

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING  
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1160  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

**LABORATORIES FOR TESTING BIRD FLU**

1160. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to establish more laboratories for testing of the Bird Flu which has affected many States/UTs including the State of Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether only one institute namely, National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal is specializing in testing bird flu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested the Government to grant accreditation for State-based laboratories as it has awarded for the COVID-19 testing; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING  
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)**

- (a) Keeping in view the recent outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Bird flu) as well as to facilitate testing processes, States/UTs have been requested to carry out preliminary screening of samples in their laboratories which have minimum BSL-II facilities and diagnostic capability.
- (b) ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Disease (NIHSAD), Bhopal is the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza as it is so recognized by World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Besides, there are five Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RDDLs) located region-wise at Bangalore (Southern), Pune (Western), Jalandhar (Northern), Kolkata (Eastern) and Guwahati (North-Eastern) and one Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (CDDL), located at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly which provide referral services for early diagnosis of animal diseases for surveillance including avian influenza.
- (c) and (d) The Government of Maharashtra has sought permission for diagnosis and surveillance of Avian Influenza in the state in respect of Centre for Zoonosis at Nagpur Veterinary College on the analogy of COVID-19 tests. The Centre has bio-safety level II facility, RT-PCR machines, technical expertise and other infrastructure facilities required for conducting RT-PCR tests.