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Title: Regarding outbreak of Corona virus in the country.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Sir, the novel Coronavirus epidemic of Wuhan, China, which has infected more than 25,000 people and killed 500 people, has created a huge pandemonium and fear among citizens of several, if not all, countries.

We have a case reported in Kerala and a few more suspected cases are also there. This has caused rumours and fears in Tamil Nadu as well. Rumours that medical waste containers from China are being dumped in Tamil Nadu have added to the growing panic. In this situation, the Health Ministry can provide information regarding precautionary measures using print, TV and social media.

Also, novel Coronavirus being a larger virus than the past viruses of the same family, the Health Ministry can ask doctors to research if folded handkerchiefs may provide protection from the spread of virus equivalent to medical masks. This will reduce the need for medical masks being sold in the country.

I also request that the Departments of the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Health to take adequate measures to allay the fears of the common citizens.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा एवं श्री डी.एन.वी. सेंथिलकुमार एस. को डॉ. कलानिधि वीरास्वामी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।

PROF. SAUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, the hon. Minister should make a statement about this matter.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): Sir, we want a categorical statement from the Health Ministry.