



PHARMACEUTICALS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

(Set up by Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India)

COPY

Date : 07-06-2010

News / Story reproduced with thanks:- **Pharmabiz**

10 AP govt to appoint 106 drug inspectors soon to strengthen drug control administration

Direct link to the News/Story:-

<http://pharmabiz.com/article/detnews.asp?articleid=55813§ionid=>

The Andhra Pradesh government will be recruiting 106 drug inspectors as part of its strengthening of Department of Drugs Control Administration. The state public service commission has almost finished the selection process and the appointment will take place in one month's time, said R P Meena, director general of Drugs Control Administration, Andhra Pradesh.

The total number of drug inspectors in the state would thus rise to 130. Currently the state, which has 23 districts, has only 24 drug inspectors and three ADCs are working with additional charges of drug inspectors due to staff shortage.

Meena said when he took over as the DG in 2008, the number of drug inspectors in Andhra Pradesh was 55. Many of the promotions had been frozen at that time due to several reasons, but he promoted 30 drug inspectors to the rank of ADCs. Following it the staff strength of inspectors came down to 25. And one out of these 25 went for higher studies in the US.

He said if the report of Mashelkar Committee is to be followed, the state will require a minimum of 500 drug inspectors to look after 50,000 medical shops, 2200 manufacturing companies, 233 blood banks and an equal number of blood storage centres, besides a host of cosmetic manufacturing companies. The committee report says one drug inspector for one hundred medical shops and one inspector for 25 manufacturing units.

The government has approved the proposals submitted by Meena in 2008 and 2009 for the creation of 106 drug inspectors to fill up the recommended vacancies and the department has written to the PSC to recruit the staff and the selection process is nearing completion.

The number of Assistant Drug Controllers, which was only 21 in 2008, was raised to 29 by creating eight more posts. Likewise, the number of deputy directors was raised from two to eight by promoting six ADCs. There was only one Joint Director two years back, but the office now has three JDs with each one has separate responsibilities.

He said that he had brought in many reforms in the department for the convenience of the public which in turn helped the officials also. In the place of one ADC who handled five districts previously, the state has now 23 ADCs to look after 23 districts which help expedite the issuance of drug licences. Now for public convenience each ADC has been given charge for issuing drug licence. Earlier people from every nook and corner of the state had to go to the regional offices or the state capital in order to get licences. He added that to supervise the Drug Inspectors and ADCs, deputy directors have been posted with charges of three districts to each DDC.

In the case of manufacturing units, he said, for giving licence to drug manufacturing units, cosmetic making companies and for Blood Banks, three JDS have been given the licensing powers. They are functioning as Licensing Authorities.

About the complaints of chemists and druggists that the department is issuing licences indiscriminately to start medical stores even near to existing outlets, Meena said that he cannot prevent applicants from applying for trade licenses.