

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2105

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005

BIRD FLU

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Paswan Shri Sukdeo;Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

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

- (a) Whether threat of Bird Flu has arisen just after the Tsunami;
- (b) Whether this epidemic is spreading rapidly in the Asian Countries;
- (c) If so, whether according to WHO, no research has so far been done to find out its solutions;
- (d) If so, whether the Government proposes to take precautionary measures to fight against the said disease; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) among poultry was reported from Asian countries of Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, China, Laos, Indonesia and human cases in Viet Nam, Thailand and Cambodia since December, 2003. As per information provided by World Health Organization (WHO), there is no evidence of any rise in cases of bird flu in the tsunami affected areas.

There is no strong evidence that it is spreading fast to other Asian countries. The only recent development has been the confirmation of one new human case in Cambodia in 2005.

Research in the areas of safe and effective vaccine development and case management is ongoing in WHO collaborating centers. Government of India took adequate measures to prevent entry of Avian Influenza in to India. The measures instituted are:

Government of India alerted all State Governments/Union Territory administrations to keep a close watch on fatality among bird population, especially poultry and appearance of severe respiratory illness in the exposed human population. # Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment & Forest, Shipping and Railways were sensitized on the issue to prevent cross border entry through poultry, poultry products and migratory birds. # Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying had written to the Chief Secretaries and the Directors of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services of all the States/UTs enclosing guidelines for prevention and spread of the disease in poultry and proforma for reporting the disease. # A ban was also enforced on import of poultry and poultry related products from all countries affected with bird flu outbreak. # A Joint Monitoring Group under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services consisting members from Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization and Department of Animal Husbandry is monitoring the situation and advising appropriate actions to the Government. # Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as nodal agency to investigate any suspected cases/outbreak among human population and the laboratories under Indian Council of Medical Research are kept in readiness.

Because of the proactive steps taken by the Government, there is no spread of Avian Influenza from neighbouring countries in to India. No case has been reported in India either in humans or birds. Govt. of India is in a state of preparedness to treat and contain the disease if it has to appear in human population.