

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:66
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
PREVENTION OF MIGRATORY BIRD-FLU
Munshiram Shri ;Nayak Smt. Archana

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures being taken by the Government to prevent the migratory birds coming to India in the wake of the fear of bird-flu;
- (b) the category of species found carrying bird-flu alongwith the places where they generally land;
- (c) whether the Government has set up a Siberian Foundation with the assistance of Russia for the purpose;
- (d) if so, the details of countries included in the said Foundation and the details in this regard;
- (e) the programme chalked out so far by the Government to prevent bird-flu;
- (f) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to all the States to remain alert to deal with such type of diseases; and
- g) if so, the strategy chalked out for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (1) and (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 66 FOR REPLY ON 28.11.2005 REGARDING PREVENTION OF MIGRATORY BIRD-FLU.

(a) It is not humanly possible to influence the route taken by migratory birds during their seasonal movement. It is a natural and predetermined phenomenon, transcending all political and geographical boundaries. Therefore all States have been advised to step up surveillance of areas frequented by migratory birds.

(b) As per information available, the high risk migratory birds include Barheaded Geese, Great Cormorant, Brownheaded Gull, Great Blackheaded Gull and Ruddy Shelduck. The major wintering grounds for these birds in India include the Brahmaputra Valley, Pong Dam (H.P.), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Kashmir Valley Lakes, Chilka (Orissa), wetlands in Tamil Nadu, high altitude lakes in Ladakh, Gangetic plain, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Ministry of Environment and Forests is seized of the issue and has initiated dialogue with other concerned Ministries and avian experts about the potential risks and readiness in India on the issue. Details are given in Annexure-I.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) All Chief Secretaries and Chief Wildlife Wardens have been directed to collaborate with the State Veterinary Departments in collection of serum samples of migratory birds and to keep surveillance not only in the Protected Areas, but in all wetlands that provide staging grounds to the migrating birds especially so in areas where there is a possibility of interaction of migratory birds and poultry birds and report to Ministry.

Annexure-I

ACTION POINTS ON MONITORING OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

- # Establishment of monitoring unit at Ministry of Environment and Forests.
Serological/virus sampling of high-risk migratory bird species.
- # Monitoring of migratory birds (particularly waterbirds) at important wetland sites.
- # Capacity building of State Forest Departments and volunteers for monitoring of waterbirds at important wetland sites.

Collaboration with Department of Animal Husbandry in collection of dead birds and safe transport for virus testing.
Ban on trade of wild birds, etc. from other countries as imposed by Ministry of Agriculture to be continued.