CHAPTER VI

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE
The NEFA Council and the Pradesh Council were the fore-runners of a full-fledged legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh. The growing political aspirations of the people led them naturally to seek a more respectable and equal place in the polity and administration of the country. It was therefore a question of time to concede further measures of political reform.

PROVISIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

In 1978, Parliament passed 37th Constitutional amendment, to confer on the union territory the privilege of having a 30 member elected Legislative Assembly and a council of Ministers. It provided that the existing Pradesh Council be converted into a 30 member provisional Legislative Assembly and the five counsellors to constitute the Council of Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh as an interim arrangement till election were held. Unlike Pradesh Council and Agency Council, in the Provisional Legislative Assembly MPs shall not be members of the Legislative Assembly. On the other hand, the Union Territory could send two representatives to the Lok Sabha, as against one and the representation was to be by election, rather than nomination. Formation of responsible government in Arunachal Pradesh at a time when the country was under cloud of emergency is significant.

Shri Om Mehta said, “from now onwards the people of Arunachal would be able to involve themselves directly into
the implementation of the socio-economic programmes. He further said, "the people here were steeped in democratic traditions which had come down to them from time immemorial. They had evolved their own system of self-government and their own form of administration of justice. The system of village councils which had been in existence for a long time in the territory was nothing but democracy in operation at the grass-root level".¹

The Pradesh Council in its eight session held at Itanagar, on June 12th 1975, formally elected Shri Prem Khandu Thungon, a 29 years old, educated young man belonging to the Sherowkpan tribal community of Kameng district and Buddhist by religion as the leader of the proposed Provisional Legislative Assembly. Shri Raja said, "The unanimous election of the Chief Minister is a striking instance of the Arunachal Pradesh people's faith in democracy". President of India, Fakruddin Ali Ahmed announced on August 13, 1975 the appointment of Shri Thungon as the Chief Minister. The counsellors, Shri Toma Riba, Shri Sobong Tayeng, Shri Tedar Tang and Shri Wangpha Lowang, were appointed as Ministers constituting a council of Ministers with effect from August 15, 1975.

¹Arunachal News, August-September 1975.
Chief Commissioner, Shri K.A.A. Raja was appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Arunachal Pradesh on August 11, 1975. On this historic day of the 28th Anniversary of India's Independence, Arunachal Pradesh had the unique privilege of attaining the political framework of responsible government. Lieutenant Governor, Shri Raja, who formally assumed charge on this day characterised the event as a constitutional evolution of Arunachal Pradesh. He hoped that under the new dispensation the territory could look forward with confidence to a new era of progress and prosperity.

Shri Nokmay Namati and Shri Padi Yuba were unanimously elected Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively of the first ever formed Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Naharlagun. The acting Speaker, Shri Gore Pertin, announced results. Chief Minister, Shri Thungon escorted the new Speaker to his chair. Lieutenant Governor, Shri Raja, addressed the House in the afternoon session and stressed need for an all round development of the union territory particularly in the field of education.

The composition of the first council of Ministers is as follows.

1. Shri Prem Khandu Thungon, - Finance, Home and Engineering
   Chief Minister
   and any other subject not allocated specially to any minister.

2Ibid.
2. Shri Tomo Riba, Minister - Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and community development.


4. Shri Sobeng Tayeng, Minister - Supply and Transport Co-operation, Forest Preservation of wild Life and Industries.

5. Shri Tadar Tang, Minister - Health, Family Planning, Man-power Planning and Statistics.

The following is the list of the Members of Provisional Legislature Assembly of the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

1. Shri P.K. Thungon
2. Shri Tashi Khandu
3. Shri Lobsang Taering
4. Shri Tame Yongphu
5. Shri Rinchin Kharu Dangchow
6. Shri Nido Techli
7. Shri Paddi Yubbe
8. Shri Tadar Tang
9. Shri Buda Tana
10. Shri Tadek Dulem
11. Shri Gegong Apang
It may be noteworthy that the Pradesh Council Members were elected on non-party basis under the aegis of Panchayat Raj. Since they all became the members of Provisional Legislative Assembly, there was no opposition member in the House. Except for Shri Tomo Riba, who joined PPA all other MLA's under leadership of Shri P.K. Thungon started calling themselves as Congress. In March 1977 all the Congress MLA's joined Janata Party, bringing the Congress I to a virtually non-existent party in the state.

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

In pursuance of sub-section (6) of section 43 C of the Government of Union Territories Act 1963 as amended by
the Government of Union Territory (Amendment) Act 1975 (No. 29 of 1975) the Election Commission delimited two single-member Parliamentary and 30 Assembly constituencies. The basic unit for enumeration of electors will be village and the election will be with reference to 1st January 1975 as a qualifying date. The Assembly, which was provided or which was to replace the existing Provisional Pradesh Council should be entirely an elected body.

The Provisional Legislative Assembly - the successor of Pradesh Council, was to continue till next general election.

The first Assembly election of Arunachal Pradesh, held on February 25, 1978 along with elections in the rest of the country, facilitated a first ever opportunity to all people of Arunachal Pradesh to exercise the right of vote.\(^3\)

In this election, three Political Parties viz. Janata, People's Party of Arunachal Pradesh and Congress participated in election. The Janata party came into power with 17 seats. People's Party of Arunachal - the newly formed or just pre-election delivered infant political party secured 8 seats whereas, Congress secured no seat. Independents got 5 seats.

\(^3\)In Parliamentary election, 1977. The people of Arunachal Pradesh west parliamentary constituency had no opportunity to exercise their franchise right as the candidate was returned uncontested.
Just after the elections, two independents joined Janata Party, which brought total strength to 19 of Janata Party in Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

Party Position in the First Legislative Assembly as follows:

1. Janata Party 17
2. PPA 8
3. Congress 0
4. Independent 5

The Union Territories Act provides for nomination by the Union Government to the Legislative Assembly of not more than three members from among these tribes/communities who were not represented in it. According to the provision of the said Act, President of India nominated three persons, Shri Pina Tapiak, Smt. Sibo Kai and Shri Kheprize Kreng, as members of Legislative Assembly.

