

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.278
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th July, 2021**

MEASURES TAKEN TO MEET VACCINE DEMAND

278 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Serum Institute of India and Bharat Bio-tech are unable to meet vaccine demands at affordable price in the country, if so, details thereof
- (b) the details of the steps taken by Government to produce more vaccines in the country to meet the need
- (c) whether Government is considering to give licenses to many eligible private Indian pharma companies to produce more vaccines in the country to curtail demand-supply gap
- (d) if so, the details thereof and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (a): Adequate quantity of COVID-19 vaccine are expected to be available from January 2021 to December 2021 to achieve desired vaccination coverage amongst eligible population of India.
- (b): The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, is supporting the implementation of 'Mission COVID Suraksha- the Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission'. Under the Mission, facility augmentation for production of Covaxin is being supported whereby Bharat Biotech and 3 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) including Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Ltd, Mumbai; Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), Hyderabad; Bharat Immunologicals Biologicals Limited (BIBCOL), Bulandshahr; are being supported. Additionally, technology transfer of Covaxin production to Consortium of partners including Hester Biosciences and OmniBRx Biotechnologies Pvt. Ltd., led by, Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC), Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Gujarat, is being facilitated by the Department of Biotechnology. These efforts are expected to enhance the production of Covaxin in the coming months.

Government of India has also provided 100% advance to domestic vaccine manufacturers in respect of procurement order placed with them. These funds can be used by such manufacturers for their capacity augmentation.

Government of India has also provided financial assistance to one of the vaccine manufacturers for 'At-risk manufacturing' of COVID-19 vaccine.

Regulatory norms have also been streamlined for approval of vaccines in India that have received Emergency Use License (EUL) by FDA of United States, MHRA of United Kingdom, PMDA of Japan or WHO-EUL.

(c) to (e): Stock piling manufacturing license for COVID-19 vaccines have been given to M/s Hetero (Sputnik V), M/s Cadilla (ZyCoV-D) & M/s Biological E (Corbevax), in addition to the existing COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers in the country.