

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

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2008

To,

**The Chief Secretary**  
Government of Assam/ Bihar / Jharkhand / Orissa

**Subject:** Preventing spread of the Avian Influenza occurrence in West Bengal.

After notification of the first occurrence of Avian Influenza in West Bengal on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008, a number of areas of the state are presently affected. The State Government is implementing necessary control and containment operations to check further spread of the disease.

2. The Government of India has been closely monitoring the situation in West Bengal and also giving serious thought to checking spread of the infection to the neighbouring states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa. In this connection, a Technical Expert Group was also appointed to advise in the matter. As per recommendation made by this Group, it has been decided to create a poultry depopulated zone in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa up to 5 kilometres from their border with West Bengal so as prevent ingress of the disease into these states. Accordingly, all poultry within the said zone will be culled. The Department of Animal Husbandry in the respective states will undertake the culling operation, in coordination with the state's Department of Health and other nodal agencies.

3. The following guidelines may be adhered to while carrying out the culling operations:

- (i) The states will need to prioritize areas for depopulation on the basis of risk perception in terms of movement of poultry from across the border, which may have already taken place or is likely to take place, formal and informal trade links and routes, proximity of villages with the other side of the border, or any other risk factors.
- (ii) It is the policy of the Government to compensate for loss of poultry on account of culling and destruction of birds. The rate for payment of compensation has 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 programme of 'Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease' (ASCAD), which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It may please be ensured that payment of compensation is immediate and simultaneous to culling.
- (iii) Motivation of poultry owners is a key factor in the success of this preventive culling operation. The states should immediately take up awareness campaign through mass media, field level campaign and also through village leaders explaining the necessity of the measure.
- (iv) The states should immediately arrange adequate number of RRTs, PPE kits and other requisites for carrying out preventive culling operation in the target areas.

- (v) The culled birds may be disposed off by burning in pyre or burial as per the directions contained in the 'Action Plan of Animal Husbandry for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza' distributed in November 2006.
- (vi) The target zone should remain free from any live poultry for the next three months or till such time when the risk of trans-border spread of HPAI goes away, whichever is later. The states should be extra-vigilant in the depopulated border zone to ensure this.
- (vii) It is also essential that about 1.5% samples should be drawn from the culled birds from 25% of the total villages falling in the depopulated zone. These villages should be selected randomly. A total of 1.5% sampling should be carried out randomly from each village of which 1% will be serum for antibodies and 0.5% cloacal swab for virus isolation. Minimum sample size should be 5 per village and maximum 20 per village.
- (viii) Surveillance for unusual mortality should be carried out in the entire state and also intensively beyond the 5 km depopulated zone to a radius of 10 km inside the state.

4. The respective states may immediately prepare an Action Plan with a view to completing the culling operation within a period of 7 days from the date of issue of this notification. While communicating the Action Plan to this Department, the states may also indicate the target population for culling in the defined zone, availability of RRTs, PPE kits and other logistics with them. A daily progress report on the culling operation mentioning the number of RRTs deployed, number of various category of poultry culled, amount of compensation disbursed and any other information the states wish to bring to the notice of the Government of India, may please be furnished to this Department.

*sd/-*

(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 Husbandry, Government of Assam.
9. Principal Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Bihar.
10. Principal Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Jharkhand.
11. Principal Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Orissa.
12. Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Assam.
13. Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Bihar.
14. Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Jharkhand.
15. Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Orissa.

**Copy also to:**

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

*Arvind Kaushal*  
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