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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1699
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH MARCH, 2021

OPEN MARKET PRICE OF COVID-19 VACCINE

1699 SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:
SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:
SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that open market price of the 'Covishield Vaccine' is ₹1000 per dose which is unaffordable for large sections of Indians, particularly Below Poverty Line persons and Economically Weaker Sections;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that all citizens will be given affordable access to the vaccine, including vulnerable persons belonging to BPL, EWS and homeless category amongst others;

(c) whether COVID-19 vaccines have been added to the National List of Essential Medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a): The COVID-19 vaccines are currently not authorised by the Central Drugs Control organization (CDSCO) for sale in open market in the country, therefore, the question of market price of 'Covishield vaccine' does not arise.

(b): Presently, the COVID-19 vaccines are being provided free of cost by the Government of India to all States and UTs for vaccination of prioritized beneficiary groups of Health Care Workers, Front Line Workers. For persons above 60 years of age and those between 45 to less than 60 years of age with co-morbidities, the vaccination in government facilities is free of charge whereas in private facilities the ceiling charge for per person per dose is INR 250 only.

(c) & (d): The National List of Essential Medicines, 2015, (the latest version available) COVID-19 vaccines is not included in the list.