

Need to expedite approval for establishment of a 50-bedded ESIC hospital in Kandhamal, Odisha along with upgrading the existing dispensaries in the district ? Laid

SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI (KANDHAMAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of critical and compelling public concern. Kandhamal, an Aspirational District in Odisha with a population of nearly 11 lakh ? over 50% from Scheduled Tribes ? is witnessing increased formal employment in agro-processing, construction, and tribal enterprises. The district has over 8,000 ESIC-insured persons but lacks an ESI hospital. The only dispensary in Phulbani is under-equipped, and the nearest ESI hospitals are over 200 km away, severely affecting access to secondary care. As per ESIC norms, any district with more than 5,000 insured persons and no ESI hospital within 50 km qualifies for a 50-bedded ESI Hospital. Kandhamal also qualifies for priority under Ayushman Bharat, PM-ABHIM, and the Aspirational Districts Programme. I urge the Hon?ble Minister of Labour and Employment to expedite the sanction of a 50-bedded ESI Hospital in Kandhamal, upgrade the existing dispensary with telemedicine and diagnostics, and launch ESIC awareness drives. This will advance healthcare inclusion for underserved tribal populations and support the Government?s vision of equitable social security.