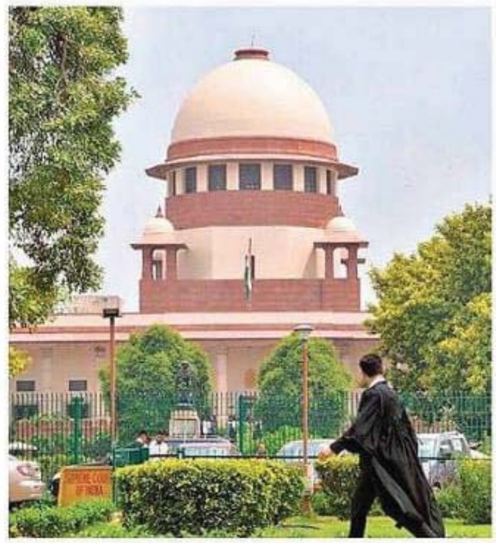
The Hindu Pg 12, 10th Dec 2020

'Appoint observer for Franklin MF e-voting'

SEBI told to place results before SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to appoint an observer for overseeing the e-voting process, scheduled in the last week of December, for winding up of Franklin Templeton's six mutual fund schemes.



"SEBI shall appoint an observer regarding the e-voting of unit holders which is scheduled between December 26 [and] December 29, 2020," a Bench of Justices S. Abdul Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna said.

The results of the e-voting would not be announced, but produced before the court in a sealed cover along with the report of the observer appointed by the SEBI.

"SEBI would also file a copy of the final forensic audit report before this court in a sealed cover. It is made clear that the trustees are undertaking the exercise of e-voting and SEBI, in terms of our directions, is appointing an observer," the court noted.

The court directed that the interim order passed on December 3 staying redemption payment to the unit holders would continue till the next date of hearing. The court listed the case for hearing next in the third week of January.