

## Elections and Political Parties in Mizoram: An Over-View of Mizoram Legislative Assembly Elections

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**Abstract:** Mizoram was earlier known as Lushai Hills and it was district of Assam since colonial period. With the coming of the British administration, regular administrative set-up was established in the Lushai Hills in 1891. Mizoram began to experience electoral politics since the Lushai Hills Advisory Council election which was held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1948 and 36 members were elected in the whole Lushai Hills geographical area by secret ballot from the well demarcated single member constituencies. In short the uniqueness of elections in Mizoram lies in the constructive teaching and indirect involvement of the churches and civil societies which have contributed a lot for peaceful conduct of elections in the State. Whereas, activities of political parties began in Mizoram with the formation of Mizo Union (MU) as a political party on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1946 by R.Vanlawma with the permission of the then Superintendent of the Lushai Hills, ARH Macdonald. It seems that in all the previous State Legislative Assembly General Elections till the 7<sup>th</sup> General Election the main rivals for power are the MNF party (Regional party) and the Indian National Congress (National party) even though other political parties had contested in the elections. From the last several Legislative Assembly Elections, it is apparent that only Indian National Congress could get a successful result in the elections among national parties which had contested in the elections. Till today other national parties could not secure even a single seat in the State Legislative Assembly Elections of Mizoram.

**Keywords :** Elections, Political Parties in Mizoram, Mizoram Legislative Assembly Elections

### INTRODUCTION:

Mizoram was earlier known as Lushai Hills and it was district of Assam since colonial period. With the coming of the British administration, regular administrative set-up was established in the Lushai Hills in 1891. Then the territory was divided into two administrative Sub-Divisions, such as, North Lushai Hills under the Government of Assam and the South Lushai Hills under the Government of Bengal. The two Lushai Hills Districts were amalgamated into one and named it as the Lushai Hills District as result of the Chin Lushai Conference, held at Calcutta in 1898. After that the Lushai Hills District was put under the administrative jurisdiction of the Government of Assam with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1898. After India got independence from the British, the Lushai Hills was accorded an Autonomous District Council under the provision of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The first Lushai Hills District Council election was held on February, 1952. The Lushai Hills Autonomous District Council was inaugurated on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1952 by the then Chief Minister of Assam, Bishnuram Medhi and the Lushai Hills Autonomous District Council was later on changed to Mizo District Council by an act of Parliament in 1954. Due to the persistent demand by the Pawi and Lakher under the initiative of Z.Hengmang and Vako, the Pawi-Lakher Regional Council (PLRC) with Headquarters at Saiha was formed and inaugurated by Ch.Saprawnga the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Governor of Assam on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1953 at

Lunglei. With the implementation of North Eastern Areas Re-organisation Act, 1971, Lushai Hills was elevated to the status of Union Territory on 21<sup>st</sup>, January, 1972 and the existing Mizo District Council was then dissolved in the same year. As the Pawis, the Lakhers and the Chakmas were not in favour of the abolition of the Regional Council, the Pawi-Lakher Regional Council (PLRC) was trifurcated into three Regional Councils, namely, the Pawi Regional Council (PRC), the Lakher Regional Council (LRC) and the Chakma Regional Council (CRC) on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1972 and the three Regional Councils were subsequently upgraded to the status of full-fledged Autonomous District Council on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1972. Besides, the Lakher and the Pawi Autonomous District Council were respectively changed into Mara Autonomous District Council and the Lai Autonomous District Council by an act of the Parliament in 1989 (Doungel 2013: 1).

