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**PRESS RELEASE**

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME OF INDIA LIKE ESI SCHEME, RSBY AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD – SHRI  
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

Inaugural Function of ESIC's DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR On 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011

**Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Hon'ble Minister of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India has said that the ESI Scheme is one of the best Social Security Schemes in the world. The Hon'ble Minister inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation as it entered its 60<sup>th</sup> year of existence.**

The ESI Corporation is celebrating the Diamond Jubilee year from 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 to February, 2012. During this year-long celebration, special emphasis will be laid upon bringing more and more workers under the integrated social security of ESI Scheme. Shri Kharge also called for co-operation from the State Govts. for better running of the Scheme. **To mark ESIC's entry into the Diamond Jubilee Year on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 at Vigyan Bhawan**, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge announced a series of new initiatives. ESIC has planned to strengthen primary health services by putting up one Medical Kit in each Dispensary containing the basic equipments like B.P. instrument, Glucometer, Nebulizer.

To extend and strengthen preventive, promotive and other out-reach activities, one Mobile Wellness Van will be provided in each ESIC Hospital during the Diamond Jubilee Year. The first Wellness Van was flagged off by the Hon'ble Minister.

In co-ordination with the State Govts., one ESI Dispensary each in the State will be upgraded by the ESI Corporation as Model Dispensary cum Diagnostic Centre. Shri Kharge unveiled the model of the Dispensary cum Diagnostic Centre. A book titled "6 Decades of Inspiring Hope" depicting the rich history of ESIC since 1952 was released by the Hon'ble Minister. Shri Kharge presented the letters of Permission issued by Medical Council of India, to the Director General, ESIC for running Post-Graduate courses in 5 ESI Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences & Research at Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai.

**Shri Prabhat C. Chaturvedi, Secretary, Labour & Employment, Govt. of India released the Revenue Manual of ESIC.** Shri Ravi Mathur, Addl. Secretary, L&E released the Calendar of Activities for the Diamond Jubilee Year for ESIC.

**Dr. C.S. Kedar, Director General, ESIC delivered the welcome address and pronounced commitments of the Corporation towards the stakeholders to be fulfilled by the end of the Diamond Jubilee Year. These commitments have the sole objective of better services and reaching out to the stakeholders.**

The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 was the first major legislation in Independent India for providing comprehensive Social Security to the workers in the organized sector. The first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the ESI Scheme by becoming its first Honoured Insured Person on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1952. Since then, during unforeseen crisis, the Scheme has supported millions of insured workers and their immediate dependants to live on with dignity. The ESI Corporation will complete 60 years of its functioning and services on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.

The Corporation has come a long way starting from just 25000 Insured Persons. Today, it is covering about 1.43 crores families of workers. Now, the Corporation is providing Social Security to more than 5.55 crore beneficiaries, with matchless Cash Benefits and full Medical Care with no limit on individual expenditure. In 1952, the Corporation had only 21 Dispensaries with no ESI Hospital. Today, our infrastructure has increased many folds with 1486 Dispensaries/AYUSH Units and 145 ESI Hospitals. Presently, ESI Medical Care institutions are treating more than 4.5 crore patients, annually. The ESI Scheme started with just 02 centres at Delhi and Kanpur and is today implemented in 787 centres throughout India. Under this Scheme, an amount of Rs. 1626.93 crores was spent on Medical care and Rs. 426.93 crores is disbursed as benefits, in cash, in 2009-10. By guaranteeing good medical care and a host of cash benefits and other benefits, the Scheme has helped keep India's workforce healthy and productive. Today, as ESIC enters its Diamond Jubilee Year, every stakeholder looks back with pride at the outstanding achievements and progress made over the years. ESIC is going for a year long special drive for covering more & more workers under the Social Security cover of ESI Scheme.

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