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Title : Issue regarding pilot Project for updating National Register for Citizens.

DR. TARUN MANDAL (JAYNAGAR): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful that you have allowed me to raise this serious and important issue pertaining to the problems of linguistic and religious minority people of Assam. Sir, I also gave a Calling Attention Notice on this matter.

On 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2010, in front of the DC Office of Barpeta, Assam, the police fired on one lakh odd peaceful demonstrators. Four persons were killed on the spot, 26 were bullet injured and more than 100 persons were seriously injured. They were protesting and demonstrating against the unjust and discriminatory pilot project for updating National Register for Citizens (NRC), 1951 of Assam. It was being done on the basis of incomplete and incorrect voters' list, that is, electoral rolls of 1966 and 1970. It called for applications from citizens at Barpeta and Chhaygaon Circles of Assam.

As that was discriminatory and derogatory, out of 73,000 persons of that Circle, only 10,000 applied and the rest refused to apply. Why? It was because as per Rule 4 and 6(1) of the Citizenship Rules 2003, Registrar General of India should notify preparation of National Register for Citizens throughout the country, at a time, and not for a particular State or any Circle. The people of Assam have a strong apprehension that the pilot project is aimed at branding religious and linguistic minority communities of Assam as foreigners at the behest of all Assam Students Union (AASU).

Why will the *bona fide* citizens of India have to apply again for citizenship? They are not against NRC updation or preparation or detection and deportation of any Bangladeshi, but this should be done as per the prevailing norms and Rule of the Land. The foreigners should be detected using Foreigners' Tribunal.

Sir, more than 1.5 lakh people have been kept as D-voters, that is, doubtful voters having lost their voting rights for the last 15-16 years. They should be given voting rights immediately.

Sir, in Rule 4A provision was made setting aside Rule 4 in the Citizenship Act and that was done by the hon. Home Minister in this House, which was not discussed or ratified by any House. For that provision the State Government initiated this pilot project. But it should be rejected on the same ground by which Supreme Court rejected the IMDT Act..

So, I demand that the State Government should immediately annul 4A, do the NRC on the basis of Rule 4. I would also demand that stop pilot project and adequate compensation should be given to the victims immediately and guilty police officials be punished accordingly.