

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?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Bulk drugs accounted for 63% of the total pharmaceutical imports in the country during 2019-20. India imports bulk drugs largely for economic considerations. The following are major countries from which India imported APIs during 2019-20:—

Sl. No.	Country	Percentage share of import
1.	China P R	68.04
2.	USA	3.53
3.	Italy	3.02
4.	Singapore	2.88
5.	Spain	2.17
6.	Germany	1.85
7.	France	1.56
8.	Japan	1.53
9.	Denmark	1.26
10.	Hong Kong	1.25

*Source:* DGCIS, Kolkata.

(c) Under the scheme 'Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks' financial assistance will be provided to the State implementing agencies for creation of common infrastructure facilities to three Bulk Drug Parks to be developed by State Governments. States will be selected on the basis of scores obtained by the proposals submitted by the States on predefined selection criteria (given in the scheme guidelines available on the website of the department under the tab titled 'schemes').

(d) With a view to attain self-reliance and reduce import dependence in APIs/Bulk drugs, the department of pharmaceuticals has rolled two schemes *viz.* (i) "Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) In India" and (ii) "Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks". The guidelines of both the schemes were released on 27th July, 2020.