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INTERNATIONAL

**Pharma firms seek
action against India**

Mumbai/London: Global pharmaceutical firms are pressuring the US to act against India to stop more local compa-

Relentless

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nies producing up to a dozen new varieties of cheap generic drugs still on-patent, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said. An Indian government committee is reviewing patented drugs of foreign firms to see if so-called compulsory licences, which in effect break exclusivity rights, can be issued for some of them to bring down costs, two senior government officials said. The drugs that are part of the review process are used for treating cancer, diabetes, hepatitis and HIV, said the sources, declining to give details. **REUTERS** ●

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