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## **Failures of Regional Political Parties in Meghalaya**

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### **Abstract**

*The existence of multi-regional political parties in Meghalaya has not contributed to the stability of the Government in the Legislature but has instead destabilized it. Due to the existence of multi-cultures, multi-languages and factionalism in the region, a large number of regional political parties have emerged in the state since 1978. The emergence of the regional political parties in Meghalaya developed originally in the context of the struggle for the demand of the Hill State and the protection of tribal interests. The existence of political parties and the effective participation of people in the decision-making body of the state is an important part of modern state building.*

*This research study had examined that Meghalaya has experienced several unstable Government from 1978-2013. The presence of multi-party system, weakness in leadership, selfishness of the leaders, negligence of the high party leaders to allot ticket to a good leaders were the main causes of the instability of Government in Meghalaya. An unstable Government is that type of the Government which can be amended and changed in a short period of time. The growth of a large number of regional political parties in the state seems to bring electorate's confusion in election and leadership challenges. The multi-regional political parties in Meghalaya cannot bring adequate development to the state in the areas of agricultural, industrial, educational, roads etc.*

**Keywords: Regional Politics, Failures, Measures, Political Parties, Meghalaya.**

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**1.1. Introduction:** The growth and development of regional political parties in Meghalaya is an important part of modern state building. One of the main features of a modern democracy is the existence of political parties and the effective participation of people in the decision-making body of the state. The pattern of the party system in different states in India is not so different from state to state. The emergence of the regional political parties and their functioning is determined by the structure of the society in which they operate. Tradition and history, social and economic structure, religious beliefs, racial composition,

language, caste system and customs were the factors for the emergence of the regional political parties in India.

The emergence of the regional political parties in Meghalaya developed originally in the context of the struggle for the demand of the Hill State. Ever since 1972, within the framework of the representative democracy, it has exerted its influence in formulating the multi regional political party system in our state. Due to the existence of multi-cultures, multi-languages and factionalism in the region, a large number of regional political parties have emerged in the state since 1972. Most of the regional political parties emerged in the state from 1978 onwards. These regional political parties have influenced the democratic set up of the state from time to time, but their impacts at the national level have not been significant. Prior to 1972, Meghalaya had a single dominant party scenario for two terms indicating that a single regional political party is suitable for a small state like Meghalaya. The growth of a large number of regional political parties in the state seems to have made a significant impact on the stability of the Government in state politics. The existence of multi-regional political parties in Meghalaya has not contributed to the stability of the Government in the Legislature but has instead destabilized it.

**1.2. The Issues:** The existence of multi-regional political parties in Meghalaya has not contributed to the stability of the Government in the Legislature. Meghalaya has experienced several unstable Government from 1978-2013. The presences of multi-party system, weakness in leadership, selfishness of the leaders were the main causes of the instability of Government in Meghalaya. The growth of a large number of regional political parties in the state seems to bring electorate`s confusion in election and leadership challenges.

**1.3. Methodology:** This article seeks to identify the failures of the regional political parties in Meghalaya. This research investigation is based primarily on empirical-investigative method, where primary data are collected and obtained scheduled interview from leaders of various regional political parties and also by distributing questionnaires to forty Headmen selected from forty villages of West Khasi Hills District and 500 literate citizens who have crossed the age of 18 years. To complement on the research investigation, secondary data was also collected from books, and other related works.

**1.4 Instability of the Government:** An unstable Government is that type of the Government which is the most adaptable form in the democracy. This type of Government can be easily amended and changed in a short period of time. It is a Government which is not stable. Most of the scholars state that the reason for the emergence of the instability of various Governments is the lack of a single party to secure the majority in the house and so a coalition Government or front Government is formed. The Government cannot become stable because of the differences in opinion among the members of the parties by which it is formed. This makes the executive weak and unstable. Instability makes it impossible to pursue a long term continuous policy. Instability is one of the common features of the coalition Governments in most of the states in a democratic India. In this system, there is no

unity among the parties and the Government becomes weak and inefficient. An unstable Government always lacks uniformity in its policy, laws and which have been composed by heterogeneous groups.

