



AN OVERVIEW OF 2019 LOK-SABHA ELECTION & BYE-POLL OF AIZAWL WEST-I IN MIZORAM

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ABSTRACT

After the then Mizo Hills District was elevated to Union Territory status, Mizoram was allotted one seat in Lok Sabha. The territory witnessed the first Parliamentary elections since the Fifth Lok Sabha polls, held in 1972. Till 2019, Parliamentary elections were held thirteen times in Mizoram. This paper analyzed the 17th Lok Sabha election of Mizoram Parliamentary constituency and Aizawl West-I Assembly bye-poll held on April 11, 2019. Nomination of candidates, campaign strategy, polling and vote counting had been highlighted. Besides, some controversial issues happened during elections were also highlighted.

Keywords: Lok-Sabha Election, By-poll, Aizawl West-I, Show Cause Notice, CAB, Mizoram CEO.

In the 2018-Mizoram State Legislative Assembly polls held on November 28, Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) Chief Ministerial candidate, Lalduhoma was elected in two constituencies, namely, Serchhip and Aizawl West-I. He vacated Aizawl West-I constituency while he was retaining Serchhip constituency. So, bye-election for Aizawl West-I constituency was scheduled

to be held on April 11, 2018, along with Mizoram Lok-Sabha Parliamentary constituency election. The Lok Sabha election was a six-cornered contest, while the Aizawl West-I bye-poll witnessed a triangular contest from three candidates, namely, Zothantluanga (Mizo National Front), independent nominee Lalbuanga Sailo, supported by ZPM-Congress combine and Rev. Zaichhawna Hlawndo (Zoramthar),

who was also contesting as independent. In 2018-State Legislative Assembly election, Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) Chief Ministerial candidate defeated his nearest opponent, K. Sangthuama, an MNF candidate and former Minister of State in the previous MNF ministry (2003 to 2008) by a margin of 1060 votes.

Before 1972, there was no separate parliamentary seat allotted for Mizoram, being a District of Assam State. However, Mizoram witnessed Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha elections since 1972 with the attainment of Union Territory status. When the Mizo Hills District of Assam State was elevated to a Union Territory in 1972, renaming the district as Mizoram and the territory was allotted one seat in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively. The whole of Mizoram was formed one Parliamentary Constituency and the Fifth Lok Sabha election held in 1972 was the first parliamentary elections held in Mizoram. Out of the total voters 156,898, the total votes polled was 113,819 and the poll percentage was 72.60. There were five candidates and Sangliana, Mizo Union candidate, won the said election securing 42.29% from the total valid votes polled (Singh, 2016).

Candidates for the 17th Lok-Sabha Polls of Mizoram

For the 17th Lok Sabha election of Mizoram parliamentary constituency, the ruling party MNF fielded former Director General of Doordarshan, C. Lalrosanga (62 year old) and ZPM-Congress combine projected a sport journalist and Mizoram Football Association (MFA) Honorary

Secretary, Lalnghinglova Hmar (41 year old), who was contesting as independent candidate. The BJP had contested Lok Sabha election for the first time in Mizoram and fielded its State Vice President, Nirupam Chakma (59 year old) whereas PRISM nominated former Indian Navy Chief Petty officer, TBC Lalvenchhunga (36 year old), who was the youngest among candidates. Two independent candidates, namely, Lalhriatrenga Chhange (55 year old), who filed criminal case against former Chief Minister and State Pradesh Congress Committee, Lal Thanhawla last year (2018) and a Mizo Jewish woman leader, Lalthlamuani (63 year old) was also contesting the election. The key contest was between the MNF and ZPM-Congress combine. No doubt, the Citizenship Amendment Bill held the key polls issue in the 2018-Mizoram Parliamentary constituency election. While MNF, ZPM-Congress combine and PRISM candidates vowed to fight against the bill if re-introduced in the Parliament, two independent and BJP candidates were silent over the issue. While the ruling MNF was hopeful of winning the poll by taking advantage of being a ruling party in the State, ZPM-Congress combine was also confident of victory because of its 'people candidate' tag. Ever since Mizoram had its first Lok Sabha seat after becoming a Union Territory in 1972, oppositions had won only twice. Out of the total 4,28,018 votes cast in the 2014-Lok Sabha election in Mizoram, the then ruling Congress party had a vote share of 49.17% against the 47.73% secured by United Democratic Front (UDF) formed by MNF and other opposition parties (The Mizoram Post, April 10, 2019).

