

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1631
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th FEBRUARY 2022**

EFFECT OF OMICRON VARIANT ON CHILDREN

**1631. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:
T.R.V.S. RAMESH:
SHRI ABHISHEK BANERJEE:**

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

- (a) whether Omicron variant has affected children upto the age of 18 in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the timeline and targets for vaccination of children;
- (b) the number of children below 18 years vaccinated and unvaccinated as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted a study on the impact of Omicron on children including unvaccinated ones, if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereon;
- (d) whether the impact of Omicron variant of COVID-19 would be different on the vaccinated and unvaccinated population and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the States/UTs with regard to vaccination of children and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the list of vaccines for children that are at various stages of development along with the steps taken to promote the early development of children's vaccines?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) Omicron variant is the dominant variant in the country presently.

Vaccination of children in the age group of 15-18 years began from 3rd January 2022 across the country. As on 8th February 2022, against the estimated population of about 7.40 crore beneficiaries aged 15-18 years, around 4.99 crore (67.5%) beneficiaries have received 1st dose and 75.9 lakhs (10.2%) beneficiaries have received 2nd dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

As on 8th February 2022, States/UTs wise vaccinated children below 18 years of age are at Annexure-1.

Scientific evidence evolves globally regarding impact of omicron on vaccinated and unvaccinated population including children. The potential impact of Omicron variant on existing countermeasures including vaccine is scrutinized by technical groups worldwide. Vaccines used in National Covid-19 Vaccination Program remain effective to prevent the risk of severe disease due to COVID-19.

The Government of India has issued guideline on Covid-19 vaccination of children in the age group of 15-18 years, which is also available at Ministry of Health and Family Welfare web site: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinesforCOVID19VaccinationofChildrenbetween15to18yearsandPrecautionDosestoHCWsFLWs&60populationwithcomorbidities.pdf>

The National Regulator i.e. Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has approved following COVID-19 vaccines for restricted use in emergency situation in the age group of 12 years and above:

1. ZyCoV-D of M/s Cadila Healthcare Ltd.
2. COVAXIN of M/s Bharat Biotech international Ltd.

Further, following COVID-19 vaccines are in clinical trials in the country:

- i. M/s Serum institute of India is conducting Phase II/III clinical trial of COVOVAX in >2 to 17 years age group.
- ii. M/s Biological E Ltd. is conducting Phase II/III clinical trial of coronavirus in ≥ 5 to <18 years age group.
- iii. M/s Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd., is conducting Phase II/III clinical trial in age group of 12-17 years.

A system is in place for fast track processing of application for clinical trial & approval for COVID-19 Vaccines by CDSCO.

The meetings of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) evaluates the applications for conduct of clinical trials and approval of new drugs pertaining to COVID-19 drugs including vaccines are held to minimize the processing time of applications.

Annexure-1

States/UTs wise vaccinated children below 18 years of age

(As on 8th February 2022)

SN	States/UTs	1st Dose	2nd Dose
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	18,284	9,378
2	Andhra Pradesh	24,84,511	7,32,451
3	Arunachal Pradesh	38,311	4,866
4	Assam	9,04,786	1,36,290
5	Bihar	43,74,386	3,20,258
6	Chandigarh	39,388	4,881
7	Chhattisgarh	10,34,362	2,90,878
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	18,568	9,602
9	Daman and Diu	11,371	7,715
10	Delhi	8,54,708	1,11,828
11	Goa	46,415	29,564
12	Gujarat	28,38,071	9,39,066
13	Haryana	9,86,102	1,14,538
14	Himachal Pradesh	3,06,694	1,63,720
15	Jammu and Kashmir	7,13,276	1,07,167
16	Jharkhand	10,92,030	64,800
17	Karnataka	23,49,047	6,40,714
18	Kerala	11,17,627	92,656
19	Ladakh	8,372	1,921
20	Lakshadweep	2,819	701
21	Madhya Pradesh	39,15,279	10,55,684
22	Maharashtra	33,09,250	3,09,099
23	Manipur	68,312	1,607
24	Meghalaya	41,185	1,624
25	Mizoram	44,300	1,657
26	Nagaland	38,410	368
27	Odisha	16,04,313	1,96,453
28	Puducherry	40,946	2,910
29	Punjab	6,00,282	9,175
30	Rajasthan	30,36,489	4,04,416
31	Sikkim	24,523	5,271
32	Tamil Nadu	21,10,780	4,83,809
33	Telangana	13,51,313	2,53,793
34	Tripura	1,23,270	30,134
35	Uttar Pradesh	1,09,79,367	5,78,958
36	Uttarakhand	4,31,341	1,05,489
37	West Bengal	30,28,826	3,67,015
	INDIA	4,99,87,314	75,90,456