

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4068  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

**BIRD FLU**

**4068. SHRI JANAK RAM:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of reports indicating the threat of bird flu rising in Delhi and several areas in the country, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to strengthen the process of lab tests for meat products in the country; and
- (b) the steps taken to prevent health problem from the increased use of antibiotics in food products?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): As informed by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, there is no report indicating the threat of Bird Flu rising in Delhi and any other area in the country. The country had reported the last outbreak of Bird Flu on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in Odisha. The control and containment operations were carried out as per the Action Plan on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza. Post Operation Surveillance Plan (POSP) for a period of three months was carried out for surveillance of disease in the surveillance zones. Surveillance was also carried out throughout the country and around the areas of the outbreaks after completion of the disinfection process. India had declared itself free from Avian Influenza (H5N8 and H5N1) from 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 as per World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines and the same was notified to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). There is no report of any outbreak from any part of the country thereafter.

As regards strengthening the process of lab tests for meat products in the country, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has already released “Manual of Method of Analysis of Foods – Meat & Meat Products” prescribing methods of analysis of various parameters in meat as prescribed under Food Safety and Standards Regulations to be followed by the FSSAI notified food testing laboratories. FSSAI has notified 172 NABL accredited food testing laboratories across the country of which 100 laboratories have the facilities for testing of meat products in the country.

(b): The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has issued advisories to all States/UTs for judicious use of antibiotics in treatment of food producing animals, for stopping the use of antibiotics in animal feed and for general awareness. The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules were amended by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the year 2012, to make a provision that the container of a medicine for treatment of food producing animals shall be labelled with the withdrawal period of the drug for the species on which it is intended to be used.

Further, FSSAI has prescribed the Tolerance limit of antibiotics and veterinary drugs on milk, animal tissues, poultry, fish etc in the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Second Amendment Regulations, 2018. It also contains a list of antibiotics and veterinary drugs that are not permitted to be used at any stage of processing of meat and meat products, poultry and eggs, sea foods including shrimps, prawns or any variety of fish and fishery products. It is provided that Food Business Operators shall comply with all the provisions of these amendment regulations by 1st January, 2019.