

DOP TAKES CHARGE

Bargain on patent drug prices

New Delhi, Sept. 2: The department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) is understood to have proposed direct negotiations with companies for reducing prices of patent drugs to the rate comparable to the lowest available in the global market.

The department is the convener of an inter-ministerial group comprising DIPP and the health ministry to modulate a pricing mechanism for patent drugs in India.

According to a highly placed source, DoP has reached out to the ministry of health to negotiate with companies to bring down the cost of patented drugs in the country.

"Negotiation with com-

Pharma sector hiring to wane in 2012

■ Recruitment in the pharmaceutical sector may decline in the second half of this year due a drop in hiring sentiment in the sector, a survey conducted by jobsite Naukri.com has said.

■ According to the survey only 51 per cent recruiters are expecting to add new jobs in second half of 2012 as against 67 per cent in the first half of 2012.

■ The survey said, while in the first half of the year none of the recruiters had predicted a hiring freeze in 2012, now 11 per cent of them are saying that hiring will come to a halt in the next six months.

panies is needed and they should sell these drugs at the lowest price possible, as being sold in various other countries," the source said. There are around 18 patent drugs

being marketed in India with a total market value of around ₹4,000 crore to ₹5,000 crore, about 12 per cent of the overall domestic market.

At present, there is no

system of price negotiation for patented drugs in the country. Under the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order, 1995, the prices of only 74 bulk drugs and formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. The government can, however, dictate prices of patent drugs in rare circumstances by invoking compulsory licencing.

In March 2012, India Patents Office had invoked compulsory licencing permitting Natco Pharma to manufacture and sell cancer-treatment drug Nexavar at a price, over 30 times lower than charged by its patent-holder Bayer Corporation.

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For D/A.

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