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Title: Issue regarding spread of bird flu and culling of lakhs of birds in the country.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, I am feeling very sorry in saying that we have given notices day before yesterday also but unfortunately we have not got the chance to raise this issue in the House. The bird flu is reported in Kerala two weeks before. Hundreds of ducks have been killed. The national laboratory at Bhopal has confirmed that because of the bird flu virus this thing has happened. This is such a serious issue. How can we raise this issue? Where can we raise this issue other than Parliament? The entire people in Kerala, not only the people of Kerala but all the Southern States are in an alarming situation because of this disease of bird flu. We, myself, Mr. Suresh and Mr. Anto Antony, already met the hon. Minister yesterday. We have already written to the hon. Health Minister about this. The Government of Kerala is doing a lot of activities there to prevent the spreading up of this disease. But there is a lack of medicine. This medicine can only be provided by the Government of India. Therefore, the Union Health Ministry has to support the State Government for providing medicines. Otherwise the State Government is not in a position to prevent the spreading of this disease. The farmers are in a trouble. They are very poor farmers. About 1,80,000 ducks have been killed due to the national protocol wherein it is stated that within the radius of five kilometres where the disease is reported all the ducks should be killed.

The Government of India should give compensation to the poor duck farmers also. I am very much grateful to the Union Government that they have taken note of it. The Animal Husbandry Minister knows the situation very well. They have already sent a team to Kerala. There should be maximum help to the poor farmers in the form of compensation. But the immediate need is the medicine. Some hon. Ministers are there they should convey this message to the Union Health Minister. That is why, we are mentioning it here. The people of the entire State, Kerala have been affected by bird flu. It has been reported in three places of my constituency. Therefore, I would like to raise this issue in Parliament.

My humble request to the Government of India is to send medicines and help to the State Government of Kerala expeditiously.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is here. Please tell him to respond.
...(Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In 'Zero Hour' you cannot expect the Minister to intervene.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I understand the anxiety of the hon. Members. They are talking about bird flu and culling of lakhs of birds there. This has been reported earlier in the country. If what they are saying is so, we will bring to the knowledge of the Health Minister and we will also bring it to the notice of the Agriculture Minister.