New Delhi, June 15: The Department of Biotechnology’s Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (DBT-IBSD) has its head office in Imphal, Manipur and has centres in Shillong, Gangtok, Aizawl. It has been taking steps to help boost the capacity of the various States in the northeastern region of the country to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic that is sweeping across the world.

It recently provided assistance in Manipur and Mizoram under the guidance of its Director, Prof. Pulok Kumar Mukherjee. In Manipur, it extended a helping hand to the COVID-19 testing Centres at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) and Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) at Imphal to cope up with a shortage of trained manpower. One Scientist Fellow, one Post-Doctoral Fellow and one research scholar under the guidance of Dr. Nanaocha Sharma, Scientist-E has been helping in JNIMS, while one Research Associate and one Senior Research Fellow under the guidance of Dr. Indira Devi, Scientist-D has been helping in RIMS.

This is in addition to an earlier initiative, where DBT-IBSD had lent one RT-PCR and one RNA Extraction equipment to RIMS and one RT-PCR to JNIMS. Besides, it has distributed hand sanitisers, masks, face shields and drinking water to front line workers and different
quarantine centres located in Imphal west district and also involved in different other activities.

In Mizoram, the Institute has provided one Real Time (RT) PCR equipment to Zoram Medical College in Aizawl. The equipment, along with consumables, was flown to the Mizoram capital from Imphal in a helicopter arranged by the Mizoram Government. The equipment has been lent at the request of the Government of Mizoram and the Zoram Medical College. The consignment was handed over to the Department of Science and Technology, Mizoram Government, by scientists and staff of the Aizawl centre of the IBSD. RT-PCR is one of the best methods for detecting, tracking and studying the novel coronavirus.

Chief Minister of Mizoram, Mr. Zoramthanga, expressed his gratitude to Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan, DBT Secretary, Dr Renu Swarup, DBT-IBSD Director and DBT-IBSD team in a series of tweets. Among other things, the Institute had also earlier lent one RT-PCR machine to the Government of Meghalaya in April 2020 for the testing facility at Tura.
 Manipur lends COVID-19 testing equipment to Mizoram

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, June 6: The Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) on Friday handed over one Real Time (RT) PCR equipment to Mizoram to facilitate COVID-19 tests at the Zoram Medical College in Aizawl.

The IBSD is a national institution operating under the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, which is located near Imphal. According to a press release, the testing equipment, along with other consumables, were flown to the Mizoram capital from here by a helicopter arranged by the Mizoram Government. The consignment was handed over to the Department of Science and Technology, Mizoram Government, by scientists and staff of the Aizawl centre of the IBSD.

RT-PCR constitutes accurate laboratory methods for detecting, tracking and studying the novel coronavirus. The equipment, along with the consumable items, have been lent to Mizoram at the request of the Government of Mizoram and the Zoram Medical College.

The IBSD, under the guidance of its Director, Prof Pulok Kumar Mukherjee, is supporting COVID-19 testing facilities in the two premier medical institutes, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) and Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIIMS) in Aizawl.

The IBSD, Imphal, has also lent one RT PCR and RNA extraction equipment to the RIMS, Imphal to reduce the testing load at its testing centre, in the first week of May.

Earlier, at the request of the JNIIMS authorities, an RT PCR instrument, along with consumables, were provided by the IBSD to supplement the existing functioning of the Virology and Microbiology Department of JNIIMS.

The IBSD was established in 2001. It has centres at Shillong, Gangtok and Aizawl.

Manipur IBSD hands over one RT-PCR machine to Mizoram

Our Correspondent

Imphal, June 6 (EMN): In a move to facilitate the Covid-19 testing laboratory set up at Mizoram’s Zoram Medical College in Aizawl, the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) handed over one Real-Time PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction). Covid-19 testing equipment to Mizoram officials said on Saturday.

IBSD, which was established in 2001, with an objective to find scientific ways for the sustainable uses of bio resources and in protection to stop the depletion of the rich biodiversity in the Northeast, is a national institute under the department of Biotechnology, Government of India located near Imphal.

It has its centres at Shillong, Gangtok and Aizawl as well.

According to an official of IBSD, Imphal, the testing equipment along with consumables were airlifted from Imphal airport by a helicopter arranged by the Mizoram government and the same was finally handed over to the authority of department of Science and Technology government of Mizoram by the scientists and staff at the Aizawl centre of IBSD on Friday.

“The equipment (RT-PCR) is one of the most accurate laboratory methods for detecting, tracking and studying the coronavirus,” the official said. “The equipment along with consumable items was lent on the request of government of Mizoram and Zoram Medical College.”

It may be mentioned that the IBSD under the guidance of its director Prof Pulok Kumar Mukherjee is supporting the Covid testing facilities at Manipur’s two premier medical institutes, namely Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) and Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIIMS), by lending one Real-Time PCR and RNA extraction equipments along with some consumables to RIMS and JNIIMS to reduce the testing load at their Virus Research and Diagnosis Laboratories (VRDL) in the first week of May.

Besides augmenting the Covid-19 testing capacities, IBSD has been helping the Covid testing facilities by sending their scientists and senior research fellows. With their support, the IBSDs of both the institutes managed to conduct more than a thousand tests in a day unlike the past.

Till the filing of this report, a total of 14,629 persons were tested for Covid-19 and 152 of them were found positive for Covid-19 while 41 have been discharged after recovery, according to a status report of state surveillance office, Integrated Disease Surveillance Program.

Meanwhile Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthong thanked the centre and IBSD authority for the equipment. In a tweet, he said, “Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Harsha Varma, Union minister for Science and Technology and Prof Pulok Mukherjee, Director IBSD for arranging the much needed RT-PCR machine and consumables for the state of Mizoram. The much awaited diagnostic kit is a blessing.”
IBSD SENT SCIENTIST TO COPE UP COVID TESTING FACILITIES

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In order to augment the COVID-19 testing capacity at Manipur, the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal, has been working to support the COVID-19 testing facilities at RIMS and JRF.

IBSD, under the guidance of its Director, Prof. Pulok Kumar Mukherjee, has been working in different ways to fight against the pandemic. Consensus with the resources and expertise available.

To cope up with the shortage of trained manpower, as suggested by the authorities, recently several scientists and researchers of the institute are working hand in hand to the COVID-19 testing centres at JRF and RIMS.

One Scientist Fellow, one Post-Doctoral Fellow and one research scholar under the guidance of Dr. Namrata Sharma, Scientist-II, have been helping at the JRF’s VDX, while one Research Associate and senior Research Fellow under the guidance of Dr. Indra Devi, Scientist-II, have been helping at VDX and NARS of IBSD.

IBSD, Imphal, already lent one RT-PCR and RNA Extraction equipment to RIMS, Imphal to reduce the testing load at their testing centre. Another RT-PCR was also lent to JRF’s testing Centre earlier.

It may be announced that IBSD, with the leadership of Prof. Pulok Kumar Mukherjee, has been joining with all its efforts to fight against the pandemic. Consensus with the resources and expertise available with the institute over the encouragement of National Research Centre.

IBSD had also distributed its own hand sanitizers, masks, face shields and drinking water to front liners and different quarantine centers located in Imphal west district and also evolved in different other activities.

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