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The Govt must ensure stringent quality controls on drug exports and contain reputational damage. Diseases

The death of 66 children in Gambia after consuming made in India cough syrup has given a hammer blow to India's image. India is considered as the pharmacy of the world owing to affordable prices and high quality is now under strain.

Gambia tragedy

The cough syrup contained DEG - diethylene glycol which is used as a solvent in the industries. India stands third in volume and 14th in value of pharmaceuticals.

India exported \$24.6 billion worth of drugs and Africa gets 16% and developed countries 55%. The deaths of the children

is a warning message to the drug regulation regime in India.

Stringent Quality Controls

① Regulation The CDSCO Central Drug standards central organization needs to review the drugs before export and the removal of clinical trials are approved by CDSCO must be reviewed.

② schemes such as the PTAUS - Pharmaceutical technology assistance scheme aims to make drug makers attain WHO-GMP (good manufacturing practices) norm to compete globally. The drugs under these norms can prevent issues such as Columbia tragedy.

The strengthening of Pharmaceutical Industries scheme can bring strict quality controls and allocations can be increased to ≥ 1000 crores

India supplies 65-70% of WHO vaccines and has been a reliable vaccine partner. Robust quality checks are essential to protect our reputation.