CHAPTER - X

POLITICAL EXECUTIVE
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Political Executive

The political executive consists of those institutions formally responsible for governing a political community—that is, for applying its binding decisions, which may be formulated, to a greater or lesser extent, by the executive institutions themselves. The structure, function, character of the executive have varied widely over time, and no conceptual framework can disclose all these variations and their consequences. Yet certain fundamentals are clear and on these attention can be concentrated. The two most prevalent structural forms of the executive are the presidential and the cabinet systems. The cabinet system is a committee of the party in power in the legislative assembly. It has some functions, three in number. (a) It is concerned first with final choice of policy to be submitted for acceptance to the legislative assembly. Its existence will depend upon the fate of the policy. (b) It decides policy and once the policy is accepted it is its

business to see to it that public services apply that policy, in spirit and in detail in the sense intended by the legislative assembly. (o) The third function, therefore, of the political executive is first to delimit and then to coordinate the activities of different departments of State.²

The rules framed under the Sixth Schedule make sufficient provision for cabinet system of Government. Sub Rule 1 of the rule 19 of the Rules 1951 provides that there shall be an Executive Committee of the District Council with the Chief Executive member at the head and in addition a number of members not exceeding one fourth of the total number of members of the District Council. It also provides that such members shall be designated as Executive Members or Deputy Executive Members. The actual number in each category is to be decided by the Chief Executive Member.³

Sub rule 1 or rule 20 provides that the Chief Executive Member shall be elected by the District Council and other members of the committee shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the CEM from amongst the members of the council.

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3. Substituted by the constitution of the Karbi Anglong District Council (Thirteenth Amendment), Act 1971.
The election of the CEM shall be conducted by the Chairman and the procedure is the same with that of the Deputy Chairman.

The sub rule 1 of rule 21 provides that a member holding the office as the CEM or a member of the Executive Committee shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the District Council or if he resigns the membership of the council. The sub rule 2 of the same rule provides that when the CEM resigns other members of the executive committee also cease to hold office. The Governor before the formation of the new Executive Committee may authorise any one member or more than one member of the District Council to carry on the duties of the Executive Committee or make such other arrangements as he thinks proper for carrying on the work of the District Council.

The Executive Committee shall be collectively responsible to the council and may be removed on a vote of no confidence passed by a majority of the members of the District Council at a session specially convened for the purpose. In the case of removal of the Executive Committee the CEM for the new Executive Committee shall be elected within 48 hours by the District Council and the same has to be communicated to the Governor by the Chairman of the council. If the District Council fails to elect the CEM within the specified period the Governor shall appoint any member of the council to be the CEM and others as
itself which came to be known as the Mikir Hills District
(Salaries and allowances of the Executive Members) Act, 1958. The Act kept the previous rate intact and made provision of
free furnished quarters, free of rents, assessment, taxes,
cesses at Diphu or in lieu thereof Rs.50.00 (fifty) per month.
The Act made it a point that the CEM and the E.Ms were not
entitled to pay of a member of the council during their
tenure of office in addition to pay they draw in their respec-
tive capacities. The Act further made provision of T.A. and
D.A. as admissible to Class I officer of the State Government.

The Act of 1958 was amended for the first time in
1963 which increased the salary of the executive members from
Rs.350.00 to Rs.400.00 p.m. The salary of the CEM, however,
remained the same.

The Act of 1958 was again amended for the second
time in 1964 which sought to increase the salary of the CEM
from Rs.500.00 to Rs.600.00 p.m.

The third amendment came next year i.e. 1965 to
replace the word 'Class I' by the words 'Senior Grade'. This
amendment was considered necessary in pursuance of the noti-
fication of the Finance Department of the Government of Assam.

16... Rongphar not to raise objections if it was again placed
on the table of the House. Rongphar agreed and the voting
was subsequently withdrawn.
The fourth amendment to the original Act was made in 1969 which increased the salary of the OEM from Rs.600.00 to Rs.800.00 p.m. and that of the E.M's from Rs.400.00 to Rs.600.00 p.m.