**1.4.1 Instability of the Governments in Meghalaya (1978-2013):** Meghalaya has experienced the instability of Governments from 1978. After the *Second General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly held in 1978, it was inevitable that Meghalaya would suffer from an unstable Government as no party could obtain a majority in the House on account of the presence of multi regional political parties in the state. The *First* unstable Coalition Government known as the Meghalaya United Legislative Party was formed in March 10, 1978 by 16 All Party Hills Leaders Conference, 14 Hill State People Democratic Party and 2 Public Demand Implementation Convention MLAs with Shri D.D. Pugh from the All Party Hills Leaders Conference was sworn in as the Chief Minister but this Government did not last long. The *Next* unstable coalition Government known as the 'Two-Flag coalition Government' between the All People Hill Leaders Conference and the Public Demand Implementation Convention was formed in February, 1979 with D.D. Pugh from the All People Hill Leaders Conference as the Chief Minister. During 1978-79 two Coalition Governments were formed in the Legislature. The instability of Governments had been taking place in the state and the next unstable Government known as the United Meghalaya Parliamentary Democratic Forum was formed by the Hill State People Democratic Party, the Public Demand Implementation Convention and the All Party Hill Leaders Conference and (L) Shri B.B. Lyngdoh from the All Party Hill Leaders Conference was sworn in as the Chief Minister to complete the remaining tenure of the term. During this term three Governments emerged in the Legislature showing the instability of the Government in the state. (*Pakem, 1999*)

After the *Third General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly held in February 17, 1983, no party managed to obtain a majority in the House. The *First* unstable Government named as the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party was formed on 2 March, 1983 by all the regional political parties the Hill State People Democratic Party, the All Party Hills Leaders Conference, Public Demand Implementation Convention and 2 Independent MLAs with (L) Shri B.B. Lyngdoh from the All Party Hills Leaders Conference as the Chief Minister but the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party remained in office only for 29 days. The *Second* unstable Government known as the Meghalaya Democratic Front was formed in April 2, 1983 under the leadership of (L) Capt. W.A. Sangma from the Congress as the Chief Minister to complete the tenure till the 1988 General Elections. During this term two Governments emerged in the Legislature showing the instability of the Government in the state.

During the *Fourth General election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly held in February 2, 1988, the *First* unstable Government known as the United Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum was formed in February 6, 1988 with (L) Purno A. Sangma from the Congress as the Chief Minister, but remained in office for a short duration. Another unstable coalition Government known as the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party was

formed in March 26, 1990 with (L) B.B. Lyngdoh from the All Party Hill Leaders Conference-B as the Chief Minister. The *Third* unstable Government known as the United Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum was formed in February 6, 1992 with D.D. Lapang as the Chief Minister to complete the tenure of office. During this term, Meghalaya had experienced three Governments. (Pakem, 1999)

The *Sixth General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in February 16, 1998. The first unstable Ministry named as the Congress (I)-led Government was formed in February 27, 1998 with S. C. Marak as the Chief Minister for duration of 13 days. The next unstable coalition Government known as the United Democratic Front was formed in March 10, 1998 with (L) B.B. Lyngdoh from the United Democratic Party as Chief Minister. Meghalaya experienced another unstable Government known as the Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum in March 10, 2000 with (L) Evansius Kek Mawlong as the Chief Minister. The last Government was formed in December 8, 2001, by all regional political parties with (L) Flinder Anderson Khonglam as the Chief Minister to complete the tenure of office.

During the *Eighth General Elections* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly in 2008, Meghalaya again had experienced three unstable Governments. The first Government known as the Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum was formed in March 23, 2008 by 11 United Democratic Party, 14 Nationalist Congress Party, 1 Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement, 2 Hill State People Democratic Party, 1 Bharatiya Janata Party and 3 Independent MLAs with Dr. Donkumar Roy Lyngdoh from the United Democratic Party as the Chief Minister. (*Meghalaya Election Handbook February, 2008*) The last Government known as the Meghalaya United Alliance was formed in May 13, 2009 with Dr. D.D. Lapang from the Congress as the Chief Minister. This coalition Government completed the tenure of office till the next general assembly election was held in 2013.

