

WE ARE IN THE NEWS

Date: 17 March 2009

Page: Business

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Q & A

Recession, a blessing in disguise for Bharat Bio

FOR people like Dr Krishna Ella, Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Biotech International Ltd, the ongoing recession is a blessing in disguise. While it does affect the overall sales margins of the company, it compels people to think and innovate alternative strategies to sustain business. Ella shares his views in a freewheeling chat with Sunitha Natti of *TNIE*. *Excerpts:*

On company's focus:

The company's focus has been on regional and continent specific. We are keen on the domestic market and have a strong product pipeline to address geography specific health problems in emerging markets such as typhoid, malaria, chicken guinea, saras, bird flu, Japanese Encephalitis, etc than catering to the developed markets such as the US and the UK. Our USP also lies in making these vaccines at an affordable price to people in developing countries. But considering high R&D and manufacturing costs, we have to distribute risks evenly. So we invest on technology but do not compromise on quality.

On competition:

Western companies think we are

less technology-oriented and the quality of skilled talent is low. That perception has to change. Indian companies are rich too — quality wise —, not inferior by any metric and are even better than them. I'm a strong believer that people shouldn't be deprived of the best quality healthcare just because it's beyond their economic capacity. And we are here to provide them the required vaccines at an affordable price.

On combination vaccines:

Combination vaccines are the way forward. We recently introduced COMVAC5, a single shot pentavalent combination vaccine for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib). Development of combination vaccines also demonstrates our commitment to consistently develop, safe and affordable vaccines for the emerging world.

On certifications:

Bharat Biotech is the only Indian pharmaceutical company to be audited and approved by the Korean Food & Drugs Administration. We are a WHO prequalified manufacturer of vaccines for sup-

ply to Unicef and global procurement agencies.

On product pipeline:

We are the single largest manufacturer of typhoid vaccine. Besides, we are a world leader in Hep B vaccine and the first company in India to manufacture a thiomersol-free Hep B vaccine. Thiomersol-free implies that the vaccine is free of chemicals and does not need preservatives.

On collaborations, joint research:

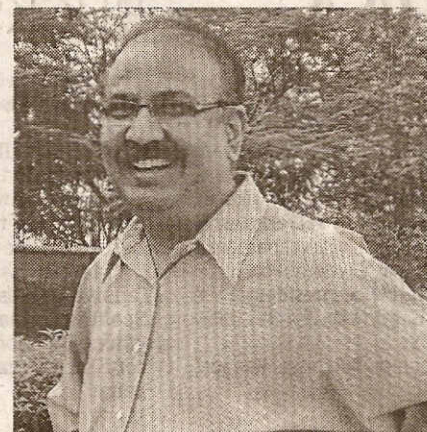
We believe in collaborative ventures as it allows us to share available resources and develop superior products. We also proactively participate in public-private partnerships with several state governments to supply vaccines through government-run healthcare programmes.

On domestic market and exports:

Domestic market contributes 80 per cent and the rest is exports. We will retain contribution from domestic market but export volumes will increase. We do supply to various governments despite the fact that there are very low margins.

We are the single largest manufacturer of typhoid vaccines. Besides, we are the first to manufacture a thiomersol-free Hepatitis B vaccine across the world

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Bharat Biotech's rotavirus vaccine in phase-3 trials

Nina Mehta
MUMBAI

BHARAT Biotech's rotavirus vaccine (116E) is entering phase 3 of its clinical trials. The vaccine treats severe dehydration and diarrhoea in infants and young children. The phase 3 trials will be mainly in India and will enrol 6,800 healthy infants, an official from Bharat Biotech said during the Drug Information Association conference recently held in Mumbai. The company is looking at launching the vaccine only in 2011, since the trials will conclude only two years after they commence.

Bharat Biotech and its funding partners have already invested \$28-30 million in vaccine development so far and is looking to spend another \$30 million on phase 3 clinical trials alone, Sai Prasad, vice-president (business development), Bharat Biotech said. "Apart from internal funding, we have received funding from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and PATH, an international non-profit organisation," he added.

Rotavirus-induced diarrhoea causes more than five lakh deaths worldwide every year and almost another 20 lakh more fall seriously ill.

