



ORGANISATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCERS OF INDIA

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Address by Mr. Ranjit Shahani, Incoming President at OPPI 43rd AGM on Saturday, August 8, 2009

My Industry Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Pharmaceutical Industry is transiting through one of the most exciting times in its history. India has a chance for a tremendous breakthrough in economic development during the coming decade. Reforms and opening of the economy has produced progress and new dynamism but equally - significant challenges for economic and social development remain.

This is particularly and especially true of the additional goals in the area of health and education. Investments in public health are less than 1% of our GDP. If universal healthcare for all is to become a reality, we need significant initiatives in this area. Good health is necessary for individuals to flourish as citizens, family members, workers and consumers – thereby contributing and fostering higher economic growth.

Innovation is central to this development – as pharmaceutical innovation improves and saves lives meeting unmet medical needs. However, innovation in public health is a complex, laborious, uncertain and a fragile process that requires a multi disciplinary approach and a diversity of stakeholders. Principle amongst these are four pillars, namely :

- 1 Strong healthcare infrastructure
- 2 Efficient markets
- 3 Effective use of intellectual property
- 4 Adequate and predictable and regulatory environment

So while the future looks quite optimistic, policies which would help unleash full potential of this Industry need to be expeditiously introduced and implemented. Some of the key expectations of the Industry are :

- A fully TRIPS compliant IPR regime
- Encouragement for investments in R&D
- Progressive pricing policies
- Regulatory reforms
- Strong data protection
- Sharp implementation of the deterrent legislation against counterfeit drugs
- Reduction in import tariffs in life-saving and other essential drugs
- Flexible labour laws
- and last but not the least, a worldwide healthcare infrastructure

A conducive industrial climate, speeding up of economic reforms and collaborative approach to public/private partners will help achieve fast the goal of universal healthcare for all. In all this, the Pharmaceutical Industry in India has the potential to emerge as a global powerhouse.

I am confident that given a constructive environment, the Pharmaceutical Industry in India is poised to play a leading role in providing affordable and qualitative healthcare to India's growing population.

We, the Pharmaceutical Industry, look forward to working together with all the stakeholders to make a positive difference to the healthcare of the Nation and the world.