

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 871
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7th February, 2017

Bulk Drugs

871. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Pharmaceutical Industry which was earlier a leading producer in bulk drugs is now becoming dependent on China for its bulk drug needs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any plan of action for reducing the dependency of pharma sector on imports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the actual imports of bulk drugs during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The country is dependent on imports of bulk drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing certain essential medicines. As India is a signatory to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, the import restrictions have been removed and imports made on economic considerations have slowly resulted in the present dependence.

(c): The policies formulated by government from time to time are made so that the country's dependence from imports are minimised. In this direction, the Government had on 29.01.2016 notified the withdrawal of exemption in customs duties which were earlier given to certain categories of drugs and bulk drugs to provide a boost to the domestic manufacturers.

(d): The details of India's imports of Bulk Drugs during the last three years are as under:

Years	Total import (Rs. crores)
2013-14	18991.14
2014-15	19833.20
2015-16	21216.91

(Source CMIE economic outlook)