GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 691
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th September, 2020

Raw materials for making drugs

691 # Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our dependency on China in the matters of medicine is increasing, if so, the details of import of medicines during the last six months;
(b) whether it is also a fact that the supply of raw materials for drugs from China has declined during the the spread of Coronavirus infection;
(c) whether it is also a fact that China has overcharged for raw material used for making drugs, the details thereof; and
(d) the efforts being made by Government to make India self-reliant in the field of medicine, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a): Many APIs are imported from China, for manufacturing of medicine. As per available data from the various Port Offices of CDSCO, the details of import of such APIs during the last six months are under-

S. No.	Months	Quantity in MTS	Value in Crore
1	March,2020	4448.9	795.02669
2	April, 2020	5341.7	897.57950
3	May, 2020	3961.4	949.42975
4	June, 2020	3634.1	973.63478
5	July, 2020	4812.1	1094.8240
6	August,2020	4023.5	804.81575

Source: DCGI, CDSCO

(b): The supply of raw material from China got impacted for short time. However, the major Indian pharmaceutical companies had adequate stocks which were monitored by the Department. The supply was restored once the factories opened after the lockdown period in China.

(c): No complaints/references regarding overcharging for raw material used for making drugs has been received.

(d): With a view to attain self-reliance and reduce import dependence in APIs/ Bulk drugs, the department of pharmaceuticals has rolled two schemes viz. (i) “Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) In India” and (ii) "Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks". The guidelines of both the schemes were released on 27th July, 2020.

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