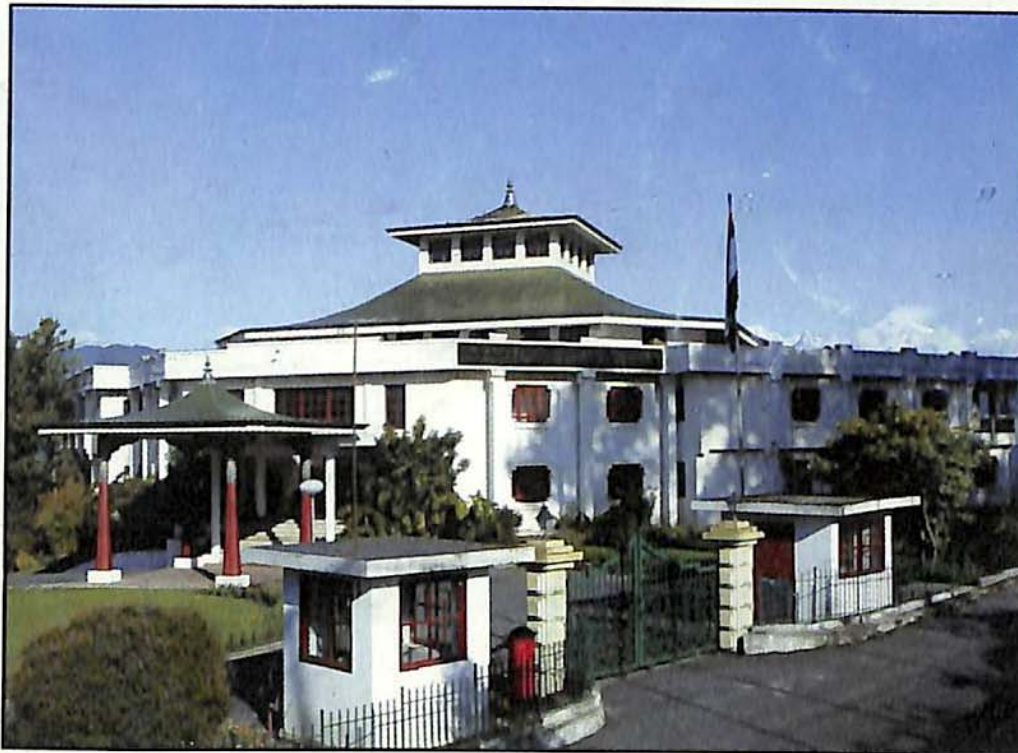




SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Retrospect and Perspective - An Overview



**SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
GANGTOK**

PREFACE

Sikkim became one of the States of India vide Constitution (Thirty Sixth Amendment) Act, 1975. The First Assembly started functioning in 1975 with 32 members elected in the elections held in April, 1974.

The Assembly and its Secretariat shifted to the present building in 1993. Set against the lofty Kanchenjunga massif and cradled on a ridge, flanked by lush green hills on all sides, the cream-white building stands in redolent splendour, sparkling in the sun and shimmering in moon-light. It is like a poet's dream and a lover's fantasy.

This brochure encapsules the history of the Sikkim Legislature, its composition from time to time, its functioning in brief and the structure of its Secretariat. The contribution of Library and Research Section is gratefully acknowledged in preparing the brochure.

Gangtok,
June 2, 2003

S.D. BASI, I.A.S.
COMMISSIONER-CUM-SECRETARY

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

RETROSPECT AND PERSPECTIVE – AN OVERVIEW

Sikkim became the 22nd State of India Vide Constitution (36th Amendment) Act, 1975. The Act provides that the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim shall consist of not less than thirty-two Members and that “the Assembly of Sikkim formed as a result of the elections held in Sikkim in April, 1974 with thirty-two Members elected in the said elections (hereinafter referred to as the sitting members) shall be deemed to be the Legislative Assembly of the State of Sikkim duly constituted under this Constitution”.

IN RETROSPECT

The long and chequered history of Legislature in Sikkim can be traced to the eighteen-nineties. An effort to introduce a rudimentary system of government on modern lines was made during the time of J. C. White, the first Political Officer. An Advisory Council, composed of nominated members, functioned to aid and advise the King. The meeting of the Council was not held at fixed intervals. The members were nominated mainly from the Kazis and other landlord classes and from both Bhutia, Lepcha and Nepali ethnic groups. In the late nineteen-thirties, membership of the Council increased. A definite system of organisation and functions had developed by 1935-36. The Council consisted of nine members during this period . It was deemed to have represented all interests and all castes and creeds in Sikkim. It met thrice a year, discussed the budget and submitted it for final approval of the Maharaja. It was the ruler's prerogative to pass any order independently of the Council. Special session of the Council could be convened any time for urgent affairs. The demand for reforms was growing during the nineteen-forties and the Durbar had to include six representatives from among the ryots as additional members of the State Council in the face of popular pressure.

