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Title : Need to depute a fact-finding team to assess the extent of threat posed by water-borne diseases in Alappuzha district of Kerala.

SHRI K.C.VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): I rise to apprise the Government of the serious threat caused by detection of water-borne diseases among residents of this coastal district with many cases reported for immediate examination and treatment by the District Health Authorities.

Alappuzha has been considered most vulnerable to attacks by epidemic diseases like Japan Flu, Chikangunya with most of the population engaged in livelihoods by the sea and saline water bodies. There is a unit of National Virology Institute set up in Alappuzha which is awfully under-equipped to handle epidemic threats of grave proportions. I urge the Centre to take immediate steps to strengthen the facilities at the National Virology Institute in Alappuzha by sanctioning more funds to make it full-fledged and fully operational at all times to handle medical emergencies in future. I would also request the Centre to depute a fact-finding team of medical professionals to Alappuzha to assess the extent of the present threat which is causing concern and panic among local residents.