**Table-1: Showing the Number of unstable Government 1972-2013.**

Term of Office	No of unstable Government
1970-1972	1 (Stable)
1972-1978	1 (Stable)
1978-1983	3 (Unstable)
1983-1988	2 (Unstable)
1988-1993	3 (Unstable)
1993-1998	1 (Stable)
1998-2003	4 (Unstable)
2003-2008	1 (Stable)
2008-2013	2 (Unstable)

**1.5. Causes of Instability of the Governments:** According to the data collected through scheduled interviews shows the causes of the instability of the Government in the state which can be summed up as follows:

**1.5.1. No Single Political Party can obtain an Absolute Majority in the Legislature:**

One of the major causes of the instability of the Government in the state is the lack of a single political party to secure majority seats in the house. Meghalaya has experienced several coalition Governments since the formation of the state till date. According to the interviews with citizens of the state, the instability of Governments in the state is the lack of a single political party to secure an absolute majority in the Assembly.

**1.5.2. Presence of a Multi-Party System:** A majority of the respondents commented that the existence of the multi party system in India paves the chance for the emergence of a large number of political parties in different states across the Country. This system has become a great stumbling block to the stability of the Government, both at the Centre and the Units. The presence of a large number of political parties in India has resulted in unstable Governments and has even created problems in the formation of the Governments. Most of the states in India fall victims to chaotic unstable Governments because of the multiplicity of political parties. In Meghalaya, this evil has been rampant since 1978.

**1.5.3. Weakness in Leadership:** Leadership crisis is responsible for the split of various political parties at the national as well as the state level resulting in the emergence of a large number of political parties in the state. According to the interview conducted, the character of the leaders has affected the political progress in the state. Meghalaya has had 23 Chief Ministers in 40 years and has experienced several unstable coalition Governments due to weakness of the leaders which have resulted in dissatisfaction among the leaders of various parties. The split of the APHLC in 1968 has been because of the dissatisfaction against the members of the party. The following are some of the weaknesses in leadership creating a negative impact on the instability of the coalition Governments in the state:-

**1.5.4. Selfishness of the Leaders:** Selfishness of the leaders is seen in each coalition Government from 1972-2013. A selfish leader is the main cause of the instability of a coalition Government. Some leaders do not have the ability to lead the parties, national or regional. Sometimes when they get a chance to lead the Government and when they been elected to the High Ministerial Posts, they have been accused of trying to be partially by bringing in development projects mostly to their own areas or to the constituencies they represent, ignoring the interests of all the people in the state. It is expected that the responsibilities of the leader is to advise, consult and supervise the working of the local leaders in various constituencies, to improve the working of the parties and to provide channels for gaining access to developmental schemes for the improvement of the standard of living of the people especially that of the rural people. However, there has always been lack of constructive relationship between the elected members or leaders of the parties at the top with the local leaders in the constituencies.

**1.5.5. Negligence of the High Party Leaders to Allot Ticket to a Good Leader:**

According to the findings, the high party leaders failed to allot ticket to a good leader and mostly the leaders allot ticket only those applicants who have a lot of money. The parties' always refused to allot ticket to applicant who is poor even he has good character, good

knowledge in governance. Most of the respondents commented that the political parties need only those candidate who have a lot of money and refused the candidate who have less money even he/she is a good leader. This is a major reason for the lack of a committed leadership. On the other hand, the candidate is being supported by a capitalist or millionaire during elections, so after he/she is elected he/she should be under the control by someone and neglect all the party agenda highlighted during elections. Nowadays, several Businessmen, Capitalists or millionaires became a Legislator because most of the high party leaders preferred to allot ticket to them than another forgetting the character or behavior of a leader.