BJP and Chakma Candidate

With regard to appointment of candidate, BJP Mizoram unit expressed its disappointment over the BJP Centre's decision to field a Chakma candidate against the State Unit's proposal to field a Mizo candidate in the said Mizoram Lok Sabha polls. BJP Mizoram Unit President, Prof. J.V Hluna said that the State BJP made a proposal to field a Mizo candidate, which was sternly rejected by the central leadership on the ground that the Mizo people did not wholeheartedly welcome BJP and fielding a Mizo candidate would be meaningless. Hluna said that his party had proposed former State BJP President and senior advocate Ramtiana for the party's candidate, but, they were surprised and strongly dissatisfied with the BJP Centre's decision for nominating a Chakma candidate by ignoring their proposal of fielding a Mizo candidate. Many Mizos, including the BJP workers would be reluctant to vote a Chakma candidate as there was growing anti-Chakma feeling in the State due to illegal migrant and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill issues, he added (The Mizoram Post, March 3, 2019).

PRISM Party and Show Cause Notice

Mizoram CEO's office, on March 22, 2019, served a show cause notice to the People's Representation for Identity and Status of Mizoram (PRISM) regarding its poll plank to move secessionist bill in the Parliament. In a letter addressed to the party president, Vanlalruata, Mizoram Additional CEO, Krishna Mohan Uppu cited some media reports which said that the PRISM would use introduction of "Right to

Secession Bill" as its poll plank in the said Lok Sabha election. A letter issued by the State Addl. CEO said, "The said matter pertains to your party and the issues raised involved questions on the unity and integrity of the country. It has also been observed that earlier statements issued by your party in Aizawl and Champhai districts openly spoken about secession from India" (The Mizoram Post, March 23, 2019).

In its notice, the State CEO's office also endorsed the news report of a Bangalore based Deccan Herald under a headline "Mizoram's Sailor (PRISM candidate) to contest on State's secession as poll plank" and clipping of some local newspaper which showed the desire of the party for secession from India. "In the light of the above, you are hereby directed to clarify the position of your party on the said matter for further necessary action at our end. Your reply should reach the CEO office within 24 hours of receipt of this letter", the letter from CEO office asked PRISM President. At the same time, PRISM President, Vanlalruata said that they decided to move Secessionist Bill to oppose the Citizenship Bill as it was against secularism and clashed with the unity and integrity of the country (The Mizoram Post, March 3, 2019).

Campaigning

In fact, MNF candidate, C. Lalrosanga and independent candidate, Lalnghinglova Hmar, who was supported by ZPM-Congress combine, were the main contenders in the said lone Lok Sabha seat in Mizoram. C. Lalrosanga, who was contesting his first election, said that

development of roads and communication facilities were his priority issues. “Providing jobs to youths and skill development were the other important issues which would be taken up seriously if I won the election,” he said. Lalnghinglova Hmar, said, “I am personally and my sponsoring parties – Congress and ZPM were vehemently against the Citizenship Amendment Bill.” Both of these two candidates said that the Citizenship Amendment Bill would jeopardize the demography of the indigenous tribals, who constituted 27 to 28% of the 45.58 million population in North-East India. Lalthlamuani, a Mizo Jewish leader said, “Despite women electorates outnumbering men in Mizoram for decades, women were lagging behind in every governing and policy making bodies and legislative platforms. I was fighting for women’s empowerment.” She also said that women had more vital role to play and uplift the country and contesting this Lok Sabha election was just a stepping stone for women in Mizoram. Lalthlamuani, who owned some commercial vehicles, had four children and run the NGO Chhinlung Israel People Convention (CIPC) and she lost her husband in 2007. Mizoram had seen only two women Ministers in 32 years in 1987 and 2014. An MP candidate of PRISM, an anti-corruption watchdog-turned-political party, TBC Lalvenchhunga, said that a serious vision with foresight and foreknowledge were very essential for the all round development of a mountainous State like Mizoram (Newslink, April 10, 2019).

