

[23 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

On the basis of an application moved by the Election Commission, this Order was stayed by the Supreme Court with the observation that the High Court could not have passed the Order during the course of the election process. However, the SLP [No. 9204-05/2004-ECI *vs.* Jan Chowkidar (Peoples Watch) & Otrs.] is pending before the Supreme Court for final disposal.

The Commission endorses that the law should be amended as proposed above.

Women's Reservation Bill

2039. SHRIMATI BIMLA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have pledged in the Common Minimum Programme to introduce a legislation providing for one-third reservation for women in the Central and the State Legislatures;

(b) if so, whether it has been decided to introduce the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill in the second phase of the Budget Session; and

(c) whether the Bill would be introduced in original form or with riders like a Kangaroo quota (provisions for an OBC quota within the quota)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The National Common Minimum Programme provides that the United Progressive Alliance Government will take the lead to introduce legislation for one-third reservation for women in Vidhan Sabhas and in the Lok Sabha.

(b) and (c) The above said proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Pending criminal cases in Supreme Court

†2040. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of criminal cases from

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the States of UP., H.P, Punjab and Haryana are pending with the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the cases are likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):

(a) and (b) The number of criminal cases pending in the Supreme Court in respect of UP, H.P. and Punjab and Haryana is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Since 2002, separate regular Benches have been constituted in the Supreme Court primarily to deal with criminal appeals including the appeals in which the accused/appellants were in custody.

By the above process, the pendency of such appeals has practically come to minimal. The pendency of many such appeals is due to the fact that these appeals having been filed recently are not ready for hearing.

Statement

*Pendency of criminal cases from U.P, H.P. and Punjab and Haryana
in Supreme Court*

Ad mission Matters				Regular Matters		
Actual number of files						
Year	U.P.	H.P.	PandH	U.P.	H.P.	PandH
1998	0	0	0	1	0	0
1999	0	0	0	3	0	2
2000	0	0	0	4	0	2
2001	1	0	1	6	1	3
2002	4	0	6	55	9	37
2003	86	3	78	61	10	66
2004	195	5	199	45	3	70
TOTAL:	286	8	284	175	23	180