Bird Flu Alert

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Rituparna Goswami Pande 18 January 2008 14710 views

The flu – bird flu is back with a bang. The state Animal Husbandary and Veterinary Department sounded a health alert on Avian influnza in poultry in all the districts of Assam.

Following the Bird Flu outbreak in Bengal the state has beefed up security measures so as to curb its effect in the state. Reports are rife that the bird flu outbreak in Bengal could turn out to be the worst in the country and may measure up to the crisis faced by Thailand, Bangladesh and Vietnam.

Assam sounded its alert in the bordering districts which share borders with Bengal including Goalpara, Dubri, Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon.

RK Sharma, the deputy Secretary, Veterinary and Animal Husbandary Department stated that steps are afoot to prevent the spread of the disease in different parts of the state. The Rapid Response Team (RPT) has also been set into motion in all the districts to keep a watch on the situation.

In a state level meeting between the Commissioner and Secretary of Animal Husbandary and Veterinary Department it was decided that the district administrations would intensify the vigil in border areas and ensure that no poultry products enter the state from the neighbouring state.

Mentionably, around 7,000 poultry enters the northeast in the market everyday via Assam. And the biggest share is consumed in Assam itself. Traders of poultry are looking at the eyes of huge losses as the bird flu alert is surely going to bring down the sale of poultry in the markets.

There is no reason to panic as yet for no case of bird flu has been reported and that enough stock of vaccine is available if the need arises.

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BY RITUPARNA GOSWAMI PANDE
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