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SC looks into
cases against
legislators

11/9

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
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The Supreme Court on Thursday prioritised the need to expeditiously complete trial in over 4,000 criminal cases, from corruption to money laundering, pending against legislators across the country.

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana was alarmed to find that cases registered against politicians nearly 40 years ago were still pending trial.

One such case in Punjab dates back to 1983, and is one of the oldest found in a report submitted by the court's *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria and advocate Sneha Kalita. "Charges were framed in the case. It is still pending. It has been 36 years," Mr. Hansaria submitted.

"This is shocking... Why is it pending?" Justice Ramana asked advocate Karan Bharihoke, for Punjab. The Bench asked the Punjab and Haryana High Court to make an inquiry and get back. It asked Mr. Hansaria to recommend a plan to complete the trial in pending cases and suggest if more special courts were required to be set up.

The court scheduled the case for hearing on Wednesday.