

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1626
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023**

**MEDICAL TREATMENT AND MEDICATIONS TO PLANTATION SECTOR
LABOURERS**

1626. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to provide medical treatment and medications to plantation sector labourers including those in Kerala who lack of advanced treatment facilities provided by the ESI hospitals;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to ensure their inclusion;**
- (c) whether the Government has further included construction workers, street vendors, domestic workers, milk suppliers, truck drivers, fishing and sales workers, farm workers and migrant workers in the ESI medical coverage;**
- (d) whether a specific committee has been constituted across States to prepare a report on employers contribution, infrastructure development and benefits of unorganised and plantation sector employees to be included in the ESI ambit; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof including States that have already implemented the same?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The plantation workers are covered under a separate legislation, namely 'The Plantations Labour (PL) Act, 1951' which regulates the conditions of work in plantations and provides for the welfare of plantation labourers. The Plantations Labour Act requires the employers to provide the workers with housing, medical facilities, sickness and maternity benefits and other forms of social security measures.

Contd..2/-

In terms of the provisions under section 61 of ESI Act, 1948, an insured person, entitled to any of the benefits provided by ESI Act is not entitled to receive any similar benefit admissible under the provisions of any other enactment.

The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948 is applicable to the factories and establishments having ten or more employees, drawing wages up to Rs.21000/- (Rs. 25,000/- for persons with disabilities). As such, the Act does not apply to the unorganised sector.

In the Code on Social Security 2020, provision of benefits to the unorganized sector is contained in Section 45 and Section 109 of the Code whereby the Central Government and the State Governments can frame scheme for unorganized workers. The Code has not come into force so far.
