

## **Regarding establishment of a National Institute of Virology in Kerala-Laid**

**SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD):** Many newer diseases have been detected in the State of Kerala recently and in the past. Deadly diseases like COVID-19, Nipah, etc. were detected for the first time in India and were from Kerala. Many factors contribute to this like geographical, climatic/environmental conditions, the influx of people from all parts of the world, etc. The State is under the grip of epidemics of communicable diseases like Nipah, Dengue, Leptospirosis, H1N1, Zika, West Nile, Avian Flu, Cholera, etc. The State has the infrastructure to deal with any situation. But the lack of a Virology Institute, is creating all sorts of hindrances. There are two laboratories of Virology in the State, but in most of the diseases, the State depends on the National Virology Institute at Pune for analyzing samples collected and for their reports. Even to take stock of the situation arising out of Nipah, etc. the professionals had come from the National Virology Institute at Pune. These are all time-consuming affairs. To address these serious health issues and for prompt action, it is urged that a National Institute of Virology be set up in Kerala and that can be established at Government Medical College Palakkad where it can be easily created.