

***Withdraw the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) !  
Stop the NPR (National Population Register) &  
the NRC (National Register of Citizens).***



*M.S. Golwalkar*



*Hitler*

Nationwide intensive protests are going on against the **CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act)** and the proposed **NRC (National Register of Citizens)**. Both the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah, have stated that, the CAA will not affect the Indian Muslims in anyway. Let us see what are the implications of the CAA?

In 1935, Hitler's Nazi Party conducted its conference at Nuremberg, the second largest city in Germany. Based on the decision taken in this conference, Hitler enacted laws, to safeguard the purity and honour of the German people. Accordingly, law was enacted to give citizenship only to the Germans and their equivalent communities. People belonging to the non-German communities like the Jews, Gypsies and Romans were denied German citizenship. The whole world witnessed how Germany and the entire world were ruined by this racist policy of Hitler.

After India getting Independence in 1947, leaders of the freedom movement took much care to create the Indian Constitution. The various princely states, which till then remained divided on the basis of religion, caste, economy, language and race, were brought together and the Indian Union was created. Laws were enacted to ensure that the government treats each and every citizen equally and without any discrimination. Thus, India was born as a secular nation. Many changes have come in the past 70 years. Despite all these changes, India continues to be a strong secular nation.

In 2008, after getting elected as the chief minister of Gujarat for the second time, Narendra Modi wrote a book titled "**Jyotipunj**". In that book, Narendra Modi has written separate articles about the life history of 16 leaders, who inspired him the most. Among these articles, the one on **M.S. Golwalkar**, the second Sarsanghchalak of the RSS, is the longest. Narendra Modi has mentioned that, M.S. Golwalkar inspired him the most, next to Swami Vivekananda.

One of the books most revered by the RSS is, "**We or Our Nationhood Defined**", written by M.S. Golwalkar. In that book, M.S. Golwalkar, praises the Citizenship Laws enacted in Germany, by Hitler. He further writes in that book, "*the foreign races in Hindustan must either adopt the Hindu culture and language, must learn to respect and hold in reverence Hindu religion, must entertain no idea but those of the glorification of the Hindu race and culture, i.e., of the Hindu nation and must lose their separate existence to merge in the Hindu race, or may stay in the country, wholly subordinated to the Hindu nation, claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment –not even citizen's rights.*". [Page numbers 104 & 105].

Thus, according to M.S. Golwalkar, Muslims are foreigners and they cannot have any right in India, including citizenship. During the second tenure of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of India, the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) has been passed in both houses of the Parliament. Throughout the country, people are protesting against this. Hitler's Nuremberg Law, targeted the Jews. Modi's CAA gives citizenship to the non-Muslim refugees, coming from the neighbouring countries. It may appear that the comparison is wrong. However, both, Hitler's Law and Narendra Modi's Law are about how the government views a citizen, based on his race or religion. Thus, Narendra Modi's CAA is an assault on the secular character of the Constitution of India. Opposition parties and social activists view that, the CAA is nothing but a foundation to fulfill the dream of M.S. Golwalkar, of converting India into a 'Hindu Rashtra'.

The Citizenship Amendment Bill was passed in the Parliament, to grant citizenship to those Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi refugees, coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. To enable this, the Indian Citizenship Act-1955 has been amended. This Act is applicable to those who migrated to India prior to 31.12.2014. Home Minister, Amit Shah, has announced inside and outside Parliament that, the Citizenship Amendment Bill would be passed by the Parliament first and thereafter 'The National Register of Citizens' (NRC) would be taken up and that the NRC would be implemented for the entire country.

The NRC process begins with the compilation of the 'National Population Register' (NPR). The compilation of the NPR is the first step towards preparation of the NRC. On 31.07.2019, the Registrar General of Citizen Registration has already issued the notification for preparing and updating the NPR (<https://goaprinting-press.gov.in/downloads/1920/1920-19-SI-EOG-I.pdf>). For this, house to house survey will be conducted throughout the country, for collection of information relating to all persons residing within the jurisdiction of the Local Registrar. The survey will be done between 01.04.2020 and 30.09.2020. On the basis of this, the Local Register of Indian Citizens will be finalised after due verification. This procedure is already laid down in the **"Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules 2003"**.

During the above mentioned verification process, particulars of those individuals whose citizenship is found to be "doubtful" will be entered by the Local Registrar, with appropriate remarks in the Population Register, for further enquiry. It is the responsibility of those people, whose citizenship is found to be "doubtful", to prove that they are Indian Citizens. They have to undergo the torturous process of submitting proof of their citizenship. Considering the communal agenda of the BJP government, genuine apprehensions are there among the Muslims that they will be targeted by the provisions of NPR and NRC. The NRC does not require any new law or amendment. It is already part of the Citizenship Act of 1955, through an amendment already made in 2003, by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. For the first time, the concept of a National Register of Citizens was introduced by making it compulsory to register every citizen of India and to issue a National Identity Card.

***What is the necessity to create an NRC and to issue a National Identity Card, when Aadhaar Identity Card has already been issued to the people? In addition to the Aadhaar Card, Voters Photo Identity Card has also been issued by the Election Commission of India. Hence, the necessity for creating the National Register of Citizens and issuing of National Identity Card are totally unwarranted. This involves a huge expenditure for the government. Further, the poorest sections of the population, such as migrant workers, Adhivasis living in remote areas and other marginalised communities will be affected.***

Those who are fighting against CAA have correctly linked it to the NRC. Both the CAA and the NRC are interconnected. Through the CAA, NPR and the NRC, the Narendra Modi government is aiming to create a category of second class citizens. The process of creating the NRC will create a communal divide in the country. The unity of the people, particularly the unity of the working people will be jeopardised. Hence, the CAA should be withdrawn. The attempts to put in place the NPR and the NRC should be defeated.