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Press Release

Foundation stone laying of 100 bedded ESIC Hospital at Srinagar on 21.12.2020

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, Govt. of India laid the Foundation Stone of 100 bedded ESIC Hospital at Srinagar on **21.12.2020**. Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir was the Chief Guest of this function.

The other dignitaries who graced the occasion were Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Shri Farooq Khan, Advisor to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, J&K, Shri B.V.R Subhramanyam, Chief Secretary, J&K, Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India, Smt. Anuradha Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoLE, GoI & Director General, ESIC and Shri Saurabh Bhagat, Secretary, L&E, J&K.

While addressing the gathering, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, Govt. of India informed about various initiatives taken by the government of India to provide better care and services to the workers of India.

During his address, **Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar**, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment also informed about recently passed three Labour Codes. He emphasized that with passage of these bills more workers will get the benefits of social security. He further informed that these bills will also ensure the ease of doing business.

He informed that ESIC has been working continuously since its inception to provide social security to its Insured Persons, who are low income workers and now its reach is going to increase many folds from present number of approximately 13 Crore beneficiaries base, as with passage of Social Security Code, the ESI Scheme will be implemented in the entire country as against the Notified Districts of the country, at present.

The Hon'ble Minister informed that ESIC has taken number of measures to provide financial relief and health protection to Insured Workers as well general public during the covid pandemic. He further intimated that the rate of unemployment relief payable under **Atal Bimit Kalyna Yojna** has been enhanced from 25% to 50% of average wages with relaxation in qualifying criteria to the insured workers who became unemployed due to COVID-19 induced lockdown for a further period of six months i.e. upto 30th June, 2021.

Further, ESIC is actively contributing in the management of Covid-19. A total of 21 ESIC Hospitals across India functioned as COVID-19 Dedicated Hospitals to exclusively provide COVID medical services to the general public also of the area.

He also informed that ESIC has collaborated with PMJAY – Ayushman Bharat for providing medical services in those areas where facilities of ESI Scheme are not available. He also informed that a new scheme "Aatm Nirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana has been launched to incentivise creation of new employment opportunities.

Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble LG, J&K lauded the efforts being undertaken by Central Govt. to develop the Union Territory. He further stressed upon the commitment of Central Government to provide quality medical care to the people of J&K. He further assured full cooperation of State Govt. in running the upcoming hospital.

The other dignitaries present during the event acknowledged the efforts of central govt. and assured the state government cooperation. The project is expected to be completed in one and a half years.

This 100 bedded ESIC Hospital for which the foundation is laid, will be built in a 5 acres land with an approximate cost Rs. 160 Crores. After commencing of this ESIC Hospital, the facilities such as casualty/emergency, OPD, IPD, wards, Diagnostic Services, Pharmacy, ICU, Operation Theatres, Ayurvedic & Homeopathy Units and many more will be provided to the ESI beneficiaries of primarily Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag and Kulgam regions.

ESI Scheme in Jammu & Kashmir

Starting with coverage of 7000 workers at 3 centres in year 1989, the ESI Scheme at present is implemented in the entire geographical area of 8 districts viz. Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Reasi, Udhampur, Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama and in the municipal areas (District Hqrs.) of remaining 12 districts of the J&K covering about 6000 factories/establishments providing benefits to 1.33 lakh Insured Persons.

Cash benefit to the insured persons and their dependents is provided through a Branch Office at Jammu and 05 Dispensary-cum-Branch Offices. Medical benefit is provided through a 50 bedded ESIC Model Hospital at Bari-Brahmana, Samba, 05 Dispensary-cum-Branch Offices (DCBOs) and 08 ESI Dispensaries. Tie-up arrangement for secondary care and super specialty treatment and investigations has also been made with a number of nursing homes/hospitals/diagnostic centres in the Region.
