CHAPTER - VI
NOTIFICATION & FILING OF NOMINATION PAPERS.

INTRODUCTION

In Modern Democratic Government with its Universal Franchise, some preliminary process of Nomination is necessary for an efficient conduct of the Poll. The Nomination focusses the attention of the Electorate upon relatively few persons who offer themselves as candidates and ensures that the successful candidate is the choice of a substantial part of the Electorate. The number of contenders should, moreover, be greater than the number of Offices to be filled, otherwise the processes of Nomination and Election become practically identical. Such a situation usually is practised in countries having a One-Party Rule System of Government. The process of Nomination
is a subject of elaborate statutory regulation in the United States of America but not in the United Kingdom. The latter does not require special qualifications for persons seeking Elections to the House of Common. In India, like the United States, the choice of voters at an Election is confined to those who have previously acquired the legal status of candidacy by following the prescribed procedure in this respect. The Constitution as well as the Law in India prescribes elaborate qualifications and disqualifications for candidature to various Legislatives.

PROCESS OF NOMINATION

For the purpose of filling the seat of Members of the Council of States retiring on the term of Office, the President, by Notification published in the Gazette of India, on such data or dates as may be recommended by the Election Commission, shall call upon the members of the Legislative Assembly or (as the case may be) the Members of the Electoral Collage of each State concerned to elect Members.¹ The Election is by the system of Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote.

For General Election to the House of the People, the President shall, by notification in the Gazette of India, on such data or dates as may be recommended by the Election Commission, call upon all Parliamentary Constituencies to elect Members. The system of Election is by multiple vote with distributive voting as distinguished from the single transferable vote. Dissolution of Lok Sabha is not a condition precedent

¹ Section 12, Representation of the People Act, 1951.
for holding General Election to it. When a General Election is held otherwise than on
the dissolution of the existing House of the People, on notification shall be issued at any
time earlier than six months prior to the date on which the duration of that House
expires under the Provisions of Clause (2) of Article 83. In the existing Law there are
only single man constituencies and multiple constituencies no longer exist.

For the purpose of General Election to a new Legislative Assembly on the
expiration of its duration or on its dissolution, the Governor shall issue notification, on
such date or dates as may be recommended by the Election Commission and call upon
all Assembly Constituencies in the State to elect new Members (Section 15, Act 1951).
The Election Commission, thereupon, publishes the schedule for holding Parliamentary
and Assembly Election, fixing inter alia, the last date for making nominations, the date
for the scrutiny of nominations, the date for the withdrawal of candidatures and date or
dates for the Poll. The Returning Officer of each Constituency, Parliament or
Assembly, then issues a public notification inviting Nominations for the ensuing
Election.

The prescribed form, the nomination paper, indicating the candidate’s name,
age, postal address and serial number in the Electoral Roll, duly proposed by a
registered elector of the Constituency and assented to by the Candidate, must be
delivered to the Returning Officer either by the Candidate in person or by his proposer

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2 Anand Mohan V. Union of India, AIR 1955 ALL. 114.
4 Section 30 (a to c) op. cit.
5 Section 31 Ibid
between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. on or before the last date fixed for the purpose. The proposer must be a voter in the Constituency for which Nomination has been filed and the Nomination Paper must contain his name and electoral number. Where the Candidate is an elector of a different Constituency, a copy of the electoral roll of that Constituency or of the relevant part thereof or a certified copy of the relevant entries in such roll shall, unless it has been filed along with the nomination paper, be produced before the Returning Officer at the time of scrutiny. Under rule 4, Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 every nomination paper presented under Sub-Section (1) of Section 33 shall be completed in such one of the forms 2A and 2E as may be appropriate to that Election. The Nomination Paper must be accompanied by a Treasury receipt or a receipt issued by the Reserve Bank of India, as evidence of the Security Deposit, as well as declarations by the candidate, one confirming the choice of election symbols in order of preference and the other in respect of the appointment of Election Agent. Besides, a candidate for the reserved seats is also required to furnish a declaration in his nomination paper of his being a member of the Scheduled Caste or the Scheduled

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6 Section 33 In England nomination is by a petition signed by eight registered Electors of the Constituency, in Francisco hundred. Herman Finer, Theory and Practice of Modern Governments. New Delhi, Asia Publishing House 1961. Indian Ed. p. 238. In Canada, under the Canadian Election Act, 1960, any 25 or more electors qualified to vote in an electoral district for which an Election is to be held can nominate a candidate (See Section 21 (5), Statutes of Canada 1960. Ottawa. Queen Printers and Controller of Stationery 1966. p -47

7 Representation of the People Act, Section 33 (5). 1951.

8 The amount of Security Deposit for a Parliamentary and an Assembly Election is Rs 500 and Rs 250 respectively. It is halved i.e. Rs. 250 and Rs. 125 in case of SC and ST candidates. In the two sets of Constituencies (Section 34 (1) (2) The Security Deposits is forfeited to the appropriate Government, except when the candidate is elected or receives at least on sixth of the total valid votes cast, in which case it is refunded to the Candidate in full (Section 158 (4) Act, 1961).


