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Title: Need to set up an Advanced Institute of Virology in Kerala-Laid.

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR): A highly advanced virology institute in Kerala is the need of the hour while considering the recent epidemic outbreaks such as Nipah and Corona virus. Kerala became an emergency state following the outbreak of Nipah and Corona virus in our country. State has the potential to fight such epidemic challenges. So the absence of an advanced virology institute delays the action and reaction towards the sudden outbreak of epidemics.

The tropical positioning of the state may be a cause for epidemic outbreak. Epidemics in monsoons and summer are quite common in Kerala.

A virology centre is already in Alappuzha, Kerala. But it is not sufficient when dangerous viruses come to the scene. That was the situation when Nipah hit the state. An advanced virology institute on the model of the National Institute of Virology in Pune would be helpful to the state. I request the Central Government to set up an advanced virology centre in Thrissur Medical College under the Medical University of Kerala. As this medical college is situated in the middle of the state, it will be an ideal location for the advanced virology institute.