There was an agitation in 1949. This led to the appointment of an Indian Officer as Dewan and the acceptance of the principle of progressive participation of people in the government. An Advisory committee composed of members nominated from all major political parties under the Presidency of the Dewan was formed. An all party agreement was reached in May, 1951. In March, 1953, a constitutional proclamation was issued by the Maharaja embodying the composition and powers of the State Council. According to the proclamation the State Council was composed of twelve elected members of which six were Sikkimese Bhutia or Lepcha and the remaining six were Sikkimese Nepalese. Apart from these, five members were nominated by the Maharaja at his discretion. As regards the powers and functions of the State Council, it was stated that subject to the assent of the Maharaja, the Council would have powers to enact laws for the peace, order and good government of Sikkim. The Council could not take into consideration any matter enumerated

as reserved subjects without the prior approval of the Maharaja.

FIRST ASSEMBLY

The Sikkim Assembly formed through the election held in 1974 with 32 members was deemed to be the First Legislative Assembly of Sikkim duly elected under the Constitution of India. Out of the total 32 seats, 15 seats were reserved for Nepalese of Sikkimese origin, 15 seats for Bhutia-Lepcha, 1 seat for Scheduled Castes and 1 seat for Sangha. Sikkim Congress led by Kazi Lhendup Dorjee won 31 seats and one seat went in favour of Sikkim National Party. Kazi Lhendup Dorjee was elected Leader of the House and became the first Chief Minister of Sikkim.

SECOND ASSEMBLY

The Second Assembly was constituted in 1979. However, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1979 abolished the reserved seats for the Nepalese of Sikkimese origin and provided seats in the Assembly as under : 12 reserved seats for Bhutia-Lepcha, 2 seats for Scheduled Castes, 1 seat for Sangha and the rest of the 17 seats were declared as general seats. The party position at the formation of the Assembly was : Sikkim Janata Parishad – 18, Sikkim Congress (R)-9, Sikkim Prajatantra Congress – 1, Independent – 2 and vacant 2 seats. Sikkim Janata Parishad which secured absolute majority in the House elected Shri N. B. Bhandari as the Leader of the House.

THIRD ASSEMBLY

The Third Assembly was constituted in March, 1985. The party position at the time of formation of the Assembly was : Sikkim Sangram Parishad – 30, Congress (I) – 1 and Independent – 1. Shri N. B. Bhandari, who was the leader of the House in the earlier House was re-elected the Leader of the House.

FOURTH ASSEMBLY

The Fourth Assembly was constituted in 1989. It was a mono party House. All the 32 seats were won by the Sikkim Sangram Parishad, led by Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari. Subsequently, the ruling party was fragmented into two groups. A Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister, Shri N. B. Bhandari was moved by Shri S.K. Pradhan on 17th May, 1994. The Motion was defeated and Shri Sanchaman Limboo was elected as the new Leader of the House. He formed a new Congress government which lasted the remaining term of the Fourth Assembly.

FIFTH ASSEMBLY

The Fifth Assembly was constituted in December, 1994. Out of 32 seats, 19 seats were won by the Sikkim Democratic Front which had contested

election for the first time, 10 seats by the Sikkim Sangram Parishad and 3 seats by Congress (I). Sikkim Democratic Front formed a new government under the leadership of Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling.

In 1995, the strength of Sikkim Sangram Parishad was reduced to 3 only because six of its members split and formed a separate group and one member was expelled.

In September, 1996, the six – members separate group led by Shri Ram Lepcha merged with the Sikkim Democratic Front, raising the strength of the ruling party to 25.

SIXTH ASSEMBLY

The Sixth Assembly was constituted in October, 1999. Out of 32 seats 25 seats were won by the Sikkim Democratic Front and 7 seats by the Sikkim Sangram Parishad. The Sikkim Democratic Front formed the government second time under the leadership of Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling.

In September 2000, the strength of Sikkim Sangram Parishad was reduced to 4 only because 3 of its members tendered resignation from the SSP Legislature party and joined the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front Legislature party.

