

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:420  
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010  
ENFORCEMENT OF MEDICAL ETHICS  
Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Singh Shri Bhupendra

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

- (a) whether a study report in the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics has revealed that many vaccine manufacturers are offering vaccines at reduced prices to doctors, who in turn, charge the full price from the patients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the complaints received against the doctors for violating the Code/of Medical Ethics during the last three years and the current year and the action taken against them;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposals from the Medical Council of India (MCI) and some other medical institutions in the matter;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce medical ethics in the country and bring about a comprehensive legislation encompassing the various related aspects including regulation for the pharmaceutical industry on disclosure of gifts given to the doctors?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.420 FOR 23-04-2010

Yes, Madam. Dr. Rakesh Lodha of the Department of Pediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Dr. Anurag Bhargav of Jan Swasthya Sahyog in Chhattisgarh have recently conducted a study reported in a recent issue of Indian Journal of Medical Ethics that vaccine manufacturers are offering vaccines at hugely reduced prices to doctors. However, many of these doctors are charging full price of these vaccines from the patients.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in consultation with Medical Council of India, has amended the Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, on 10-12-2009. The amendment prohibits the doctors from accepting gifts, travel facility, hospitality, cash or monetary grants or any other favours from any pharmaceutical and allied health sector industry for self or family members.

Further, Medical Council of India has informed that out of a total of 1992 complaints received against doctors during the last three years and current year, 31 doctors have either been warned or their names temporarily removed from the Indian Medical Register.