

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1063  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021**

**HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS UNDER ESIC**

**1063 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:**

**SHRI SANJAY SETH:**

**Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) would extend benefits of its health insurance cover to all casual and contractual workers at municipal bodies;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the aims and objectives behind the move;**
- (c) whether ESIC facilities are not being given to most of the employees working in most of the private companies of the country; and**
- (d) if so, the State-wise details of the steps taken by Government in this regard during the last three years and if no steps have been taken, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b): The State Government is the appropriate Government for extending the coverage of Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 to contract and casual employees of municipal corporations/councils in the respective States. The Central Government has accorded approval, under Section 1(5) of the ESI Act, 1948, for coverage of casual and contractual workers under municipal corporations/ councils of all the States/ Union Territories.**

**Contd..2/-**

**State Governments of Haryana, Bihar, Goa and Jharkhand have already extended the ESI coverage to all casual and contractual workers of municipal bodies. The purpose of the move is to provide ESI benefits to uncovered casual/ contractual employees of municipal corporations/councils.**

**(c) & (d): The ESI Corporation is providing ESI benefits to eligible private sector employees covered under ESI Act 1948. Presently, ESI Corporation is providing coverage to employees of covered establishments/factories. The wage limit for coverage is Rs.21000/- per month (Rs.25,000/- for persons with disability). As on 31.03.2020, a total of 3.09 crore employee were covered under the ESI Scheme.**

**The ESI Corporation has taken up following steps for increasing ESI coverage to establishment/units:-**

- i. Reduction in rate of ESI contribution from 6.5% to 4% with effect from 01.07.2019 to encourage voluntary compliance.**
- ii. Complete online registration of both employer and employee.**
- iii. Extensive survey is conducted in newly implemented areas.**
- iv. For already covered/ implemented areas, data from various government departments/ organizations is obtained and regular efforts are made to cover such units which are found not covered through survey.**
- v. Apart from regular surveys, special survey drives are also launched from time to time for coverage of uncovered units.**
- vi. Information received from various other sources is also examined at the level of Regional offices & in Headquarters office to cover eligible workers.**

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