

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2110  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022

**Import of chemicals and fertilizers from China**

**2110 Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:**

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

- (a) whether Government has stopped import of chemicals and fertilizers from China and the details thereof;
- (b) the total pharmaceutical imports from China, year-wise from 2015;
- (c) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to reduce the dependency on Chinese imports particularly the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) and the details thereof and the decision taken by Government in this regard; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to provide adequate support to Indian pharma companies in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS  
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

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(a) and (b): Import of Chemicals, Fertilizers and Pharmaceuticals has not been stopped.

The Indian Pharmaceutical industry is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world by volume. India exported pharmaceuticals worth Rs. 1,80,551 crore in the financial year 2020-21. India exported Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates worth Rs.32,857 crore in financial year 2020-21. However, the country also imports various Bulk Drugs/ Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing medicines from various countries including China.

The details of pharmaceuticals imports from China from 2015 to December 2021 are given below:

Value in Crore Rupees							
Category of pharmaceuticals	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (upto December 2021)
Bulk Drugs, Drug Intermediates	13,854	12,255	13,247	16,777	16,443	19,403	19,810
Drug Formulations, Biologicals	946	907	830	1,046	1,164	1,476	1,364

Source: DGCIS

(c) and (d): Most of the imports of the Bulk Drug/APIs being done in the country are because of economic considerations and also, China is one of the largest producers of KSMs and API in the world.

The Government strives to minimize country's dependence on imports and to give fillip to indigenous manufacturing.

- In order to make the country Atmanirbhar in pharmaceuticals, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched the *Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) In India*. The total financial outlay of the scheme is Rs. 6,940 crore and the tenure from FY 2020-2021 to FY 2029-30.
- Another *Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Pharmaceuticals* has been launched with total financial outlay of Rs. 15,000 crore and tenure from FY 2020- 2021 to FY 2028-29. The scheme intends to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities by increasing investment and production in the sector and contributing to product diversification to high value goods in the pharmaceutical sector. The eligible drugs under this scheme include APIs among other categories of pharmaceutical products.
- The Department has launched a scheme to provide further support to API pharma companies through providing financial assistance to the States for establishing three *Bulk Drug Parks*.
- Further, Department provides support to the pharma clusters for creating common infrastructure facilities under *Assistance to Pharmaceutical Industry for Common Facilities* (API-CF).
- The SME Pharma Industries are planned to be supported for quality and technical upgradation under *Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS)*.

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