

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding booster shots to bankers- laid.

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAGH): Our country currently has 12 public sector banks, 22 private sector banks, 44 foreign banks, 56 regional rural banks, 1485 urban cooperative banks & 96000 rural cooperative banks which employ more than 15 lakh employees. Since the beginning of the corona pandemic, the banking sector has been working continuously to sustain our economy and carrying out essential services. More than 2,000 bankers have lost their lives in the first two waves of the pandemic. The banks have served every section of the society in both urban and rural areas during these challenging times & have played a crucial role in ensuring that there is no disruption in our financial system. Unfortunately, the recognition of bank employees as Frontline Covid Warrior (FLW) was delayed, denying the opportunity of getting vaccinated along with other FLWs in the first instance, which could possibly have averted the loss of precious lives. In order to prevent any further casualty to the bank employees, I request the Government to consider bankers as the frontline workers for administering booster shots amid rising COVID-19 cases across the country and the onset of the third wave. In addition to this, special status should be given to bankers for availing public transport, including suburban railways under essential service category.