

AAP leader moves HC against BJP MP's election

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

AAP leader Somnath Bharti on Saturday moved the Delhi High Court, challenging the election of BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj, citing alleged corrupt practices. Both had contested the Lok Sabha election from the New Delhi constituency.

"The petitioner secured 3,74,815 votes and [Ms.] Swaraj secured 4,53,185 votes as per the returning officer," the plea said. However, it added that on May 25, Mr. Bharti had seen Ms. Swaraj's booth agents showing pamphlets displaying her ballot number, photo, election symbol, and photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking them to vote for her.

Justice Manmeet PS Arora will hear the plea on Monday.

Deccan Chronicle

Dated: 22.07.2024

SC to hear today PIL over poll bond probe

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Monday public interest litigations (PIL) seeking a court-monitored investigation into the electoral bonds scheme.

A bench, comprising Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, is likely to hear the PILs filed by NGOs — Common Cause and the Centre for Public Interest Litigation.

The PILs have alleged an "apparent quid pro quo" between political parties, corporations and Central investigative agencies.

Dubbing the electoral bonds scheme a "scam", the pleas sought a direction to authorities to investigate the source of funding of "shell compa-

nies and loss-making companies that made donations to various political parties, as has been disclosed by the data released by the Election Commission".

The plea has also sought a direction to the authorities to recover the money donated by companies as part of "quid pro quo arrangements where these are found to be the proceeds of crime".

On February 15, a five-judge Constitution bench had scrapped the electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding introduced by the BJP government.

The SC had also directed the State Bank of India (SBI), the authorised financial institution under the scheme, to share the data with the EC, which the latter made public.