

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 26.4.2021 of Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to Shri. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has announced a new policy to be adopted in the phase 3 of the COVID-19 vaccination throughout the country. As per this policy, States have been given the responsibility to procure and administer vaccine to the people in the age group of 18 to 45. This vaccine would be procured by the State Governments at pre-determined prices from the manufacturers. This price would be distinctly different from the price that the Government of India has been paying for the vaccines supply. Some manufacturers have already announced a higher increased rate for procurement by State Governments.

Such a differential price mechanism is inherently unfair since it places a higher financial burden on States. It is also iniquitous since the State Governments have considerably less fiscal resources at their command than the Central Government. Further, since budgetary provision of Rs.35,000 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates for 2021-22 for the COVID-19 Vaccination programme, States have a legitimate expectation that the Government of India would supply the COVID-19 vaccine phase 3.

In these circumstances, I request the Government of India to kindly procure and supply the entire required quantity of vaccine for administering all groups including those in the age group of 18-45. Further, the Government of India could also explore alternative sources of supply of vaccine including possible imports to ensure that the vaccine roll out takes place across the country smoothly and expeditiously in the coming weeks.

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