The transportation fare of a truckload of goods from Birgunj to Kathmandu — around 137 km — is Rs 30,000 but the transportation fare of a similar truckload of goods from Tatopani to Kathmandu — around 65 km — costs Rs 90,000, he added. How market abuse. But according to him, a strong network of businessmen has hurt consumer welfare.

Former secretary Purushottam Ojha, on the occasion, said that traders, however, should not be involved in such illicit activities on the strong backing of their associations. “There is an invisible cartel system in the market, which is difficult to identify,” he added.

Similarly, director general of the Department of Commerce and Supply Management Narayan Prasad Bidari said that the Act is not enough to make the market competitive. “The other relevant Acts also have to be revisited for effective implementation,” he said, adding that there is lack of coordination between the regulating agencies — chief district officer’s office, office of quality control, Department of Commerce — who are responsible for implementing the Act.

Draft Act is aimed at promoting competition in market as we already have consumer Welfare Protection Act, said NEAT Business Enabling Environment manager Devbhakta Shakya.