

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 897
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

COVID VACCINE FOR PEOPLE WITH COMORBIDITIES

897. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to identify people with comorbidity for COVID vaccination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the comorbidities that make people eligible to get COVID vaccine; and
- (c) the steps being taken to tackle vaccine efficacy?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) 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.

The NEGVAC has prioritized Health Care Workers, Front Line Workers, persons aged 50 years and above, and those aged less than 50 years with comorbidities for COVID-19 vaccination. The identification of comorbidities is currently under consideration of NEGVAC.

(c): As per New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019 under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and in light of urgent need due to COVID pandemic in the country, the National Regulator i.e. Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted permission to manufacture two COVID-19 vaccines based on the prescribed procedure and the evaluation of pre-clinical and clinical trial data.

The data on Inactivated Whole Virion, Corona Virus Vaccine (Covaxin of Bharat Biotech International Limited, Hyderabad) demonstrates a strong immune response (both antibody as well as T cell) and in-vitro viral neutralization. The data presented by the firm of other COVID-19 vaccine (Covishield of Serum Institute of India, Pune) showed safety & immunogenicity data from the Indian study comparable with that of the overseas clinical trial data of AstraZeneca vaccine.

Two vaccines that have received the necessary approval of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), headed by the DCGI, the national regulatory authority of the country, are being used under the COVID-19 vaccination drive.