

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND MEETING HELD BY CEO, MANIPUR WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES ON 7TH MARCH, 2009 AT 2.30 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.**

At the outset, CEO, Manipur welcomed representatives of political parties present and informed that the Election Commission of India has announced a five phases polling schedule for the 15th Lok Sabha Elections, 2009 on 2nd March, 2009. The poll in respect of Manipur State shall be conducted in **two phases** on **16th April, 2009** [for No.2-Outer Manipur (ST) Parliamentary Constituency] and **22nd April, 2009** (for No.1-Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency) respectively. The schedule of election in respect of Manipur State is as follows:

Sl.No.	POLL DAY	1(16 th April, 2009) for No.2-Outer Manipur (ST) P.C.	2 (22 nd April, 2009) for No.1-Inner Manipur P.C.
	Event in election process	Dates	Dates
1.	Announcement and issue of Press Note	2 nd March, 2009 (Monday)	2 nd March, 2009 (Monday)
2.	Issue of Notification.	23 rd March, 2009(Monday)	28 th March, 2009 (Saturday)
3.	Last date for filing Nominations	30 th March, 2009 (Monday)	4 th April, 2009 (Saturday)
4.	Scrutiny of Nominations	31 st March, 2009 (Tuesday)	6 th April, 2009 (Monday)
5.	Last date for withdrawal of Candidature	2 nd April, 2009 (Thursday)	8 th April, 2009 (Wednesday)
6.	Date of Poll	16th April, 2009 (Thursday)	22nd April, 2009 (Wednesday)
7.	Date of Counting	16 th May, 2009 (Saturday)	16 th May, 2009 (Saturday)
8.	Date before which the election shall be completed	28 th May, 2009 (Thursday)	28 th May, 2009 (Thursday)

Enforcement of Model Code of Conduct:

CEO informed that with the announcement of Election Schedule by the Election Commission, the provision of the Model Code of Conduct for guidance of the Political Parties and Candidates have come into effect **with immediate effect w.e.f. 2nd March, 2009** and will be in force till the completion of the General Elections and shall be applicable to all candidates, political parties, the State and Union Government. The Model Code of Conduct covers the general conduct of the Political Parties & Candidates, manner of holding meetings, processions, conduct on the polling day, and in the polling booth, and the conduct of the party in power. The details of the Code of Conduct and the list of “**DOs**” and “**DON'Ts**” are available on the websites of the Election Commission of India and the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur at www.eci.gov.in and ceomanipur.nic.in respectively. A copy each of the Model Code of Conduct and DOs and DONTs was circulated at the meeting for general information and strict observance.

CEO requested all contesting candidates, representatives of all Political Parties and others concerned to observe the Model Code of Conduct in letter and spirit.

State Election Control Room:

CEO informed that a State Level Election Control Room has already been set up at Room No. **183**, Old Secretariat, South Block, Imphal. The Contact numbers of the Election Control Room are **0385-2406002**, **0385-2406003** and **0385-2406004 (Fax)**. The Election Control Room shall be manned by the following Officers:

- 1) Shri N. Shatrajit Singh, MPS, Dy. CO, 2 nd Bn. M.R.
- 2) Shri P. Premjit Singh, MFS,
- 3) Shri S. Somorendro Singh, MFS.

He reminded the DCs and SsP to set up similar Control Rooms at the District Headquarters immediately if the same are not set up till date.

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.

Filling if 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 formats 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> .

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. 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 recalled that the total number of polling stations in the State is **2193**. Out of this, **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). He stated that physical verification report of the polling stations conducted by the DCs/SDOs revealed that there are quite a good number of polling stations which require urgent repairing. He informed the representatives present that the officers concerned have been directed to do the necessary minor repairing of these identified polling stations out of contingent money released by CEO's office. The list of Hypersensitive, Sensitive and Normal Polling Stations identified by the DCs in consultation with the SsP has also been received and the same after compilation shall be shared with the Political Parties besides others concerned. The Political Parties expressed that their views should be taken into consideration before classifying the polling station as Sensitive or hypersensitive.

CEO also informed that DCs/DEOs have already been directed to call an urgent meeting with representatives of political parties functioning in the district for any inevitable change in the location of polling stations resulting due to dilapidated building condition, demolition of school building etc due to road expansion, floods, natural calamities etc and submit proposal to CEO's office immediately.

Recognized Political Parties:

CEO informed that the following is the list of 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**.

