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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 27/2/2021

Panel seeks more data to clear Sputnik V

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A Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization has sought more data on Russia's Sputnik V vaccine trials from Dr. Reddy's Laboratories to accord emergency use authorisation for the COVID-19 antidote.

"The committee recommended that [the] firm should submit immunogenicity and safety data of Phase II and III trial as per approved protocol for further consideration. Further, the firm is requested to present its data with more clarity," said the minutes of the February 24 meeting of the SEC made public on Friday.

A spokesperson of Dr. Reddy's said, "We understand the importance of effective investigation and we will approach the regulator with the requisite data soon."

The SEC meeting asked Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech, which sought permission to conduct phase III clinical trial of the vaccine candidate in children aged 5-18 years, to submit efficacy and safety data of ongoing Phase III clinical trial in adults along with the age subgroup analysis.

20 mn doses for Brazil

On Friday, Bharat Biotech said it has signed an agreement with Brazil for supplying 20 million doses of Covaxin.

Under the deal worth 1.6 billion reals ($290 million), the vaccine will be delivered in the second and third quarter of 2021. "There is a strong interest in Covaxin from many countries and the company is fully committed to ensuring supplies promptly and efficiently," a statement from the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker said.