

Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 14th February 2008

Media Brief

1. There are no further reports from the HSADL, Bhopal of any sample testing positive from any part of the country, including West Bengal.
2. Certain press reports appearing on 13th February, 2008 mentioned unusual mortality of birds in a farm in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. Enquiries made with the State Government of West Bengal revealed that 800 poultry birds in a broiler farm died during the period 9th to 12th February 2008, which was found to be on account of starvation, suffocation, unhygienic conditions and improper temperature management. On 13th February, only 31 birds died at the said farm. No mortality has been noticed at the neighbouring farms. The State has been asked to immediately forward sample to the HSADL, Bhopal. No further mortality in any other district of West Bengal was reported on 13th February, 2008.
3. A total of 285 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) were engaged (147 for surveillance / mopping and 138 for disinfection and sanitization) in West Bengal, which completed culling of 33,114 birds with cumulative culling of 38.48 lakhs. The culling being done now is part of the mopping up exercise.
4. The latest figures of eggs and feed destroyed till 13.02.2008 are 14,90,486 and 80,033 kg respectively.
5. As part of the preventive culling in Assam two rounds of mopping up operation have been completed in both the districts. Cleaning and disinfection of poultry premises have also been completed simultaneously. Thus the poultry depopulation operation in the identified zone in Assam has practically been completed. In Bihar, 34% of the culling has been completed.