

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.905  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**AFFORDABLE COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ALL**

**905 SMT. AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRI SANJAY SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether Government plans to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine free of cost to any section of the population in the country
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of intended beneficiaries and expected expenditure thereon and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to make the vaccine affordable for the people Below Poverty Line and the Economically Weaker Sections of the society?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) and (b): During the first phase, the vaccine is being provided free of cost to States and UTs for vaccination of Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers. As on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021, a total of 96.28 lakh Health Care Workers and 78.51 lakh Front Line Workers have been identified for COVID-19 vaccination. The data base of Front Line Workers is in the process of getting updated on the Co-Win digital platform. The expenditure to be incurred as operational cost for vaccination of estimated 3 crore Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers is about Rs. 480 crores and vaccines cost is about Rs. 1392.82 crores.

(c): Presently, the vaccine is being provided free of cost to Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers.