

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3282  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021**

**HEALTH INSURANCE COVER TO CASUAL AND CONTRACTUAL WORKERS**

**3282. SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:**

**SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON:**

**SHRI RATANSINH MAGANSINH RATHOD:**

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:**

**DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:**

**SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:**

**DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:**

**DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:**

**ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:**

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

- (a) whether the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) proposes to extend benefits of its health insurance cover to all casual and contractual workers at municipal bodies; if so, the details thereof and aims and objective behind the move;**
- (b) whether ESIC has been directed to take up the matter with the States and UTs for issue of notification for coverage of casual and contractual workers in the municipal corporations and councils of their respective jurisdictions, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the challenges faced by the Government in providing health services under ESIC to all districts of the country;**
- (d) whether ESIC facilities are not being given to most of the employees working in most of the private companies of the country; and**
- (e) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years and if not, State-wise details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Central Government, under Section 1(5) of the ESI Act, 1948 has accorded approval for extending coverage of casual and contractual workers under municipal corporations/ councils of all the States/ Union Territories. The Central Government as also ESI Corporation**

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**are pursuing with States/UTs for issue of notification for coverage of casual/contractual workers under its municipal corporations/councils.**

**(c): The challenges faced by ESIC in providing health services in all districts of the country include the following:**

- i. At present ESI Scheme has been notified in 583 districts which includes entire area of 400 districts and is partially available in 183 districts in their district headquarters area and prominent industrial centers,**
- ii. Need to expand ESIC's health care infrastructure in various districts, and**
- iii. Need to enhance medical manpower.**

**(d) & (e): The ESI Corporation is providing ESI benefits to eligible private sector employees covered under ESI Act 1948. Presently, ESI Corporation is providing coverage to employees of covered establishments / factories. The wage limit for coverage is Rs.21000/- per month (Rs.25,000/- for persons with disability). As on 31.03.2020, a total of 3.09 crore employee were covered under the ESI Scheme.**

**The ESI Corporation has taken up following steps for increasing ESI coverage to establishment/units:-**

- i. Reduction in rate of ESI contribution from 6.5% to 4% with effect from 01.07.2019 to encourage voluntary compliance.**
- ii. Complete online registration of both employer and employee.**
- iii. Extensive survey is conducted in newly implemented areas.**
- iv. For already covered/ implemented areas, data from various government departments/ organizations is obtained and regular efforts are made to cover such units which are found not covered through survey.**
- v. Apart from regular surveys, special survey drives are also launched from time to time for coverage of uncovered units.**
- vi. Information received from various other sources is also examined at the level of Regional offices & in Headquarters office to cover eligible workers.**