

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:69
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015
EXPORT IMPORT OF MEDICINES DRUGS
Tadas Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum and value of medicines/drugs exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (b) whether India is largely dependent on import particularly from China to meet the bulk requirement of various drugs including essential drugs and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to boost export of medicines/ drugs and encourage the Indian Pharmaceutical companies to increase their production so as to reduce dependence on imports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 69 FOR ANSWER ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 2015 REGARDING "EXPORT/IMPORT OF MEDICINES/DRUGS"

(a) Commodity-wise/country-wise India's import and export of APIs during last three years and current year for the top 30 markets is enclosed at Annexure I & II respectively.

(b) : The estimated production of bulk drugs by indigenous drug manufacturing companies in 2013 was US\$ 10.4 billion and import was US \$ 3.5 billion. As per the reports available, in case of 12 essential drugs namely; Paracetamol, Metformin, Ranitidine, Amoxicillin, Ciprofloxacin, Cefixime, Acetyl salicylic acid, Ascorbic acid, Ofloxacin, Ibuprofen, Metronidazole and Ampicillin, there is significant dependence on imports for drug ingredients; substantial imports are from China. One of the reasons for imports from China is the competitiveness of these products.

(c) The Government is taking several measures to boost exports under MDA & MAI schemes. India is one of the largest manufacturers of medicines and exports to more than 200 countries. Taking into account the dependence of Indian drug industry on import of APIs, a Committee was constituted to study and identify the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) of critical importance and to consider a measures required to build domestic production capabilities etc. The committee has in its findings, inter-alia, reported that the API industry in the country has to be made more viable and there is a need for building an eco system to promote investment in the sector, based on global practices. There are also recommendations for improving the regulatory regime in the country.