

No.50-213/2006-LDT(AQ)-Vol.II  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated, the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2008

To

**The Chief Secretary  
All States / UTs.**

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

Sir,

India had notified as many as 42 outbreaks of Avian Influenza (H5N1) in West Bengal and Tripura during the period January, 2008 to May, 2008. The last outbreak was notified on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 in Darjeeling district of West Bengal whereafter there have been no further outbreaks of the disease in the country.

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 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 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2008.

3. Surveillance was carried out throughout the country as per article 10.4.28, 10.4.29 and 10.4.31 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 <http://www.dahd.nic.in>. Surveillance around the area of outbreak after 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 Notifiable Avian Influenza (H5N1) on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 and notified OIE of the same.

5. The above declaration should not lead the States / UTs into any complacency in maintaining vigil against the disease, which should continue as hitherto force, particularly in the vulnerable areas.

Yours faithfully,



(Arvind Kaushal)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. 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 / Tripura.
9. Director, Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of West Bengal / Tripura.

**Copy also to:**

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



(Arvind Kaushal)  
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India