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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 792 TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2021

VACCINE SUPPLY TO STATES

792. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:

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

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to increase vaccine supply to States/UTs;

(b) whether the Government has done any analysis or prepared a report on vaccine supply chain issues and if so details thereof;

(c) the basis on which quantity of vaccines provided to States/UTs is being calculated;

(d) the timeline by which the Government plans to complete universal vaccination of all citizens; and

(e) the issues being faced by the Government in procurement of vaccines and distribution of same?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government of India has taken many steps to augment the domestic manufacturing capacity of COVID-19 vaccines. These include support to M/s Bharat Biotech and 3 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under 'Mission COVID Suraksha- the Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission', technology transfer of Covaxin production, financial assistance to one of the domestic vaccine manufacturers for 'At-risk manufacturing', advance payment against supply orders placed with M/s Serum Institute of India and M/s Bharat Biotech, and streamlining of regulatory norms for approval of vaccines.

(b): An analysis of Cold Chain Infrastructure across the country was carried out prior to introduction of COVID-19 vaccine and the same has been strengthened to meet the cold chain space requirement for storage and transport of COVID-19 vaccines.

(c): The allocation of vaccines to States & UTs is being done on the basis of pro-rata target population, the progress of vaccination in the State/UT and vaccine wastage.

(d): The COVID-19 vaccination is an ongoing and dynamic process, which is being guided by National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) on the basis of concurrent scientific evidence. In view of the dynamic and evolving nature of COVID-19 pandemic, no fixed timeline at present can be indicated for the completion of vaccination drive, however, it is expected that all beneficiaries aged 18 years and above will be vaccinated by December 2021.

(e): The Government is not facing any issues in procurement and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.