

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7613  
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2002  
ATTACK ON JOURNALISTS IN GUJARAT  
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether recently journalists were attacked in Gujarat and were injured in Police Lathi charge;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of journalists injured in the lathi charge;
- (c) the main reasons for attack on the journalists;
- (d) whether Press Council of India has asked for any report on this incident from the State Governments;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to safeguard the journalists?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (f) : The Government of Gujarat has informed that police had to resort to the use of force on April 07, 2002 to disperse a mob of about 200 persons at Gandhi Ashram, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad. The State Government has ordered an inquiry into the incident to be conducted by a retired High Court Judge of Gujarat. The Press Council has informed that after the April 07, 2002 incident, three senior members of the Press Council, all residents of the State of Gujarat, were requested to submit their respective reports. In view of the enquiry since ordered by the Government, the Council has not commented any further on the issue.