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Title: Withdrawn of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Bill Withdrawn).

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 20, Shri Kiren Rijiju.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): Madam, with your permission, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary, I beg to move for leave to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955."

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, under Rule 111, I have given a notice for opposing the motion to withdraw the Bill. This withdrawal effort shows the way the Government is functioning.

Madam, I think on 19th December 2014 the Government had introduced the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. Then, within 15 days, on 6th January 2015 they introduced the Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015. When they introduced the Bill, did they not think that it needed changes? I notice that now the Government cannot bring a Bill to replace the Ordinance because the former Bill is still there in the House, so they have come for withdrawal.

Therefore, I want a clarification from the Government as to why they are withdrawing the Bill introduced on 19th December and wanting to move another Bill. The Government has not clarified this. I have noticed very carefully that the Bill and the Ordinance introduced later are almost identical. What is the change for which the same Government, within 15 days, is removing the Bill and introducing an Ordinance? This is not the way a Government should function. When it brings a Bill before this august House, it should be clear. I noticed that when the Bill was introduced, it was introduced by Shri Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary, and now I find that Shri Kiren Rijiju is moving this withdrawal motion. I would like a clarification from the Government before they go to withdraw this Bill. This is a new style which the Government is having that within 15 days of introducing a Bill, it brings an Ordinance and then it wants to replace the original Bill. This is bad governance.

HON. SPEAKER: Let the House be in order, please; I would request the hon. Members not to leave like this.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Madam, as the hon. Member had just mentioned, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23rd December 2014 and not on 19th December, and due to adjournment of the House after the Winter Session, we could not pass the Bill. Here, I would like to inform the House that earlier this Bill was already passed in Rajya Sabha in 2013, but because the Lok Sabha was dissolved, the Bill got lapsed.

Now, in view of the announcement made by the hon. Prime Minister during his visit to the United States in the month of October, 2014 and to Australia in November, 2014 regarding the merger of Overseas Citizen of India card and a Person of Indian Origin card by 7th January, 2015, the matter was of urgent importance and could not wait till the next session of Parliament. Therefore, the promulgation of this Citizenship Amendment Ordinance 2015 became necessary.

This Citizen Amendment Ordinance 2015 was promulgated by the President of India on 6th January, 2015. The Citizenship Ordinance 2015 is required to be replaced by the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2015. Hence, it is proposed to withdraw the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2014 and introduce a Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

Regarding the name, because the Division is handled by me, on the day of signing of the file to be submitted to Parliament, I was absent. So, my colleague had signed it. Therefore, with the permission of the hon. Speaker, my original name needs to be replaced. That is why, I am moving the leave to withdraw the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU : I withdraw the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.20 p.m.

13.22 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Minutes

past Fourteen of the Clock.

