

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3791  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

**Shortage of Essential Medicines**

**3791. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:**

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

- (a) whether the country is facing acute shortage of essential medicines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to enhance the production of essential medicines in order to meet the demand thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up new units for production of essential medicines in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

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(a): No, Sir. The production and availability of essential medicines, which are included as Schedule-I of the Drugs Prices Control Order, 2013 are monitored by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) through Drugs Control Administration of the State Governments. The manufacturers of scheduled formulations are also required to submit quarterly returns of production / import of scheduled formulation and their bulk drugs/active pharmaceutical ingredients. Regular surveys of chemists shops are conducted by the officials of the Drug Controller General (India) and the Price Monitoring and Resource Units (PMRUs) set-up in 22 States/UTs by NPPA. Whenever shortage is reported by the State Drug Controllers or when the matter comes to the notice of NPPA, remedial steps are taken for ensuring availability of drug by impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage. However, no reports have been received recently by NPPA regarding scarcity of essential medicines in the country.

(b) to (d): In order to make the country *Atmanirbhar* in pharmaceutical sector, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched the 'Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)' with a total financial outlay of Rs. 6,940 cr. In total, 49 applicants have been approved under the scheme, out of which 8 projects have already been commissioned. Another 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Pharmaceuticals' has been launched by the Department with total financial outlay of Rs. 15,000 cr. to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities by increasing investment and production in the sector. In total, 55 applications have been approved under the scheme. Further, the Department has launched a scheme for 'Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks' with a total financial outlay of Rs. 3,000 cr.

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