Mizoram began to experience electoral politics since the Lushai Hills Advisory Council election which was held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1948 and 36 members were elected in the whole Lushai Hills geographical area by secret ballot from the well demarcated single member constituencies. Later on, the Lushai Hills Advisory Council was downsized to 11 members and its name was also changed into Lushai Hills Advisory Committee in 1949. In short the uniqueness of elections in Mizoram lies in the constructive teaching and indirect involvement of the churches and civil societies which have contributed a lot for peaceful

conduct of elections in the State. Whereas, activities of political parties began in Mizoram with the formation of Mizo Union (MU) as a political party on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1946 by R.Vanlawma with the permission of the then Superintendent of the Lushai Hills, ARH Macdonald (Chaltuahkhuma 2001:53). After that the United Mizo Freedom Organisation (UMFO) was established on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1947 by Lalbiakthanga (Joseph 2014:2-6). The Pawi Lakher Tribal Union (PLTU) had also been established as a political party by the Lai (Pawi) and the Mara (Lakher) in 1949 in the extreme South of the Lushail Hills. Hence, the MU, UMFO and PLTU were the three important players in the electoral politics of Lushai Hills at the times when the Lushai Hills was a district of Assam. One interesting thing is that, poll violence, rigging and any untoward election activities were not heard during the District Council era. After that, election to Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) had been held four times during the Union Territory period from 1972 to 1986 and seven-times after the statehood era from 1987 to 2013. It is evident that the Indian National Congress (INC) and the People's Conference (PC) were the main contenders for political power in the elections during the era of Union Territory, where as the Mizo National Front (MNF) and the Indian National Congress (INC) are the main contenders for power after the era of the Statehood. It is interesting to note that poll violence and untoward electoral activities were not recorded even during the two decades insurgency period in Mizoram. There were incidences of killing, extortion, ambushes and arm conflict during the period of insurgency, however, such activities had, in fact, been part of insurgency movement and which were not directed for disturbing election and electoral activities. These movements were spearheaded by the rebels and they had no connection with the electoral activities. The first general election of Union Territory era was held on 18<sup>th</sup>, April, 1972, after three months from the elevation of Mizoram to Union Territory status. The Mizoram Legislative Assembly comprised of 30 elected members and two nominated seats. The Mizo Union had won the first election by securing 21 seats and its leader Ch.Chhunga became the first Chief Minister of Mizoram (Prasad 1987:298). After the ministry led by Ch.Chhunga had completed its full term, the second general election was held in two phases on 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1978. 154 candidates contested in the 30 constituencies. The people's Conference (PC) had fielded all the 28 constituencies and won 22 seats and formed ministry. The leader of PC, Brigadier (Retd).Thenphunga Sailo was sworn in as the second Chief Minister of Mizoram. Due to dissident activities, the PC ministry was dissolved and the mid-term election was held in two phase on 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, April, 1979, however, the PC party led by Brig. (Retd) Thenphunga Sailo had won 18 seats and again formed the ministry (Prasad & Agarwal 1991:53-60). The fourth and the last

general election of Mizoram Union Territory was held on 25<sup>th</sup>, April, 1984 and the Indian National Congress led by Lalthanhawla won 19 seats out of the total 30 seats and formed ministry (Mizoram Political Records 2013). However, after two years of the ministry led by Lalthanhawla had been in power, new coalition ministry had to be formed due to Peace Accord signed by Government of India and MNF underground led by Laldenga.

After the MNF and Govt. of India signed the Memorandum of Settlement on 30<sup>th</sup>, June, 1986, the status of Mizoram was elevated from Union Territory to Statehood on 20<sup>th</sup>, February, 1987 and Mizoram become the 23<sup>rd</sup> State of Indian Union. The strength of Mizoram Legislative Assembly had also been increased from 30 elected seats to 40 elected seats, 38 seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe and the two nominated seats were also removed. The first general election of Mizoram State Legislative Assembly was held on 16<sup>th</sup>, February, 1987, few days prior to official declaration of Mizoram Statehood. The total number of votes polled in this election was 2,30,865 and the poll percentage was 72.63 %. There were 145 candidates including four women candidates. As electorates had sympathy for the MNF, it won 25 seats including bye election of Sateek constituency. Subsequently, the MNF leader Laldenga was invited to form popular government and he became the first Chief Minister of Mizoram State (Prasad & Agarwal 1991:76-79). But, unfortunately, the MNF ministry was dissolved on 7<sup>th</sup>, September, 1988, after nearly two years in office due to dissident activities. As the MNF ministry had been dissolved before its normal full term, the second General Election of Mizoram State Legislative Assembly was held on 21<sup>st</sup>, January, 1989. In this election, there was only one general constituency out of the total 40 constituencies, because Lokichera constituency which was earlier general constituency was then converted into Scheduled Tribe constituency. So, Lunglei South constituency remained as the only general constituency. The total number of voters was 333733 and the poll percentage in this election was 81.30%. There were 162 candidates in this election and out of which, four were women candidates. The Indian National Congress (INC) led by Lalthanhawla had won 23 seats and formed ministry and Lalthanhawla was sworn in as the 7<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Mizoram on 24<sup>th</sup>, January, 1989. After the Congress Ministry had completed its full term, the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election of Mizoram State Legislative Assembly was held on 20<sup>th</sup>, November, 1993. 121 candidates fielded in 40 seats, three of them were women. The Congress (INC) led by Lalthanhawla and Mizoram Janata Dal (MJD) led by Brig.(Retd) Thenphunga Sailo formed coalition Ministry. For his second time after statehood, Lalthanhawla became the Chief Minister of Mizoram. However, before the coalition Ministry had completed its full term, the MJD was thrown

