

with such establishments are to be provided statutory wages as per the rule in force, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc. The Central Government has issued comprehensive Advisory Guidelines on 27.07.2020 to all the States/UTs for the welfare of the migrant workers returning to the destination States in the backdrop of Covid - 19. The States/UTs have been advised to take adequate steps to streamline the migration of the workers to mitigate the hardships of migrant workers returning to the destination States/UTs. The States/UTs have been advised to implement the advisory guidelines by quickly gearing up their labour Law enforcement machinery and ensuring statutory compliance by all the stake-holders which could provide migrant workers much needed help to mitigate the financial crisis and empower them to deal with the pandemic. The States/UTs have also been advised to maintain updated data of the migrant workers to facilitate the administration to extend benefits of the welfare schemes of the Government to the migrant workers.

Medical benefit under ESIS

418. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the labourers working on construction sites can avail medical benefits under the Employee State Insurance Scheme (ESIS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to strengthening the labour protection in terms of job security, wages, working conditions, social security and welfare; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The ESI Scheme was extended to construction site workers of construction companies covered under the ESI Act, 1948 with effect from 01.08.2015. Construction site workers are eligible to avail the benefits provided under the Act as per their entitlement. However, more than 20 construction companies from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have disputed the coverage and have moved the Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has granted stay in the matter *vide* its order dated 06.07.2018.

(c) and (d) The Government has been taking steps to undertake reforms including strengthening of social security, working conditions, wage security in various existing Labour Laws by codifying the existing Labour Laws into 4 Labour Codes. Out of the 4 Labour Codes, the Code on Wages, 2019, was notified on 8th August, 2019 in the Gazette of India. The Code on Wages universalises right of minimum wages to all workers. The rest 3 Codes i.e. the Occupational Safety Health & Working Conditions Code, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2019 and the Code on Social Security, 2019 had been introduced in the Lok Sabha in the year 2019 and referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour for examination. After receipt of the reports of the Standing Committee, the requisite steps have been taken for reintroduction of all these Codes.

Shortage of medicine in ESI hospitals

419. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the ESI hospitals are facing the shortage of medicines even regular medicines like BP and sugar tablets are also not available in the hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted into the facts of the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Generally, there is no shortage of regular medicines, including BP or sugar medicines at ESI hospitals in the country. Beneficiaries are provided all prescribed medicines which are procured through Director General (DG) ESIC Rate Contract (RC), State Govt. Rate contract, etc. If any particular medicine is not available through the rate contract, the same is made available by purchase through locally empaneled chemist(s).

(c) to (e) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) monitors various services provided by ESI hospitals including availability of medicines.