

Sectoral

Pharmaceuticals

1. What are the skill development measures undertaken in this sector?

To keep pace with the growing demand for highly skilled R&D professionals the government has undertaken the transformation of National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs). As a preliminary step, 11 NIPERs have been transformed as innovation hubs.

2. What are the principles for pricing under the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy 2012?

The key principles for the regulation of the prices are: a) Essentiality of drugs. b) Control formulations prices. c) Market based pricing.

3. What is the objective of the Pharmaceutical Promotion Development Scheme?

The objective of Pharmaceutical Promotion Development Scheme (PPDS) is promotion, development and export promotion in Pharmaceutical sector by extending financial support for conduct of seminars, conferences, exhibitions, mounting delegations to and from India for promotion of exports as well as investments, conducting studies/ consultancies for facilitating growth, exports as well as critical issues affecting Pharma sector.

4. What is the cluster development programme for pharma sector?

The scheme, launched in 2015, is being implemented on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) format. The benefits of the scheme are: a) Access to world class facility. b) Cost of production will come down by 20%.

5. What is the overview of the pharma sector in India and the performance of this sector in recent times?

India is one of the largest producers of pharmaceutical products and a leading player in the global generics market. Indian pharmaceuticals turnover is valued at approximately \$ 31 billion. The country exports 20% of global generics, making it the largest provider of generic medicines globally. For information on achievements of this sector in recent times, please access the achievement report on the link.

6. What is a Generic Medicine?

Generic medicines are unbranded medicines which are equally safe and having the same efficacy as that of branded medicines in terms of their therapeutic value. The prices of generic medicines are much cheaper than their branded equivalent.

7. What is the difference between terms like API, Bulk drugs, Intermediates, Finished Dosage, and Formulations that are common jargons in the Pharmaceutical Industry?

The definitions are: 1) API – Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient – is the basic drug itself with the desired medicinal (pharmaceutical) properties. Also referred to as Bulk Drugs. 2) Intermediates – Most chemical reactions are stepwise, that is they take more than one elementary step to complete. An API is a result of a complex chain of chemical reactions in several steps. Intermediates are stable forms a few steps away from the final API e.g. API -3, or API-5. 3) Finished Dosage or Formulation – is the form in which the drug is consumed by us. A dosage form of a drug is usually composed of two things: The API, which is the drug itself; and an excipient, which is the substance of the tablet, or the liquid the API is suspended in, with other masking, stabilising and binding agents/material that is pharmaceutically inert. APIs are supplied by Pharmaceutical manufacturers to Formulations players or for own consumption for in-house Formulations. Intermediates are supplied to API manufacturers for reducing time-to-market."

8. What is Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana?

'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. Of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra's known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.

9. What is Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI)?

BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs for co-coordinating procurement, supply and marketing of generic drugs through Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK).

