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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.



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3259	16.01.2016	19.01.2016	Tripura	www.telegraphindia.com/English http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160117/jsp/frontpage/story_64277.jsp#.VpySloh97IU
Title:	Bird flu outbreak in Tripura village			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Tripura			

The animal resource department has started culling chickens in the poultry farm at Gandhigram, 12km north of here, after a fresh outbreak of bird flu (H5N1) was confirmed. Beginning this morning, veterinary surgeons of the department culled more than 8,000 poultry in the farm as well as around the area. The remaining 2,000 chickens in the farm are being culled. Minister for animal resource Aghore Debbarma said over the past week more than 1,000 poultry had died of an unknown disease in the Gandhigram farm. "We had suspicion of an outbreak of bird flu. Hence, blood samples of the infected chickens were sent to the laboratory of National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal and the disease had been confirmed as bird flu," he said.

He said after the report from Bhopal was received yesterday, emergency preparations were made to launch culling of not only all kinds of chicken but all possibly infected birds. "Initially, the culling will remain confined to the poultry farm and within a 1km radius. But gradually we will have to cover a 10km radius of the Gandhigram farm because bird flu is a highly infectious disease," said Debbarma. A high-level meeting was held in the secretariat yesterday in which senior specialists, including Dr Manoranjan Sarkar, were present. Eight teams, comprising five veterinary doctors each, have been constituted to carry out the culling. West Tripura

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Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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district magistrate Milind Ramteke also visited Gandhigram today to take stock of the situation.

Sarkar said the Gandhigram poultry farm had been launched in 1965 to cater to the fast-growing population as a result of influx of refugees. "The farm was first affected by bird flu in 2009 and again in 2010 and 2012. Thousands of chickens had to be culled each time," he said.

He added that only broiler chickens had been affected by bird flu this time while 3,000 Grampiya chickens brought from Hyderabad have not been affected. Sarkar said the chickens started dying from January 4 but large-scale deaths began from January 11. He expressed confidence that the situation would be tackled and a compensation package for the poultry farmers would be announced soon.

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