

'US pressure to reject drug licences'

Sachin Parashar | TNN

New Delhi: There appears to be a two-fold agenda behind the calls in the US to designate India a Priority Foreign Country, government sources said. "Pressure is being created on India's health ministry to not consider drugs for compulsory licences and there is also a bid to use India to scare away other developing countries like Indonesia and Brazil from introducing legislation to prevent evergreening of drug patents, like section

3 (d) of Indian Patents Act (IPA)," the sources said.

US pharma firms like Pfizer have demanded that India amend its patents law by doing away with section 3 (d). This section prevents patenting new forms of a known substance in case it does not yield higher efficiency than the earlier substance. It was under this provision that the SC upheld a decision of India's Patent Office to deny a patent to Novartis for its drug Glivec.

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