**1.6. Electorates' Confusion in Elections:** The electorates become confused during elections as many regional political parties have emerged in various elections to compete for political power. Most of the people favour the regional parties but these parties just end up sharing a few winning seats among them due to the existence of a multi-party system in the state. In almost every constituency, there are more than three regional parties contesting the elections and the people are faced with a tough and uncertain decision as to which one is better among these three or more regional parties. The votes are split among these parties and the result is that they lose advantage over the national parties. For instance, in the 2003 *General Elections* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly in Mairang constituency, there were three regional political parties and the Indian National Congress in the constituency which contested the election. The Hill State People Democratic Party with (L) Shri Fuller L. Mawnai as its candidate, the Meghalaya Democratic Party with Shri R.S. Rani as its candidate, the United Democratic Party with Shri S. Ryntathiang as its candidate and Shri Boldness L. Nongum as the candidate from the Indian National Congress contested in this election. The Indian National Congress's candidate Shri Bolness L. Nongum won by securing 5594 votes, the Hill State People Democratic Party's candidate secured 4796 votes, the Meghalaya Democratic Party 4549 votes and the United Democratic Party 3754 votes. The 5594 votes won the elections whereas 13,099 votes split among the three regional political parties lost in the elections. This situation prevailed in almost all constituencies in the state elections.

**1.7. Leadership Challenges:** The presence of a large number of regional political parties in Meghalaya has created problems for the leaders of various political parties from the grassroots level/local level to the top i.e. the state level. The leadership challenges can be studied under the following heads:

**Leadership Challenges at the State Level when the Party is able to lead and Form the Coalition Government:** In the case of Meghalaya, after the first and second assembly election, the leader of the regional political party in Meghalaya who had led and formed the coalition Government did not face any problems regarding his position and leadership as the Government was stable. But after the General Election to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly held in February 25, 1978, a number of regional political parties has increased. In the elections, the Congress won 20 seats and was the single largest party in the Assembly followed by the All Party Hill Leader Conference with 16 seats and the Hill State People

Democratic Party with 14 seats. Shri D.D. Pugh from the All Party Hill Leader Conference had staked to form the coalition Government known as the Meghalaya United Legislative Party in March 10, 1978 for a period of 13 months. When the Hill State People Democratic Party was thrown out of the Ministry, Shri D.D. Pugh had tried to form another Coalition Government known as the "***Two-Flag Coalition Government***" of the All Party Hill Leader Conference and the People Democratic Information Conference in February 1979 and he was not able to satisfy the whole Cabinet of coalition partners and after some time there had arisen misunderstanding and internal conflicts within his party. Pugh remained in office only for two months. In May 4, 1979, (L) Shri B.B. Lyngdoh from the All Party Hill Leaders Conference together filed a vote of no-confidence against Pugh's coalition Ministry and won. (L) Shri B.B Lyngdoh got a chance to form a new coalition Government known as the United Meghalaya Parliamentary Democratic Forum in May 7, 1979 by the Hill State People Democratic Party, the People Demand Information Conference and the All Party Hill Leaders Conference, an agreement was made that (L) Shri B.B Lyngdoh would be a Chief Minister for a period of two years and (L) Capt W.A. Sangma would complete the remaining two years. He stayed for two years as the Chief Minister of Meghalaya. On the other hand, (L) Shri Capt. W.A. Sangma joined the post in May 7, 1981-February 24, 1983 to complete the remaining term. During 1972-78, Meghalaya had four Chief Ministers.

The unstable Government emerged after the *Third General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly held in February 17, 1983. Due to the presence of a large number of regional political parties in the state, no party could obtain a majority in the House. (L) Shri B.B. Lyngdoh from the All Party Hill Leaders Conference had staked to form the coalition Government named as the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party in march 2, 1983 with the help the Hill State People Democratic Party, All Party Hill Leaders Conference, Public Demand Implementation Convention and 2 Independents MLAs but lasted for only 29 days due to the selfishness and disunity of the leaders of the regional parties. (L) Capt. W.A. Sangma from Congress claimed to form the coalition Ministry called the Meghalaya Democratic Forum in April 2, 1983 to complete the full tenure of office.

