

No. 50-172/2007-LDT (AQ)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 9th May, 2008

To,

The Chief Secretary
Government of West Bengal
Writers' Building
Kolkata

Subject: Confirmation of Avian Influenza in Darjeeling District of West Bengal.

In continuation of this Department's letters of even number dated 15th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, 30th January, 2nd February, 9th, 19th, 27th March and 4th April, 2008, I am directed to inform that the samples collected from the following area have tested positive for H5 strain of Avian Influenza in the rapid tests conducted at the High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal:

S.No.	District	Block
1.	Darjeeling	Kurseong

2. In this connection, it has been decided that in case of positive result for H5 strain of Avian Influenza by rapid tests in samples collected from areas bordering those already afflicted with H5N1 strain of Avian Influenza, culling and destruction of eggs and feed material etc. may commence immediately without waiting for confirmatory tests so as to control further spread of the disease without loss of time.

3. Accordingly, a series of strategic actions are now required to be taken immediately in the above mentioned area. Such actions are to be taken by the Animal Husbandry and Public Health Departments. The strategy has been detailed in the 'Action Plan of Animal Husbandry for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza' revised and circulated by the Government of India in November, 2006 and other instructions/guidelines issued by the Government of India from time to time and also the 'Contingency Plan' circulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

4. It is requested that the State Government may initiate necessary actions contained in the Action Plan of Animal Husbandry referred to above (especially those under Part III) immediately. These include declaration of infected and surveillance areas including actions to be taken in these areas (ban on movement of poultry and its products in infected area, closure of poultry and egg markets and shops within a radius of 10 kms. from the infected site, ban on movement of farm personnel, restricting access to wild and stray birds); restricting access to the infected premises; destruction of birds; disposal of dead birds and infected materials; clean-up and disinfection followed by sealing of the premises and issue of sanitization certificate; post operations surveillance; imposition of legislative measures etc. along with necessary measures laid down in the Contingency Plan of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

5. It has been decided that all poultry within a radius of 5 kms. of the following focus of infection would be culled:-

Darjeeling District:

S.No.	Village	Block
1.	Painakumari	Kurseong

In addition to the culling strategy mentioned above, surveillance will be carried out over a further radius up to 10 kilometers.

6. It is the policy of the Government to compensate for loss of poultry on account of culling and destruction of birds. The rates for payment of compensation have also been indicated to the State Governments. The Government of India has conveyed the decision to share costs of compensation on 50:50 basis with the State Governments and authorized State Governments to utilize funds available with them under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease' (ASCAD). It may please be ensured that payment of compensation is immediate and simultaneous with culling.

7. A daily report on the control and containment operations may please be furnished to this Department by 12 noon.

8. International Organizations will be notified by the Government of India at its level.

9. Surveillance throughout the State may be intensified to monitor further spread of infection, if any.


(Arvind Kaushal)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Copies for information to:

1. Prime Minister's Office (Shri Sanjay Mitra, Joint Secretary), New Delhi
2. Cabinet Secretariat (Shri Vijay Sharma, Additional Secretary), New Delhi
3. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.
6. Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. Director General (M&C), PIB, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Principal Secretary, Department of Animal Resources Development, Government of West Bengal.
9. Director, Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of West Bengal.

Copy also to:

- (1) Secretary (AH) of all States/UTs.
- (2) Commissioners/Directors (AH) of all States/UTs.


(Arvind Kaushal)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India