GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2295
ANSWERED ON-04.08.2017

Import of APIs from China

2295. Shri Ripun Bora

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian pharmaceutical industry imports around 85 per cent of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for manufacture of medicines from China;
(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to produce APIs in the country itself;
(c) the steps taken by Government to set up Mega Parks for API manufacturing in the country as per the recommendations of the Katoch Committee;
(d) the reasons for the failure of Government in setting up Mega Parks for API manufacturing in the country; and
(e) whether any such Park is also planned for North-east India?

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.
These imports are taking place because of economic considerations.

(b): The government has withdrawn exemption of customs duty on certain categories of Bulk Drugs/APIs which are also used in the manufacture of some of the Antibiotics, to provide a level playing field to the domestic manufacturers. Further, the Government is clearing bottlenecks like environment clearances etc. which the manufacturers are facing, in order to give boost to domestic manufacturers of bulk drugs.

(c): The Government is providing all the available help to the State Governments for setting up such API Parks in the country.

(d): The Government is encouraging State Governments for developing parks.

(e): There is no such plan, at present.
xxxxxx