

**Curbing spread of NIPAH**

1564. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been cases of NIPAH virus infection in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of deaths caused due to the infection of this virus;

(c) whether Government has advised the States where such cases have come up, about the course of treatment to minimize deaths; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes. The Nipah virus infection was reported from the Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala in May, 2018. The total number of deaths caused by the Nipah virus disease in Kerala was 17 out of which 16 were lab confirmed cases. 1 patient who had died on 5.5.2018 was not tested for Nipah virus.

(c) and (d) The Nipah virus disease was reported from Kerala only. A multi-disciplinary expert Central Team assisted the State Government in containing the disease and advising on treatment. The central team advised the medical and para medical staff on infection control practices, public awareness programmes were conducted, Personal Protective Equipments were supplied, doctors were trained on ventilator management and the State was also assisted in getting the human monoclonal antibody (mAb) for protection against the virus. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is continuously monitoring the situation in all States and UTs under its Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme. Video conferences were held regularly with all States/UTs to know their preparedness and to provide any assistance that they may require. The Nipah virus disease was a local occurrence and did not spread to other parts of the country.

**Opening of generic drug stores in rural areas**

†1565. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not opening the stores of generic medicine *i.e.* Public Medicine Centres in rural areas so far, where they are needed the most;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.