GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 9
ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 29TH NOVEMBER, 2021
[AGRAHAYANA 8, 1943 (SAKA)]

STUDY BY CCI

QUESTION

9. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:
   SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:
   SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:
   SHRI N. REDDEPPA:
   SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:

   Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
   
   (a) whether the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently conducted
       a market study of the Pharmaceutical Sector to evaluate whether the prices of
       essential drugs had shot up during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic;
   
   (b) if so, the details thereof;
   
   (c) whether the CCI has recommended any corrective measures to the
       Government; and
   
   (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government
       thereon?

   ANSWER

   THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
   STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE
   (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; AND MINISTER OF
   STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS.

   (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

   (a) to (d): The Competition Commission of India (‘Commission’) has recently
       released a report titled ‘Market Study on the Pharmaceutical Sector in India: Key
       Findings and Observations’. The study has been conducted with the overarching
       objective of understanding the factors that influence price competition in the
       pharmaceutical sector, specific realms of pharmaceutical distribution including
       the emergence of e-pharmacies, the role of trade associations, trade margins and
       drug pricing, and the prevalence of branded generic drugs in India and its
       implications for competition. Since the pharmaceutical sector is a regulated
       sector, the study also attempted to explore the areas of interface between
       regulation and competition with a view to ascertain the Commission’s advocacy
       priorities.

       The report summarizes the main findings of the study and the Commission’s
       observations thereon. The insights gained from the market study would
       contribute significantly to the design of the pharma market in India to help attain
       the objective of affordable medicines for all. The report is accessible in the
       public domain at www.cci.gov.in.

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