PREFACE

The thesis attempts to study State Assembly elections and voting behaviour of the electorates. The study of voting behaviour in particular and electoral behaviour in general has an important place in a democratic set-up. The political behaviour of the voters, the candidates and the party-workers in our state deserves a close scrutiny, for the functioning of democracy depends primarily on how the electoral process operates. It is through this process that the political elites are chosen to govern the state.

Through elections the government derives its power from the people. The ultimate power and authority of the state rests with the people of Manipur. In Manipur, election on the basis of universal adult franchise and the secret ballot were first held in 1948 under the Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947, much before the first general election in the country in 1952.

The proposed study is a modest attempt to analyse the Assembly elections in Manipur in the light of the socio-political aspect since 1990 to 2000. The voting behaviour of the people determines periodically, continually or frequently the taking or giving of power to the ruling elite. The complex role of elections is underlined by examining the voting behaviour of electorates.

This thesis stands divided into seven chapters including conclusion. The first chapter deals with elections, its origin, functions, emergence of election system in India, constitutional provisions of elections in India, the Election Commission, code of conduct for political parties, election procedures and growth of election in Manipur.
The second chapter focusses on organisation and role of political parties. It is in this part that the definition of political parties, functions, determinants of party structure, party systems, growth of political parties in India, main features of the party system in India, growth of political parties in Manipur, manifests and performance of some selected political parties in Manipur, both national and regional has been discussed.

The third chapter analyses modes of political communication and election campaign. The different communication structures are highlighted here. The various methods of election campaign such as election meetings, election procession, flag-hoisting contest, door-to-door campaign, personal contact, election feast, role of money, role of mass media and serving of wine are dealt in this chapter.

The fourth chapter examines the close link between political culture and politics and its impact on the process of political socialisation. The growth of political culture, definitions of political culture, foundations of political culture and development of political culture, are explained in detail. The various types of political culture like parochial political culture, subject political culture, participatory political culture, civic culture, secular political culture, ideological political culture, homogeneous political culture and fragmented political culture are also defined. This chapter further discusses the development of political socialisation, meaning of political socialisation, and types of political socialisation. The influence of various agents of political socialisation like family, educational institutions, peer groups, mass media and direct contact are also evaluated.

The fifth chapter goes into detail about election and its impact on the formation of government in Manipur during the period from 1990 to 2000. In addition, a brief
analysis of the election outcome and the formation of government from 1948 to 1984 is also discussed in this chapter. The various by-elections falling in our area of study are also discussed in detail.

The sixth chapter makes an extensive analysis of voting behaviour and its various determinants factors - religion, personality, party loyalty, money, election campaigns, local issues, social problems, sex, age, illiteracy, etc. Along with the study of voting behaviour from 1990 to 2000, it also covers 1948 to 1984. To make the study more comprehensive and up-to-date, three model Assembly constituencies i.e. 9-Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency, 27-Moirang Assembly Constituency and 43-Phungyar Assembly Constituency are also tested and discussed as a case study.

The seventh chapter is the last part of the thesis, i.e., conclusion. The final assessment and summary of the previous six chapters are summed up here. The research findings and observation of the thesis are extensively evaluated and interpreted unbiasedly.

Both historical as well as scientific methods are adopted in the study. The research work is mainly based on the primary sources supported by the secondary sources. Interviews with the prominent candidates of the various political parties, intellectuals and prominent leaders are also taken.