

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:251
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
WELFARE MEASURES FOR LABOURERS
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) the progress made by the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in setting up of medical colleges, nursing colleges etc. to meet the shortage of professionals in ESIC, in various parts of the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether sufficient funds have been earmarked for the purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the welfare measures for the workers/labourers in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 251 FOR 07.12.2009 BY SHRI KACHHADIA NARANBHAI REGARDING WELFARE MEASURES FOR LABOURERS.

The State-wise list of the proposed medical colleges, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences & Research and Dental Colleges to be set up by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation is at Annexure. The Medical Colleges, Post Graduate Institutes of Medical Science & Research (PGIMSR) and Dental Colleges are to be set up in a phased manner. In the first phase, it has been decided to set up 07 Post Graduate Institutes of Medical Science & Research and 01 Dental College from the academic session 2010-11 as per the details given below:

1. ESI-PGIMSR – ESI Hospital, K.K. Nagar, Chennai
2. ESI-PGIMSR – ESI Hospital, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore
3. ESI-PGIMSR – ESI Hospital, Basaidarapur, New Delhi
4. ESI-PGIMSR – ESI Hospital, Manicktala, Kolkata
5. ESI-PGIMSR – ESI Hospital, Joka, Kolkata
6. ESI-PGIMSR – ESI Hospital, Andheri (E), Mumbai
7. ESI-PGIMSR – ESI Hospital, MGM-Parel, Mumbai
8. ESI-Dental College – Rohini, New Delhi

(a) ESI-PGIMSR: The Post Graduate Institutes of Medical Science & Research (PGIMSR) are being established for the academic session 2010-2011 in the existing ESI Hospitals having 300 beds.

The progress made so far is as follows:

1. The process of appointment of teaching faculty i.e. Dean/ Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor is in progress. Deans on contractual basis in 5 ESI-PGIMSR have joined.
2. Infrastructure: Upgradation of the infrastructure is in progress.
3. Medical Equipments: The above PGIMSRs are being upgraded in respect of medical equipments to meet the requirements of Medical Council of India.

4. Inspection: Inspections are in progress by the Medical Council of India for grant of Letter of Permission for starting Post Graduate Courses by the Central Government/Medical Council of India.

(b) Dental College: The applications have been submitted to the Central Government (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) for Letter of Intent/Letter of Permission for Academic Session 2010-2011. The creation of the infrastructure for the first year BDS including medical equipments is in progress and for recruitment of faculty on deputation/contract basis, interviews have been completed. For the rest of the Medical Institutes, action is being taken for construction/upgradation. Sufficient funds are earmarked for the purpose of these institutions. A provision of Rs. 150 crores has been made in Budget Estimates 2009-2010 for purchase of equipment for setting up of Medical Colleges and PGIMSRs. Also a provision of Rs. 738.13 crores has been made in Budget Estimates 2009-2010 for construction of Hospitals/Dispensaries that includes construction of Medical Colleges and PGIMSRs.

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has taken the following measures to enhance the welfare measures for the insured persons covered under the ESI scheme:

i) Physically challenged Insured Persons (IPs) drawing upto Rs. 25,000/- per month covered and employers contribution to be borne by Central Government.

ii) The duration of unemployment allowance has been enhanced from six months to one year.

iii) Employees' share of contribution exempted up to Rs. 70 per day w.e.f. 1.8.2007.

iv) Daily rate of sickness benefit enhanced from 50% to 60% of wage and that of disablement and dependants benefit from 70% to 75% of wage w.e.f. 1.12.2007.

v) Basic rates of Permanent Disablement Benefit and Dependants Benefit have enhanced ranging from 1% to 464% in February, 2008.

vi) Rate of confinement expenses payable to insured women for confinement outside ESI Hospitals raised from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2500 w.e.f. 1.12.2008.

vii) Rate of Funeral Expenses raised from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 5000 w.e.f. 1.9.2009.

viii) In order to provide a safety net to the workers covered under the ESI Scheme who lose their jobs due to closure of factories/establishments/retrenchment or due to permanent disability arising as a result of non-employment injury, a scheme of 'Unemployment Allowance' called the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' was introduced with effect from 01.04.2005. Under this Scheme, after being insured for three or more years, the beneficiary is entitled to Unemployment Allowance in cash equal to 50 per cent of their wages up to one year during their entire service.

ix) The Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2009 with comprehensive amendments to the ESI Act, 1948 which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 07.08.2009 with the aim of providing improved benefits to the workers, is also under consideration of the Standing Committee on Labour.

x) There is a plan to make Employees' State Insurance Corporation completely IT-enabled to have better delivery of services at ESIC Branch Offices, Regional Offices, Dispensaries and Hospitals with a view to provide services any where at any ESI institution. There will be online registration of employers and insured persons as well as complete data base about payment of contributions, various kinds of information for users, etc. Two cards will be issued under this project to the Insured Persons for self and his family members to allow treatment to the family members at a different location when the insured person is working outside his residence. There will be on-line history of medical treatment of the insured person on the card to facilitate faster treatment at a new location on a anytime, anywhere basis.