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Title: Spread of 'Anthrax' disease in the country.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, we are all familiar with diseases named after mad cow, foot and mouth disease, avian flu, etc. But anthrax is a little known disease to us. However, it is a very serious disease. The meat which we eat is not protected from viruses by any preventive measure which may create havoc among the population of our country.

Anthrax originated from bovine population. The sequence of the disease is such that first, the cattle get infected and after consuming the meat of the infected cattle, human beings also get infected causing even death. In the district of Murshidabad of West Bengal, more often than not, incidents of anthrax have been coming to our notice but the veterinary and medical infrastructure are ill-equipped to deal with the growing problem which has been noticed by us. Already a number of persons have been reported to be dead. Those poor and vulnerable people used to consume infected meat and therefore, they are facing death without knowing anything of the implications of consuming such meat. The Department of Food is also not aware of the quality of meat that is being consumed by the poor and vulnerable populace of the district.

I would urge upon the Government that, in consultation with the State Government of West Bengal, they should take very effective measures so as to prevent the prevalence of anthrax any more in West Bengal and other parts of the country.

13.15 hrs.