

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2998
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th MARCH 2022**

NEED FOR COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINATION DOSES

2998. SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of any study that has been conducted on the need for COVID-19 Booster vaccination doses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning booster vaccination doses for its citizens;
- (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) to (e) A study has been conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to examine the effect of booster dose of Covaxin which shows increase in the levels of neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 after the booster dose. The study report can be accessed at <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.01.05.22268777v1>. International data available on booster doses of AstraZeneca/Covishield suggests 3-4 times increase in neutralizing antibody levels after administration of third dose of AstraZeneca/Covishield.

As per the recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI), precaution dose is administered to the Health Care Workers (HCWs), Front Line Workers (FLWs) and persons aged 60 years & above since 10th January, 2022. As on 24th March 2022, a total of 2.21 crore precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered.
