

**INDIA – PATENT PROTECTION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL AND
AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL PRODUCTS**

Status Report by India

The following communication, dated 12 November 1998, from the Permanent Delegation of India to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated pursuant to Article 21.6 of the DSU.

Status Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations and Rulings in the
Dispute Regarding India – Patent Protection for Pharmaceutical and
Agricultural Chemical Products

Pursuant to Article 21.6 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes ("DSU"), the Government of India presents this first report on the status of the implementation of the recommendation of the Dispute Settlement Body ("DSB") regarding "India – Patent Protection for Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Chemical Products".

On 16 January 1998, the DSB adopted the Appellate Body Report on "India – Patent Protection for Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Chemical Products" (WT/DS50/AB/R) and the Panel Report on "India – Patent Protection for Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Chemical Products" (WT/DS50/R) as modified by the Appellate Body Report.

On 13 February 1998, India informed the DSB of its intention to meet its obligations under the WTO with respect to this matter. Subsequently, India and the United States, through bilateral negotiations, agreed on 21 April 1998 that fifteen months constituted a reasonable period of time for implementing the recommendations of the DSB with respect to this matter. India and the United States made a joint statement to that effect in the DSB meeting held on 22 April 1998.

The Government of India is exploring various options for implementing the recommendation of the DSB relating to India's obligations under Articles 70.8 and 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement and a series of inter-departmental and inter-Ministerial consultations have been initiated in this regard.
