

CID files case against Abbott in cough syrup smuggling case

Hyderabad, June 10: Crime Investigation Department (CID), Telangana, has registered a case against Abbott Health Care, a subsidiary of drugmaker Abbott India, and associates in an alleged case of smuggling cough syrup 'Phensedyl' to Bangladesh.

The investigation was prompted after cough syrup (containing narcotic substance) worth Rs 57.6 crore on its way to Bangladesh was in-

tercepted in Shillong six months ago, according to a statement issued by state Drug Control Administration (DCA).

"The company, M/s Abbott Health Care, supplied the stocks of Phensedyl from Baddi plant to its C&F Depot at Uppal. The depot invoiced the stocks to specific distributors recruited by the state marketing managers and their subordinates. These re-

tailers' were billed large quantities of the stock. Investigation reveals that most of these retailers don't exist, the statement said.

The manufacturer, in collusion with their C&F agent and certain Pharmaceutical dealer agencies/individuals have diverted this drug from the TS/AP market to Kolkata and then further. This has been done by falsification of records and raising of paper-

work in the name of non-existent firms or dealers who have nothing to do with it," the DCA statement said.

When contacted the company, a spokesperson denied the drugmaker's involvement in the alleged diversion. "As a global health-care company, Abbott is committed to maintaining highly reputable professional ethics and standards worldwide," the company said. **PTI**

Regulatory.