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83164/Q/RV-3/Asian Games

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Joint Secretary
Govt of India, Min of Agriculture
Deptt of Animal Husbandry,
Dairying and fisheries
Krishi Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110 011

DEVELOPMENT OF QUARANTINE STN AS PER EU NORMS

1. Ref to this HQ letter No 83161/Q/RV-3 dt 03 Nov 2015 addressed to the Animal Husbandry Commissioner and Animal Husbandry Commissioner's DO letter No pps.ahc-dadf/2015-348 dt 05 Nov 2015 addressed to DGRVS alongwith DO letter No 50-74/2011-LDT (AQ) Vol.II dt 23 Nov 2015 by Jt Secy, Min of Agri addressed to DG RVS (copies encl for ready ref).

2. On perusal of the contents of the entire correspondence, it seems that main focus is on passing the responsibility from one Dept to the other rather than addressing the core issues that need to be looked into in a pragmatic manner to meet the desired objectives. In this connection, the following points be considered for a better appreciation of the issue in totality:-

(a) Quarantine per se as also agreed to by Min of Agri is their laid down mandate. The equine disease free zone (EDFZ) or such other facility for livestock, pets, birds etc are also an integral part of quarantine. It is for this reason that the quarantine facility at Kapeshera carries out such tests and procedures required as per norms laid down by various countries.

(b) The EDFZ was one such facility created by the Army for temp export/return of sporting horses which were a mix of army and civil horses. The very fact that the required certification was carried out by Quarantine officer of Min of Agri is a testimony of the fact that Min of Agri is the only designated authority for such certifications.

(c) The disease free zones are by no means limited only to temporary export/import as contented but for proper export and import as well. The equestrian sport is fast gaining popularity among civilian riders as well and in the last Asian Games at Korea, only one army rider was a part of the team. The requirements of creating such facilities thus cannot be thrust upon the Army which utilizes its resources as per laid down regulations.

(d) The EDFZ of Meerut was created only as a temporary measure simply because the time was short and no other option was available. Moreover, the zone was never formally inspected by any EU/OIE official. It is once again reiterated that the then EDFZ at Meerut does not meet the basic reqts of quarantine being located close to other equines and in close vicinity (< 0.5 km)

contd...2/-