

No antibiotics in poultry: IMA

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The shocking revelation made by the Center for Science and Environment's (CSE) Pollution Monitoring Lab, India, highlighting rampant use of antibiotics in chicken, has plummeted chicken sales in the country. The staple Indian delicacy is no longer attracting people, mainly in the southern districts.

Kerala-based chicken dealer Mr S K Naseer, who is also the state general secretary of All Kerala Poultry Federation, India, said, "During the past three days, demand for chicken has come down by 50 percent, from 6-8 lakh kg per day to 3-4 lakh kg."

Following release of CSE results, that made headlines, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) demanded an immediate ban on antibiotic use in the poultry industry.

The Central Advisory Committee of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), assured that individual states will start surveillance on the issue and would review the regulatory gaps.

CSE deputy general director, Mr Chandra Bhushan said that this is first step in the right direction that would help in addressing the concern. He added that the regulatory vacuum was the primary reason why the poultry industry is misusing antibiotics.

Mr Bhushan further said that CSE has started writing to various central and state government functionaries highlighting the concerns and the action that needs to be taken to address this major public health issue.