In August, 2002, another 3 members of Sikkim Sangram Parishad resigned from the SSP Legislature party under intimation to the party President and formed a separate group. Thus the present strength of Sikkim Sangram Parishad Legislature party has been reduced to one only with 31 members in the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front Legislature party in the 32 members House.

PRESIDING OFFICERS

The first Speaker of the Sikkim Legislature Assembly was Shri C. S. Roy. Shri B. B. Goroong was elected as Speaker in October, 1977 after Shri C. S. Roy tendered his resignation. Shri R. C. Poudyal was the Deputy Speaker from 1975 to 1977 and Shri Kalzang Gyatso from 1977 to 1979. The Second Assembly constituted in 1979, elected Shri Sonam Tshering as the Speaker and Shri Lal Bahadur Basnett as the Deputy Speaker. The Speaker of the Third Assembly of Sikkim, constituted in 1985, was Shri Tulsi Ram Sharma and Deputy Speaker was Shri Ram Lepcha. The Fourth Assembly, constituted in December, 1989, had Shri Dorjee Tshering Bhutia as Speaker and the Deputy Speaker was Shri Bedu Singh Pant. However, the Deputy Speaker tendered his resignation in June, 1994 and the office of Deputy Speaker remained vacant for six months. The Fifth Assembly was constituted in December, 1994. The House elected Shri Chakra Bahadur Subba as the Speaker and Shri Dal Bahadur Gurung as the Deputy Speaker on December 29, 1994. The present and the Sixth Assembly was constituted in October, 1999. The House elected Smt. Kalawati Subba as the Speaker and Shri Palden

Lachungpa as the Deputy Speaker on 15th October, 1999.

COMMITTEES

The First Public Account Committee of Sikkim Assembly was formed in October, 1977. An Estimates Committee was formed by the Assembly in March, 1978. A Committee on Government Assurances was formed in September, 1978.

At present there are Seven Committees in the Sikkim Legislature including the three mentioned above. The other Committees are : Rules Committee, Library Committee, House Committee and Committee on Petitions. The Committee on Petitions was formed in March, 2003.

The Rules of Procedure provide for the setting up of Business Advisory Committee and Privileges Committee but they are yet to be constituted.

LANGUAGES USED IN THE ASSEMBLY

The business of the Assembly is transacted in the official languages of the State of Sikkim, namely Nepali, Bhutia, Lepcha, Limboo and Hindi or English. Members can also speak in other languages like Rai, Gurung, Tamang, Mangar, Sherpa and Newari which have been subsequently recognized as official languages after a Bill moved by Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling was passed in the Second Session (March 1995) of the Fifth Assembly. Sunuwar has also been recognized as an official language. A Bill to this effect was moved by Shri Chamling and passed by the Assembly in September, 1996. Speeches in these languages are simultaneously translated into Nepali. The entire proceedings are tape-recorded, transcribed by translators and then printed verbatim. There are no Reporters in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly so far.

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

The strength of the Assembly Secretariat along the State Legislators Hostel, which is under its jurisdiction is about 139 at present. The different sections in the Secretariat, the Administration, Editorial, Accounts, Committee and Library and Research, MLA Hostel, Protocol are regrouped under 2 main divisions:

- (i) Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs and
- (ii) Committee and Administration.

ASSEMBLY BUILDING

The Assembly complex, whose design reflects the rich architectural traditions of Sikkim, consists of the main Assembly block of circular design surrounded by a three-storey octagonal office. The complex houses the main

Assembly Hall, Visitors Gallery, Press Gallery, VIP enclosures, lounges, for Ruling and Opposition parties, two committee rooms, Officers for the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Banquet Hall and canteen-cum-cafeteria, among other things. It is equipped with all modern facilities such as interpreter booths, audio-control and sophisticated acoustics.

The foundation stone of the building was laid by the late Giani Zail Singh, President of India, on November 30, 1985 and inaugurated by Admiral R.H. Tahiliani, Governor of Sikkim, on March 3, 1993.

SPECIAL FEATURES

The Sikkim Legislative Assembly has its own peculiarities and specialties. As is known to all, Sikkim is a small State with an area of 7096 sq. kms, and a population of about 5.40 lakhs. With 32 constituencies, in a small State like this, a legislator has a small number of constituents. Sikkim is very close to the Greek ideal of city States. The conditions are different in Sikkim from other States. More than any other elected representative of the people, a legislator in Sikkim is in the closest contact with his constituents. It is perhaps only in Sikkim that every member of the constituency personally knows his legislator and vice versa.

