

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4072
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th March, 2018

Ban on Import of Drugs

4072. SHRI SUMAN BALKA:

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

- (a) whether the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has banned the import of ingredients of drugs from six major Chinese pharmaceutical firms due to quality issues;
- (b) whether this move has serious ramifications for the Indian pharma industry, even leading to possible shortages of antibiotics, anti-diabetes, anti-psychotic and antacid drugs; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

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): Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has inspected seven manufacturing sites of bulk drug in China during October – November 2017. On the basis of observations of inspecting team, show cause notices were issued to all the sites and subsequently 'stop import' orders were issued to six out of seven sites and authorized agents and importers were asked to stop import till a satisfactory response is submitted to CDSCO in response to show cause notices issued. With respect to the seventh site, the port offices have been directed to monitor the import of products and draw the samples from every batch of the imported consignment to ensure quality of the product.

(b) & (c): Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), a body under the Ministry of Commerce has informed that due to the above action taken by CDSCO, the domestic healthcare would be under intense stress due to shortages of the drug intermediates. However, it may be mentioned that there are substitute suppliers for most of the APIs imported and the imports done are mainly on economic consideration.

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