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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.899
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2021

EXTENDING GAP BETWEEN COVISHIELD DOSES

899 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several members of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) have claimed that there was not enough data for them to make a recommendation on extending the gap between Covishield doses;

(b) if so, the reason based on which the gap was extended by Government; and

(c) if not, the details of the data that was presented before the NTAGI based on which the gap was extended?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) to (c): The Covid Working Group of National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) recommended extension of the gap between the first & second doses of Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks based on available scientific evidence particularly from the United Kingdom as well as WHO global guidance. This recommendation has been considered & also recommended by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC).

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has accepted this recommendation for extension of the gap between the first and second doses of Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks.

The relevant recommendation of the Covid Working Group of NTAGI to increase the gap between Covishield doses has been taken based on scientific evidence in a transparent manner. No dissent was raised by any member in the said meeting of NTAGI regarding the said recommendation.