

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 912
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2021**

PROCUREMENT OF COVID VACCINES

**912. DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:**

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

- (a) the number of general public who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 since March 1, 2021;
- (b) whether the Government is facing difficulty in procuring and arranging vaccination for States resulting in shortage of availability of vaccine in different states;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor along with the steps taken in this regard;
- (d) if so, the criteria fixed by Government for allocation of vaccine to States/UTs;
- (e) the per unit cost of Covaxin and Covishield vaccine purchased by Government and the reason for cost of Covaxin is so high when ICMR is working with Bharat Biotech; and
- (f) whether the Government has taken any initiative to help Indian vaccine manufacturers who are in the process of developing COVID-19 vaccine which are in trial three of advance stage and if so, details thereof?

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

(a): A total of 31.45 crore beneficiaries have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine since 1st March 2021 till 20th July 2021.

(b) & (c): The Government of India is not facing any difficulty in procuring vaccines. In fact, Government of India has been supplying vaccines free of cost to the States/UTs for administration to prioritized beneficiaries as recommended by NEGVAC. Advance visibility of these allocations i.e. the total doses of vaccine that would be available to a State/UT, is provided

to States/UTs 15 days in advance so as to enable States/UTs to plan for acceleration of vaccination coverage while being cognizant of the available vaccines.

(d) The Government of India allocates vaccines to States/UTs based on criteria such as pro-rata target population, the progress of vaccination in the State/UT and vaccine wastage.

(e) As per the latest Supply Order, Government of India is purchasing Covishield (exclusive of taxes), @ Rs. 205 per dose and Covaxin @ Rs 215 per dose. There is only a marginal difference in the purchase price of the two vaccines for Government of India.

(f) The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, is implementing a scheme 'Mission COVID Suraksha- the Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission'. Under the Mission, facility augmentation for production of Covaxin is being supported whereby Bharat Biotech and 3 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) including Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Ltd, Mumbai; Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), Hyderabad; Bharat Immunologicals Biologicals Limited (BIBCOL), Bulandshahr; are being supported.

Additionally, technology transfer of Covaxin production to Consortium of partners including Hester Biosciences and OmniBRx Biotechnologies Pvt. Ltd., led by, Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC), Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Gujarat, is being facilitated by the Department of Biotechnology. Government of India has also provided financial assistance to one of the domestic vaccine manufacturers i.e. M/s Biological E who is at present in advance phase III clinical trial for 'At-risk manufacturing' of COVID-19 vaccine.