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Title: Outbreak of bird-flu in Eastern region of Country.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, prevalence of bird-flu in West Bengal has already hogged the limelight and it has already assumed alarming proportion. It was first detected on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 in some parts of West Bengal but the fact is that one year earlier the Union Government had warned the State Government of West Bengal to take precautionary measures before the outbreak of bird-flu in the State of West Bengal. Later on, culling operation was initiated and even selling of poultry products was banned in 13 districts of West Bengal. Later, the Government started mopping up operation and again the Government withdrew the ban on selling of poultry products. Now again bird-flu has spread in various parts of West Bengal. Naturally, the common people who are used to rear up poultry and who are eking out their livelihood by selling poultry products were left in jitters. But the Government is still playing dillydally with the concern of the common people. No attention has been paid by the State Government of West Bengal to the poultry farmers. Hundreds and thousands of poor people in the village of West Bengal used to earn their supplementary income by rearing up poultry both formal and informal. Everyday the State Government is heaping up all the blame upon the Union Government.

Sir, I would like to know from the Union Government whether the State Government has persuaded the Union Government to provide any financial package to those affected poultry farmers or whether the Union Government has already paid the financial package to the State Government. It is because there has been confusion among the common people that the Union Government has not given any kind of financial help to the State Government as is propagated by the West Bengal Government with an intention to humiliate and tarnish the impression of the Union Government to the common people of West Bengal. So, it is a serious problem and now it is going out of control. Therefore, I would request the Union Government to pay its kind attention to the problems arising due to bird-flu in West Bengal and take necessary action.