Members take keen interest in the proceedings of the House. Nearly all of them are present in the House throughout a session. That is why the question of quorum has never been raised which is something very unique. Similarly a member has rarely been named by the Chair.

In spite of their political differences, Members function in the House as a team and co-operate with each other. They share the common vision of a better Sikkim and a prosperous Sikkimese people.

LOOKING TO FUTURE

The Sikkim Legislative Assembly has to go a long way in catching up with other States. However, the legislators, fully dedicated to the service of the people of Sikkim, have already demonstrated their will to be true legislators and their determination to uphold the highest traditions of parliamentary system. There is no doubt that Sikkim Legislative Assembly will continue to function as a model legislature.

1974

FIRST ASSEMBLY
MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

NAME OF MEMBER	NAME OF CONSTITUENCY
1. Shri Adar Singh Lepcha	Wak
2. Shri B. B. Gurung	Chakung
3. Shri Badrinath Pradhan	Temi Tarku
4. Shri Bhuwani Prasad Dahal	Rateypani-West pendam
5. Shri Bhuwani Prasad Kharel	Rhenock
6. Shri C.S. Roy.	Soreng
7. Shri Degay Bhutia	Yoksam
8. <u>Shri Dorji Tshering Bhutia</u>	Gangtok
9. Shri Dugo Bhutia	Assam-Lingzey
10. Smt. Hemlata Chettri	Geyzing
11. <u>Shri Krishna Bahadur Limbu</u>	Daramdin
12. <u>Shri Krishna Chandra Pradhan</u>	Jorethang-Nayabazar
13. <u>Shri Kehar Singh Karki</u>	Central Pendam
	East-Pendam
14. Shri Kusu Das	Khamdong
15. Shri Kalzang Gyatso Bhutia	Kabi-Tingda
16. Shri Karma Gompu Lama	Sangha
17. Shri Lhendup Dorji Khangsarpa	Tashiding
18. Shri Loden Tshering Bhutia	Dzongu
19. Shri Mohan Gurung	Regu
20. <u>Shri Nar Bahadur Khatiwada</u>	Dentam
21. Shri Nayan Tshering Lepcha	Rinchenpong
22. Shri Nanda Kumar Subedi	Burmiok
23. Shri Nim Tshering Lepcha	Ranka
24. Shri Nanda Bahadur Rai	Melli
25. Shri Passang Tshering Bhutia	Ralang
26. Shri Phigu Tshering Bhutia	Rumtek
27. Shri Ratna Bejoy Rai	Damthang
28. Shri R.C. Poudyal	Loosing-Pachekhani
29. Shri Rinzing Tongden Lepcha	Rakdong-Tentek
30. Shri Songpon Lepcha	Pathing
31. Shri Shepchung Lepcha	Martam
32. Shri Tasa Tengay Lepcha	Lachen-Mangshila

1979

SECOND ASSEMBLY
MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

NAME OF MEMBER	NAME OF CONSTITUENCY
1. <u>Shri Athup Lepcha</u>	Dzongu
2. Shri B. B. Gurung	Jorethang-Naya Bazar
<u>3.</u> <u>Shri B.B. Lohar</u>	Ratepani-West-Pendam
4. Shri B.P. Kharel	Central Pendam -East Pendam
5. <u>Shri C. B. Rai</u>	Chakung
6. Shri Chamla Tshering	Ralang
7. Shri Sonam Tshering Bhutia	Rakdong Tinkek
8. Shri Dadul Bhutia	Rumtek
9. Shri D. B. Thatal	Khamdong
10. <u>Shri Dorjee Tshering Bhutia</u>	Ranka
11. Shri Dowgyal Pintso Bhutia	Tashiding
12. Shri Garjaman Gurung	Wak
13. Shri I. B. Limbu	Geyzing
<u>14.</u> <u>Shri J. B. Pradhan</u>	Lossing Pachekhani
<u>15.</u> <u>Shri K. N. Upreti</u>	Rhenock
16. Shri Katuk Bhutia	Rinchenpong
17. Shri L. B. Basnet	Gangtok
18. Rev. Lachen Gomchen Rimpochi	Sangha
19. Shri Mohan Prasad Sharma	Melli
<u>20.</u> <u>Shri N. B. Khatiwada</u>	Temi Tarku
21. Shri N. B. Bhandari	Soreng
22. Shri Pradeep Yonzon	Damthang
<u>23.</u> <u>Shri Padam Bahadur Gurung</u>	Daramdin
24. <u>Shri Padam Lal Gurung</u>	Demtam
25. Shri Ram Lepcha	Pathing
26. <u>Shri Sanchaman Limbu</u>	Yuksam
27. Shri Samten Tshering Bhutia	Martam
28. Shri Sherab Palden	Assam Lingzey
29. Shri Sonam Tshering Lepcha	Kabi Tingda
30. Shri Tenzing Dadul Lepcha	Lachen Mangshila
31. <u>Shri Till Bahadur Limbu</u>	Burmiok
32. <u>Shri Tulshi Ram Sharma</u>	Regu

