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Press Release

RELIEF TO MIGRANT WORKERS : TO GIVE AN OPTION TO INSURED WOMEN/INSURED PERSONS THROUGH AN EMPLOYER TO REGISTER TWO DISPENSARIES - ONE FOR SELF AND OTHER FOR FAMILY

The ESI Corporation under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. Of India in its Chintan Baithak of 171st meeting of ESI Corporation held on 18.2.2017 at Kochi gave its approval for giving an option to Insured Women/Insured Persons through the employer to register two Dispensaries - one for Self and other for family. **Shri Bandaru Dattatreya**, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, Govt. of India/Chairman, ESIC chaired the meeting.

In the existing process which started with the rolling out of Project Panchdeep, the Insured Woman/Insured Person is mapped against a dispensary/IMP by the employer from where Insured Woman/Insured Person and their family can avail the services. This existing design maps the number of Insured Person against the concerned dispensary/IMP which further is the main criteria for decision making regarding dispensary infrastructure including manpower/medicines etc., empanelment of IMP and also for starting of discontinuing dispensary/IMP facilities in a particular geographical area.

However, it is the ground reality that good number of Insured Persons are immigrants with families residing at their home towns. Even where the family is residing with the Insured Woman/Insured Person, due to the sheer size of cities/towns/industrial areas, there are numerous cases where the place of work and residence of Insured Woman/Insured Person are at considerable distance. Under such circumstances, being mapped to only one dispensary/IMP means that either the Insured Woman/Insured Person has to forego half a day/one day's work and consequently wages thereof to avail medical facilities or the family has to travel in physically unfit/sick condition to allocated distant dispensary/IMP. This has also resulted in frequent changing of dispensary/IMP by the employer on Insured Woman/Insured Person's request. Thus under the existing process, not only the INSURED WOMEN/Insured Persons and family are inconvenienced but it also adversely affects the decision making process of the Corporation.

In emergency situation Insured Woman/Insured Persons and family can go to any ESI Dispensary/Hospital, in the country, even after implementation of 'One INSURED PERSON – Two Dispensaries, as centralized database allows dispensary/hospital to view details of Insured Woman/Insured Person's and family anywhere in the country.

(i) An Insured Woman/Insured Person will be empowered through his employer to choose one dispensary/IMP for herself/himself and second dispensary/IMP for family. This facility will be extended to all INSURED WOMEN/Insured Persons' irrespective of whether their family resides with them or at a separate location. Also the Insured Woman/Insured Person shall be allowed to avail medical services from the dispensary/IMP selected for family at all times and vice-versa.

(ii) If the residence of Insured Woman/Insured Person and family fall under jurisdiction of different states, then on-account payment to State Govt. for Insured Woman/Insured Person and family shall be apportioned on 50:50 basis among such states. However, if the

Insured Woman/Insured Person and family, though residing in separate locations, live within the geographical boundaries of one state, there will be no new financial consideration involved.

ESI Scheme in India :

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation is a pioneer Social Security organization providing comprehensive social security benefits like reasonable Medical Care and a range of Cash Benefits in times of need such as employment injury, sickness, death etc. The ESI Act applies to factories/establishments where 10 or more persons are employed. The employees drawing wages up to Rs.21,000/- a month are entitled to health insurance cover and other benefits, under the ESI Act. The Act now applies to over 7.83 lakh factories and establishments across the country, benefiting about 2.13 crores family units of workers. As of now, the total beneficiary population of ESI Scheme stands over 8.28 crores. Ever since its inception in 1952, the ESI Corporation has, so far, set up 151 Hospitals, 1467/159 Dispensaries / ISM Units, 813 Branch/Pay Offices and 62 Regional & Sub-Regional/Divisional Offices.
