

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:123  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015  
IMPORT OF BULK DRUGS  
Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has imported bulk drugs and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) worth crores of rupees from China and other foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the National Security Advisor has warned the Government of its overdependence on China for supply of essential drugs and APIs;
- (d) if so, the reasons for importing 80% to 90% essential drugs and APIs from China;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to shift this overdependence on China for supply of essential drugs and APIs; and
- (f) whether any committee was set up of Joint Secretaries for the purpose, has submitted its report to the Government and if so, the details of recommendations made by the said committee and the follow up action taken thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GAN6ARAM AHIR)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Department of Pharmaceuticals does not maintain data regarding import of bulk drugs. However, as per the Boston Consulting Group report of 2013, the imports for the year 2013 was US \$ 3 5 billion which came primarily from China.
- (d) Besides availability, the imports are also because of economic consideration.
- (c), (e) & (f): In a meeting chaired by the National Security Adviser and then Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, held in Prime Minister's Office on 08.10.2013, it was decided to set up a Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Health Research to study and identify the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) of critical importance and to workout a package of interventions/concessions required to build domestic production capabilities, and examine the cost implication. In addition to the Chairman, the Committee comprises of Member Secretary, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC), Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Secretary, Department of Health, Secretary, Department of Commerce and Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. The Committee has recently submitted its report which is being examined.