



## PHARMACEUTICALS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

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### **DoP consults industry on chemicals products for elimination of tariffs under NAMA negotiations**

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**Joseph Alexander, New Delhi**

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<http://www.pharmabiz.com/article/detnews.asp?articleid=53690&sectionid=>

The Department of Pharmaceutical (DoP) has asked the industry organizations to send in their comments on the specific chemical products to be included for sectoral initiative for elimination of tariffs under the ongoing Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations at the World Trade Organisation.

The department, following a communication from the Commerce Department, has forwarded the list of specific chemical products to all major associations for their evaluation from the viewpoint of the industry within the ambit of sectoral. The comments from the industry will be included while preparing the negotiation brief by the government, sources said.

“It is requested that the list of products may be examined from the following perspective: the list of sensitive products in terms of substantial domestic production, employment, and other economic parameters; the tariffs required on these sensitive products for providing adequate protection; the possible implementation period for such sensitive tariff lines; and any other modality for ensuring protection of these tariff lines,” the letter said.

The list includes inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals, fertilizers, and plastics. The department had asked the industry to submit their responses on healthcare related products including bulk drugs, pharmaceuticals, medical preparations, medical clothing, medical appliances, medical equipments, medical apparatus etc, sometime back. The industry organizations have reportedly submitted their comments already in this regard and the pharma department has forwarded them to the commerce department.

Developing countries are proposed to be given special and differential treatment in terms of binding (four) per cent of their sensitive tariff lines at (four) per cent duty and an extended implementation period. The proponents have provided with some specific tariff lines of their export interest.

The NAMA negotiations are based on the Doha mandate that calls for reduction of elimination in tariff peaks, tariff escalation, non-tariff barriers on goods that of export value and of the interest to developing countries. NAMA negotiations are considered to be important. A tariff binding is a ceiling above which a member country cannot apply a tariff, thus representing the maximum tariff than can be applied by a member.