



POLITICAL PARTICIPATIONS OF MANIPUR UPTO 1980 WITH SPECIAL REFERENCES TO THANGA CONSTITUENCY

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The foundation of the Nikhil Hindu Manipuri Mahasabha in the year 1934 marked the beginning of rise of political consciousness among the people of Manipur. (Singh Naorem Joykumar, 2002, p.147). The word Hindu from the Nikhil Hindu Manipuri Mahasabha was deleted under the president-ship of Hijam Irabot Singh in the fourth session at Imphal on 30th December, 1934 in order to become a political party based on the principle of democracy. It was also resolved in the session that “This Mahasabha also demands the fulfillment of the claim of the Manipur State subjects for the establishment of Legislative Council for the attainment of the representative form of Government for which they have already submitted an application to His Highness the Maharajah of Manipur. Efforts be made by this Mahasabha for attaining this claim.” (Sarangthem Ajit, 2020, p.98). This resolution clearly shows the demand for political participation of the people of Manipur. The formation of Krishak Sabha and Praja Sanmeloni as political parties in 1935 and 1939 was an important epoch in the political history of Manipur. (Singh Naorem Joykumar, p.151). Krishak Sabha played an important role in giving political education among the rural people of Manipur besides demand for a responsible government in Manipur. (*Ibid*). Another political party Manipur Praja Mandal was come into existence in 1946 along with Praja Sanmeloni formed a new political party known as Manipur Praja Sangha in the same year. The party organized a public meeting at Yaiskul on 12th January, 1947 and the party made important resolutions for demanding a constitution of a Constitution Drafting Committee introducing Legislative Assembly and introduction of universal franchise. (*Ibid*, p.159). The establishment of Manipur State Congress Party on 4th October, 1946 was a great landmark in the political history of Manipur. Norem Joykumar Singh asserted that ‘the formation of this political organization was an indirect outcome of the existing political development in the state. At that time everybody felt that the days of the colonial rule would be over and the responsibilities of the rule of the State would be handed over to the people. Therefore, some people were of the view that it was high time for the formation of a common platform so that it would be able to represent the desire and general feeling of the masses.’ (*Ibid*, p. 160). Communist party was also emerged in Manipur before 1949.

Maharaja Bodhchandra Singh dissolved the Manipur State Durbar and also abolished the post of the president and constituted a form of Government known as His Highness in Council on 30th June, 1947. He

constituted the Manipur State Council and F.F. Pearson was made the first Chief Minister of Manipur on 1st July, 1947. (Kamei Gangmumei, 2016, p.12). The Maharaja issued another order on 13th August 1947 in which the Manipur State Council was dissolved and a new Interim Council was formed with Maharajkumar Priyobrata Singh, the younger brother of the Maharaja as the Chief Minister. (Singh Naorem Joykumar, p.163). With this development Maharaja had fully prepared to take over the responsibility of administration of the state from the British.

With the end of British colonial rule in Manipur on 15th August 1947, one of the most important problems faced by the new administrative team was the movement for the establishment of full responsible government. On 23rd November, 1947, Chief Minister of Manipur made an official announcement that a full responsible government would be formed by April, 1948. The official announcement was followed by the preparation for holding election and accordingly the election was held on 11th June, 1948.

