

Message by Hon'ble Union Minister of Labour and Employment



Dear Friends,

It's a matter of immense pleasure for me to talk about the ever-expanding family of ESIC. We are reaching out to more and more people with each passing day. In fact, ESIC has ushered in a sort of revolution in the field of Social Security, and ESI Scheme has been a boon for the entire workforce, spread across the length and breadth of our vast nation.

ESIC is scaling new heights and spreading its wings. Today, the Corporation is covering almost 5.00 lakhs establishments having 143 lakhs Insured

Persons and about 560 lakhs ESI beneficiaries. The benefits are being delivered through its strong infrastructure of 148 Hospitals, 1388 Dispensaries and 859 offices across the country. We have also made certain amendments in the ESI Act to bring in more people under its umbrella. Now factories or establishments having 10 or more employees are also covered. The wage-ceiling limit has also been increased from ₹ 10,000/- to ₹ 15,000/- per month. These two steps will increase the Social Security net to the workers in the organized sector both vertically as well as laterally. The cash benefits being provided under the Scheme are also constantly being revised in terms of quantity and quality without increasing the rates of contribution. Such improvements have been brought in Unemployment Allowance (Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana), vocational rehabilitation etc. In an endeavor to reach out to the beneficiaries and make the system more accessible to them, long-term benefits such as Permanent Disablement and

Dependants Benefits are being directly credited to the bank account of the beneficiaries, through ECS system. This way, the beneficiary receives the benefit at his home.

The unprecedented success of ESI Scheme's is attributed to the active participation by employers too. Hence, they are one of the important stakeholders of the Corporation. Better relations with employers, is our priority. In the process, the Corporation has introduced a Self-Certification Scheme for the employers. To arrive at an amicable settlement of legal disputes with the employers, an Amnesty Scheme is also in vogue. The post of Insurance Inspectors has been rechristened as Social Security Officers to spread the message of Social Security coverage.

We are simultaneously strengthening our healthcare service network, so that our Insured Persons can avail world-class medical facilities. Modernization and upgrading of all Hospitals is being done in a phased manner, to bring them at par with private corporate hospitals. Hospital Development Committees have been constituted for bringing about improvements in day to day functioning and availability of various facilities in the Hospitals. ESIC is also building Super Specialty Hospitals under its own umbrella. Cashless medical facilities are also being provided through tie-up arrangements with reputed private as well as other Government Hospitals.

Amongst the many futuristic initiatives being taken, the most ambitious is, the implementation of IT Roll Out Plan named "PROJECT PANCHDEEP" for comprehensive IT enablement in all ESIC establishments. Nearly, 2000 locations in all parts of the country have been networked and smart cards, named as "Pehchan Card" are being issued to all the IPs and their family. This will enable them to avail ESI services and facilities 'anywhere-anytime' in the country.

The Corporation has now entered the field of Medical Education. This, besides catering to the needs of quality medical and para-medical HR

requirements of the Corporation, would also enhance the overall healthcare scenario in the country.

We believe that a healthy workforce makes a prosperous nation. ESIC has indeed achieved many milestones. The ESIC has a vision of providing Social Security Cover to all the workers in the lower wage bracket in the organized sector within next five to ten years, with the following objectives-

- To provide prompt delivery of services to our stakeholders
- Augmenting better coordination and awareness of the Scheme among all stakeholders
- Prompt handling of Grievances
- Developing potential skills and positive human relations

With this cherished vision, we wish that ESIC is established as a brand symbolizing excellence in service. It hopes to become a shining example to follow for all the service delivery organizations in the public sector. The staff and the officers of the Corporation are a determined team for making this Social Security Organization one of the best in the world. I am confident that this goal will be achieved with the involvement and active co-ordination of all the stakeholders of ESI Scheme.

JAI HIND

(Mallikarjun Kharge)
Minister of Labour & Employment
Government of India