

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4986

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2010

COMMON CODE OF ETHICS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Pakirappa Shri S.

**Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has received representations from the small and medium pharmaceutical manufacturers in the country for evolving a common code of ethics for the pharmaceutical industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that under the pressure of multinational drug companies, the Government is not showing any interest to opt for a common code of ethics;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to adopt common code of ethics for pharmaceutical industry to bring down the prices of medicines at a reasonable level?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (e): There were some reports in the newspapers in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggest that some unethical marketing practices are being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the media reports, this Department felt the need to take up the matter in the interest of the consumers/ patients as such promotional expenses being extended to doctors had direct implications on the pricing of drugs and its affordability. After discussing the issues with the Pharma Associations/ Industry and follow up, most of the Pharmaceutical Associations have adopted a Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Practices(UCMP). The Department of Pharmaceuticals is now examining the possibility of framing a UCPMP which would in the first instance be adopted voluntarily.