

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2444

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005

BIRD FLU INFECTION

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned 'finally, Army wakes up to bird flu' appearing in the Times of India dated November 14, 2005;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether any case of Bird flu related disease among the defence forces have been reported;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2444 FOR 8.12.2005

The Times of India news item of November 14, 2005 that the Army had not received instructions on precautions regarding bird flu is incorrect. The Army had issued instructions on October 27, 2005 regarding the precautionary measures to be taken in the light of the spread of the bird flu epidemic. This was further followed by detailed instructions on the bird flu epidemic which was disseminated to the Army, Navy and Air Force.

There has been no reported case of bird flu related disease among the Armed Forces personnel till date.