The list of Members of the Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Members</th>
<th>Name of Political Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Shri Gegong Apang</td>
<td>- Janata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shri Nokseng Boham</td>
<td>- Janata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3. Shri Tadik Chije - Independent
4. Shri Kameng Dolo - Janata
5. Shri Tadak Dulom - Janata
6. Shri Boken Eta - Independent
7. Shri Jungpum Jungli - People's Party of Arunachal
8. Shri Taahi Khandu - Independent
9. Shri Rinchin Kharu - Janata
10. Shri Sijen Kongkang - People's Party of Arunachal
11. Shri Aken Lago - People's Party of Arunachal
12. Shri Chow Teva Mein - Janata
13. Shri Mokmay Namati - Janata
14. Shri Tara Payeng - People's Party of Arunachal
15. Shri Tomo Riba - People's Party of Arunachal
16. Shri Onyak Rome - People's Party of Arunachal
17. Shri Lijum Ronya - People's Party of Arunachal
18. Shri Tara Sirda - Janata
19. Shri Sonam Denglo - Janata
20. Shri Tade Tacho - Independent
21. Shri Chera Talo - Janata
22. Shri Tadar Tang - Janata
23. Shri Sutam Tasung - People's Party of Arunachal
24. Shri Sobeng Tayeng - Janata
25. Shri Nido Techi - Janata
26. Shri Ngemu Tengam - Janata
27. Shri P.K. Thungon - Janata
28. Shri Karma Wangchu - Independent
29. Shri Wangnam Wangchu - Janata
30. Shri Padi Yubbi - Janata
31. Shri Pisa Tapiak - Nominated
32. Smt. Sibo Kai - Nominated
33. Shri Khaprise Krong - Nominated

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:

The Janata Legislators who were in a majority in the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly elected, Shri Prem Khandu Thungon on March 11, 1978 as their leader of the Party. Arunachal Pradesh Janata Party Chief, Shri Gora Pertin handed over a letter to Lieutenant Governor mentioning that Janata Legislative Party while commanding a majority of seats in the Assembly had elected Shri Thungon as leader of the Party, therefore, he be summoned to form the Ministry. Simultaneously, Shri Thungon, the Chief Minister of the Caretaker Government submitted his resignation of his five-member Council of Ministers to the Lieutenant Governor.

Shri Thungon advised the Lieutenant Governor to appoint four others as Ministers of his Cabinet. They were Shri Sebeng Tayeng, Shri Tader Tang, Shri Gegong Apang, Shri Nokmey Nimati. The Lieutenant Governor accordingly recommended to the President...
of India to appoint Shri Thungon as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. After appointment by the President, the Lieutenant Governor of Arunachal Pradesh administered the oath of the office and secrecy to the ministers on March 14, 1978. Thus, a new council of Ministers headed by Shri Thungon came into being formally to replace the Provisional Council of Ministers. As a casual reference, it may be pointed out that as per the Union Territories Act, number of members of the Council of Ministers of the Union Territory should not normally exceed five inclusive of the Chief Minister. However, with prior approval of the President of India, the Council of Ministers might consist of more than five members.

The composition of the council of ministers at the time of first Legislative Assembly as follows:

1. Shri P.K. Thungon, Chief Minister — Minister of Home, Political, Forest, Research, Publicity, General administration and any other business not allocated specially to a minister.


---

*Proceedings of the Arunachal Pradesh First Legislative Assembly, Fifth session, September 10, 1979.*
3. Shri Sebeng Tayeng, Minister - Agriculture, Rural Development and cooperation.

4. Shri Gagong Apang, Minister - Public works, Agricultural engineering, Industry, Minor irrigation works, CD and Industries.


It might be noted that the Council of Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh was unique for it consisted of fairly young members. The 32 year old Chief Minister, Shri P.K. Thungon, was the youngest Chief Minister in the country. 7

Thus a popularly elected Council of Ministers assumed charge of the administration of Arunachal Pradesh and it became the real executive authority in the administration of the Union Territory subject to control of the Union Executive.

In the wake of first general election in the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh, the first session of newly constituted Legislative Assembly began at Itanagar on 21 March, 1978. Lieutenant Governor, Shri K.A.A. Raja, addressed it.

7For detail see Chapter XI.
Protem Speaker Shri Rinchin Kharu, MLA, gave oath of office to the MLAs. Shri Paddi Yubbe was elected as Speaker of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. His name was proposed by Shri Tadar Tang, Minister supply and Transport and was seconded by Shri N. Boham. Shri Tadik Chije was declared Deputy Speaker of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. His name was proposed by Shri Wangnam Wangshu and seconded by Shri Chera Talo. Shri Tomo Riba leader of opposition also congratulated both.

The Legislative Assembly has come to occupy a remarkable position both in terms of Legislative output as well as from the display of members perception of the immediate problems and aspirations of the people. From the point of view of participation of the people under limited franchise, electoral politics have already become lively and a number of issues hitherto suppressed have come to forefront. This Legislative mechanism has projected the aspirations of the people in a truly responsible manner. At the same time, the parties in the Assembly have begun to play the game of opportunism resulting in the politics of defection. This has led to the dissolution of the Assembly and consequently mid term poll in January 1980.

---

The only opposition political party in Arunachal Pradesh, the People's Party of Arunachal established representation with Congress Party, which was at that time the opposition party in Parliament and chalked a programme of successful defection. 12 MLAs were defected from the ruling Janata Party (including two ministers and the then Speaker) and joined opposition UPPA (PPA was redesignated as United People's Party of Arunachal at the time of defection in order to accommodate defectors), and by then United People's Party of Arunachal total strength reached to 20 in a house of 33 members, (30 elected and 3 nominated) leaving ruling Janata Party in a minority. Ultimately Shri P.K. Thungon ministry had to resign on September 6, 1979, and Shri Tomo Riba, the leader of United People's Party of Arunachal got chance to form the UPPA ministry on September 18, 1979.

Shri Paddi Yubbe - the speaker at the time of Shri Thungon ministry, Shri Sobeng Taxang - the Agriculture minister in Shri Thungon's Ministry, Shri Noksang Boham and Shri Karma Wangchu became cabinet ministers in Shri Tomo Riba's ministry. The new council of ministers like earlier represented for five districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Shri Riba hailed from Siang district, Shri Paddi Yubbe, Shri Sobeng Taxang, Shri

9Ibid.
Noksong Boham and Shri Karma Wangchu belonged to Subansiri Lohit, Tirap, Kameng districts respectively.  

