

[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.