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs):

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 almost completed First Level Checking of EVMs.

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. The whole scrutiny process is to be videographed as per latest instruction of ECI. He informed further that Videocams are being supplied to all DCs and ADCs, Kangpokpi and Jiribam.

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.

Observers:

CEO informed that briefing session for the Observers are fixed by the Election Commission on 15th and 16th March, 2009. The Observers may arrive any time before the scrutiny of nomination papers. As per latest instruction of ECI, Micro-observers shall also be appointed this time to assist the Observers. Four to Five Micro-Observers may be appointed per Observer. CEO directed the DCs to identify the list of District Level Officers for appointment of Micro-Observers out of NSS, NCC Senior Cadets etc if the Central Govt. Officers are not available.

Counting Centres:

CEO informed that proposal for setting up of counting centres has been received from the DCs/DEOs and the same is being sent to the Commission for its approval early.

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 that there should be some system of scrutinizing the contents of the advertisements made in All India Radio, Local TV Channel like ISTV etc. as most of the programme reflects the achievements of ruling party in general.
- ii) In identifying the list of vulnerable polling stations, the comments/suggestions of the Political Parties should be taken into consideration.
- iii) To share the contact numbers of DCs/DEOs, SsP, ADCs and SDOs with the political parties.
- iv) The Political Parties have also requested CEO to move the State Government for lifting of curfew from the two valley districts, as imposition of curfew has hindered campaigning of votes in a free and fair manner.
- v) Deposit of licensed arms in the police stations should be enforced equally both in the hills and valley districts.
- vi) To ensure that the Observers deployed by the Commission are physically available at the District Head quarters especially in hill districts.

- 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.

Clarifications by CEO, Manipur:

CEO clarified that appropriate actions as per instructions of ECI shall be taken promptly regarding advertisements in local TV Channels etc. The political parties are free to suggest/submit the list of vulnerable polling stations to the DCs/SsP. He also clarified that a separate folder for the current Lok Sabha Elections-2009 is being put up in CEO's website and this folder shall contain all information pertaining to the Lok Sabha Elections-2009 including the contact numbers of DCs/DEOs, SsP, ADCs and SDOs. Regarding other issues like imposition of curfew, deposit of licensed arms in the police stations, Observers etc, CEO assured that he will look into the matter. He also assured that the DCs/DEOs shall be directed to comply strictly with the instruction of ECI while issuing certificates/alternative documents, for identification purposes at the time of casting of vote.

Conclusion:

Before concluding the meeting, CEO, Manipur appealed to all the political parties to make use of the 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 the general public to come out freely and cast their valuable votes without any fear.

(Shambhu Singh)
Chief Electoral Officer,
Manipur

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

Imphal, the 9th March, 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 R.K. Srivastava, 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

List of participants: -

1. Shri K. Saratkumar Singh, General Secretary, NCP, Manipur State Unit.
2. Shri Kshetrimayum Santa, Secretariat Member, CPI (M), Manipur State Unit.
3. Shri Sarat Salam, CPI (M), Manipur State Unit.
4. Dr. N. Chaoba Singh, Office Co-ordinator, BJP, Manipur State Unit.
5. Shri N. Nimbus Singh, State Secy., BJP, Manipur State Unit.
6. Ms. N. Kabita Devi, BSP, Manipur State Unit.
7. Shri Manindra Konsam, BSP, Manipur State Unit.
8. Shri Vidyapati Senjam, General Secretary (Admn), INC, MPCC.
9. Shri M. Olen, V.P., Youth Congress, INC, MPCC.
10. Shri H. Meghachandra Mangangcha, INC, MPCC.
11. Shri N. Ibohal Meitei, General Secretary, RJD, Manipur State Unit.
12. Shri S. Dilip Singh, General Secretary (Election), MPP.
13. Shri S. Umananda Singh, General Secretary, MPP.
14. Shri Ch. Ajang Khongsai, General Secretary, NNP.
15. Shri Kh. Amubi Singh, Executive Member, NNP.
16. Shri N. Dhiren Singh, JD(S), Manipur State Unit.
17. Abdul Wahid, JD(S), Manipur State Unit.
18. Shri T. Sithou, Director (IPR), Manipur.
19. Shri T. Ranjit Singh, Jt. CEO, Manipur
20. Shri K. Bono Singh, EO (HQ), CEO's office, Manipur.
21. Shri K. Moses, EO (HQ), CEO's office, Manipur

—