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(17)

Mizoram State Matter

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: J

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 28/11/20

Mizoram Assembly Speaker disqualifies Lalduhoma

He was the first MP to have been debarred from Lok Sabha

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GUWAHATI

India's first Member of Parliament to have been disqualified from the Lok Sabha has now been disqualified as an MLA in Mizoram.

Mizoram Assembly Speaker, Lalrinliana Sailo, on Friday debarred Lalduhoma, a retired IPS officer who was in charge of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's security, from the 40-member House.

The disqualification was on the ground that Mr. Lalduhoma had declared himself as a representative of the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) despite being elected as an independent candidate from the Serchhip constituency. "He lost the character of an independent legislator because of the declaration," Mr. Sailo said.

The disqualification made Mr. Lalduhoma, 71, earn the dubious distinction of meeting the same fate in Parlia-



Lalduhoma

ment and an Assembly.

In 1988, the former police officer became the first MP to have been disqualified under the Anti-Defection Law for giving up membership of the Congress (I). He was elected to the Lok Sabha uncontested in 1984 as the Congress candidate but fell out with the party leadership.

He formed the Mizo National Union, which later merged with the regional Mizoram People's Convention. He later joined the Mizo National Front but broke away to form the Zoram Nationalist Party (ZNP).

Prior to the 2018 Assembly polls, the ZNP and five other regional parties formed the ZPM. The ZPM won seven Assembly seats to become the principal Opposition party. With Mr. Lalduhoma's disqualification, the ZPM now has six MLAs.

Petition by MNF

In September, 12 legislators of the ruling MNF had petitioned the Speaker demanding Mr. Lalduhoma's disqualification for allegedly violating the Constitution.

The MLAs alleged that Mr. Lalduhoma, elected as an independent, had breached Para 2(2) of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution by defecting to the ZPM. They also said he had indulged in ZPM activities by attending the party office and inducting new members into the party at functions across Mizoram, which "clearly manifested that he defected to the ZPM".