

Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan
New Delhi, the 20th February 2008

Media Brief

1. There are no further reports from the HSADL, Bhopal of any sample testing positive from any part of the country, including West Bengal.
2. No unusual mortality was reported in West Bengal on 19th February, 2008.
3. The latest report from West Bengal reveals that a total of 173 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) were engaged (19 for surveillance / mopping and 154 for disinfection and sanitization). The cumulative culling of poultry birds is 39.05 lakhs.
4. The cumulative total of eggs and feed destroyed till 19.02.2008 stand at 14,90,785 and 80,033 kg respectively.
5. There is also no change in the amount of compensation of Rs. 8.40 crores (approx.) paid to the affected families, which was reported yesterday.
6. In Assam, the poultry depopulation operation in the identified zone has been completed on 13.02.2008. Out of three districts in Bihar, culling has been completed in Purnia and Kishanganj districts. There are five blocks in Katihar district involved in the preventive culling. The exercise has been completed in four of the five blocks. The task is also expected to be completed in the remaining block today. In Jharkhand, culling has been completed in Jamtara district, as already reported. The exercise is currently in progress in Pakur district, which is also expected to be completed by 21.02.2008. No culling has yet been taken up in Orissa.
7. The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to the banks on 19th February 2008 for implementation of relief measures for poultry industry. These include, one year's moratorium on repayment of outstanding loans, conversion of working capital loans into term loans and reshedulement of term loans, etc.