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**'Why unnecessary delay
on disqualification'**

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NEW DELHI, BHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Tamil Nadu's Advocate General why there was inaction and "unnecessary delay" in deciding disqualification petitions filed against Deputy Chief Minister O Paneerselvan and 10 other AIADMK MLAs, for defying the whip and voting against the E K Palaniswami government in then February trust vote.

The top court asked the law officer to tell when the Assembly Speaker will decide the matter.

"The Speaker should have decided the matter. Notice should have been issued. There is no reason to not to decide it. It is inaction. Delay is unnecessary. Tell us what do you propose to do," a three-judge bench presided over by Chief Justice S A Bobde asked Advocate General Vijay Narayan, representing the Assembly Secretary.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Paneerselvan and others, contended that the plea made in the writ petition filed by DMK MLA and whip in Assembly, R Sakkrapani and others in the Madras High Court to declare the 11 AIADMK MLAs as disqualified was given up, nothing survived in the matter, which should now be closed.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the DMK leader, submitted that the Speaker has not decided the matter for about three years. "As of date, no notice has been issued. The term of the Assembly would be over by May, 2021," he said.