



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

2009-10

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The Election Department Government of Sikkim is carrying out the following works:

1. Preparation of Electoral Rolls
2. Preparation of Photo electoral Rolls.
3. Conduct of Election to State Legislative Assembly
4. Conduct of Election to the Parliament
5. Conduct of Election of the President and the Vice President
6. Preparation and issue of Photo Id-cards.

This Department is headed by the Chief Electoral Officer who is appointed by the Election Commission of India, in consultation with the State Government and in accordance with the provision of Representation of People Act, 1950 which is subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission of India. He shall supervise the preparation, revision and correction of all electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the Parliament and the state legislature in the state. He is assisted by the Special Chief Electoral Officer, Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Deputy Director, Assistant Director (technical), Accounts Officer and 26 sub-ordinate staff in the Office.

The year 2009 being the Election year, the Election Commission of India, in consultation with the State Government, and in accordance with the provision of the Representation of People Act, 1950 have designated the four District Collectors of North, South, West and East District as Electoral Registration Officer-cum-Returning Officer for the respective assemble constituencies in the state of Sikkim vide Notification No. Elec/33/99/765 and Elec./33/99/768, dated 1st July 2008. To assist the District Collectors/DEO/RO, the four Additional District Collectors of the above Districts along with the Sub-Divisional Officer-cum-Sub Divisional Magistrates of nine Sub-Divisions, namely Pakyong, Rongli, Soreong, Ravongla, Chungthang, Gangtok, Gyalshing, Namchi and Mangan were designated as Assistant Returning-cum-Assistant Electoral Registration Officer, for the purpose of preparing Electoral Rolls, Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls and for the conduct of General Elections, 2009 to the State Legislative Assembly as well as the Parliament vide notification no. Elec./33/99/766, 33/ Elec./99/767 and Elec./33/99/769

dated 1st July 2008. The District Collector-cum-District Magistrate, East Sikkim to be the Returning Officer for the Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency vide Notification No. Elec./33/99/770, dated 01.07.08 and the District Collectors of South, West and North were designated as Assistant Returning Officers by the Election Commission of India vide Notification No. Elec./33/99/769 dated 1st July 2008. One Under Secretary and three Lower Division Clerks in East District and one Under Secretary and one Lower Division Clerk each to other three districts has been attached to assist the District Collectors in Election matters. The department, under the instructions of the Election Commission of India, in order to make the electoral roll error proof, introduced the appointment of the Booth Level Officers (BLO) and Booth Level Agents (BLA), representatives of the respective political parties. The names and the details of the Booth Level Officers appointed for each Polling Station is available in the CEO's website www.ceosikkim.nic.in.

The Election Commission of India vide notification no. Elec/33/99/952 dated 8th September, 2008 designated the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim as the Appellate Officer for all such matters pertaining to the election of all the districts in the State of Sikkim.

The Election Commission of India vide Notification No. 464/2009 (3A), dated 02.04.09 had announced the General Election to 15th Lok Sabha and 8th State Legislative Assembly on 2nd April, 2009 according to which the last date for filing nominations, the date of scrutiny, the last date for withdrawal of candidatures and the poll date was announced as 9th April, 11th April, 13th April and 30th April respectively. Sikkim has 4 districts with 1 parliamentary constituency and 32 Assembly constituencies as per the delimitation order no. 28 issued vide Notification No. 282/SKM/2006 dated 4th September, 2006, including a Sangha constituency and a total of 493 polling stations. The total EPIC coverage in the state is 99.31%. The details may be seen at **Appendix-A**. During the time of conduct of Election the total number of electors stood at 3,00,584 inclusive of service electors. The details may be seen at **Appendix-B** and the total votes percentage for the parliamentary and the Assembly elections 2009 was 82.04%. The detail Results of 15th Lok Sabha and 8th Legislative Assembly General Election 2009 may be seen at **Appendix 'C' to 'J'**.

The Election Commission of India had made it mandatory that all electors will have to have Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC), to enable them to cast their votes in all future elections. Around 99.31% of the electors have been issued with the Electoral Photo identity Cards.

