

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3662  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2014  
HEALTH CARE ACCESS PROJECTS UNDER ESIC  
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**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Employees` State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has launched a new project to give the labour force wider access to healthcare;
- (b) if so, the details of the project;
- (c) whether the project has been launched on pilot basis and if so, the names of States where the project has been launched; and
- (d) the time by which the said project is likely to cover all the other States?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (d): The State Governments are required to ensure availability of dedicated primary and secondary health care facilities for Employees State Insurance beneficiaries in an area, before it is brought under the coverage of the ESI Act. At times, the State Governments face difficulty in providing such dedicated medical care facilities because of non-availability of adequate number of ESI beneficiaries required for opening the dispensary in the area or for other reasons.

The 'Wider Access' initiative aims to provide medical facilities to potential ESI beneficiaries under the general health system in areas where it may not be feasible for the State Government to provide medical facilities for ESI beneficiaries through ESI System.

A 'Concept Note' on this initiative was circulated to all the States for obtaining their in-principle consent to implement it. The Governments of Karnataka and Chhattisgarh have agreed to implement the initiative on pilot basis and accordingly they have identified two areas each.

The wider access initiative is available to all the States that may wish to implement it, in the areas of their choice.