

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024**

COVERAGE UNDER ESI SCHEME

1201. # SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries covered under the ESI Scheme throughout the country at present;**
- (b) the total beneficiary base after coverage of all the districts of the country under the ESI scheme;**
- (c) whether ESIC proposes to cover workers in the unorganized sector also, including those establishments employing less than 10 employees; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) to (d): The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948 is applicable to all factories and establishments, other than seasonal factories, having ten or more employees, drawing wages up to Rs 21,000/- (Rs. 25,000/- for persons with disability). As such, the Act does not apply to the unorganised sector.

As on 31.03.2023, total 13,30,73,951 beneficiaries were covered under the ESI scheme. The survey for coverage of remaining coverable employees is a continuous process.

In the Code on Social Security, 2020, provision of benefits to the unorganised sector is contained in section 45 and section 109 of the Code whereby the Central Government and the State Governments can frame scheme for unorganised workers.

Further, as per provisions under the Code on Social Security, 2020, an establishment with less than 10 workers may also apply for applicability of the provisions related to the ESI by giving willingness to the ESI Corporation. The Code has not come into force so far.
