

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1137
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013
COVERAGE OF ESI
J Helen Davidson;Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for extending the benefit of Employees State Insurance (ESI) coverage to all employees irrespective of the labour strength of the Organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of employees presently benefited from ESI schemes, State-wise;
- (d) the minimum wages fixed for a person who can avail the ESI facilities at present; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal to revise the rates/wages for such persons and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

- (a) & (b): No, Madam. Employees State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948 is applicable to employees working in the organized sector i.e. factories and establishment which are situated in implemented area only with a threshold of coverage of 10 employees. Extension of scheme to all units is not viable due to issues relating to enforcement of the Act and feasibility of setting of necessary infrastructure viz. dispensaries and hospitals.
- (c): The State-wise details of Employees under ESI Medical Benefit Scheme as on 31.03.2012 is annexed.
- (d): Under the ESI Act, 1948 the Employees drawing wages upto Rs. 15000/- per month are eligible to avail ESI facilities subject to the applicable contributory conditions. The ceiling of wages for persons with disability is Rs.25,000/- per month. There is no minimum wage limit for availing ESI facilities.
- (e): No, Madam.