 and the valid votes polled stood at 1,39,330 i.e, 49.64 percent, invalid votes 637 giving a percentage of 0.46.

The political parties which contested the election in 1952 were the Congress, Communist Party, Socialist Party, Praja Shanti, Gandhi Sevak Sabha, All Manipur National Union, Historical Research Committee, Kuki National Association, Mao-Maram Union, Mizo Union, Manipur Zaleirong Union, Paite National Council, Achumba Pamba Congress and Naga National League. Besides, a number of Independent Candidates were also in the election race.

In the 1952 election, fourteen political parties - regional and national - contested. Altogether 112 candidates were in the fray.

10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
Table No. 12
Electoral College Election Results, 1952

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Political party</th>
<th>No. of candidates</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
<th>Votes polled</th>
<th>Percentage of votes polled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10*</td>
<td>37,448</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Communist</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5,298</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Socialist</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9,196</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Praja Shanti</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>21,024</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gandhi Sevak Sabha</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5,041</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>All Manipur National Union</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12,450</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Historical Research Committee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kuki National Association</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10,072</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mao Maram Union</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6,538</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mizo Union</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,142</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Manipur Zaleirong Union</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5,786</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Paite National Council</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Achumba Pamba</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8,075</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Naga National League</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4,798</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8,105</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>112</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,39,330</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Including one uncontested seat in each case.

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The Congress emerged as the single largest party in the election with ten members in the Electoral College. The Manipur Zeleirong Union candidate in Aimol, Athoibou won with the highest number of votes (3,750) while the Praja Shanti nominee from Sekmai, Kh. Chaoba Singh was elected with the lowest number of votes (790). The average votes per candidate had been the lowest for the Historical Research Committee followed by the Socialists. A small number of invalid votes in the 1952 elections shows the political awareness of the people. The main issue among the political parties in the 1952 election was the demand for full responsible government for Manipur.

The State Reorganisation Act 1956 (Act, 36 of 1956) conferred the status of Union Territory to Manipur after repealing the provisions pertaining to part A, B, C and D states mentioned in the First Schedule of the Constitution by enacting the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act. It led to the creation of a legislative body in Manipur by passing the Territorial Council Act, 1956. Thus, the Advisory form of government was substituted by a Territorial Council, consisting of 30 elected and two nominated members.

**Territorial Council Election, 1957**

Under the Territorial Council Act, 1956, Manipur went to polls in 1957 to elect 30 members of the Territorial Council. Out of 30 constituencies, 20 were in the Central valley and 10 in the hills. The total number of electorate was 3,30,211, of which 1,61,337 and 1,68,874 were males and females respectively. The total votes polled were 1,74,172 with only 85 invalid votes. The valid votes formed 99.95 percent of the votes cast and the invalid votes only 0.05 percent. About 53 percent of the voters utilised their franchise.\(^\text{13}\)

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In the election of the Territorial Council only four political parties - Congress, Praja Socialist, Communist and the Socialist - along with a large number of Independent candidates had contested. Altogether there was 148 candidates.\(^\text{14}\)

**Table No. 13**

**Territorial Council Election Results, 1957** \(^\text{15}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of political party</th>
<th>Number of candidates</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
<th>votes polled</th>
<th>Percentage of votes polled.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>48,771</td>
<td>28.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Praja Socialist</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>10,076</td>
<td>5.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Communist</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19,840</td>
<td>11.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Socialist</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>34,566</td>
<td>19.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60,834</td>
<td>34.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>148</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,74,087</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

L. Achou Singh, Socialist candidate, from Wangkhei-Kongba constituency secured the highest votes, 4,667 while the Congress nominee E. Nadi from Hiyanglam Sugnoo constituency secured the smallest number of votes, 956. In this election, the campaign for the restoration of responsible government was the main issue.

**Territorial Council Election, 1962**

The next Territorial Council election was held in 1962. The Wangkhei - Kongba constituency was renamed Wangkhei constituency. The total electorate was

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\(^{14}\) Ibid.

4,05,210 of which 2,05,784 were females and 1,99,426 males. The total previous voters was increased from 74,999 to 3,30,211. The valid and invalid votes were 2,65,177 and 474 respectively. In this election, 174 candidates had contested.\(^{16}\)

The Congress, Praja Socialist Party, Communist and Socialist Party were in the election fray. Beside these national parties, a number of Independent candidates were also involved.

**Table No. 14**

**Territorial Council Election Results, 1962** \(^{17}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the political party</th>
<th>Number of candidates</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
<th>Votes polled</th>
<th>Percentage of votes polled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>77,312</td>
<td>29.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Praja Socialist</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>7,931</td>
<td>2.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Communist</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>18,899</td>
<td>7.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Socialist</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>51,546</td>
<td>19.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,09,489</td>
<td>41.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>174</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,65,177</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Congress candidates received the highest average votes, capturing 50 percent of the Territorial Council seats. Yumnam Yaima Singh, the Congress candidate won the highest number of votes, i.e., 6,151 from the Nambol-Keinou Constituency. An independent candidate, D. Athuibou was elected with the lowest

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votes i.e., 1,608 from the Aimol Constituency by defeating his four rivals. Wahengbam Radhakanta Singh, Independent candidate secured the lowest votes i.e., 64.18

The great demand of the masses as well as political parties was responded by the Union Government, when it granted Union Territory status to Manipur in 1963 under the Union Territory Act, 1963. Under the provision of this Act, Manipur was provided with a Legislative Assembly with 30 elected representatives and not more than three nominated members. Under the Chief Ministership of Mairenbam Koireng Singh, a popular government on the pattern of former Part C states was installed in Manipur on July 1, 1963. However, due to the expiration of the life of the first Legislative Assembly, fresh elections were ordered in the early part of 1967.