The UPPA ministry drew support of 20 in the 33 member Assembly. The party was formed by enlarging the erstwhile People's Party of Arunachal to include 11 Janata dissidents and one independent. People's Party of Arunachal had 8 members. The UPPA legislators forming Ministry, the new speakers election took place wherein party's candidate Shri Noksem Namati was declared elected. He defeated his only rival Shri Chera Talo Congress I by a margin of just two votes. The election of the speaker started giving indications of UPPA's internal disaffection. Ultimately, the newly formed Ministry headed by Shri Tomo Riba barely lasted 47 days following defections. Shri Geogang Apang aligned himself with Congress and put forward his claim for forming his Ministry on the plea that he enjoyed majority support in the Legislative Assembly. On the advice of Chief Minister Tomo Riba, the Lieutenant Governor dissolved the Assembly on 3rd November 1979. Thus, the Legislative Assembly duly elected by the people of Arunachal Pradesh could hardly last 2 years. The Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh had thus its first experience of brief spell of 77 days of President's

---

11 Ibid.
12 First Legislative Assembly survived for exactly 1 year, 9 months and 21 days from March 14, 1978 to November 3, 1979.
rule, from November 3, 1979 to January 1, 1980. People of Arunachal Pradesh were called upon to elect a new Legislative Assembly at the time of the Lok Sabha Elections, 1980. 13

SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

Meanwhile there was a quick change in the National scene bringing about a mid-term election. With the rest of the country, the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh also went to the polls in January 1980. This election had a notable feature. The Janata Party which ruled the territory for about a year and half did not participate or did not put up any candidate in this 1980 election at all. Like the first Assembly Election, this time also there were three political parties participating in the elections, but not the same political parties. In the elections both the Parliamentary seats were bagged by Congress (I), in Assembly the PPA and Congress (I) emerged absolutely balanced with 13 seats each.

The Party position in the second Legislative Assembly Election, 1980. 14 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congress (I)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress (U)</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14 General Election 1980, Brief Statistical Data of Election Results Issued by the Chief Electoral Officer, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
The composition of the Second Legislative Assembly is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Members</th>
<th>Name of Political Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Shri Geogang Apang</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shri Kameng Dolo</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shri Tedak Dulom</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Shri Sinam Dusumow</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Shri Tumpak Ete</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Shri Talo Kadu</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Shri Nima Teering Khrome</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Shri Aken Lego</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Shri Chow Khouk Manpoong</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Shri Khaprise Krong</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Shri Punji Mara</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Shri Samchom Ngemu</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Shri Tengam Ngemu</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Shri Haijan Ponglaham</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Shri T.L. Rajkumar</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Shri Tomo Riba</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Shri Onyak Rome</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Shri Pasang Wangchik Sona</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Shri Tade Tacho</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Shri Lokem Tado</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Shri Talong Taggu</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Shri Techi Takar</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Shri Boa Tamo</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Shri Tadar Tang</td>
<td>Cong (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Shri Taering Tasi</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Shri Karma Wanghu</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Shri Wanglet</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Shri Wangnam Wangshu</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Smt. Nyari Welli</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Shri Paddi Yubba</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Shri Dambing</td>
<td>nominated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Shri Japu</td>
<td>nominated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Shri Kunku Gam</td>
<td>nominated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immediately after the election 4 PPA Legislature defected to the Congress (I). This paved the way for Congress (I) Ministry to be formed. After formation of Congress (I) Ministry many more PPA Legislators including founder General Secretary of PPA, Shri Wanglat Lowangcha defected to Congress (I), reducing the strength of the PPA in the Assembly to 3 only. Later Shri Aken Lego died in 1982 and against his seat in a mid-term poll Shri Mukut Mithi was elected as an Independent candidate. Shri Mukut Mithi also joined Cong (I).

Congress (I) Ministry headed by Shri Geogang Apang, was sworn in on the January 18, 1980 by Lieutenant Governor, Shri
R.N. Haldipur, in a formal ceremony held at Raj Niwas. The Lieutenant Governor administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Geogang Apang and two other Ministers namely Shri Tengan Ngemu and Shri Khapriso Krong. The position of the council of ministers is as follows:

1. Shri Geogang Apang, Chief Minister - All departments not allocated to any minister.

2. Shri Tengan Ngemu, Minister - Education, Supply and Transport, Co-operation and Rehabilitation.


The council of ministers was later expanded. After the re-allocation of portfolios, the composition of the ministry is as follows:

1. Shri Geogong Apang, Chief Minister - All departments not assigned to any minister.

2. Shri Khapriso Krong, Minister - Agriculture and Rural Development, Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Services.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minister</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shri Tearing Tashi, Minister</td>
<td>P.W.O. (including Power), Law and Parliamentary affairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Tadar Tang, Minister</td>
<td>Supply, Transport and co-operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Tadak Dulom, Minister</td>
<td>Health, Information and Public Relations, Economics and Statistics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Tangan Ngemu, Minister</td>
<td>Finance, Industry, Labour, Research and Panchayats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Kameng Dolo, Deputy Minister</td>
<td>Rural Works Department, Rehabilitation and settlement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Haijen Ponglaha, Deputy Minister</td>
<td>Forests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The size of this council of Ministers was the largest ever formed in Arunachal Pradesh. Prior to this there is also no example of any Deputy Ministers. In this council of Ministers Shri Tearing Tashi was the youngest and Shri Tadak Dulom was the eldest minister. Chief Minister Shri Geogang Apang was also quite young. This second Legislative Assembly successfully completed its term of 5 years. 18

---

In the second Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh Shri T.L. Raj Kumar and Shri Pasang Wangchuk Soni were elected speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively.

