

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *92
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28TH JULY 2026

Import of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients

92 Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala:

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

- (a) the value of imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), bulk drugs and drug intermediates imported from China during the last three years upto 2025-26, category-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the details of major categories of APIs in which India continues to depend on imports from China, indicating domestic production, imports and percentage dependence, categorywise; and
- (c) whether Government has conducted any assessment regarding the strategic risks posed by continued dependence on China for critical APIs and bulk drugs, if so, the details and findings thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *92 (2nd Position) for answer on 28.7.2026, raised by Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala, regarding “Import of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients”

(a): The details regarding India’s imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)/Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates from China during the last three years is given below:

FY2023-24 Qty (MT)	FY2023-24 Value (in crore ₹)	FY2024-25 Qty (MT)	FY2024-25 Value (in crore ₹)	FY2025-26 Qty (MT)	FY2025-26 Value (in crore ₹)
3,44,153	27,055	3,93,453	29,064	4,18,445	29,035

(Source: DGCI&S data on HS Code related to Bulk Drugs and Drug Intermediates)

(b): India continues to depend on imports from China for therapeutic segments which include antibiotics, anti-fungal, anti-amoebic, gastrointestinal disorders, antidiabetic, hormonal disorders, cardiovascular, oncology and neurological disorders. The category-wise details of imports and percentage dependence on China are placed at Annexure-I. The data related to total domestic production of APIs is not maintained by the Department.

(c): The Government had constituted a committee on drug security in 2020 to analyse the issue of dependence on API imports with an aim to avoid risk of supply disruption of critical APIs (used to make critical drugs for which there are no alternatives) on account of single source dependence. The committee consisted of representatives from relevant departments, expert agencies and industry and systematically evaluated list of critical molecules and recommended 41 molecules as critical with single source dependency. In its analysis, the committee highlighted molecules where domestic manufacturing capacity was either completely non-existent or heavily underutilized due to extreme price competition from cheaper imports. The committee also considered drugs that go into basic, life-saving, and mass-consumed medicines—such as antibiotics, anti-HIV medications, cardiovascular drugs, and antipyretics like paracetamol while submitting its recommendation. The list of 41 molecules is placed at Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in the reply to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 92, to be answered on 28.7.2026

S. No	HS Code	DESCRIPTION	Therapeutic Segments	Total import FY2025-26 Value (\$Mn from globe	Import Value (\$Mn in FY2025-26 from China	% import dependency on China
1	29419090	Other Antibiotics	Anti-infective	830.82	735.02	88.47
2	29411050	6 – APA	Anti-infectives (Antibiotics – Intermediate/KSM)	342.82	297.59	86.81
3	29420090	Other Diloxanide Furoate, Cimetidine, Famotidine	Gastrointestinal (GI); Anti-infectives	306.25	224.89	73.43
4	29415000	Erthromycin and its Derivatives Salts thereof	Anti-infectives (Antibiotics)	189.82	187.61	98.84
5	29304000	Methionine	Clinical Nutrition / Amino Acids	171.29	47.74	27.87
6	29331999	Other (2933- Heterocyclic Compounds with Nitrogen Hetero-Atom	Anti-infectives (Antifungals); Gastrointestinal (Acid Suppression)	155.90	146.94	94.25
7	29411010	Penicillins And Its Salts	Anti-infectives (Antibiotics – KSMs)	109.17	103.07	94.41
8	29224100	Lysine and its esters Salts thereof	Clinical Nutrition / Amino Acids	106.13	99.94	94.17
9	29372900	Other Steroidal Hormones their Derivatives and structural analgoues	Endocrinology; Oncology; Women's Health	103.98	82.57	79.41
10	29411090	Other Penicillins and their Derivatives	Anti-infectives (Antibiotics)	91.30	53.38	58.47
11	29332990	Other Compounds containing an unfused Imidazole Ring	Anti-infectives (Antifungals); Endocrinology; Cardiovascular (Anticoagulants)	83.05	61.73	74.33
12	29391900	Other Alkaloids of Opium and their derivatives, salts	Central Nervous System (CNS); Addiction Medicine / Emergency Medicine	67.61	1.28	1.89

13	29389090	Other Glycosides Nitrile/ reproduced by synthesis and their salts, Ether derivatives	Cardiovascular (Anticoagulants); Anti-infectives (Antibiotic Intermediate)	64.53	17.59	27.26
14	29262000	Dicyandiamide	Diabetes / Metabolic Disorders	56.96	55.48	97.40
15	29372300	Oestrogens And Progestogens	Women's Health; Reproductive Medicine; Oncology	53.68	18.59	34.63

(Source: DGCI&S)

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in the reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 92, to be answered on 28.7.2026

S. No.	Name of KSM/DI/API
Key Fermentation based KSMs / Drug Intermediates	
1	Penicillin G
2	7-ACA
3	Erythromycin Thiocynate (TIOC)
4	Clavulanic Acid
Fermentation based niche KSMs I Drug Intermediates I APIs	
5	Neomycin
6	Gentamycin
7	Betamethasone
8	Dexamethasone
9	Prednisolone
10	Rifampicin
11	Vitamin BI
12	Clindamycin Base
13	Streptomycin
14	Tetracycline
Key Chemical Synthesis based KSMs I Drug Intermediates	
15	1,1 Cyclohexane Diacetic Acid (CDA)
16	2-Methyl-5Nitro-Imidazole (2-MNI)
17	Dicyandiamide (DCDA)
18	Para amino phenol
Other Chemical Synthesis based KSMs I Drug Intermediates / APIs	
19	Meropenem
20	Atorvastatin
21	Olmesartan
22	Valsartan
23	Losartan
24	Levofloxacin
25	Sulfadiazine
26	Ciprofloxacin
27	Ofloxacin
28	Norfloxacin

29	Artesunate
30	Telmisartan
31	Aspirin
32	Diclofenac Sodium
33	Leveti racetam
34	Carbidopa
35	Ritonavir
36	Lopinavir
37	Acyclovir
38	Carbamazepine
39	Oxcarbazepine
40	Vitamin B6
41	Levodopa
