

Abhilash Botekar
NASHIK CITY

Asserting that the pharma-giant GlaxoSmithKline will continue to provide its drugs at 'suitable' prices in the respective 'worlds' its Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Witty, expressed full faith in the patent regime in India. "Pricing of products should vary with the varying GDP of the respective countries such that it remains accessible to the patients who need it. With this simple strategy, we have lowered the prices of our drugs in some devel-

VARYING PRICES
OF DRUGS FOR
DIFFERENT
REGIONS BY
GSK HAS
HELPED THE
MASSES TO
ACCESS
ESSENTIAL
DRUGS



>> Andrew Witty during media interaction

GDP-related pricing better for mankind

oping countries by almost 75 percent. In the middle-income countries or those that are above the LDC (least developed countries) but clearly not developed, we are engaged in bilateral conversations to ensure that prices are appropriate to those nations," Andrew Witty said.

During his whirl-wind maiden tour to Nashik as a CEO of GSK Nashik plant where he handed over the new 'albendazole manufacturing production line' at its Nashik facility to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), Witty had a small interaction with the media persons.

At the helm of the world's second largest drug maker company, Andrew Witty reacted very positively to the current developments about patent issues in the country. "We are confident about the intellectual property regime in India. We don't think there would be a dramatic change in the drug pricing system, once the innovative drugs are protected

with patents," he said.

He further asserted that the company was never in the mood of compromising with the research facility to search for newer molecules that would work wonders for the mankind. "With the price-bands announced for the different countries, we have achieved a critical balance, such that our research work will not run out of fuel," the CEO said as he went on to describe how the company had managed to sell drugs at best prices to the needy in the different parts of the globe.

Clearly stopping short of announcing which companies the drug-maker was eyeing at for acquisitions, Witty spelt out the criterion for the company's action. The company would attempt to acquire brands and improve its consumer healthcare business, but not assets that sell pure generics. "The actions would be such that they should yield good returns for the share holders of our company," he remarked.

Currently, one-eighth of its global generic production is sourced from India,

he said, adding that GSK will invest in creating more production facilities in the country. GSK is also keen to undertake collaborative research with Indian universities once they catch up with the institutional research standards of the developed world, he added. India continues to be a critical market for GSK. Our Indian model was always a combination of branded generics and innovative brands and it will continue to be so.

abhilash.botekar@
indiatimes.com