Emergence of the leadership of Shri Geogang Apang provided stability. It is interestingly noteworthy that Congress I Ministry formed by defection lasted for a complete term while the Janata Ministry which commanded two third majority support in the first Legislative Assembly last for just two years.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

The general elections for the third Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh were held simultaneously with the General Election for the 8th Lok Sabha in December 1984. In this Assembly Election, the party position is as follows:

1. Indian National Congress - 21
2. Bharatiya Janata Party - 01
3. Janata - 00
4. PPA - 04
5. Independent - 04

The composition of the third Legislative Assembly as follows:

---


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Members</th>
<th>Name of the Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Shri Geogang Apang</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shri Todak Basar</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shri Taering Tashi</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Shri Khaopiso Krong</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Shri Tadak Dulom</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Shri Tochi Taka</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Shri Mukut Mithi</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Shri T.L. Rajkumar</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Shri Chera Talo</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Shri Karma Wangchu</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Shri R.K. Khirmey</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Shri Japu Deru</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Smt. Nyari Welli</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Shri Kameng Dalo</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Shri Tadar Tang</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Shri Gyati Taka</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Shri Boa Tamo</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Shri Punji Mara</td>
<td>Congress I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Shri Tadik Chiju</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Shri Lijum Ronya</td>
<td>BJP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Shri Doi Adu</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Shri Tapum Jamoh</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Shri Bakin Partin</td>
<td>PPA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
24. Shri Tade Tacho - Congress I
25. Shri C.P. Namchoom - Independent
26. Shri Tengam Ngem - Congress I
27. Miss Komli Mosang - Independent
28. Shri Kapohlen Rajkumar - Congress I
29. Shri Noksong Boham - Congress I
30. Shri Heijan Ponglaham - Congress I
31. Shri Julley Siji - Nominated
32. Shri Okeng Tatung - Nominated
33. Shri Talo Mugli - Nominated

This time Congress (I) came into power with an unprecedented majority. Two PPA and four independent and one BJP MLA later defected to Congress (I), strengthening its position at 28 seats. Taking into consideration of even three nominated MLAs the Ministry enjoyed confidence of almost all MLAs barring two PPA MLAs namely Shri Tapom Jasoh and Shri Bakin Fertin. For the first time in the history of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly opposition was practically wiped out.

Shri Geogong Apang was sworn in as Chief Minister on January 2, 1985 at Raj Niwas for the second term. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Lieutenant Governor, Shri T.W. Rajeshwar Rao. The new Ministry was expanded on January 7, 1985 when four cabinet and two Deputy Ministers were sworn in at Raj Niwas.
Composition of the Council of Ministers as follows:

1. Shri Geogong Apang, Chief Minister - Chief Minister
2. Shri Tadak Basar, Minister - Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Shri Teering Tashi, Minister - Finance, Law and Labour.
5. Shri Tadak Dulom, Minister - Supply and Transport
6. Shri Techi Taker, Deputy Minister - Veterinary
7. Shri Mukut Mithi, Deputy Minister - Forest

In the 1st session, in accordance with the provision of section 11 of the Union Territory Act 1963, Shri Karma Wancho MLA of Second Legislative Assembly appointed in the Administration to be person before whom the members of the third Legislative Assembly could subscribe the oath or Affirmation.

In pursuance of provision of Rule 88 of the Rules of procedure and conduct of business in Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Shri K. Wancho was also appointed as speaker pro tem to perform the duties of the speaker until speaker would have been chosen.

On 23 March 1985 election to the office of speaker and Deputy Speaker was held. Shri T.L. Rajkumar Cong I - 16 votes and Shri Kapochen Rajkumar Cong I - 13 votes. Shri T.L. Rajkumar was

---

elected speaker whereas for the post of Deputy Speaker there was only one nomination filed by Shri Chera Talo who was declared elected as Deputy Speaker uncontested.22

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH:

Lieutenant Governor, by 37th Amendment Act 1975, became the Head of the territory as well as Chief Administrator. Lieutenant Governor was appointed by the President of India.

The first Lieutenant Governor of Arunachal Pradesh appointed on August 11, 1975 was Shri K.A.A. Raja. He took oath of office and secrecy from the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Shri M.K. Pathak on August 15, 1975.

The administration of the union territory was run in the name of the President of India. All executive powers were vested in the President of India and all the executive actions were taken in his name. Lieutenant Governor was an agent of the President of India to supervise the working of the administration in the union territory of Arunachal Pradesh. He was outside the control of the Legislative Assembly of the territory. Thus he was functioning as an agent of central government.

22 Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly in his routine letter No. LA/36/85 dated May 5, 1985, addressed to the Secretaries of all Legislative Assemblies of all the states of India.
But the Administrator – Lieutenant Governor of union territory is no longer obliged to reserve all bills passed by a territorial Legislature for the assent of President. He acquired the power to assent more or less equally with a state Governor. 23

The Lieutenant Governor on behalf of the President of India appointed the Chief Minister and on his advise other Ministers. The Lieutenant Governor may make rules for the convenient transaction of the business of administration of the Union Territory subject to approval of the President of India. He may ask the Chief Minister for any information regarding the administration of the territory for bringing the same to the knowledge of the President. It is the duty of the Chief Minister to provide him with all information and decisions of the council of Ministers, relating to administration of the territory. Thus, the Lieutenant Governor is not mere ceremonial Head of the Union Territory. He is a vital constitutional link between the Council of Ministers and the President of India.

The Government of the Union Territories Act 1963 is amended. The Administrator of the Union Territory is not obliged to reserve all bills passed by the territorial

---

Legislature for the assent of the President. The Lieutenant Governor acquires the powers of assent more or less equally with a provincial Governor. The 27th amendment to the Constitution gives the administrator of a Union Territory the power to proclaim ordinances.

The Council of Ministers functions under the general supervision of the Lieutenant Governor who as Agent of the President of India can give such directions as he thinks fit. He has the authority to address the Legislative Assembly. The Central Government is the final controlling authority and has a general rule-making power.

In case of Arunachal Pradesh it is apparent that the members of Indian Civil Service have only been appointed as Lieutenant Governors. Out of five Lieutenant Governors of Arunachal Pradesh namely Shri K.A.A. Raja, Shri R.N. Heldipur, Shri H.S. Dubey, Shri Shiv Swarup and Shri T.V. Rajeshwer, first three were of Indian Administrative Service and remaining two were of Indian Police Service.

PROVISIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The Government of India decided to grant statehood to the Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh simultaneously. The State of Arunachal Pradesh Act 1986 was passed by the Parliament which received the Presidential assent on 24 Dec. 1986. The statehood was inaugurated on February 20, 1987, by the Prime Minister,
Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Under the constitutional provision the state of Arunachal Pradesh, was given a 40 member Legislative Assembly, directly elected by the people. The Provisional Legislative Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh was constituted of all 30 elected members of the existing Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh. The period of five years in case of P.L.A. was as per the provision deemed to have commenced on the day on which the duration of third Legislative Assembly commenced. Thus the P.L.A. is to remain in existence till 1989 end. In this State of Arunachal Pradesh the nominated MLA were deprived of the membership of the P.L.A. Therefore to eliminate this discrepancy, in May 1987 another piece of Legislation named as the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Amendment) Bill was passed by the Parliament to provide continuance of the three nominated MLAs of the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh as the members of the Provisional Legislative Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. In addition to this, another bill was passed by the Parliament by which the Legislatures of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Manipur, will have one seat each dereserved in order to give representation to the non-native non-tribal population residing in the respective territory of the State. Again, in 1988 through an amendment to the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act the strength of Legislative Assembly was increased from the sanctioned strength of 40 to 60.
The budget of the State of Arunachal Pradesh was delayed and presented in June 1987 on account of this constitutional change. After becoming state, the Arunachal Pradesh for the first time enjoyed the privilege of participating in Presidential election of 1987.

In February 1987, with some minor reallocation and redesignation of subjects, two Deputy Ministers Shri Mukut Mithi and Shri Techi Takar were upgraded as full-fledged cabinet ministers. Thus in total 8 cabinet ministers were there excluding the Chief Minister.

The composition of the Council of Ministers in the state of Arunachal Pradesh is as follows:

1. Shri Geogang Apang - Chief Minister
2. Shri Todak Basar - Minister
3. Shri Tsering Techi - Minister
4. Shri Khapriso Krong - Minister
5. Shri Tadak Dulom - Minister
6. Shri Techi Takkar - Minister
7. Shri Mukut Mithi - Minister

On August 3, 1988, the expansion of the Arunachal Pradesh ministry, which was long awaited, took place. The ministry was expanded with the induction of six new ministers of cabinet rank and two ministers of state. This raises the
The strength of the council of ministers to 12. Shri Khapriso Krong, the education, supply and Transport Minister has been dropped from the council of Ministers.

The State Governor Shri R.D. Pradhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers. Significant changes have been made in the portfolios of ministers in the wake of expansion of the Shri Apang ministry. Simultaneously portfolios of the 6 new ministers have been announced which appeared in an extra ordinary gazette notification. The re-allocated portfolios of ministers are as follows:

Shri Gegong Apang, Chief Minister - Home, Education, Land Records and allotment of land in capital complex, Revenue, General Administration, Appointments, Science and Technology and all other business of the Government as has not been specifically assigned to any Minister.

Shri Todak Basar, Minister - Public Works Department, Law, Election and Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri Tearing Tashi, Minister - Rural Works Department, Social and Cultural Affairs, Rehabilitation and settlement.
Shri Tadak Dulom. Minister - Power, State Transport and Panchayat
Shri Mukut Mithi. Minister - Forests, Information and Public Relations and Tourism
Shri Techi Taker. Minister - Industry, Labour, Library and Research
Shri R.K. Khrimey, Minister - Finance and Planning and Development
Shri T. Ngemu, Minister - Agriculture and Rural Development.
Shri H. Ponglaham, Minister - Civil Supply, Supply and Transport and Legal Metrology.
Shri C.P. Namehoom, Minister - Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Fisheries and Employment.
Shri Gyati Taka, Minister of State - Coop eration and liaison for communications (Posts and Telegraphs) matters.

Shri Geogang Apang the Chief Minister described the ministry as "the team of energetic and dynamic ministers" and it has now been well represented keeping in view of the necessity of different areas of the State. He claims that at

28Ibid.
same time the area of each portfolio now has been narrowed
down for more effective administration. Shri Techi Toka
and Shri Kamen Ringu, Vice-President and General Secretary
respectively of People's Party of Arunachal in joint press
statement termed the expansion of Congress I Ministry as
nothing but a political luxury of the ruling party while
the state is facing acute financial crisis arising out of
overdrafts. Further according to the People's Party of
Arunachal leaders the expansion of the ministry is merely to
appease some Congress I Legislators to be inducted into
ministry as otherwise they might engineer defections to topple
the government. As the move to expand the ministry in Arunachal
Pradesh came in the wake of the fall of the ministry in Nagaland.  

The term of Provisional Legislative Assembly expires in
December 1989. In next Assembly election 60 members will be
elected.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH ;

Under the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act 1986, the
post of Lieutenant Governor was replaced by the post of
Governor. The Governor was armed with special power in respect
of Law and Order in the State.  

Ibid.

Constitution of India, Article 371 H.
was empowered to exercise his individual judgement and the advice of the council of ministers was not made binding on him.

Governor the head of state is a constitutional figure and all executive power of the State Government is vested in him. The executive action of the State to be taken on the name of Governor. He is a link between the State and the Union Government. Formally he is appointed by the President of India but in actual practice the Governor is appointed by the Prime Minister in consultation with the Minister of Home Affairs.

Normally there shall be a Governor for each state but the constitution seventh Amendment Act 1956 makes it possible to appoint the same person as the Governor for two or more states.28 Shri Bhismar Narain Singh, Governor of Assam and Meghalaya was sworn as first Governor of Arunachal Pradesh at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar. Justice B.C. Hansaria of Gauhati High Court administered oath of office on February 20, 1987. Shortly after, Shri R.D. Pradhan took as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and Acting Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Justice K.N. Saikia administered the oath of office, on May 29, 1987. The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh has the same position and powers

28 Constitution of India, Article 153.
as his counterparts in other states except that he has been given a special responsibility with regard to Law and Order as the Governor of Nagaland.29

As there has been a trend in Indian Politics that either the leader of the ruling party at centre or the member of Indian Civil Service is appointed as Governor. In case of Arunachal Pradesh both type of Governors has been appointed within a short span of time.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS : AN APPRAISAL

The Governor of a state is aided by a council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister. The council of Ministers is the real executive, although the acts of the state government are performed in the name of the Governor. There may be four categories of ministers and alike:

1. Cabinet Minister
2. Minister of State
3. Deputy Minister
4. Parliamentary Secretaries

The institution of Parliamentary Secretaries has been in disuse and can be well be dispensed with except in Bihar and West Bengal the office is not made use of.

