

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1184  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF VIROLOGY LAB IN KERALA**

**1184. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:  
MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any research on the origin of Nipah Fever and its effective timely treatment and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to establish Virology Lab in the State of Kerala for effective detection of Nipah;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to appoint expert medical team for the research of origin of Nipah Fever and its easy effective treatment; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Yes. National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, an institute of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) conducted research on the origin of Nipah Fever and found Nipah Virus, spread through fruit bats, responsible for this fever.

To contain this fever, active country wide surveillance for NiV in Pteropus bats, was carried out in six States during 2018-2019 and advisory through media was released. Nipah Virus management guidelines have been issued by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), M/o H&FW in 2018. Recently, on declaration of outbreak of Nipah fever on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 in Kerala, Monoclonal antibodies were shipped the same day from Pune to Ernakulum.

(b)&(c): Yes, Indian Council of Medical Research- National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV), Pune established a viral field laboratory at the Government Medical College, Ernakulum, Kerala to facilitate diagnosis of Nipah. The Department of Health Research has also funded a Regional Level Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL), with a Bio-

safety Level-3 facility at Government College, Kozhikode in March 2019, which would be handling high risk pathogens including diagnosis of Nipah.

(d) & (e): An expert medical team consisting of doctors and experts from M/o Health and Family Welfare (NCDC, EMR, AIIMS, ICMR), D/o Animal Husbandry & Dairying, D/o Fisheries, M/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Wildlife Division, M/o Environment Forest and Climate Change was deputed to help State Govt. contain the disease. M/o H&FW has also established mechanism of sharing of data between animal and human surveillance network, for prevention of further outbreaks.

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