

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Aspirants with criminal past should not get ticket, EC tells SC

Court for steps to end nexus with politicians

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a proposition made by the Election Commission (EC) to ask political parties to not give ticket to those with criminal antecedents.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman, senior advocate Vikas Singh said 46% of Members of Parliament have criminal records.

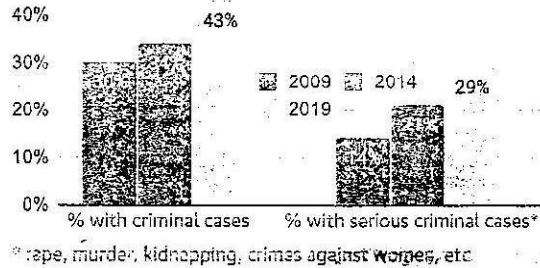
Verdicts in vain

The Supreme Court's long string of judgments against criminalisation of politics had hardly scratched the surface of the deep rot.

The Bench, also compris-

Under the scanner

Close to 43% winners of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls have criminal cases against them, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms



ing Justice Ravindra S. Bhat, asked Mr. Singh and petitioner Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay's lawyer, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, to put their heads together and come up with a joint proposal detailing how it can be ensured that parties did not fall in with criminal politicians.

Justice Nariman, speaking

for the Bench, said just a move to steer politics away from the denizens of the criminal world would definitely serve national and public interest.

The top court gave the two senior lawyers a week's time to come up with their proposal.

Mr. Singh said the Commission had tried several measures to curb criminali-

sation of politics, but to no avail. Mr. Upadhyay had filed a contempt petition seeking action against the authorities and parties for not complying fully with a September 2018 judgment of a Constitution Bench, which had directed political parties to publish online the pending criminal cases against their candidates.

'Cleansing parties'

The judgment had urged Parliament to bring a "strong law" to cleanse political parties of leaders facing trial for serious crimes.

The ruling by a five-judge Bench led by then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra concluded that rapid criminalisation of politics cannot be arrested by merely disqualifying tainted legislators but should begin by "cleansing" the political parties.