

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3708#
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th APRIL, 2022

Unethical practices being adopted by Pharma companies

3708 # Shri Brijlal:

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the nexus such as adopting unethical modes of marketing and luring doctors to increase the sale of medicines by the Pharma companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, along with the steps taken by Government to stop such unethical practices and nexus; and
- (c) whether Government is also considering to make any law in this regard and if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

(a) & (b): The Department has formulated the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP), w.e.f 1.1.2015, which is a voluntary code to be adopted by the pharmaceutical companies. Under this, all the associations of pharmaceutical and medical devices companies shall constitute committees viz, Ethics Committee for Pharma Marketing Practices (ECPMP) and Apex Ethics Committee for Pharma Marketing Practices (AECPMP) to enquire complaints received against a pharmaceutical company and have to host the actions taken on such complaints in their websites, besides sending the quarterly reports in this regard to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the department.

NPPA prepared a proforma for furnishing quarterly return as per para 8 of the UCPMP; the same has been circulated on 24.07.2021 to associations for submission to NPPA within 30 days at the end of each quarter via email. Further, Department and NPPA on various instances have reviewed implementation of the voluntary code.

Further, the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 formed under Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (102 of 1956), provides for conduct for doctors and professional association of doctors_in their relationship with pharmaceutical and allied health sector industry. Under this, any complaint of professional misconduct of a medical practitioner or professional is to be addressed by the respective State Medical Councils. Ethics and Medical Registration Board is the appellate authority for medical practitioner or professional against decision of the State Medical Council.

(c): The Department is not considering to make any law in this regard.
