

# 'Dumping of low quality drugs a major problem'

POST REPORT  
KATHMANDU, SEPT 7

A leading pharmaceutical entrepreneur has said that the growing trend of dumping low grade medicines in recent years has emerged as the most serious problem to the domestic medicine market.

Speaking at program organized to launch Suswasthya division, a systematic care division of Deurali-Janta Pharmaceutical Pvt. Ltd (DJPL) that produces life-saving medicines, Hari Bhakta Sharma, executive director of the factory expressed serious concern over the government's negligence towards the problem.

Sharma also said that lack of brand awareness among the drugs users also providing a favorable environment for the low quality medicines to pene-

trate into the market.

"It is amazing to note that, in a small market like ours, more than 250 domestic and foreign companies are pumping their 12,000 products," Sharma said. How can we expect quality medicines in the market when overall quality checking capacity of the government's agency entrusted for the job is around 1,000 per year, he questioned.

The company has recently started producing high quality medicines for cardiology and neurology diseases from its recently established Suswasthya division, Sharma informed. Sharma also said that frequent obstruction in the distribution of essential medicines in the rural areas due to the con-

flict has squeezed the access of quality medicines among the rural masses.

He also said that high priority given for imported medicines, over crowded market, inadequate regulatory mechanism and technological gap are the major problems of the domestic pharmaceutical industries.

According to press release distributed on the occasion, the DJPL, the ISO 14001/ ISO 9001 certified company that currently produces over 80 different varieties of medicines, has been using just 60 percent of its installed capacity. "The company, which has a total investment worth Rs 312 million, is trying to export medicines by utilizing the remaining 40 percent of the installed capacity," stated the release.