10 Section 40 (1) Act, 1951.
Tribes. A person can contest a number of seats, whether parliamentary or Assembly or both, simultaneously. He must, however, relinquish all except one seat within the prescribed time from the date of publication of results in the official Gazette declaring him elected (by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker or Chairman, as the case may be, or to such other authority or officer as may be prescribed).12

**ELIGIBILITY**

The qualifications and disqualifications for the membership of a Legislature are prescribed by the constitution or the electoral law.13 The Constitution of India lays down that, apart from any other qualification stipulated in this connection by the appropriate Legislature, a person to be eligible for membership of the Lok Sabha or a State Legislative Assembly must be a citizen of India and be not less than twenty-five years of age. While in the case of a seat in the Council of States, no less than thirty years of age.14 The Candidate must be an electoral for a Parliamentary Constituency in India in the case of Lok Sabha Elections and an elector for the Assembly Constituency in the State in the case of election to the State Legislative Assembly.15 In addition, a candidate for a reserved seat must belong to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.16

12 Section 70, Act 1951 read with Rule 120.
13 In Britain, for instance, a British subject or a commonwealth citizens of full age i.e. 21 years is eligible for contesting election to the House of Commons. The qualifying age for French National Assembly is 23 and for the U.S. House of Representatives, it is 25.
14 Article 84 (a & b) and Article 173 (a) (b) and (c) Constitution of India.
15 Section 4 (d) and 5 (c) of the Representation of the People act, 1951.
16 Ibid. Section 4 (a) (b) and (c) and 5 (a) and (b).
The Parliament refrained from stipulating additional qualifications for candidature in the hope that Political Parties sponsoring candidates would nominate only persons of established integrity, honesty and wisdom. No Objectives criterion, as a matter of fact, exists for gauging whether a citizen offering himself as a candidate possess requisite qualifications; and a statute is least fitted to ascertain it.

A candidate must not, moreover, suffer from any disqualification, constitutional or statutory. For Election to the Lok Sabha, a candidate must not hold any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Law not to disqualify its holder. He must also not be or unsound mind, or be an undischarged insolvent, or an alien and lastly, he must not be disqualified by or under any Law made by the Parliament. The disqualifications for membership of the State Legislative are similar to those for the Lok Sabha; but the State Legislatures have been empowered to declare holders of a certain Offices of profit as qualified for Membership of the Assembly.

SCRUTINY OF NOMINATION PAPERS

On the date fixed for the scrutiny of Nominations, the candidates, their election agents, one proposer of each candidate and one other person duly authorised in writing by each candidate but no other person, may attend at such time and place as the

17 Article 102 (1) (a), Constitution of India.

18 The Officers of a Minister, Deputy Minister and Parliamentary Secretary, Union and State, are not deemed as Offices of profit for this purpose. Article 102 (2) Constitution of India.

19 Article 102 (1) (b), (c) (d) (e) Constitution of India.
Returning Officer may appoint and they shall be given all reasonable facilities for examining the Nomination Papers of all the Candidates.\(^{20}\) The Returning Officer shall then examine the nomination, and may, either on such objection or on his own motion, after such summary enquiry, if any, as he thinks necessary, reject any nomination on any of the following grounds:

(a) That on the date fixed for scrutiny of nominations the candidate either is not qualified or is disqualified for being chosen to fill the seat under any of the following provisions that may be applicable, namely, Articles 84, 102, 173 and 191 of the Constitutions Part 2 of the Act of 1951 (Section 3 to 11B) and Section 4 and 14 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 or

(b) That there has been failure to comply with any of the Provisions of Section 33 or Section 34 of the Act of 1951, or

(c) That the signature of the Candidate or the Proposer on the Nomination Paper is not genuine. (Section 36 (2) Act 1951).

