

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 38
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JUNE, 2019**

NIPAH VIRUS IN KERALA

38. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAM:

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

- (a) the action being taken by his Ministry to manage the crisis of Nipah virus in the State of Kerala;
- (b) whether the Government hospitals are well equipped to manage the Nipah outbreak and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of action being taken to ensure that Nipah outbreak does not occur again;
- (d) whether the Ministry has carried out any study on the Nipah outbreak of 2018, if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) whether there is a proposal to set up Regional Institute of Epidemic Management in Kerala and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a): In response to outbreak of Nipah virus disease in Kerala, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare immediately deputed Multi-disciplinary Central teams consisting of experts from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was deployed in the affected district to assist and guide the State health authorities. The team is supporting the State in investigations, contact tracing, sample testing and management of the Nipah Virus Disease (NiVD).
- (b): The primary responsibility of equipping the hospitals with adequate infrastructure to manage various diseases rests with the concerned State Governments. However, Central Government provides support including funds to strengthen health infrastructure and health institutions in the States / UTs.
- (c): For early detection, monitoring and response to epidemic prone diseases outbreaks (including Nipah virus disease), Government of India is doing surveillance through Integrated

Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and providing technical and financial support to all States / UTs under the National Health Mission.

(d): NIV, Pune deputed special teams to collect samples from Pteropus or fruit bats, which are the main reservoir of Nipah virus disease. Out of 36 Pteropus species bats tested for Nipah, 12 (33%) were found to be positive for “*anti Nipah bat IgG antibodies*”.

(e): Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR) under the Department of Health Research (DHR) have approved a proposal to set up a Regional Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory in Government Medical College, Kozhikode (Kerala). Central Government have released budget for this project.