

Governance.

2. For a nation that seeks to claim the mantle of "pharmacy to the world". India is scandalously short on regulatory oversight. In this context explain how India's regulators can ensure the quality and safety of drugs. (200 Words).

Ans.

India is proud of its pharmaceuticals industry. India is the largest manufacturer of generic medicines globally.

But the Quality concerns persist. Recently, 48 drugs have failed to meet quality standards.

31. of drugs are routine use - for hypertension, allergies and bacterial infections.

The Centre is taking steps to improve drug quality with the cancellation of manufacturing licenses of 18 pharma companies after inspections across 20 states by CDSCO.

The Ministry of Health should consider amending the drugs and cosmetics Act (1940) and instituting a centralised drugs database to enable effective surveillance under all

pharmaceutical products.

India has more than 10,000 pharmaceutical manufacturing units, 2000 of which have certified under WHO's Good manufacturing Practice Standards.

Additional budgetary support is clearly required to strengthen inspection teams under state drug Controllers and to enable a higher frequency of quality-related inspections.

It must move from being a manufacturer of generic drugs to becoming one associated with quality & generic (innovative) drugs.

Countries like Ecuador, Panama and Nigeria have recently sought greater access to Indian generics.

Conclusion

The govt has often spoken about making in India while embracing Zero defect - India's drug industry must step up.