

Govt to restart selling its own medicines

MAKING IN INDIA PSU drugmaker IDPL to get ₹45 crore to kickstart operations; move aimed at reducing Chinese imports

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NEW DELHI: Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (IDPL), the central government-owned drug firm, may start selling drugs soon. While the government is exploring opportunities to start exporting 'IDPL-made' generics within this financial year, the ministry of chemicals and fertilisers is set to infuse a working capital of ₹45 crore to kick start the operations.

"Sick units including Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd will soon get new life as we are rebuilding and renovating them," Gangaram Hansraj Ahir, minister of state, chemicals and fertilisers told HT. "The idea is to reduce Chinese imports of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API)," Ahir said. The government recently invested ₹3 crore in IDPL's Gurgaon unit.

At present, all the drugs manufactured by IDPL are consumed in various government-run programmes.

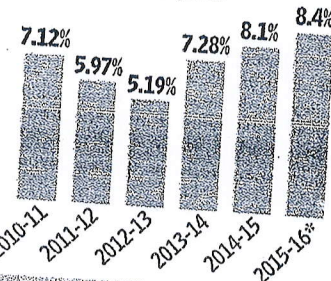
It also plans to infuse ₹15 crore in IDPL's Hyderabad plant, which is expected to become operational later this financial year. An expenditure of another ₹2.5 crore is being planned to make the processes compliant with World Health Organisation (WHO) quality standards after which government could start exporting drugs from IDPL. "We are also recruiting executives to push sales apart from appointing new distributors."

NEIGHBOUR HAS THE CURE

India's reliance on China for key raw materials has increased alarmingly over the years



China's share in India's pharmaceutical imports



WHAT IS API

Active pharmaceutical ingredient is the key ingredient of a drug that provides it efficacy. For instance, paracetamol is the primary active ingredient in Crocin, D-Cold Total etc.

*April-June quarter; Source: commerce ministry

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