

**Title:** Reference made to the loss of thousands of lives and to several thousands of others injured in devastating earthquake in Gujarat.

MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Members are aware, on 26 January, 2001 an earthquake of unprecedented intensity rocked Gujarat. So severe was this earthquake that its effects were felt in various parts of the country. It devastated large areas of Bhuj, Bhachau, Anjar and Rapar Talukas in Kutch district and caused extensive damage in Ahmedabad district and other parts of Gujarat. It left a trail of death and destruction in its wake. The loss of human lives, habitat and property is unimaginable. The death toll touched about nineteen thousand, and thousands of others have been injured and rendered homeless. Words fail to express the anguish caused by this earthquake.

We deeply mourn the loss of these lives and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the members of the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those who have suffered injuries.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

13.49 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

1350 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock  
on Tuesday, February, 20, 2001/Phalguna 1, 1922 (Saka).

-----