---

29The special powers to the Governors of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are made available vide constitution of India Articles 371 G and 371 H respectively.
In the Central Government all three types of ministers are appointed. But in states there is no uniform pattern. In Arunachal, two Deputy Ministers were appointed during the term of the Second Legislative Assembly and the practice was continued in the third Legislative Assembly. But in August 1988 for the first time two Ministers of State were appointed. The Council of Minister of Arunachal has thus Cabinet ministers along with Deputy ministers or Ministers of State but not both. In regard to division of work among Ministers of different ranks, there is no uniformity. Deputy Ministers are not generally given any independent charge. Cabinet Ministers have important portfolios. Young and promising members are groomed as Deputy Ministers and Ministers of State.

In the Ministry making it becomes generally obligatory to give representation to areas or zones and to the different tribal groups. In all cases of Arunachal Pradesh all the five important regions - Siang, Kameng, Subansiri, Lohit and Tirap are given representation. It is found that the methodology evolved in Pradesh Council, that is one councillor from each five districts is still in practice. In the council of Minister of the Provisional Legislative Assembly the erstwhile Tirap district was not given representation. But this was considered discriminatory. With the result in August 1988 two ministers were chosen from Tirap district. This policy of appointing one minister from each of the five erstwhile district of
Arunachal Pradesh has worked well.

The council of ministers as constituted in August, 1988 consisted of:

| 1. Chief Minister | 1 |
| 2. Cabinet Ministers | 9 |
| 3. Ministers of State | 2 |

Total: 12

Thus, every third MLA of Arunachal Pradesh is a minister whereas, as a general rule the number of Ministers should not be more than 1/10 of the total number of the members of the Assembly. There should not be more than three ministers. At the same time the government is of the opinion that the small size of the Assembly does not lessen the problems of the state. The subjects of administration are more or less same for large and small states. Hence, there can not be a general rule fixing the size of the ministry.

In reality, the size of council of minister and its expansion in every state is normally fixed by the central high command of the ruling party. Sometime expansion of council of ministers in a state, despite wishes of Chief Minister, is not allowed by the party central command or the central command of the party, may desire the expansion of the ministry even against the advice of the Chief Minister.
So size of the council of Ministers does not seem to bear any relationship to the population and area of the states. But it seems fair to infer that in states where there are factions within the ruling party or where the Chief Minister does not feel secure in office, there is a tendency for the number of ministers to be large.

(1) Cabinet reshuffle had been quite rare because of the limited number of departments and ministers too. In a small political body reshuffling may disturb political equations.

(2) No woman was appointed minister till August 1988 when Miss Kamali Mosang was appointed as Minister of State. She is not only the first woman minister but also the youngest minister appointed so far in history of ministry-making in Arunachal Pradesh. Moreover she is one of the few ministers and MLAs with a degree in higher education.

(3) So far only once in Provisional Legislative Assembly of 1975 to 1978. The Chief Minister demanded the resignation of his minister Shri Tomo Riba for joining the PPA which was newly formed. Shri Riba refused to resign on the ground that he did not really defect from any party and his election to the Assembly was a non-party basis as it was for all. But Shri Riba's plea was not redeemed and later he was dismissed by the President.
(4) The position of the council of Ministers in each Assembly may be explained as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assembly</th>
<th>Chief Minister</th>
<th>Cabinet Ministers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provisional Legislative Assembly</strong></td>
<td>Shri P.K. Thungon</td>
<td>+ 4 Cabinet Ministers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Legislative Assembly</strong></td>
<td>Shri P.K. Thungon</td>
<td>+ 4 Cabinet Ministers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shri Tomo Riba</td>
<td>+ 4 Cabinet Ministers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Except Shri Sobeng Tayang Ex minister in Shri Thungon's ministry, all other three faces were new)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Legislative Assembly</strong></td>
<td>Shri Geogong Apang</td>
<td>+ 2 Cabinet Ministers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Third Legislative Assembly</strong></td>
<td>Shri Geogong Apang</td>
<td>+ 4 Cabinet Ministers + 2 Deputy Ministers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 18
Showing size of council of Ministers in different Assemblies

(A) Under the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh

Chief Minister Shri P.K. Thungon + 4 Cabinet Ministers

Chief Minister Shri P.K. Thungon + 4 Cabinet Ministers

Chief Minister Shri Tomo Riba + 4 Cabinet Ministers

Chief Minister Shri Geogong Apang + 2 Cabinet Ministers

Chief Minister Shri Geogong Apang + 5 Cabinet Ministers (In this expansion of ministry no one was dropped)
Under the State of Arunachal Pradesh

Provisional Legislative Assembly

Chief Minister Shri Geogang Apang + 6 Cabinet Ministers
(Two Deputy Ministers in the third Legislative Assembly were made Cabinet Ministers)

Chief Minister Shri Geogang Apang + 9 Cabinet Ministers + 2 Minister of State
(In this expansion of Ministry Shri Khapriao Krong Cabinet Minister in the former ministry was dropped)

(5) The Ministry formation in August 1988 is significant in many ways.

(i) It is the biggest ministry ever formed.

(ii) For the first time Minister of State was appointed.

(iii) For the first time a woman Legislator could become minister.

(iv) It gave representation to almost all districts of Arunachal Pradesh (9 old and 2 newly created districts) barring Tawang district. In this expansion of council of ministers maximum members are incorporated from Tirap and Changlang districts as earlier they had no representation in the ministry.
(v) For the first time members of Khampti and Apatani tribe were appointed as ministers. However from Apatani tribe Shri Paddi Yubbe had held the ministers position just for 47 days under UPPA ministry.

(vi) For the first time two ministers from Tansa Tribe were appointed. Tansa tribe is the third tribe after Adi and Nishi tribes which could have the two ministers at one time.

