

India has always been faithful to its philosophy of “**Vasudaiva Kutumbakam**” meaning “**The World Is One Family**”. There can be no bigger proof for this than the presence of representatives from so many countries from all parts of the globe who have accepted the invitation to attend the iPHEX & Global Regulators Conclave here, in India. I would therefore, first of all, like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of India for inviting me, and the Government of Mauritius for delegating me to attend this “**Pharma family**” gathering.

India has always believed in supporting the world while also balancing its domestic demands. No one will deny the fact that during the Covid-19 pandemic crisis of when the world looked up to India they were here to assist. Mauritius, of course, was not left behind.

There is a long-standing economic and cultural relationship between India and Mauritius which dates back to more than a century. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi often relates to Mauritius as ‘Chota Bharat’ that is “Little India”. When Mauritius registered its first positive cases of COVID-19 in March 2020, and when there was a bottleneck race for the acquisition of COVID- 19 vaccines and Personal Protection Equipment such as masks as well as testing kits, the Government of India responded without hesitation.

Currently, Mauritius is a net pharmaceuticals and vaccines importer and depends on external sources for supply to both the public and private healthcare institutions, as well as the retail outlets.

Up to September 2021, imports of pharmaceutical products were valued at around USD 175 million. The Health Ministry accounts for about 25 percent of the import value. The government purchases mostly generic medications through tenders issued throughout the year according to an established annual procurement plan. There are actually around forty suppliers for pharmaceuticals from India to the public sector .The private hospitals and retail pharmacies tend to buy branded products through local wholesalers. India remains the main supplier of pharmaceuticals to Mauritius, with 31 percent of the Market.

There are around 354 registered retail pharmacies, and 40 registered Pharmaceutical wholesalers in Mauritius. Pharmaceutical products can only be imported by wholesalers licensed by the Pharmacy Board, which is the drug

regulatory body and operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Pharmacopeia has a vital role as an official collection of approved pharmaceutical standards. In addressing anyone who produces, distributes or controls medicinal products it comprises requirements on the quality of medicinal products and of the substances used to manufacture them. Moreover, Pharmacopeia provides quality control methods.

Earlier, Mauritius used to follow only the EU Ph. or BP or US FDA guideline for registration of the Pharmaceutical products. Prior to Covid-19 pandemic, the actual Government decided to include the IP guideline as reference provided the pharma supplier is recognised by the CDSCO. The rationale being IP precedes BP. And during Covid-19 lock down, this came as a solution to our supply chain, thanks to the support provided by India to Mauritius.

The pharmaceutical sector is governed by an enabling legal framework that allows the conducts of Clinical Trials through the Clinical Trial Act as well as the Pharmacy Act which regulates manufacturing of pharmaceutical products. Currently there are 5 contract research organizations which are conducting clinical trials in cosmetic and pharmaceutical products. The regulatory framework coupled with an incentive framework which has been introduced to provide the necessary eco system for attracting global companies to set up a unit in Mauritius be it as a contract research organization, manufacturing plant or for research purposes

The Government of Mauritius is now pushing the pharmaceutical industry as a new pillar of its economy and is exploring avenues for cooperation and mutual benefits in the pharma and biotech sector with a vision to make Mauritius a Pharma hub and a pathway to foray into the Africa Continent. This clearly reaffirms the need of pharmacopoeias in Mauritius.

As per the government budget, 2021-22 presented by the Mauritius finance ministry, initial seed capital of MUR 1 billion will be injected into the pharma sector of the economy to encourage the development of Mauritius Institute Biotechnology to produce Covid-19 vaccines and several other pharmaceutical products. Mauritius government is also going to provide attractive fiscal incentives, including tax credits and tax exemptions, which the

government will thus offer to the private companies that may construct purpose-built factories for the objective of manufacturing pharmaceutical products.

The government is looking for the Indian pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry's support for creating a flourishing pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing sector of its own. Support in terms of human capacity building in the related field would also be highly appreciated for proper implementation of such a system in Mauritius.

I therefore, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, would once again like to extend my appreciation to the Government of India and last, but not the least to the whole organising team for making this event successful.