**Territorial Legislative Assembly Election, 1967**

For the first time in Manipur the Territorial Legislative Assembly elections were held in February, 1967. According to 1961 census the Assembly constituencies were adjusted. As usual there were 20 constituencies in the valley and 10 in the hills. Except Jiribam the hill constituencies were reserved for Scheduled Tribes.19

The total electorate was 4,68,707 of which 2,32,310 were males (49.35 percent) and 2,37,397 were females (50.65 percent). About 3,23,858 persons cast their votes in the election. The total number of valid votes was 3,12,015 (96.34 percent) and the total number of invalid votes was 11,843 (3.66 percent).

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The political parties which contested the elections in 1967 were Congress, two Socialist parties-Samyukta Socialist Party (SSP) and Praja Socialist Party (PSP) - and two Communist Parties - Communist Party of India (CPI) and Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M). Besides, a number of Independent candidates were also in the election race.  

Table No. 15
Territorial Assembly Election Results, 1967  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the political party</th>
<th>Number of candidates</th>
<th>seats won</th>
<th>Votes polled</th>
<th>Percentage of votes polled.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1,01,504</td>
<td>32.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>PSP</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,417</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>CPI-M</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,093</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,062</td>
<td>5.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>SSP</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36,520</td>
<td>11.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,52,419</td>
<td>48.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>30*</td>
<td>3,12,015</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Including one Congress candidate who returned to the Manipur Territorial Legislative Assembly uncontested.

A Congress candidate, Salam Gambhir Singh was elected to the Assembly with the highest votes i.e, 6,595 from Sagolband constituency; on the other hand, Kakhangai an Independent candidate got elected with the lowest votes i.e., 622 votes from Tamenglong Constituency. Another Independent candidate from Tamenglong constituency, Humomnang received only 20 votes, the lowest for a candidate in the

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20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
The First State Assembly Election, 1972

On January 21, 1972, Manipur became a State according to the North Eastern Area (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. The election was held on March 11, 1972 for the valley and on March 6 and 9, 1972 for the hills. Under the said Act the Legislative Assembly will have 60 members. Accordingly the Delimitation Commission had created 60 constituencies almost by bifurcating each of the existing 30 constituencies. Forty constituencies were in the valley and nineteen in the hills and one in the Barak basin. All nineteen constituencies in the hill areas are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. One constituency in the valley, Sekmai, was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. The remaining 40 constituencies, 39 in the valley and one in the Barak basin, were general constituencies.22

The total electorate in the State was 5,95,842 of which 2,87,563 were males and 3,08,279 were females. In the valley, the Jiribam Constituency did not go to poll because Sinam Bijoy Singh, a Congress candidate was elected unopposed. Out of the total polled votes 4,61,691, the valid votes polled were 4,51,950 (i.e. 75.85 p.c.) and 97.89 percent of the voters who utilized their franchise.23

An Independent candidate, H.T. Thungam was elected from the Chandel constituency (ST) by securing the largest number of votes i.e., 6064. On the other

23. Ibid.
hand, Paolen, a candidate of the Indian National Congress from Mao (ST) Constituency, was declared elected. He got the smallest number of votes. The lowest number of votes i.e., 40 was received by Paokhusei Kipgen, an Independent Candidate from Saitu Constituency.

The political parties which contested the election were the Congress, Congress (O), Jana Sangh, Socialist, Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Maxist) and Manipur People's Party. Beside these political parties, a large number of Independent candidates also contested.

Table No. 16
State Assembly Election Results, 1972

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the political party</th>
<th>Number of candidates</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
<th>Votes polled</th>
<th>Percentage of votes polled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1,35,678</td>
<td>30.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Congress (O)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10,699</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Jana Sangh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Socialist</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24,195</td>
<td>5.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>CPM</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2,986</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45,765</td>
<td>10.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>91,148</td>
<td>20.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Independent*</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1,40,475</td>
<td>31.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**          260            59        4,51,950      100.00

* Independent included Candidates of the unrecognized parties listed below:

- MNO: 2 candidates, 2,183 votes, 0.48%
- UNIC: 5 candidates, 10,332 votes, 2.28%
- MNP: 1 candidate, 535 votes, 0.12%

24. Ibid.
As soon as the election result was out, the Congress Party and MPP were actively engaged in the politics of gain. Concentration Camps were set up by both the parties and they tried to pick up whatever independent member they could contact. At last the MPP won the game when they could gather 32 members on their side. Thus, the MPP emerged as a popular alternative to the Congress and for the first time, in the political history of Manipur, a non-Congress ministry was installed. Md. Alimuddin, an MPP candidate, became the first Chief Minister after Manipur got statehood.

The Mid-term State Assembly Election, 1974

The Mid-term Assembly Election was held on February 19 and 23, 1974 in the hills and February 25, in the valley, to fill the 60 member Legislative Assembly.

According to the 1971 Census, the Assembly Constituencies were readjusted. As a result, many of the old constituencies visualised a change in their nomenclature to a certain extent, and some of them were replaced by new ones. In the valley, Sekmai was reserved for the Scheduled Castes while Kangpokpi, one of the hill constituencies became a general constituency.

During the mid-term poll of 1974, Manipur had 7,20,124 electorates of which 3,57,142 were males and 3,62,982 females. The total number of votes polled was 6,09,122 constituting 84.58 percent of the electorates. The valid and invalid votes were 5,96,421 (97.91 p.c.) and 12,701 (2.09 p.c) respectively. Altogether 265 candidates took part in the election.

The political parties which contested in the mid-term Assembly election were the Congress, Socialist, Communist Party of India (CPI), Communist Party of India Marxist (CPI-M), Congress (O), Kuki National Assembly (KNA), Manipur Hills Union (MHU) and Manipur People’s Party (MPP). Besides, these national and regional political parties, a huge number of Independents also contested for the 60-Assembly seats.

