

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:425

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010

ESI FACILITIES TO UNORGANISED WORKERS

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Meinya Dr. Thokchom

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

(a) whether the Below Poverty Line (BPL) workers and those engaged in the unorganised sector registered under the `Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana` are, at present, permitted to utilise the medical facilities from the designated Employees State Insurance (ESI) hospitals on payment of user charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to amend the Employees` State Insurance Act, 1948 and/or take other measures to facilitate the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 425 TO BE ANSWERD ON 26.04.2010 BY SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD AND DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA REGARDING ESI FACILITIES TO UNORGANISED WORKERS.

The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 presently applies to non-seasonal power using factories employing 10 or more persons and non-power using factories and some specified establishments such as shops, hotels and restaurants, cinemas and preview theatres, road-motor transport undertakings and newspaper establishments employing 20 or more persons. The Act applies to workers in the organized sector. However, necessary amendments in the ESI Act, 1948 are under consideration in the Parliament to enable BPL workers and other unorganised sector workers registered under the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' (RSBY) to utilize the medical facilities from designated ESI hospitals on payment of user charges as may be prescribed.

At present it is not possible to indicate the exact number of RSBY beneficiaries who will be covered by the proposed amendment. The number of RSBY beneficiaries will be determined only after ESI Act is amended and a scheme is formulated in accordance with the amended provisions.