

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2523

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001

UNICEF`S CAUTION FOR ADOPTION OF ORPHANS

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether UNICEF has cautioned India against putting up children orphaned by the recent earthquake in Gujarat for international adoption;
- (b) if so, the details along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the UNICEF has called for giving first priority to alternatives like extended family and friends within the community;
- (d) whether the Indian Government have agreed with this;
- (e) if so, whether the Government has already implemented/proposed to be taken to implement the suggestion of UNICEF;
- (f) whether any guidelines have been prepared by the Government in this regard; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) No, Sir.

(b),(c),(d)&(e) Does not arise

(f)&(g) The Government of Gujarat and this Ministry have already taken the position that the rehabilitation of the children orphaned by the Gujarat earthquake will be done by placing them with surviving relatives within Gujarat itself. Adoption of these children would be considered only as a last resort. International adoption will be considered only after other avenues have been exhausted and as per existing guidelines for the same.