

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.915
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY IN BIHAR

915 # SHRI VIVEK THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether any step has been taken towards opening a National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Bihar's Patna or Muzaffarpur in the wake of prevention from encephalitis and other tropical diseases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c) : Department of Health Research (DHR) has established the following five Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) in the state of Bihar:

- (i) Regional Level VRDL at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Patna
- (ii) Medical College Level VRDL at Patna Medical College and Hospital, Patna
- (iii) Medical College Level VRDL at ICMR- Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna,
- (iv) Medical College Level VRDL at Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital, Muzaffarpur, and
- (v) Medical College Level VRDL at Darbhanga Medical College, Darbhanga.

The above VRDLs are providing viral diagnosis facilities in the state of Bihar. AIIMS Patna has been recently sanctioned a Regional Level Laboratory which will have state of art infrastructure along with BSL3 facility, which would be able to provide diagnosis for viral tropical infectious diseases and will also help in managing future viral outbreaks. The other four VRDLs are equipped to provide serological and molecular diagnosis of viral infections. The entire VRDL network is mentored by National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune for training and capacity building for diagnosis, biosafety and biosecurity, quality, and other laboratory requirements.