Table No. 17

Mid-term State Assembly Election Results, 1974

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the political party</th>
<th>Number of candidates</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
<th>Vote polled</th>
<th>Percentage of votes polled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1,64,717</td>
<td>27.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Socialist</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32,972</td>
<td>5.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33,039</td>
<td>5.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>CPI(M)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>3,347</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Congress (O)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>8,764</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>KNA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17,592</td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>MHU</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>52,389</td>
<td>8.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1,34,493</td>
<td>22.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1,49,108</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 265 60 5,96,421 100.00

An Independent candidate, Holkhomang was elected from Henglep Constituency (South District) with the highest votes i.e., 7,335 while Jangmlung, a Manipur Hill Union candidate got elected from Nungba (West District) with lowest votes i.e., 1,618.

27. Ibid.
The demand of the inclusion of Manipuri language in the Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution was the main issue before the mid-term election. But the Union Government was not in a position to accept the demand.28

As a result of the situation, the regional parties had a better performance in this mid-term election. The Manipur People's Party and the Manipur Hill Union along with some Independents made an alliance under the name of United Legislature Party and formed the Government on March 4, 1974 with Md. Alimuddin as the Chief Minister.29

The Third State Assembly Election, 1980

The State Assembly elections for 59 seats were held in January, 1980. Polling in one constituency i.e., Keishamthong Constituency had been countermanded due to the assassination of one candidate; therefore, the election was rescheduled on March 12, 1980. Out of the 401 contestants, 284 were general, 112 Scheduled Tribe and 5 Scheduled Caste.30

The total electorate was 9,09,282 of which 4,35,410 were males and 4,73,872 females. The total votes polled were 7,49,403. The total number of valid votes polled were 7,31,022 invalid votes 18,301.31

31. Ibid.
The political parties contested in the election were - Congress (I), Congress (U), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Janata, Janata (S), Manipur People's Party and Kuki National Assembly. Besides, a number of Independent candidates also contested.

Table No. 18
State Legislative Assembly Election Results, 1980

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of political party</th>
<th>Number of candidates</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
<th>Votes polled</th>
<th>Percentage of votes polled.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Congress (I)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1,58,127</td>
<td>21.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Congress (U)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>69,319</td>
<td>9.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>53,055</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>CPM</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,168</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>KNA</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20,600</td>
<td>2.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Janata</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,45,036</td>
<td>19.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Janata(S)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>20,667</td>
<td>2.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>40\textsuperscript{3/5}</td>
<td>4\textsuperscript{2/5}</td>
<td>48,196</td>
<td>6.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total

|   | 401 | 60 | 7,31,022 | 100.00 |

In this election, a Congress (I) candidate, Helaludin Khan (Lilong Constituency), secured the highest number of votes i.e., 7,629. M. Kumar Singh, an MPP candidate from Sagolband Constituency secured the smallest number of votes i.e., 1,362. An Independent candidate from Saikot Constituency, Nengzasee, got the lowest votes i.e., 10.

The election results in 1980 too were as usual. The Congress(I), which emerged as the single largest party in the Assembly, forged a coalition with the Congress(U) and MPP after admitting most of the Independents under its fold and formed the Government under the Chief Ministership of R.K. Dorendro Singh on January 17, 1980.33

The Fourth State Assembly Election, 1984

The Fourth State Assembly Election in Manipur were held on December 27, 1984, to elect 60 members. There were 364 candidates in the election fray.34

The total number of electorate was 10,13,678 of which 5,09,308 were males and 5,04,370 females. The number of valid votes and invalid votes polled in the 1984 election were 8,64,508 and 20,361 respectively.35

The political parties contested in this election were Indian National Congress, Indian National Congress (Socialist), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Janata Party, Bharatiya Janata Party. Various regional political parties and Independent candidates also fought the election. Besides, some women candidates were also involved.36

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35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
Table No. 19  
State Assembly Election Results, 1984

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the political party</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
<th>Votes polled</th>
<th>Percentage of votes polled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2,57,809</td>
<td>29.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>INC(S)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>28,156</td>
<td>3.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>CPI(M)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>JP</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>52,452</td>
<td>6.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>6,208</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Lok Dal</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>3,653</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35,852</td>
<td>4.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>93,421</td>
<td>10.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>KMA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13,367</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3,72,800</td>
<td>43.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,64,508</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the valley election, K. Bira Singh from Oinam Assembly Constituency got the highest number of votes i.e., 7,450 whereas a candidate from the Kumbi constituency, Th. Babudhon Singh secured the lowest i.e., 20. In the case of the hill constituencies, the highest number of votes was secured by Ng. Luikang of Tadubi Constituency i.e., 8,163. On the other hand, the lowest number of votes was secured by K.A. Shimaray of Kangpokpi Constituency i.e., 12.

The Congress (I) emerged as the single largest party. A ministry led by Congress (I) under the leadership of Rishang Keishing was sworn in on January 4, 1985.

The Fifth State Assembly Election, 1990

Again, Manipur went to poll to elect 58 members of the State Legislative Assembly on February 12 and 14, 1990. However, the Thangmeiband and Ukhrul Constituencies were countermanded as M. Punyabati Devi, a contesting candidate from Thangmeiband Constituency and Longshin Shaiza, a contesting candidate from Ukhrul Constituency expired.

There was a total electorate of 11,80,613 of which 5,87,662 were males and 5,92,951 females. The valid votes were 10,92,272. In this election, 272 candidates were in the fray.

The political parties which contested the election were as follows:

National political parties. Indian National Congress (INC), Indian National Congress (S), Janata Dal (JD), Communist Party of India (CPI), Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Regional political parties. Manipur People’s Party (MPP), Manipur Hill People’s Conference (MHPC), Kuki National Assembly (KNA). Besides, a number of Independent candidates also contested. Altogether 265 candidates contested in the election.

39. Ibid.
40. Ibid.
Table No. 20
State Assembly Election Results, 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the political party</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
<th>Votes polled</th>
<th>Percentage of votes polled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3,58,236</td>
<td>12.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>JD</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2,14,524</td>
<td>19.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>INC(S)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,37,124</td>
<td>12.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>41,635</td>
<td>3.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>CPI(M)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>29,453</td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2,24,866</td>
<td>20.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>NPP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7,762</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>KNA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25,867</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>MHPC</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>8,820</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>43,385</td>
<td>3.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total   | 60 | 10,92,279 | 100.00       |

In this election, K.S. Benjamin Banee, the Congress candidate from Karong Assembly Constituency got the highest number of votes i.e. 12,272. On the other hand, N. Ibohanbi Meitei, an Independent candidate of Keirao Assembly Constituency secured the lowest number of votes i.e., 9.

