

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.88
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH FEBRUARY, 2021
SECOND PHASE OF COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE**

88 SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) the expected timeline of starting second phase of the COVID-19 vaccination drive;
- (b) the eligible beneficiaries of the second phase of the vaccination drive;
- (c) whether the vaccination will be free of charge or chargeable to the beneficiaries;
- (d) if so, how much will they be charged; and
- (e) whether the poor will be charged for their vaccinations, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 88* FOR 9TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

(a) to (e) A National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) has been established by Government of India 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 COVID-19 vaccination has been rolled out in the country in all States/UTs, from 16th January 2021 in a phased manner to the population groups prioritized by National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC). The first phase of vaccination of priority groups of Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers is going on in all States and UTs across India, presently. Persons aged 50 years and above comprise the subsequent priority group for vaccination, as per the prioritization recommended by NEGVAC.

The COVID-19 vaccine is being provided free of cost by the Government of India to all States and UTs for vaccination of prioritized beneficiaries groups of Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers in the initial phase of COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, an allocation of Rs.480 crores has also been made to meet operational cost of vaccination of Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers. Further in the Union Budget, an Outlay of Rs 35,000 crore has been made towards COVID-19 vaccination in 2021-22 fiscal, and a commitment to provide further funds, if required, has also been expressed.
