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India

Poultry and Products

India Bans Poultry and Poultry Product Imports 2004

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Report Highlights:

Reacting overcautiously to address concerns over the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in SE Asian countries, the Government of India banned imports of poultry and poultry products from all countries.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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New Delhi [IN1]
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India bans poultry and products imports from all countries....

Effective February 3, 2004, the Government of India (GOI) banned imports of the following products from all countries:

- 1) Domestic and wild birds, including captive birds
- 2) Day old chicks, ducks, turkey and other newly hatched avian species
- 3) Hatching eggs
- 4) Eggs and egg products
- 5) Semen of domestic and wild birds
- 6) Meat and meat products from avian species, including wild birds
- 7) Feathers
- 8) Products of avian origin intended for use in animal feeding or for agricultural or industrial uses (including pet food containing poultry by-product meal)
- 9) Live pigs and pig meat products
- 10) Pathological material and biological products from birds

The ban will be effective for a period of six months from the date of publication (February 3, 2004) of the notification, or until such time it is modified or withdrawn, whichever is earlier. This notification can be downloaded from the official website of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying at: <http://dahd.nic.in/bf5.htm>

The addition of pigs and pig meat products to the list of banned products can be traced to media reports (http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200402/06/eng20040206_134137.shtml) out of Vietnam about pigs infected by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) causing virus – H5N1 and a suspicion that the virus could be transmitted to the humans through some other mammals such as pigs. The pig products ban seems to contradict published OIE guidelines (http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/MCode/A_00043.htm).

... And plans additional preventive measures

In response to the reports of HPAI occurring in Karachi, Pakistan, close to the Indian border, the GOI announced several measures. These include conducting an awareness campaign for poultry breeders regarding various poultry diseases, and implementing more effective monitoring and surveillance of diseases in the industry. The GOI also released updated guidelines for prevention of HPAI and requested active compliance of the industry in cooperation with the state government authorities. State governments have been asked to activate their State Animal Disease Emergency Committee should the need arise.

Quarantine stations have been asked to take necessary action to prevent poultry product imports and to test all imports. Trade sources mention that the GOI has yet to take a decision to permit the development or import of vaccines, even though it announced measures to prevent any incidence of HPAI.

HPAI alert takes its toll on the domestic broiler market...

Trade sources indicate that as a result of the Avian Influenza (AI) "scare", poultry meat demand shrunk by 15-20 percent in various north Indian markets, despite the bird flu free status of the country. Broiler prices (wholesale) are down by about 25-30 percent in the New Delhi market, and are currently quoted at 60 to 80 cents per kilogram (live weight basis). Markets in other parts of the country are reported to be unaffected. Meanwhile, media reports quoting a senior veterinary scientist indicate the occurrence of the low-pathogenic H9N1 sub-type of AI during the summer 2003 in some northern states.

Import ban to hurt the domestic poultry industry...

Imports of grandparent stock, poultry meat-based products, including pet foods and vaccines of avian origin, have been prohibited with this notification. Many of the integrators who source their grandparent breeding stocks from abroad are worried that they will go out of business if this ban remains. About one third of the broiler chick supplies and one fifth of the layer chick supplies in the country depend on foreign breeding stocks imports. Further, the ban on vaccines of avian origin would limit supplies and increase the cost to poultry farmers. This ban will likely affect the domestic poultry market in terms of increased day-old chick prices, costlier vaccines, and higher meat prices.

.... Exports of US poultry and products to receive a setback

Exports of US poultry and poultry products, estimated at \$ 1.1 million in CY 2002, would be affected while the ban is in force. Exports to India of US poultry and poultry products include grandparent stock (either as hatching eggs or day old chicks), poultry meat, and turkey meat. Other products that would be affected include poultry-based products such as vaccines, other biologicals, and pet foods.

.... Processors see a windfall in exports from the SE Asian HPAI outbreak

Indian exporters are upbeat about improved export prospects for Indian poultry products to Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, and Russia, following serious trade inquiries from these countries and rising international prices. Iraqi poultry meat importers have also reportedly approached Indian processors. However, trade sources ruled out the possibility of direct exports to Iraq, indicating that poultry meat is currently exported via Kuwait. Some multinational food chains have reportedly approached the Indian poultry processors to supply their Asian operations. At the moment, Indian exporters are constrained by a shortage of processing capacities. However, processors are drawing up plans to augment their capacities, if needed, to meet any increase in export demand.