

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:347
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
EFFECT OF BIRD FLU ON HUMAN BEINGS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) whether cases of human beings getting affected due to Bird Flu has been reported in any part of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there has been acute shortage of the drugs to contain the disease;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of teams of doctors deputed by the Union Government to different States to control the situation;
- (f) whether a team of National Institute of Communicable Diseases visited the affected areas; (g) if so, the outcome of the said visit; and (h) the steps taken by the Union Government to check the spread of Bird Flu in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): There have been no human cases of Avian Influenza reported from any part of the country.

(c) & (d): A national stockpile of one million capsules of Oseltamivir, the drug required for Avian Influenza containment operations, is maintained. This is supplied to the affected States as and when required.

(e): Fourteen central teams from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were deputed in all the affected districts of West Bengal to assist the State Government in avian Influenza containment operations. One central team each were deputed to the states of Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram and Orissa.

(f) & (g): The central team which were deployed in the affected areas of West Bengal included the officers from National Institute of Communicable Diseases. The central teams assisted the State Government in containment operations.

(h): During the recent outbreak of Avian Influenza in poultry in West Bengal, the Central Government initiated a series of actions to assist the state in the containment operations and restrict further spread of the disease. The contingency plan has been implemented in affected districts of West Bengal. The state of preparedness of the states of Jharkhand, Bihar and Assam that share a common border with West Bengal were reviewed. Other States have also been put on alert. Information, Education and Communication campaign to sensitize the community was launched in the visual and print media. Adequate stock of Oseltamivir (the drug required for prevention and treatment), and personal protective equipments were made available to West Bengal and other States.