GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3088
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th March, 2020

Dependence of Indian pharma industry on China

3088. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many pharmaceutical companies in India are facing shortage of materials due to Coronavirus outbreak in China;
(b) whether it is also a fact that China accounts for around 65-70 per cent of ingredients of drugs manufactured in the country; and
(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard to ensure availability of drugs in the domestic market?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has informed that they have not received any reference regarding shortage of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients. The Indian Drugs Manufactures Association (IDMA) has assured that its members have enough stocks of APIs and formulations.

(b): As per the data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata, India imported 67.5% of Bulk Drugs/Drug Intermediates from China during the year 2018-19.

(c): To address the issue of drug security in the country in the context of novel coronavirus outbreak in China, 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 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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