

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 5581 OF 2021

IN THE MATTER OF:-

TIA GUPTA (MINOR) AND ANOTHER ... PETITIONER

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND ANOTHER ... RESPONDENTS

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RESPONDENT NO. 1

THROUGH

ANURAG AHLUWALIA

**CENTRAL GOVT. STANDING COUNSEL
CHAMBER NO. 462, DELHI HIGH COURT**

NEW DELHI

15.07.2021

**IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
(CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 5581 OF 2021**

IN THE MATTER OF :-

TIA GUPTA & ANOTHER ... PETITIONERS

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANOTHER ...RESPONDENTS

SHORT AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.1;

I, Satyendra Singh, S/o Sh. Phool Singh, aged about 41 years (Male), presently holding the post of Under Secretary to Government of India, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Department, Room No. 504, A-Wing, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011; do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. That the deponent is competent in his official capacity and is deposing on the basis of available records. Hence the deponent is fully authorized to sign and swear the affidavit on behalf of Respondents. A copy of Identity Card issued by Min. of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, is placed at **Annexure-R-1/1**.

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS

2. It is humbly submitted that the vaccination is the top most priority of the Government of India and all efforts are being made to achieve an objective of 100 per cent vaccination in the shortest time possible keeping the available resources in mind and availability of vaccine doses into consideration.



3. That the Government of India established a National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (hereinafter referred as "NEGVAC") on 7th August 2020, under the chairpersonship of Member (Health), NITI Aayog which is co-chaired by Secretary (H&FW). NEGVAC has representation of Secretaries from Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Expenditure, Dept. of Biotechnology, Dept. of Health Research, Dept. of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, representative from five State Governments and technical experts. It may be noted that NEGVAC provides guidance on all aspects of COVID-19 vaccination including prioritization of population groups, procurement and inventory management, vaccine selection, vaccine delivery and tracking mechanism etc. Further, NEGVAC is in regular consultation with the vaccine manufacturers to secure adequate supplies of COVID-19 vaccines for ongoing vaccination drive.

4. It is humbly submitted that as per the recommendations of NEGVAC, initially, Health Care Workers (HCWs), Front Line Workers (FLWs), and persons above 45 years of age are prioritized for COVID 19 vaccination in a phased manner. From 1st May 2021 onwards, under Liberalized Pricing and Accelerated National Covid-19 vaccination strategy, individuals between 18 to 45 years are also eligible for COVID -19



vaccinations and can receive vaccines through State/ UT Government/ Private Hospitals and hospitals of Industrial establishments.

5. It is humbly submitted that as of now, the Companies manufacturing COVID-19 vaccination in India have given only "Emergency Use Authorization for vaccinating people of 18 years age and above, therefore, COVID vaccines are not recommended for persons/children less than 18 years of age. This is also because of the fact that the clinical trial group during phase 1, phase 2 & phase 3 did not cover the persons/ children below 18 years of age.
6. It is humbly submitted that on 12th May 2021, Drug Controller General of India has permitted Bharat Biotech to conduct clinical trials on the healthy volunteers between 2 years to 18 years of age, for its vaccine i.e. Covaxin.
7. It is humbly submitted that from 1st May 2021 onwards under new liberalized pricing and accelerated national COVID vaccination strategy, all citizens above the age of 18 years including parents of children who are residing in Delhi are already eligible for COVID 19 vaccination.
8. It is submitted that Zydus Cadila which is developing DNA vaccines has concluded its clinical trial for between the age group of 12 to 18 years of age and subject to the statutory



permissions, the same may be available in near future for children of the age group of 12 to 18 years of age.

9. That, liberty is further craved in making such other and further submissions/filing Additional Affidavit as may be required in the facts of the case subsequently or as may be directed by this Hon'ble Court.

DEPONENT

(सत्येन्द्र सिंह)
(SATYENDRA SINGH)
अवर सचिव / Under Secretary
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

VERIFICATION:

I, the Deponent above named, do hereby verify that the contents of above affidavit are true to my knowledge, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at New Delhi on this the day of July, 2021.

DEPONENT

(सत्येन्द्र सिंह)
(SATYENDRA SINGH)
अवर सचिव / Under Secretary
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

Annexure - R-1/1

भारत सरकार
गृह मंत्रालय



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

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VALID UPTO

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2026



नाम

Name

पद

Designation

मंत्रालय/कार्यालय

Ministry/office

Blood group : B+

No. Y 210760024869

सत्येंद्र सिंह

SATYENDRA SINGH

अवर सचिव

UNDER SECRETARY

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

P. Lax

मुख्य सुरक्षा अधिकारी (CSO)

(सत्येन्द्र सिंह)

(SATYENDRA SINGH)

अवर सचिव / Under Secretary

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

भारत सरकार / Govt. of India

नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

Satyendra Singh