GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-205

ANSWERED ON-03.02.2017

Dependence on China for APIs

205 . Shri Partap Singh Bajwa

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

(a) whether it is a fact that China supplies 70 per cent of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for manufacture of drugs in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether interrupted imports from China may lead to a plausible scenario of drugs shortage in the country; and

(c) whether Government has taken steps to produce APIs in the country, if so, the details thereof?

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): The country is dependent on imports of bulk drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing certain essential medicines from China. 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.

(b): This type of scenario is not expected as there are various other suppliers of the Bulk Drugs/ APIs in the world.

(c): The government has withdrawn exemption of customs duty on certain categories of Bulk Drugs/APIs to provide a level playing field to the domestic manufacturers.

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