

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.177  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE,2019**

**STUDY ON NIPAH VIRUS**

**177. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the ongoing processes of Nipah virus outbreak control in Kerala State, where a fresh case has been confirmed and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government has sought information about individuals affected by the Nipah virus in Kerala and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any fatality has been reported from Kerala consequential to the outbreak and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any in-depth study through the National virology institute in the country for ascertaining the origin and reasons specific of this epidemic; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a): Yes, in the first week of June, 2019 outbreak of Nipah virus disease has been reported from Kerala. Immediately, the Union Health & Family Welfare Minister took a review meeting and a Multi-disciplinary Central teams consisting of experts from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was deployed in the affected district to assist and guide the State health authorities. The team is supporting the State in investigations, contact tracing, sample testing and management of the Nipah Virus Disease (NiVD). Point of Care Test facility has been established by the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune at Medical College Ernakulam. Experts from National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal were also involved with the local Animal Husbandry Department in investigation. Government of India is closely monitoring and assessing the situation at the highest level including by the Union Health & Family Welfare Minister.

(b): One case of Nipah virus disease has been reported from Ernakulam District of Kerala.

(c): No

(d) & (e): NIV, Pune deputed special teams to collect samples from Pteropus or fruit bats, which are the main reservoir of Nipah virus disease. Out of 36 Pteropus species bats tested for Nipah, 12 (33%) were found to be positive for “anti Nipah bat IgG antibodies”. Strategic Health Operation Centre (SHOC) at NCDC has been activated since 4th June, 2019 and is coordinating with field teams on surveillance and response activities for Nipah containment. A dedicated phone-line has been established at SHOC to answer queries of general public. Further, specific case definition, contact tracing and treatment & clinical management protocol have been provided to State authorities of Kerala.