

Local makers of medical devices seek increase in custom duty

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AiMeD asked the government to increase the basic customs duty on medical devices to promote domestic manufacturing



According to Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD), the government needs to increase the basic customs duty on medical devices in the range of 5-15 per cent to promote domestic manufacturing.

The current slab is 0-7.5 per cent, according to AiMeD Forum Coordinator Rajiv Nath, It should be 20 per cent to maintain the investment climate where import dependency is 90 per cent.

The industry body urged the government to introspect as to why, even after three years of the 'Make in India' campaign, the medical device manufacturing is still struggling.

On its expectations from the Union Budget (2018-19), AiMeD said the medical devices sector expects, "extension of inverted duty tariff rationalisation to medical electronics & diagnostics".

It also urged the government to expedite buy Indian policy drafted by Department of Pharmaceuticals which is pending with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

AiMeD also asked the Department of Pharmaceuticals to accelerate trade margin capping proposal in the range of 50- 100 per cent, depending on the cost of the devices.