

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1556  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026**

**SALARY LIMIT FOR WORKERS IN UNORGANIZED SECTOR TO AVAIL  
ESI FACILITIES**

**1556. SHRI M K RAGHAVAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal for the increase in the salary limit from Rs. 21,000 to Rs. 30,000 for workers in the unorganized sector to avail medical treatment at Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals/dispensaries;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether any expert committee or stakeholders recommended an increase in the ESIC Salary threshold and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government is likely to consider to set up ESI dispensaries at Nedunkandam and Kumily in Idukki due to the presence of large number of workers especially in the plantation sector; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

**(a) to (c): The Government has enacted Code on Social Security (CoSS), 2020 with the goal to extend social security to all employees and workers either in the organized or unorganized or any other sectors and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. However, Chapter IV of the CoSS, 2020 relating to Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), will apply on every establishment as defined under Section 2(29) read with the first schedule of the CoSS, 2020, in which ten or more persons are employed. Accordingly, the wage ceiling under ESI Scheme is applicable to the organised sector.**

**Contd..2/-**

**The revision of wage ceiling is undertaken periodically from time to time. The last revision in the wage ceiling for coverage under ESI Scheme was done w.e.f. 01.01.2017, wherein the wage limit was raised from Rs. 15,000/- per month to Rs. 21,000/- per month.**

**(d) & (e): Setting up of ESI dispensaries is an ongoing process. ESIC gives approval for setting up of new ESI dispensaries based on population of Insured Persons (IP) in an area in accordance with the norms of ESIC. As per these norms, for setting up of a two doctor dispensary, a minimum of 3,000 IPs/Projected IPs, in the next three years, within an 8-km radius, is required. In hilly areas, the minimum requirement is 2,000 IPs/ IPs/Projected IPs.**

**The present IP population in the catchment areas of Nedunkandam and Kumily do not fulfil the requisite norms. Accordingly, it is not feasible, at present, to set up ESI dispensaries at these locations, However, there are 03 ESI dispensaries viz. Kattappana, Thodupuzha, Kannan Devan Hills and 01 Dispensary-cum Branch Office at Munnar already functioning in Idukki district of Kerala.**

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