

WILL BONDS REVEAL FUND SOURCE, SC ASKS GOVT

Relevant for: Indian Polity | Topic: Elections, Election Commission and the Electoral Reforms in India Incl. Political Parties

The exchange came hours before the announcement of date for the Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh.

Mr. Sibal said the court should consider the cardinal issue of the impact of electoral bonds on Article 324. "Free and fair elections are central to a democracy. It is the basic structure... Now an opaque way of funding political parties where you do not even know who is funding whom destroys the very concept of Article 324. This is a matter for a larger Bench," he argued.

Justice Gavai indicated that the court should first hear on whether the case should be referred to a larger Bench. He said it was the prerogative of the CJI to form a larger Bench, if required. The court scheduled the hearing on December 6.

Mr. Bhushan flagged three important issues highlighted in the petitions. He said, besides the question of validity of electoral bonds, separate petitions have questioned whether or not political parties came under the ambit of the RTI Act. He said the third issue was the challenge to the retrospective amendments made to the FCRA.

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