GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2274
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13th March, 2020

Dependency of medicine manufacturing industry on raw materials from China

2274. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether a large part of the raw materials needed for the formulation of medicines in the country are being imported from China;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the medicine manufacturing industry is suffering now due to the non arrival of raw materials as China is reeling under the attack of Corona virus; and
(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that raw materials are made available in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Indian Pharmaceutical industry is 3rd largest in the world in terms of volume and 14th largest in terms of value. India exported medicines worth US $14389 mn in Financial Year 2018-19. India also exported Bulk Drug/Drug Intermediates worth US $ 3911mn in Financial Year 2018-19. However, the country also imports various Bulk Drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing medicines. Two-thirds of the total imports of Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates is from China. The imports from China are mainly due to economic considerations. The details of India's imports of Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates (including from China) are as under:

Years	Total import (US $ mn)	Imports from China (US$ mn)	Percent of Import from China
2018-19	3560.35	2405.42	67.56%

(c) & (d): 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 has also 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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