

Revival of closed fertilizer plants

2272. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to revive five closed fertilizer plants in the country, including the ones at Talcher and Gorakhpur; and

(b) if so, how will this decision affect the demand and supply gap of urea in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) Government of India is reviving five closed fertilizer plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) namely Talcher, Ramagundam, Gorakhpur and Sindri plants of FCIL and Barauni plant of HFCL by formation of Joint Venture Companies of nominated PSUs for setting up new Urea Ammonia plants of 12.7 Lakh metric tonne per annum capacity each.

(b) Subsequent to commissioning/start of the above plants, the indigenous urea production will be enhanced by 63.5 Lakh Metric Tonne per year leading to corresponding reduction in import of urea.

Scarcity of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)

2273. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE:

KUMARI SELJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic drug industry is highly dependent on imports from China for its requirement of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs);

(b) whether the outbreak of Corona virus in China has affected imports of APIs;

(c) whether Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) has offered to step in to reduce dependence on China; and

(d) the steps initiated by Government to deal with any potential scarcity of APIs that can arise in future, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA

GOWDA): (a) The Indian Pharmaceutical industry is 3rd largest in the world in terms of volume and 14th largest in terms of value. India exported medicines worth US \$ 14389 mn in Financial Year 2018-19. India also exported Bulk Drugs/Drug Intermediates worth US \$ 3911 mn in Financial Year 2018-19. However, the country also imports various Bulk Drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing medicines. Two-thirds of the TOTAL imports of Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates is from China. The details of India's imports of Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates (including from China) are as under:

Years	Total import (US \$ mn)	Imports from China (US\$ mn)	Percent of Import from China
2018-19	3560.35	2405.42	67.56%

(b) and (d) Department of Pharmaceuticals has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Eshwara Reddy, Joint Drugs Controller, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to address the issue of drug security in the country in the context of novel coronavirus outbreak in China. The committee has observed that the present stock-in-hand of the APIs may be sufficient for 2 to 3 months to manufacture formulations. The Committee has also assessed that there may be impact on import of certain APIs/KSMs which are majorly manufactured in Hubei province of China. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the department has issued necessary instructions to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) and State Governments to ensure adequate supply of APIs and formulations at affordable prices in the market and to prevent black-marketing, illegal hoarding, creating artificial shortages in the country. In this regard, Department of Pharmaceuticals has written to DGFT to restrict exports of 13 API and formulations made using these APIs. NPPA has also written to Chief Secretaries of States with copies to Principal Secretaries Health and State Drug Controllers requesting them to closely monitor the production and availability of APIs and formulations to prevent the black marketing and hoarding in their States and UTs as well as to ensure that there is no violation of provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 with regard to compliance of ceiling prices/permissible increase in prices of scheduled/ non-scheduled formulations respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.