As no party got absolute majority, a coalition government under the name of United Legislative Front (ULF) was established. The ULF consisted of the MPP

JD, CPI, KNA, NPP and INC (S). R.K. Ranbir Singh was sworn in as Chief Minister of Manipur on February 23, 1990. The Congress(I) did not join the ULF. H. Borbabu Singh, MPP was made the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly on March 2, 1990.42

In pursuance of the provision of Rule 6(l) of the Rules of Business of the Government of Manipur; the Governor of Manipur on the advice of the Chief Minister, made the following allocation of portfolios among the Ministers as shown below :43

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>R.K. Ranbir Singh</th>
<th>Confidential and Cabinet Department, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, Vigilance Department, Home Department, Revenue Department, General Administrative Department, Planning Department, Food &amp; Civil Supplies, Community and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department and all other Departments not mentioned elsewhere.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Kh. Amutombi Singh,</td>
<td>Public Works Department, Publicity &amp; Information and Tourism Department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Ph. Parijat Singh,</td>
<td>Electricity Department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chief Minister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Chief Minister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. T.N. Haokip, Minister
   Development of Tribals and Backward Classes Department including District Councils.

5. Th. Krishna Singh, Minister
   Forest Department.

6. Holkhomang Haokip, Minister
   Industries Department.

7. W. Nipamacha Singh, Minister
   Public Health Engineering Department.

8. Chungkhokai, Minister.
   Finance Department.

9. Dr. M. Nara Singh, Minister.
   Science & Technology Department.

10. Selkai Hrangchal, Minister.
    Medical, Health & Family Welfare Department.

11. H. Thoithoi Singh, Minister
    Education Department including Arts & Culture.

12. Ch. Manihar Singh
    Agriculture Department including Horticulture and Soil Conservation.

13. O. Joy Singh, Minister.
    Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Minor Irrigation Department, Law & Legislative Affairs Department.

14. L.S. John, Minister.
    MAHUD Department, Labour Department.

15. Kh. Jibon Singh, Minister
    Co-operation Department.
Minister of State (Independent Charge)

16. V. Hangkhalian, Minister of State. Fishery Department.

17. M. Deven Singh, Minister of State. Youth Affairs and Sports Department.

18. Thangkhanlal, Minister of State. Transport Department.


Minister of State

20. Ngamthang Haokip, Minister of State. Food and Civil Supplies Department.

21. S. Brajagopal Sharma, Minister of State. Industries Department.

22. Daisin Pamei, Minister of State. Public Works Department.

23. H. Bidur Singh, Minister of State. Medical, Health & Family Welfare Department.

24. N. Komon Singh, Minister of State. Forest Department.

The elections in Thangmeiband and Ukhrul Constituencies, which were countermanded following the death of two contesting candidates were held on May 17, 1990. From Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency, Ng. Kumarjit Singh, MPP was declared elected while Hangmei Shaiza, Janata Dal was declared elected from Ukhrul Constituency respectively.

The R.K. Ranbir Singh ministry was further expanded. And in pursuance of the provision of Rule 6(l) of the Rules of Business of the Government of Manipur, the Governor of Manipur, on the advice of the Chief Minister, made the following reallocation of portfolios among the Ministers as shown below:

1. **R.K. Ranbir Singh**  
   Deputy Chief Minister.  
   Confidential and Cabinet Department, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, Vigilance Department, Home Department, Food and Civil Supplies Department and All other Departments not mentioned elsewhere.

2. **Kh. Amutombi Singh**  
   Deputy Chief Minister.  
   Public Works Department, Publicity and Information Department and General Administration Department (including Government Press).

3. **Ph. Parijat Singh**,  
   Minister.  
   Power Department, Community and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department.

---

4. T.N. Haokip, Minister. Development of Tribals and Backward Classes Department (including District Councils) and Tourism Department.

5. Th. Krishna Singh, Minister. Forest Department and Revenue Department

6. Holkhomang Haokip, Minister. Industries Department.

7. W. Nipamacha Singh, Minister. Public Health Engineering Department and Planning Department

8. Chongkhokai, Minister Finance Department (including Excise).


10. Selkai Hrangchal, Minister Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department.

11. H. Thoithoi Singh, Minister. Education Department.

12. Ch. Manihar Singh, Minister Agriculture Department (including CADA).

13. O. Joy Singh, Minister Irrigation and Flood Control Department, and Law and Legislative Affairs Department, Labour Department.

15. L.S. John, Minister Minor Irrigation Department and MAHUD Department.

On October 16, 1991, by-election in Oinam and Singjamei Constituencies were held as a result of the death of their respective MLAs. Accordingly K. Apabi Devi (INC) and L. Hemochandra (INC) got elected from Oinam and Singjamei constituencies respectively.

Due to the deterioration of the law and order situation in the State, President’s Rule was imposed in Manipur from January 7, 1992 onwards. However, the President’s rule was revoked on April 8, 1992 by the President of India. This enabled the formation of Congress(I) government led by R.K. Dorendro Singh who was sworn in the evening at 6 p.m. on the same day at Raj Bhavan in the presence of several MLAs and other dignatories. Rishang Keishing, the former Chief Minister was also sworn. To study the changing political situation, P.A. Sangma, the Union Minister of State for Labour and Manoranjan Bhatta M.P. from Andaman and Nicobar Island came to Manipur.

The Governor urged the Chief Minister R.K. Dorendro Singh to prove his majority within 12 days. In the trial of strength in the Assembly, R.K. Dorendro Singh proved his majority. The portfolios of the R.K. Dorendro Ministry were allocated on June 16, 1992.

