

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7237
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
STUDY ON GUJARAT VIOLENCE BY NCW
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) has made any study on the Gujarat violence;
- (b) if so, the finding thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the women from atrocities being done at present in the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The findings of the Committee constituted by the National Commission for Women to assess the status of women and girl children affected by communal disturbances in Gujarat have been given in the annexure.

(c)&(d) The Report of the Committee including its recommendations has been sent to the State Government of Gujarat for taking appropriate action and for sending a report.

The Report has also been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Cabinet Secretariat for taking appropriate action. Annexure

Statement in respect of part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 7237 for 14-5-2002 regarding Study on Gujarat Violence by NCW

The following are the findings and observations made by the Committee constituted by NCW:

- Women and Children are affected in large numbers due to riots
- Women and girls have a feeling of deep insecurity.
- Women and children have suffered at the hands of mobs that have indulged in violence. Some have complained of police violence
- The Committee received complaints of abdication of responsibility by the police.
- Women have complained of extreme violence including some cases of sexual assault and rape.
- Many women have lost their family members, their homes, their household goods, their means of livelihood and their dignity.
- The Committee did not see social service structures like business and commercial institutions, civil and local government institutions, medical associations, charitable trusts, teachers and educational institutions, trade unions etc. taking part in assuaging the hurt and rebuilding the trust of the affected people.
- Confidence of affected women in the police authorities has been eroded.
- There are some social activists and non-Governmental Organisations who are trying their very best under the circumstances to help in providing relief to the affected people but these organisations are working under tremendous sense of insecurity.
- There are complaints that FIRs against violence, arson and other crimes against women are not being registered or are not being registered accurately. Furthermore, even where the complaints are registered, further investigation or appropriate medical examinations are not being conducted.
- In certain areas, the Committee was informed of the dislocation of educational set up and disruption in school examinations for children, adding gravely to the distress and insecurity of the women. The Committee was, however, informed by the Government functionaries recently that a few examinations have been held with regular attendance.

- Victims of severe shock and trauma due to violence have not received adequate treatment.
- Relief camps are being run by private organisations and the government is giving them funds at the rate of Rs.7/- per person
- There was no representation of women on the organising committee
- More security arrangements are needed for women and children who feel extremely insecure in the present circumstances.
- With increase in temperature in the summer season and further onset of rains, the condition of the camps are bound to deteriorate if proper measures for sanitation are not taken immediately. Rehabilitation of inmates to their homes by restoring normalcy and security in the local area is not monitored and executed carefully.
- The sanitation arrangements leave much to be desired in some camps as it was found that there was no toilet for inmates. There was no special provision for the comfort of pregnant women such as beddings
- The Committee observed that temperatures are already high, with further increase in temperature in summer, children and infants will be put at grave risk to health and life.
- The need of the inmates of relief camps to be engaged in some activities to learn and earn a livelihood was noted.
- Women and children need to be provided with clothing, sanitary towels and other personal items.
- There were no crèches for little children nor were the sufficient number of lady doctors, gynaecologists and pediatricians
- Women are not aware of the compensation and relief packages announced by the Government. The relief announced by the Government is neither sufficient nor is it being disbursed speedily in accordance with the needs of the victims.
- The more difficult problems of the permanent rehabilitation of riot victims and restoration of peace and normalcy in their areas is not being addressed adequately.
- Women need greater privacy and a sense of safety while bathing and going to toilets and this is the bare minimum in the camps which house women victims.
- No help is being given to victims and inmates of relief camps in the matter of filing FIRs and filling the requisite forms for relief and compensation. No legal aid is being provided either inside the camp or outside.
- It was a matter of great concern that the tribal population has been involved in the riots for the first time in a big way.