

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 563
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2021

VACCINATION TO CURE BIRD FLU

563. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the fact that according to the poultry experts, vaccination to cure bird flu caused by some strains of viruses is available in many countries and will be a better option than culling the birds;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any measures to allow the use of these vaccines in the country, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the vaccines are being smuggled from other countries into India; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) and (b) As per World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), vaccination is not considered the solution to the control of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) if eradication is the desired result. Without the application of monitoring systems, strict biosecurity and depopulation in the face of infection, there is the possibility that these viruses could become endemic in vaccinated poultry populations. Long-term circulation of the virus in a vaccinated population may result in both antigenic and genetic changes in the virus and this has been reported to have occurred in several countries.

With the long term use of vaccination either the disease has become endemic and therefore widespread, or the infection in affected animals is too difficult to detect. The Government of India has not permitted use of any vaccine against Bird Flu in the country. Further, it is gathered from Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) that no such vaccine is approved in countries like USA, UK, EU etc. to prevent/cure bird flu in birds.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the State Governments, the latter are not aware about the smuggling of vaccines against Bird Flu.
