

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 934
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2022**

UPGRADATION OF INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED VIROLOGY IN KERALA

934. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is considering to upgrade the institute of Advanced Virology in Kerala to a regional virology institute, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Union Government has received any demand/proposal in this regard from the Government of Kerala;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by ICMR in this regard;
- (d) whether the ICMR is also taking any steps to establish virology laboratories in Kerala;
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): There is no proposal to upgrade the institute of Advanced Virology in Kerala to a regional virology institute. Also, no such proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala.

(d) & (e): Department of Health Research administers a Central Sector Scheme namely "Setting up of Nation-wide Network of Laboratories for Managing Epidemics and National Calamities" wherein there is a provision of setting up of three tier system of virus research and diagnosis laboratories (VRDLs) at Regional, State and Medical College Level across the country. This scheme is implemented through Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The following 05 VRDLs have already been set up in the State of Kerala under the scheme:

1. Government Medical College (GMC), Kozhikode (Regional Level VRDL)
2. National Institute of Virology (NIV) Field Unit, Allapuzhha (State Level VRDL)
3. Government Medical College, Thrissur (Medical College Level VRDL)
4. Government Medical College, Kannur (Medical College Level VRDL)
5. Government Medical College, Trivandrum (Medical College VRDL)
