

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to withdraw the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): Madam Speaker, I rise to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

My State of Manipur and North-East India are now on the boil. They are demanding immediate withdrawal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016. The whole State was on no work strike yesterday. Every day there are some forms of strikes like dharna in public places, rallies on the national highways, etc. Manipur students' bodies, CSOs and elderly women of Ima Market of Manipur protested at Jantar Mantar on 30th of January 2019 demanding the withdrawal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (CAB) which was hurriedly passed by the Lok Sabha on the last day of the Winter Session 2018 after JPC had submitted its non-unanimous report on the previous day amidst boycott by the principal Opposition, the Indian National Congress Party. Even on the day of passing the Bill, there was complete upsurge in the entire North-East. If this Bill is not withdrawn immediately, the fall-out will be very dangerous and situation will be out of control.

I strongly condemn the action of Delhi Police who arrested and manhandled our elderly women protesters without the presence of a single woman police person. My Party, Indian National Congress, and almost all political parties in Manipur have rushed to the Capital of Delhi for lobbying for the withdrawal of the Bill. If the Bill is passed in its present form, there will arise a huge demographic challenge in the North-East in general and Manipur in particular.

My State, Manipur got merged into the Union of India in 1949 under an infamous Manipur Merger Agreement, 1949 (MMA). This MMA was reportedly rejected by the then Manipur Assembly. Interestingly, this Merger Agreement was never ratified by the

Parliament of India. Now I urge upon the Union Government to immediately take action for the ratification of this MMA by the Parliament of India. With the introduction of Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and its passing by the Lok Sabha; the people of Manipur have now started demanding the pre-merger status of Manipur, an erstwhile Nation State.

Hence, I strongly urge upon the Union Government to immediately withdraw the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the best interest of all concerned.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Thangso Baite, Shri Jintendra Chaudhury, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Dr. P.K. Biju and Shri N.K. Premachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Thokchom Meinya.