Pharmacist for a Healthy India – Swasth Bharath*

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ABSTRACT

India has emerged as a global player for pharmaceuticals. The pharmaceutical revolution of 1970-90 of Indian Pharma Industry had demonstrated that India could be self-sufficient in the manufacture of essential drugs at affordable prices. The turnover of Indian Pharmaceutical is over $30 billion in 2015 including $15 billion in exports. It was a great honor to preside the 67th Indian pharmaceutical congress held in Mysore. The topic of Pharmacists for a Healthy India is close to my heart and being a regulator myself, I feel that the Pharmacy fraternity can play a much larger role in contributing to the healthcare system in India. Pharmacist as such are involved in a big way in the regulation of drugs, be it manufacture, be it sale or research and development. A contribution of the Pharmacists is there at every stage till the drug reaches the consumer safely. For this purpose, the society needs a pool of well qualified and experienced pharmacists, which requires regular updating of their knowledge to keep pace with the developments taking place in the pharmaceutical sector. The advancements in technology and the emerging challenges in the health sector require pharmacists to shoulder the responsibilities towards the utilization of scientific knowledge in the use of modern medicines and the protection of the public against dangers of wrong use of drugs. The Pharmacy Council of India on its part will have to ensure that the courses offered for creating a high technology based are calibrated in such a way that the education and skills developed suit to the requirements of the Pharmaceutical Industry as well as needs to the patients.

KEYWORDS: Pharma industry, regulatory affairs, drug approval, generics, biosimilars; vaccines.

Introduction

I feel privileged to stand before you at the 67th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress at this beautiful campus of JSS University, Mysore, in the salubrious surroundings of this city of Palaces. Galaxy of people from various facets of pharma professions viz academic, industry, hospitals, regulatory and pharmacy professions, associations, supply chain and patient groups are participating to deliberate on the future direction of the pharmacy profession with the theme "Pharmacist for Healthy India – Swasth Bharat". I am sure that the deliberations will lead the way for the pharma sector to occupy the driving seat in the endeavor to make India Pharma leader of the world.

The theme of “Swasth Bharat” is close to my heart as the mission to protect the public health can only be achieved by assuring the availability of safe and quality drugs to the patients in which the contributions of a pharmacist plays a significant role.

World Pharma Trade

The global pharmaceutical market is worth more than US $ 1 trillion. North and South America, Europe and Japan continue to account for about 85% of global pharmaceutical markets. The global generics market size is around US $255 billion or 27% of the world production. The current India’s share is around $ 11.100 billion which is only 4.04% and provides vast scope for Indian pharmaceutical industry to increase their share in the world pharma trade

Overview of Indian Pharma Sector

The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry, which is the backbone of health services, has witnessed a robust growth over the path few years. The turnover of approximately US $ one billion in 1990 has increased to over US $ thirty billion in 2015 of which export turnover is approx. US $ fifteen billion. The country now ranks third world wide by volume of production and tenth by value. It accounts for around 10% of world production and 1.5% by value. Indian exports are destined to more than two hundred countries including highly regulated markets of US, Europe, Japan and Australia. India ranks fourth in terms of market share in Asia pacific. Indian vaccines are exported to more than 150 countries of the world. The Indian Pharma Industry is expected to grow 20% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in the next five years. The share of the world production and the value of export can increase substantially if the country

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