

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 885
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

PROCUREMENT FOR COVID VACCINE

**885. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:
SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY NALAMADA:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
DR. AMAR SINGH:
SHRI M. SELVARAJ:
SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:**

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

- (a) whether any criteria has been adopted by his Ministry to select and procure COVID-19 vaccines and if so, the details thereof and the number of vaccines already procured by the Government and the total cost of procurement;
- (b) the number of vaccines for which the Government has entered into pre-procurement agreements and the details of these agreements;
- (c) the details of the vaccines approved for use in India and the logistical hurdles in the deployment of these vaccines, including storage and transportation;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to develop the necessary infrastructure to overcome these hurdles;
- (e) the measures adopted by the Government including identification and prioritization of recipients, pricing and distribution of vaccines; and
- (f) timeframe within which the Government expects the vaccine to become available for the use of the general public and steps being taken to increase production of the vaccine in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a): Only two vaccines namely Covishield manufactured by M/s Serum Institute of India and Covaxin manufactured by M/s Bharat Biotech International Limited have been granted permission for restricted use in emergency situation by the Drug Controller General of India [DCG(I)] so far. Therefore, only these two vaccines have been procured for COVID-19

vaccination drive in the country. A total of 165 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been procured so far of which 110 lakh doses are of Covishield and 55 lakh doses are of Covaxin vaccine. The total cost of procurement of above mentioned doses of vaccines is INR 350.25 crore.

(b): No Pre-procurement agreements have been entered into.

(c): Only two vaccines have been approved for restricted use in emergency situation in India. There are no logistical hurdles in the deployment of these vaccines, including storage and transportation.

(d): The existing infrastructure under Universal Immunization Programme is being used and simultaneously strengthened for deployment of vaccines, including storage and transportation.

(e): A National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) has been established, which provides guidance on all aspects of COVID-19 vaccination including prioritization of population groups, procurement and inventory management, vaccine selection, vaccine delivery and tracking mechanism etc.

(f): The introduction of the vaccine is being taken up in a phased manner starting with priority groups of Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers, Subsequent to this, NEGVAC recommends covering prioritized groups of persons aged 50 years and above and those aged less than 50 years with comorbidities.

A 'Task Force on **Focused Research** on Corona Vaccine and other Science and Technology Issues' chaired by Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) is facilitating research and development of vaccines, drugs, diagnostics and other related issues.