The poll campaign, for Aizawl West-I bye poll and Mizoram Parliamentary constituency for Lok Sabha election had

ended at 5:00 pm on April 9, 2019. Mizoram would go to the polls, along with 18 States and 2 Union Territories, on April 11, 2019 and result would be declared on May 23, 2019. The State had a total of 7,87,777 electorates including six transgender voters. There were 3,331 Persons with Disability (PWD) voters and 4,687 service voters. The electorates would cast their votes at 1,175 polling stations across the State where EVMs would be used. Besides, the Election Commission of India had set up 15 special polling stations at Kanhmun village on Mizoram-Tripura border, where 12,081 Bru refugee voters would cast votes (Newslink, April 10, 2019).

Vanglaini and Show Cause Notice

Speaking to reporters at press conference, Mizoram CEO, Ashish Kundra said that he had issued show cause notice to K. Sapdanga, the editor of Vanglaini which was the largest circulated vernacular paper in Mizoram, and the joint editor of the paper, Lalnghinglova Hmar on April 11, 2019, a day Mizoram held polling for the lone Lok-Sabha seat and Aizawl West-I Assembly constituency bye election, asking them to clarify their position as the news report appeared to be prima-facie violation of the Representation of People Act. The show cause notice was served to them following a complaint lodged by the ruling MNF party that the newspaper had intentionally depicted the party’s symbol as “Sun” against the actual symbol the “Star”. Interestingly, K. Sapdanga was the Secretary General of main opposition ZPM, while Lalnghinglova Hmar was the joint candidate of ZPM and Congress for the Lok Sabha seat. Kundra said that the show cause notice

was also served to the joint editor because he happened to be a candidate (The Mizoram Post, April 12, 2019).

The State CEO said that Aizawl District Deputy Commissioner, who was the Returning Officer of the Lok-Sabha election, had also submitted FIR to the police to take action. Vanglaini local daily news-paper had a circulation of more than 50,000 copies across the State and while highlighting names of candidates for the said Lok Sabha election, and their symbols, the local paper published MNF candidate's symbol as "Sun" against the "Star" in its front page. The news report received strong reaction from MNF workers, after the news clip was widely circulated on social media. Speaking to reporters after casting his vote, Chief Minister and MNF President, Zoramthanga alleged that it was a deliberate act to confuse the voters. "This was done either deliberately or purposefully to undermine the MNF party and our candidate because the editor of the paper was the leader of our opponent and the joint editor himself was a joint candidate of ZPM-Congress," he said. He also slammed the news report as "cheap political stunt" (The Mizoram Post, April 12, 2019).

At the same time, K. Sapdanga, editor and owner of Vanglaini, denied that it was not a deliberate attempt to confuse voters but purely a mistake. He said, "As soon as we learn about the mistake, we asked all our hawkers not to circulate the papers in towns and villages." He apologized to the people, CEO, MNF President and the party's candidate, C. Lalrosanga stating inadvertent mistake. Former Chief Minister and State Congress

(INC) President, Lal Thanhawla had backed the paper and said that errors were common in many newspapers and that the news report should not be taken negatively and intentional. Meanwhile, ZPM and Congress party also lodged a complaint with the CEO over the posters displayed by Lunglei District Election officer, which allegedly wrongly placed the ZPM-Congress combine candidate Lalnghinglova Hmar from serial number 5 to 4 (The Mizoram Post, April 12, 2019).

ZPM-Congress joint publicity committee chairman, Lallianchhunga said that the poster wrongly interchanged the position of Lalnghinglova with one independent candidate was widely displayed in various polling stations in Lunglei district particularly in Thorang Assembly constituency for public information. "Lunglei had high number of illiterate persons and therefore the posters had greatly confused the voters", he said. At the same time, State CEO, Kundra told reporters that corrective measure had been taken immediately and the posters were replaced with the correct ones (Ibid.,).

The Polling

Elections for the Aizawl West-I Assembly constituency and the lone Mizoram Lok Sabha constituency were peacefully completed on April 11, 2019. Mizoram recorded a voter turnout of 63.10% for lone Mizoram Lok Sabha polls. From the total 7,87,777 (male-383,603 & female-404,169) voters, 4,97,071 voters exercised their franchise, out of which 2,43,959 male and 2,53,737 female cast their votes in the entire State. In the bye election of Aizawl

West-I Assembly constituency, 18,154 voters turn out and the poll percentage was 70.40. There were 25,788 voters within Aizawl West-I Assembly constituency, of which 12,143 were male voters while 13,645 were female.