In 1971, a new Act under the name and style of the Mikir Hills (Deputy Executive Members' Salaries and Allowances) Act was brought into being in order to provide salaries etc. to the newly created office of the Deputy Executive Member. The Act has virtually become defunct now as the office itself does not exist since 1971. The Act made similar provision of quarters etc. to the member.

In the meantime, Sar Bey, a member of the council moved a non-official resolution seeking to increase the salary of the OEM and the E.M. at the rate of Rs.1000.00 and Rs.600.00 p.m. respectively during the 88th session of the council. The resolution was passed unanimously by the House and on the basis of that a fresh Bill was introduced terminating all previous Acts and sent to the Governor for approval. The T.A.D. communicated Governor's approval subject to the condition that additional financial liabilities in the said Bill should be met out of the council's own fund. The Bill was unanimously passed in the council session held on 28th December, 1973. The Bill became the Act of 1974. The Act of 1974 is the latest of the legislations done in respect of the salaries and allowances of the members of the Executive Committee including the OEM.
All provisions previously included in the Act and also amendments had been included except the provision of Rs. 50.00 p.m. in lieu of free furnished residence made available by the council. The new Act had increased the amount from Rs. 50.00 to Rs. 250.00 p.m.

**Educational background**

As regards the educational background of the members of the Executive Committee, out of the 33 members so far selected for the membership of various Executive Committees, one is a Master Degree holder, eight Graduates, six Intermediates and the rest did not pass Matriculation Examination. Of the first six Executive Committees there were one Graduate, three Intermediates and the rest did not pass Matriculation Examination. Of the last six Executive Committee there were seven Graduates, three Intermediates and three Matriculates and of the rest some read upto Matric standard and the rest did not get admitted to High schools. Of the nine CEM’s, so far elected, one is a Master Degree holder, two are Graduates, four are Intermediates and the remaining two did not appear in the Matriculation or H.S.L.C. Examination. From this it follows that there has been gradual increase in the number of educated persons in the Executive Committee.
Conclusion

Thus from the above certain important conclusions can be drawn.

(1) In the first place the election to the office of the CEM had been unanimous till 1981. For the first time in the history of the council contest took place between Biren Singh Engti and Bidya Sing Engleng.

(2) Secondly although the Karbi-A-Darbar was the dominant political group till 1978 there were some inner party rivalries within the Darbar itself.

(3) Thirdly, the principle of collective responsibility which is one of the essentials of a cabinet system had been openly violated on several occasions. The members of the Executive Committee sometimes openly challenged the leadership of the CEM and yet continued to remain as members of the committee.

(4) Fourthly, on two occasions, nominated members were chosen as the CEM of the council. One nominated CEM remained in authority for more than 9 years and the second could not continue for long due to his elevation to the membership of Parliament. This is not a healthy precedent. A nominated CEM should get himself elected from a particular constituency within a specified period.
(5) Till 1971 the Executive Committee did not represent different communities. The strength, however, during the period was too small, only three constituted the committee. With the gradual increase of the strength of the Executive Committee different communities were represented. Haru Ram Mech was the first non-Karbi who got selected when Doloi constituted his ministry. The Executive Committees of the post 1976 period had witnessed representative Executive Committees representing the Bodos, Dimasas and the Shyams on different occasions. The present day CEM cannot ignore different communities while constituting his cabinet.

(6) Sixthly, the election of the CEM has given an understanding that the State Government interfered on several occasions and the candidates from outside were chosen as OEM's.

(7) Seventhly, the office of the Deputy Executive member had been created for the first time in 1971 and since then the office did not exist.

(8) Eighthly, the post 1976 period had witnessed maximum number of Executive Committees. The average life of an Executive Committee during the period under review is less than 9 months. The main reason was the dubious role played by the 'Ayarams' and 'Gayarams' in the council politics.

(9) Finally, there has been gradual increase in the member of educated persons in the Executive Committee.