

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:692

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008

VISIT OF CENTRAL TEAM TO BIRD FLU AFFECTED AREAS

Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Chaudhary Shri Pankaj;Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao;Murmu Shri Hemlal;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh;Singh Shri Uday;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Central team visited the affected areas to study the cause and impact of the outbreak and the details of observations and suggestions made by the team;
- (b) whether any external assistance has been sought by the Government to check the outbreak and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status of the bird flu in various parts of the country and the steps taken by the Government to ensure complete eradication of the bird flu disease?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): Central team visited the affected areas of West Bengal to aid and assist the State Government's efforts to control and contain the disease, not to study the source of occurrence of infection.

(b): The Union Government has not sought any external assistance to check the outbreak of Avian Influenza in West Bengal.

(c): The most recent outbreak of Avian Influenza in the country was reported on 15-1-2008 in Birbhum and Dakshin Dinajpur districts of West Bengal. The disease spread to 11 more districts of the State namely, Murshidabad, Burdwan, South-24 Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly, Howrah, Coochbehar, Malda, Paschim Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia. The last incidence is reported on 2nd February 2008, after which there has been no further outbreak of the disease in any part of the country.

The control and containment operations in West Bengal were undertaken on an unprecedented scale. The strategy followed to control, contain and stamp out the disease in the state has been to cull all poultry within 5 kms of the foci of infection. All the affected areas were sealed to prevent any movement of poultry and poultry products to other areas.

As many as 39.33 lakhs poultry birds have been culled in West Bengal till 26.02.2008. Further 14.91 lakh eggs and over 80,000 kg feed material have also been destroyed in these operations.

In order to prevent spread of the disease to neighbouring states, creation of a poultry depopulated zone by preventive culling up to 5 kms in the border districts of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa with West Bengal was notified on 1st February 2008. Preventive culling operation has been completed in the states of Assam, Bihar and Jharkhand. Culling operation is yet to start in Orissa.