

Dr. Pradeep Kumar  
Secretary (ADF)

D.O. No. 50-193/2006-LDT(AQ)  
Dated the 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2007

Dear Chief Secretary,

Multiple poultry outbreaks of Avian Influenza (H5N1) have been reported in Pakistan and Myanmar since 2006. Till date 44 outbreaks have been reported from Pakistan and 92 outbreaks from Myanmar, which are still spreading.

As per World Health Organization (WHO), Myanmar has reported first human case of Avian Influenza (H5N1) and there are 8 suspected human cases of H5N1 Avian Influenza in the Peshawar area of Pakistan. One of the cases has recovered and two suspected cases have since died. Samples taken from the suspected cases have tested positive for H5N1 in the National Laboratory, Pakistan. The samples have also been forwarded to WHO H5 Reference Laboratory for confirmation and further analysis.

As has been indicated in earlier correspondence from this Department, Western and North-Eastern states, particularly those adjoining China, Pakistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh are vulnerable because of the continuing outbreaks being reported in these countries. In this context, the states are requested to take following actions:

1. Intensify surveillance:

- a) Unusual mortality should be immediately reported; samples should be collected and forwarded directly to High Security Animal Disease Laboratory(HSADL), Bhopal under information to this Department.
- b) Routine surveillance through systematic sample collection in accordance with State Surveillance Plan be continued. Several States/UTs have still not forwarded the Surveillance Plan despite repeated emphasis by Government of India. This needs to be done urgently.

2. Review and assess preparedness which can be facilitated by use of Ready Reckoners viz. the Checklist for preparedness and Immediate Points of Action available at Annexure III and Annexure IV of the Action Plan of Animal Husbandry for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza circulated by the Government of India to all the State Governments. Such reviews can be more meaningful if they are conducted at your level as it involves various Departments.

3. Effective ceiling of the borders with Pakistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh:

Trade in livestock and livestock products is prohibited by Notification No. S.O.102(E) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2007 of the Government of India. Other measures could include alerting the Border Security Force through meeting at the state/ district level; alerting the District Magistrate. It is imperative that the borders are sealed vigorously and effectively to both legal and illegal trade.

4. Generate social awareness within the State and especially in the border districts. For this, the IEC materials forwarded by the Government of India to all the states "Including TV and Radio materials" can be effectively used by the State Governments.
5. Inventories: Control and Containment of Avian Influenza requires equipment and material of several kinds. States are advised to stock necessary materials and finalise procedures for purchase etc.

I shall be grateful for immediate action on the above issues as your state is presently on high alert for Avian Influenza.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



( Dr. Pradeep Kumar )

o/c

Chief Secretaries of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland.