

ममता बानार्जी
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ممتا بنرजी

Mamata Banerjee



मुख्यमंत्री, पश्चिम बंगाल
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وزیراعلیٰ مغربی بنگال

CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

No. 30 - CM/2021

August 05, 2021

Respected Prime Minister,

You may kindly recall several letters that I have written to you on the critical matter of vaccination and urgent need of supply of adequate number of COVID 19 vaccine doses to West Bengal.

I am pained to note that the matter has not received due attention at the level of the Government of India.

We were the first to raise the issue with the Central Government providing vaccines to the people of the country free of cost. The Centre did not respond to the subject for a long time, resulting in inadequate coverage of people with vaccination in the country. In fact, we in Bengal, had even requested Government of India in February, 2021 to allow us to procure vaccines directly from manufacturers for the people of the state. However, there was no response.

Even after the devastation caused by the second wave, the Centre has not been augmenting supply of vaccines to the states on war footing to combat future waves. As a result, thousands of innocent people are still being affected every day.

Presently, we are administering 4 lakh doses per day and are capable to administer 11 lakh doses per day. Yet, we are getting much lower number of doses despite having a very high population density and a higher rate of urbanisation.

I am sorry to say the Central Government is providing larger number of vaccine doses to states like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka which are BJP-ruled. I have no problem if they or any other state for that matter receives higher number of vaccine doses, but I cannot remain a mute spectator to see Bengal deprived.

We have already administered 3.08 Crore doses of COVID vaccine till date, of which, 2.20 Crore people have been administered with first dose and 88.93 lakh people with second dose. West Bengal is the best in the country in utilization of vaccine with minus 7% wastage.

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ممتا بنرجی

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CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

You will be happy to note that COVID positivity rate in Bengal, which increased from 3% (March 2021) to 33% (April-May 2021) due to the prolonged 8-phase Assembly Elections in the State, has now come down to 1.57% due to our sustained efforts.

At present, West Bengal needs around 14 Crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine to cover all the people in the eligible categories. However, we have received only 2.68 Crore doses till date from Government of India.

I am afraid that if we fail to significantly accelerate the pace of vaccination by ensuring supply of an adequate number of vaccine doses from the Government of India, we would have to face again a grim situation arising out of the pandemic.

You may be aware that COVID-19 cases are increasing in Sikkim, Assam and North-Eastern states. West Bengal has three international borders and also is a gateway to North-Eastern states. Therefore, as a special precautionary measure, it is essential that West Bengal is provided with the required 14 Crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

So, my earnest appeal to you would be to kindly see that Bengal receives adequate vaccine doses as per its requirement as mentioned above at the earliest.

With regards

Yours sincerely,


(Mamata Banerjee)

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
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