47. Ibid.
The following ministers were assigned their respective portfolios: 48

Cabinet Ministers

1. R.K. Dorendra Singh  
   Chief Minister  
   Confidential, Cabinet, Home, Personnel, Administrative Reforms, Food and Civil Supplies, Industries, Irrigation and Flood Control, Tribal and Backward Classes, Education, Vigilance.

2. Rishang Keishing  
   P.W.D, General Administration

3. H. Thoithoi Singh  
   Community and Rural Development, Panchayati Raj.

4. Holkhomang Haokip  
   Power.

5. Th. Chaoba Singh  
   Revenue.

6. Th. Debendra Singh  
   Law and Legislative Affairs, Arts and Culture.

7. W. Jagor Singh  
   Minor Irrigation, Social Welfare.

8. W. Angou Singh  
   Co-operation, Publicity and Information.

9. Dr. Nimaichand Luwang  
   Medical, Health and Family Welfare.

10. Chungkhokai Dongel  
    Finance, Planning.

13. Somi A Shimaray | Agriculture.
17. O. Ibobi Singh | Municipal Administration, Housing and Urban Development.
18. K.S. Benjamin Banee | Transport.

**Ministers of State**

1. N. Komol Singh | P.W.D.
2. Ngamthang Haokip | Revenue
3. K. Binoy Singh | I.F.C.D.
4. N. Biren Singh | Agriculture
5. W. Morung Mokunga | Development of Tribal and Backward Classes.
However, the ministry was shortlived, as Manipur was placed under President's Rule again w.e.f. December 31, 1993. However the President's Rule was revoked on December 13, 1994. Thereafter, Rishang Keishing became the new Chief Minister. Rishang Keishing along with Th. Chaoba Singh, Th. Debendra Singh, and T. Phungzathang were administered the oath of office and secrecy by the Governor of Manipur, O.N. Shrivastava. The portfolios of the ministers were reallocated as it is shown below:49

Cabinet Ministers

1. Rishang Keishing  
   Chief Minister

2. Th. Chaoba Singh  
   Power, Revenue

3. Th. Debendra Singh  
   P.W.D, Law, Election, Housing

4. Phungzathang  
   PHED, Labour, Employment.

As Rishang Keishing could prove the trial of strength on the floor of the House he expanded the ministry with the addition of 24 more ministers on January 10, 1995.50 The portfolios of the Cabinet Ministers and State Ministers were as follows:

Cabinet Ministers

1. W. Angou Singh  
   Finance, Excise

2. Gaikhangam  
   Agriculture, Soil Conservation

---

4. K.S. Benjamin Bani           Medical
6. L.S. John                    Forest
7. O. Ibobi Singh               Industries
8. Th. Krishna Singh            Veterinary
9. T. Gunadhwaja Singh          Co-operation
10. L. Amujao Singh             Education
12. Soso Lorho                  Transport, Arts & Culture
13. Arthur                      Advisor to Chief Minister.

Ministers of State

1. Ng. Luikang                   Tribal Development.
2. M. Manihar Singh             Publicity and Tourism.
4. Thangkhanlal                 Minor Irrigation
5. K. Apabi Devi               Social Welfare
6. N. Biren Singh  
7. N. Nimai Singh  
8. Daisin Panmei  
9. S. Brajagopal Sharma  
10. I. Hemochandra Singh  
11. H. Bidur Singh  
12. W. Morung Makunga  

CADA, Sericulture  
Works, Housing  
Industries  
Agriculture, Soil conservation  
Education  
I.F.C.D.  
Attached to Chief Minister.

The Sixth State Assembly Election, 1995

Manipur once again went to polls to elect 59 Legislative Assembly members on February 16 in the hills and 19 in the valley. However, polling in one constituency i.e. Lamsang Assembly Constituency was counter-manded due to the death of Mutum Deben Singh, M.P.P. candidate who was shot dead by a gunman.51

There was a total electorate of 12,69,746 of which 6,31,368 were males and 6,38,378 were females.52 In the hills about 4,90,620 voters exercised their franchise. However, in the valley, over 7,58,290 voters took part in the election. As many as 339 candidates contested including 10 women candidates.

Table No. 21
State Assembly Election Results, 1995 53
(Excluding Lamsang Assembly Constituency)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Political party</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>JD</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>CPI(M)</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>KNA</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>FPM</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>IC(S)</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>NPP</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The political parties which contested in the election were Congress(I), Samata party (SP), Manipur Peoples Party (MPP), Federal Party of Manipur (FPM), Janata Dal (JD), Communist Party of India (CPI), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), NPP (Nationalist People's Party) and Congress(S). Beside these national and regional political parties a number of Independent candidates were also in the fray.

A Congress (S) candidate from Mao Assembly Constituency secured the highest number of votes i.e. 23,310. On the other hand, Khupzadou, an Independent

53. Ibid.
candidate from Saikot Assembly Constituency secured the lowest number of votes i.e., 3 which is the lowest in the political history of Manipur.\textsuperscript{54}

No party got an absolute majority.\textsuperscript{55} The Congress (I) staked its claim for the formation of government in the State. In a letter sent to the Governor of Manipur O.N. Srivastava, the MPCC (I) Chief Radhabinod Kojjam said the Congress (I) has emerged the single largest party at the end of the polls. He also urged the Governor to invite the party for the formation of government.\textsuperscript{56} In the meantime, the Manipur People's Party had sent a list of 32 MLAs including 18 of its members supporting the party in the formation of the Government.\textsuperscript{57} A United Legislative Front comprising of the Manipur People's Party, Janata Dal, Congress (S), Samata Party, Communist Party of India, and Nationalist People's Party, tried their best to form the government. There was a tussle between the ruling Congress Party and the United Legislative Front headed by the MPP. Meanwhile, Rishang Keishing, the leader of the Congress Party was invited by the Governor to form the government. Thus Rishang Keishing was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur on February 25, 1995. The oath of office of secrecy was administered by the Governor of Manipur O.N. Shrivastava in a simple function held in this connection. The other two, Radhabinod Kojjam and Th. Devendra were also sworn as Cabinet ministers. The glittering function was attended by a galaxy of newly elected MLAs and top officials of the Government.\textsuperscript{58}

