

Delhi HC bans export of Natco's cancer drug

New Delhi, March 27:

The Delhi High Court has barred the export of generic kidney and liver cancer medication, Sorefenat, manufactured by Natco Pharma Ltd on the plea of German drug major Bayer Corporation.

Justice Manmohan, however, gave liberty to Natco to seek the court's permission to export the drug as and when it gets the nod from the Drug Controlling Authority.

The court also issued notice to the Centre, customs authorities and Natco, seeking their replies on the plea of Bayer which has alleged that the generic drug is being made under compulsory licence for sale



in India and thus, it cannot be exported.

"Notice. Respondents 1 to 4 (centre and others) and Respondent 5 (Natco) to file their responses in six weeks... Respondents 1 to 4 are directed to ensure that no consignment from India containing Sorefenat, covered by compulsory licence, is

exported," the court said and listed the matter for further hearing on August 11.

Bayer in its plea has sought directions to the customs authorities to seize and confiscate the consignment containing Sorefenat manufactured by Natco Pharma Ltd under compulsory licence granted by the patent office on March 9, 2012.

The company, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, has contended that the compulsory licence was granted with the condition that permission is being granted for making and selling the drug "within the territory of India". — PTI

Company.