

TS govt deposits ₹153 cr to buy land for Pharma City project

A Raju, Hyderabad

THE Hyderabad Pharma City project, which is being taken up on priority over an extent of 19,333 acres of land on the outskirts of Hyderabad by the state government of Telangana, has almost cleared its way for the pending acquisition of last remaining chunk of 1,800 acres of land for the project as the state government has deposited Rs. 153 crore of rupees in the special judicial authority court.

Earlier, the state government which had decided to build Asia's largest most advanced integrated Pharma City project on the outskirts of Hyderabad had decided to acquire 19,333 acres of land for the project. However,

of this, the government had to acquire 10,200 acres of patta land, while the remaining 9,133 acres is government land. While there was no issue with regard to taking over the government lands from the farmers, the state government had to face legal hurdles with regard to last pending 1,800 acres of patta land. Even though majority farmers had come out voluntarily giving away their lands for the Pharma City project, a few of them had approached the court appealing for a stay on the land acquisition process by the government. With this, the Pharma City project had hit a road block and was delayed due to various legal tangles.

Earlier, the central government had accorded National Investment Manufacturing Zone

(NIMZ) for the Pharma City project and had also announced to provide funds to the tune of Rs. 4,922 crore for the development of basic amenities in the Pharma City project needed for the industries to operate in a plug and play mode. In view of this, the Telangana state government has decided to speed up the land acquisition process. And to overcome the legal hurdles, it decided to deposit Rs. 153 crore as compensation for the farmers for about 1,800 acres of pending land to be acquired and also decided to proceed further and complete the land acquisition process and speed up the development works in the Pharma City project.

Meanwhile, the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (TSIIDC) has

started developing basic amenities like roads, drainages, power lines, establishing electric substations, constructing common effluent treatment plants and installing necessary water pipelines required for the industries to be set up there. Recently, the Telangana government had begun the launch of first phase of Pharma City project, and already about 150 pharma and allied industries which had applied for plots in the project were also given permission for setting up their units.

As part of first phase of Pharma City project, already more than 300 companies have applied for setting up their units. However, about 150 applications have been finalized and permissions will be given to them for setting up their units, informed E V Narasimha

Reddy, vice chairman and managing director of TSIIDC.

If the Pharma city project comes into fully functional Telangana will be the only state in the entire Asia to have such a large integrated pharmaceutical industrial conglomerate, which would attract an investment of Rs. 64,000 crore and provide employment to more than 5.60 lakh people in the country.

For speeding up the works in the NIMZ area, the Telangana government had written to the Central government to allocate Rs. 870 crore in the next budget. "Already construction of roads and drains have almost completed over an extent of 13,000 acres. However the pending land acquisitions in Kandukur, Meerkhampet have created hurdles," observed the TSIIDC VCMD. ♦

FSSAI's draft norms on nutraceuticals evoke mixed response

Laxmi Yadav, Mumbai

Food Safety Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) draft guidelines on health supplements, nutraceuticals, foods for special dietary uses and special medical purposes have evoked mixed response from pharmaceutical and herbal sectors.

While one part of the industry experts sees the norms to open up ample growth opportunities for market expansion, the other part pinpoints omission of herbals and plant extracts used in a number of formulations and lack of product testing infrastructure at FSSAI.

Under Schedule V and IX, many extracts used in a number of formulations are omitted. Description of the products whether they are raw materials or extracts is not clearly defined. Many plant extracts are not included in the Schedules which indicate a lack of clarity on whether an industry should seek FSSAI consent to include such commonly used plants, according to experts.

"Presently, India does not

have any kind of regulatory guidelines for the approval or monitoring of the products under this segment. Interestingly, a lot of ayurvedic products in the country are sold as nutraceuticals or dietary supplements. Nutraceuticals are natural or bioactive chemical compounds that are promoted and marketed globally, claiming to be health promoting and disease preventing products with some medicinal properties. This category comprises vitamins, minerals, herbal supplements and certain animal products. Nutraceuticals also include functional foods claimed to offer a specific health benefit based on their ingredients," said pharmaceutical consultant Dr Sanjay Agrawal.

Dr Agrawal appealed to FSSAI to come up with safety norms for nutraceuticals and dietary supplements. "Around 70 per cent dietary supplements in the nutraceuticals market, which has potential to grow to about US\$ 12.2 billion in the next five years, are fake and such unregistered and unapproved products should be recalled from the markets," he said. ♦



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	PAGE NO		PAGE NO
AZELIS	19	OASISLIMS	17
CURADEV	1	PIOMA	FALSE COVER
GANDHI AUTOMATIONS	3	SIGNET	2
MEDISEARCH	17	SINO BIOLOGICAL	5

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