

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 04.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
COMMON CODE OF ETHICS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY .

1710

Dr. Najma A. Heptulla

Will the Minister of COAL AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has received representation from Small and Medium Pharmaceutical Manufacturers in the country to speed up exploration of the option of a common code of ethics for the pharmaceutical industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is a fact that under the pressure of multi-national drug companies, Government is not showing any interest to opt for a common code of ethics; and
- (c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps Government proposes to adopt common code of ethics for the pharmaceutical industry to bring down the prices of medicines at reasonable level ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (c): There were some reports in the newspapers in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggest that some unethical marketing practices are being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the media reports, this Department felt the need to take up the matter in the interest of the consumers/patients as such promotional expenses being extended to doctors had direct implications on the pricing of drugs and its affordability. After discussing the issues with the Pharma Associations/ Industry, this Department has been able to persuade most of the associations to have Code of ethics. Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and Indian Drug Manufacturers` Association have informed that they alongwith Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI), Federation Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (FOPE), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and SME Pharma Industries Confederation (SPIC) have worked out the `Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices` (UCMP).