PREFACE

The importance and significance of elections in any democratic set up requires no detailed elaborations; there can be no democracy without an election. Much, however, depends upon how the electoral system operates in practice; whether elections are conducted by impartial, incorrupt and competent administrators free from political preferences. To secure public confidence, the electoral administration should be fair; mistrust in the verdict of the poll may erase out the people's faith in the democratic process.

This Thesis claims to be the first work on electoral administrations with reference to Mizoram. The need to have such a work was highly desired since no analysis of the electoral administrations in Mizoram have yet been attempted by any scholar. The period of study as indicated in the title covers right from 1952 to 1989, which considerably is too large a period to take it in one attempt. The main study therefore is given to the analysis of the electoral administration in the elections to the Mizoram Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1989. Nevertheless, not forgetting the importance of other elected representative bodies such as the District Councils, Village Councils and Assam Legislative Assembly (as existing before 1972), the electoral machineris devised for the conduct of elections to these various bodies have briefly discussed.

The Thesis is divided into the chapters, followed by a resume of the main conclusion. Chapter one is devoted to a brief explanations of the meaning, modes and significance
of elections in a democratic set up. The methodology employed in the research work, the scope and objectives of the thesis is also incorporated in the chapter.

The area of research exclusively being Mizoram, to enable a fruitful study of election in Mizoram, and the manner of its conduct thereof by the electoral administrations, a proper understanding of the historic-politico-socioeconomic setting of the Mizo society was therefore considered essential. Hence, Chapter two has been devoted to such a background study of Mizoram. The detailed analysis of the conduct of Assembly Elections in Mizoram begins from Chapter three.

Chapter three briefly studies the constitutional status and functions of the Election Commission of India, the Electoral mechanism at the lower echelons of administration and the electoral machineries devised for the conduct of Assembly elections in Mizoram. Chapter four first deals with the constitutional and statutory machinery instituted for the allocation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies (seats) and moves on to discuss the manner and processes of delimitation of constituencies for the thirty (Union Territory) and forty (States) Mizoram Assembly Territorial Constituencies. Chapter five focuses on the legal provision and procedures in connection with the enrollment of electors which is followed by the analysis of the preparations and revision of the Electoral Rolls for use in the different General and Bye-elections to Mizoram Assembly. Chapter six is concerned with the constitutional and statutory requirements for candidature, the analysis of nomination papers in the Assembly Elections of Mizoram thereon.
Chapter seven is devoted to the study of the Election Commission's Policy of recognition of political parties and allotment of symbols to contesting candidates and political parties in Mizoram Assembly Elections. Chapter eight centres on a study of poll arrangements and counting of votes. The legal provisions are first dealt with, followed by a detailed description of poll arrangements and counting of votes in Mizoram Assembly Elections. Chapter nine treats of the law and practice of filling the return of election expenses by candidates and its enforcement by the Election authorities of the returns submitted by the candidates. The suggestions for reducing election cost are also included in the discussions. Chapter ten deals with the machinery established for the adjudication of election disputes followed by lucid but short analysis of the election petitions arising from Mizoram Assembly Election and its disposals by the High Court. An attempt is made in the last chapter to sum up the whole exercise with a view to identifying the major weakness of the electoral machineries devised and established for the conduct of Mizoram Legislative Assembly elections and offer suggestions and remedies thereof.