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To
The Chief Wildlife Warden,  
Department of Environment and Forests,  
Government of Bihar,  
4th Floor, Aranya Bhawan,  
Shahid Pir Ali Khan Marh, PO Veterinary College,  
Patna – 800 014, Bihar,  
(cwlwbihar@rediffmail.com)

Sub: Detection of H5N1 Avian Influenza in Peafowl housed in the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna - regarding

Ref: Letter No.2153 dated 26.12.2018 from the Director, Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna

Sir,

With reference to above, it is learnt that six Peafowl (3 male : 3 female) died in the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna during the period from 16th to 24th December, 2018 and the sample of Peafowl died in the zoo tested positive for H5N1 Avian Influenza. Also, it is learnt that the Zoo is closed to public as part of preventive measures.

It is to inform that the CZA, in view of confirmation of Avian Influenza among domestic birds in Odisha and Bihar, issued advisory dated 24.12.2018 to all the zoos to be alert and to take preventive measures as per the Action Plan prescribed in the matter.

Besides the advisory issued by this office in the matter, you are requested to refer the Addendum to National Action Plan on Avian Influenza for Zoological Parks issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India vide letter F.No.K-50050-3/2017-LH dated 20.01.2017 (copy enclosed), in the wake of outbreak of Avian Influenza in wild / migratory / birds in captivity. Excerpts from the above-referred Addendum to National Action Plan, is as follows:

"During suspected / confirmed AIV (H5 or H7 subtype) outbreaks:

2. As soon as the disease is confirmed as H5 or H7 Avian Influenza, the actions to be initiated as per NAP-AI-2015, however derogations may be granted for wild/endangered/precious captive birds not to be killed. Visitors' entry needs to be stopped forthwith.

4. The movement of the persons/vets/labourers should be restricted and in no case they should move from infected pens to healthy pens. The management of the healthy sheds should be done by separate team.

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Response and Surveillance after Outbreak:

7. Sampling has to be repeated every 15 days for at least 4 times and if consecutive two samplings collected from the last positive result found negative then zoo opening may be considered by the competent authority.

In case of any suspicion, detection or mortality among birds in captivity in the Zoo, the samples be sent through proper channel and got tested immediately at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal or to designated Diagnostic Laboratory in the form prescribed in the matter.

Also, it is to advise that the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna be directed to submit a Daily Report on factual status to the office of the CZA till the area is declared free of Avian Influenza by the Director, Animal Husbandry Department of the concerned State. Also, the zoo be advised to consider reopening to public under prior intimation to this office regarding declaration of the area free from Avian Influenza as specified above.

It is to further advise you to provide immediate medical assistance to the zoo personnel who have been exposed / handling the affected birds in the zoo.

The Central Zoo Authority may be kept informed of the action taken in this regard.

This is for your information and necessary action.

Yours sincerely

Encls. As above.

(Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak)  
Member Secretary

Copy for information and necessary action to:

1. The Director, Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna – 800 001. (Bihar), E-mail: patnazoo@yahoo.com – with reference to his letter dated 26.12.2018.
2. The Chief Wildlife Warden of all States / UTs.
3. The Director/Officer in charge of all recognised zoos
5. DPA, CZA – to upload on website of the CZA