

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2994
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
SENDING BLOOD SAMPLES OF PATIENTS FOR DIAGNOSIS
Sujatha Smt. C.S.

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

- (a) Whether blood samples of patients were sent to Pune/Delhi diagnosis during the recent outbreak of dengue/Chikungunya in Kerala;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) Whether this process causes inordinate delay in identification of the disease and providing proper and immediate medication to the patients;
- (d) Whether the Government proposes to upgrade the facilities for the said purpose at the Alapuzha Virology Institute;
- (e) If so, the details thereof; and
- (f) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

HE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The State of Kerala had sent 250 samples of blood from suspected Chikungunya fever cases to National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi and National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune. Out of which, 38 were detected positive serologically for Chikungunya virus. The blood samples for diagnosis of Chikungunya were sent to NICD, Delhi and NIV, Pune as the diagnostic Testg Kits were not commercially available in the State. For the diagnosis of dengue fever, the State of Kerala has diagnostic facilities in all the district level hospitals.

(c) No, Sir. The treatment of Chikungunya fever is symptomatic and, therefore, the suspected cases were provided anti-pyretic and analgesics.

(d)to(f) Yes, Sir. Government has identified State Institute of Virology (SV), Alappuzha, Kerala, as one of the 12 Apex Referral Institutions for advanced diagnosis of Dengue and Chikungunya fever. The requirements of the institute for advanced diagnostic facilities facilities for the above diseases is being assessed by NIV Pune.