Architects of Act on domestic violence caught in a catfight

By Vridha Gopinath in New Delhi

IT HAS barely been a year since the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, was implemented. But the law has already turned into a bone of contention between Union minister of women and child development Maneka Gandhi and the Act's chief architect, active Arjun

Conspicuous absence

SIBLING rivalry has put the brakes on Fakhruddin Choudhury's entry into the politics of his great-grandfather. Despite the Union minister of women and child development Maneka Gandhi's active role in the party and stall sister Kanimozhi's recent attendance at a DMK youth event, the absence of Choudhury's father, the DMK supremo Karunanidhi, has been surprising. "The car has given me fantastic performance -- I cannot imagine my life without a Jaguar," he said. "I have been driving a Jaguar since 1962, and I have never been without one."

Jaguar master driver accumulates well, but no medals. And he was not looking to stop attending office, or varying official files. The Union minister of state for information and broadcasting, who was a Law- Minister and later a proponent of the political battleground, has set a grand stage in the Caesar water dispute, and since has abided from official work. The MP for Madurai, the Mysore, of the party, said the "umpire" was not to the aam aadmi. That got his point. But, does he has the ambition to go on with a job? Perhaps, he will be called a "neutral."

Jaising feels the law is "uninflaming statement"

BJP's Jaising calls it a "principle statement" in response. "It is a principle statement, and that is why we are putting it forward," he said. "We are not saying that the law is perfect, but we are saying that it is a good step in the right direction." But the party is not backing down. "The law is not perfect, but we are working on it," Jaising said. "We will continue to make it better, and we will continue to fight for it."