

(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Sir, in 393 districts of the country, health care services of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) are available at present.

(b) and (c) Under ESIC 2.0 reforms initiative, it has been decided to extend the coverage of ESI Scheme to all states and districts; of the country in phased manner. In the first phase, the scheme shall be expanded to all areas in 393 districts where the scheme is partially implemented. In the balance districts where the scheme is not implemented, initially the Scheme shall be launched in the district headquarters followed by the entire district.

The ESI Corporation has formulated plan to expand its health services to all the districts of the country as under:-

Primary medical care facilities in newly implemented areas is to be provided to the insured persons and their family members using one or more of the following options:-

- Setting up of an ESI one doctor dispensary;
  - Tie-up within the existing Government facilities;
  - Mobile medical vans;
  - Through Insured Medical Practitioners;
  - Through private nursing homes;
2. Secondary/Tertiary is to be arranged through:
- Establishing new hospitals;
  - Expanding old ESI hospitals;
  - Tie-up arrangements for tertiary care.

#### **Amendment in Minimum Wages Act**

1708. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to amend the Minimum Wages Act for the welfare of labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has increased the Minimum Daily Wages of the unskilled workers in agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The proposed amendments to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, *inter-alia*, includes applicability of minimum wages to all employments, changes in the definition of "Appropriate Government", fixation/review/revision of minimum rates of wages by the State Government, introduction of National Minimum Wage by the Central Government, enhancement of penalty, etc.

(c) and (d) In the Central Sphere, the Government has issued a draft notification on 01.09.2016 to revise basic minimum rates of wages from ₹ 211 to ₹ 300 per day for unskilled agricultural workers for Area 'C' after consulting Minimum Wages Advisory Board.

#### **Gender wage gap**

1709. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a gender wage gap prevalent in the labour market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The Labour Bureau has compiled average daily wage rates in respect of selected agricultural and non-agricultural occupations based on the data collected by the National Sample Survey Office from 600 sample villages spread over 20 states. The data for the month of September 2016 shows that the wage paid to women worker is less than men worker in above occupations.

To reduce gender wage gap, Government has enacted Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination.

#### **Low rate of employment creation**

†1710. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of creating new employment opportunities is declining, if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.