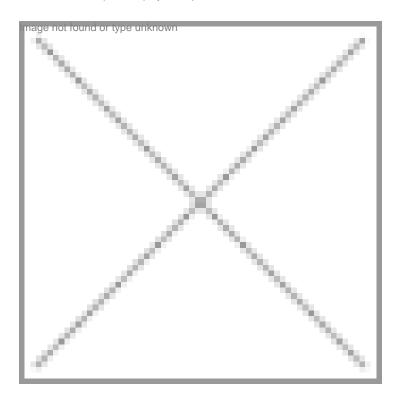


Industry body expresses concern over Nexavar decision

16 March 2012 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau



The Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE), a national forum that represents the \$4 billion biotechnology industry in India, reacted sharply to India's grant of a <u>compulsory license to Hyderabad-based NATCO Pharma</u> for Sorafenib Tosylate (Nexavar by Bayer), which is used for treatment of liver and kidney cancer.

A statement issued by ABLE says compulsory licenses should be used only when there is a national health crises or when life-saving drugs are priced out of the reach of a common man, that is, under some exceptional circumstances. (Read a comment on the Nexavar license debate)

It further noted that governments are likely to interfere under such circumstances like when a few countries have invoked this provision for making available life-saving HIV drugs to its people. India should always keep in mind that a compulsory license should not be invoked in an arbitrary manner as it will undermine the innovative efforts of this industry and consequently investment in this sector, it says.

Quick facts

Most multinational and Indian pharma companies spend millions of dollars and many Man hours to save patients from life threatening diseases and, therefore, the intent of all these companies broadly is to alleviate statement. However several times, overseas companies price their drug based on who they for the care of the country of th take into account the millions who could be deprived of a treatment due to affordability.

ABLE pointed out that Nexavar is an orphan drug in the US and was not approved by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for National Health Service (NHS) use in view of the fact that it increased survival in primary liver cancer by only six months. While on pricing, it is obvious that there is a case on the overall utili**Tr,he**fli**thessteus,vælidctillphælærxpsri**life by half a year, the question is why should India invoke compulsory licensing in the case of Nextheapatent in 2021

idea to debate on the cost of goods versus the cost of innovation. If we put in mechalandhead mean personal and the cost of goods versus the cost of innovation. If we put in mechalandhead mean personal and the cost of goods versus the cost of innovation. If we put in mechalandhead mean personal and the cost of goods versus the cost of innovation. If we put in mechalandhead mean personal and the cost of goods versus the cost of innovation. If we put in mechalandhead mean personal and the cost of goods versus the cost of innovation. which do innovation, then the severity of such rulings will be quite considerably mitigated percent of the net sales on a

quarterly basis to Baver

ABLE expressed its concerns by pointing out that the momentum and global image of India's focus on innovation might be atrisk, at a time when the Indian government has declared this as the Decade of Innovation

the drug free-of-cost to at least 600 needy and deserving patients per year