

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1974
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th MARCH, 2023

FACILITATING ACCESS OF INDIAN PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

1974 SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has signed Free Trade Agreements with other countries to increase the facilitation of access of Indian pharmaceutical products abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the measures being taken to increase exports of Indian pharmaceutical products?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a)&(b): India has signed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with a number of trading partners to gain market access for its various products including pharmaceutical products. Moreover, apart from tariff concessions, recently signed FTAs namely, the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) contain specific provisions to facilitate fast track approval for patented, generic and bio-similar medicines using the comparable overseas regulatory pathway as well as fast track quality assessment / inspection of manufacturing facilities in India, thereby significantly reducing the delays in such approvals in such overseas markets.

(c): Measures taken by the Government to increase exports of Indian pharmaceutical products are:

- (i) Financial assistance is provided under the Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme to develop new markets, to promote new products and new exporters as well as to consolidate the existing Indian exports markets. The activities supported under the MAI scheme include organising/ participating in Fairs, Exhibitions and Buyer Seller Meets abroad and reimbursement of expenditure incurred by exporters on statutory compliances such as product registration charges, plant inspection charges etc.

(ii) Pharmaceutical products have been covered under the scheme “Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products” (RoDTEP) with effect from 15 December 2022 under which the duties/ taxes/ levies paid by the exporters at the Central, state and local levels, that were not being rebated/refunded so far, are refunded/rebated thus enhancing the export competitiveness of pharmaceutical industry.

(iii) Specific provisions have been incorporated in the recent FTAs to facilitate fast track approval for patented, generic and bio-similar medicines being exported from India.

(iv) The market access issues highlighted by Indian pharma exporters are regularly taken up with concerned trading partner countries through Indian Missions as well as through bilateral institutional mechanisms with those countries.
