

September 6, 2003

Spurious drugs eating into AP's export share

Got a headache, pop a pill. But think twice, because the pill could be spurious, cautions medical and health minister Kodela Sivaprasad Rao. Spurious drugs are finding their way into the export market, affecting the state's export share.

The lack of proper regulatory mechanism for preexport quality control, and the not my job" attitude of the drug control authority has resulted in Andhra Pradesh losing out to China. About 35 per cent of the drugs exported are either spurious or sub-standard, the minister said while speaking to The Times of India.

Nationally, drugs and pharmaceuticals production is valued at Rs 37,500 crore. This includes over Rs 25,000 crore worth of formulations and bulk drugs worth Rs 12,500 crore.

Andhra Pradesh, being a leading pharmaceutical producing state, contributes Rs 11,000 crore to the total market. On the export front, the national figure is pegged at Rs 13,000 crore, while the state's share in is just Rs 2,750 crore.

The industry, however, denied any export of spurious drugs. It is just not possible to export spurious drugs. However, there may be some damage to the drugs due to moisture and other such factors, president of Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (BDMA) Venkat Jasti says.

For any company to export drugs, there are stringent regulations. More so if the sales are targeted at regulated markets.

There are various bodies at every market level to check every sample according to their national standards. One can never rule out sales of spurious drugs in the domestic market since the checks and balances in the market are still not fool-proof. But export markets are not so easy, industry sources said.

The government is, all the same, planning to set up a quality control laboratory in the state and ensure stringent quality checks at the manufacturers' level. ([The Times of India](#))