GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2200
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

EXPANSION OF ESI SCHEME COVERAGE

2200. SHRI Y S AVINASH REDDY:

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

(a) whether the workers in the unorganised sector have been brought under the ESI Scheme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the measures taken by the Government in this direction;

(b) whether the Government has decided to expand the coverage of ESI Scheme to more workers of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to improve the implementation of the scheme?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948 is applicable to all factories & establishments employing 10 or more persons other than seasonal factories and drawing wages up to Rs 21,000/- per month (Rs. 25,000/- for Persons with Disability) in the notified area. The employees working in unorganized sector have not been defined as 'Employees' in ESI Act, 1948. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is administered through local Gram Panchayats which are not establishment as per ESI Act, 1948.

The major steps taken by the Government to improve the implementation of the ESI scheme are as under:

i) ESIC has collaborated with Ayushmaan Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY) to provide secondary and tertiary care medical services to ESI beneficiaries through PMJAY empanelled hospitals in the country at places where ESI medical services are not adequately available.

ii) Rates of benefits have been enhanced for Permanent Disablement Benefit (PDB) / Dependents' Benefits (DB) Beneficiaries.

iii) A new scheme has been approved to cater medical care (including SST) for superannuated beneficiaries who have contributed in ESIC but went out of coverage before superannuation.

iv) Online module has been launched for updation/editing the particulars of Insured Persons (IPs) and their family details.

v) Aadhar based authentication of Insured Persons & their family members on voluntary basis has been adopted for providing social security benefits, including medical and cash benefits to beneficiaries.

vi) For providing hassle-free services to Insured Persons (IPs)/Insured Women (IW), an online portal/facility has been started for submission of cash benefits claims under ESI scheme.

*****