Compared to the previous Sixteenth Lok-Sabha polls held in Mizoram on April 11, 2014, there was some improvement with regard to total votes polled. The total voters of Mizoram in 2014 Lok-Sabha polls were 702,170 (male-346,219 & female-355,951) and the total votes polled was 433,201 including NOTA. In 2014 Lok-Sabha polls, the percentage of total voted polled was 61.69 whereas 63.10% in 2019. So, compared to 2014, the improvement of voter turnout in terms of percentage in 2019 was 1.41%. Despite the female voters outnumbered their male counterparts by 20,566 votes in 2019, the percentage of male voters' turnout was 63.60% while 62.78% female voters cast their votes. So, the male voters' turnout was higher than their female counterparts by 0.83%.

Out of the 40-Assembly constituencies in Mizoram, there were five Assembly Constituencies in which the voters' turnout were less than 60% from total electorate of the constituencies, namely, Hachhek (58.61%), Aizawl North-I (55.94%), Aizawl East-I (59.11%), Lawngtlai East (51.43%) and Saiha (56.13%). At the same time, the voters' turnout in four Assembly Constituencies were higher than 70% from the total electorate of the constituencies, namely,

West Tuipui (74.86%), Tuichawng (74.49%), Thorang (71.19%) and Aizawl West-I (71.18%). In 2019, Lok-Sabha Mizoram Parliamentary constituency election, Assembly Constituency which had the highest voters' turnout was West Tuipui constituency (74.86%), 11,276 voters out of the total 15,063 voters exercised their franchise whereas Lawngtlai East (51.43%) had the smallest voters' turnout and the votes polled in this constituency was 12,438 out of the total 24,183 voters.

Vote Counting and Election Result

Vote counting was done on May 23, 2019 at 8:00 am in all the counting centres of Mizoram. Retaining its wave, the ruling MNF party got victory in both Lok Sabha election and Aizawl West-I bye-poll. As mentioned earlier, election to the lone Lok Sabha seat and Aizawl West-I Assembly bye-poll were simultaneously held in a single phase on April 11, 2019, when the country went for the first round of polling for the 17th Lok Sabha. Six candidates contested the said Lok Sabha poll while three candidates were in electoral fray for Aizawl West-I bye-poll. In Lok-Sabha election, MNF candidate C. Lalrosanga defeated his main opponent Lalnghinglova Hmar, an independent candidate and backed by ZPM and Congress, by a margin of 8140 votes whereas in the Aizawl West-I Assembly bye-poll, the ruling MNF inflicted a humiliating defeat on ZPM-Congress combine as its candidate Zothantluanga won by 7,167 votes over ZPM-Congress joint candidate Lalbuanga Sailo.

Table 1: Poll Turnout for Mizoram Lok-Sabha & Aizawl West-I Constituency Elections