The Election Commission of India with the intention to implement the scheme for preparation of Photo rolls all over India as per the new delimitation order with effect from March, 2008, instructed the Election department to prepare the Electoral rolls with the Photographs of the voters in the Electoral rolls in order to avoid impersonation at the polling station, which was completed within the given time and made applicable during the Elections '09.

As the Election Commission of India had decided on the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) all over the country during the General Elections in 2009, a series of training programmes were organized for the government officers and staff who were deployed as presiding as well as polling officers. In addition to the training programmes, CDs on the use of EVMs were prepared and screened over the cable TV networks. Demonstrations and training programmes on the same were also organized for the political parties. Along with the information on the EVMs, information on the Model Code of Conduct was also disseminated widely. This election saw new initiatives like the usage of CCTV camera to monitor strong rooms and counting rooms, the appointment of Booth Level Officers and Booth Level Agents, the communication plan to connect all the remote areas, the functioning and increase in the number of Observers and micro observers and last but not the least, the direct and immediate intervention of the Commission. There were no serious law and order problems and the Government machinery involved in the election process acted in a most non-partisan manner with efficiency and devotion to duty. The entire election process was conducted in a smooth free and fair and excellent manner with the help of general public, the political parties, Director General of Police, Officers of all ranks of the Police Department, the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers and other District level officers, Officers and staff of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim and all other Government employees, whose services had been requisitioned by the Election Department.

Seven political parties; 2 National, 1 State party, 3 State registered and 1 independent, contested the Parliamentary Elections with 7 candidates. Nine political parties, 4 National, 1 State party, 3 registered and one Independent party contested the Vidhan Sabha with 167 candidates. The total number of 1040 EVMs were used in the simultaneous elections.

The Sikkim Democratic Front Party contested from all the 32 Assembly Constituencies and the lone Parliamentary Constituency and have won all the 32 Legislative Assembly seats and the single Lok Sabha seat. The details may be seen at Appendix 'F & J').

As Shri Pawan Chamling stood from 10. Poklok Kamrang and 11. Namchi Singhithang Assembly Constituencies and won from both the Constituencies, he later vacated the 11. Namchi Singithang Assembly Constituency on 22 May,2009. By virtue of the said constituency being vacated the Election Commission of India vide their Notification No.100/SKM-LA/1/2009 dated 17th August,2009 had announced the bye election from the 11 Namchi Singithang Assembly constituency for the purpose of filling the vacancy so caused. The Bye election was held on 10th September,2009. Five Political parties; 1 National, two State Registered and 2 independent contested the bye election with 5 candidates.. Shri Binod Kumar Rai, of Sikkim Democratic Front won the seat. The details may be seen at **Appendix'H'**

During the Financial Year 2009-10, as per the directions of the Election Commission of India, the Election Department completed the Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls of the 32 Assembly Constituencies of Sikkim, including the Sangha Constituency with reference to 1.1.2010 as the qualifying date. The Electoral Rolls have been computerised and the list of Electors, Polling Stations and other related information have been recorded in the computer database with the help of National Informatics Centre (NIC), Gangtok. As per the Summary Revision conducted with reference to 1.1.2010 as the qualifying date there has been an increase of 10,464 electors and the total number of electors has increased to **3,10,629**, from **3,00,165** excluding 449 Service Electors.. The Constituency-wise voter details after the Special Summary Revision, 2009 (service voters excluded) may be seen at **Appendix-I**

The total budget allocation to the Election Department during the year under report was Rs.5,86,10,000/-.(Rupees Five Crores Eighty Six Lakhs Ten Thousand) only.

I Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister & Minister in-charge of Election Department do hereby authenticate the Annual Report for the year 2009-2010 and also authorise the placing of this report on the table of the Legislative Assembly.

(Pawan Chamling)
Chief Minister &
Minister In-charge for
Election Department.

Place: Gangtok
Dated : 11th March,2011.

