Statue of Unity sparks off political controversy in Gujarat

2010-10-08 18:51:23
Last Updated 2011-01-10 21:54:37

Gujarat Global News Network, Ahmedabad Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi’s announcement of his desire to set up statue of Unity in remembrance has sparked off a controversy. Congress has dubbed it as a cheap move to woo voters in the elections of six Municipal Corporations to be held on Sunday.

Congress has said that Narendra Modi remembers Sardar Patel only during election times. Modi had announced his project on the eve of his completing nine years in power as Gujarat Chief Minister. He wants to build 182 mt high statue of Sardar near Narmada dam. This would be twice as high the famous statue of liberty. Congress complained to the Election Commission on the ground that it was violation of election model code of conduct. Next day Modi came out with the statement that Congress was against tribute to Sardar. He did not stop here. He further said that the Congress wanted to set up statue of Sohrabuddin who was killed in fake encounter of Gujarat police. Union Minister Jaipal Reddy who was here today, said that Modi did nothing for the birth place of Sardar, Karamsad town, in central Gujarat. Other Congress leaders have pointed out that Modi did not release Rs one crore grant to Sardar smarak. This grant was announced by Keshubhai Patel arch rival of Modi. Referring to the mention of Sohrabuddin by Chief Minister Modi, Reddy said that Modi knew only one card-the communal card and he always played it in elections.

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