

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2298  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2022

**Production and Export of Important Medicines**

**2298. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the pharma sector in India is growing well and is a major producer and exporter of important medicines like antibiotics, antimalarial, anti-TB drugs, Paracetamol etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the present position of India in the production and export of these medicines;
- (c) whether it is a fact that India was making 70 per cent of the active pharma ingredients (API) or bulk drugs by 1990, but a major part of these bulk drugs are presently being imported and mostly from China;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to make inputs and intermediates for chemical and fertilizers based APIs in the country and therefor reduce the critical dependence on imported inputs for making medicines in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a) to (b): Yes, Sir. The Indian Pharmaceutical industry is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world by volume. India exported pharmaceuticals worth Rs. 1,75,040 crore in the financial year 2021-22, including Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates. The quantity and the value of the drugs exported during the last five years is as under: -

<b>Export of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals</b>		
	<b>Quantity (MT)</b>	<b>Value (In Rs Cr)</b>
2017-18	665934	1,06,038
2018-19	674084	1,28,028
2019-20	524757	1,40,537
2020-21	642718	1,74,064
2021-22	1075906	1,75,040

*Source: DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.*

(c) to (d): India is one of the major producers of Active Pharma Ingredients (API) or bulk drugs in the world. India exported Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates worth Rs. 33,320 crore in financial year 2021-22. However, the country also imports various Bulk Drugs/ APIs for producing medicines from various countries including China. Most of the imports of the Bulk Drug/APIs being done in the country are because of economic considerations and also, China is one of the largest producers of KSMs and APIs in the world.

The quantity and the value of Bulk Drug and Drug Intermediates exported from India to other countries and imported from other countries including China during the last three years is as under: -

Year	Export to all countries		Imports from all countries		Imports from China	
	Quantity (MT)	Value (In Rs Cr)	Quantity (MT)	Value (In Rs Cr)	Quantity (MT)	Value (In Rs Cr)
2019-20	271544	27533	364433	24172	220875	16443
2020-21	324331	32857	390476	28529	256609	19403
2021-22	453130	33320	400642	35249	264582	23273

(e) to (f): The Government strives to minimize country's dependence on imports and to give fillip to indigenous manufacturing. In order to make the country self-reliant in APIs and drug intermediates, the Department of Pharmaceuticals is implementing the following three schemes: -

- (i) 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) in India, with a financial outlay of Rs. 6,940 crores and the tenure from FY 2020-2021 to FY 2029-30, provides for financial incentive for 41 identified products. A total of 51 applicants have been selected under the scheme.
- (ii) The Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Pharmaceuticals, with a financial outlay Rs. 15,000 crores and the tenure from FY 2020- 2021 to FY 2028-29, provides for financial incentive to 55 selected applicants for manufacturing of identified products under three categories for a period of six years. The eligible drugs under this scheme include APIs.
- (iii) The Scheme for Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks, with a financial outlay of Rs. 3,000 crores and the tenure from FY 2020-2021 to FY 2024-25, provides for financial assistance to three States for establishing Bulk Drug Parks.

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