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Date: 4 March 2009

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THE HINDU

THE HINDU

Bharat Biotech launches pentavalent vaccine

HYDERABAD: Bharat Biotech has launched COMVAC5, the first indigenously developed single shot pentavalent combination vaccine containing drug for diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus and hepatitis B, and haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), the company said in a release. — Special Correspondent

We Are In The News

The Economic Times

Date: 2 March 09

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Bharat Biotech launches COMVAC5 vaccines

2 Mar 2009, 1352 hrs IST, NEW DELHI: Drug firm Bharat Biotech has launched COMVAC5, a single shot Pentavalent combination vaccine used for treating diseases such as Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus-Influenza type B(Hib).

"COMVAC5 contains the first indigenously developed and manufactured Haemophilus type B vaccines in India and the only Hepatitis B vaccine in the world to be manufactured without the use of Cesium chloride," Bharat Biotech said in a statement today.

The company has invested around seven million dollars over the past four years in research & development (R&D) and manufacturing facilities for producing COMVAC5, it added.

Combination Pentavalent vaccines have been approved by several countries across the world and are included in their respective national immunisation programmes.

"With a single injection this vaccine has the ability to protect children against multiple infectious diseases," Bharat Biotech Chairman and Managing Director Krishna M Ella said.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech is one of the leading manufacturers of vaccines in the country.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News-By-Industry/Bharat-Biotech-launches-COMVAC5-vaccines/articleshow/4211908.cms>

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We Are In The News

The Hindu Business Line

Date: 3 March 09

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Quick Line

Bharat Bio's five-in-one vaccine

Hyderabad, March 2

Bharat Biotech International (BBIL), a producer of vaccines and bio therapeutics has announced the launch of Comvac5, a single shot, Pentavalent vaccine. The five-in-one vaccine consists of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and haemophilic influenza type b (Hib). Hib can cause meningitis and severe pneumonia in children under five years, according to a company press release. Dr Krishna M. Ella, Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Biotech, said Comvac5 is an indigenous vaccine that helps reduce childhood sicknesses and deaths from preventable diseases at affordable cost with a single injection. Combination Pentavalent vaccines have been approved by several countries and included in their respective National Immunisation programmes. — **Our Bureau**

We Are In The News

The Business Standard

Date: 3 March 09

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Bharat Bio Launches "made-in-India" Vaccine

Business Standard

Bharat Bio launches 'made-in-India' vaccine

BS REPORTER
Hyderabad, 2 March

Bharat Biotech International Limited, a Hyderabad-based manufacturer of vaccines and biotherapeutics, on Monday launched COMVAC5, a single-shot pentavalent combination vaccine, which contains the first indigenously developed and manufactured haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) vaccine in India and the only Hepatitis B vaccine in the world to be manufactured without the use of cesium chloride.

COMVAC5, which contains diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and Hepatitis B, and Hib, offers complete protection against Hib antigen bacterium. Hib can cause meningitis and severe pneumonia, leading to about 3 million cases of serious illness and 400,000 deaths each year in children under 5 years. COMVAC5 also provides protection against Hepatitis B virus, a company release said on Monday.

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The Times Of India

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Bharat Bio Launches Pentavalent combination Vaccine

TIMES BUSINESS

Bharat Bio launches pentavalent combination vaccine:

Bharat Biotech International (BBIL), a producer of vaccines and biotherapeutics, has announced the launch of COMVAC5, a single shot pentavalent combination vaccine containing diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and hepatitis B and Haemophilus Influenza type b (Hib). The company claimed that

COMVAC5 is safe, efficacious and an affordable vaccine that offers complete protection against Hib. Antigen bacterium causes serious disease, often life-threatening illnesses in young children. Hib can cause meningitis and severe pneumonia, leading to "three million cases of serious illness and 400,000 deaths each year in children under five years of age."

Combination pentavalent vaccines are recommended by WHO and other regulatory agencies since they combine five antigens into a single dose, eliminating the need for multiple injections to infants.

