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## Sun-Ranbaxy deal may hit fair trade: CCI

New Delhi: Launching the first-ever public scrutiny of an M&A deal in India, the fair trade watchdog on Thursday said it has prima facie found that the \$4-billion merger of Ranbaxy Labs into rival Sun Pharma is likely to have an "appreciable adverse impact" on competition in the market.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) invited comments and objections from all stakeholders, including general public, on finer details provided by the two companies about the proposed combination. The comments should be submitted to the CCI within 15 days, along with supporting documents on how the merger can adversely impact the entity or person concerned, CCI said. 'Unsubstantiated objections' to the deal will not be considered, it added.

The regulator said the public consultation process has been launched "to determine whether the combination has or is likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in the relevant market in India".

Later in a statement, CCI said that "the commission formed a prima facie opinion that the combination is likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition".

Widening its scrutiny of the multi-billion dollar deal, CCI had asked the two pharma majors on August 27 to make public specific details of their proposed merger.

This is the first instance where the CCI has ordered a public scrutiny of a proposed merger and acquisition (M&A) deal to ensure compliance to fair trade regulations. AGENCIES

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