

Reduction in age limit for postal ballot

578. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reduced the age limit for senior citizens who can opt for postal ballot in Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, following the COVID-19 pandemic situation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and implementation status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 was amended to reduce the age limit for protection of vulnerable persons above 65 years of age and the same was notified on 19th June, 2020 in pursuance of section 169 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

Subsequently, the Election Commission has announced that it has decided not to issue Notification under section 60 (c) of the said Act to extend the facility of postal ballot to electors above 65 years of age in General Assembly Elections in Bihar and bye elections due in the near future in view of constraints of logistics, manpower and safety protocols of Covid-19.

Speedy justice under Article 39A of the Constitution

579. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not been successful in providing speedy justice as written in Article 39A of the constitution;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for Government not being successful in achieving the objective of Article 39A of the Constitution; and

(d) the efforts made to remove the said problem?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (d) Article 39-A of the Constitution provides that the State shall secure that the