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Experts call for facilitating foreign players to set up excipient plants in India to ensure their smooth supply

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As the Indian pharmaceutical industry is aiming to achieve the ambitious target of US\$ 130 billion in size by 2030, the industry's heavy reliance on imported excipients could prove to be a major deterrent. Experts have called for facilitating foreign players to set up excipient plants in the country which will help the drug industry get a smooth supply of high-quality excipients at reasonable prices. This will boost their productivity and growth.

Excipients are used to bulk up formulations, make precise and convenient dosages, stabilize the active component, and enable easy administration and absorption by the human body. Excipients are chosen based on the drug's mode of administration and form. Excipients protect, support, or improve patient acceptance, bioavailability, or stability and assist in the identification of products.

Currently, India imports 95 per cent of its requirements from regulated markets like the USA, Europe and China.

"Because excipients are imported from companies with production facilities in other countries, supply chain management is a challenge. Due to the lack of foreign players' production plants in India, shipments are frequently delayed, causing delay in the entire medication manufacturing process. However, supply chain difficulties can be resolved by facilitating foreign manufacturers to establish their plants in India, which will help the pharmaceutical industry increase productivity and growth," said Dr Sanjay Agrawal, a leading pharmaceutical consultant.

India must evaluate its current role of excipients within the global pharmaceutical industry, explore the possibilities to consolidate and strengthen the positioning in the light of geopolitical and economic shifts, attainment of self-sufficiency as a worldwide competition in the pharma industry that has innovation as a guiding principle for the future growth, said Dr Agrawal.

Though the Indian excipient industry is still at a nascent stage, it is necessary to incentivize excipient manufacturing to make sure the industry comes up concurrently with the formulation industry so that the right quality of excipients is available at the right price in the country, he added.

Most pharma behemoths now spend a considerable amount of money on research and development to generate high-quality formulations. As a result, these companies have begun looking for unique, value-added, and well-accepted excipients to utilize in the development of new formulations from existing drug molecules to improve therapeutic effects, he stated.

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