\textsuperscript{54} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{55} Manipur Mail (Imphal), February 22, 1995, p. 1.
\textsuperscript{56} Manipur Mail (Imphal), February 23, 1995, p. 1.
\textsuperscript{57} Manipur Mail (Imphal), February 25, 1995, p. 1.
\textsuperscript{58} Manipur Mail (Imphal), February 26, 1995, p. 1.
The Assam Chief Minister, Hiteswar Saikia and former Union Minister of State for Home, M.M. Jacob who had been campaigning in Manipur to elect a new Congress (I) legislature party leader in seeking support from the non Congress (I) were present during the swearing-in ceremony. The Chief Minister Rishang Keishing issued a notification appointing Radhabinod Koijam as the Deputy Chief Minister. 59 Meanwhile the Governor advised Rishang Keishing to prove majority within 30 days on the floor of the House.

On February 26, 1995, in pursuance of the provision of Rule 6(l) of the Rules of Business of Government of Manipur, the Governor of Manipur, on the advice of the Chief Minister, accepted the allocation of portfolios to the following Ministers: 60

1. Rishang Keishing,
   Chief Minister.

   Agriculture Department, Animal Husbandry & Vety. Deptt., Confidential & Cabinet Deptt.,
   Co-operation Department, Community & Rural Dev. and Panchayati Raj Deptt.,
   Development of Tribals and Backward Classes Deptt., Education Department,
   Power Department, Fisheries Department,
   Public Health Engg. Deptt., Food & Civil Supplies Deptt., Forest Department, General Admin. Department, Home Department,
   Industries Department, Irrigation and Flood

2. Radhabinod Kojjam, Finance Department Deputy Chief Minister.

3. Th. Debendra Singh, Public Works Department Cabinet Minister.

On March 22, 1995, W. Nipamacha was elected as the Speaker of the Sixth Manipur Legislative Assembly.\(^{61}\) Meanwhile, on March 26, 1995, Rishang Keishing has shown his majority on the floor of the House and wins the vote of

confidence. On March 26, 1995, further expansion in the Rishang Ministry took place with the induction of 6 Cabinet Ministers and 2 Ministers of State. The names of the Ministers and their respective political parties are as follows.

**Cabinet Ministers**

1. Prof. Gangmumei Kamei  
   Federal Party of Manipur
2. V. Hangkhanlia~  
   Nationalist Peoples' Party
3. M. Thorhil  
   Congress(S)
4. W. Basantakumar Singh  
   Janata Dal
5. L. Jonathan  
   Samata Party
6. A.K. Laigam  
   Independent.

**Ministers of State**

1. W. Thoiba Singh  
   Federal Party
2. Hangkhanpao  
   Janata Party
3. N. Bihari Singh  
   Independent
4. Samuel  
   Samata Party

The Rishang Keishing led Ministry was again expanded with the induction of 15 more Ministers. The Governor O.N. Srivastava administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new Ministers. The Ministers included 9 Cabinet rank and 6 State Ministers. The function was attended among others by the Speaker W. Nipamacha, the Deputy Chief Minister Radhabinod Kojiam, Th. Devendra Works Minister, high ranking civil police and army officials.\(^{62}\) The following are the names of the members of the Council of Ministers.\(^ {63}\)

---

63. Ibid.
Cabinet Ministers

1. Dr. L. Chandramani Singh
2. Y. Irabot Singh
3. Md. Hellaluddin Khan
4. Dr. Nimaichand Luwang
5. H. Bidur Singh
6. S. Lokhon Singh
7. A.S. Arthur
8. Morung Makunga
9. M. Nilachandra Singh

Ministers of State with Independent charge

1. N. Biren Singh
2. I. Hemochandra Singh
3. M. Hemanta Singh
4. Dr. Chaltonlien Amo

State Ministers

1. M. Okendro Singh
2. K. Govindas Singh
In pursuance of the provision of Rule 6 (1) of the Rules of Business of the Government of Manipur, the Governor of Manipur, on the advice of the Chief Minister, Manipur accepted the allocation of portfolios on March 29, 1995 to the following Ministers and Ministers of State: 64

1. Rishang Keishing, Chief Minister. Home, Power and all other departments not mentioned elsewhere.

2. Radhabindon Koijam, Deputy Chief Minister. Finance and Food and Civil Supplies.


4. Dr. L. Chandramani Singh, Minister. Irrigation & Flood Control.


8. Dr. Nimaichand Luwang, Minister. Minor Irrigation and CADA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Minister</th>
<th>Department/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>V. Hangkhanlian, Minister</td>
<td>Public Health Engineering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>H. Bidur Singh, Minister</td>
<td>Agriculture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>H. Lokhon Singh, Minister</td>
<td>School Education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>M. Thohrii, Minister</td>
<td>Development of Tribal &amp; Backward Classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>W. Basanta Kumar, Minister</td>
<td>Vety. &amp; Animal Husbandry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>AK. Lan-ngam, Minister</td>
<td>Co-operation and Transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>M. Nilachandra Singh, Minister</td>
<td>Industries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ministers of State (Independent Charge)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Minister</th>
<th>Department/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>N. Biren Singh</td>
<td>Sericulture and Village &amp; Small Scale Industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>I. Hemochandra Singh</td>
<td>MAHUD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>W. Thoiba Singh</td>
<td>Publicity &amp; Information and Tourism.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Dr. Chaltoklien Amo Health.
5. M. Hemanta Singh Youth Affairs and Sports.

