GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 246
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July, 2021

API Import

246. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the country is dependent on China for most of crucial Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) required to manufacture drugs and medicines;
(b) the list of APIs which are imported from foreign countries; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure indigenous production of crucial API in the country and reduce the import dependency?

ANSWER

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a): Many Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) are imported from China, for manufacturing of medicine. As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), the details of the percentage of APIs imported from China are as under: -

Year	Percentage of Total imports (in terms of value)
2018-19	67.56%
2019-20	68.04%
2020-21	68.02%

(b): As per the data available from port offices of CDSCO more than 700 APIs of various therapeutic categories such as Antibiotics, Vitamins, Hormones, Antiviral, Anti-TB, Anticonvulsant, Analgesic, Antipyretic, Antidiabetic, Cardiovascular etc. have been imported into country.

(c): The Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched following three schemes for promoting domestic manufacturing of Pharmaceutical drugs including APIs by attracting large investments in the sector to ensure their sustainable domestic supply and thereby reduce India's import dependence on other countries: -

(I) **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) In India:** The scheme provides for financial incentives will be provided to manufacturers selected under the scheme for manufacturing of 41 Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients

(APIs).The scheme provides for incentives on incremental sales to selected participants for a period of 6 years. The total financial outlay of the scheme is Rs. 6,940 crore and the tenure of the scheme is from FY 2020-2021 to 2029-30.

(II) **Scheme for Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks:** This scheme provides for grant-in-aid to 3 Bulk Drug Parks for creation of Common Infrastructure Facilities (CIF) with a maximum limit of Rs.1000 crore per park or 70% of the project cost of CIF, whichever is less. In case of North Eastern States and Hilly States (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh) financial assistance would be 90% of the project cost. The total financial outlay of the Scheme is Rs. 3000 crore and the tenure of the Scheme is from FY 2020-21 to 2024-25.

(III) **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Pharmaceuticals**: The objective of the scheme is to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities by increasing investment and production in the sector and contributing to product diversification to high value goods in the pharmaceutical sector. One of the further objectives of the scheme is to create global champions out of India who have the potential to grow in size and scale using cutting edge technology and thereby penetrate the global value chains. Under this scheme, financial incentives will be provided to participants selected under the scheme for their incremental sales of eligible drugs manufactured in India. Eligible drugs under the scheme include Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients among other categories of pharmaceutical products. The scheme provides for incentives on incremental sales to selected participants for a period of 6 years. The total financial outlay of the scheme is Rs. 15,000 crore and the tenure of the scheme is from FY 2020-2021 to 2028-29.

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