After the *Fourth General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly held in February 2, 1988, no party managed to form a Government. The chance went to (L) P.A. Sangma from the Congress to form a coalition Government in February 6, 1988, but Sangma Ministry remained in office only for a period of 25 months. (Late) Shri B.B. Lyngdoh was able to form another coalition Government known as the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party in March 26, 1990. But due to the differences among the different regional political parties who made the coalition, the Lyngdoh Ministry remained in office for a period of eighteen months and fourteen days only. In October 10, 1991 due to the failure of the various parties to form the Government in the house, President's Rule was imposed in the state for a period of four months till the next coalition partners were able to form the coalition Government, Dr. D.D. Lapang with his coalition partners formed the United Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum in February 5, 1992 to completed the tenure of office. During 1983-88, Meghalaya had three Chief Ministers.

After the *Sixth General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly held in February 16, 1998, no party could get an absolute majority and was unable to form the Government in the Legislature. Shri S.C. Marak under the Congress (I)-led Government assumed office in February 27, 1998 but Marak`s coalition Ministry lasted only for duration of 13 days. (L) Shri B.B. Lyngdoh under the banner of the United Democratic Front formed in March 10, 1998 along with 20 United Democratic Party, 3 Bharatiya Janata Party, 3 Hill State People Democratic Party, 1 Garo National Council and 4 Independent MLAs but Lyngdoh Ministry remained in office for a period of 21 months and 28 days. The failure of the Lyngdoh`s Ministry provided a chance to (L) Shri Evansius Kek Mawlong under the banner of the Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum formed the Government in March 10, 2000. Mawlong Ministry remained in office for a period of 20 months and 28 days. After the fall of the Mawlong Ministry, (L) Dr Flinder Anderson Khonglam formed the coalition Government with the help of all the regional political parties and completed the tenure of office in March 4, 2003. During 1998-2003, Meghalaya had four Chief Ministers.

In the *Seventh General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly held in March 2003, no party secured a majority in the house. So, Dr. D.D. Lapang under the banner of the Meghalaya United Alliance formed a coalition Government in March 4, 2003 with the help of 9 United Democratic Party, 4 Meghalaya Democratic Party, 2 Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement and 5 Independent MLAs but Dr. D.D. Lapang was removed from the post and was replaced by Shri J.D. Rymbai in June 15, 2006 as the new Chief Minister. The Lapang Ministry remained in office for a period of three years and forty one days. The tension between the leader and the members of the party continued to increase from time to time which formed Shri J.D Rymbai to leave the Congress in March 10, 2007 and to later join the United Democratic Party as there is leadership challenge in the Congress. Rymbai`s Ministry remained in power for a period of eight months and 25 days. Dr. D.D. Lapang had been elected by the Congress Legislature party as the leader and he was re-elected as the Chief Minister in March 10, 2007 till the end of the term. During 2003-08, Meghalaya got one Government but three Chief Ministers.

The *Eighth General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in March 3, 2008. After the results of the election, Dr. Donkumar Lyngdoh under the banner of the Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum formed the coalition Government in March 23, 2008 with 11 United Democratic Party, 14 Nationalist Congress Party, 1 Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement, 2 Hill State People Democratic Party, 1 Bharatiya Janata Party and 3 Independent MLAs but Lyngdoh`s Ministry remained in office for a period of nine months and 25 days. Due to the weakness of Lyngdoh`s Ministry in the House, the Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Ranjit S. Mooshahary declared President`s Rule in March 18, 2009 for a period of five months, but in May 12, 2007, Dr. D.D. Lapang was able to form the coalition Government named as Meghalaya United Alliance in May 12, 2009 with the help of 11 United Democratic Party, 2 Hill State People Democratic Party, 1 Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement, and 4 Independent MLAs. Dr. D.D. Lapang was not able to satisfy the wishes of the members of the party so there was a demand from



the members of the party to change the leader of the Congress Legislature Party. The demand was so intense that the High Command from Delhi had to remove Lapang from the post in April 9, 2010 and replaced him with Dr. Mukul Sangma in April 20, 2010. Leaders face a lot of problems in the coalition Governments as they cannot run the Governments in a way that satisfy the many coalition partners or even the members of their own party. Dr. Mukul Sangma completed the tenure of office in March 23, 2013. During 2008-13, Meghalaya got three Chief Ministers.

