

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:245  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014  
DEPENDENCY OF DRUGS ON CHINA  
Galla Shri Jayadev

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

- (a) whether India is depending on China for its drug ingredients as highlighted by the Report of Boston Consulting Group and CII;
- (b) if so, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether it is true that fifteen essential drugs manufactured in the country are dependent on the ingredients from China and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has set up/proposed to be set up an expert committee for the purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details of recommendations made by the committee and the follow up action taken by the Government on the recommendation made by the committee?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) to (c): As per the records available with the Department of Pharmaceuticals in case of 12 essential drugs as defined in National List of Essential Medicines 2011, there is significant dependence on imports for the drug ingredients and 80-90% of these imports are from China. These essential drugs include -

- i. Paracetamol
- ii. Metformin
- iii. Ranitidine
- iv. Amoxicillin
- v. Ciprofloxacin
- vi. Cefixime
- vii. Acetyl salicylic acid
- viii. Ascorbic acid
- ix. Ofloxacin
- x. Ibuprofen
- xi. Metronidazole
- xii. Ampicillin

The decision to import and the country of origin for such imports are based on economic considerations.

(d) to (e): In a meeting 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 work out 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 & Promotion. The report of the said Committee is awaited.