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# Bihar becomes first NDA state to adopt anti-NRC resolution

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Patna: Bihar on Tuesday became the first state with an NDA government to unanimously adopt a resolution to stick to the old National Population Register (NPR) pro forma, adopting only the transgender column from the new format recommended by the home ministry. The resolution, virtually a copy of CM Nitish Kumar's response to the Centre's letter seeking feedback on NPR, also states "the National Register of Citizens is not needed in Bihar".

None of the BJP members present in the assembly — the party has 54 MLAs — opposed the resolution when Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary sought to know if it had the consent of the ruling and opposition benches. "For the smooth functioning of the House, it was essential for this resolution to be unanimously adopted," Choudhary told TOI.

Nitish clarified in the assembly that the Centre had sought feedback from all states on NPR, but he took the opportunity to also communicate his government's stand on the NRC. "The Bihar government

## 'STICK TO OLD NPR'

- > None of BJP's 54 MLAs opposed the resolution in the Assembly
- > CM Nitish Kumar said he had told the Centre the NPR format should be the same as in 2010. Only transgender column should be added
- > BJP's Mithilesh Tiwari said, "PM has clarified there has been no discussion on NRC. Discussing it is like celebrating 'mundan' before baby's birth"

has communicated to the Centre that the NPR format should be the same as it was in 2010, and only the transgender column should be added to it. We have also communicated that the NRC is not needed in Bihar," he said.

Earlier in the day, there was a commotion in the assembly after RJD's Tejashwi Prasad Yadav moved an adjournment notice on NPR and CPI-ML legislator Mehboob Alam a separate one on CAA, NPR and NRC. Some BJP and RJD members almost came to blows when Tejashwi dubbed CAA a "black law".

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## Govt moved NPR resolution under pressure, says Tejashwi

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Defending his party's support to CAA in Parliament, Nitish cited previous statements of former PM Manmohan Singh and other Congress members demanding Indian citizenship for persecut-



ed minorities from some neighbouring countries.

Tejashwi claimed that the state government moved the resolution on NPR and NRC under pressure



from RJD, a statement that was immediately contested by JD(U)'s ally BJP.

State BJP vice-president and Baikunthpur MLA Mithilesh Tiwari told TOI: "The PM has clarified that there has been no discussion on NRC. So, discussing NRC is like celebrating the 'mundan' of a baby before birth. Tejashwi should not feel elated as BJP never deviates from its principles. It is the party that has forced a country like Pakistan to kneel down." Many see the resolution as a Nitish masterstroke to blunt the RJD-led opposition and the likes of CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar, who is on a statewide yatra against the NRC.