

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2928
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023**

CASHEW WORKERS

2928. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the women cashew workers are denied treatment in ESIC empanelled hospitals due to lack of required attendance, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the ESIC has been asked to provide exemption of attendance for women cashew workers and provide them necessary treatment free of cost at the empanelled hospitals; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): All the cashew workers alongwith their family members, covered under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme, are eligible to receive the benefits available under the ESI Act including medical benefits as per their eligibility conditions.

During the Covid pandemic, some establishments could not pay contribution towards the ESI scheme and consequently beneficiaries faced some difficulty in availing benefits including medical benefits. Considering the hardships faced by such beneficiaries, the ESI corporation granted one-time relaxation in the eligibility criteria to enable beneficiaries to avail medical benefits under the scheme including super speciality treatment. As per the relaxation it was to be assumed that contribution from beneficiaries also received during contributory period from 1st April 2020 to 30th September 2020 and there was no break in contribution of fund towards the scheme during the period. Beneficiaries can avail eligible benefits.
