

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1221
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025**

ESI SCHEME TO UNORGANISED SECTOR WORKERS

1221. SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:

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

- (a) the details of workers who are covered under the ESI Scheme as on 31st March 2025;**
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that more than 90% of the workers in the country are out of the purview of the ESI scheme due to the unorganised/informal nature of their work;**
- (c) if so, whether the Government has any plan to extend the ESI benefits to unorganised sector workers; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme framed under ESI Act, 1948 is applicable to all factories and establishments having ten or more employees, drawing wages up to Rs 21,000/- (Rs. 25,000/- for Persons with disability). As such, the Act does not apply to the unorganized sector. The number of employees covered under ESI Scheme as on 31st March, 2025 is 3,80,41,160 (provisional).

The Government has enacted Code on Social Security, 2020 with the goal to extend social security to all employees and workers with either in the organized or unorganized or any other sectors and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
