

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Indian Council for Fertilizers and Fertilizer Technology Research (ICFFTR) was formed as a society jointly by fertilizers CPSEs under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers, in August, 2019. ICFFTR was registered under Societies Registration Act 1860 on 19.08.2019. Later on, fertilizers Joint Ventures Companies viz. Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited and Talcher Fertilizers Limited also become members.

ICFFTR is at nascent stage as of now. Major aim and objectives of ICFFTR are research on fertilizer manufacturing technology, development of alternate raw materials/ feedstock, indigenizing the available technology, and developing innovative fertilizer products to suit country's requirement etc. ICFFTR further aims to disseminate the positive outcomes of these research to fertilizer plants regarding manufacturing, processing, marketing and sale of manure and related products. In order to achieve aims and objectives, ICFFTR is currently working in three verticals namely (i) Industrial research, (ii) Research on New and Innovative Fertilizers and fertilizers Technology, (iii) Research on Farmer's Welfare.

Export opportunities for pharmaceutical companies

696. SHRI VAIKO:

SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether there are ample export opportunities for pharmaceutical companies in India to exports to Eastern Europe and Russia;
- (b) if so, the efforts made by Government to facilitate pharma companies; and
- (c) whether Government would offer incentives and concessions to encourage exports in pharma sector in view of higher potential in exports, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) The market size of Eastern Europe (excluding Russia) is relatively small as compared to the European Union, offering relatively smaller business opportunity for Indian pharmaceutical exports. However, Russia is an important destination for Indian pharmaceutical exports and it is the fourth largest importer of pharmaceutical products from India, worth USD 552.41 million, which grew at 14% and contributed 2%

of the total pharma exports from India. Other than Russia, countries such as Poland, Greece, Ukraine, Romania, Slovenia, Uzbekistan and Hungary are the other markets in the Eastern Europe which have business potential for India, from the perspective of generics market.

(b) Export promotion is a continuous process. Government of India, through various institutional dialogue mechanisms such as Joint Working Groups, regularly engages with the respective country's Health and Commerce Ministries and other concerned Government agencies to promote our pharma trade interests. Cooperation agreements/MoUs are also entered into for closer engagement as per the requirement. Various issues faced by the Indian companies including market access concerns are regularly taken up with the concerned agencies of these countries at appropriate levels.

(c) Government, through its schemes, encourages the Indian industry to explore new markets, register more products, showcase their products in major International fairs including participating in Buyer Seller Meetings, all of which help in maintaining our competitiveness in the international markets. The Government, with effect from January 2019, has increased the financial assistance under the MAI (Market Access Initiative) from ₹ 50 lakhs to ₹ 2 crore per company per year, and also introduced ₹ 25 lakhs for implementation of barcoding to MSME units. These measures are expected to facilitate enhanced market access for Indian pharma.

High import of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)

697. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian pharmaceutical companies import more than 70% of the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) used for manufacturing medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the countries from which India imports APIs alongwith the reasons for high import of APIs;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps for setting up Bulk Drug Parks in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to create a self-reliant ecosystem in the pharmaceuticals, health and hygiene sector by ramping up domestic production which would help in building Atmanirbhar Bharat?