Salam Sanatomba Singh stated that the evidence of the participation of people of Thanga in the anti-colonial and anti-feudal movement at the time of British rule has not found. (Singh Salam Sanatomba, 1998, p.46). However, under the Manipur Constitution Act 1947, the first democratic election was held in 1948 which may be regarded as a great landmark in the history of political participation of Manipur. Thanga- Kumbi was one of the 47 Territorial Constituencies and went to poll in 1948 election in which three candidates, W. Gourkishore Singh of Manipur State Congress, N. Thonglen Singh of Praja Santi Sabha and O. Krishnamohon as independent candidate contested the election. (Singh Salam Sanatomba, p.48). Out of 11,779 total number electorates only 3,268 were valid with a percentage of 27.74%. W. Gourkishore Singh secured 1499 and won the election. N. Thonglen Singh and O. Krishnamohon secured 1223 and 546 votes respectively. In the next election held in 1952 the following candidates, N. Thonglen Singh of Achumba Pamba Congress, W. Gourkishore Singh of Congress, W. Gulamjat Singh of Communist Party of India and A. Khongnang Singh of Socialist Party, contested. In this election N. Thonglen Singh secured 1679 votes out of 3,938 valid votes and emerged victorious. The other candidates, W. Gourkishore Singh, W. Gulamjat Singh and A. Khongnang Singh secured 1499, 599 and 201 respectively. (*Ibid*, p. 52). For the election to the Territorial Council of Manipur held in 1957, M. Koireng Singh of Congress, N. Thonglen Singh of Praja Socialist Party, W. Gulamjat Singh of Communist Party of India, Yaima Singh of Socialist Party and two independent candidates, A. Khongnang Singh and O. Angou Singh were the candidates in fray. By securing 1601 votes out of 4,529 total valid votes, M. Koireng Singh won the election. M. Koireng Singh of Congress got re-elected consecutively in election of 1962 and 1967, by securing 2422 votes out of 7,511 total votes and 5823 out of total 13,038 valid votes respectively. (*Ibid*, p. 53).

3.6.1 In State Assembly Elections

First Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 1972

Statistical Report on 1st Manipur Legislative Assembly Election – 1972 reproduced herein. (Statistical Report on 1st Manipur Legislative Assembly Election – 1972, Election Commission of India, New Delhi, 1972, p. 35).

Table 3.1: Thanga Assembly Constituency data Summary, State Assembly Election 1972

Election Commission of India, State Election, 1972 to the Legislative Assembly of Manipur

Constituency Data- Summary

Constituency: 28- Thanga

I. Candidates

	Male	Female	Total
1. Nominated	5	0	5
2. Rejected	0	0	0
3. Withdrawn	0	0	0
4. Contested	5	0	5
5. Forfieted Deposit	2	0	2

II. Electors

1. General	4181	4621	8802
2. Service	0	0	0
3. Total	4181	4621	8802

III. Electors Who Voted

1. General	3484	3627	7111
2. Postal	0	0	0
3. Total	3484	3627	7111

IV. Votes

1. Polled	7111	80.79% of Total Electors
2. Valid	6908	
3. Rejected	203	2.85% of Total Votes Polled
4. Missing	0	
5. Tendered	0	

Polling Stations

Number:

Average Electors Per Polling Station:

I. Dates

Polling	Counting	Declaration of Result
06-03-1972		

II.Result

	Party	Candidate	Votes
Winner	SOP	Haobijam Kangjamba	2878
Runner Up	INC	Salam Jayanta	1856
Margin	1022	14.79% of Total Valid Votes	

On the basis of the above report of the Table 3.1, the following table has been made: (*Ibid.* pp. 72-73).

Table 3.2: Candidate's vote score of Thanga AC, state assembly election 1972

Sl.No.	Name of the Candidates	Parties	Vote Secured
1.	Haobijam Kangjamba	SOP	2878
2.	Salam Jayanta	INC	1856
3.	Heisnam Yaima	IND	1326
4.	Oinam Lukhoi	IND	698
5.	Ningthoujam Duhar	MRP	150
6.	No. of rejected votes		203
	Total votes polled		7111

After the attainment of statehood in 1972, the erstwhile Thanga-Kumbi constituencies become two separate full-fledged assembly constituencies as Thanga and Kumbi. In the first election to the Manipur State Assembly of 1972, H. Kangjamba Singh of Socialist Party, S. Jayantakumar Singh of Congress, Duhar Singh of Manipur People's Party, O. Lukhoi Singh and M. Sanayaima Singh as Independent candidates contested at Kumbi Assembly Constituency. Out of 7,110 total valid votes, Socialist Party candidate H. Kangjamba Singh secured 2878 votes and got elected as a Member of Legislative Assembly from Thanga Assembly Constituency. S. Jayantakumar Singh, Duhar Singh, O. Lukhoi Singh and M. Sanayaima Singh secured 1856, 1326, 698 and 150 votes respectively.

