

Action against unethical drugs promotion

860. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmaceutical marketing and aggressive promotion contributes to irrational use of drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to act against unethical promotion on the part of pharmaceutical companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Though there are no statistical and other evidence, the Government is of the view that the aggressive promotion of drugs by pharma companies through medical professionals indulged in by the pharma companies in lieu of gifts, hospitality, trips to foreign and domestic destinations, etc, not only ultimately adds to the cost of medicines but also induces them to prescribe costly irrational medicines. The Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has discussed the issue with the Pharma Associations/ Industry and has prepared a draft Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) to be adopted voluntarily in the first instance. The draft UCPMP was put up by that Department on their *website* www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in and also circulated to the pharma associations for inviting the comments from all the stake-holders.

Availability of health personnel in the country

861. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current availability of health personnel in the country is at 241 per lakh population which is below the minimum requirement of 250 per lakh of population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India can expect an availability of 354 health workers per one lakh population by 2017; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per the Twelfth Five Year Plan document of the Planning Commission, the current availability of health personnel in the country is 241 per lakh population which is below the minimum requirement of 250 per lakh population. The category-wise details of current availability of health personnel is as under:

Category	Density*
Physician	57
AYUSH	44
Dentists	7
Nurses/GNM	61
ANM	30
Pharmacist	41
TOTAL	241

* Density per lakh population.

(c) and (d) As per the 12th Five Year Plan document of the Planning Commission, given the existing production capacity, The country can expect an availability of 354 health personnel per lakh population by 2017, as per category-wise details given below:

Category	Density*
Physician	65
AYUSH	49
Dentists	15
Nurses/GNM	115
ANM	39
Pharmacist	70
TOTAL	354

* Density per lakh population

Norms for permission for opening of medical colleges

862. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in granting permissions to open allopathic, ayurvedic, homeopathic and other medical colleges, there are any guidelines for minimum bed, minimum qualified doctors etc.;

(b) whether implementation of these guidelines are based on any practical thinking; and

(c) whether more pragmatic, mature and practical thinking is solicited on the part of Government in deciding these parameters to minimise unnecessary expenditure in hospitals?

THE THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. The permission to open a medical college is based on guidelines for minimum bed, minimum number of qualified doctors etc.

(b) The norms for setting up of a medical college are prepared by the concerned professional councils, after due deliberations and consultations and notified thereafter with the approval of the Central Government.

(c) In so far as medical colleges teaching modern medicine is concerned, the Medical Council of India, with the prior approval of the Government, has relaxed a number of norms to facilitate setting up of more medical colleges, particularly in the backward and remote areas of the country. These revised norms *inter-alia* include the following:

- (i) Land requirement relaxed from 25 acres to 20 acres throughout the country.
- (ii) Land requirement relaxed from 20 acres to 10 acres based on permissible FAR/FSI in the Metropolitan and "A" Grade cities viz. Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Greater Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Surat, Pune, Bangalore and Kanpur.
- (iii) Permission given to set up medical colleges in two pieces of land in the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for a period of 5 years with