

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1876  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> February, 2021**

**UNETHICAL PRACTICE BY THE PHARMA COMPANIES**

**1876. SHRI SHANMUGA SUNDARAM K.:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had banned doling out freebies, cruise tickets, paid vacations and sponsorships for educational conferences and seminars to doctors by pharmaceutical companies from January 1, 2014 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that Mumbai branch of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has disallowed an allowance of Rs. 76.55 lakhs paid by a leading pharma company, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such kind of unethical practices followed by the pharma companies hitherto; and
- (d) whether the Government is having any proposal to bring out specific comprehensive law in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): The Department of Pharmaceuticals has informed that the Government had prepared and announced in year 2014 a Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) for stopping unethical practices employed by Pharma Companies for promoting sales of their medical products, on 12th December, 2014. It was sent to all the pharma associations for voluntary implementation with effect from 01.01.2015. Further, as per clause 6.8.1 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, a registered medical practitioner is not allowed to receive gifts, travel facilities, hospitality and cash/monetary grants.

(b): No.

(c): The Department of Pharmaceuticals has informed that the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) is voluntary in nature and under UCPMP, there is no provision for Department of Pharmaceuticals to directly deal with complaints received regarding unethical practices. As per UCPMP, any complaint received against a pharmaceutical company is dealt by an Ethical Committee for Pharma Marketing Practices (ECPMP) constituted in the pharmaceutical associations.

(d): No.