

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1331
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd MAY, 2016

IMPORT OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

1331. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Imports of Pharmaceutical Products from China during each of the last three years, product/ quantity/value-wise;
- (b) whether India is heavily dependent on China for drug imports and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up specified pharmaceutical zones in order to reduce the country's dependence on China for the raw material used to produce drugs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which these pharma zones are likely to be set up; and
- (e) the other steps taken/ being taken by the Government to promote the "Make in India" initiative and curb drug imports from China?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण) (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): The details of Imports of Pharmaceutical Products from China during each of the last three years is as under :

COMMODITY	2012-13(KGS)	2012-13 in \$mn	2013-14 (KGS)	2013-14 in \$mn	2014-15(KGS)	2014-15 in \$mn	April-Dec 2015 (KGS)	April-Dec 2015 in \$ mn
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AYUSH AND HERBAL PRODUCTS	412280	0.43	311745	0.38	190817	0.40	999358	0.72
BULK DRUGS, DRUG INTERMEDIATES	135794942	2009.88	151672181	2000.39	153292090	2088.31	118533289	1626.88
DRUG FORMULATIONS, BIOLOGICALS	547521	87.05	456378	110.59	661838	129.67	526511	115.82
Total imports from China	136754743	2097.36	152440304	2111.37	154144745	2218.37	120059158	1743.42

(b) : The estimated production of bulk drugs by indigenous drug manufacturing companies in 2013 was US\$ 10.4 billion and import for the period was US\$ 3.5 billion which came primarily from China. Indian drug manufacturers import pharmaceuticals including drug intermediates, bulk drugs and formulations from various countries. Based on the information available relating to China, India imports drugs and pharmaceutical from China in the form of raw materials as well as finished products for both domestic consumption and exports. As per the reports available, in case of 12 essential drugs namely; Paracetamol, Metformin, Ranitidine, Amoxicillin, Ciprofloxacin, Cefixime, Acetyl salicylic acid, Ascorbic acid, Ofloxacin, Ibuprofen, Metronidazole and Ampicillin, there is significant dependence on imports for drug ingredients and substantial imports of these products are from China. One of the reasons for imports from China is the price competitiveness of these products.

(c) & (d) :No, [Sir as per information provided by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and Department of Pharmaceuticals there is no such proposal.](#)

(e) : India is one of the largest manufacturers of medicines and exports to more than 200 countries. Taking into account the dependence of Indian drug industry on import of APIs, an Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Health Research had been constituted to study and identify the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) of critical importance and to consider a measures required to build domestic production capabilities etc. The committee has in its findings, inter-alia, reported that the API industry in the country has to be made more viable and there is a need for building an eco system to promote investment in the sector, based on global practices. There are also recommendations for improving the regulatory regime in the country.

Framework for increasing exports of various commodities including drug exports is provided in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-2020. Financial assistance is provided under Market Development Assistance and Market Access Initiative Schemes of the Department of Commerce to exporters of various commodities including Pharmaceutical products, particularly small and medium size exporters to promote their exports in various countries. Export Incentives are available to Pharmaceutical industry through various trade promotion schemes like Merchandise Exports from India Scheme(MEIS), Advance Authorization Scheme, DFIA for import of raw materials and EPCG Scheme for import of Capital Goods etc. in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP).
