

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:306

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2006

POST GODHRA VIOLENCE

Chandrapan Shri C.K.;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported unearthing of a mass grave at Lunawada in Panchmahals District of Gujarat is believed to be the skeletal remains of the post Godhra violence in 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CBI has investigated into the matter as has been demanded by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC); and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b) : The Government is aware of the mass grave unearthing incident at Lunawada in Panchmahals District of Gujarat.

The Hon`ble High Court of Gujarat took cognizance and as per the order of the Court exhumation of skeletons at Lunawada was undertaken by the Gujarat State Police and revenue officials in the presence of Central Bureau of Investigation officers and a team of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi under the guidance of Head of the Department of Forensic and Toxicology, AIIMS, New Delhi. The bones were collected, classified, packed and sealed by the State authorities and were sent to Centre for DNA Finger Printing and Diagnostics, Hyderabad as ordered by the Hon`ble High Court of Gujarat. The blood samples were collected from the close relatives by the AIIMS, New Delhi team.

(c) : The National Human Rights Commission has intimated that the Commission on 27-12-2005 took suo-motu cognizance of a news story on CNN/IBN News TV and directed the Director, CBI and DGP, Gujarat for their comments.

(d) As per the orders of the Hon`ble High Court, CBI has supervised collection of bones and sent them for DNA testing and the order of High Court has been complied with. The Status Report on exhumation has also been sent to NHRC, New Delhi.