

Lapses by Some Cos Overshadowed Good Things: USFDA Chief Hamburg

NEW DELHI

“Unfortunately the many Indian companies that

Hamburg said in her blog that while the FDA would take appropriate action against any company that did not meet its requirements, the body was willing to work with the firms to help them address the issues they faced in their bid for compliance.

The blog appeared a day after she met chief executives of leading Indian pharmaceutical companies at a meeting hosted by industry lobby Ficci.

Separately, after she returns to the US, a group of experts will brief Congressmen on February 26 on the perils of 'substandard and falsified medicines' with a focus on India's quality control failures. Harry Lever, a Cleveland Clinic cardiologist who will be addressing Congressmen, told Bloomberg that he



USFDA chief Margaret Hamburg

would tell the senators that generic drugs made by India-based companies for heart failure often don't work the way they should, raising questions about the FDA's ability to keep track of India's growing generic business.

Hamburg had on Monday met health and family welfare minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, and commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma besides top bureaucrats. Later in the day she also met Drug Controller General of India GN Singh.

"Officials at India's ministry of health and family welfare share this goal. In the spirit of continued collaboration and a commitment to quality, our agencies signed the first-ever statement of intent," Hamburg said.

Regulation