

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1340

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

BIRD FLU

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the bird flu outbreak in Kerala and other States recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of farmers affected and number of poultry birds which have been culled due to bird flu;
- (c) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for financial assistance to help the affected farmers;
- (d) if so, the details and response of the Government thereto; and
- (e) various measures taken by the Government to control the disease?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) and (b). During November-December, 2014, outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) were reported at three epicentres in Allapuzha (Purakkad, Thalavady, & Chennithala), at two epicenter in Kotta- yam (Aiyamanam & Vilakkumaram) and at one epicenter in Pathanamthitta (Peringara) districts of Kerala, the last one being at Kollam district (at Kureepuzha) in Kerala in January, 2015. Besides, an outbreak was also notified at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh in December 2014. No further outbreak has been reported from any part of the country thereafter.

Control and containment operations, as per the Action Plan on "Preparedness, Control & Containment of Avian Influenza" were carried out by the Government of Kerala and UT of Chandigarh by culling of poultry birds within a radius of 1 km from the epicentre, disinfection & sanitation in the culling zone and issued sanitization certificates for respective epicentres. All the outbreaks were controlled and contained successfully. Post Operation Surveillance Plan (POSP) for a period of three months is going on at all the epicenters for surveillance of disease in the surveillance zone of 01-10 kms. POSP is a pre-requisite for declaring the country free from the disease.

Details of farmers affected and birds culled are given in the Annexure.

(c) and (d). A proposal was received from the Government of Kerala for re-imburement of 50% share of amount of compensation fixed by the central government for poultry culled. As per proposal, a sum of Rs. 1,25,80,415.00 has already been released to the Government of Kerala on 11.02.2015.

(e) In order to control the disease, Central Government has prepared an Action Plan on Prevention, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza by the States/ UTs. States/ UTs are also constantly advised by the Department to be alert in regard to unusual mortality/ sickness in birds and regularly send samples for testing to Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory/ National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal. Special emphasis has been given on surveillance in wet markets, areas near wetlands and international borders. The States are advised to be in preparedness to handle any even- tuality and keep the strategic reserves of Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs), disinfectants and other logistics required for control operations. The States are also advised to carry out awareness programme on the disease among masses. The outbreak is notified as soon as the confirmed test of bird flu is received indicating the positive test results for the samples.

States/ UTs have to immediately carry out control and containment operation as per Action Plan on Avian Influenza, 2012 by deploying Rapid Response Teams and providing necessary PPEs, chemicals and other equipments/ material. A team of experts is deputed from Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RDDL) and NIHSAD for technical help. A representative of Department is deputed in personal monitoring and guidance on Control and Containment operation.

Surveillance on the disease has been strengthened and laboratory testing of samples has been decentralized for rapid response on the disease.