

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:31
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF DOCTORS
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

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

- (a) the mechanism put in place by the Government to regulate the professional conduct of doctors in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the reported nexus between doctors, drug traders and manufacturers in violation of the existing regulations putting heavy financial burden on poor/lower middle-class patients getting treatment in the Government hospitals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cases of professional misconduct of doctors reported and the action taken/proposed by the Government thereon during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish an improved mechanism to make available free/affordable medicines to the patients in order to check unfair practices noticed in the sale of drugs and surgical items in the Government hospitals; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHASTARRED QUESTION NO. 31 FOR 23RD NOVEMBER, 2012

(a) The professional conduct of doctors is regulated by the Medical Council of India (MCI) under the Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002.

(b) & (c) Yes. The details of total complaints received in MCI against doctors for violating code of ethics during the last three years are given in the table below:

S. No.	Category	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1.	Total complaints/appeals received	769	824	702
2.	Referred to State Medical Council/ State Government	254	468	343
3.	Registration temporarily removed among disposed	16	10	3
4.	Warning given among disposed	6	4	1
5.	Under Consideration	Nil	6	7

The MCI amended Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations in 2009 for punishment of doctors for nexus with pharmaceutical industry and prohibited doctors from accepting gifts, travel facilities, hospitality and monetary grants from the healthcare industry either in their name or in the names of their family members. The modified code also bars the doctors and their family members from accepting rail or air travel facilities, cruise tickets and paid vacations or any hospitality from the industry. Further under clause 6.8.1 (h) of the modified code, it has been laid down that "A medical practitioner shall not endorse any drug or product of the industry publically. Any study conducted on the efficacy or otherwise of such products shall be presented to and/or

through appropriate scientific bodies or published in appropriate scientific journals in a proper way".

(d)& (e) The medicines which are in the formulary of the hospitals are provided free of cost to the patients. The Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched "Jan Aushadi" campaign in the year 2008 with an aim to make available quality medicines at affordable prices to all, especially for poor and disadvantaged. Further, there is a proposal to supply essential generic medicines free of cost to all accessing public health facilities during the 12th Five Year Plan.