

(a) whether Government has conducted any study about the effect on health of mobile phone users, kids, in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (c) Post Graduate institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh has studied the side effects of use of mobile phone and found that long-term and intensive use of mobile phone may cause inner ear damage.

#### **Reservations of IMA to bachelor of Rural Health Care**

2516. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has opposed the concept of 'Bachelor of Rural Health Care' Course being promoted by Government to meet the shortage of doctors in rural India;

(b) whether the IMA has called for examining other options for meeting the shortage of doctors in rural areas by increasing the retirement age of mainstream doctors to 65 years and allowing reemployment after retirement on attractive salary and perks exclusively to work in rural areas; and

(c) whether the IMA has also suggested that Government should consider offering serving doctors in urban areas more salaries and allowances at par with such facilities granted to defence personnel working in remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

#### **Takeover of Indian Pharma Companies by Foreign Companies**

2517. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian pharmaceutical companies taken over by foreign companies in the 2009-10;

(b) whether there is any increase in the price of the drug produced by these companies after the takeover; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to control the prices of drugs increased subsequent to these takeovers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) Some Indian pharmaceutical companies including M/s Piramal Healthcare have been taken over by foreign companies.

(b) to (c) The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the First Schedule of Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), 1995 and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs. The prices of Scheduled formulations are fixed or revised in accordance with the paragraph 7 of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA. Prices of Non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. However, NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations based on the reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by the individual manufacturers. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest. Monitoring of prices is an on-going process.

#### **Bachelor of Rural Health Care Course**

2518. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the proposed Bachelor of Rural Health Care Course is going to be finalized;

(b) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has prepared a syllabus for this course;