

Gist of Recommendations	Reasons
(l) Gram Panchayat Mahila Fund to assist women SHGs	Existing schemes implemented by Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj can take care of women livelihood and capacity building issues.
(m) MSP and Procurement operations should be treated as two separate initiatives	Department of Food and Public Distribution has reservation on this, since it will be difficult to implement.

Safeguarding livelihood of poultry farmers

2568. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to lift the ban on import of poultry meat and egg from USA and other countries in view of WTO remarks, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if so, how Government is planning to safeguard the livelihood of Indian Poultry farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Sir, the import of poultry meat and egg from United States of America (USA) and other countries was not banned as the product fall under the category of freely importable items as per the extant EXIM Policy of Government of India. Import of all poultry products including the poultry meat are allowed from all countries against Sanitary Import Permit after conducting the Risk Analysis on International Principles as per Notification No. 2666 (E) dated 17th October, 2014 issued under the provision of Livestock Importation Act, 1898 to prevent the ingress of exotic diseases through such imports. However, in July, 2011, the import of all poultry products and live poultry was prohibited from the countries where Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) was reported as per Notification No.1663 (E) dated 19th July, 2011 issued under the provision of Livestock Importation Act, 1898. Since, the United States of America was continuously reporting Avian Influenza in their country, the export of poultry products from USA was hampered due to the India's measure issued *vide* notification no. S.O. 1663(E) dated 19th July, 2011.

The USA sought intervention of World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) stating that India's measure is inconsistent with the recommendations of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as India did not allow import of poultry products from the zones or compartments which are free

from Avian Influenza. India put country wise ban whenever any country including USA notifies Avian Influenza in a part of a country.

The Panel set up by Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of WTO ruled that India's Avian Influenza measures were inconsistent with India's obligations under the WTO Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Agreement and, therefore, recommended that India to bring its measures in conformity with its obligations under the SPS Agreement.

Since the WTO Dispute Panel Rulings are binding to the WTO member countries, therefore, India has amended the S.O. 1663(E) dated 19th July, 2016 and new notification S.O. 2337(E) dated 8th July, 2016 has been issued in compliance to the panel ruling. In the revised notification the provision for allowing import of poultry products only from the countries or zones or compartments free from Avian Influenza has been kept.

(b) With a view to protect the interest of the Indian poultry farmers, the following measures, are in place:—

- (i) At present, the Customs Duty on chicken legs has been retained at India's bound rate of duty, which is the maximum permissible level of duty committed to the WTO. Import duty on Meat and edible offal of poultry (cuts and offal) is 100%.
- (ii) India has a system in place for import of poultry products through Sanitary Import Permits (SIP). SIPs are granted for import of poultry products only after detailed Risk Analysis from the angle of human and animal health. Import of poultry products are allowed from the country/zone/compartments which are free from Highly Pathogenic and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza.
- (iii) The Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries has framed robust questionnaire and verification system in the exporting country including USA. The exporting country has to furnish information as per the set questionnaire.
- (iv) The importer of poultry meat has to fulfil the Food Safety Standards laid down by Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).

Milk production in NER

2569. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of milk in the States of North Eastern Region (NER) in liters, State-wise;

(b) the total sale of packaged liquid milk daily in the NER States; and