

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1896
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011
VIROLOGY INSTITUTES
Pathak Shri Harin

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

- (a) the mechanism put in place by the Government to study and identify new virus which cause diseases/infections in the country;
- (b) the details of virology institutes set up in the country for the purpose, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up virology institutes in every States including Gujarat;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b): There are two apex laboratories viz. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) at New Delhi and National Institute of Virology under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at Pune which are handling the outbreaks/epidemics. In view of the limited capacity for diagnosis of viral infections, ICMR has taken new initiatives to strengthen virology laboratories in various parts of the country in phased manner. Under this programme, virology laboratories have been established at Port Blair, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Manipal, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Raipur and Allapuzha (in Kerala).

(c) to (e): 6 more laboratories have been approved for Chandigarh, Ranchi, Patna, Vishakhapatnam, Chennai and Jabalpur. The Department of Health Research has also prepared a programme for establishment of a virology network including a virology laboratory in each State.