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**Statement:**

## **Give Citizenship to those left out of NRC List!**

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The Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement of a proposal for a countrywide National Register of Citizenship (NRC) exposed the real nature of BJP and its leaders. That they are hell bent upon to create and perpetuate the communal division in order to implement their anti-people and anti-national policies is an established fact.

The NRC held in Assam under the guidance of the Supreme Court would be set aside to conduct a fresh NRC along with other parts of the country. Such an announcement came a day after the retirement of Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Ranjan Gogoi, who directed the entire NRC process in Assam is clearly a violation of Supreme Court direction.

Over 1.9 million people have been left out of the final NRC in Assam. Those left out of the NRC can appeal to the Foreigners Tribunal within 120 days. After that those left out will be sent to Detention Centers! No country is going to absorb them. The lives of 1.9 million people lie in peril.

Presently, Assam has six detention camps that operate out of make-shift facilities in local prisons. The state is proposing to build 10 more detention centers to hold the additional persons excluded from the NRC.

In this context, another NRC process would only bring more uncertainty, fear and anguish to the people of Assam and well as the rest of the people of India who has to undergo such a harrowing experience proving themselves as Indians.

Amit Shah also stated that the central government would re-introduce Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in the Parliament again. The Indian Citizenship Amendment Bill was proposed in Lok Sabha on July 19, 2016, amending the Citizenship Act of 1955. Due to vociferous opposition it was made to lapse. If this Bill is passed in Parliament, illegal migrants from minority communities like Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian coming from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan will then be eligible for Indian citizenship, excluding people from the Muslim community. The Bill relaxes the requirement of residence in India from 11 years to 6 years for these migrants. This makes it clear that this NRC update is an effort to persecute Muslim minorities residing in Assam.

In a country where the Prime Minister himself cannot produce his degree certificate how is it possible to bring out documents from five decades back? Millions of Indian citizens have emigrated from India and have become citizens of various countries around world. Why can't India absorb the citizens left out of the NRC list?

The aims of such an exercise with NRC-CAB is only aimed at discriminate and persecute the Muslim population in Assam and other parts of India. Given the past history of BJP and its policy of spreading communal hatred, all the democratic forces should demand the government to abandon a countrywide NRC-CAB exercise; to give citizenship to all 1.9 million people left out of NRC in Assam and to withdraw the proposal to amend the citizenship Act as was placed before the Lok Sabha in 2016.

**Central Committee  
CPI (ML)**

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