The following table makes a chronological presentation of the main steps in legislative development, from villages councils to the emergency of the Arunachal Pradesh state Legislative Assembly in 1987.
Chief Ministers

P. K. Thungan (1975 - 1979)
Geogang Apang (since 1980)
Tomo Riba (in 1979)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Legislature of Arunachal Pradesh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Pradesh Council an apex body under Panchayat Raj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Legislative Assembly of the State of the Arunachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>40 members to be directly elected. 3 members nominated. In 1988 60 members Assembly was granted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>30 members to be directly elected. 3 members nominated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 19**

Showing Development of Legislature in Arunachal Pradesh
(from Village Councils to Legislative Assembly)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village Councils of the respective tribes working according to the tribal customary laws and The Assam Frontier (Administration of Justice) Regulation 1945.</td>
<td>Agency Council an apex body under Panchayat Raj</td>
<td>Pradesh Council an apex body under Panchayat Raj</td>
<td>Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Legislative Assembly of the State of the Arunachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Lok Sabha MP</td>
<td>One Lok Sabha MP</td>
<td>Two Lok Sabha MP</td>
<td>Two Lok Sabha MP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Rajya Sabha MP</td>
<td>One Rajya Sabha MP</td>
<td>One Rajya Sabha MP</td>
<td>One Rajya Sabha MP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Constitutionally NEFA was part of Assam though administered directly by President

Advisor to the Governor | Chief Commissioner | Lieutenant Governor |

Governor

Governor

Governor

Governor
ASSEMBLY BUILDING

When Union Territory status was granted to Arunachal Pradesh, there was a Pradesh Council building-cum-recreation hall at Naharlagan. It was slightly modified and extended for housing of Legislative Assembly of Provisional Legislature of the Union Territory. On 5th February 1975 Shri K.A.A. Raja formally laid down the foundation for this purpose. This is how a temporary building was made available for the provisional Legislative Assembly and the same building is being used even today. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has a plan to construct a permanent Assembly building at Itanagar, for which foundation has been laid by the former President, Shri Giani Zail Singh. In the construction plan of Legislative Assembly building, provision has been made to accommodate nearly 100 MLAs should such need arise in future. In order to finalise its decision and architecture etc., a committee consisting of

1. Speaker/Deputy Speaker - Chairman
2. Chief Engineer - Member
3. Secretary, Legislative Assembly - Member
4. Senior Architect - Member

was constituted which visited places like Karnataka etc. in July 1987. The decision as to design and site plan is awaited.
SECRETARIAT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

From the existing building of Legislative Assembly at Naharlagun the Secretariat of the Arunachal Assembly operates. When the proposed new building of the Legislative Assembly at Itanagar will be completed the Secretariat will also be shifted there. The existing Assembly secretariat has Library and recording facilities. The following personnel of the Legislative Assembly Secretariat are rendering valuable service:

Secretary - 1
Deputy Secretary - 1
Under Secretary - 2
Committee Officer - 2
Accounts Officer - 1
Reporter (English) - 6
Reporter (Hindi) - 2
Translator (Assamese to English) - 1
Assistant Librarian - 1
Stenographer Grade I - 4
Superintendent - 2

30 Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Naharlagun.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stenographers (Grade II)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tape recordist cum Technician</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stenographers (Grade III)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Division Clerks</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDC cum Receptionist</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Mechanic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daftry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chowkidar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peon</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaner</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendant</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweeper</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It can be suggested that the Assembly Secretariat needs a separate Research Branch.

The Secretariat is the backbone of the legislature. It has to prepare all the ground work needed for the smooth
functioning of the legislature and of its committees. Beginning with the organisation of the sessions of the legislature to the finalisation of agenda of legislative action and follow up action on resolutions adopted by the legislature, the secretariat has to perform important staff functions. So it should consist of a contingent of adequate and efficient staff under the rules of business, the legislature can recruit its own personnel in the Secretariat. The speaker guides the working of the Secretariat as its Chief Executive. The Independence and effectiveness of the Assembly depend a large extent on the strength and autonomy of its secretariat.

CAPITAL

Prior to August 5, 1975, the administrative headquarters of the territory was located at Shillong, the present capital of Meghalaya. After NEFA was constituted into a Union Territory under the provisions of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, the headquarters of the territory was shifted from Shillong to Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, on April 20, 1974.

The demand for shifting the secretariat of NEFA from Shillong to a place in NEFA was voiced from time to time by the people. The Parliamentary delegation led by Shri S.V.

---

31 Constitution of India, Article 187 provides for a separate Secretariat to each Legislative Assembly. The Secretariat of the Legislature is independent of executive wing and is answerable to the House only.
Krishnamurty Rao, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha (1962-67) which visited NEFA from May 22 to May 29, 1966 also held similar views. On 7, May 1973, Governor of five states, Shri B.K. Nehru, laid the foundation stone of proposed capital project at Itanagar. 32 Shri V.V. Giri, inaugurated the temporary capital at Itanagar on 20th April 1974. 33 But shifting of headquarters was not taken up until NEFA had been made into a Union Territory and a separate Legislative Assembly and a council of ministers of Arunachal Pradesh were constituted in August 1975 at Itanagar. It should be noted that for some years between passing of the Act of 1971 and the inauguration of the Legislative Assembly and the council of Ministers on August 15, 1975 at Itanagar, the headquarters of the Chief Commissioner of Arunachal Pradesh remained at Shillong.

It may be mentioned that the site selection technical committee for Arunachal Pradesh has recommended Itanagar in Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh as permanent site for the capital of the Union Territory. Complete shifting of the headquarters was expected by January 1, 1978, but this was not possible. Work of permanent capital project of Rs. 15 crores has been in rapid progress. It has been reported that

the Capital will be a satellite town with an air-atrip to facilitate the air communication between the capital and the rest of the country. The town planning is being done by a committee of expert town planners and the project is executed by CPWD.

The story of the Arunachal Pradesh Capital will not be complete without a reference to the role played by the Lieutenant Governor, Shri K.A.A. Raja, who was also the Chief Commissioner of the Union Territory, at the beginning. He is a dynamic personality and was responsible for the shifting of capital of Arunachal Pradesh from Shillong to Itanagar and thereby earned the eternal gratitude of the tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh. There was, no doubt, opposition to the proposal from vested interests but the Chief Commissioner informed them that NEFA was not a colony to be governed by somebody from some place. Those who want to serve Arunachal Pradesh must live in Arunachal Pradesh. He was prepared to accept the resignation of anyone who was not prepared to shift to Itanagar. The vested interest gave way and the capital was shifted to Itanagar.