**Table -2: Showing the Period of Office of CMs Demonstrating Problems of Leadership: 1970-2013**

Year	Names of Chief Ministers	Date of Entering	Duration
1970-72	1. Capt W. A. Sangma	March 1970 - December 1971	21 Months
1972-78	1. Capt W. A. Sangma	March, 1972	5 Years
1978-83	1. Shri D.D. Pugh	March 10, 1978 - February 21, 1979	13 Months
	2. Shri D.D. Pugh.	February 21, 1979 - May 6, 1979	2 Months
	3. Shri B.B. Lyngdoh	May 7, 1979 - May 7, 1981	2 Years
	4. Capt W.A. Sangma	May 7, 1981 - February 24, 1983	21 Months
1983-88	1. Shri B.B. Lyngdoh	March 2, 1983 - March 31, 1983	29 Days
	2. Capt W.A. Sangma	April 2, 1983 - February 5, 1988	4 Years 8 Mths
1988-93	1. Shri P.A. Sangma	February 6, 1988 - March 25, 1990	25 Months
	2. Shri B.B. Lyngdoh	March 26, 1990 - October 10, 1991	18 Months
	3. President`s Rule	February 5, 1992	3 Months
	4. Shri D.D. Lapang	February 5, 1992 - February 19, 1993	1 Year
1993-98	1. Shri S. C Marak	February 19, 1993-February 27, 1998	5 Years
1998-03	1. Shri S.C. Marak	Feb 27, 1998 - March 10, 1998.	13 days
	2. Shri B.B. Lyngdoh	March 10, 1998 - March 8, 2000	21 months
	3. Shri E.K. Mawlong	March 10, 2000 - Dec 8, 2001	20 months
	4. Dr. F.A. Khonglam	Dec, 2001 - March 4, 2003	15 months
2003-08	1. Shri D.D. Lapang.	March 4, 2003 - June 15, 2006	3 Years
	2. Shri J.D. Rymbai.	June 15, 2006 - March 10, 2007	8 Months
	3. Shri D.D. Lapang	March 10, 2007 - March 19, 2008	1 Year
2008-13	1. Dr. Donkumar Lyngdoh	March 23, 2008 - March 18, 2009	9 Months
	2. President`s Rule.	March 18, 2009 - May 12, 2009	1 Month
	3. Shri D.D. Lapang.	May 13, 2009 - April 9, 2010	10 Months
	4. Dr. Mukul Sangma	April 20, 2010 - March 23, 2013	2Year10Months

**1.8. Low Development in the State:** Meghalaya is one of the backward states in North East India covering an area of 22,429 sq.kms comprising of *Eleven Districts* comprising the East Khasi Hills District, West Khasi Hills District, South Garo Hills, West Garo Hills, East

Garo Hills, Jaintia Hills, Ri Bhoi District, North Garo Hills, South West Garo Hills, South West Khasi Hills and East Jaintia Hills and three District Councils viz. the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council; and about 6026 villages. The state has 4 Civil Sub-Divisions and for the upliftment of the rural areas, the state is now sub-divided into 46 Community Development Blocks. The important towns of the state are Sohra, Tura, Jowai, Nongstoin, Williamnagar, Nongpoh, Mawkyrwat, Khliehriat and Baghmara. The low development of the state can be studied under the following heads:

**1.9. Low Agricultural Development:** Agriculture plays a predominant role in the state's economy. Due to the lack of modern techniques, the process of agricultural activities continues to be handicapped by unchanging old methods of technology and large scale shifting cultivation which results in fluctuating agricultural activity. The people of the state are poor and backward. As majorities of the people are agriculturists, they do not get the adequate financial aids from the Government to improve agriculture; they carry their agricultural products from rural areas to Iewduh only and have to sell them at cheap prices. That is why the agriculturists in Meghalaya are very poor people.

