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Opposition speaking like Pakistan: PM

Modi asks BJP MPs to reach out to people to 'bust myths' about the Citizenship Amendment Bill

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 NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday accused some in the Opposition of speaking the "language of Pakistan" on the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), and said his government's move would be "written in golden letters in history".

Addressing MPs at the BJP's Parliamentary Party meeting, Mr. Modi said there was a concerted effort to spread disinformation about the Bill, and urged the party MPs to go to people to bust these "myths".

The Bill was as "historic" as the one that abrogated Article 370, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi quoted Mr. Modi as saying.

The MPs were asked to give a standing ovation on two occasions during the meet: one for the party's sweep in the Karnataka Assembly byelections, winning 12 of the 15 seats and securing a majority in the House; and second, for the passage of the CAB in the Lok Sabha



In a huddle: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Ministers and MPs during the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday. - SANDEEP SAXENA

on Monday night. "People who fled religious persecution have long lived a life of uncertainty in India and will get permanent relief once the proposed law comes into effect," Mr. Joshi quoted the Prime Minister as saying. "The very same language used by Pakistan on

the Citizenship Bill is being used by some parties." Mr. Modi's remarks were an apparent reference to the stance of parties such as the Congress and the Trinamool that the Bill discriminated against Muslims and violated the Constitution. "The relief and joy that

the CAB has brought is immeasurable. Listen to the pain of those who will be benefited," he said.

'Stupendous six months'
 The party MPs were given a booklet titled "Stupendous Six Months" that referred to the six-month term of the se-

cond NDA government and listed its foreign and domestic policy achievements, including nullifying Article 370.

Turning the focus on the upcoming Budget, Mr. Modi told the MPs to gather feedback from all sections of society, including farmers, traders, the poor, businessmen and industrialists, and share the inputs with the Finance Minister. "The Budget should be reflective of all these inputs," he is said to have told them.

Ovation for Yediyurappa
 Mr. Modi asked for an ovation for Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa for the party's good performance in the byelection. He asked that sweets be distributed among the MPs before the week ended. Praising Mr. Yediyurappa as the man who built the party in Karnataka, he said that the byelection victory was significant as the BJP had won seats where it had not registered its presence before.