

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4218
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
CONFERENCE ON BIRD FLU
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

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

- (a) whether there was any conference in the Canadian Capital on bird flu ;
- (a) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (b) the outcome of the said conference?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) An International meeting of Ministers of Health to Advance Global Cooperation for Pandemic Preparedness was held at Ottawa, Canada from 24th to 25th October, 2005. Health ministers and delegates from 30 countries and nine international organizations from all parts of the world attended the meeting. Government of India was represented by the Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India, Canada.

Some of the key recommendations include:

Strengthening the capacity for surveillance, early detection, diagnosis and rapid response, and for the exchange of information between the agriculture and health sectors at the national and international levels; Expansion and integration of the network of relevant WHO collaborating centers and FAO-OIE reference laboratories, for the rapid identification of virus strains; Developing a global approach to vaccine and antiviral policy for research development, increased production capacity and access to distribution. Coordinating risk communications, development of effective partnerships with media and other key stakeholders for the exchange and dissemination of information. Development of biosecurity guidelines for the poultry sector to help farming communities ensure appropriate animal and public health standards for the raising, handling and transporting of potentially flu-bearing animals; Increased research on avian influenza viruses, including their ability to spread from animals to humans. Full transparency between countries and institutions involved in responding to risk of pandemic influenza and full support to leading role of multi-lateral institutions.