

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.118  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**FREE AND UNIVERSAL VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19**

**118 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:**

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

- (a) the details of actions that have been taken by Government to ensure free and universal vaccination against COVID-19
- (b) whether Government has ensured the successful completion of all mandatory trials for the COVID-19 vaccines
- (c) the details of trials conducted for the COVID-19 vaccines
- (d) whether Government has enlisted any criteria/preference for distributing vaccines and
- (e) the amount of vaccine doses that have been distributed to various States so far?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): All States and UTs have been provided COVID-19 vaccines free of cost as also operational cost for vaccinating Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers by Government of India. The vaccination of the Health Care Workers has started from 16 Jan 2021 across country.
- (b) & (c): The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has granted permission to COVID-19 vaccines in the country as under:
  1. M/s Serum Institute of India Pvt., Ltd., Pune for manufacture of the COVID-19 Vaccine for restricted use in emergency situation with various conditions/restrictions.
  2. M/s Bharat Biotech International Limited, Hyderabad for manufacture of the COVID-19 Vaccine for restricted use in emergency situation in public interest, as an abundant precaution, in clinical trial mode with various conditions/restrictions.

Further, CDSCO has granted permission to conduct clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines to various additional manufacturers/Importer in the country. The details along with trials, stage-wise are as under:

**Phase I/II clinical trial:**

1. M/s Bharat Biotech International Limited, Hyderabad for Inactivated Corona Virus Vaccine (Intradermal Route)
2. M/s Biological E Limited, Hyderabad for Receptor Binding Domain of SARS-CoV-2
3. M/s Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Limited, Pune for mRNA Vaccine for Injection (COVID-19)

**Phase II/ III clinical trial:**

1. M/s Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited, Hyderabad for Gam-COVID-Vac combined vector vaccine

**Phase III clinical trial:**

1. M/s Cadila Healthcare Ltd., Ahmedabad for DNA based Corona Virus Vaccine

(d) & (e): The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) has been established, which provides guidance on all aspects of COVID-19 vaccination including prioritization of population groups, procurement and inventory management, vaccine selection, vaccine delivery and tracking mechanism etc.

The prioritized groups comprise Health Care Workers, Front Line Workers, persons above the age of 50 years and persons below 50 years with associated comorbidities.

The supply of COVID -19 vaccine is based on the number of beneficiaries registered under priority group for vaccination in Co-WIN portal. Total of 2,28,03,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been supplied to all States/UTs as on 23rd Jan 2021.