

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4026

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

COMPLAINTS AGAINST PHARMA COMPANIES

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether despite the voluntary drug monitoring code issued by the Department of Pharmaceuticals the practice of giving gifts by pharma companies to medical practitioners has not come to an end;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is also receiving complaints about the pharma companies making cash and kind payment to medical practitioners for favouring their brands;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take measures to make it mandatory for the pharma companies to disclose the expenditure incurred on medical practitioners either in cash or in any kind; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
AND 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 regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggested 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, this Department prepared a draft 'Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices' (UCPMP) to be adopted voluntarily in the first instance.

The UCPMP was put up on the Department's website www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in for inviting the comments from all the stakeholders. The comments received were examined and final draft UCPMP was prepared and circulated to pharma associations for their comments. The comments received are being examined.