

# PLI scheme: 50 pharma units in the pipeline

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AS MANY AS 50 new greenfield plants are in the pipeline to come up in the next two years under the Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for pharma and medical devices manufacturing, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Speaking at the Annual Pharma Summit organised by industry body Assocham, Department of Pharmaceuticals Secretary Arunish Chawla said as the 'Make in India' initiative completes ten years, already 50 plants have been set up under the PLI schemes for the two sectors.

"The PLI schemes in the

pharma and meditech sectors have been a roaring success, 50 brand new greenfield pharma and medical device manufacturing plants have already become operational, and 50 more are in the pipeline," he said.

When asked on the sidelines of the summit when the 50 new greenfield plants will come up, he said, "Everything will be completed in the next two years." Elaborating on the success of the PLI schemes, Chawla said, "In the last two years alone, the PLI plants have catalysed \$10 billion worth of exports from India to the highest the most regulated destinations across the planet Earth." Stating that the notion of India as an importer of bulk drugs hugely dependent on certain destina-

tions is a myth, Chawla said, "In the closing year, India exported as much bulk drugs as it imported from abroad." The Indian pharma industry has achieved a trade balance in bulk drugs, he added.

Last year more than 50% of drug and pharma produced in the country was exported in both volume and value, he said.

"So officially, the drug and pharma became an export-oriented industry," the secretary added. He also termed as a myth the notion that India imports most of its medical devices.

In reality, Chawla said, "In the closing year in the surgical and consumables space, the Indian meditech industry exported more than what the country imported."