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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 5/2/2020

Why no action on pleas on T.N. MLAs' disqualification, asks SC

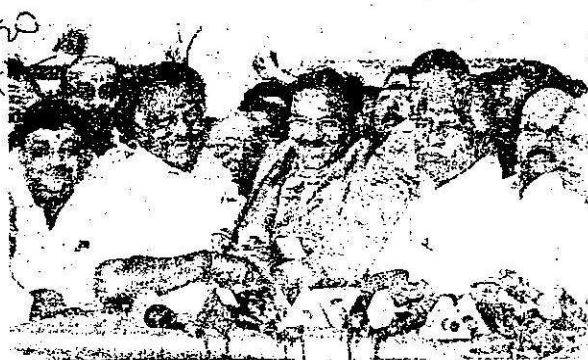
Court gives Speaker a week to inform when he will decide

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave Tamil Nadu Speaker P. Dhanapala a week's time to inform when he will take cognisance of the disqualification petitions filed under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) against Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam and 10 other AIADMK MLAs for voting against the confidence motion moved by Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami in February 2017.

A three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde, asked Tamil Nadu Advocate General Vijay Narayan and Additional Advocate General Jayanth Muthuraj to confer with the Speaker and report back on February 14.

The court questioned the



Offering support: A file photo of AIADMK leader K. Pandiarajan with O. Panneerselvam at the latter's residence in Chennai.

Speaker's inaction, repeatedly asking why he kept the disqualification petitions pending for three whole years without even issuing notice.

"The three-year delay was unnecessary. You [Speaker] needed to have taken action. *Prime facie*, if there is inaction on the part of the Speak-

er, it has to be cured," Chief Justice Bobde addressed Mr. Narayan.

However, the court made it clear that it had no intention to "go wandering into the Speaker's jurisdiction" of deciding anti-defection petitions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12