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Title : Need to provide compensation to the poultry farm owners affected due to Avian Flu Virus.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Sir, the sudden outbreak of the Avian Flu in the western region of our country is much alarming. The causality of poultry reassembles the one devastated China and East Asian countries three years ago. Though the Government has confirmed that affection of the Flu is localised in the western region, the poultry farmers of my home State, Tamil Nadu, are panic stricken. Namakkal, Erode and Coimbatore districts are the bee centres of poultry farming. Available statistics show that nearly 1.98 crores eggs are produced a day in the Namakkal zone, which is one of the largest producers of poultry products in the country. Nearly 60 lakh eggs are transported to Kerala every day, the largest buyer in the country; and nearly Rs. 30 lakh worth goods are exported to the Middle East and African countries. The rapid actions taken by the Government deserve due appreciation in containing the viral siege, such as banning of serving poultry products in Airways and Railways, to prevent spreading of infection through contacts detaining consignments carrying poultry products, etc.

But the poultry farmers and traders of poultry products feel that they are suffering for no fault of theirs as the consignments from Namakkal and others of Tamil Nadu, carrying 40 lakhs eggs to neighbouring States are detained. Similarly, entry of vehicles carrying poultry feed also are banned. The apprehension is that the poultry farming will be closed without being affected by Avion Flu.

Under these circumstances, ways and means curating and rehabilitating measures are to be contemplated for implementation on war footing. Adequate compensation should be paid to the poultry farmers and backyard breeders for the loss sustained by them.