

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 528
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th February, 2021

R&D to reduce dependence on China in pharma sector

528 Shri Vaiko:

Will the **Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of total imports and quantity of basic formulations and ingredients imported from China in the pharmaceutical sector in the last three years and the current year, up to 31st December, 2020;
- (b) whether any efforts have been made in research and development (R&D) field to manufacture basic formulations within the country to reduce dependence on China in pharma sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including amount being spent on R & D in the country; and
- (d) whether any other source of supply was explored as an alternative to China?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), many raw materials are imported from China, for manufacturing of medicine. As per available data from the various Port Offices of CDSCO, the details of the percentage of raw materials imported from China are as under:-

Year	Percentage (in terms of value)
2017	68.62%
2018	66.53%
2019	72.40%
2020	72.15%

However, drug formulations are not imported in significant number from China.

(b) & (c): The Department does not maintain information regarding Research and Development (R&D) expenditure regarding manufacture of basic formulations within the country.

(d): As per CDSCO, under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 various sites of different countries are registered by the CDSCO for import of various Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) which are used in manufacture of drug formulations in the country. CDSCO is reviewing all such applications for import of APIs in an expeditious manner for which India is highly dependent on China.

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