GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-535

ANSWERED ON-24.07.2015

Over dependence on China for API

535 . Dr. V. Maitreyan

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

(a) 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;
(b) the total quantity and amount involved in import of API from China at present;
(c) whether the Pharmaceutical sector in the country is suffering due to too much dependence on China for supply of API, that would lead some day to drug shortage, if so, details thereof; and
(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce the reliance on China and to increase indigenous development of crucial raw material for varied important industries?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a), (c)& (d): The Government had constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Health Research in the year 2013. The mandate of this Committee was to carefully study the whole issue of APIs of critical importance by identifying important APIs and then working out a package of interventions/concession required to build domestic production capabilities and examine the cost implications. The Committee has since submitted its recommendations which are being examined in consultation with other concerned Government Departments.

(b): As per the Boston Consulting Group Report of 2013, import of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) during the year 2013 was approximately US$ 3.5 billion of which a large share was from China.

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