

No. 50-213 (1)/2008- LDT(AQ)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2009

To

**The Chief Secretary of all States/UTs.**

**Subject:** Declaration of Avian Influenza - free status

Sir,

India notified outbreaks of Avian Influenza (H5N1) in Assam (18 epicentres), West Bengal (11 epicentres) and Sikkim (1 epicentre) during November, 2008 to May, 2009. The last outbreak was notified on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal. There has been no further outbreak thereafter.

2. The control measures adopted in all the outbreaks were stamping out of entire poultry population, including destruction of eggs, feed, litters and other infected materials in a radius of 3 to 5 Kms. around each outbreak location; restriction on movement of poultry, poultry products to and from the area of outbreak, disinfection and cleaning up of infected premises. The final disinfection process was completed on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

3. Surveillance was carried out throughout the country as per article 2.7.12.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2008). Results of surveillance and other relevant information on the outbreaks are available on the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India website at <http://www.dahd.nic.in>. Surveillance around the area of the outbreak since completion of the operation (including culling, disinfection and clean-up) and surveillance in rest of the country has shown no evidence of the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1).

4. In view of the above, India has declared itself free from the Notifiable Avian Influenza (H5N1) with effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2009 and notified the same to the OIE.

5. It is, however, emphasized that the surveillance against Avian Influenza will have to be continued throughout the country, especially in vulnerable areas bordering infected countries and in areas visited by migratory birds. It is reiterated that the States should not be led into complacency due to declaration of country freedom from notifiable Avian Influenza and must maintain their vigil against the disease.

Yours faithfully,



(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 (Dr. C.S. Kedar, Joint 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