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THIRD ASSEMBLY
MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

NAME OF MEMBER	NAME OF CONSTITUENCY
1. Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari	Soreng
2. Shari Dilliram Basnet	Melli
3. Shri Chamla Tshering Bhutia	Martam
4. <u>Shri Dorjee Tshering Bhutia</u>	Ranka
5. Shri Ongni Tob Bhutia	Rumtek
6. Shri Ongdi Bhutia	Rinchenpong
7. Shri Phuchung Bhutia	Rakdong Tintek
8. Shri Ugen Pintso Bhutia	Tashiding
9. Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling	Damthang
10. Shri Bedu Singh Chettri	Wak
11. Shari Man Bahadur Dahal	Geyzing
12. <u>Shri Padam Bahadur Gurung</u>	Daramdin
13. <u>Shri Padam Lal Gurung</u>	Dentam
14. Shri Namkha Gyaltsen	Sangha
15. Shari Kalzang Gyatso	Kabi Tingda
16. Shri Sonam Gyatso Kaleon	Ralang
17. Shri Bhakta Bahadur Khulal	Lossing Pachekhani
18. Shri Thukchuk Lachungpa	Lachen Mangshila
19. Shri Ram Lepcha	Pathing
20. Shri Sonam Choda Lepcha	Dzongu
21. Shri Sonam Dupden Lepcha	Assam Lingzey
22. <u>Shri Sanchaman Limbu</u>	Yoksam
23. Shri Chandra Kumar Mohora	Ratepani - West Pendam
24. Shri Sukumar Pradhan	Central Pendam -East Pendam
25. Shri Bhimraj Rai	Jorethang Naya Bazar
26. Shri Indra Bahadur Rai	Temi Tarku
27. <u>Shri Taraman Rai</u>	Chakung
28. <u>Shri Birkhaman Ramudamu</u>	Khamdong
29. Shri Balchand Sarda	Gangtok
30. <u>Shri Birbal Subba</u>	Burmiok
31. Shri Tulshi Ram Sharma	Regu
32. <u>Shri Khara Nanda Upreti</u>	Rhenock

FOURTH ASSEMBLY, 1989
MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

NAME OF MEMBER	NAME OF CONSTITUENCY
1. Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari	Soreng
2. Shri Dilliram Basnet	Melli
3. Shri Chamla Tshering Bhutia	Martam
4. Shri Dorjee Tshering Bhutia	Ranka
5. Shri Ongni Tob Bhutia	Rumtek
6. Smt. Chewang Lhamu Bhutia	Rinchenpong
7. Shri Phuchung Bhutia	Rakdong Tintek
8. Shri Ugen Pintso Bhutia	Tashiding
9. Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling	Damthang
10. Shri Bedu Singh Chettri	Wak
11. Shri Man Bahadur Dahal	Geyzing
12. Shri Padam Bahadur Gurung	Daramdin
13. <u>Shri Padam Lal Gurung</u>	Dentam
14. Shri Namkha Gyaltsen	Sangha
15. Shri Hangu Tshering Bhutia	Kabi Tingda
16. Shri Sonam Gyatso Kaleon	Ralang
17. Shri Rup Raj Rai	Lossing pachekhani
18. Shri Tasa Tengay Lepcha	Lachen Mangshila
19. Shri Ram Lepcha	Pathing
20. Shri Sonam Choda Lepcha	Dzongu
21. Shri Sonam Dupden Lepcha	Assam Lingzey
22. <u>Shri Sanchaman Limbu</u>	Yoksam
23. Shri Chandra Kumar Mohora	Ratepani W. Pendam
24. Shri Sukumar Pradhan	Central Pendam -East Pendam
25. Shri Bhimraj Rai	Jorethang-Naya Bazar
26. Shri Indra Bahadur Rai	Temi Tarku
27. <u>Shri Taraman Rai</u>	Chakung
28. <u>Shri Birkhaman Ramudamu</u>	Khamdong
29. Smt. Manita Pradhan	Gangtok
30. <u>Shri Birbal Subba</u>	Bermiok
31. <u>Shri Rajendra Upreti</u>	Regu
32. <u>Shri Khara Nanda Upreti</u>	Rhenock