out from the Ministry and the Congress alone had led the Ministry. The fourth General Election of Mizoram Legislative Assembly was held on 25<sup>th</sup>, November, 1998. Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> General Election, 43697 new voters were enrolled and the total number of voters in this election reached 445366 and the poll percentage was only 76.32% and there were 221 candidates in 40 seats. The MNF led by Zoramthanga and the MPC led by Brig. (Retd) Thenphunga Sailo formed coalition Ministry, the MNF had won 21 seats and the MPC won 12 seats in this election. However the INC could manage to win just 6 seats (Mizoram year book 2013). The MNF leader, Zoramthanga became the Chief Minister of Mizoram for the first time. However, the MNF-MPC coalition Ministry could not last long and the MPC had been thrown out from the Ministry on 9<sup>th</sup>, December, 1999, and the MNF alone led the Ministry till the next General Election.

#### **Fifth to Seventh Assembly Elections in Mizoram:**

The 5<sup>th</sup>-General Election of Mizoram Legislative Assembly was held on 20<sup>th</sup>, November, 2003, there were 532462 voters in this election and the new 87096 voters were enrolled between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> General Election. There were 192 candidates, of which seven candidates were women. The Election Commission of India issued the notification for the said election on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2003. The last date for filling nominations was fixed on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2003 and for the date of scrutiny of nomination papers on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2003. And the candidates had been given a chance for withdrawal till the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2003. The hour of polls was fixed between 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2003. The counting of votes would be started on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2003 at 8:00 AM. And the election should be completed before 9<sup>th</sup> December 2003 (Statistical report 2003).

The fifth General Election of Mizoram Legislative Assembly-2003 was contested by ten political parties, of which three were national parties namely Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Communist Party of India (CPI) and Indian National Congress (INC), and three regional parties (state parties) such as, Mizo National Front (MNF), Mizoram Peoples Conference (MPC) and Zoram National Party (ZNP). Further, there were four registered unrecognized parties namely, Ephraim Union (EU), Hmar People Convention (HPC), Janata Dal United JD(U) and Maraland Democratic Front (MDF) (Statistical handbook 2003). The number of total seat 40 remained unchanged and out of the total seat 40, Lunglei South Constituency was the only general seat and the remaining 39 Constituencies were reserved for scheduled tribe candidates. As Mizoram is still one of the most peaceful states as well as a very small state compared to other states in terms of voters and geographical area, the general election of 5<sup>th</sup>

Legislative Assembly was held in one phase. For the first time in Mizoram election history, the Electronic voting machine was used in their election. Before the election, some people had strongly criticized the unreliability and unsafety of using EVMs and prepared to follow the same method known as 'ballot paper system' for the election. It burnt the atmosphere of election at least to some extent on the voters, but, the election department of Mizoram had later made clarification in response to critics regarding EVM through media and said that conducting election by means of ballot box was first used for election in 1957 and it was very expensive. Hence, in view of the huge number of ballot boxes and the immense quantity of paper ballots required, an alternative was sought.

