

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3761  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY**

**3761. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take steps for streamlining the functioning of National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Alappuzha and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government intends to upgrade the NIV, Alappuzha to Bio Safety Level 3 in a time-bound manner to make it at par with NIV, Pune and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government intends to establish appropriate laboratory facilities for testing of NIPAH virus samples in NIV, Alappuzha to avoid the delay in sending such samples to NIV, Pune and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government will consider providing financial assistance to NIV, Alappuzha for upgrading its functioning to international standards and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the amount of fund(s) earmarked, sanctioned and utilized for the establishment of NIV, Alappuzha till date?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e) : The National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Alappuzha is a Field Station functioning under the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The Officer in Charge (OIC) responsible for day to day activities of the station reports directly to Director, ICMR-NIV, Pune. The laboratory planned in the NIV, Alappuzha is a Bio Safety Level 3.

The NIV, Alappuzha has initiated steps for NIPAH testing. However, to avoid the delay in testing, ICMR-NIV, Pune has already established a point of care (POC) based testing centre at GMC, Kozhikode, Kerala.

All the laboratories established and planned at ICMR-NIV, Pune and field units/stations including Alappuzha are already at par with international standards. The financial assistance for running of ICMR-NIV Field Station at Alappuzha, Kerala is met from plan budget of ICMR-NIV, Pune sanctioned by Indian Council of Medical Research. A grant of Rs. 39.86 crore was sanctioned by Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, for creation of infrastructure for ICMR-National Institute of Virology Field Station at Allapuzha, Kerala, out of which, a sum of Rs. 31.19 crore has been released by ICMR and utilized.

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