

Glenmark drug blow

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mumbai, Oct. 7: The Delhi high court today restrained Glenmark Pharmaceuticals from manufacturing and selling anti-diabetes drugs Zita and Zita-Met, saying it infringed the patent of US pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD).

MSD had moved the Delhi high court in 2013, and sought an injunction against Glenmark alleging that the Indian pharma company had violated its intellectual property rights (IPR) over its anti-diabetes medicines — Januvia and Janumet — by coming out with their own drugs containing the same salts.

The US company said it had invented "Sitagliptin" used in its anti-diabetes drugs and has a patent over the molecule.

Glenmark had priced its drug 30 per cent cheaper than MSD.

The US drug major, however, said its anti-di-

abetes drug Januvia was not costly at Rs 43 a pill and it was roughly one-fifth of its price in the US.

"In view of the findings returned on the above referred issues, the defendant is restrained by decree of permanent injunction from making, using, selling, distributing, advertising, exporting, offering for sale or dealing in Sitagliptin phosphate monohydrate or any other salt of Sitagliptin in any form, alone or in combination with any other drug, thereby infringing patent of plaintiff (MSD)," the court said.

The development led to Glenmark shares ending lower by 2.33 per cent, or Rs 24.65, at Rs 1,032.85 on the Bombay Stock Exchange today.

Earlier, in an interim order, a division bench of the high court had restrained Glenmark from making or selling its drug used for treatment of Type-2 diabetes.

Company