

Resolution on CAA - NPR - NRC.

The Central Executive Committee meeting of BSNL Employees Union held at Vadodara on 6th & 7th March, 2020, in its session discuss the volatile situation of the country after introduction of Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA) in the Parliament. The CAA is approved by the President of India on 11th December, 2019, soon after getting it passed in the Parliament. Taking the absolute majority in the lower house, i.e., Lok Sabha and with the help of some of the like minded parties in the upper house, i.e., Rajya Sabha, the ruling BJP did not give much time to get the bill passed without much discussions. The ruling party was so adamant that they are not ready to listen the voice of the large section of the society in the country.

Through this CAA, the citizens of the country is divided in the name of religions. The Act is unconstitutional and illegal. It violets the fundamental rights given by the constitution to each and every citizen of the country. The amendment is an attack on the secular concept of citizenship as defined in the constitution. The CAA has done is to introduce a religions criteria in determining citizenship.

As per the amendment, people belong to Hindus, Sikhs, Budhists, Jains and Parsis or Christians who come from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan before 31st December, 2014, shall not be treated as illegal migrants and can apply for citizenship by naturalisation, if they spent net less than 5 years in India. But this provision does not apply to Muslims who have come to India from these countries. What the BJP government is aiming for is to create the Muslims a category of second class citizens whose rights will be severely circumscribed.

Along with the CAA the Cabinet has taken a decision to start preparations for updating the National Population Register (NPR) with additional 6 new questions other than the earlier 15 questions. The new questions are the name of the parents, their places and date of birth and the details of Aadhaar. The Aadhaar information will then be crosschecked with the UIDAI, for verification of the individuals biometrics.

The NPR is directly linked to the NRC. In one side, due to the wide spread resentment against CAA, NPR and NRC, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has declared that his government has not discussed on NRC anywhere. Whereas, the President of India in his customary address to a joint session of Parliament on 20th June, 2019, announced that the government has decided to implement the process of National Register of Citizens (NRC). Similar statement was given by the Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah in Rajya Sabha on 21st November, 2019.

Those who will be identified as “doubtful citizens”, through NPR, they will have to go through the complicated process of submitting proof of their citizenship. Under such atmosphere, the CEC meeting feels that the protests throughout the country against the CAA - NPR – NRC is very much appropriate. It further resolves to demand to the government to withdraw the CAA and must have dialogue with the cross section of the people of the country and thereby cancel the process of CAA – NPR – NRC immediately. The meeting also appeals to all citizens of the country in general and BSNL employees in particular to join together to save the country against the communal agenda of the ruling party and upheld the secular fabric of the country.
