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SC for quick trial in cases against politicians

Over 2,500 criminal cases are pending

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The Supreme Court on Wednesday resolved to ensure that pending criminal trials against sitting and former legislators, which run to over 4,000 across the country, will be completed in a time-bound manner.

"Are you serious about completing these trials in a time-bound manner?" a three-judge Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre.

"We are 100% serious," Mr. Mehta replied emphatically.

There are over 2,500 criminal cases pending against sitting legislators.

The Bench specifically asked about the status of cases registered by the Central agencies such as the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate against politicians.

Cases range from corruption to money laundering.

Amicus curiae and senior advocate Vijay Hansaria and advocate Sneha Kalita replied that some of these cases were stuck at the stage of framing of charges.

In his latest report to the apex court, Mr. Hansaria suggested the setting up of one special court in each district to exclusively try politicians.

He recommended that chief justices of each high court be requested to furnish an action plan for expeditious disposal of these cases within a year.

He said corruption cases should be given "topmost priority."

Mr. Mehta recommended various measures such as expiration of any stay orders within one month, appointment of more special court judges in districts, etc.