COVID-19 VACCINES

55 SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

(a) whether Government has formulated a policy to boost the number of people to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the third dose across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has put in place stringent Rules to avoid another wave of COVID19 and its devastating effects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 55* FOR 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023

(a) to (d): Under the National Covid vaccination programme Precaution dose is available free of cost in public health facilities for all eligible beneficiaries above 18 years, after an interval of 6 months from the date of administration of the 2nd dose. Precaution dose is also available at Private Covid Vaccination Centers on payment basis.

Union Ministry of Health is following COVID-19 trajectory globally and in the country. Indian SARS-CoV -2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) network laboratories are conducting whole genome sequencing of samples for detection of mutant variants of the virus.

The guidelines for international arrivals are updated regularly and uploaded on website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

As per the updated guidelines, Pre-departure testing and uploading of negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports and self-health declaration form on Air Suvidha portal are applicable for travellers coming from/transiting via China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Japan. Besides specific guidelines for these identified high risk countries, a sub-section (2% of the total passengers in all incoming international flights) shall undergo random post arrival testing at the airport on arrival, irrespective of port of departure.

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