

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1772

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008

VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIAN STUDENTS IN USA

Dube Shri Ramesh; Jain Shri Pusp; Khanna Shri Avinash Rai; Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed the recent incidents of attacks on the students of Indian origin, which led to their deaths;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the Government of USA; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes.

(b)– (d) In the recent past, four incidents have taken place in the US where Indian students have died:-

(i) On 16 April 2007, 33 persons in Virginia Tech University, including an Indian student Ms. Meenal Panchal, were killed by Cho Seung Hui, an undergraduate student. The police investigation concluded that the assailant, who later committed suicide, had committed the crime on his own.

(ii) On December 13-14, 2007, unknown assailants murdered Chandrasekhra Reddy Komma and Kiran Kumar Allam, both Ph.D. students, in the Louisiana State University campus in Louisiana. Police investigation is still continuing. No arrest has yet been made in connection with this incident.

(iii) On January 17-18, 2008, unknown assailants shot and killed Abhijit Mahto, an Indian student on the outskirts of Duke University in North Carolina. Police has arrested Stephen Oates for breaking into the apartment and killing Abhijit Mahto. The accused has been refused bail and, investigation is continuing.

(iv) Akkaldevi Srinivas, an Indian doctor pursuing his post-graduation in Internal Medicine in Pennsylvania in the US was found dead on March 1, 2008. Investigations are continuing.

Our Embassy and Consulates in the USA have in each instance closely coordinated between local authorities and the families of the victims, and rendered assistance as required.