

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3328  
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014  
IMPORT OF APIS FROM CHINA  
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**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India imports Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) from China used for making finished pharmaceutical products like essential drugs and antibiotics;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of APIs imported and the list of essential drugs made from the APIs and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the risks associated with over reliance on China for procuring APIs; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard and also to encourage APIs manufacturing in the country?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The details of imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) from China during the year 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013 - 14 and provisional data for 2014 - 15 (April - September) is at Annexure - I. As informed by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, 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 the drug ingredients. Approximately 80-90% of these imports are from China. The decision to import and the country of origin for such imports are based on economic considerations.
- (c) & (d): A Committee of Secretaries, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Health Research has been set up on 8.10.2013 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.