

Regarding need to enhance the salary coverage ceiling of ESIC to Rs. 25,000 and bring the state controlled ESIC dispensaries under direct ESIC management-Laid

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I wish to raise the following matter under Rule 377 regarding urgent reforms required in the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). At present, the ESIC salary coverage ceiling excludes a large number of workers despite rising wages and cost of living. The ceiling must be immediately enhanced to ■25,000 per month to expand social security coverage to low- and middle-income workers. Further, cashew workers and other seasonal employees are denied access to specialty and advanced medical treatment due to rigid minimum contributory day requirements, despite regular contributions during employment. Necessary relaxations and exemptions must be provided in view of the seasonal nature of their work. It is also necessary to bring ESIC dispensaries presently under State Government control directly under the ESIC Corporation to ensure uniform standards, adequate staffing and timely supply of medicines. Additionally, ESIC must acquire land and buildings for dispensaries operating in rented premises to improve infrastructure and patient care. I urge the Government to take immediate action on these issues in the interest of worker welfare and social security.