

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5169
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27th March, 2018

**Import of Raw Materials by Drug
Manufacturers**

5169. SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL:

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

- (a) whether the drug manufacturers in the country have been importing raw materials from various foreign countries, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the total value of drugs imported into the country during each of the last three years and the current year, countrywise; and
- (c) the share of China in the total drugs imported into 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): Yes, Madam. 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 mainly because of economic considerations.

(b): The details of India's imports of API from top five countries as per Data available from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata is as under:

| Years | Total import (Rs. cr) | Imports from China (Rs. cr) | Imports from Germany (Rs. cr) | Imports from USA (Rs. cr) | Imports from Italy (Rs. cr) | Imports from Singapore (Rs. cr) |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 19833.19 | 12757.96 | 1172.05 | 791.16 | 644.37 | 241.25 |
| 2015-16 | 21225.97 | 13853.75 | 1054.71 | 980.38 | 663.44 | 593.57 |
| 2016-17 | 18372.54 | 12254.97 | 485.11 | 820.18 | 701.85 | 422.01 |

(Source: DGCIS Kolkata)

(c): As per the data of 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.