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FIFTH ASSEMBLY 1994
MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

NAME OF MEMBER	NAME OF CONSTITUENCY
1. Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling	Damthang
2. Shri Phur Tshering Lepcha	Rinchenpong
3. <u>Shri Garjaman Gurung</u>	Temi Tarku
4. <u>Shri Dorjee Dazom Bhutia</u>	Ralong
5. Shri Hishey Lachungpa	Lachen Mangshila
6. Shri Dilli Prasad Kharel	Central Pendum – East Pendum
7. Shri Thinley Tshering Bhutia	Kabi Tingda
8. <u>Shri Prem Singh Tamang</u>	Chakung
9. Shri Dil Bahadur Thapa	Lossing Pacheykhani
10. <u>Shri Ran Bahadur Subba</u>	Daramdin
11. <u>Shri Tulshi Prasad Pradhan</u>	Burmiok
12. Shri Kedarnath Rai	Wak
13. Shri Aita Singh Baraily	Rateypani-West Pendum
14. <u>Shri Chakra Bahadur Subba</u>	Dentam
15. Shri Dal Bahadur Gurung	Geyzing
16. Shri Gopal Lamichaney	Khamdong
17. Shri Bhoj Raj Rai	Jorethang-Naya Bazar
18. Shri Girish Chandra Rai	Melli
19. Shri Karna Bahadur Chamling	Regu
20. Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari	Soreng
21. Shri Thutop Bhutia	Tashiding
22. <u>Shri Khara Nanda Upreti</u>	Rhenock
23. Shri Ram Lepcha	Pathing
24. Shri Mingma Tshering Sherpa	Rakdong-Tintek
25. Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha	Martam
26. <u>Shri Menlom Lepcha</u>	Rumtek
27. Shri Tseten Tashi	Assam Lingzey
28. Smt. Rinzing Ongmu	Ranka
29. Shri Narendra Kumar Pradhan	Gangtok
30. Shri Ashok Kumar Subba	Yuksam
31. Shri Namkha Gyaltzen	Sangha
32. Shri Sonam Choda Lepcha	Dzongu

SIXTH ASSEMBLY 1999

MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

NAME OF MEMBER	NAME OF CONSTITUENCY
1. Smt. Kalawati Subba	Yoksam
2. Shri Thutop Bhutia	Tashiding (BL)
3. Shri Sher Bahadur Subedi	Geyzing
4. Shri Narendra Kumar Subba	Dentam
5. Shri Tulsī Prasad Pradhan	Bermiok
6. Shri Ongden Tshering Lepcha	Rinchenpong (BL)
7. Shri Prem Singh Tamang	Chakung
8. Shri Ram Bahadur Subba	Soreng
9. Shri Ran Bahadur Subba	Daramdin
10. Shri Bhoj Raj Rai	Jorethang (Naya Bazar)
11. Shri Dorji Dazom Bhutia	Ralang (BL)
12. Shri Kedar Nath Rai	Wak
13. Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling	Damthang
14. Shri Girish Chandra Rai	Melli
15. Shri Chandra Kumar Mohora	Rateypani-West Pendām (SC)
16. Shri Garjaman Gurung	Temi Tarku
17. Shri Sang Dorjee Tamang	Central Pendām – East Pendām
18. Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari	Rhenock
19. Shri Karna Bahadur Chamling	Regu
20. Shri Sonam Dorjee	Pathing (BL)
21. Shri Jai Kumar Bhandari	Loosing Pachekhāni
22. Shri Gopal Lamichaney	Khamdong (SC)
23. Shri Sonam Gyatso	Dzongu (BL)
24. Shri Hissey Lachungpa	Lachen Mangshila (BL)
25. Shri Thinley Tshering Bhutia	Kabi Tingda (BL)
26. Shri Mingma Tshering Sherpa	Rakdong Tintek (BL)
27. Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha	Martam (BL)
28. Shri Karma Tempo Namgyal Gyaltsen	Rumtek (BL)
29. Shri Tseten Tashi Bhutia	Assam Lingzey (BL)
30. Shri Tseten Dorjee Lepcha	Ranka (BL)
31. Shri Narendra Kumar Pradhan	Gangtok
32. Shri Palden Lachungpa	Sangha