GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3033

ANSWERED ON-19.12.2014

Dependence on China for drugs related raw materials

3033. Dr. V. Maitreyan

(a) whether National Security Advisor has recently warned Government for too much dependence on China as it may someday lead to drugs shortage, if so, details thereof;
(b) steps taken by Government to reduce too much reliance on China for various other products and raw materials and to increase indigenous development of crucial raw materials for varied important industries;
(c) the modalities, guidelines and norms chalked out by Government to check, monitor and reduce India"s reliance on China in importing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) used in Pharmaceutical Industry; and
(d) the total quantity and amount involved in import of API from China at present?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) to (c) In a meeting held in Prime Minister’s Office on 08.10.2013, it was decided to set up a Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Health Research to study and identify the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) of critical importance and to workout a package of interventions/concessions required to build domestic production capabilities, and examine the cost implication. In addition to the Chairman, the Committee comprises of Member Secretary, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC), Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Secretary, Department of Health, Secretary, Department of Commerce and Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion. The report of the said Committee is awaited.
(d) Department of Pharmaceuticals does not maintain data regarding Import of API. However, as per the Boston Consulting Group report of 2013, import of API during the year 2013 was US $ 3.5 billion which came primarily from China.

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