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Press Release

- **ESIC goes for extending the coverage aspect of ESI Scheme in new States and geographical areas.**
- **Construction site workers also to get ESI coverage.**

ESIC has taken steps for implementation of the programmes listed in “ESIC’s 2nd Generation Reform Agenda i.e. ESIC 2.0” within the stipulated time frame. ESIC 2.0 has been launched by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister on 20.7.2015. In continuation to taking the Reforms Agenda further, ESIC will be extending its coverage for bringing more and more workers under the Social Security umbrella of ESI Scheme.

The ESI Scheme has been implemented in 31 States/Union Territories till date as of now. Now, ESIC is taking steps to bring Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Andaman & Nicobar Island (remaining States/UT) under the coverage of ESI Scheme so that the workers of organized sector of these States/UT are provided the social security benefits. The timeline scheduled for this purpose has been fixed 31st December, 2015.

The ESI Scheme is being implemented geographical area wise, in a phased manner, keeping industrial/commercial clusters on priority. As of now, ESI Scheme is covered in 830 centres (major industrial/commercial clusters) involving 2.03 crores IPs. Although these centres belong to 393 districts of the country, but whole areas of these districts are not covered under ESI Scheme. ESIC is to cover whole of these 393 districts by 31st March, 2016.

ESIC is also now going to cover the Construction site Workers under the ESI Scheme thereby enabling them to avail benefits of complete medical care (from primary to tertiary medical care), as well as a range of cash benefits in times of exigencies of employment injury, death, disablement, maternity and unemployment. Construction activity has been covered by the ESIC under Sec. 1(5) treating them as establishment.

ESIC - A Complete Social Security Organization

It may be noted that the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation is a complete and pioneer Social Security Organization. The additional covered workers as well as already covered workers of ESIC get the following benefits being provided by the ESI Scheme:-

1. The **Sickness Benefit** is paid to the insured person at the rate of 70% of the average daily wages up to 91 days in two consecutive Benefit periods.
2. The **extended sickness benefit** is admissible at the rate of 80% the average daily wages for 124 days during a period of two years, extendable up to two years on medical advice.
3. Under the **disablement benefit**, the insured person who becomes disabled due to employment injury is paid 90% of the average daily wages as long as temporary disablement lasts. For permanent or total disablement, 90 % of the average daily wages is paid **for whole life** and for permanent partial disablement; the Insured Person is paid proportionate to the loss of earning capacity as determined by the medical board.

4. **Dependants' benefit** is paid at the rate of 90 % of the average daily wages sharable in fixed proportion among all dependents if the insured person dies of death due to employment injury. This is payable to the widow for life or until her re-marriage and also to the dependent children till the age of 25 years and also to the dependent parents, subject to conditions. In an endeavour to reach out to the beneficiaries and make the system more customer friendly, long-term benefits such as Permanent Disablement and Dependants Benefits are being credited to the bank account of the beneficiaries through ECS System.
5. The **maternity benefit** is paid at the rate of 100% of the average daily wages up to 12 weeks in case of confinement, up to 6 weeks in case of miscarriage. This can be extended by one month on medical advice in case of sickness arising out of pregnancy, confinement and miscarriage. The total Expenditure incurred during 2013-14 on cash benefit payments is Rs. 598.69 crores from which one can assess the huge support extended by ESIC to its IPs at the time of distress, which otherwise should have put extra burden on the low income bracket of the workforce of the country
6. One of the biggest benefits extended by ESIC is **Medical Benefit** which provides 'Reasonable medical Care' (from primary OPD services, In-patient secondary services to Super Specialty Services) for self and family from day one of entering insurable employment which continues till the insured person remains in insurable employment. Treatment is provided through Allopathy and AYUSH system of medicines. ESIC Dispensaries and Hospitals are providing the necessary medical treatment. Super speciality treatment is provided through in-house super speciality facilities available in some of ESI Hospital or ESI-PGIMSRs or through large number of advance medical institutions on referral basis through more than 1000 tie-up hospitals across the Country. In such cases, ESIC makes direct payment to the hospitals without putting any financial burden on the patient or his family.
7. Medical Benefit is also extended to the widow/ spouse of the deceased/ retired/ **superannuated Insured Persons** as well as to the widow/ spouses of Insured Persons who ceases to be in an insurable employment on account of permanent disablement, and also to the widows of Insured Persons who are in receipt of Dependant's Benefit.
8. Other Benefits include **confinement expenses** for an Insured Woman or an IP in respect of his wife in case confinement occurs at a place where necessary medical facilities under ESI Schemes are not available, for which Rs. 5000/ is paid up to two confidants only.
9. Rs. 10,000/- is paid as **funeral expenses** in case of death of an insured person.
10. **vocational training** in case of physical disablement due to employment injury for which the actual fee charged or Rs. 123/- per day, whichever is higher is paid as long as the vocational training lasts.
11. **Un-employment Allowance** under RGSKY is payable in case of involuntary loss of employment due to closure of factory, retrenchment or permanent invalidity due to non-employment injury and contribution for three years prior to the loss of employment, 50 % the average daily wages is payable for a maximum period of twelve months during life time. Under RGSKY, in case of involuntary loss of employment, **skill up gradation training** is provided for duration of maximum 6 months, so that the IP can enhance his skill and opt for other jobs.

12. In order to **encourage employment of disabled persons**, the employers' share of contribution in respect of such disabled employees is paid by the Central Government for initial three years. Permanently disabled persons working in factories and establishments covered under ESI Act and drawing wages up to Rs. 25,000/- per month have been brought under the scheme w.e.f.1.4.2008.

ESI Scheme is a labour welfare scheme for providing social security benefits including reasonable health-care.

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