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Title: Demand to withdraw the amendments in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): Sir, would like to express my strong objection against the recent Gazette notification dated 6th November, 2019, which amends the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

The serial number 23, under schedule K of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, contradicts section 42 of the Pharmacy Act 1948 which says, “No person other than a registered pharmacist shall compound, prepare, mix or dispense any medicine on the prescription of medical practitioner”.

The present amendment allows community health officers from nurses to ASHA and Anganwadi workers to prescribe drugs besides pharmacists. This is an important point in this amendment. By allowing people with no professional knowledge about medicines to dispense them, this Government is putting public health at risk.

Pharmacists have earned this privilege by studying intensively about medicines through various pharmacy courses which extend up to six years, which is equivalent to MBBS. At present, there are about 1 million registered pharmacists in our country. Their duty is to dispense medicines so that right medicines reaches the right person. During dispensation, pharmacists do patient counselling through which they come to know about the prescription, dosage, drugs, etc. Only a person having essential knowledge in preparing and dispensing medicines is

capable of doing this. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, this is a very important matter.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्य, एक्स्ट्रा वालो को पढ़कर नहीं बोला जाता है
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...(व्यवधान)

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN : Sir, I request the Government to withdraw the amendment with immediate effect and take necessary steps to save the patients in our country.