

Title: Need to take effective steps to prevent recurrence of Plague in the country-Laid.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI) : The outbreak of Plague in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal has caused serious anguish across the country. The National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Health is supposed to be alert in such matters and detect the disease and take preventive steps. The experience of plague in Surat is too fresh in our memory. India was affected by Dengue fever and then by plague. It will be admitted that both dengue and plague are rare in their occurrence in present day circumstances.

It is also learnt that the NICD identified the disease in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal as plague, their specialists could not isolate the bacteria, since the laboratories of the NICD were probably ill equipped and were below international specifications.

The Government has to enquire into the functioning of not only the NICD but also the Directorate General of Health Sciences, Government of India.