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Title: Regarding testing facilities in National Institute of Virology Alappuzha and Institute of the Virology, Thiruvananthapuram.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): I would like to invite your kind attention towards the Corona Virus outbreak which has been declared as a health emergency by the World Health Organization. The Department of Health in Kerala has taken all precautionary measures and multiple level surveillance mechanism is in place. But the biggest impediment faced in such disease outbreaks, which was seen also during the NIPAH virus outbreak, is the inadequacy of virus testing facility in the country. Currently, for any advanced viral testing, the only centre in India is the National Institute of Virology in Pune. It is a matter of grave concern that there is only one advanced centre for virology testing catering to 130 billion population of the country. It is highly adequate in a country like India to have only one viral testing centre and this delays the detection and containment of deadly infectious diseases like NIPAH, Corona Virus and other similar diseases. This causes delay in getting the results and affects the strategy of containment of such deadly infectious diseases. Hence, I request the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to take immediate steps to provide funding support to develop testing facilities in the National Institute of Virology in Alappuzha and Institute of Advanced Virology in Thiruvananthapuram and make them centres of excellence to tackle such disease outbreaks.