GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 50
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

SUGAR INDUSTRY INTO ESIC

50.   SHRI B.Y. RAGHAVENDRA:
        SHRI ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE:
        SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
        SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:
        SHRI SANGANNA AMARAPPA:
        DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has plans to include Sugar Industry into ESIC after reforming labour laws into labour codes;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the time line for the same if not; the reasons therefor;
(c) whether all the unorganised sector employees can have same benefit as of organised sector employees; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the avenues for the same if not; the reasons therefor; and
(e) whether the Government plans to provide such facilities?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b):   The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948 is applicable to all factories (excluding seasonal factories) employing ten or more persons, located in ESI notified areas. Employees earning

wages up to Rs.21,000/- per month in such ESI covered factories/establishments are coverable under the ESI Act. Manufacture of Sugar (including Gur) or any manufacturing process incidental to or connected with the manufacture of sugar is included as seasonal factory as per provisions under Section 2(19A) of the ESI Act and hence is excluded from coverage under ESI Act. Similar provisions have been retained in the Code on Social Security, 2020.

(c) to (e): Benefits available to Insured Persons (IPs) under Employees State Insurance Scheme are as per provisions contained in ESI Act, 1948. In the Code on Social Security 2020, similar provisions are contained in Chapter IV of the Code. 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.

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