GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1807
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th March, 2020

Impact of Coronavirus outbreak in China on pharma ingredient supplies

1807. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

(a) whether the outbreak of the COVID19 Coronavirus in China has resulted in a shortage of pharmaceutical ingredients manufactured in China available for import to India, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether Government keeps stock of pharmaceutical ingredients to make drugs in the country and have the levels of the same depleted due to short supplies from China, the details thereof; and
(c) whether Government has assessed the impact of depletion of stock of pharmaceutical ingredients in the country and whether it would affect pharmaceutical companies in the country, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a): As of now there is no report of shortage of medicines in the country. However, If the epidemic of Corona virus in China continues to disrupt manufacturing of APIs/KSMs in China, then there is an apprehension that the supplies of APIs/KSMs from China might be disrupted.

(b) & (c): Department of Pharmaceuticals has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Eshwara Reddy, Joint Drugs Controller, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to address the issue of drug security in the country in the context of novel coronavirus outbreak in China. The committee has observed that the present stock-in-hand of the APIs may be sufficient for 2 to 3 months to manufacture formulations.The Committee constituted by the department has assessed that there may be impact on import of certain APIs/KSMs which are majorly manufactured in Hubei province of China. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the department has issued necessary instructions to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) and State Governments to ensure adequate supply of APIs and formulations at affordable prices in the market and to prevent black-marketing, illegal hoarding, creating artificial shortages in the country. In this regard, Department of Pharmaceuticals has written to DGFT to restrict exports of

13 API and formulations made using these APIs. NPPA has also written to Chief Secretaries of States with copies to Principal Secretaries Health and State Drug Controllers requesting them to closely monitor the production and availability of APIs and formulations to prevent the black marketing and hoarding in their States and UTs as well as to ensure that there is no violation of provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 with regard to compliance of ceiling prices/ permissible increase in prices of scheduled/ non-scheduled formulations respectively.

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