

Regarding revision of rate of ESI beneficiaries

DR. PRABHA MALLIKARJUN (DAVANAGERE): Madam Chairperson, I wish to raise concern about the need to revise the wage ceiling under the ESI Scheme. Currently, workers earning above Rs.21,000 per month are excluded from ESI coverage. This limit has not been revised since 2017, despite rising wages and inflation, resulting in the exclusion of lakhs of vulnerable workers from vital social protection. States like Karnataka have proposed scientific revisions to minimum wages, with the draft notification suggesting monthly wages from Rs.19,000 to over Rs.34,000.

I urge the Government to expedite this process, raise the ESI ceiling to Rs.30,000 per month, institutionalize periodic revisions, and safeguard existing beneficiaries through statutory amendments and stakeholder consultations.

Thank you, Madam.