

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:106  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006  
RELIEF TO POULTRY GROWERS  
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the occurrence of bird flu in certain parts of the country had adversely affected the interests of poultry growers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether certain poultry growers have committed suicide on account of loss suffered thereby;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has provided/proposes to provide any relief to such poultry growers;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 106 TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2006.

(a)&(b): Due to isolated occurrence of bird flu in certain parts of the country, the consumption and prices of poultry products in the country were adversely affected, resulting in financial losses to the poultry growers.

(c)&(d): A few cases of suicide resulting from economic distress caused due to bird flu have been reported.

(e)&(f): The Government has implemented a financial relief package for poultry growers. The relief measures provided for in the package include:

(i) A moratorium of one year on repayment of existing principal and interest for term loans and working capital due to all scheduled banks, cooperative banks and RRBs.

(ii) Conversion of working capital into term loan. The first year of repayment would be after the expiry of moratorium period.

(iii) Re-schedulement of term loans availed by poultry units over an additional period of two years from the agreed tenor of the term loan.

(iv) After conversion of working capital into term loan, poultry units may be permitted to draw additional working capital depending on the commercial viability of each unit.

(v) Barring willful defaulters, Reserve Bank of India not to treat defaulted accounts as NPAs.

(vi) Grant one time interest subvention of 4% for a period of one year on the outstanding principal amount as on 31.03.2006 (not including any part of the principal amount that has become overdue).

Further, it has also been decided to initially release one lakh MT of maize at a provisional price of Rs.550 per quintal from the Government stock to poultry growers for use in poultry feed.

(g): Question does not arise.