

Political Storm Brews in Bihar as Tejashwi Yadav Questions Election Integrity



A significant political controversy erupted in Bihar on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, as Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav hinted at a potential boycott of the upcoming assembly elections, alleging that the Election Commission's (EC) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is "dishonest." This accusation has drawn sharp criticism from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies, who perceive Yadav's statements as a sign of "fear of defeat" ahead of the polls.

Yadav, who serves as the Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, made the contentious remarks during a heated legislative session, which saw proceedings adjourned due to the uproar over the SIR issue. Wearing a black T-shirt as a mark of protest, Yadav stated that while he is not against the revision itself, how the EC is conducting the exercise is objectionable. He questioned the timing of the drive, occurring "just around the corner" from elections, and expressed concerns about the extensive documentation required from voters, claiming only a small percentage would possess such documents. He also highlighted the potential disenfranchisement of approximately 4.5 crore migrant voters in Bihar if they are not found at their registered addresses.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar intervened during Yadav's speech, dismissing his concerns by stating, "You are a child. You know nothing of matters like these." Kumar also criticized the RJD's past governance, suggesting his parents' terms as Chief Ministers yielded little benefit for women or Muslims. The verbal sparring led to chaos in the assembly, with the Speaker expressing displeasure over the unruly conduct of members from both sides.

Later, at a press conference, Tejashwi Yadav reiterated his concerns, alleging that 55 lakh people have been declared "not present" at their registered addresses, questioning their fate. He accused the ruling party of avoiding a meaningful discussion on the matter, implying a deliberate attempt to manipulate the voter list. Yadav went further, suggesting that the Election Commission is "acting on the BJP's directions" and that if the "entire process is dishonest," then holding elections becomes meaningless, thereby hinting at a boycott as a possible option after consulting alliance partners and the public.

In response, BJP leaders have characterized Yadav's comments as a clear indication of their party's apprehension about the upcoming elections. They view the boycott threat as a tactic born out of a perceived "fear of defeat," asserting that the Election Commission is carrying out its constitutional duty to ensure a clean and accurate electoral roll. The escalating rhetoric signals a tense political environment as Bihar prepares for its crucial assembly elections later this year.