Table 3.3: Constituency wise comparison of Political Participation with the Thanga Assembly Constituency of First Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 1972 (Ibid, pp.32-37).

Name of the District	Name of the Constituency	Total Vote Polled	Percentage of total polled votes/Political Participation	Constituency Wise Position in terms of Political Participation
Bishnupur	Nambol	9588	85.28% (Valid) 1.51% (Rejected)	2
	Oinam	8352	85.55% (Valid) 2.23% (Rejected)	1
	Bishnupur	9244	79.79% (Valid) 2.63% (Rejected)	5
	Moirang	7798	80.98% (Valid) 1.14% (Rejected)	3
	Kumbi	10014	78.26% (Valid) 2.21% (Rejected)	6
	Thanga	7111	80.79% (Valid) 2.85% (Rejected)	4

Among the six constituencies of Bishnupur district, Oinam Assembly Constituency had the highest number of votes polled. Other constituencies Nambol, Moirang, Thanga and Bishnupur stood second, third and fourth positions respectively. After the analysis of the data, it has been found that number of the voters who had casted the vote in Kumbi Assembly Constituency was comparatively less to compare to the other constituencies of Bishnupur district in terms of percentage of political participation/votes polled and Thanga occupied fourth place in the percentage of political participation/votes polled.

Second Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 1974

Statistical Report on 2nd Manipur Legislative Assembly Election – 1974 reproduced herein. (Statistical Report on 2nd Manipur Legislative Assembly Election – 1974, Election Commission of India, New Delhi, 1974, p. 36).

**Table-3.4: Thanga Assembly Constituency data summary, State Assembly Election 1974
Election Commission of India, State Election, 1974 to the Legislative Assembly of Manipur**

Constituency Data- Summary

Constituency: 28- Thanga

I. Candidates

	Male	Female	Total
1. Nominated			
2. Rejected			
3. Withdrawn			
4. Contested			
5. Forfieted Deposit			

II. Electors

.General	4940	5058	9998
Service	0	0	0
Total	4940	5058	9998

III. Electors Who Voted

General	4462	4435	8897
Postal	0	0	0
Total	4462	4435	8897

IV. Votes

Polled	8897	88.99% of Total Electors
Valid	8558	
Rejected	339	3.81% of Total Votes Polled

Missing	0	
Tendered	0	

I. Polling Stations

Number: 12 Average Electors Per Polling Station:833

1. Dates

Polling	Counting	Declaration Of Result
25-Feb-1974		

II. Result

Party		Candidate	Votes
Winner	INC	Salam Jayantakumar Sing	3037
Runner Up	MRP	Heisnam Yaima Singh	2936
Margin	101	1.18% of Total Valid Votes	

As per the Report of the above Table 3.4, the following table has been prepared: (*Ibid*, p. 73).

Table 3.5: Candidate’s vote score of Thanga AC, State Assembly Election 1972

Sl. No.	Name of the Candidates	Parties	Vote Secured
1.	Salam Jayantakumar Singh	INC	3037
2.	Heisnam Yaima Singh	MRP	2936
3.	Haobijam Kanjamba Singh	SOP	2585
4.	No. of rejected votes		339
	Total votes polled		8897

Only three candidates S. Jayantakumar Singh of Congress, N. Kangjamba Singh of Socialist Party and H. Sanayaima Singh of Manipur People’s Party contested in the second election to Manipur Legislative Assembly held in the year 1974. In this election, total number of votes polled was 7,745 in which 7,335 were found valid. S. Jayantakumar Singh of Congress won the election of 1974 by securing 2641 votes.

Table 3.6: Constituency wise comparison of Political Participation with the Thanga Assembly Constituency of Second Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 1974: (*Ibid*, p. 32-37).

