

No. 50-303/2009-LDT (AQ)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 19th January 2009

To,

The Chief Secretary
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok

Subject: Confirmation of Avian Influenza in South Sikkim District of Sikkim.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Sikkim, Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries & Veterinary Services Department letter No.1614/AHLF&VS dated 17th January, 2009 reporting unusual mortality of poultry birds in South Sikkim district of the State. The poultry samples collected from the concerned site were forwarded to the High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal for testing.

2. The samples have been tested at the HSADL, Bhopal. The rapid test report confirms that samples from Hospital Road, Ravongla Municipality of South Sikkim district are positive for the H5 strain of Avian Influenza.

3. Consequent upon confirmation of the outbreak of Avian Influenza, the Government of Sikkim needs to take a series of strategic actions immediately. Such actions are to be taken both by the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department and the Public Health Department of the State. The strategy has been detailed in the document 'Action Plan of Animal Husbandry for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza', revised and circulated by the Government of India in November, 2006 and other instructions/guidelines issued by the Government of India from time to time. In this connection, the 'Contingency Plan' circulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India may also be referred to.

4. It is requested that necessary actions as contained in the Action Plan referred to above (especially in Part III thereof) may please be initiated immediately. These include declaration of infected and surveillance areas, ban on movement of poultry and its products in infected area, closure of poultry and egg markets within a radius of 10 kms. from the infected site, ban on movement of farm personnel, restricting access to infected premises, destruction and disposal of birds, disposal of infected material, clean-up and disinfection followed by sealing of the premises and issue of sanitization certificate, post operations surveillance, imposition of legislative measures etc. along with necessary measures laid down in the Contingency Plan of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

5. It has been decided that all poultry within a radius of 3 kms. of the focus of infection as given below will be culled:-

South Sikkim District:

Locality	Municipality
Hospital Road	Ravongla

In addition to the culling strategy mentioned above, surveillance will be carried out over a further radius up to 10 kilometers.

6. 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 shares 50% of the cost of compensation for which funds already made available to the Government of Sikkim for implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease' (ASCAD) may be utilized. It may please be ensured that payment of compensation is made at the time of culling of birds and destruction of eggs and feed materials.

7. A daily report on the control and containment operations may please be furnished to this Department by 11 A.M.

8. International Organizations will be notified by the Government of India at its level.

9. Surveillance throughout the State may be intensified to monitor further spread of infection, if any.



(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 M. Sarangi, 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, Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries & Veterinary Services Department, Government of Sikkim, Tadong, Sikkim.
9. Director, Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries & Veterinary Services Department, Government of Sikkim, Tadong, Sikkim.

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