

अजय भल्ला, भा.प्र.से.
AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव
Home Secretary
भारत सरकार
Government of India
नॉर्थ ब्लॉक/North Block
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

19th January, 2021

D.O.No. 40-6/2020-DM-I(A)

Dear Chief Secretary,

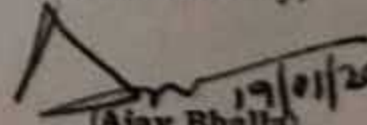
As you are aware, Government of India in close collaboration with States/UTs, has launched the inoculation drive of COVID-19 vaccination from 16th January, 2021, onwards across the country with two vaccines, namely, Covishield manufactured by the Serum Institute of India and Covaxin developed and manufactured by Bharat Biotech Limited. Accordingly, the Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers are being inoculated as per the priority decided by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19(NEGVAC); i.e., in Phase-I, Health Care Workers, who are the first priority are undergoing vaccination throughout the country. Thereafter, vaccination drive for priority groups 2 and 3 will commence. Government of India is taking all necessary steps to ensure that the vaccination drive is successful and the pandemic is eventually eradicated.

2. I would like to strongly emphasize that the National Regulatory Authority in the country has found both the vaccines safe and immunogenic. However, it has been reported that unfounded and misleading rumours are circulating, in the social and other media, creating doubt about the safety and efficacy of these vaccines. Such kind of rumour mongering, particularly by vested interests, can create unwarranted doubts among people at large, and there is, therefore, a need to check all such kinds of unfounded scare mongering relating to the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccines.

3. Accordingly, I would urge you to put in place an appropriate mechanism to check the spread of such ill-informed rumours, and direct all the concerned authorities under the State Government to take appropriate necessary measures to counter the spread of all such kind of false information about the COVID-19 vaccines as well as promptly disseminate factual messages. Further, penal action may be taken against the person/s or organization/s, who is/are found to have indulged in such activities, under the relevant provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Ajay Bhalla) 19/01/2021