

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding increase of wage ceiling for covering of employees under ESI scheme.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Labour Minister Bhupender Yadavji regarding the ESI ceiling limit.

Sir, Employees' State Insurance Scheme is one of the major social security schemes which is benefiting lakhs of workers in our country, both in the organised sector as well as in the unorganised sector. But it is quite unfortunate to note that the wage ceiling limit for entitlement of ESI benefit scheme is Rs. 21,000 per month. This ceiling limit of Rs. 21,000 was fixed in the month of January, 2017. Subsequent to that, many wage revisions have taken place, many long-term agreements have come into force and the cost of living index has also increased very much. Since salary has been enhanced, lakhs of workers are now out of the purview of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. There is a proposal which is pending before the Labour Ministry and that proposal is that the wage ceiling limit may be enhanced to Rs. 50,000 or whatever it may be. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to kindly respond whether the Government is thinking to enhance the wage ceiling limit for ESIS entitlement. If so, I request him to please respond to this serious matter.

So, I urge upon the Government to enhance the wage ceiling limit for ESIS entitlement from Rs. 21,000 to Rs. 50,000 per month so that lakhs of workers in the organised and unorganised sectors will be benefited by means of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. The Employees' State Insurance Scheme is one of the best schemes available in our country through which workers are getting super-speciality treatment like liver transplantation and all other special treatments.

So, kindly enhance the wage ceiling limit to Rs. 50,000 per month. I request him to please respond to this matter because this is a very important issue as far as workers are concerned.

**पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री तथा श्रम और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव):** सरकार के द्वारा नया सोशल सिक्योरिटी कोड आया है। हम यह जानते हैं कि सोशल सिक्योरिटी

कोड, सरकार ने जो नया लेबर कोड पास किया है, उसमें ईएसआईसी का दायरा और स्कोप बढ़ने वाला है। विभिन्न राज्यों में सोशल सिक्योरिटी कोड के अन्तर्गत नियम बनाने का काम जारी है। केवल सोशल सिक्योरिटी कोड आने के बाद संगठित क्षेत्र ही नहीं, असंगठित क्षेत्र में गिग वर्कर्स और प्लेटफॉर्म वर्कर्स जैसे जो लोग हैं, वे भी स्कीम में व्यापक रूप से स्वीकार किये जाएंगे।

श्रम मंत्रालय द्वारा इसके फ्यूचर कैपिसिटी बिल्डिंग के लिए विभिन्न सब-कमेटियों का गठन किया गया है, विभिन्न निर्णय बोर्ड के द्वारा लिए गए हैं। हम जानते हैं कि माननीय सदस्य महोदय ने जिस प्रकार कहा कि वन ऑफ द बेस्ट स्कीम है। हम इसको सोशल सिक्योरिटी कोड के अंतर्गत विस्तृत करने का कार्य कर रहे हैं।

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**माननीय सभापति :** डॉ. सुजय विखे पाटील (अहमदनगर) - उपस्थित नहीं।

श्री बालूभाऊ उर्फ सुरेश नारायण धानोरकर जी।