GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1086

TO BE ANSWER ON 13.02.2025

Establishment of Advanced Biotechnology Laboratory for Poultry in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu

1086. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR :

Will the Minister of *Science and Technology* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu is a major poultry hub, contributing significantly to country's egg exports, with around 80 per cent of country's egg exports coming from this region;

(b) whether Government has any plans to establish advanced biotechnology laboratory or research institute in Namakkal, focusing on hybrid poultry, disease control, and export enhancement, considering administration's offer to provide land for the same; and

(c) details of any initiatives or collaborations between Government and poultry industries in Namakkal to promote research and development in poultry biotechnology, including disease diagnosis, vaccine development and genetic improvement of poultry breeds?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

a). Yes, the Government is aware of this fact.

b). There is no proposal under consideration with the Government to establish advanced biotechnology laboratory or research institute in Namakkal, focusing on hybrid poultry, disease control, and export enhancement.

c). Currently there are no initiatives or collaborations between the Government and poultry industries in Namakkal. However, the Government through Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), has supported various Research and Development activities in poultry biotechnology, including disease diagnosis, vaccine development and genetic improvement of poultry breeds in Tamil Nadu, including Namakkal region. The details are as follows:

Department/Agencies	**Initiatives**
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying	The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has taken a proactive approach to mitigate the risks associated with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza by adopting the concept of poultry compartmentalization. Compartmentalization is a crucial tool that enhances animal health, reduces the risk of disease outbreaks within and outside the compartment, and facilitates the trade of poultry and poultry-related products. As on the date the Department has approved 42 compartments spread out in 5 States of the country. Further the Department has also submitted a self-declaration of freedom from High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in 32 poultry compartments to WOAH which has been approved. Out of the 42 compartments, 5 compartments are located in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu.
The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)	a). ICAR-DPR collaborative research project on "Chicken or egg: Drivers of antimicrobial resistance in poultry in India (funded by DBT) during 2018-2021 with Veterinary College And Research Institute (VC&RI), Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Namakkal.

	b). Hosur centre for All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Poultry Breeding located at College of Poultry Production and Management. TANUVAS, Hosur is propagating improved rural backyard chicken varieties such as Vanaraja and Gramapriya to different parts of Tamil Nadu including Namakkal region to enhance the productivity under backyard system of rearing.
Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	The Department has supported following R&D projects: a). Developing Immune Complex Vaccine for Protection against Infectious Bursal Disease in the presence of Maternally Derived Antibodies at Veterinary College, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai. b). Alternative to antibacterial: Development of phytosome loaded polyherbal extracts for treating necrotic enteritis in broiler chicken at Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Veterinary College and Research Institute, Orathanadu. c). Development of colorimetric PCR assay for differentiation of field and vaccine strains of Marek's Disease Virus in Chicken during 2019-2021 at Department of Veterinary Pathology, Madras Veterinary College, TANUVAS, Chennai.

******