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Title: Need to put in place all the necessary preparations to prevent outbreak of Ebola virus in the country.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): The WHO on August 8, 2014 declared the spread of Ebola in West Africa as an international health emergency. Terming the outbreak as an "extraordinary event" it said that it constitutes a public health risk to other States. While the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare in his statement to the House on August 6, 2014 said that the risk of transmission to countries outside African region was low, cases of Ebola have already surfaced in the US., Spain and now in India.

There have also been reports that the protocols issued by the Ministry for screening passengers have not been implemented fully. Only two out of 14 airports have isolation facilities and hospital staff have been found lacking in training.

I would request the Minister to apprise us of the current status of the country's core capacity of laboratory support, as per the WHO advisory of assured access to a qualified diagnostic laboratory for the virus. Medical protocols once a person is diagnosed with the disease may be made public. Further, awareness initiatives proposed by the Ministry, which will inform and not create panic amongst the citizens of the country may also be made public.

I would request the Government to expedite its preparation in managing Ebola so that we are not caught unaware as in the case of avian flu and swine flu.