**1.10. Low Industrial Development:** Meghalaya is an industrially backward state in North East India. The state Government does not provide any concrete plan for the establishment of large industries in the state. Most of the large industries in the state belong to the private companies which employ only a few tribal workers. The Government is providing little financial aids to all small and medium industries in the state. The Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation has taken many steps to enhance the progress of industries in the different places of the state by providing some financial aid to the private entrepreneurs to establish various industries in different parts of the state. The state Government has been trying to expand the establishment of the small industries in the state in the last decade.

**1.11. Low Educational Development:** Meghalaya still lacks the presence of enough number of educational institutions throughout the state. The state has no Engineering colleges, medical colleges, agricultural colleges and state universities. The state had received the blessings of education through the arrival of the Christian Missionaries in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The Christian Missionaries had brought tremendous change in the state by opening different educational institutions in the state. At present, the state has 4099 primary schools, 410 secondary schools and 42 colleges. These educational institutions are owned by both the private and the public sectors to impart education to the masses of the state. The state has some private Universities which are self-financed and all the colleges in the state are affiliated to Central University viz. North Eastern Hills University. The state Government has not been able to establish any state university and many Government Colleges in the state.

**1.12. Low Road Development:** Meghalaya is a hilly region and there are several mountains and hills in the state. The state needs a lot of money to construct roads through these mountains and hills especially in the Southern part of the state. The Government has not

done much regarding the construction of sufficient roads in the state. The failure of the Government in this respect is the shortage of money to construct roads in different regions of the state. A large number of rural villages and towns have no roads and most of the goods are carried by the people from rural villages to markets in the city on foot. There are many rural villages that do not have even a single road and the people face myriad problems in transportation and communication. During 2009-13, the MUA-II under the leadership of Dr. Mukul Sangma had tried to construct national highways in the state for the welfare of the people.

**1.13. Measures to Combat the Problems:** According to the interview conducted to the people of Mawthadraishan and Mairang Constituency, West Khasi Hills District, the problems can be easily removed by the following suggestions.

**1.13.1: A Single Unified Regional Political Party will Ensure the Stability of Government in Meghalaya:** It has been observed that multi-regional political party in Meghalaya has been contributed to the emergence of the coalition Governments in the Legislature. On account of multi party system, no single political party can secure an absolute majority in the legislature. Coalition government was inevitable in the state. Thus, the Single regional political party is the most important in Meghalaya.

**1.13.2: The Regional Political Parties need a Committed Leadership in the Political Domain:** One of the main problems of the regional political parties in the state is the mobility of elected members or leaders from party to party as to seek personal benefits either to get higher posts or to get in charge as Minister in the Government. The implementation of *Anti-Defection Law* by the Government of India is of great advantage to various states in India. In order to remove the problem the different regional political parties need a committed leadership in the political strategies. The leaders should have broad outlook, competent to rule, honest, hard work, have moral values and not insolvent.

**1.14. Conclusion:** The existence of multi-regional political parties in Meghalaya has not contributed to the stability of the Government in the Legislature but has instead destabilized it. An unstable Government is that type of the Government which can be amended and, generally, it is flexible in character. This type of Government can be easily amended and changed in a short period of time. Meghalaya has experienced several unstable Government from 1978-2013. The presence of multi-party system, weakness in leadership, selfishness of the leaders, negligence of the high party leaders to allot ticket to a good leaders were the main causes of the instability of Government in Meghalaya. The growth of a large number of regional political parties in the state seems to bring electorate's confusion in election and leadership challenges. The multi-regional political parties in Meghalaya cannot bring adequate development to the state in the areas of agriculture, industries, education and roads. The problems cannot be removed unless the political thinkers of the state developed only a single unified regional political party to compete political power with national parties and each regional political party should have a committed leadership in the political domain.

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