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Title: Need to provide funds for the upgradation of the Virology Institute at Alappuzha, Kerala.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): Number of people have died and thousand of people were hospitalized in the State of Kerala due to the lethal viral disease 'Chinkun Gunia' during September – October 2006. The cases of Chinunguniya are still being reported from the State. The disease, which first appeared in Alappuzha district, spread to the neighboring districts including Ernakulam. Alappuzha District accounted for most of the deats and number of patients.

The Virology Institute at Alappuzha is the only authorized institute to conduct teat to diagnose the disease. But unfortunately, the existing facilities in the institute are inadequate to meet the requirement. The samples are being sent to the National Institute of Virology at Pune and due to the excess number of samples the diagnosing process gets inordinately delayed causing sever constraints in facilities in the Alappuzha Institute. The Union Health Minister during his visit to the affected areas in Kerala assured of upgrading the existing facilities at the Alappuzha Virology Institute.

In view of the gravity of the situation, I urge upon the Government to take urgent measures to provide funds for the upgradation of the institute.