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Dr. DSP
Gentayam

TEL Bombay
CORP

Consumer Protection Act's
widened

on Page 1

...ved the proposal "to
an ordinance to in-
amendments to widen
existing provisions and
the consumer protec-
tion in country.
...ance was promulgated
ncerned bill pending
liament could not be
r consideration due to
ime, the sources said.
...ance provides for re-
ods likely to endanger
of public, enables the
to file complaints in
goods which would be
to life and safety when
file complaints relating
ive trade practices
traders.
...enable the consumers
lf-employed to file com-
ore the redressal agen-
goods brought by them
for earning their liveli-
from any defect.
...rment issued the ordi-
nning persistent de-
consumer organisations
e Ce 1 Consumer
Counc meeting held
onth.
...o demanded that the
t health services should
under the purview of
ier Protection (Amend-
1993, introduced in the
a in March this year.
...the Union minister for
s, consumer affairs and
tribution, Mr A.K. An-
resided over the meet-
I their demand saying
rment wanted to give
ces some more time to
ir services — "If they
o, the Act would be
necessary, at an ap-
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Defying the licence raj..... openly

Eco Times
22 June '93

Shyam Kumar

BOMBAY 21 JUNE

A HYDERABAD based company has been quietly defying the licence raj by manufacturing gentamycin, an antibiotic drug, without a licence for eight years.

Gentamycin is reserved for the public sector. As such, Andhra Synthetics and Antibiotics Ltd was told that there was no question of giving it a manufacturing licence.

So Andhra Synthetics went ahead and began manufacturing without a licence and its clients now include leading Indian companies in the public and private sector.

In the mid-seventies, the public sector Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd (HAL), tied up with a European company for gentamycin knowhow which proved to be unviable. In the late eighties, HAL went shopping for technology and tied up with another European company. This attempt also failed.

Following this debacle, HAL discontinued production of gentamycin and has told the government that it proposed to convert its plant to manufacture other products. Andhra Synthetics, in contrast, had developed indigenous technology and has been requesting the government for a licence since 1986. It is the only Indian company to make this product, and one of the few in the world.

"We have approached the highest authorities in the government in vain," laments Dr Dinesh Patel, director of Andhra Synthetics. "On behalf of the company, even the Andhra government approached the Union government for a licence for the company." Even HAL officials privately contend that Dr Patel should be given a licence.

Authorities are fully aware that Andhra Synthetics makes gentamycin. The government had allowed HAL a price of Rs 25,500 per kg for gentamycin. Andhra Synthetics started offering the material at Rs 12,500 a kg because of its lower cost of production. On the basis of this price, the government reduced the price allowed for HAL. This led to reduced prices for the formulated products.

The commerce ministry has now issued a notification removing gentamycin from the negative list, thereby allowing free OGL imports. "It seems like a signal that the government would rather import rather than encourage indigenous technology," says Dr Patel, a scientist turned entrepreneur.

His company makes about 600 kg of gentamycin against a demand of more than 8000 kg this year. "I can raise my capacity to five tonnes but no bank will give me a loan because I don't have a licence," says the frustrated industrialist.

DESU being considered for privatisation

PTI

NEW DELHI 21 JUNE

THE government is seriously considering handing over the management of the losing Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking (DESU) to private sector firm, Union power minister N.K.P. Salve announce today.

The losses of DESU are staggering and "government is not prepared to finance its losses," Mr Salve told newsmen here.

Mr Salve, who was briefing newsmen about his recent visit to Japan and Singapore, said it had been in his mind to privatise the entire distribution system of DESU but it had not been possible to implement it.

Asked how any private company would be interested in taking over the management of a loss making company, Mr Salve said industrial houses like the Modi's and Singhanias have already approached the power ministry in this regard.

Infosys appointed CA's distributor

Our Bangalore Bureau

BANGALORE 21 JUNE

COMPUTER Associates International, a \$1.8 billion US software company, has appointed Infosys Technologies Limited as its authorised distributor for its micro-products division in India.

Indian end-users will now have access to a range of CA's shrink-wrapped products including CA-Clipper, CA-Super Project, CA-SuperCalc and CA-ACCPAC Plus accounting package.

THE CHIEF

RAKESH SAHGAL