

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 507
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th February, 2018

Bulk Drugs from China

507. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is dependent on China for bulk drugs, ingredients and chemicals needed for the Indian pharmaceutical industry and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the factors which have contributed to such dependence on China;
- (c) whether the Government plans to reduce the dependency on China for bulk drugs in a time-bound manner; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

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): Yes, Madam. The details of India's imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients from top five countries 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

(Source: DGCIS Kolkata)

As per DGCIS Kolkata, during the year 2016-17, the share of China in the total bulk drugs imported into the country was approximately 66 per cent.

(b): The country imports bulk drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing medicines including certain essential medicines. As India is a signatory to the WTO and TRIPs agreement, as such the import restrictions have been removed. It may be mentioned that most of the imports of the Bulk Drug/APIs being done in the country are because of economic considerations.

(c) & (d): 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. 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.