

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding conditions imposed on beneficiaries by Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) to undergo super speciality medical treatment.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, I fully associate with Prof. Saugata Roy. My 'Zero Hour' submission is on denial of super specialty treatment to insured persons under the ESIC, especially to poor cashew workers and other traditional industrial workers.

Madam Speaker, the ESIC imposed conditions such as two years with 156 attendance after the two contribution periods not less than 78 attendance and continuous remittance of four contribution periods for providing super specialty treatment for industrial persons and their dependents vide order dated 7-11-2016 and vide letter dated 9-7-2017. Madam Speaker, according to the new order and the letter, if a poor cashew worker wants to get super specialty medical benefit, she has to complete 156 days of attendance and out of the four contribution periods she should have 78 attendance during the particular contribution period, and in minimum two contribution periods 78 attendance is also required.

Madam, owing to this order, most of the insured persons are ousted from the benefit of super specialty treatment. The cashew workers and other weaker sections among the insured persons are ousted from the benefit of super specialty treatment.

The orders of the Corporation ousting the poor workers from the purview of the super-speciality treatment are not justified and need to be reviewed. ... (*Interruptions*)

On the 31st July, 2017, during Question Hour, I had raised a pointed question to the hon. Minister and the then Labour Minister had assured this House that the order denying super-speciality treatment to the poor and marginalised sections of the workers, especially the cashew workers would be relaxed and reviewed. ... (*Interruptions*) It is quite unfortunate to see that even after giving an assurance in the Lok Sabha during the Question Hour that the order would be relaxed and reviewed so far nothing is done. I would request the hon. Parliamentary Affairs to protect the interest of the Members and the assurance given in this House. ... (*Interruptions*)

The hon. Labour Minister is also here. He may kindly respond to the issue of denial of treatment to the poor and marginalised sections of the workers. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mullappaly Ramachandran, Adv. Joice George, Shri M.B. Rajesh and Dr. Kulamani Samal are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.

... (*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप सहायोगी बन सकते हैं।

...(व्यवधान)