SECY./AHD & F DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

The State Level Task Force Committee meeting on 'Avian Influenza' under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government was held at 3.30 p.m. on 24.1.08. Ms.Leena Nair, IAS., Special Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Thiru P.R.Shampath, IAS., Commissioner of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Thiru R. Rajagopal, Secretary to Government, Environment & Forests Department, Thiru N.S.Palaniappan, IAS., Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department (i/c), Thiru P.W.C., Dawidar, IAS, Special Secretary to Government, Health & Family Welfare Department, Dr.P. Thangaraj, Vice-Chancellor, TANUVAS, and other Department officials attended the meeting.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the actions taken by the Animal Husbandry Department to prevent the entry of Bird Flu in Tamil Nadu as well as the preparedness of both Animal Husbandry and Health Department. The CS emphasized the need to strengthen and intensify the surveillance and ensure that all preventive measures are in place both in the poultry areas as well as in the wildlife sanctuaries. He also instructed that hygiene must be ensured in all the shandies & markets, where chicken, meat and eggs are sold. The CS also advised the Department of Animal Husbandry to lay a special emphasis on surveillance in the backyard poultry areas. The IEC activities should also be stepped up so that poultry farmers as well as the general public are aware of actions to be taken in any eventuality.

General B. Quisas st.