

Babus say Kiran Bedi is a 'radical'

Home Ministry babus oppose Bedi's candidature for the post of commissioner.

METRONOW REPORTER

Super-cop Kiran Bedi's candidature for the post of Delhi Police Commissioner may have run into rough weather as bureaucrats in the home ministry are said to be opposing her tooth-and-nail on the grounds that she is outspoken and 'radical'.

Bedi is a contender for the top police post along with Special Commissioner of Police Yudhvir Singh Dadwal. According to highly-placed sources in the home ministry, DGP Gopal Sharma, the head of Jammu and Kashmir Police, who till some days back was also in the reckoning, is no more in the race.

The sources said that Bedi's opposition had become fiercer in the last few days as Home Minister Shivraj Patil is on the verge of deciding the successor to K.K. Paul, the present Commissioner of Delhi Police.

Paul, who is the longest serving Delhi Police Commissioner, will be retiring on February 29, 2009. He has completed three years and four months as Commissioner. He may be made a member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) replacing Subir Dutta who had taken over the chairmanship from Gurbachan Jagat earlier this month. Jagat, an IPS officer, retired on June 30 this year.

Patil, according to Home Ministry sources, discussed the appointment of the new Delhi Police Commissioner



Kiran Bedi

with Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta on Tuesday and is expected to take a decision within this week.

Kiran Bedi, a high-profile officer and the first woman who joined the IPS in 1972, had a bitter confrontation with lawyers at Tis Hazari court complex in the past.

Currently designated as Director General Home Guards, she also served, among other posts, as head of Tihar jail and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in the past.

When contacted, Bedi said, "Right now I am down with viral fever. I'm not in office and cannot say anything now. But I will definitely answer this query later."