

U.P. Government mulling special initiative to boost Pharma sector

Lucknow | Oct 19, 2015:

Taking advantage of enormous improvement in industrial environment in Uttar Pradesh, State government is contemplating special provisions, which may be in the form of a sector-specific policy or package, for encouraging Pharma sector industry.

In this regard, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Infrastructure & Industrial Development – Shri Mahesh Kumar Gupta here. Joint Executive Director of *Udyog Bandhu* – the investment facilitation agency of state government – Smt. Kanchan Verma and officials of departments of Drug Administration and Medical & Health attended the meeting.

Principal Secretary and Executive Director, *Udyog Bandhu* – Shri Mahesh Kumar Gupta said, “Owing to the steps taken by State government, there has been a marked improvement in perception and ‘Brand UP’ is fast gaining credibility amongst investors.”

“Time is ripe for promoting specific manufacturing sectors in the state, hence the government is seriously considering facilitative provisions for Pharmaceutical and Drugs industry and consultations with all stakeholders have already begun”, **he added.**

Joint Executive Director, *Udyog Bandhu* – Smt. Kanchan Verma said that under the new initiative, apart from other provisions, the focus would be on adoption of good manufacturing practices, technology upgradation, logistics and setting up of more testing labs.

Assistant Commissioner of Drug Administration – Shri A K Malhotra informed that there were around 450 pharmaceutical units in the State. Most of these units are concentrated in western parts of the State in Ghaziabad and Gautambudh Nagar districts with thin presence in Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Aligarh and Gorakhpur.

According to U.P. Drugs Manufacturers Association, Uttar Pradesh has nearly 17% market share of national sale turnover of about Rs.90,000 crore in pharma sector. Therefore, a special drive to boost the prospects of drug sector in the state with government support is urgently required.

It may be noted that U.P. government has already announced sector-specific policies for solar energy, sugar industry, information technology, electronic manufacturing, poultry promotion, food processing policies in addition to infrastructure & industrial investment policy.
