

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2082  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000  
EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE SCHEME  
P. RAJENDRAN

**Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of workers covered under the Employees State Insurance Scheme in each State during last one year;
- (b) whether the Government have taken steps to enhance the benefits under this scheme; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT ( SHRI MUNI LALL )

(a); A Statement showing progressive coverage of workers under the ESI Scheme as on 31.3.1999 is annexed.

(b) & (c): Review/enhancement of benefits under the ESI Scheme is an on-going process. Keeping in view the resource position of the Employees` State Insurance Corporation ( ESIC ) benefits have been revised from time to time. The Extended Sickness Benefit which was earlier payable for a maximum of 309 days has been extended up to two years. The rate of extended sickness benefit has been enhanced from 62.5% to 70% of the pay. The amount of funeral benefit has been enhanced from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1500/-. The contributory conditions for entitlement to sickness benefit has been reduced from 91 days to 78 days and for maternity benefit from 80 days to 70 days. It has been decided to exempt the employees in receipt of wages up to Rs. 40/- per day from payment of their share of contribution under the ESIS. The ceiling on expenditure on medical care has been enhanced from Rs.500/- per insured persons per annum to Rs.600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.1999. In order to ensure easy availability of super-speciality services through reputed Institutions, tie-up arrangements have been made and a revolving fund has been constituted to grant advances for the beneficiaries ( Insured Persons ).