

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3265  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

**API Production**

**3265. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:  
SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:**

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

- (a) whether the production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) in the country is very low and the Government is depending much on imports from chinese markets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the percentage of APIs imported from China, out of the total requirement of the country and the monetary value for such imports during the last one year and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has been in receipt of any request/proposal from Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (PHARMAXIL), Hyderabad for increasing the production of Active Pharma Ingredients in the country by encouraging local domestic pharma companies thereby reducing the imports from other countries like China;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereon; and
- (e) the details of the other incentives sought by PHARMAXIL to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of Active Pharma Ingredients in the country?

**ANSWER**

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

---

(a) & (b): The size of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients and Intermediates market in India is estimated to be Rs. 96,000 crore in FY 2019-20. India imported APIs and Intermediates worth Rs. 24,000 crore in FY 2019-20 and India exported APIs and Intermediates worth Rs. 27,500 crore in FY 2019-20. However, India being one of the largest manufacturers of drug formulations/medicines is heavily dependent on other countries for import of raw material (APIs and drug intermediates) of many critical drugs. India imports around 70% of its total imports of APIs and drug intermediates from China. It is stated that most of the imports of the Bulk Drugs/APIs being done in the country are because of economic considerations. As per Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), many raw materials are imported from China, for manufacturing of medicine. As per available data from the various Port Offices of CDSCO, the details of the percentage of raw materials imported from China are as under:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Percentage (in terms of value)</b>
2019	72.40%
2020	72.15%

(c), (d) & (e): No, Sir.

XXXXX