

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1384  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021**

**SETTING UP OF ESIC DISPENSARIES/DCBOS**

**1384. SHRI JOHN BRITTAS:**

**Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Government had earlier decided on setting up Dispensary-cum-Branch Offices (DCBOs) in every district;**
- (b) whether Government later decided not to proceed with above decision if there are any other existing ESI dispensaries in that area, but permitting to continue already operationalised DCBOs;**
- (c) whether this change of criteria is a clear disparity and violation of equal treatment for DCBOs which were not operationalised due to administrative lapses/process delay/COVID- 19 pandemic; and**
- (d) whether Government has plans to proceed with the upgradation of Branch Office at Kannur District, Kerala as DCBO as initially decided, and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

**(a) to (c): The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Corporation, in its 174<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 29.05.2018, had approved setting up a Dispensary-cum-Branch Office (DCBO) in every ESI implemented district. Subsequently, the matter was reviewed and it was decided to operationalise new DCBOs in only such districts which have no ESI Dispensary and have 3000 or more Insured Persons (IPs) within a radius of 10 km of the proposed site of the DCBO. As the revised**

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**criteria is based on availability of existing medical infrastructure and avoiding duplication of efforts, it is not in violation of equal treatment for DCBOs which were not operationalized.**

**(d): There are 11 State Government ESI dispensaries in Kannur district of Kerala and as per the revised norms for setting up of a DCBO, Kannur district is not eligible for upgradation of Branch Office into DCBO.**

**Further there is one ESI hospital run by State Government at Thottada in Kannur district. In addition, 2 private hospitals have also been empanelled for providing secondary and tertiary medical care to the ESI beneficiaries in the district.**

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