

'India will soon become a powerhouse in medical device, pharma exports'

Abhishek Law
New Delhi

India has moved on to become a major exporter of bulk drugs and medical devices, Union Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday. According to him, India has worked on schemes and plans to de-risk its supply chain from global vagaries and dependence on a single country in terms of obtaining APIs for bulk medicine making.

Previous governments should have provided protection to the local pharma industry against dumping of medicines by global majors and also control of APIs; but this was not the case, he said. "Today, India is self-sustaining in critical API (active pharmaceutical ingredients) making, and our medical ex-

ports are expected to reach ₹75,000 crore in the coming days," he said while inaugurating 39 greenfield projects under the PLI scheme for bulk drugs and medical devices.

India continues to import around 70 per cent of medical devices. And the PLI scheme, under which 39 medical device-making plants are being inaugurated or are currently being commissioned, is expected to further bring down the import bill. Mandaviya said soon Penicillin G will be made in India.

Twenty-seven greenfield Bulk Drug Park projects and 13 greenfield manufacturing plants for medical devices under the PLI scheme were inaugurated. The PLI scheme envisages manufacturing of 41 bulk drugs with a total outlay of ₹6,940 crore during the tenure of the scheme from 2020-21 to 2029-30.