

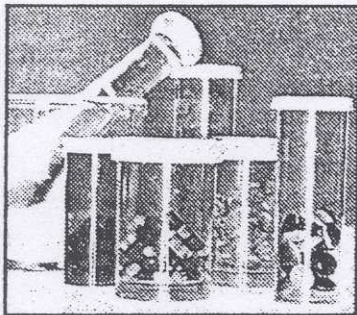
# Ranbaxy wins patent case against Pfizer in Austria

Our Delhi Bureau

29 MARCH

**R**ANBAXY Laboratories today said that it had received a favourable ruling from the Austrian Patent Office in a patent lawsuit with Pfizer for cholesterol-lowering drug Atorvastatin. A company statement issued here today said the Austrian Patent Office has invalidated three patent claims by Pfizer.

"The patent office invalidated claims 1-3 of Austrian Patent No AT E 207 896, a Pfizer-owned published patent application and a Pfizer-owned patent," a Ranbaxy



statement issued here today said.

In making its ruling in favour of Ranbaxy's arguments that claims 1-3 of the patent were invalid on various grounds, the Austrian panel of five judges agreed that the specific patent

claims are invalid as anticipated by Pfizer's international patent applications, it added.

Pfizer can appeal the Austrian patent office ruling. The global market for Atorvastatin last year was \$12 billion, according to IMS Health.

Ranbaxy, which is fighting the patent violation charges filed by Pfizer against it in the US, has made filings for its version of Atorvastatin in the US and Europe. The court also agreed with Ranbaxy's argument that the patent claims lack an inventive step over Pfizer's US Patent No. 4,681,893.