Nothing contained in Clause (b) or Clause (c) above shall be deemed to authorise the rejection of the Nomination of any candidate on the ground of any irregularity in respect of a Nomination Paper, if the candidate has been duly nominated by means of another nomination paper in respect of which no irregularity has been committed.\(^{21}\) The Returning Officer is prohibited from rejecting a nomination for any technical defect which is not of a substantial character. Moreover, he is required to

\(^{20}\) Section 33 (1) Act 1951.

\(^{21}\) Section 33 (3) Act, 1951.
record in writing his decision accepting or rejecting a nomination.\(^{22}\) In India, the validity or otherwise of a nomination depends upon the facts and circumstances of a case. Unless the defect is a substantial one, a nomination paper cannot be rejected.\(^{23}\)

Whereas, in Britain, any commission with regard to the particulars of a candidate or the person subscribing to his nomination paper is an incurable defect, ipso facto invalidating the candidature.\(^{24}\)

A certified copy of an entry in the Electoral Roll for the time being in force of a Constituency shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the person referred to in that entry is an elector in that Constituency, unless it is proved that he is subject to a disqualification under Section 16 of the Act of 1950.\(^{25}\)

A Candidate is entitled to withdraw his candidature by delivering a notice to that effect in writing either himself or through his proposer of Election agent before three O’Clock in the afternoon on the day fixed under Clause (c) of Section 30, Act 1951. The Notice of withdrawal is irrevocable.\(^{26}\) After the expiry of the period allowed for withdrawal the Returning Officer published, in alphabetical order, the list of contesting candidates in a Constituency and in case where only one candidate is nominated in a

\(^{22}\) Section 36 (4) and (6) Ibid.

\(^{23}\) DAVY SAO V RANGLAL (ELECTIONLAW REPORTS) N. DELHI. VOL XXII, p 229. The defect is regarded substantial in case it goes to the root of the matter. Thus under Article 84 of the Constitution a candidate is disqualified for Election to the Lok Sabha if hr is below 25 years of age. Brijender Lall Gupta V Jawala Prasad, AIR (1960), Supeme Court, 1049.


\(^{25}\) Section 36 (7) Act 1951.

\(^{26}\) Section 37 (2) Ibid.
Constituency and his nomination is accepted by the Returning Officer after scrutiny, the Election is declared "uncontested" and the candidate is declared duly elected.

**ANALYSIS OF NOMINATION PAPERS FOR MIZORAM ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

The dates of Notification calling upon all Assembly Constituencies to elect new members upto the final stage giving the actual number of Contesting Candidates is indicated in the Table-11.²⁷
### TABLE 11
NOTIFICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS IN MIZORAM
ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTIONS 1972 -1989

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue of Notification</td>
<td>17.3 72 (Fri)</td>
<td>15.4.78 (Sat)</td>
<td>23.3.79 (Sat)</td>
<td>17.4.82 (Fri)</td>
<td>8.3.83 (Tues)</td>
<td>11.1.84 (Fri)</td>
<td>25.5.84 (Fri)</td>
<td>16.1 87 (Fri)</td>
<td>23.3.87 (Mon)</td>
<td>17.12.88 (Sat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date for filling nomination</td>
<td>24.3 72 (Fri)</td>
<td>22.4.78 (Sat)</td>
<td>30.3.79 (Sat)</td>
<td>24.4.82 (Sat)</td>
<td>15.3.83 (Tues)</td>
<td>29.3.84 (Fri)</td>
<td>1.6.84 (Fri)</td>
<td>23.1.87 (Fri)</td>
<td>30.3.87 (Mon)</td>
<td>24.12.88 (Sat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Scrutiny</td>
<td>25.3.72 (Sat)</td>
<td>24.4.78 (Sat)</td>
<td>31.3.79 (Sat)</td>
<td>26.4.82 (Mon)</td>
<td>16.3.83 (Wed)</td>
<td>30.3.84 (Fri)</td>
<td>2.6.84 (Sat)</td>
<td>24.1.87 (Sat)</td>
<td>31.3.87 (Tues)</td>
<td>28.12.88 (Wed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of Nomination received</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date for Withdrawal</td>
<td>28.3.72 (Tues)</td>
<td>26.4.78 (Wed)</td>
<td>2.4.79 (Mon)</td>
<td>28.4.82 (Wed)</td>
<td>18.3.83 (Fri)</td>
<td>2.4.84 (Mon)</td>
<td>4.6.84 (Mon)</td>
<td>27.1.87 (Tues)</td>
<td>24.8.7 (Thurs)</td>
<td>30.12.88 (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of rejected Nomination</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Valid Candidature</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of Withdrawal</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Contestants</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of Constituencies</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BE = BYE ELECTION
Source: Election Reports: Compiled by Chief Electoral Officer, Mizoram.
The aforesaid table demonstrates the varied trends observed in the process of Nominations in Mizoram Assembly Elections. In the first instant, while the number of persons filing the Nomination Papers was justified to the extend that, it was more or less proportionate to the actual number of seats available for Contests, the number of Candidates withdrawing from the Contest was comparatively large. This unhealthy practice has all the more in increased particularly from the fourth General Elections (1984). Though, the dubious practice of floating in Constituencies, in addition to its principal candidates, one or more covering candidates who withdraw their nominations after the acceptance of the candidature of the principal appeared to be absent, there certainly were instances wherein the independent candidates in particular presumably withdraw their nominations either in return for pecuniary consideration or due to the fear of bleak prospects at the Polls.

