

## **Cipla Wants Govt to Act Against Drug Monopolies**

**PTI**

**Mumbai:** Pharma major Cipla has sought adoption of a pragmatic Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy, including in-licensing within the present framework of its international obligations. "We have always believed that free competition is the only way to ensure fair prices and better availability of drugs. We strongly believe that there should be no monopolies in healthcare; and in that context, India should adopt a pragmatic IPR policy, including in-licensing within the present framework of our global obligations," Cipla chairman YK Hamied said in its annual report.

Countries such as Brazil, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia have already introduced compulsory licensing provisions. South Africa is reconsidering their position on IPR in order to promote affordable healthcare. India must also examine the monopoly position of drugs and build safeguards to ensure that this does not happen. India has always stood for the promotion of knowledge and consideration for the greater good, Hamied said. India's pharma exports saw the slowest growth in at least 15 years at 1.2% to \$14.84 billion last fiscal amid growing tension with the US over IPR-related issues. As the IPR issues raised by the US — India's biggest market — are unlikely to be resolved any time soon, industry observers say that pharma exports will miss the target of \$25 billion set for 2014-15 in a government strategy paper. According to commerce ministry data, in 2012-13, the country's pharma exports aggregated \$14.66 billion.

*Padaw*