

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2086
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th DECEMBER 2021**

POLICY ON BOOSTER DOSE OF COVID VACCINE

**2086. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI
ADV. A. M. ARIFF
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH
DR. SANJAY JAISWAL
SHRI S. VENKATESAN**

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

- (a) The measures taken by the Government to expedite the process of COVID-19 vaccination in States/UTs
- (b) whether the Government has announced any policy for booster dose for COVID-19 vaccine, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted survey or studies to assess the necessity and effectiveness of the dose, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government is aware that some countries have conducted their assessments and are preparing to administer booster dose for COVID-19, if so the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for administering booster dose after vaccination of both the doses across the country; and
- (f) whether the Government has instituted any study on vaccinating the individuals with two different vaccines in first and second dose, if so details thereof and the outcome thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) Government of India has been regularly reviewing the pace of COVID-19 vaccination and has issued multiple advisories to States/UTs to cover eligible beneficiaries with both doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Government of India has also undertaken 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign from 3rd November 2021 wherein missed beneficiaries for 1st dose and due beneficiaries for 2nd dose are identified and vaccinated through house-to-house activity. Adequate quantity of vaccine doses have been made available to all States/UTs to vaccinate all eligible 1st dose and due 2nd dose beneficiaries aged 18 years and above.

National Expert Group on vaccine administration for Covid (NEGVAC) and National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) are deliberating and considering scientific evidences related to justification for booster dose.

As per the information available on www.ourworldindata.org, more than 60 countries across the World are providing booster doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

National Regulator i.e. Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has granted permissions to following firms for conduct of clinical trials for administration of booster dose:

1. M/s Bharat Biotech for administration of booster dose in Phase II part of ongoing Phase I/II clinical trial of Whole Virion Inactivated Corona Virus Vaccine.
2. M/s Biological E for conduct of Phase II/III clinical trial of its COVID-19 vaccine containing Receptor Binding Domain of SARS-CoV-2 (RBD antigen of SARS CoV-2 (Covid-19) [CORBEVAX] which also includes study of administration of booster dose.

National Regulator i.e. Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has granted permissions to following firms for conduct of clinical trials for administration of mixed vaccine regimen:

1. M/s Christian Medical College, Vellore to conduct Phase IV study with COVISHIELD of M/s Serum and COVAXIN of M/s Bharat Biotech to compare immunogenicity of mixed vaccine regimen.
2. M/s Bharat Biotech for Phase II clinical trial to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of BBV152 (COVAXIN) with BBV154 (Adenoviral Intranasal COVID-19 vaccine).
