

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2700

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001

PSYCHIATRIC HELP FOR EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED PEOPLE

SHRINWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the names of diseases which have spread in the earthquake hit areas of Gujarat;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for providing treatment of these diseases;
- (c) whether the earthquake affected people have desired/expressed need for psychiatric help; and
- (d) if so, the Government's action in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Adequate public health measures taken by the State Government in coordination with the Central Government has prevented outbreak of any disease in the earthquake hit areas of Gujarat.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) & (d) There was no specific request from the people of earthquake affected areas for psychiatric help. However, keeping in view the fact that the survivors of this earthquake may require mental health care, experts from National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), New Delhi, Maharashtra Institute of Mental Health, Pune visited the affected areas and provided treatment and counseling. The Government of Gujarat is sending a team of Mental health experts to Bhuj in rotation to assess and treat the patients and is also training social workers/ government medical staff for this purpose.