Name of the District	Name of the Constituency	Total Vote Polled	Percentage of total polled votes/Political Participation	Constituency Wise Position in terms of Political Participation
	Nambol	11030	91.91% (Valid) 2.53% (Rejected)	2

Bishnupur	Oinam	10240	92.25% (Valid) 1.46% (Rejected)	1
	Bishnupur	9777	87.59% (Valid) 2.50% (Rejected)	4
	Moirang	12652	86.55% (Valid) 1.83% (Rejected)	5
	Kumbi	9091	81.69% (Valid) 2.33% (Rejected)	6
	Thanga	8897	88.99% (Valid) 3.81% (Rejected)	3

In the election to Second Manipur Legislative Assembly held in 1974, the Thanga Assembly Constituency occupied the third position in the percentage of political participation/votes polled as compared to other six constituencies of Bishnupur district.

Third Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 1980

Statistical Report on 3rd Manipur Legislative Assembly Election – 1980 reproduced in the Table – 3: (Statistical Report on Third Manipur Legislative Assembly Election – 1980, Election Commission of India, New Delhi, 1980, p. 36).

Table 3.7: Thanga Assembly Constituency data Summary, State Assembly Election 1980

Election Commission of India, State Election, 1980 to the Legislative Assembly of Manipur

Constituency Data- Summary

Constituency: 28- Thanga

I. Candidates

	Male	Female	Total
Nominated			
1. Rejected			
2. Withdrawn			
3. Contested	5	0	5
4. Forfieted Deposit	2	0	2

II. Electors

4. General	6088	5352	11440
5. Service	0	0	0
6. Total	6088	5352	11440

III. Electors Who Voted

4. General	5082	5256	10338
5. Postal	0	0	0
6. Total	5082	5256	10338

IV. Votes

6. Polled	10338	90.37% of Total Electors
7. Valid	10073	
8. Rejected	265	2.56% of Total Votes Polled
9. Missing	0	
10. Tendered	0	

Polling Stations**Number: 15****Average Electors Per Polling Station: 763****I. Dates**

Polling	Counting	Declaration Of Result
01-03-1980		

I. Result

Party		Candidate	Votes
Winner	Ind	Haojam Kangjamba Singh	3711
Runner Up	JNP(S)	Kaisanam Yaima	2958
Margin	753	7.48% of Total Valid Votes	

On the basis of the above report of the Table3.7, the following table has been prepared: (*Ibid*, p. 74).

Table 3.8: Candidate's votes core of Thanga AC, State Assembly Election 1980

Sl. No.	Name of the Candidates	Parties	Vote Secured
1.	Haojam Kangjamba Singh	IND	3711
2.	Kaisanam Yaima	JNP(S)	2958
3.	Salam Ibohal	INC(I)	1907
4.	Salam Jayantkumar	JNP	1398
5.	Labuktongbam Kondum	MPP	99
5.	No. of rejected votes		265
	Total votes polled		10338

The Third Manipur Legislative Assembly election was held in 1980. N. Kangjamba Singh as an Independent candidate got elected by securing 3711 votes. Other candidates, H. Sanayaima Singh of Janata Party (S), S. Ibohal Singh of Indian National Congress (I), S. Jayantakumar of Janata Party and L. Kondum Sharma of

Manipur People's Party secured 2958,1907, 1398 and 99 votes respectively. In this election, out of 10,338 total votes polled only 265 votes found invalid and the percentage of turnout votes was 90.37%.

Table 3.9: Constituency Wise Comparison of Political Participation with the Thanga Assembly Constituency of Third Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 1980 (Ibid, pp. 32-37).

Name of the District	Name of the Constituency	Total Polled	Percentage of total polled votes/Political Participation	Constituency Wise Position in terms of Political Participation
Bishnupur	Nambol	14082	91.34% (Valid) 2.29% (Rejected)	1
	Oinam	12632	89.53% (Valid) 2.41% (Rejected)	3
	Bishnupur	12649	87.05% (Valid) 2.02% (Rejected)	4
	Moirang	15257	82.13% (Valid) 2.06% (Rejected)	5
	Kumbi	11661	80.27% (Valid) 2.23% (Rejected)	6
	Thanga	10338	90.37% (Valid) 2.56% (Rejected)	2

The election to Third Manipur Legislative Assembly was held in 1980 in which the Thanga Assembly Constituency secured the Second place in comparison with the other six constituencies of Bishnupur district in terms of the percentage of political participation/votes polled.

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