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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 107th MEETING OF THE REGIONAL BOARD,
ESI CORPORATION (KERALA) HELD ON 22.01.2018 AT
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

The 107th Meeting of the ESIC Regional Board (Kerala) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri. T.P.Ramakrishnan, Honourable Minister for Labour & Skills, Government of Kerala on 22.01.2018 at 2.00 PM in the Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram.

The following members were present in the Meeting:-

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| Shri. T.P. Ramakrishnan,
Hon'ble Minister for Labour & Skills,
Government of Kerala. Secretariat.
Thiruvananthapuram. | Chairman |
| 1. Shri. Tom Jose, IAS,
Additional Chief Secretary (Labour & Skills
Department).
Government of Kerala. Secretariat.
Thiruvananthapuram. | Vice-Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Devadasan.O,
State Medical Commissioner (Kerala),
ESI Corporation,
Regional Office, Thrissur. | Member |
| 3. Dr. Ajitha Nair,
Director, Insurance Medical Services,
Thycaud. Thiruvananthapuram. | Member |

Shri. V.Radhakrishnan,

Member. ESI Corporation & BMS State Vice

5. President,

Member

Indeevaram, Perumbillissery West,

Cherpu P.O., Thrissur – 680 561.

Shri. K. Suresh Babu,

6. National Secretary, INTUC & Member,

Member

ESI Corporation INTUC Office, Congress Bhavan,

Kollam. Kerala – 691 001.

Shri. N.Padmalochanan,

7. C.I.T.U. Seaview,

Member

Thankassery. Kollam – 691 001.

Shri. P.J.Joy,

8. Ex-MLA. Puthusseri House, M.C. Road,

Member

Angamaly. Ernakulam – 683 572.

Shri. D.Raveendranath,

Head (HR&R), Asianet Satellite Communication

9. Ltd., Registered Office & Corporate Office, 2A, II

Member

Floor, Leela Info Park, Techno Park,

Kazhakootam, Thiruvananthapuram.

Shri. M.A.Abdu Rahiman,

10. Hindustan Tile Works, Kolathara, Feroke,

Member

Kozhikode.

Shri. V.Loorthu,

11. Joint Director i/c. Sub-Regional Office.

Member

ESI Corporation, Kollam.

12. Shri. Jose Martin.C.G,

Member

Deputy Director i/c,

Sub-Regional Office, ESI Corporation, Ernakulam.

Shri. Prasanth.D,

13. Deputy Director i/c,
Sub-Regional Office, ESI Corporation,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Member

Shri. T.M.Joseph,

14. Additional Commissioner & Regional Director
(Kerala). ESI Corporation, Regional Office,
Thrissur.

Member-Secretary

Shri. E.Benjamin, Representative of Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation attended the meeting on behalf of Shri. K.A.Ratheesh, Managing Director of Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation & Member of Regional Board.

Dr. Karan Singh Solanki, Medical Superintendent, ESIC Model Hospital Ashramam. Dr. Pawan Kumar Jain, Medical Superintendent, ESIC Hospital Ezhukone and Dr. Neena.S, Deputy Medical Superintendent, ESIC Hospital Udyogamandal (on behalf of MS) also attended the meeting as special invitees.

Shri. N. Padmalochanan, Hon'ble Member enquired about the delay in conducting Regional Board Meeting as the 106th Meeting of Regional Board was held on 06.06.2017. The Member Secretary informed that the date fixed in December 2017 had to be adjourned. The Hon'ble Chairman advised to hold the meeting regularly and he assured to schedule the date for the next meeting in March itself. Accordingly next meeting was fixed on **16.03.2018**.

Shri. T.M.Joseph, Member-Secretary, welcomed the Chairman and members to the meeting. Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up for discussion with the permission of Chair.

Item No.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 106th Regional Board Meeting of ESI Corporation held on 06.06.2017.

The draft Minutes of the 106th Meeting of the Regional Board ESI Corporation, Kerala held on 06.06.2017, were circulated to all the members of the Regional Board. Since no comments were received from any of the members, the same was approved by the Board.

Item No.2 Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the 106th Meeting of the Regional Board held on 06.06.2017 (Action Taken Report of DIMS)

The Director of Insurance Medical Services presented the Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 106th Meeting of the Regional Board held on 06.06.2017 and the members perused the same given in the agenda as Annexure – A.

