

Standing Committee Report Summary

The Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2008

- The Standing Committee on Labour submitted its 36th Report on 'The Employees State Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2008' on December 19, 2008. The Chairperson was Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy.
- The Committee recommends that while the interest of the insured persons should not be compromised, the medical benefits proposed for other beneficiaries who are not covered by the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) should be adequate and at par with that of the insured persons.
- The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana was launched to cover below poverty line families in the unorganised sector. The total sum of insurance will be Rs 30,000 per family per annum on a family floater basis for which the premium will be shared by the central and state governments. The Committee recommends that the scheme should clearly identify the medical conditions which will be covered within the ceiling of the insured amount as the treatment cannot be discontinued midway if the insurance amount is exhausted for the year. Also, there should be a uniform mechanism for implementation of the scheme so that there is no ambiguity.
- Since the medical services of the ESIC are underutilised, the Bill seeks to allow beneficiaries other than the insured persons to utilise these facilities. However, it is important to ascertain the quality of its medical services. The Committee suggests that the government should initiate steps to improve the quality of the services so as to make the scheme sustainable and user friendly.

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