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Title: Introduction of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

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

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, I would like to oppose the introduction of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015 under Rule 72, Clause 2 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of the Business in this House.

Madam, the facts and statements of the Minister are absolutely contradictory. He had already spoken yesterday in this House. This kind of legislative exercise is adversely affecting the legislative supremacy of Parliament and also the concept of the *sanctum sanctorum* of democracy as declared by the hon. President in his Address to the Joint Session of Parliament. This is my general observation in opposing the introduction of the Bill.

Now, I will come to my specific objections to the Bill. One Bill was introduced in this House on 23<sup>rd</sup> of December that is the Indian Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2014. On 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 an Ordinance has been promulgated by his Excellency, the President of India. Now, we are having another Bill that is the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015. There is another Bill which is pending in Rajya Sabha. That Bill is also silent about it....(*Interruptions*) Another Bill which is pending in Rajya Sabha, which was introduced on 12<sup>th</sup> December, is amending Section 9 of the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955.

The specific objection to the Bill is that through this Bill, a new amendment is being incorporated in Section II(I)(e)(e) where the citizens of Indian origin have to be defined in the new Bill. If we look at the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this 2015 Bill, there is no Statement of Objects and Reasons for the proposed amendment. That is the specific objection. My point is that this Bill is imperfect, improper and disabled.

There is also an Ordinance. That is my second specific objection. Yesterday, they had also withdrawn the Bill. I would like to know as to what is the urgency of promulgating the Ordinance. Our hon. Prime Minister had a visit to America and Australia. He made a commitment to the persons of Indian origin. If that being the case, then my question to the Government is that in order to fulfill the commitment of the hon. Prime Minister why was this provision not incorporated in 2014 Bill which was introduced on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 and also in the Ordinance which was promulgated on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2015? That means, the legislative exercise was being taken in a callous way and the Parliament was taken for granted. This cannot be accepted. That is my specific objection.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: There is no basis of these objections. Yesterday also I have made it categorically clear that this is in the national interest that we had to withdraw this Bill which was there earlier. I have already stated the reason for the promulgation of an Ordinance. This same Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha in 2013, but as the Lok Sabha was dissolved in 2014, the Bill could not be passed in Lok Sabha. That is why we have come out with a new Bill.

As far as promulgation of an Ordinance is concerned, I have already stated yesterday that since the hon. Prime Minister had made a commitment on behalf of the country, it is our duty to ensure that the commitment is completely followed upon. That is why there is no basis and proper reason for objecting to this Bill and I request the House to allow this Bill to be introduced.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

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

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I introduce the Bill.