

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 39
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JUNE, 2019**

NEWLY EMERGING DISEASES DUE TO NIPAH VIRUS

**39. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any report from the Government of Kerala regarding the newly emerging diseases that can be transmitted by the Nipah virus and if so, the details thereof and the steps initiated to prevent the newly emerging diseases due to Nipah virus;
- (b) whether the Union Government has issued guidelines and protocol for treatment of Nipah virus diseases, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government for empowering the general public to prevent and control the Nipah virus diseases;
- (d) the special arrangements made by the Union Government for sample collection from Nipah virus patients and other guidelines given for the treatment of such patient; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to send special team of doctors and paramedical staff for the management of Nipah virus disease in Kerala, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Nipah virus causes only Nipah virus disease, which is a newly emerging disease. 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 Ernakulum. Experts from National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal are supporting the local Animal Husbandry Department in

investigation. 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.

For prevention and control of Nipah Virus Disease, Government of India has issued protocols and guidelines:

- Brief on Nipah Virus disease
- Advisory for General Public
- Advisory for Health Care Personnel
- Guidelines for sample collection for Nipah Virus
- Hospital infection control guidelines
- Laboratory Biosafety guidelines

Further, specific case definition, contact tracing and treatment and clinical management protocol has been provided to State authorities of Kerala

To prevent and control the Nipah Virus Disease, advisory for General Public have also been issued, inter-alia, containing information about Nipah virus disease, how it spreads, who are at high risk of developing Nipah virus infection, measures to prevent, symptoms of Nipah virus disease, etc.