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PRESS RELEASE

ESIC will run 03 Medical Colleges and give first choice to State Govts. in running 08 other Medical Colleges -- says Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment (I/C), Govt. of India.

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment (I/C), Govt. of India has informed that the ESIC would continue with already running three **Medical Colleges at Rajajinagar, Bangalore (Karnataka), K.K. Nagar, Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Joka, Kolkata (W.B.) and one Dental College at Rohini (Delhi)**. He further informed that the ongoing PG courses would also continue on similar lines.

The Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment (IC) was addressing a Press Conference today on this issue at the Union Labour & Employment Ministry, New Delhi. Shri Shankar Aggarwal, Secretary, Labour & Employment Ministry and Shri Anil Kumar Agarwal, Director General, ESIC were also present in the Press Conference. Shri Dattatreya also said that ESIC will not undertake any more Medical Education Projects. The Minister also said that ESIC will focus on its core function of providing social security to IPs.

Presently, ESIC is running 04 Medical Colleges and one Dental College. Besides this, 08 more Medical Colleges are under construction.

The core function of ESIC is to provide social security i.e. cash benefit and medical benefit to the Insured Persons under the ESI Scheme. It was felt that it would help the ESIC in concentrating at its core function if the ESIC exited from the field of Medical Education. Accordingly, the ESI Corporation in its 163rd meeting took a decision to exit from Medical Education and, a decision in this regard was communicated to all concerned in January, 2015. This decision had fully protected the interest of students and most of other stakeholders. However, the students continued to have some apprehensions in this regard. Several representations from Member of Parliaments, parents of students, public representatives and general public were received. In the 164th meeting of the Corporation also, it was reiterated that the interests of the students as well as the Insured Persons should be protected. **Therefore, a revised Circular was issued last week stating that ESIC would continue to admit students at its already running four Medical Colleges and one Dental College.**

ESIC is continuing its efforts to transfer other Medical College projects to State Governments concerned. Letters containing revised terms and conditions have been issued to the concerned State Governments with the request that their reply may be sent to the Central Govt. within the next 15 days failing which it would be presumed that they are not interested in taking over these projects and thereafter, effort will be made to run these Medical Colleges under PPP Model etc.

There are sufficient IPs in the catchment area of the proposed ESIC **Medical Colleges in Faridabad (Haryana), Sanathnagar, Hyderabad (Telengana) and Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu).** It has been proposed that the State Governments may run these Medical Colleges with attached Hospitals as ESI Hospital. In case favourable response from these State Governments is not received, ESIC would run these Medical Colleges either in PPP model or on its own.

The IPs in the catchment area of the **already running ESIC Medical College in Gulbarga (Karnataka)** are not sufficient to run a 500 bedded ESI hospital, which is an essential condition for getting permission of the Medical Council of India. This Medical College is running under a tie-up arrangement with the State Government Hospital in Gulbarga. The ESIC shall continue to admit students at this Medical College. The State Government has been requested to take over this college and run the attached Hospital as General Hospital. If the response of the State Government is not favorable, ESIC would examine to run the college in PPP mode.

The IPs in the catchment area in four other locations, i.e., **Mandi (Himachal Pradesh), Alwar (Rajasthan), Paripally (Kerala) and Bihta, Patna (Bihar)** are not sufficient to run a 500 bedded ESI hospital. Therefore, it is proposed to transfer these institution to State Government concerned for running the Medical College with attached Hospital as General Hospital. If the response of the State Government is not favourable, ESIC would examine to run these institutions in PPP model, failing which the assets may be divested.

One of the important conditions of transfer of Medical Colleges is that the IPs should continue to get treatment in these hospitals in cashless manner. Other conditions are that reservation for 'wards of IPs' should continue to be available as per the existing policy and State Governments should either bear the balance liability or share 50% of revenue from the project with ESIC.

The proposed ESIC Medical College project in **Basaidarapur, Delhi**, would be, in the interest of IPs, modified into a Centre of Excellence for providing enhanced secondary care as well as Super Speciality Treatment facility for ESI beneficiaries.

ESIC will neither set up any other Medical College nor any other new Medical Education institution.
