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Title: Regarding comprehensive law for combating pandemics-laid.

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): It is quiet astonishing that there is no effective and sophisticated legislation in India to fight epidemic and pandemic diseases. The only legislation available is the Epidemic Act of 1897. It is insufficient to check the pandemic diseases like COVID 19 which is threatening the whole world. The Act is one of the shortest Acts in India, comprising just four sections. The Act enables the Government to inspect any ship arriving or leaving any port and the power to detain any person intending, to sail or arriving in the country. Naturally, there is no mention about the aviation, international and domestic. The Act does define a “dangerous epidemic disease”. The Indian Journal of Medical Ethics in a 2009 paper, described the Act as “one of the most draconian pieces of sanitary legislation ever adopted in colonial India”.

So, in the light of COVID 19 pandemic, a comprehensive law should be enacted for combating pandemics.