SECTION 5: LICENSED PHARMACIES UNDER AYUSH

During the recent past, inclination of populace towards AYUSH System of medicine has been observed. To meet the increasing demand of AYUSH medicines, and to provide AYUSH medicines of reasonably good quality, there is a need to have licensed pharmacies for AYUSH medicines with good manufacturing practices. Prior to 2007, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) was mandatory for the Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drug manufacturing units only. It was also made mandatory for Homoeopathy in 2007.

As on 01.04.2015, there were 9282 AYUSH drug manufacturing units (licensed pharmacies) in the country. Out of these, 99.5% of the licensed pharmacies were controlled by non-government bodies, and only 0.5% licensed pharmacies were in Government sector. The distribution of total licensed pharmacies of all the four systems Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy were 7995, 505, 379 and 403 respectively. System-wise distribution of these units were quite uneven as 86.1% licensed pharmacies belonged to Ayurveda, whereas, 5.4%, 4.1% and 4.3% were under Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy systems respectively.

There were 30 states and union territories of the country which have AYUSH licensed pharmacies as on 1.4.2015. No AYUSH drug manufacturing unit have been reported in states of Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and in Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Uttar Pradesh has the Maximum number 2471 of AYUSH licensed pharmacies. The states of Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh each were having more than 5% of AYUSH licensed pharmacies. Maximum number of Ayurveda and Unani pharmacies, viz., 2154 and 281 respectively are existed in the Uttar Pradesh. Licensed pharmacies under Siddha systems existed in the states of Tamil Nadu (366), Puducherry (10) and Kerala (3). A majority of Homoeopathy licensed pharmacies 40% existed in the state of West Bengal followed by Bihar (10%), Maharashtra (10%), Uttar Pradesh (9%), Kerala (3%) and Telangana (7%).

The States/UTs of Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep reported to have no licensed pharmacy under any AYUSH system. Besides, there
was no Homoeopathy licensed pharmacy in Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh and Daman & Diu. Unani licensed pharmacies existed in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Except Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, A&N Islands and Lakshadweep; rest of the states have pharmacies with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Out of all drug manufacturing units, GMP-compliant units comprised 82.4% (Non-GMP-compliant units comprises 17.6%) of the total drug manufacturing units, and within the total GMP-compliant units; 92.8% were Ayurveda drug manufacturing units and only 2.8%, 1.3% and 3.1% were Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy drug manufacturing units respectively. The states/UTs having cent-percent GMP-compliant drug manufacturing units were Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu and Puducherry. The other states having higher (greater than 75%) proportion of GMP-compliant units were Karnataka (95.1%), Kerala (97.8%), Madhya Pradesh (98.6%), Odisha (76.7), Rajasthan (88.4%), Telangana (95.5), Uttar Pradesh (89.6%), Uttarakhand (95.6%) and West Bengal (73.3%).

The States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu and Puducherry were having cent-percent GMP-compliant drug manufacturing units under Ayurveda system. Other states which have higher (greater than 75%) proportion of GMP-compliant units under Ayurveda were Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. All Unani drug manufacturing units were GMP-compliant in the states of
Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. All Siddha drug manufacturing units were GMP-compliant in the state of Kerala and Puducherry only. Likewise, in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Puducherry; all Homoeopathic drug manufacturing units were GMP-compliant.

During the period 1992-2015, the variation in distribution of licensed pharmacies under various systems of AYUSH has been observed. The proportion of Ayurveda licensed pharmacies increased from 80.8% in 1992 to 86.1% in 2015, whereas, proportions of Siddha and Homoeopathy licensed pharmacies decreased from 4.6% and 9.9% in 1992 to 4.1% and 4.3% in 2015 respectively.

A trend of 0.28% per annum has been observed in the number of licensed pharmacies under AYUSH systems during the period 1992-2015. An average annual growth rate of 0.56% was realized in Ayurveda pharmacies and in Unani is 0.84%, whereas, Siddha and Homoeopathy pharmacies decline at average annual rates of 0.23% and 3.23% respectively. During 2014-15, the annual growth rate of AYUSH pharmacy industry has increased by 2.6%. The annual growth rates of 2014-15 in Ayurveda, and Homoeopathy have been increased to be 2.0%, and 26.3% respectively, However, the annual growth rate of Unani pharmacies has been declined to be 1.2%.

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