

Former chief election commissioner MS Gill passes away at 87

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Former chief election commissioner of India Manohar Singh Gill

NEW DELHI: Former chief election commissioner of India and junior minister 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".

"M S Gill, a brilliant officer of the 1958 batch of IAS 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 polls and Vice-Presidential elections in 1997, and polls to assemblies in more than 20 states," added EC.

Stating that Gill's leadership and commitment to the electoral process would continue to inspire all in the ECI, the poll panel said "we pray for the noble departed soul and convey our profound condolences".

Gill was awarded Padma Vibhushan in the year 2000. He later joined Congress and was elected to the RS in 2004.