

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.713
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2021**

INCLUSION OF UNDOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS FOR COVID VACCINATION

713. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether the Government considers it imperative to fully vaccinate all people to bring a perceivable end to the Covid-19 pandemic, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether refugees and asylum seekers shall be included in the vaccination drive, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the SoP dated May 6, 2021 calls for “creation of special vaccination sessions” on Co-Win portal for undocumented communities that do not hold any of the 7 ID proofs required at present, if so, the expected date for activation of these sessions and the reasons for delay so far;
- (d) whether the UNHCR card shall be accepted as a valid ID proof in the interim;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the Ministry shall propose a timeline to implement the SoP to fast-track the vaccination process, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

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

- (a): COVID-19 vaccination is an important strategy to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Completion of vaccination schedule is important to provide full protection to the vaccinated beneficiaries.
- (b): Presently, citizens of the country aged 18 years and above are eligible for vaccination under the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Further, the vaccination drive is guided by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) on the basis of available and emerging scientific evidence.

(c): The feature on Co-WIN portal for vaccination of Persons Without Identity (PWI) has been enabled from 25th May 2021 and a total of 4,89,272 persons have been vaccinated under these special sessions as on 19.07.2021.

(d) & (e): A total of nine photo identity documents have been listed to avail COVID-19 vaccination through Co-WIN. The UNHCR card is not part of the listed photo identity documents at present.

(f): The feature on Co-WIN for vaccination of Persons Without Identity (PWI) has been enabled from 25th May 2021. Government of India Commitment to the Covid vaccination programme has been unwavering and proactive from the beginning. The aim is vaccinating each and every adult Indian safely, as fast as possible.