

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1700
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH MARCH, 2021**

HIGHER PRICE OF OXFORD VACCINE IN THE COUNTRY

1700 SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine is being sold to European Union nations at ₹ 158 or EUR 1.78 per vaccine, which is lower than the price at which vaccines have been purchased by Government at ₹ 200
- (b) if so, the reasons for the higher cost of vaccines purchased by Government
- (c) whether Government has sought explanations or reparations from the vaccine manufacturer in light of the price difference
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor
- (e) whether Government is negotiating a lower price for purchasing the same vaccine in future and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per available information, the price of Oxford-Astra Zeneca vaccine across the world is in the range of about US\$ 4 (EUR 3.32) to US\$ 5.25 (EUR 4.35). For COVAX AMC Facility that pools the demand and supplies for 191 participating countries, including European Union nations, the price is about US\$ 3 (EUR 2.49) per dose to US\$ 3.15 (EUR 2.61) per dose, which it appears is largely on account of substantial advance payment done to the Vaccine Manufacturer, much before their vaccine completed clinical trial and obtained licensure from the Regulator.

The Covishield vaccine (Oxford-Astra Zeneca vaccine) by M/s Serum Institute of India is being procured by Govt. of India at a comparatively lower price of INR 210 (including taxes) which is around US\$ 2.88 (EUR 2.39) per dose for the vaccination of Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers.

(b) to (f): In view of reply at (a) above, question does not arise.