

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.294  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2015**

**AVAILABILITY OF VACCINES AGAINST SWINE FLU**

**294. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adequate number of vaccines are available against swine flu in the country and same is being administered on children and old age people, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether swine flu virus infecting people this season is more volatile than last year; and
- (c) if so, whether the vaccine available is fit enough to take care of the infections by the latest virus?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (c): Government of India has recommended trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine which is available in the country and can be obtained as per the requirement. Based on epidemiological evidence, the advice of World Health Organization, Indian Council of Medical Research and subject experts, Government of India recommends vaccination of high risk groups with seasonal influenza vaccine. The recommendations for prioritized groups are as under:

Health care workers, pregnant women, persons with chronic illnesses such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease, liver disease, kidney disease, diabetes, cancer and those who are immuno – compromised; Children having chronic diseases like asthma, neuro – developmental conditions, heart diseases, kidney disorder, liver disorder, diabetes, blood disorders, metabolic disorders and immuno – compromised.

Vaccine is desirable for elderly individuals (> 65 years of age) and children between 6 months to 8 years of age.

Keeping in mind that there may be enhanced Influenza A(H1N1) pdm2009 virus activity, similar to that witnessed in the early part of this year, for the ensuing winter months from December 2015 -March, 2016, the currently available vaccine (Northern hemisphere trivalent vaccine for the winter of 2015-16) is recommended, as the Influenza A(H1N1) pdm 2009 sub type included in the vaccine remains the same since 2009. Further, this vaccine has the approval of Drug Controller General (I).