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## Shah: CAA to be implemented after vaccination ends

SOUMYA DAS  
KOLKATA, DHNS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the work of granting citizenship to refugees under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) would start after the completion of the vaccination drive for Covid-19.

Taking potshots at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Shah said that she in no condition would be able to stop the implementation of the CAA as after the Assembly elections she would no longer be the chief minister.

"I am promising on this sacred land today that after the vaccination drive is over and we are free from Corona, the government will finish the work of granting citizenship to all of you (refugees like the Matuas)," said Shah.

He was speaking at a public meeting at Thakurnagar in North 24 Paraganas district. Matuas are Dalit Hindu refugees who came to West Bengal in large number from the then East Pakistan after the Partition.

Shah's comments assume significance as with a population of nearly 3 crores in Bengal the Matuas are a formidable vote bank. They played a key role in BJP's victory in the Bongaon

### 'Shah's words unbecoming of a minister'

Lashing out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said his threatening body language and foul words were unbecoming of a home minister. Her comments come hours after Shah said that the people would uproot the TMC government and vote the BJP to power in the Assembly elections.

constituency in the Lok Sabha elections.

Accusing Congress leaders of not keeping their promise of granting citizenship to refugees Shah said that the BJP Government promised in 2018 that if the Narendra Modi government comes to power it would amend the Citizenship Act and bring a new law under which refugees like the Matuas would be granted citizenship.

He also said soon after the pandemic started and Mamata started to accuse the BJP Government of making false promises saying that even if CAA would never be implemented.