

EC should be Supreme
When elections are declared

The Hindu

Not justified

Sir, — The Election Commission's reasoning in allowing the Prime Minister to use the Government/Air Force helicopters and planes for electioneering on the plea that he stands apart from all others is neither convincing nor fully justified. The EC should remember that Mr. Rao is campaigning as the Congress(I) president. If it is concerned with the security of the Prime Minister, it would be only proper on its part to permit him to do so on payment of the standard cost for their use to the national exchequer. To give teeth to all the EC's fiats, it would be necessary to pass a legislation empowering the declaration of President's rule at the Centre and Governor's rule in all the States as soon as elections are declared.

N. Harihara Subramaniyan, Madras

State funding of elections

Sir, — In his article on State funding of elections (*The Hindu*, April 9), Mr. Rameshwar Rao says that the French system of State funding can stave off "irresponsible" independents — by stipulating that the candidate should give a bond, secured by a bank guarantee that if he fails to get a minimum of 8 per cent of the votes cast, he would refund the amount spent by the State on his election. This method of funding