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Measures being taken to prevent Ebola, says deputy health minister

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Feb — The Deputy Minister for Health said the ministry is taking measures to prevent the spread Ebola virus which was found in Guinea in West Africa, in March 2014. In reply to the question of U Khin Maung Yi, an MP of Ayeyawady region constituency 6, the deputy minister said according to the statistics of World Health Organization on February 8, 2015, a total of 22,894 people in six countries of West Africa, as well as in Spain and the United States, were infected with Ebola virus, with a death toll of 9,177.

The deputy minister also said the Ministry is cooperating with WHO, International Air Transport Association, International Civil Aviation Organization, international airlines and World Courier Service to be able send blood samples of Ebola suspected patients as the establishments of laboratories with the highest biosafety level 4 (BSL-4) are very expensive. Detection of Ebola virus is being carried out at airports and border checkpoints, while training programmes for treating infected persons are conducted for healthcare staff.

U Khet Htain Nan, an MP of Kachin State constituency 1, urged Union Government during the session to set up a sports institute in Myitkyina, the capital of state. The proposal was supported by U Phe Thaug, an MP of Kachin State constituency 6, saying that the Ministry of Sports should make strategies to nurture skillful sportspersons in ethnic areas.

U Sai Tin Aung, an MP of Kachin State constituency 5, also suggested to make short and long term plans for sports in other states and regions in addition to a huge investments in Nay Pyi Taw. Deputy Minister then explained that the lack of budget allocation will not make it possible to construct a sports institution in Myitkyina.---MNA

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