



LOK SATTA

People Power

Constitutional and Legal Basis for Right to Information

9th November, 2002, Hyderabad

Right to Information and Candidate Disclosure

- LOK SATTA's screening of candidates (Election Watch – 1999)
- Release of list of 45 candidates with criminal record
- Criminalization arrested
 - Established politicians continue
 - New candidates with criminal record **not** nominated
- Reversal of major political choices
 - Kurnool ZP chairman candidate changed by majority party in 2001 on disclosure of antecedents

Candidate Disclosure

- PIL based on Election Watch work
- Delhi High Court judgment directing disclosures Nov. 2000
- Supreme Court judgment May 2, 2002
- Candidate disclosure declared a part of Right to Information under Art 19 (1)
- EC has powers under Art. 324 to direct furnishing of information
 - Convictions
 - Charges pending
 - Assets
 - Liabilities to public financial institutions
 - Educational qualifications

Current Position on Disclosures

- EC's order directing disclosures June 28, 2002
- Government's Ordinance August 25, 2002
- Section 33 B curtails Right to Information
- LOK SATTA's appeal before Supreme Court
- Judgment reserved
- National Campaign for Electoral Reforms launched
- 98.1 % wanted disclosures in people's ballot Oct. 2002
- No disclosure – No vote campaign