In all, only a total of eight nomination papers were rejected by the Returning Officers. Due credit must be given to the successive Returning Officers who are found to be helpful in their dealings and as far as possible refrained from making frivolous rejections. The candidates in turn, irrespective their party affiliations were co-operative and understanding towards one another and avoided raising of objections regarding the validity of the nomination papers of their rival candidates, even when several technical errors and omissions were detected. The presence of a high literacy rates in Mizoram also contributed towards the less number of rejected nominations, as most of the candidates were literate persons. Among the eight rejected nomination papers of the Candidates, one was rejected on the ground of the candidate holding an Office of profit.
under the Government of Mizoram. While another one was rejected as the particulars of proposers were not correct. The remaining six were rejected as their nomination papers were found defected.

The candidates filing Nomination Papers for more than one Assembly Constituency comprised of two in 1987 and four in 1989. In the fifth General Elections (1987) Laldenga, the President of M.N.F. contested from 39-Sateek Constituency and in 34-Aizawl North Constituency. Also, Rochhunga Ralte, a candidate of the unrecognised Mizo National Union Party contested in 17-Saitual Constituency and from 18-Khawzawl Constituency. In the 1989 and the sixth General Elections, Laldenga again contested from 34-Aizawl North-II and 40-Aizawl South-II Constituencies. The President of Congress - I, Lalthanhawla for the first time in his long tenure as the Party President since 1975 with a few break in between contested from 25-Lokicherra and 30-Serchhip Constituencies. Another M.N.F. leading figure Aichhinga contested from 23-Kolasib and 35-Aizawl East I Constituencies. The Stalwart of People’s Conference Party and its President Brigadier Thenphunga following the examples of his counterparts, also contested from 13-North Vanlaiphai and 34-Aizawl North-II Constituencies. In all, there was only one uncontested return of Candidate in all the

28 Hrangbluia, an Independent Candidate from 3 - Saiha A/C in 1972.
29 Sangthanga, an Independent Candidate from 6 - Buarpui A/C in 1972.
30 (1) P. C. Rothuama (IND) from 1- Chawngte A/C in 1978.
   (3) Ralthanga (IND) from 11 - Khawbung A/C in 1984.
   (4) B Sangchem (IND) from 2 - Sangau A/C in 1984.
   (5) Lalbiakthanga (IND) from 4 - Lawngtlai A/C in 1989
General and Bye-Elections since 1972 to 1989. The occasion was during the fifth General Elections in 1987 from 5-Chawngte Assembly Constituency, where the Congress Candidate Nirupam Chakma was declared elected unopposed by the Returning Officer.

In the following Table, the number of Party sponsored Candidates, Independent and Women candidates are listed as shown below:\textsuperscript{31}

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{lcccccccccc}
\hline
\hline
\textbf{PARTY} & 99 & 112 & 130 & 14 & 4 & 117 & 3 & 134 & 3 & 158 \\
\textbf{Candidate.} & & & & (BE) & (BE) & (BE) & (BE) & (BE) & (BE) & \\
\hline
\textbf{Independent} & 56 & 41 & 20 & - & - & 19 & - & 11 & - & 4 \\
\textbf{Women} & 4 & 1 & 3 & - & - & 1 & - & 3 & - & 4 \\
\textbf{Candidate} & & & & & & & & & & \\
\textbf{No. of Seats} & 30 & 30 & 30 & 4 & 1 & 29 & 1 & 39 & 1 & 40 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Political Parties, Independent and Women Candidates in the General Election 1972-89.}
\end{table}

