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# India foils Colgate's bid to patent nutmeg mouthwash

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**New Delhi, July 16** (IANS) **India** thwarted an **attempt** by consumer goods giant Colgate-Palmolive to patent a nutmeg mouthwash formula, the **ministry** of science and technology said on Thursday.

"**India** foiled an **attempt** by Colgate-Palmolive to patent a mouthwash formula containing herb extract (nutmeg) by citing ancient texts that show it was traditionally **used** in ancient medicinal practices," the **ministry** said in a statement.

"Traditional Knowledge Digital Library of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR-TKDL) had submitted proof in the form of references from ancient books, which said the herb and its extracts of Myristica Fragrans were **used** for oral diseases in Indian systems of medicine," it added.

"In addition, other **third** party observations also made submissions against the claims."

The **ministry** said various institutions of the **CSIR** had filed applications for 14 patents in **India** and 22 abroad, of which one was **granted** in **India** and 14 abroad.

Colgate-Palmolive is an American multinational consumer products company.