

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING HELD BY CEO, MANIPUR WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2009 AT 3.00 P.M. AT THE MAIN CONFERENCE HALL, OLD SECRETARIAT, SOUTH BLOCK, IMPHAL IN CONNECTION WITH ENSUING 15TH LOK SABHA ELECTIONS-2009:

List of participants is at **ANNEXURE-I.**

CEO, Manipur welcomed representatives of political parties present and informed that the Election Commission of India has recently held a Conference of Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories on 4th Feb, 2009 and discussed matters relating to the forthcoming 15th Lok Sabha Elections-2009. This was followed by another meeting of Chief Secretaries, Directors General of Police and Chief Electoral Officers on 5th Feb, 2009. Earlier on 3rd Feb, 2009, the Commission held a meeting with representatives of all recognized National and State Parties and obtained their views/suggestion for smooth conduct of the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2009. Now, the Election Commission is likely to announce the schedule of the General Elections-2009 anytime in the last week of February, 2009. He informed that the Election Commission has been apprised that the outer limit for the poll date in respect of Manipur State should not be beyond 15th April, 2009 in view of impending monsoon. The poll is likely to be conducted in 2(two) phases.

Announcement of election schedule & Model Code of Conduct:

CEO informed that immediately after the announcement of election schedule, the Model Code of Conduct for guidance of political parties and candidates shall come into force and will continue to be operation till completion of the election process. All contesting candidates, representatives of all Political Parties and others concerned have been requested to observe the Model Code of Conduct.

CEO's Web Site:

CEO informed further that in order to facilitate better communication with the ECI and all District Election Officers in the State and also for better dissemination of vital information with the general public and to create a sense of transparency in the election procedures, a website belonging to the Election Department has already been made available at the address: <http://www.ceomanipur.nic.in>. All important information pertaining to Election Department such as Photo Electoral Rolls, Press Release, Forms including Affidavits, important ECI's instructions etc. are available at this website.

Control Room:

He also drew the attention of all Political parties present that immediately after announcement of election schedule by the Election Commission, a Control Room of CEO's Manipur shall be opened at Old Secretariat, South Block, Imphal. Similar Control Rooms shall also be opened at the District HQs.

Parliamentary Constituencies:

There are 2(two) Parliamentary Constituencies in the State viz (1) 1--Inner Manipur P.C. and (2) 2- Outer Manipur (ST) P.C. CEO informed that as per the standing guidelines of the Commission, DC/DEO, Thoubal has recently been appointed as R.O. for No.2-Outer Manipur (ST) P.C. However, DC/DEO, Imphal West shall continue to be the R.O. for No.1-Inner Manipur P.C. The list of ROs and AROs for both the P.C.s was shared with all representatives present.

Photo Electoral Rolls, 2009:

CEO informed that the final Photo Electoral Rolls published on 10th Jan, 2009 (revised w.r.t. 01-01-2009 as the qualifying date) plus the continuous updated Rolls shall be used for the forthcoming 15th Lok Sabha Elections-2009. He requested the representatives of recognized National and State Parties to appoint the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) latest by 16th Feb, 2009. He informed further that a meeting of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and BLAs shall be arranged by the DCs at all polling stations on 23rd Feb, 2009 for verification and rectification of the finally published Rolls. Lastly, he informed that the electorate size in the whole State is **17,27,240**. The break up of these two P.C.s are (1) No. I-Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency = **8,25,019** and (2) No. II- Outer Manipur (ST) Parliamentary Constituency = **9,02,221**. Details were circulated at the meeting.

Polling Stations:

CEO informed that the total number of polling stations in the State has recently been increased by 132 polling stations after conducting a rationalization exercise. Now, out of existing

2193 polling stations, **970** Nos. of polling stations are within No.1-Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency and the rest **1223** Nos. of polling stations are within No.2-Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency (ST). The district wise numbers of polling stations in the State were also circulated.

Recognized Political Parties:

The latest list of the recognized National and State Parties have been circulated at the meeting. The followings are the list of the recognized National and State Parties:

National Parties:

- 1) Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
- 2) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
- 3) Communist Party of India (CPI)
- 4) Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M)
- 5) Indian National Congress (INC)
- 6) Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)
- 7) Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

State Parties:

- 1) Manipur People's Party (MPP)
- 2) National Peoples' Party (NPP)

Telecast/Broadcast facilities for recognized Political Parties:

CEO informed that as per direction of the Commission, Telecast/Broadcast facility will be provided to the recognized National and State Political Parties over Doordarshan and All India Radio. The "Time Vouchers" will be sent by the Commission in respect of recognized National and State Political Parties. CEO conveyed that this will be discussed subsequently with the Political Parties, AIR, DDK and all concerned in due course.