Then, the Election Commission of India approached the Electronic Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) in 1977 to find a solution which gave birth to the EVM. Safeguarding trials were undertaken from 1979 onward and after correcting the faults as and where found, the EVM was first put to use in 1982. The EVM has been successfully used in many elections down the years and in 1999 the first election to fully use only the EVM was in the Goa states Assembly Election. Subsequently, in the September/October Election to 17 states and UTs and 46 Parliamentary Constituencies, the EVM was successfully used. The Election Commission of India decided to use only the EVM in all elections which was put in the addition of section 61-A in the representation of the people Act of 1951. The full use of only EVMs would be the first for the Mizoram election, but the use of only EVMs would be enforced in the Nov/Dec. elections to the four states going to the polls and even Sikkim which was going to the polls in the year 2004. The EVMs were various times tested and reliable, it would also save the time and expenditures so that it would facilitate the election in providing quick result (Newslink 2003: 21<sup>st</sup> Oct).

The 5<sup>th</sup> Mizoram Legislative Assembly Election witnessed different atmospheres like Suangpuiawn kidnap Case, the inclusion of Bru displaced people into Mizoram Electoral Roll, the surprised involvement of ZRO in the election politics and so on and so forth. The election could be possible to say that tri-cornered election fighting from three angles. The two parties namely Zoram Nationalist Party (ZNP) and Mizo People's Conference (MPC) formed an alliance, which did not come as surprised as both these parties were considered to be the smaller ones among the big four parties in the state. From the other two angles, we had seen the Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) under the leadership of Lal Thanhawla and the MNF which is the biggest regional party in the state under the leadership of Zoramthanga who was the then Chief Minister of the state. The big fight came from these three corners as the BJP, NCP and JDU could not have enough impact to make much difference in the end

results. The then ruling party MNF had contested in 39 constituencies out of the total 40 seats and won 21 seats and formed the Ministry again and Zoramthanga had become the Chief Minister of Mizoram for the second time. The main rivalry of the MNF namely MPCC captured 12 seats in this election.

After the MNF Ministry led by Zoramthanga completed its full term, the next 6<sup>th</sup> General Election of Mizoram State Legislative Assembly was held on 2<sup>nd</sup>, December, 2008. Notification for this election was issued on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 and date of counting on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2008. Ten political parties had been in the election fray, of which three were national parties namely BJP, INC, and NCP and the remaining seven parties were State parties and registered unrecognized parties such as MNF, MPC, ZNP, EU, HPC, JD(U) and MDF. In this election, there were 197 male candidates and 9 female candidates, 503665 voters exercised their franchise from the total 611618 voters, there were 79156 new voters in this election and the poll percentage was 82.35 per cent (Statistical Report 2008). The ruling party MNF led by Zoramthanga could secure only 3-seats in this election and this poor result of MNF surprised not only the voters but also its party workers. The Congress (INC) led by Lalthanhawla had returned with unexpected victorious result by securing 32 seats from the total 40-seats. The remaining five seats were captured by MPC and ZNP (two-seats respectively) and MDF (one-seat). The Congress (INC) formed new Ministry and its leader Lalthanhawla became the Chief Minister of Mizoram for his fourth time. The essentiality of the sixth general election was that Mizoram People Forum (MPF) which was formed way back in 2006 could play constructive role for conduct of free and fair election.

The Seventh Legislative Assembly Elections of Mizoram was successfully held on 25<sup>th</sup>, November, 2013 without untoward incident and counting of votes was done on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013. In the beginning, the Election Commission of India announced that the polling date of the 7<sup>th</sup>-Assembly General Election in Mizoram as 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 and counting date as 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2013. However, after the strong appeal made by different Churches, NGOs and Political Parties, the Election Commission of India changed the dates of polling and counting for the Seventh State Assembly General Elections (Vanglaini 2013:October-24). The period of filling nomination papers for the candidates was opened till 8<sup>th</sup>, November, 2013 and the nomination papers of the candidates was scrutinized on 9<sup>th</sup>, November, 2013. The candidates had been given the chance of withdrawal till 11<sup>th</sup>, November, 2013. There were 142 candidates in this election and all the candidates' nomination papers were accepted by the election officials. The total numbers of voters were 6,86,305 (male-3,36,799 and female-