Ministers of State

6. Samuel IFCD
7. N. Bihari Singh PHED.

Countermanded election. The by-election of the countermanded Lamsang Assembly Constituency was held peacefully on May 27, 1995. It was marked by heavy turnouts crossing over 90 per cent in some of the polling stations. Eight candidates were in the fray including the former Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Dr. H. Borbabu. The MPP was represented by the departed candidate's wife Mutum Ruhini Devi.\textsuperscript{65}

There was a total electorate of 20,163 of which 9,907 were males and 10,256 were females. The total number of voters who voted were 19,127 of which 218 were rejected votes. The total valid votes polled were 18,909.\textsuperscript{66}

\textsuperscript{65} Manipur Mall (Imphal), March 28, 1995. p. 1.
Table No. 22
Assembly Election Result of Lamsang By-election, 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Contesting Candidates</th>
<th>Name of the Political Party</th>
<th>Valid Votes Pollled.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>4,184 (E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Wangkheimayum Brajabidhu</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>3,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Phuritsabam Shyam Singh</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>3,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Dr. Haobam Borababu Singh</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>2,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Mutum Ruhini Devi</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>2,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Khundongbam Jugeshor</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>2,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Thoudam Nabachandra Singh</td>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>R.K. Gambhir Singh</td>
<td>JD</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 18,909

Counting of votes was held on May 29, 1995. S. Rajen Singh, Congress (I) candidate defeated his nearest rival W. Brajabidhu Singh, an Independent candidate by a margin of 327 votes. As a result of this by-election, the number of Indian National Congress (I) member in the Manipur Legislative Assembly was increased to 22.

The Rishang Keishing Ministry was further expanded with the induction of some cabinet ministers. And on September 7, 1995, in pursuance of the Provision

67. Ibid.
of Rule 6(I) of the Rules of Business of the Government of Manipur, the Governor of Manipur, on the advice of the Chief Minister, had accepted the following allocation of portfolios among the Ministers as shown below: 

1. Dr. Nimaichand Luwang  

2. V. Hangkhanlian  
   Tourism and Minor Irrigation.

3. E. Kunjeshwar Singh  
   Planning, CADA and Law & Legislative Affairs.

4. Ksh. Irabor Singh  
   Vety. & Animal Husbandry

5. M. Babu  
   Arts & Culture, Election, and Economics & Statistics.

6. M. Kunjo Singh  
   Rural Development & Panchayati Raj.

7. D.P. Panmei  
   Family Welfare.

Meanwhile a political crisis developed within the Rishang Keishing ministry. The Governor of Manipur has asked the Chief Minister, Rishang Keishing to seek Vote of Confidence on the floor of the House. Rishang Keishing could not prove his strength. The Rishang ministry was fallen on December 15, 1997 after the split of ruling Congress (I). Nipamacha Singh led the break away group and formed a new political party called the Manipur State Congress Party (MSCP). A new ministry

under the Chief Ministership of Nipamacha Singh was installed on December 16. However the Governor advised Nipamacha Singh to prove majority within 30 days on the floor of the House.\textsuperscript{71}

The portfolios allocated to the Ministers are as follows:\textsuperscript{72}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Portfolio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>W. Nipamacha Singh</td>
<td>Confidential and Cabinet Department, Personal and A.R. Department, Home, FCS, GAD, Law and Legislative Affairs, Co-operation and all other not mentioned elsewhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Dr. L. Chandramani</td>
<td>Works.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>H. Lokhon</td>
<td>Finance including Excise and Taxation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>M. Nilachandra Singh</td>
<td>IFCD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>H. Bidur Singh</td>
<td>PHED.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{71} Poknapham (Imphal), December 16, 1997, p. 1.
\textsuperscript{72} Poknapham (Imphal), December 29, 1997, p. 1.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>T.N. Haokip</td>
<td>Sericulture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>V. Hangkhalian</td>
<td>MI, Tourism, Science and Technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>M. Kunjo Singh</td>
<td>Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, including Dairy Farming and DIPR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ngamthang Haokip</td>
<td>Horticulture and Soil Conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>E. Kunjeshwor Singh</td>
<td>Revenue and Planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>L. Tomba Singh</td>
<td>Social Welfare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ksh. Irabot Singh</td>
<td>School Education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Prof. Gangmumpei Kamei</td>
<td>Forest and Environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dr. Y. Jiten Singh</td>
<td>Family Welfare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>N. Mangi Singh</td>
<td>Agriculture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>N. Biren Singh</td>
<td>Fisheries, Labour and Employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>I. Hemochandra Singh</td>
<td>MAHUD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>M. Hemanta Singh</td>
<td>Youth Affairs and Sports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Songchingkhup</td>
<td>Transport and Government Press.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>K. Govindas</td>
<td>Power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Samuel Jendai</td>
<td>Development of Tribals and Backward Classes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Seventh State Assembly Election, 2000

The Seventh State Assembly Election, 2000 was held in two phases - the first in the Hill and the second in the valley. The elections in the hills were held on February 12, 2000. However polling in Tipaimukh Assembly Constituency was countermanded, following the death of Songlienthang Songata JD(U) candidate. A total of 7,20,376 electorates exercised their votes. About 3,56,524 were males and 3,63,852 females.73 A total number of 199 candidates were in the fray.74 The election in the valley was held on February 22, 2000. There was a total electorate of 6,81,687 of which 328741 were males and 3,52,940 females.75

The political parties contested in this election were Manipur State Congress Party (MSCP), Indian National Congress (INC), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Manipur Peoples Party (MPP) Federal Party of Manipur (FPM), Communist Party of India (CPI), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Samata Party (SP), Janata Dal (S), Janata Dal (U), Rastriya Janata Dal (RJD), Communist Party of India (CPI) Communist Party of India (M), Rastriya Samajwadi Party (RSP). Above all a few Independent candidates were also involved.

### Table No. 23

State Assembly Election Results, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of the Political Party</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>MSCP</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>FPM</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>NCP</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>JD(S)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>JD(U)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>KNA</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>RJD</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>CPM</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>RSP</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this election V. Hangkhanlian, the MSCP candidate from Churachandpur 58 Assembly Constituency got the highest numbers of votes i.e. 15,666. On the other hand, Chungsei Haokip, an Independent candidate of Chandel 41 Assembly Constituency got the lowest number of votes i.e., 1 only.

