

CII seeks PM's intervention over drug price fixing

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Industry chamber CII has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention over "unilateral fixing" of drug prices by NPPA saying the exercise based on "an inequitable formula" has done collateral damage to domestic industry.

"The industry is willing and committed to partner the Government in its efforts to meet the healthcare needs of Indian patients through various mechanisms ... but questions the unilateral fixing of ceiling prices based on an inequitable formula which will only devalue and erode the strength of this very important sector," CII National Committee on Biotechnology Chairperson Kiran

Mazumdar Shaw said in an open letter to the Prime Minister.

Lashing out at the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) over the recent moves to fix drug prices, she said: "The forced pricing discounting imposed by NPPA has done collateral damage to our indigenous industry which has only strengthened our external competitors, especially China."

She claimed that Indian manufacturers of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) or bulk drugs have been unable to compete with Chinese rivals and many are shutting factories as domestic pharma firms are increasingly importing APIs from the neighbouring nation.

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