3,49,506) and the poll percentage was 83.41 per cent in this election. There were 1126 polling stations, of which 94 were critical polling stations (Statistical report 2013). It is very interesting to highlight that Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) had been used within ten constituencies of Aizawl city for the first time in Mizoram. In this election, Congress (INC), MNF-MPC and MDF (Mizoram Democratic Alliance) contested all the 40-seats, ZNP contested 38-seats, BJP contested 17 seats and NCP contested 2-seats, Zoramthar Duhtute (ZTD) contested only one seat and there were 3-independent candidates contested in 3-seats (Vanglain 2013:November-25). The average age of MLA candidates for the Seventh Assembly Election is 52.67 (Vanglain 2013: November-15). The biggest regional party in Mizoram MNF and other regional parties such as MPC (Mizoram People Conference) and MDF (Maraland Democratic Front) had collaborated and worked together on the said election under one platform known as, Mizoram Democratic Alliance and Memorandum for the same was signed on 29<sup>th</sup>, October, 2013 at MNF Hqrs. known as Mizo Hnam Run, Aizawl. The Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC), ZNP and other political parties had fought this election alone without forming alliance with other political parties. The Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee led by Lalthanhawla returned to power in this election with unexpected victory by securing 34 seats out of the total 40 seats in this election. The MNF and its allies could only capture Six-seats and no-other political parties could secure even a single seat. As the Congress Party (MPCC) had won more than the required seats to form the Government in this election, the Congress Legislature Party leader Lalthanhawla formed the new ministry and was sworn-in by Vakkom B.Purusothaman, the Governor of Mizoram and administered oath of office along with eleven Council of Ministers (seven are of cabinet rank and the rest four are ministers of state) on 14, December, 2013 at Raj Bhavan Aizawl. Lalthanhawla who had steered Congress to a landslide victory had become the Chief Minister of Mizoram for his second consecutive term and the fifth overall term as Chief Minister. Two Congress nominees, Hiphei, MLA from Palak Constituency and R.Lalrinawma, MLA from Aizawl East-I were elected as Speaker and Dy.Speaker for the Seventh Mizoram Legislative Assembly. Thus, the Seventh State Assembly Election of Mizoram was concluded peacefully and successfully due to the efforts and cooperation of officials, NGOs, Media and civil societies. The Election Commission of India and election officials had expressed their gratitude towards the people and NGOs especially the MPF (Mizoram People Forum) for their cooperation and efforts for conduct of free and fair elections in Mizoram.

From the above discussions of Several Legislative Assembly Elections of Mizoram, it has

been desirable to point out that some features of election politics in Mizoram which were seen from the last several elections:

- It seems that in all the previous State Legislative Assembly General Elections till the 7<sup>th</sup>-General Election the main rivals for power are the MNF party (Regional party) and the Indian National Congress (National party) even though other political parties had contested in the elections.
- From the last several Legislative Assembly Elections, it is apparent that only Indian National Congress could get a successful result in the elections among national parties which had contested in the elections. Till today other national parties could not secure even a single seat in the State Legislative Assembly Election of Mizoram.
- If we look the elections history of Mizoram, Indian National Congress has been the most successful political party in the elections compared to all other political parties in Mizoram because they have won five Legislative Assembly elections (one during UT and four after statehood).
- After Statehood, Mizo National Front (MNF) has emerged as the strongest and most successful regional political party in Mizoram. They won three State Legislative Assembly General Elections.
- Since the first General Election, Mizoram State Legislative Assembly Elections could be held under a peaceful atmosphere unlike many other States in India. Till the 7<sup>th</sup> General Election of Mizoram State Legislative Assembly, the role of muscle power to influence the voting behaviour has not been found publicly, even Suangpuilawn kidnap case was a fake which was dramatised by some candidates.
- Many national parties had contested in the elections but they could not win even a single seat out of the total seats-40 till the 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly Elections except Indian National Congress. Thus, the influence of regional parties and one National party seemed to be deep rooted among the electorates in Mizoram.
- The formation of MPF enormously enhances conduct of free and fair elections. The reason being, appeals made by the MPF are highly admired by different political parties because of the initiative taken by the church in MPF. Due to the constructive efforts of the MPF, House to House campaign, organizing feast and purchase of votes by money are not found publicly in several elections where the MPF actively functions. It also organizes joint platforms for the candidates during elections. The Election Commission of India also positively complimented the role of MPF in election related issue. Some officials and national news papers commented that MPF

could do what the election officials and government could not do for conduct of smooth elections in Mizoram.

