

Only Turkey is good for Turkey

■ Mesut YAR

In Turkey, annual pharmaceutical import is as much as 4.5 billion dollars while the pharmaceutical export corresponds to 650 million dollars. Turkish pharmaceutical sector depends on imported drugs for 60 percent of its consumption. Philipp Haas, Chairman of Executive Board of Deva Holding, established 55 years ago by doctors, pharmacists and veterinarians, said that Turkey has the capacity to meet 90 percent of its pharmaceutical need through domestic manufacturers.

Domestic companies can manufacture

Philipp Haas said that pharmaceutical import, which plays a prominent role in foreign trade deficit, shall be replaced by domestic production within ten years if necessary regulations are implemented. Mr. Haas, who is also Deputy Chairman of Turkish Association of Pharmaceutical Employers stated that “We not only meet the pharmaceutical need but also we can break the record of export. Only Turkey

is good for Turkey. Let domestic companies manufacture the entire pharmaceutical need of our country.”

'We should implement the same sets'

Stating that Turkey has great potential in respect of manufacturing standards and research & development (R&D) said that “If domestic manufacturers are given the opportunity to operate in full capacity, foreign trade deficit in this area can be met. When the way is cleared for us, Turkey can be one of the greatest players on the world. For this to happen, first of all, we should also lay down the conditions and sets laid down by countries we export to.

■ Although the problem which arose in cancer drugs as companies stopped bringing drug after decision of Social Security Institution (SGK) for discount in drugs was tried to be overcome through import of Turkish Pharmacists' Association (TEB), patients were not left choice but to buy from black marketers. As 10 items of cancer drugs such as Bleomycin, Purinethol, Deticene, Mitomycin are not stored at pharmacies, they were brought from abroad through TEB.

■ Importing company brought 30 thousand boxes of drugs to Turkey, which is enough to meet the need for one year, and distributed them to pharmaceutical warehouses. Now, patients will be able to supply their drugs from 24 thousand pharmacies without having to find them through TEB or blackmarket. Purinethol which has label price of 9 lira though its price rises up to 120 liras on black market, can be finally supplied from pharmacies after a one-year break.