Poll Turnout												
AC Name	Electors				End of Poll (Poll Start to End)				% of End of Poll (Poll Start to End)			
	Male	Female	Other	Total	Male	female	Other	Total	Male	female	Other	total
Lok Sabha:												
1- Hachhek	12239	12017	0	24256	7174	7042	0	14216	58.62	58.60		58.61
2- Dampa	9512	8983	0	18495	6233	5990	0	12472	65.53	66.68		67.43
3- Mamit	12156	11909	0	24065	7936	7567	0	15503	65.28	63.54		64.42
4- Tuirial	8512	8798	0	17310	5260	5500	0	10760	61.80	62.51		62.16
5- Kolasib	10499	11597	0	22096	6399	7112	0	13511	60.95	61.33		61.15
6- Serlui	9599	9880	0	19479	5986	6200	0	12186	62.36	62.75		62.56
7- Tuivawl	8221	8345	0	16566	5184	5051	0	10235	63.06	60.53		61.78
8- Chalfilh	9532	9264	0	18796	5925	5405	0	11330	62.16	58.34		60.28
9- Tawi	7577	8236	0	15813	4707	4914	0	9621	62.12	59.66		60.84
10- Aizawl North – I	11031	12787	2	23820	6141	7184	0	13325	55.67	56.18		55.94
11- Aizawl North – II	10680	12344	0	23024	6749	7954	0	14703	63.19	64.44		63.86
12- Aizawl North-III	8781	10287	0	19068	5318	6381	0	11699	60.56	62.03		61.35
13- Aizawl East – I	12064	12783	0	24847	7073	7615	0	14688	58.63	59.57		59.11
14- Aizawl East II	8331	9757	0	18088	5070	6042	0	11112	60.86	61.92		61.43
15- Aizawl West I	12143	13645	0	25788	8611	9746	0	18357	70.91	71.43		71.18
16- Aizawl West II	9916	11379	0	21295	6092	6972	0	13064	61.44	61.27		61.35
17- Aizawl West III	10164	11612	0	21776	6534	7606	0	14140	64.29	65.50		64.93
18- Aizawl South I	10105	11716	0	21821	6235	7427	0	13662	61.70	63.39		62.61
19- Aizawl South II	11638	13521	1	25160	7269	8740	0	16009	62.46	64.64		63.63
20- Aizawl South-III	9955	10316	1	20272	7023	7015	0	14038	70.55	68.00		69.25
21- Lengteng	8822	8667	0	17489	5396	5110	0	10506	61.17	58.96		60.07
22- Tuichang	8215	8207	0	16422	4950	5927	0	10003	60.26	72.22		60.91
23- Champhai North	9193	9666	0	18859	5832	5986	0	11818	63.44	61.93		62.67
24- Champhai South	8899	9624	0	18523	5473	5927	0	11400	61.50	61.59		61.55
25- East tuipui	7612	7521	0	15133	4878	4418	0	9296	64.08	58.74		61.43
26- Serchhip	8665	9641	0	18306	5565	6276	0	11841	64.22	65.10		64.68
27- Tuikum	7872	7936	0	15808	5320	5102	0	10422	67.58	64.29		65.93
28- Hrangturzo	7842	7940	0	15782	4946	4683	0	9629	63.07	58.98		61.01
29- South tuipui	7393	7546	0	14939	4682	4675	0	9357	63.33	61.95		62.63
30- Lunglei North	8076	8458	0	16534	5596	5688	0	11284	69.29	67.25		68.25
31- Lunglei East	7257	7806	0	15063	4369	4831	0	9200	60.20	61.89		61.08
32- Lunglei West	7033	7642	0	14675	4308	4729	0	9037	61.25	61.88		61.58
33- Lunglei South	8595	8817	0	17412	5180	5268	0	10448	60.27	59.75		60.00
34- Thorang	6996	6567	0	13563	5163	4492	0	9655	73.80	68.40		71.19
35- West tuipui	7976	7087	0	15063	6146	5130	0	11276	77.06	72.39		74.86
36- Tuichawng	15894	15576	0	31470	12509	10932	0	23441	78.70	70.18		74.49
37- Lawngtlai West	13584	13474	0	27058	8926	8701	0	17627	65.71	64.58		65.15
38- Lawngtlai East	11712	12470	1	24183	6199	6239	0	12438	52.93	50.03		51.43
39- Saiha	10236	11170	0	21406	5718	6297	0	12015	55.86	56.37		56.13
40- Palak	9076	9178	0	18254	5884	5863	0	11747	64.83	63.88		64.35
TOTAL	383603	404169	5	787777	243959	253737	0	497071	63.60	62.78		63.10
Bye Election:												
15-Aizawl West i	12143	13645	0	25788	8414	9740	0	18154	69.29	71.38		70.40

(Source: CEO Mizoram (<http://ceomizoram.nic.in>); Accessed on 23/03/2019, 9:15 pm)

No doubt, Citizenship (Amendment) Bill commonly called as CAB was the main issue during Lok-Sabha election in Mizoram. While the ZPM-Congress alliance promised the voters to strongly oppose the CAB if it was re-introduced in the Parliament, the MNF, NDA's ally at the centre, also said that it would oppose any bid to re-introduce the bill. MNF candidate, C. Lalrosanga attributed his victory to God's help and good performance of the ruling MNF government. Speaking to the correspondent of The Mizoram Post, he said that people were much aware of the needs for which he had been elected and he was committed to his pre-poll promise to oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. A retired Doordarshan Director General, C. Lalrosanga also said that he would give priority to improvement of road transport and tele-communication. "People elected me

for a purpose and I am going to fulfill their aspirations. I will also work for the welfare of youths besides all-round development," he said. ZPM-Congress joint candidate Lalnghinglova Hmar thanked the Mizo people for their support. He alleged that his poor performance in Chakma dominated area especially in Tuichawng Assembly constituency was the main factor for his defeat. In Tuichawng Assembly constituency, Lalnghinglova Hmar secured only 386 votes while his main opponent, C. Lalrosanga secured 12,022 votes. BJP candidates Nirupam Chakma secured 10,537 votes (The Mizoram Post, May 25, 2019). In view of over-all 40-Assebmly constituencies of Mizoram, C.Lalrosanga won 22 Assembly constituencies while his main contender, Lalnghinglova Hmar won 18 Assembly constituencies.

