

Aggrieved by the orders of NPPA, M/s Abbott Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. (in case of Phenytoin and Propanolol) and M/s Alkem Laboratories Ltd. (in case of Cefotaxime) filed review petitions before the Department of Pharmaceuticals under para 31 of the DPCO 2013. After hearing both the parties, the Department of Pharmaceuticals directed the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) to re-fix the prices considering the data/information furnished by the companies, on merit.

**Dependence on China for bulk drugs, intermediates and chemicals**

1971. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is dependent on China for bulk drugs, intermediates and chemicals needed for the Indian pharmaceutical industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the factors which have contributed to such dependence on China; and

(c) whether Government plans to reduce the dependency on China for bulk drugs in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The country is dependent on imports of bulk drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing certain essential medicines. As India is a signatory to the WTO and TRIPs agreement, the import restrictions have been removed and imports made on economic considerations have slowly resulted in the present dependence. The details of India's imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients from China and total imports during the last three years are as under:

| Years   | Total import<br>(₹ crores) | Imports from China<br>(₹ crores) |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2013-14 | 18991.14                   | 12061.53 (63.51%)                |
| 2014-15 | 19833.20                   | 12757.96 (64.33%)                |
| 2015-16 | 21216.91                   | 13853.20 (65.29%)                |

Source: CMIE economic outlook.

(c) The policies formulated by Government from time to time are made so that the country's dependence from imports are minimised. In this direction, the Government had on 29.01.2016 notified the withdrawal of exemption in customs duties which were earlier given to certain categories of drugs and bulk drugs to provide a boost to the domestic manufacturers.