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Title: Regarding the plight of the small scale drug and Pharmaceutical companies, following the changes in Drug and Cosmetic Act.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): Sir, about 5,000 small scale manufacturing units in the country, a source of employment for more than nine lakh people with a turnover of approximately Rs. 4200 crore, have been contributing immensely to the growth of our economy.

But in a recent notification dated 12th July, 2004, the Government proposes to bring about a change in the Schedule M in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act which would mean ringing a death knell to these five thousand odd small scale units in the country which produces good quality, effective medicines at affordable prices.

I have made a comparative study between the MNC branded products and the products that are produced by these small scale units. The small scale units are producing the goods almost at one-fourth the price of the MNCs. Moreover, the MNCs are getting their products manufactured by these small scale units.

Sir, I demand that such a thing should not be done and a Review Committee should be set up with representatives from the small scale units. They should be taken into confidence and their interest should be protected...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, my party also associates with this cause.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day shall be treated to be laid on the Table of the House.

13.27 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*