

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 989  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**OUTBREAK OF NIPAH VIRUS**

**989. SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to upgrade the sanctioned BSL-3 lab under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode district in Kerala to BSL-4 grade in view of the frequent Nipah Virus outbreak vis-a-vis other parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has noticed delay in declaring test results/diagnosis of Nipah Virus due to absence of state-of-the-art lab at Kozhikode district in Kerala and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rectify such delay in diagnosis of Nipah patients in the said district?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (d): Currently, the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare does not have any plan to upgrade the laboratory infrastructure of Regional Virus Research & Diagnosis Laboratory at Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode district in Kerala into a BSL-4 facility.

Under the Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), two BSL-4 labs have been sanctioned at Nagpur and Dibrugarh. Also, there are six Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDL) working in Kerala at Government Medical College (GMC), Trivandrum (Kerala), GMC Thrissur, GMC Kannur, GMC Manjeri, Mallapuram, GMC Kozhikode and National Institute of Virology (NIV) Field Unit, Kerala for timely diagnosis/identification of viruses.

There is no outbreak of Nipah virus detected in any other part of the country. During the 2023 (recent) Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala, ICMR had deployed its made-in-India mobile BSL3 lab to test for Nipah virus at the field level in Kozhikode. Also, a BSL-3 lab has been sanctioned to be established at NIV field unit, Alappuzha.

\*\*\*\*\*