TNN

We Are In The News

The New Indian Express

Date: 3 March 09

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Bharat Bio Launches COMVAC5 Vaccine



Bharat Biotech launches COMVAC5 vaccine

Hyderabad: Bharat Biotech International Ltd., a biotechnology company, launched COMVAC5, a single shot pentavalent combination vaccine used for treating diseases such as diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and haemophilus-influenza type b. The company invested about \$7 million over the past four years to produce COMVAC5. "The vaccine has the ability to protect children against multiple infectious diseases," said Krishna M Ella, CMD, Bharat Biotech. » ENS

We Are In The News

EENADU

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ఈనాడు

అయిదు వ్యాధులకు ఒకే టీకా

'కామ్వ్యాక్స్'ను విడుదల చేసిన భారత్ బయోటెక్

హైదరాబాద్, న్యూస్టుడే: పిల్లల్లో అయిదు రకాలైన వ్యాధులను నివారించే కాంబినేషన్ వ్యాక్సీన్‌ను హైదరాబాద్‌కు చెందిన భారత్ బయోటెక్ ఇంటర్నేషనల్ లిమిటెడ్ విడుదల చేసింది. 'కామ్వ్యాక్స్' పేరుతో అందుబాటులోకి వచ్చిన ఈ వ్యాక్సీన్ వల్ల డిఫ్టెరియా, పెర్టుస్సిస్, టెటనస్, హెపటైటిస్-బి, హీమోఫిలిస్ ఇన్‌ఫ్ల్యుయెంజా టైప్ బి (హిబ్) వ్యాధుల నుంచి రక్షణ పొందవచ్చని భారత్ బయోటెక్ ఇంటర్నేషనల్ పేర్కొంది. ఇంజక్షన్ ద్వారా ఒకే ఒక డోసులో దీన్ని పిల్లలకు ఇవ్వవచ్చని వివరించింది. ఇందులో సీసియమ్ క్లోరైడ్ లేకపోవడం ఈ వ్యాక్సీన్‌లోని మరొక ప్రత్యేకతని కంపెనీ సీఎండ్ డాక్టర్ కృష్ణ ఎం.ఎల్ల తెలిపారు. ఇటువంటి వ్యాక్సీన్‌ను ప్రస్తుతం మనదేశంలోకి దిగుమతి చేసుకోవలసిన పరిస్థితి ఉందని, దీనికి భిన్నంగా భారత్ బయోటెక్ ఇంటర్నేషనల్ తన సొంత సాంకేతిక పరిజ్ఞానాన్ని ఉపయోగించి 'కామ్వ్యాక్స్' ను ఆవిష్కరించినదని ఆయన చెప్పారు. గత నాలుగేళ్లుగా దీని కోసం ఎంతో సొమ్ము వెచ్చించామని అన్నారు. పలు దేశాలు ఈ వ్యాక్సీన్‌ను అవి చేపట్టే 'జాతీయ టీకాల కార్యకమంలో' చేర్చాయని వెల్లడించారు.

WE ARE IN THE NEWS

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BIOSPECTRUM

Bharat Biotech launches COMVAC5

Bharat Biotech International (BBIL), Hyderabad, has launched COMVAC5, a single shot pentavalent combination vaccine against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib). COMVAC5 is safe, effective and an affordable vaccine that offers complete protection against Hib, which is a life-threatening illness in young children.. Hib can cause meningitis and severe pneumonia, leading to three million cases of serious illness and 4 lakh deaths each year in children under five years of age.

Making the announcement Dr Krishna M Ella, chairman and managing director, Bharat Biotech International, said, "The launch of COMVAC5 is a milestone effort from Bharat Biotech. It is an indigenous vaccine that helps to reduce childhood sicknesses and deaths from preventable diseases at affordable cost. With a single injection this vaccine has the ability to protect children against multiple infectious diseases. This pentavalent vaccine demonstrates our commitment to consistently develop, safe and affordable vaccines for the emerging world."

Combination pentavalent vaccines have been approved by several countries and included in their respective national immunization programs for childhood vaccinations. Combination vaccines come highly recommended by World Health Organization and other global regulatory agencies since they combine five antigens into a single dose, thus eliminating the need for multiple injections to infants. Reduction of injections to infants has proven to reduce the amount of side effects, and reduce the probability of disease transmission through needle contamination.