

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:734
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011
PRACTICE OF PRESCRIBING UNNECESSARY DRUGS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to have any mechanism to curb the growing practice of prescribing unnecessary drugs to the patients and check the illegal trade practices by the healthcare practitioners in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has consulted all stakeholders including pharmaceutical industry associations in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which such a mechanism is likely to be put in place?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) to (e) Though no specific cases of such practice being followed by doctors have been reported, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in consultation with Medical Council of India, has recently taken more stringent steps to curb malpractices resorted to by the doctors by amending the Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, on 10.12.2009 which stipulates Every physician should, as far as possible, prescribe drugs with generic names and he / she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs. The Union Government has also directed all Central Government Hospitals/Health Institutions to take urgent steps and advise the medical practitioners to desist from prescribing drugs for patients which are not required by them.