

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3880
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th March, 2022**

VIOLATION OF IMA REGULATION ACT, 2002

3880 SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the practice of doctors seeing patients offered by online medical aggregator platforms and paying a commission for the same, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the said arrangement is violative of the provisions of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulation Act, 2002 as the aggregator platforms function as middlemen between doctors and patients;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any steps have been initiated to regulate the practice of medicine through online medical aggregators and also curb any introduction of unhealthy competition in the medical fraternity as a result of the operations of online medical aggregator platforms; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (e) : National Medical Commission (NMC) is a statutory body which is entrusted with the responsibility of discharging the duty of maintenance of highest standard of medical education in the country. The professional conduct of medical practitioner is governed by Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 which was notified by erstwhile Medical Council of India. Clause 3.8 of the Regulations permitted medical practitioner, registered under NMC Act, 2019, consultation through Telemedicine. As informed by NMC, it does not encourage medical practice through private platform or aggregators. Any act of violating the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 amounts to professional misconduct. The Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) of the National Medical Commission or the appropriate State Medical Councils have been empowered to take disciplinary action against a doctor for violation of the provisions of the aforesaid Regulations. The Ethics and Medical Registration Board is an Appellate Authority in the matter.