Expenditure limit and election accounts:

CEO informed that all Contesting Candidates should ensure that their election accounts are maintained properly as per the directions of the Commission in the prescribed forms and registers to be circulated to them by the RO. The Maximum limit of election expenses in an election to the House of the People in respect of Manipur State is **Rs.22.00 lakhs**.

Filing of Affidavits:

CEO informed that as per the direction of the ECI, the prospective candidates who intend to contest elections while filling their nomination papers to the Returning Officers are required to file 2(two) affidavits (1) Affidavits regarding declaration of assets etc. and (2) Affidavits regarding criminal antecedents in prescribed Form-26. Both the format of these two affidavits are available for information of general public and intending prospective candidates at our official website address: <http://www.ceomanipur.nic.in> .

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs):

As per directions of the Election Commission of India, EVMs (BEL 2006 Model) will be used in all 2193 Polling Stations of the State in the ensuing 15th Lok Sabha Elections-2009. CEO informed that one separate dedicated room shall be set up at the offices of the DCs/ADCs/SDOs to train general public, contesting candidates, election agents, media etc. on the use of EVMs. He requested the political parties to inform the general public to take full advantage of this facility. Publicity and awareness campaign on use of EVMs in TV Channels, AIR, local ISTV etc. will also be made.

To supervise the preparation of EVMs and to give stand-bye and backup services, the services of BEL Engineers from Bangalore shall be requisitioned and deputed to different districts during the conduct of Elections-2009. Six BEL Engineers from Bangalore have already arrived Imphal on 11th Feb, 2009 to conduct the First Level Checking of EVMs at all District HQs including Jiribam & Kangpokpi.

Videography and use of Digital Camera:

CEO informed that as done in the past elections, Videocams and digital cameras shall be used for coverage of all critical events during the election process and polling at sensitive/hypersensitive polling stations on the poll day.

Security deployment:

In the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2009, the quantum and kind of security deployment shall be as per the instruction of the Commission. Details shall be intimated to

Political Parties in due course. Arrangements shall be made for their deployment as per assessment of hypersensitive and sensitive polling stations made by the DEOs/SsP.

Requirement of Central Para-Military Forces:

CEO recalled that during conduct of last Lok Sabha Elections-2004, a total of **79** Coys of CPF [**49** Coys of CRPF (from within the State) and another **30** Coys (15 Coys each of CRPF and BSF from outside the State)] were utilized in addition to **53** Coys of armed personnel (State Police personnel) available in the State. Since the ensuing General Elections-2009 is being conducted across the whole country, it is expected that only about 80 Coys of CPMF may be available this time.

Observers:

CEO informed that as done in the past election, ECI will appoint General Observers and Expenditure Observers. During last Lok Sabha Elections-2004, a total of 9(nine) Observers (6 General Observers & 3 Expenditure Observers) were appointed. As per latest instruction of ECI, Micro-Observers shall also be appointed this time to assist the Observers.

Counting Centres:

There are altogether **12** (twelve) Counting Centres in the State during the last State Assembly Elections-2007. One Counting Centre each are located at each District H.Q. [except that of Imphal East which has 2(two) Counting Centres]. Another 2(two) Counting Centres are located at the offices of ADC/Jiribam and ADC/Kangpokpi. CEO informed the political parties that DCs/DEOs have been directed to submit formal proposal for setting up of counting centres in the prescribed formats for obtaining formal approval of ECI.

Suggestions/Comments from Political Parties:

After a threadbare discussion, the following suggestions were placed by the representatives of political parties present:

- i) Some parties have suggested for a 3 (three) phases poll (2 phases in Outer Manipur and one phase in Inner Manipur), whereas others have suggested for only one phase poll.
- ii) Use of only CPF instead of State Armed Police (SAP).
- iii) Suggested to wrap the polled EVMs with white clothes after the poll before putting in the strong rooms.
- iv) To ensure that the Observers deployed by the Commission are physically available at the District Head quarters especially in hill districts.
- v) To share the contact numbers of DCs/DEOs, SsP, ADCs and SDOs with the political parties.
- vi) Action to be taken in case some Head of Departments (HODs) are campaigning for the election.
- vii) To ensure that only the authorized District authorities of Revenue Department sign the prescribed alternative documents/Certificates for the Non-Photo rolls cases in presence of political parties representatives.
- viii) Allowing Election Agents or authorized polling agents to accompany the polled EVMs after the close of the poll.