Later on the place, Itanagar was not found suitable and sufficient for future expansion. So at a distance of 12 kms. from it, a new place was developed, New Itanagar, which was declared as Capital. For a long time Itanagar and New Itanagar (both are in Lower Subansiri district) continued
together. Last year, 1987, Itanagar, old capital, was named as Naharlagan and New Itanagar, new capital, was given the name Itanagar. The Legislative Assembly building and Government Directorates are still functioning at Naharlagan. In future new Secretariat building, new Legislative Assembly building and new Directorate building are to come up at Itanagar.

REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT:

According to the provision of section 4 of the representative of the People's Act 1950, NEFA was given one seat in Lok Sabha, to be filled by the person nominated by the President of India from amongst the scheduled tribes of the area. The first member of Lok Sabha was Shri Chowkhamein Gohain. Nominated MP Shri Chowkhamein Gohain resigned on personal grounds and Shri D. Ering was the next choice. Shri Dying Ering was nominated as MP in 1961 and was again nominated in 1967 for a second term. 34 In 1963, the people made an appeal to the President of India, that they should have an MP of their choice. However he might be nominated by the President.

The Agency Council - NEFA, recommended in its meeting held on the February 6, 1971 that the choice of the people should be ascertained by the Governor through their elected representative before submitting names to the President for the consideration. In accordance to the wishes of the Council, 34

---

34 Dal, Lumbar: Dr. Dying Ering (booklet) published by Information Centre, Bombay 1960.
A consultative committee was constituted consisting of the members of the Zilla Parishads of all the five districts together with four other members to indicate their choice. The number of members of Zilla Parishads of various districts is unequal and not proportionate to the population. In order to ensure an equal voice to all inhabitants of NEFA each vote cast was multiplied by the number of people of the votes represented in the same manner as in the election of President of India. Accordingly interested candidates applied for their candidature.

Since the MP is to be ultimately nominated even after election, therefore persons in government service, willing to contest MP-ship were allowed the contest while retaining their jobs. The election was to be held on non-party basis.

There were five candidates in the field, namely –

1. Shri Chow Chandret Gohain
2. Shri C.K. Manpoong
3. Shri Tomo Riba
4. Shri Matin Dai
5. Smt. Oman Deori

Voting took place on March 15, 1970. Out of 85 members of the consultative committee, 77 cast their votes. One vote was declared invalid. Shri Chow Chandret Gohain polled the highest number of votes – 44 votes with 148234 points followed
by Shri Manpoong who got 15 votes and Shri Riba who secured 15 votes. Shri Matin Dai got 2 votes. Smt. Deori did not have any luck. Recommendations were made to the President accordingly. The President in exercise of his powers conferred by the Representation of People's Act 1950 had nominated Shri Chow Chandret Gohain. Thus Shri Chow Chandret Gohain was nominated as MP from NEFA to succeed the late Dying Ering. Mr. Gohain took oath of the office on 9th November 1970. He was the first MP from NEFA who was first elected and then nominated.

The section 3 read with section 4 of the Representation of People's Act 1950, provided for the then North East Frontier Tracts now called Arunachal Pradesh with one member in Lok Sabha to be nominated by President of India from among the Scheduled Tribe of the area.

The North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act 1971 provided for two seats for Arunachal Pradesh in Parliament, one each in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Prior to this the Representation of the People Act 1950 (43 of 1950) one MP in the House of the People under section 3 to the part B tribal areas shall be the seat to be filled by a person nominated by the President. Thus, Shri Todak Basar was

---

35 NEFA Information, March 1971, p. 17.
nominated the first member of the Rajya Sabha. It was for the first time, the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh was represented in Upper House (Rajya Sabha) of our Parliament.36

The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Act 1975 increased the representatives of Arunachal Pradesh in the Lok Sabha from one to two and provided for filling up the seats both of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha through election instead of nomination.

The first Parliamentary election in Arunachal Pradesh was held in March 1977. As per Govt. of Union Territories (Amendment) Act 1975 two Parliamentary Constituencies viz. Arunachal Pradesh East and Arunachal Pradesh West, were carved out. The Arunachal Pradesh East Constituency consisted of 17 Assembly Constituencies and Arunachal Pradesh West Constituency comprised 13 Assembly Constituencies. From West Parliamentary Constituency Shri Rinchin Khandau Khirme of the Indian National Congress was returned uncontested. From East Parliamentary constituency an Independent candidate, Shri Bakin Pertin, won the Poll by a majority of 28,557 votes in a three cornered contest. Thus, Shri Bakin was thus the first candidate to be returned through direct election.

In 1980 General Election, Mr. P.K. Thungon and Shri Sobeng Tayang, both Congress I candidates were elected as members of Lok Sabha from Arunachal West and East constituencies respectively. In 1984 - Parliamentary election, Shri P.K. Thungon retained his West Parliamentary seat but from East Parliamentary constituency Shri Wangpha Louang was elected. Both Shri Thungon and Shri Louang contested and got elected.

The Rajya Sabha seat was at first filled in through nomination by the Governor. Thus Sri Todak Basar was nominated in 1972. But after the constitution of the new Legislative Assembly in 1978, the Rajya Sabha seat has become elective. The Assembly held election to the Rajya Sabha seat on May 20, 1978. Shri Ratan Tama, Janata candidate had been elected in the election to the Rajya Sabha seat for Arunachal Pradesh. He defeated his only rival Shri K.T. Longchang - an Independent candidate by a margin of eight votes. He was the first member of Rajya Sabha from Arunachal Pradesh to be returned by election. When his term expired in May 1984, Smt. Omen Deori the Congress candidate got herself elected as Member of Rajya Sabha.

The details of the representation of Arunachal Pradesh in the Parliament are as follows:

---

Members in Rajya Sabha from Arunachal Pradesh:

1972 - Shri Todak Basar (Nominated)
1978 - Shri Raton Tama (Elected)
1984 - Shrimati Omen Deori (Elected)

Members in Lok Sabha from Arunachal Pradesh:

1957 - Shri Choukhamen Gohain (Nominated)
1961 - Shri Dying Ering (Nominated)
1967 - Shri Dying Ering (Nominated)
1970 - Shri Chowohendret Gohain (Nominated)
1977 - Shri Rinchin Khendu Khirme (Elected)
1980 - Shri Sobeng Tayang (Elected)
1984 - Shri Wangpha Lowang (Elected)
1984 - Shri P.K. Thungon (Elected)