

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA – FIRST SESSION (2020-2021)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE PAPER NO. 115

Member Asking: **Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Health**

QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT’S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 VACCINES

- A. Can the Honourable Minister inform the Assembly if the Ministry of Health procured adequate vaccines to be given to the citizens of Guyana as efforts are being made to contain this SARS-COV2 Virus and achieve herd immunity?

- B. Can the Honourable Minister state what were some of the factors that influenced him to purchase Astrazeneca, Sputnik V, and Sinopharm in preference to Pfizer or Moderna for the Nation’s citizens?

- C. Could the Honourable Minister also inform this Noble Assembly how much money has been spent to purchase COVID-19 vaccines so far?

- D. Honourable Minister of Health, since the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) single dose vaccine can be kept for three months at temperatures between 2 to 8 degrees Celsius and has a long shelf life of two years, is there any storage facility in the Ministry of Health or in the Administrative Regions that can accommodate the storage of the J & J vaccine at the optimal temperature of minus 20 degrees Celsius?

- E. In light of the COVID-19 deaths, can the Minister of Health explain to this National Assembly if the Ministry of Health is equipped to perform a quick response to vaccine safety signals or to engage in vaccine pharmacovigilance to identify the rare instances where real adverse reactions occur so that their effects can be diminished?

2.

F. Could the Honourable Minister of Health inform this August Assembly if there is a Communication Strategy in place to address vaccine hesitancy in some areas of the populace, as well as to promote awareness of the vaccine risks and benefits?

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