

company for prescribing its medicines even though cheaper alternatives from better known companies are available in the market, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any investigation is conducted into such complaints; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken if any against the doctors involved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (c) Yes. The Medical Council of India has informed that they are in receipt of an anonymous complaint, which had been referred by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, New Delhi. The complaint is against several doctors for receiving cash payment, foreign trips, gifts, etc. from ERIS Life Sciences Pvt. Limited, Ahmedabad. The matter has been placed before the Ethics Committee of the MCI.

Expansion of runway at Mangalore Airport in Karnataka

*300. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to extend the runway at Mangalore Airport, where 158 passengers of Air India Express flight had lost their lives;

(b) whether any proposal has been submitted by the State Government Karnataka to the Ministry in this regard;

(c) if so, by when the proposed expansion will be undertaken; and

(d) by when, the necessary permission will be accorded by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has projected additional requirement of 289.335 acres of land for extension of runway to the State Government.

Bird Flu outbreak in Kerala

*301. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether avian influenza or Bird Flu outbreak was reported in Kerala after mass deaths of ducks in Alappuzha district;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in response thereto; and

(c) whether a medical team was sent along with medicines to take preventive action including stopping of virus spreading to rearing birds, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (c) Outbreak of Avian Influenza among birds was notified by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF), Government of India on 25th November, 2014 in Alappuzha District (Purakkad and Thalavady Panchayats) and Kottayam District (Aimanam Panchayat) of Kerala. Epicentres in Alappuzha District (Chennithala Panchayat) and in Kottayam District (Vallikkumaram Panchayat) were further notified on 2nd and 3rd December, 2014 respectively. Till date no human cases of Avian flu has been reported.

A series of measures were instituted by DAHDF and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. The contingency plans of both the Departments were put into operation immediately on notification of Avian Influenza.

The action taken by DAHDF included declaration of 'Alert Zone'— an area upto 10 Kms. radius around the epicenter, banning movement of poultry and poultry products to and from this zone, culling of affected poultry in the infected zone (0-1 km. area) followed by proper disposal and burial of the dead birds, sanitization of the affected farms and post operation surveillance of the affected area.

MoHFW, deployed its Rapid Response Team to the affected areas to assist the State Health authorities in carrying out house to house surveillance to identify suspect cases among those who came in contact with infected poultry. All those reported to have symptoms of respiratory tract infection and fever and having exposure history to infected birds were kept under surveillance. Hospitals with isolation facilities were identified by the State Government near the affected area to manage human cases of Avian Influenza. Adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drug used for prophylaxis and treatment was available with the State Government. National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi; Kasturba Medical College, Manipal; and National Institute of Virology, Pune were identified to test human samples and National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases Laboratory, Bhopal for testing animal samples. 5000 Personal protective equipments, 1300 surgical masks and 500 N-95 respirators were made available to the State. Training Tool Kit and Information, Education and Communication materials specific for Avian Influenza (in Malayalam) were provided to the State Government.

The situation is being closely monitored by the Government.