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Title: Need to set up research institute and strengthening the virology institute at Alappuzha.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, the recent outbreak of bird flu in various parts of Southern Kerala particularly in Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta Districts has revealed lack of basic laboratory facilities to cope up with it. The situation has been now under control because of the efforts of the State Government and the assistance of the Central Government. I am pointing out one thing. Due to lack of modern laboratories for confirming the disease, we have to go to the National Laboratory of Bhopal. It takes at least one week for confirming the disease. Therefore, the people are very much in dilemma for confirming the disease.

My request to the Government is this. There is a Virology Institute in Alappuzha for doing these things. There is a need to strengthen the laboratory facility in that Virology Institute. The Government of Kerala and the University has given a proposal for setting up a research institute in Alappuzha itself. Through you, I would urge upon the Government to set up that research facilities in Alappuzha and to strengthen the Virology Institute which is existing there. There is a need to strengthen that Institute for coping with this disease.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Adv. Joice George and Shri Jose K. Mani are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.