

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4584  
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001  
AFFECT OF EARTHQUAKE ON CHILDREN IN GUJARAT  
A.K. PREMAJAM;MINATI SEN

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

- (a) whether recent earthquake of Gujarat has had a serious affect on the mind of children;
- (b) if so, the names of the states where such occurrences have taken place in the past; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to put back the affected children to their normal life?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The recent earthquake of Gujarat as is well known, was a major disaster leading to loss of life, severe injuries and loss of property, leaving numerous people homeless and deprived of livelihood. Children who witnessed death of their parents, close relatives and friends, developed mental disorders in the form of depression. Usually the symptoms observed were impaired sleep and reduced food in take. The children also were afraid that further earthquake would occur leading to more damage. There were also concerned about their school since many of the school buildings were also destroyed.
- (b) Earlier in the earthquake at Latur, Maharashtra State, similar problems were noticed.
- (c) Children and their families are being provided counselling and also drugs required for treatment of depression, if considered necessary.