

IPA committed to define role of pharmacy professionals in health care: Dr Rao

■ By Rajendra Diwe

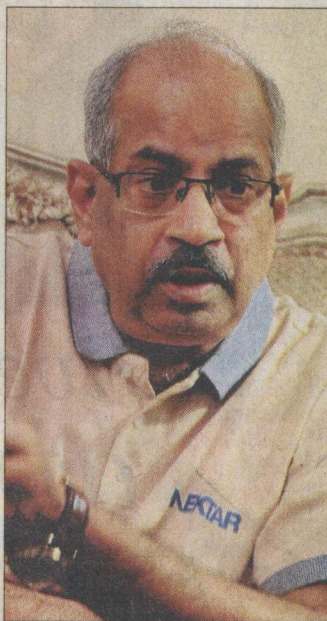
PHARMACY professionals are the integral part of health care service. A huge trained workforce of pharmacy professionals is available in India and Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA), the oldest and biggest association of pharmaceutical professionals in the country is constantly working for the welfare of pharmacists in the country, said Dr Rao V S V Vadlamudi President of IPA.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry has become 33 billion dollar industry. It is the third largest in terms of volume and 13th largest in terms of value. About 55 percent of drugs manufactured in India are being exported in the world. Despite the fact, of all round growth of industry, the pharmacists in the country are still struggling to establish their role as there is no political will to help them, he added.

"The pharmacy education in India has grown in all aspects. The country has professionals like Diploma, Graduates, Post Graduates and Pharm D. The country has become self sufficient in fulfilling the requirement of professionals. IPA is advocating the role of pharmacy professionals right from manufacturing, quality control, dispensing the medicines, clinical pharmacy etc," Dr Rao stated.

The editor of Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences (IJPS), the director of St Peter's Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Warangal; Dr Rao expressed a concern over the present status of Pharmacy professionals in the country.

He said, "In developed countries like USA and UK, Pharmacist is considered as the most knowledgeable, highly trained health care professional, medication therapy expert who is readily accessible. In post diagnostic care, pharmacist is the most competent person to advice and guide



Dr Rao V S V Vadlamudi

Special Report

the patients."

Dr Rao V S V Vadlamudi obtained his graduate and post graduate degrees in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Andhra University, Vishakapatnam. He then went on to secure his Master

in Science in 1980 and Doctorate in Pharmacology & Toxicology in 1983, from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada. He has the unique distinction of excelling in both academics and the pharmaceutical industry.

Established in 1939, IPA has become dynamic in the tenure of Dr Rao. The association has 13,000 members, has 20 state level branches and 45 local branches.

"The main objective of IPA is to ensure pharmacists role in health sector. In addition to it, IPA has played a strong role in National Health Policy, controlling menace of spurious or counterfeit drugs in the country and implementation of regulations of pharmaceutical practice. It is because of the intervention of IPA, Health Ministry has allowed pharmacists in implementation of DOT programme in TB. A joint MoU signed by Pharmacy Council of India, Drug Control Department, IPA and AIOCD has defined a role of pharmacist in DOT. Maharashtra has become the first state where pharmacists are playing role in this programme," he stated.

Prof Khorana Memorial Seminar today

DEPARTMENT of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University in association with Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) has organised a day-long Prof M L Khorana Memorial Seminar of on November 21 as a part of National Pharmacy Week, 2015 on the theme of "Excellence in Quality to Evolve Global Challenges" at Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University Campus, Amravati road from 10 am. Dr Rao V S V Vadlamudi, President of Indian Pharmaceutical Association will be the chief guest. Kaushik Desai, General Secretary of IPA and Amin Nagani, Ex-President, Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council will be the guests of honour. The Co-ordinator of the Seminar is Prof M R Tajne and Dr N J Gaikwad, Head of Department. Dr Rajesh Lohia, Secretary and Prof Arun Patil, President of IPA, Nagpur branch have appealed to the professionals to attend the same in large numbers.