

## Sun Pharma declares 40% second interim dividend

Total dividend tally is 100%

Mumbai, March 18

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, the speciality pharmaceutical company ranked 8<sup>th</sup> by domestic prescription products sales (ORG Retail chemist audit, Jan 2000), announced a 2nd interim dividend of 40% for the year 1999-2000. This was announced at a board meeting held in Vadodara today. The record date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> interim dividend is 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The company had earlier announced a first interim dividend of 60% in November this year, which takes the total for the year to 100% or a dividend payout of Rs.15.42 cr. This compares with a dividend of 80% for 1998-99.

In February this year the company had announced a bonus of 2 (two) shares for every 1 (one) held with a record date of 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Post bonus, the equity capital will increase from Rs. 15.42 cr. to Rs. 46.26 cr.

Sun Pharma had posted strong 9-month results with total sales increased 35% to Rs. 328.16 cr. (9 months 98/99-Rs. 243.27 cr.) and profit increased 56% to Rs. 65.71 cr. (9 months 98/99- Rs. 42.07 cr.). The domestic prescription products business continues to grow at 39%, significantly higher than 8.9% for the pharma industry (ORG Retail Chemist Audit, January 2000)

Sun Pharma has a strong new product plan and expects to close the year with 20 new products launched across its 8 marketing divisions. 40% of turnover is from products introduced in the last 4 years. Sun Pharma's proposed Chennai research facility (its third), dedicated to drug discovery, is expected to commence operations by July this year. The company has two other research centres- SPARC, Baroda (for process chemistry and formulation development); and SPARC Kalina, (dosage forms for the US generic market). The company has been investing 4% of an increasing turnover on research since 1993.

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