

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:777

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013

NEXUS BETWEEN DOCTORS AND PHARMACUTICAL COMPANIES

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

- (a) whether a few instances of nexus between certain doctors and drug manufacturing companies regarding promotion of costly branded medicines by doctors instead of prescribing cheaper medicines with same composition have been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of doctors and the pharmaceutical companies against which such complaints were received and referred to Medical Council of India (MCI) for taking appropriate action during each of the last three years and the current year, companywise and State/UT-wise;
- (c) the action taken/recommended by MCI against the doctors and the pharmaceutical companies including punishment awarded to them during the said period indicating the names of the doctors and companies;
- (d) whether the Government proposes any stringent measures including legislation to break the nexus between doctors and drug manufacturing companies in the country; and
- (e) if so, the action taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) to (c) The details of cases of professional misconduct involving nexus between doctors and drug manufacturers and action taken thereon during the last three years, as per information furnished by Medical Council of India (MCI), are given at Annexure.
- (d) & (e) The MCI, with the prior approval of the Central Government, 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 from the industry. They cannot accept any hospitality either. 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".