

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 989
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2025

High dependence on imported medical devices and need for policy intervention

989 Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

- (a) total foreign exchange outflow during the last five years, on account of imports of ventilators, diagnostic imaging equipment and surgical instruments;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any assessment of the economic and healthcare vulnerabilities arising from India's high import dependence in the medical device sector;
- (c) the key policy interventions and fiscal support measures proposed to boost domestic manufacturing of high-end medical devices and reduce foreign exchange outflow; and
- (d) whether Government has set any targets or timelines to bring down the country's import dependence on medical devices to below 40 per cent, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): As per import data maintained by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the value of imports of electromedical equipment, including ventilators and diagnostic imaging equipment, and surgical instruments during the last five years is as under:

(In million US\$)

	FY2020-21	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
Electromedical equipment (including ventilators and diagnostic imaging equipment)	3,569	5,441	4,884	5,408	5,284
Surgical instruments	104	169	210	205	263

(b) and (c): In line with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Government from time to time has assessed dependence on imports in the medical device sector and adopted policies and financial support measures to boost domestic manufacturing of medical devices, including high-end medical devices, and reduce import dependence, thereby reducing foreign exchange outflow. In 2020, assessing that the domestic medical devices market was heavily dependent on imports, which contributed to more than 85% of the market, Government launched the following schemes:

- (i) *PLI Scheme for Promoting Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices*: This scheme aims to promote domestic manufacturing of medical devices by attracting large investments for creation of domestic manufacturing capacity and incentivising domestic production. It has a total budgetary outlay of ₹3,420 crore and a five-year

performance-linked incentive period from FY2022-23 to FY2026-27. Under the scheme, selected companies are eligible for financial incentive for incremental sales of domestically manufactured medical devices in the radiotherapy, imaging device, anaesthesia, cardio-respiratory and critical care and implant device segments, for a period of five years. So far, 21 greenfield projects have been commissioned, and production has started for 54 products, which include high-end medical devices on which the country has been import-dependent, such as linear accelerators, MRI, Ultrasound, CT scans, Mammograms, C-Arm and X-ray machines. Till March 2025, cumulative eligible sales ₹10,413.40 crore have been achieved under the scheme, including exports worth ₹5,002 crore.

- (ii) *Scheme for Promotion of Medical Devices Parks*: This scheme aims to create common infrastructure and testing facilities for increased competitiveness and cost reduction through optimisation of resources and economies of scale, thereby leading to better availability and affordability of medical devices in the domestic market. Under the scheme, three parks have been approved and are at an advanced stage of development in Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) and Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu). The total project cost of these parks is over ₹871.11 crore, with Central assistance to the tune of ₹100 crore each, for creation of common infrastructure facilities, which is expected to enhance industry's competitiveness and reduce production costs through optimisation of resources and economies of scale.

Subsequently, Government announced the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023 as a holistic policy framework to accelerate growth of the sector with a patient-centric approach to meet the evolving healthcare needs of patients. Pursuant to the policy, the following actions have been undertaken:

- (i) Domestic manufacturing of medical devices has been promoted under the PLI Scheme for Promoting Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices.
- (ii) Common infrastructure and testing facilities have been approved and are at various stages of implementation under the Scheme for Promotion of Medical Devices Parks.
- (iii) The Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP) scheme has been launched with an outlay of ₹ 5,000 crore to transform India's Pharma MedTech sector from cost- to innovation-based growth by strengthening research and to promote industry-academia linkage for research and development in priority areas that include medical devices. Under this, a Centre for Excellence in medical devices has been established at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Ahmedabad with an outlay of ₹100 crore.
- (iv) The Uniform Code for Market Practices in Medical Devices, 2024 has been issued.
- (v) The Scheme for Strengthening Medical Device Industry has been launched with a financial outlay of ₹500 crore to provide support in manufacturing of key components and accessories, skill development, support for clinical studies, development of common infrastructure and industry promotion.
- (vi) Action is being pursued in respect of the six focus areas of the policy, namely, regulatory streamlining, enabling of infrastructure, facilitating of research and development and innovation, attracting investments in the sector, human resources development and brand positioning and awareness creation.

In November 2024, assessing that the dependence on imports continues to be about 70%, Government has launched the Scheme for Strengthening Medical Device Industry, with financial outlay of ₹500 crore and provision for support in critical areas as aforesaid.

(d): No, Sir.
