

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.270
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2021**

STEPS TAKEN TO MOTIVATE WOMEN FOR VACCINATION

270 MS. SAROJ PANDEY:

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

- (a) the reasons for less proportion of women to that of men in the number of vaccines administered daily in the country and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to motivate women for vaccination and to raise their proportion?

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

(a): As on 16th July'21, 46% of the total doses were administered to women which is similar to the estimated proportion of women in the country's population which is 48%.

One of the reasons for slight gap in coverage of women is that at the beginning of COVID-19 vaccination drive, pregnancy and lactation were contraindications for vaccination thereby making women of child bearing age, ineligible for vaccination.

(b): On the basis of review of available scientific evidence and consensus of stakeholders, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has approved vaccination of lactating women on 19th May'21 and of pregnant women on 2nd July'21 which is expected to increase the number of vaccinations amongst women. Further, States/UTs have been provided detailed guidance on preparing counselling and vaccination plan for pregnant women. A communication strategy is in place which is being implemented across all States/UTs with a focus to sustain vaccine confidence.