

THE HIMALAYAN TIMES, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

Suswasthya launched to address chronic diseases

Himalayan News Service

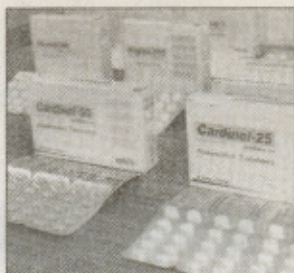
Kathmandu, September 7

Deurali Janta Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd (DJPL), a leading pharmaceutical company in Nepal, has announced the launch of a new division — Suswasthya, aiming at producing medicines for chronic diseases.

The company today unveiled the division at a programme with a new range of medicines for chronic diseases. "The Suswasthya at DJPL is a systematic care division, which produces a complete range of medicines for chronic diseases like cardio vascular and neuro-psycho tropic problem as well as other chronic diseases," said Hari Bhakta Sharma, chief executive director of DJPL.

According to him, DJPL is launching a new division after two years of vigorous research and development for producing medicines to cure chronic diseases in the country. "We expect that our products will help to substitute import of medicines for this category to some extent," he said.

The company currently produces 25 different medicines (eight brands) under the Suswasthya division. "This is probably the first of its kind in Nepal to produce a systematic range of medicines for chronic diseases," Sharma added. Established in 1989, DJPL started commercial production of various allopathic medicines



since 1992. The company has so far made an investment of Rs 171 million in fixed assets and Rs 140.5 million in issued capital.

DJPL has technical collaboration with Renata Ltd of Bangladesh since 1996 and has been manufacturing 80 different types of medicines under WHO Good Manufacturing Practice (WHO-GMP) guidelines.

The ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified DJPL has manufacturing plants with a capacity of one million litre liquid medicine, 100 million tablets, 72 million capsules and 0.3 million kg of dry powder per shift.

According to Sharma, the company has 45,000 square feet centrally air-conditioned factory located at Dhapasi of Kathmandu and employs 174 people.

Nepal consumes about Rs 6.5 billion worth of medicines each year, but domestic production accounts for at most 30 per cent of the total needs. Hence, the country imports drugs worth about five billion rupees, mostly from India.