

Former chief election commissioner Manohar Singh Gill passes away

Bharti Jain / TNN / Oct 15, 2023, 10.24 PM IST



NEW DELHI: Former chief election commissioner of India and Union minister of state in the Manmohan Singh government Manohar Singh Gill passed away on Sunday. He was 87.

According to reports, he breathed his last at a hospital here.

The Election Commission, in a statement, said it “deeply mourns the demise of its 11th chief election commissioner”.

“Dr M S Gill, a brilliant officer of the 1958 batch of Indian Administrative Services Punjab cadre was CEC during the period from 12th December 1996 to 13th June 2001. He succeeded Shri T N Seshan as the CEC of India. During his tenure as CEC, ECI successfully conducted the general elections to the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998 and 13th Lok Sabha in 1999; 11th Presidential elections and Vice-Presidential elections in 1997, and general elections to legislative assemblies in more than 20 states,” added EC.

Stating that Gill’s leadership and commitment to the electoral process would continue all officers and staffers in the Election Commission of India, the poll panel said “we pray for the noble departed soul and convey our profound condolences”.

Gill was awarded Padma Vibhushan, the country's second highest civilian award, in the year 2000. He later joined the Congress and was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2004.

Gill was the second former CEC to join the Congress. His predecessor T N Seshan had also fought the 1999 Lok Sabha poll from Gandhinagar on a Congress ticket, but was defeated by his BJP rival L K Advani. Gill had served as Union minister of state in the ministry of youth affairs and sports as well as ministry of statistics and programme implementation in UPA's second term.