

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.242
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2021**

ABSENCE OF VVM ON COVID VACCINES

242 DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that COVID vaccines presently available do not have VVM (Vaccine Vial Monitor);
- (b) if so, whether they have any other efficacy indicator and in their absence how is the reliability of vaccines determined when it is exposed to high temperature (above 18 degree celsius) during transit or any logistical milestone;
- (c) the challenges in VVM, when the same has already been incorporated in mass polio drive; and
- (d) the logistical steps that Government is taking to successfully and safely execute the mass vaccination drive as India being a tropical country with Harsh Weather conditions (High Temperature)?

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

(a) & (b): Yes, the COVID-19 vaccines presently available in the country do not have VVM (Vaccine Vial Monitor). The storage and transportation of COVID-19 vaccines from the manufacturer up to the site of administration is ensured in a temperature controlled environment at 2-8 degree Celsius.

(c): VVM is manufactured by a single offshore manufacturer and requires end-point studies at various duration to finalize the type of VVM to be used on each vaccine.

In view of global urgency to use COVID-19 vaccine upon development, requirement of very high quantity of VVM and limited production capacity, COVID-19 vaccines are being used without VVM across the world.

(d): A robust Cold Chain Network of around 29,000 cold chain points along with insulated/refrigerated vaccine vans is used to ensure storage and transport of COVID-19 vaccines in a temperature controlled environment. Monitoring of storage temperature is also being done on real time basis so as to ensure that vaccines are not exposed beyond the recommended storage temperature.