#### **Some Problems seen in the electoral politics:**

Though the Assembly General elections have already been held for eleven times in Mizoram (four times during UT and seven times after statehood), the election politics and atmosphere in Mizoram is smooth and cool compare with other states. While the role of muscle power and the cases of violation of code of conduct are on the increase in different regions, these are not publicly found in Mizoram so that several elections could be carried out under peaceful atmosphere. However, unusual electioneering activities had happened election to State Legislative Assembly in 2003 where indirect involvement of certain armed group was said to be detected for the first time by the media, over and above that, rampant use of money and huge election expenditure had also been experienced in the elections. In order to study the view and attitude of the public regarding the said election, Synod Social Front prepared questionnaires. The feedback of 3480 questionnaires collected from 84 pastorate circles had clearly revealed that the atmosphere of election politics in Mizoram was not fair enough like before and it deteriorated since 2003. And if the situations further deteriorate without any positive check, it is unlikely that peaceful poll could be held in future. Consequently the Churches and NGOs formed the non-political body 'Mizoram People Forum' (MPF) on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2006 to initiate electoral reform as well as to advice and assist the government for the implementation of good governance in Mizoram. The emergence of Mizoram People Forum (MPF) is a boon for the state as it is really helpful for conducting free and fair elections in the state. Even the election officials said that the MPF simplified conducting election successfully. The MPF has done a lot for the conduct of free and fair election in Mizoram. It signed memorandum of understanding with political parties and request political parties and their candidates to refrain from unfair means during elections. However, some critics express that the MPF has extensively restricted the electoral activities, the freedom and rights of the candidates and the voters during elections in Mizoram. Some scholars have now alleged that the MPF could not really restrict the activities of the top officials, candidates, campaigners and even the voters during elections if they do not violate the election model code of conduct. After the MPF come into existence, it is accepted that the election atmosphere is cool and smooth than before in different elections of Mizoram. However, due to the severe restrictions of the MPF upon the candidates, political parties and the voters during elections, electioneering moods are being curbed in Mizoram. Hence, there is apprehension that the

value of election and the true nature of election might be diminished.

Election in Mizoram was disturbed in one way on the other in areas where armed insurgent groups are active. There was report of the involvement of the Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) in State Legislative Assembly election of 2003. After that there were repeated allegations of Hmar People Convention (Democratic) HPC (D) involvement in election. Sometimes, on the eve of election, we used to hear some tragic news from the media about the undesirable activities of HPC (D) and threatening of the voters. However, fortunately, elections could be held successfully due to the negotiating role of NGOs, church associations and the government till today.

In a nutshell, the politics of Mizoram is deeply influenced by the Churches unlike other states because more than 80 percent of the population belongs to the Christian religion. Hence, the role of churches is indirectly effective and powerful even at the elections. It seems that each and every political party in Mizoram take care of

the wishes and appeal of the churches and virtually they never like to go against the opinion of the churches on many issues. Meanwhile, some scholars have criticized the powerful role of the churches in politics of Mizoram with the idea that politics and church should go separately. Further, the political parties should go freely within the boundary of rule of law to formulate the policy matters. Even in our present election politics, the influence of churches and NGOs are more and it is apparent that they severely restrict the electoral politics in Mizoram. On the other hand, it is possible to state that politics in some particular areas are infested with clannish and family feeling and it has some adverse impact in the electoral politics, whereas, the election atmosphere is smooth and not infested by blood relationship and family feeling in larger parts of the state. Compared with other states, the electoral politics seems to be peaceful in Mizoram and the problems which confront us here seem to be minor. But, we should remember that these could become sore points in future elections.

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