Table 2: 17th Lok Sabha Election, Mizoram Parliamentary constituency; April 11, 2019

Name of Candidate	Party	EVM Votes	Postal Votes	Total Votes	Percentage
C. Lalrosanga	MNF	223509	777	224286	44.89 Elected
Nirupam Chakma	BJP	27989	718	28707	5.75
TBC Lalvenchhunga	PRISM	13211	112	13323	2.67
Lalhriatrenga Chhangte	Independent	12467	208	12675	2.54
Lalnghinglova Hmar	Independent (ZPM-INC)	215202	944	216146	43.26
Lalthlamuani	Independent	1909	66	1975	0.4
NOTA		2493	16	2509	0.5

In 2019 Mizoram Parliamentary constituency Lok-Sabha election, the State

ruling party, MNF candidate, C. Lalrosanga defeated his nearest opponent Lalnghinglova

Hmar, backed by INC and ZPM, by small marginal votes and the difference of voted secured by these two candidates was only 1.63%. Even in 2014, voters already witnessed the same story, the then ruling party, INC MP Lok-Sabha candidate, C.L Ruala defeated his nearest opponent Robert Romawia Royte, an independent candidate supported by MNF and other opposition parties, by small marginal votes and the difference of votes share between them was only 1.42%. C.L Ruala secured 48.59% out of the total votes polled while his main opponent Robert Romawia captured 47.17%. Compared to the previous polls, the votes shared by NOTA came down from 6495 votes (1.5%) in 2014 to 2493 (0.5%) in the said 2019 Lok-Sabha polls in Mizoram.

From the above analysis, it has been possible to state that the difference of votes

share between the winners and the nearest opponents had been very less in the 2019 and 2014 Mizoram Parliamentary Lok-Sabha constituency elections compared to the previous elections of 2009 and 2004. In 2009 Lok-Sabha polls in Mizoram, the winner, C.L Ruala captured 65.58% from the total votes polled while his main opponent, Dr. H. Lallungmuana's votes share was 32.16% and the difference of votes secured by them was 33.42%. Even in 2004, the winner of Fourteenth Lok-Sabha polls from Mizoram parliamentary constituency, Vanlalzawma secured 52.46% while his nearest opponent, Dr. Laltluangliana Khiangte captured 45.87% from the total votes polled and the difference between them was 6.59% (Singh A.P.K, 2016, pp. 587-590).

Table 3: Bye-election in Aizawl Wes-I Assembly Constituency, held on April 11, 2019

Name of Candidate	Party	Votes Secured	Percentage	Remarks
Lalbuanga Sailo	ZPM-INC	5274	29	
Zothantluanga	MNF	12309	67.8	Elected
Rev. Zaichhawna Hlawndo	Independent	443	2.4	
NOTA		128	0.7	

There is no exaggeration to state that the ruling party candidate, except in few cases, is believed to be the winner in by-poll particularly in Legislative Assembly by-election in India. Even in Mizoram, the Legislative Assembly by-polls held in the State were mostly won by the ruling party candidates. Hence, the winning of State ruling party, MNF candidate in the by-elec-

-tion of Aizawl West-I was not a surprising result. However, some observers said that the difference of votes share between the MNF candidate, Zothantluanga and his main opponent, Lalbuanga Sailo, backed by INC and ZPM, was more than expected. Zothantluanga secured 67.8% from the total votes polled 18,154 while his nearest

opponent, Lalbuanga Sailo captured only 29%.

Conclusively, Mizoram Lok-Sabha Parliamentary constituency elections and by-poll in Aizawl West-I constituency were peacefully completed. Both the ruling party candidates defeated their opponents as expected by many observers. Compared to many other States in India, elections in Mizoram are by and large peaceful particularly in the post Statehood period. In fact, the endless efforts of civil societies and churches have contributed a lot for the peaceful process of elections in Mizoram. No doubt, there were some minor problems during electoral campaign, but, these things did not hamper the peaceful election process.

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