

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2562
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9th July, 2019

Raw Material from China

2562. DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:

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

- (a) whether the country is heavily dependent on imports especially from China for many key raw materials (intermediates and active pharma ingredients) of various essential drugs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures that the Government is planning to take to overcome this situation?

ANSWER

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)**

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The details of India's imports of Bulk Drugs, Drug Intermediates from China are as under:

| Years | Total import (US \$ mn) | Imports from China (US\$ mn) |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 2016-17 | 2738.46 | 1826.34 (66.69%) |
| 2017-18 | 2993.25 | 2055.94 (68.68%) |
| 2018-19 | 3560.35 | 2405.42 (67.56%) |

(Source: DGCIS Kolkata)

As per DGCIS Kolkata, during the year 2018-19, the share of China in the total bulk drugs imported into the country was approximately 67 per cent.

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 Drugs/APIs being done in the country are because of economic considerations.

(c) : The Government is committed to make India sufficiently self-reliant in end to end indigenous drug manufacturing by making Indian Pharma Industry globally competitive. The policies formulated by Government from time to time are designed to minimize country's dependence on imports and to give fillip to indigenous manufacturing. In this direction, the Government vide its notification dated 28th January, 2016 has withdrawn exemption of

customs duty of certain categories of Bulk Drugs/APIs. Further, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has prepared an umbrella scheme namely 'Scheme for Development of Pharmaceutical Industry' with the objective to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of domestic pharmaceutical industry so as to enable it to play a lead role in the global market and to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of quality pharmaceuticals of mass consumption. The umbrella scheme includes a sub-scheme for providing assistance to Bulk Drug Industry for Common Facility Centre.

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