Clarifications by CEO, Manipur:

CEO clarified that since the General Elections is being conducted across the whole country, the MHA is not in a position to provide all required CPF and hence one phase or three phases poll can be ruled out. Regarding wrapping of EVMs with clothes, it was clarified that there are important items such as specific number of Control Units of EVM, Serial Number of Green Paper seal and Outer strip seals which are assigned to a particular polling station. These can be cross-checked by the political Parties, contesting candidates, Election agents before start of the counting. CEO assured that the Election Observers deputed by the Commission shall be available at the District Headquarters and discharge their assigned duties properly. The contact numbers of DCs, SsP, ADCs and SDOs shall be intimated to the political parties at the earliest. Any Govt. officials violating the model code of conduct shall be dealt with severely under the relevant Rule and instruction of the ECI. He also assured that the DCs/DEOs shall be directed to comply strictly with the instruction of ECI while issuing such certificates/alternative documents. Lastly he clarified that as per instruction of ECI, only the authorized persons such as contesting candidates, Election agents, authorized agents etc are allowed to accompany the polled EVMs in different vehicles and allowed upto the Strong Rooms.

Conclusion:

Before concluding the meeting, CEO, Manipur appealed to all the political parties to make use of our official web site for any information relating to the Election Department and in particular the conduct of the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections, 2009. An appeal was also made to give their maximum co-operation and help to all concerned election authorities so as to enable to conduct a free and fair election in the State. Lastly, he appealed to all general public to come out freely and cast their valuable votes without any fear.

**Sd/-
(Shambhu Singh)
Chief Electoral Officer,
Manipur**

Imphal, the 12th February, 2009.

Memo No. 4/Elec-1/LS-2009:

Copy to: -

1. President/General Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Old Lambulane, Imphal.
2. President/ General Secretary, Indian National Congress (INC), Congress Bhavan, B.T. Road, Imphal.
3. President/ General Secretary, Communist Party of India (CPI), Erabot Bhavan, B.T. Road, Imphal.
4. President/ General Secretary, President/ General Secretary (Marxist), (CPI/M) Paona Bazar, G.M. Hotel Gali, Imphal.
5. President/ General Secretary, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Babupara, near P.T.I. Office, Imphal.
6. President/ General Secretary, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Manipur, Imphal.
7. President/ General Secretary, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Manipur, Imphal.
8. President/ General Secretary, Manipur People's Party (MPP), Behind Pologround, B.T. Road, Imphal.
9. President/ General Secretary, National People's Party (NNP), Manipur, Imphal.
10. Other registered unrecognized Political Parties functioning in Manipur.

Copy for information to:-

- a. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur.
- b. PPS/PS to Hon'ble Ministers, Manipur.
- c. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Manipur.
- d. Director General of Police, Manipur.
- e. Addl. Chief Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur.
- f. Principal Secretary (Finance), Govt. of Manipur.
- g. Commissioner (Election), Govt. of Manipur.
- h. Shri Standhope Yuhlung, Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.
- i. All Deputy Commissioners/DEOs, Manipur.
- j. ADCs, Jiribam, Kangpokpi & Moreh.
- k. All SDOs/AROs, Manipur (Valley districts).
- l. Guard File.

**(T.Ranjit Singh)
Joint Chief Electoral Officer,
Manipur**

ANNEXURE-I

List of participants: -

1. Shri K. Saratkumar Singh, General Secretary, NCP, Manipur State Unit.
2. Shri R.V. Mingthing, MSCP.
3. Shri Kshetrimayum Santa, Secretariat Member, CPI (M), Manipur State Unit.
4. Shri Yumnam Ratan, CPI (M), Manipur State Unit.
5. Shri S. Dilip Singh, General Secretary (Election), MPP.
6. Shri A.C. Jayenta, General Secretary (Organization), MPP.
7. M.H. Yaiphaba, General Secretary (RJD), Manipur State Unit.
8. Shri Kh. Loken Singh, INC, Manipur State Unit.
9. Shri Kh. Surchand, CPI, Manipur State Unit.
10. Shri N. Tombi Raj, CPI, Manipur State Unit.
11. Shri Y. Biren Singh, Humanist Party of India.
12. Shri Th. Shyamo Singh, Secretary, BJP, Manipur State Unit.
13. Shri E. Nilachandra Singh, BJP, Manipur State Unit.
14. Shri Sotinkumar, CPI, Manipur State Unit.
15. Shri Kh. Brojendro Singh, CPI, Manipur State Unit.
16. Shri Chaoba Singh, JD(S), Manipur State Unit.
17. Shri T. Sithou, Director (IPR), Manipur.
18. Shri T. Ranjit Singh, Jt. CEO, Manipur
19. Shri K. Bono Singh, EO (HQ), CEO's office, Manipur.
20. Shri K. Moses, EO (HQ), CEO's office, Manipur
21. Shri Kh. Narendra Singh, CO, CEO's office, Manipur
22. Shri M. Biren Singh, ERC, CEO's office, Manipur.

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