



# The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA)

(Society Regn No. Bom. 10 of 1960 GBBSD • Public Trust Regn. No. F- 746 (Bom) dt. 4.4.1960)

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## MISSION

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) is the national professional body of pharmacists engaged in various facets of the profession of pharmacy. The IPA is committed to promote the highest professional and ethical standards of pharmacy, focus the image of pharmacists as competent healthcare professionals, sensitize the community, government and others on vital professional issues and support pharmaceutical education and sciences in all aspects

2016 - 2018

IPA/110/126

28/11/2016

### President

Rao V. S. V. Vadlamudi

Shri J.P.Nadda,

Honourable Minister of Health & Family Welfare,

Department of Health & Family Welfare,

Govt. of India

Room No. 348; "A" Wing, Nirman Bhavan,

New Delhi-110011

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## Sub: Regarding training of unqualified persons to enable them to handle pharmacies

Respected Sir,

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) is the oldest premier association of pharmaceutical professionals in India, with a member base of over 13,000, spread across the length and breadth of the nation. IPA operates in India through 20 state branches and more than 46 local branches. The members represent various facets of pharmaceutical profession viz., industry, regulatory, community and hospital pharmacy practices and education. As a member of the Drug Technical Advisory Board, India, IPA is actively involved in advising the government on matters of professional importance. IPA is affiliated with international pharma associations like FIP, FAPA, CPA, AAPS, AAiPS, IPSF and is working with international bodies such as WHO and WHPA for carrying out various collaborative professional activities that include organizing training programmes for pharmacy professionals from industry, academics, regulatory and practice. IPA makes representations to the authorities on matters of professional interest and works constantly towards upgrading the standards of pharmacy professional services offered by the pharmacists. IPA's major objective is to position pharmacists as one of the important healthcare providers in our country.

We are writing this letter specifically in the context of the demands by certain trade bodies in our country to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to train unqualified persons and license them so as to enable them to be "the pharmacists" to run the medical stores/pharmacies.

We would like to bring to your notice that as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, Rules 1945 and the Pharmacy Act 1948, only a registered pharmacist can dispense and/or supervise the dispensing of medicines and a medical store/pharmacy license can only be obtained after ensuring the services of a registered pharmacist. Presence of unqualified, but suitably trained persons in the pharmacy is perfectly acceptable only as assistants to the qualified Registered Pharmacist but not to take her/his place. Duties and responsibilities of the pharmacists and pharmacy assistants/helpers are clearly different. World over the role of the pharmacist is well established as a health care professional who serves as a link between the doctor and the patient.

