GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1971

ANSWERED ON-02.12.2016

Dependence on China for bulk drugs, intermediates and chemicals

1971 Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that India is dependent on China for bulk drugs, intermediates and chemicals needed for the Indian pharmaceutical industry, if so, the details thereof;
(b) the factors which have contributed to such dependence on China; and
(c) whether Government plans to reduce the dependency on China for bulk drugs in a time-bound manner?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The country is dependent on imports of bulk drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing certain essential medicines. As India is a signatory to the WTO and TRIPs agreement, the import restrictions have been removed and imports made on economic considerations have slowly resulted in the present dependence. The details of India's imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients from China and total imports during the last three years are as under:

Years	Total import (Rs. Crores)	Imports from China (Rs. Crores)
2013-14	18991.14	12061.53 (63.51%)
2014-15	19833.20	12757.96 (64.33%)
2015-16	21216.91	13853.20 (65.29%)

(Source CMIE economic outlook)

(c): The policies formulated by government from time to time are made so that the country's dependence from imports are minimised. In this direction, the Government had on 29.01.2016 notified the withdrawal of exemption in customs duties which were earlier given to certain categories of drugs and bulk drugs to provide a boost to the domestic manufacturers.

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