

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2857
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13th March, 2018

APIs from China

2857. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:
SHRI B.V. NAIK:

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

- (a) whether China supplies 70 per cent of the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for manufacturing of drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that interrupted imports from China may lead to a plausible scenario of drugs shortage in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for production of APIs in the country?

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): As per DGCIIS Kolkata, during the year 2016-17, the share of China in the total bulk drugs imported into the country was approximately 66 per cent. The details of India's imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients are as under:

Years	Total import (Rs. cr)	Imports from China (Rs. cr)
2014-15	19833.19	12757.96
2015-16	21225.97	13853
2016-17	18372.54	12254.97

(c): The imports are mainly done for economic consideration and there are various manufacturers who could substitute in case of interrupted supply from China.

(d): The policies formulated by government from time to time are made so that the country's dependence from imports are minimized. 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. Further, the government has removed bottlenecks in environment clearance etc. which the manufacturers are facing, in order to give a boost to domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs. Further, the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) has approved on 07.02.2018, the Scheme for 'Development of Pharmaceutical Industry' under which one of the components is for financing common facilities in Bulk Drug Parks. This would help in reducing the cost of production and would result in better availability of cheaper medicines for the patients.