BE = Bye Elections

The above Table Figures indicated two District features in all the Assembly Elections that were held. Firstly, there were no independent as well as women Candidates contesting any of the four Bye-Elections. Secondly, the number of Independent Candidates contesting the Elections decreases from one General Election

\textsuperscript{31} op cit. Compiled by Chief Electoral Officer, Mizoram.
to another. The decline of the Independent Candidates in the succeeding Elections revealed the fact that, the feeling of Party spirit was very high in Mizoram. In between the neck to neck competitions among the Major Political Parties, the chances of the Independent Candidate winning the seat was remote. Out of the 151 Independent Candidates contesting all the General Elections, only eight managed to get themselves elected and six of these were elected from region and clan based-constituencies, where such factors played a vital role.

Altogether, sixteen women contested the General Elections held during the period 1972 to 1989. Of these three contested consecutively in two Elections. In all, only four women out of the sixteen were elected in the Elections held in 1978, 1979, 1984 and 1987. Again out of these four, one was returned in two General Elections. It was rather remarkable that in a place where women voters are more than the male voters, the percent of the seats filled in by woman was comparatively low. It appears that women themselves in General have more confidence in the ability of men then in their own sex so far as managing the Political Affairs of the State are concerned.

As evident from the figure listed in the above Table - 12 there were altogether, one hundred and ninetynine seats available for contest including the one uncontested return in 1987. In the contests for the 199 seats between 1972 to 1989, there were 5 straight contests and one uncontested return. In the remaining 193 seats, there were all multiple contests, with 3 candidates per Assembly seats in 27 Constituencies, 4 in 81, 5 in 54, 6 in 14, 7 in 9, 8 in 5 and 9 candidates in 3 constituencies. In the four Bye-
Elections held for the seven seats available for contests, there were 3 candidates per Assembly seats in 4 Constituencies and 4 in 3 Constituencies.

The Political Parties and the number of Candidates put up by them, including the Independents in the General and Bye-Elections to Mizoram Legislative Assembly is given in Table - 13.32

**TABLE - 13**

Number of Political Parties and Independent in Legislative Assembly Election. 1972 - 1989.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Indian National Congress</td>
<td>29(R)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25(R)</td>
<td>4(R)</td>
<td>1(R)</td>
<td>30(R)</td>
<td>1(R)</td>
<td>40(R)</td>
<td>1(R)</td>
<td>34(R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Socialist Party</td>
<td>18(R)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Mizo Union</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mizo Labour Party</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Peoples Conference</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27(R)</td>
<td>3(R)</td>
<td>1(R)</td>
<td>28(R)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36(R)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38(R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Mizoram Congress Committee</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Mizoram Janata Party</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30(R)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Mizo Democratic Front</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 People Conference ‘B’</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Mizo Convention</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Mizo Peace Forum</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>12. Mizo National Front</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Mizo National Union</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Mizo National Front (D)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Hmar Peoples Convention</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Chakma Jatya Prasad</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>56</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>162</td>
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</table>

R = Recognised Political Parties BE = Bye-Election

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The above table shows that the span of life and activities of minor Political Parties in Mizoram cover not more than one or two General Election, whereas, the major Political Parties which have at one time or other been at the helm of power remained much longer in the field. Every General Election brings forth several new minor Political Parties which disappear soon after the elections. In this regard communal based parties have a tendency to last much longer than those of other minor Political Parties. The only Major Political Party which have participated or was involved in all the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha, including the five Bye-Elections was the Indian National Congress. The Peoples Conference comes next having participated or was involved in five General Elections and 4 Bye-Elections to Legislative Assembly and in three General Elections to the Lok Sabha. The Mizo Union in four General Elections and two Bye-Elections to Legislative Assembly and in two General Elections to the Lok Sabha. After coming over - ground, the Mizo National Front have already participated in two General Assembly Elections and two Bye-Elections and also in two successive General Elections to the Lok sabha.

Another notable features observed in the process of filling nominations to Mizoram Assembly Election were that, none of the candidates irrespective of those rejected and accepted had Criminal Records or background. The Election Commission apparently believes that it is persons with Criminal Records who are, in many cases, responsible for booth capturing and related activities. Alongwith its proposals for prevention of booth capturing, the Commission has therefore, made certain proposals
for keeping out such persons from Electoral contest.\textsuperscript{33} Perhaps, the absence of booth capturing in all the Assembly Elections in Mizoram was also partly due to the clean records of the Candidates.

\textsuperscript{33} L. P. Singh. Electoral Reform Problems and Suggested Solutions. p. 43.