

Pharma exports set to hit ₹1 lakh cr in 2014-15 riding on US sales

Himani Chandna Gurtoo

himani.chandna@hindustanimes.com

NEW DELHI: Pharmaceutical exports to the US, which fell by 10% last year after American health watchdog hauled up Indian drug manufacturers including Ranbaxy and Wockhardt over quality issues, are expected to recover this year.

In 2013-14, export of medicines to the US constituted 26.5% of the total exports.

This is expected to touch about 30% in 2014-15. Also, this year, pharma exports are expected to cross the ₹1-lakh-crore mark. During 2013-14, this stood at ₹90,000 crore.

"Exports to the US are recovering and it is likely to go up by 2% to 3% by the end of this fiscal," said PV Appaji, director general, Pharmaceutical Exports Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil). The US, UK, Russia and Germany are the top importers of drugs made in India, with the US alone contributing about 28% to the total

IN 2013-14, EXPORT OF MEDICINES TO THE US CONSTITUTED 26.5% OF THE TOTAL EXPORTS. THIS IS EXPECTED TO TOUCH 30% IN 2014-15

pharma exports.

India Ratings & Research, a consultancy firm, has estimated that India's pharma exports will grow at 10-12% and reach ₹1,10,000 crore by 2015-16.

"Widespread regulatory actions by overseas regulators could affect exports. Any further sweeping actions including imposing substantial penalties will impact bottom-lines and credit profiles of domestic market players," it said.

"With the efforts to promote Indian brand of medicines abroad, followed by steps taken to reduce trade barriers, we are trying to regain the confidence lost due to a string of actions by US health watchdog," said Appaji.

ep/mb