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77. Ibid.
Not a single party could get an absolute majority that was why, a coalition government was bound to form under the leadership of W. Nipamacha Singh on March 2, 2000.\(^78\)

In exercise of the powers vested in him by clause (1) of Article 164 of the Constitution of India, and on the advice of the Chief Minister, the Governor of Manipur had approved the inclusion of the following persons as Ministers and Ministers of States.\(^79\)

**Cabinet Ministers**

1. H. Lokhon Singh
2. Prof. Gangmumei Kamei
3. H. Bidur
4. M. Kunjo Singh
5. V. Hangkhanliien
6. L. Tomba
7. Dr. Y. Jiten Singh
8. Dr. W. Thoiba
9. N. Bihari Singh
10. Songchinkhup
11. Samuel Jendai
12. M. Hemanta Singh
13. K. Govindas Singh

14. P. Achou Singh
15. Ksh. Biren Singh
16. S. Rajen singh
17. Th. Bira Singh
18. Haokholet Kipgen
19. Hangkhanpao
20. Thangminlien Kipgen

**Minister of State (Independent Charge)**

1. S. Bira Singh
2. L. Bhagyachandra Singh
3. S. Chandra Singh
4. Md. Allaudin
5. Dr. Khashim Ruivah

**Minister of State**

1. A. Biren Singh
2. Mangaibou
3. M. Chungkhosei
4. K. Tomba Singh
5. Onjamang Haokip

Thereafter the portfolios of the Ministers were also allocated. They are as follows:80

1. W. Nipamacha Singh
   Chief Minister

2. Dr. L. Chandramani Singh
   Deputy Chief Minister.

Ministers

1. H. Lokhon Singh
   Finance including Excise & Taxation
2. Gangmumei Kamei
   Forest & Environment and Law
3. Bidur Singh
   PHED
4. M. Kunjo Singh
   Vety. & All including Dairy Farming and DIPR.
5. V. Hangkhanlian
   Medical
6. L. Tomba Singh
   Education (S)
7. Y. Jiten Singh
   Commerce & Industries
8. Dr. W. Thoiba Singh
   Cooperation, Arts & Culture
9. N. Bihari Singh
   GAD, RD & PR
10. Songchingkhup
    Social Welfare
11. Samuel Jendai
    Tribal Development
12. M. Hemanta Singh
    Youth Affairs & Sports.
13. K. Govindas Singh
    Power.

Soon after March 4, 2000, the following Cabinet Minister and Minister of State are inducted in the Ministry:81

81. Ibid.
Ministers

1. P. Achou Singh
2. Kh. Biren Singh
3. S. Rajen Singh
4. Th. Bira Singh
5. Haokholet Kipgen
6. Hangkhanpao
7. Thangminliten Kipgen
8. H. Sanayaima Singh

MAHUD.
IFCD.
Agriculture.
Revenue.
Transport, Weight & Measures.
Sericulture and Labour.
Horticulture & SC.
Minor Irrigation LDA.

Minister of State (Independent Charge)

1. S. Bira Singh
2. S. Chandra Singh
3. L. Bhagyachandra Singh
4. Md. Allaudin
5. Khashim Ruivah

Fisheries, Economics & Statistics.
Family Welfare.
Higher Education.
Deptt. of Minority and Backward Classes.
& CADA.
Tourism, Science & Technology.

Minister of State

1. A. Biren Singh
2. Mangaibou
3. M. Chungkhosei
4. K. Tomba Singh
5. Onjamang Haokip
6. W. Leima Devi

Agriculture.
Works.
Power.
IFCD.
PHED.
Education (S)
Tipaimukh By-election, 2000

Election in Tipaimukh Assembly Constituency was held on March 8, 2000. There was a total electorate of 13,822 of which 6,947 were males and 6,885 were females. The total number of people who exercise their votes was 11,920 out of which 6,104 were males and 5,816 were females. There were 210 invalid and 11,708 valid votes.  

Tabel No. 24
Tipaimukh Assembly By-election Results, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Contesting Candidates</th>
<th>Name of the political party</th>
<th>Valid votes polled.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ngursanglur</td>
<td>NCP</td>
<td>2407(E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Dr. Chaltonlien</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>2393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Selkai Hrangchal</td>
<td>RJD</td>
<td>1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Dr. Vanelalnghak</td>
<td>FPM</td>
<td>1793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Sapbieklien</td>
<td>JD(U)</td>
<td>1741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Lalhriet</td>
<td>SAP</td>
<td>1397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Malsawm</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>11,708</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counting of votes was done on March 15, 2000 and the election result was also declared on the same day. Ngursanglur, the NCP candidate defeated his

83. Ibid.
nearest rival Dr. Chaltonlien an INC candidate by a margin of 14 votes. As a result of this the number of NCP in the State Assembly was increased to 5.

In February, 2001, due to a great political tussle in the ministry, the Nipamacha Ministry collapsed. At the end of a day of extremely confusing political development a new political front, calling itself the People's Front emerged to stake its claim to form the government in the State after the day old United Democratic Front broke up and Samata Party leader Radhabindon Kojam returned to the fold of the opposition to be elected leader of the new alliance. The Chief Minister W. Nipamacha tendered his resignation from the post of Chief Ministership after declaring Radhabindon Kojam as the leader of the short-lived United Democratic Alliance. The Governor Ved Marwah acceded the resignation of the Chief Minister but asked him to continue as caretaker till necessary arrangement was made.\(^{84}\)

Leader of the newborn People's Front and State Samata Party, Radhabindon Kojjam was sworn in as the 24th Chief Minister of Manipur, after hectic political activities kicked up by a series of defection and change in loyalties in the last few days. Radhabindon was supported by 57 MLAs in the 60 member House with an effective strength of 59. Rishang Keishing of Congress (I) was the lone MLA in the House who have not extended support to Radhabindon Kojjam.\(^{85}\)

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