1. Shortage of Doctors in ESI Institutions:-

When the Chairman sought the present status of Shortage of Doctors in ESI Institutions, it was reported by Dr. Ajitha Nair, DIMS that there are 465

tioned posts of Assistant Insurance Medical Officers and out of the same they had already reported 103 vacancies to Kerala Public Service Commission. PSC has advised a first batch of 20 candidates from OBC category but only 2 persons joined out of the 20 candidates. Advise for a second batch of 61 doctors from General category was received from PSC, but only 8 persons reported and all the 8 doctors requested for extension of joining time for completion of their PG. However, it was reported by DIMS that all the vacant posts of medical officers are filled through Contract/Employment Exchange/ Part Time doctors. Presently there are only less than 10 vacancies existing.

Shri. V.Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Corporation Member opined to revise the existing Staff Pattern in State Insurance Medical Services, as it is still following the Staff Pattern of the year 1986, with only 1.5 Lakh number of IPs then. Presently there are 10.5 Lakh number of IPs and hence the existing Staff Pattern should be changed. In response, Dr. Ajitha Nair, DIMS informed that the existing staff pattern in State Insurance Medical Services is based on ESI Norms and hence the same cannot be changed. She added that changing of the existing staff pattern will also cause enhancement of administrative expenditure of State Government. The Hon'ble Chairman advised the DIMS to find out the actual position of staff by considering all technical factors and submit a detailed report based on the same. The Hon'ble Chairman constituted a Committee comprising of Dr. Ajitha Nair, DIMS and Shri. Prasanth.D, Deputy Director i/c, ESI Corporation, SRO-Thiruvananthapuram to conduct a detailed study of the existing staff pattern and the adequacy of the available staff strength, considering the current IP strength attached to each dispensary/hospital and suggest suitable measures for improving the medical services with optimal utilization of staff strength and resources.

2. Setting up of new Dispensary:-

Regarding setting up of dispensaries, it was informed by DMS that the State Government has already given sanction for setting up of 18 one Doctor type dispensaries at various locations in the newly implemented areas and further actions in this regard is pending with ESI Corporation. She further stated that the Director General of ESIC informed in the recently held AC & PDs conference at Bengaluru on 23.09.2017 that dispensaries need to be started considering the number of registered IPs. The Member Secretary informed that the DG has sought report on the actual number of employees registered rather than depending upon the figures obtained during pre-implementation surveys. Accordingly, the number of employees registered in the newly implemented areas has been forwarded to Headquarters, which is less than the figures quoted in the pre-implementation survey reports. However, SMC has requested Headquarters permission for starting the 18 dispensaries as sanctioned by the State Government and decision from Headquarters is still awaited. The Hon'ble Chairman stated that the proposal for starting the 18 dispensaries was already received from ESI Corporation, as per the ESIC plan for implementation of the scheme in the entire State of Kerala. The proposal was examined by the State Government and has sanctioned and created new posts for the proposed dispensaries. However now ESIC is not taking steps to start the 18 dispensaries in the newly implemented areas. The Member Secretary informed that the permission from ESIC Headquarters is awaited and further follow-up is being done. The Hon'ble Chairman advised the Member Secretary to speed up the action.

When the members enquired about the repair/renovation work of ESI Dispensary at Polayathode, DIMS informed that the estimate for Special Repair/ARM for ESI Dispensary, Polayathode has already been submitted before the Medical Superintendent, ESIC Hospital, Ashramam. Shri. Suresh Babu, Hon'ble Member suggested to hire KMML Property for accommodation of ESI Dispensary, Chavara. Shri. P.J.Joy, Hon'ble Member enquired whether there is any provision to consider leased property for construction of ESI Dispensary. He also informed that M/s. INDEL is willing to provide their property for 85 years lease period. The Hon'ble Member Secretary informed that ESI Dispensary cannot be constructed on leased property as there is no provision to do so.

Regarding denial of Medical Benefits to ESIC Insured Persons at ESI Medical College, Parippally, it was reported that a meeting was held at Parippally on 09.08.2017 with the Director of Medical Education, Principal and Superintendent of Medical College Hospital, Parippally, Director of Insurance Medical Services, State Medical Commissioner, ESIC and Regional Director. The DIMS informed that the above panel had decided to shift ESI Dispensary, Parippally to the hospital compound after the construction of compound wall, but the hospital authorities have not handed over the proposed building yet. Shri. V.Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Member stated that the State Government is presently violating the MoU signed in September-2015, as the same offered cashless treatment for all ESIC beneficiaries. He further added that ESI Corporation had invested 600 crores of IPs contribution for constructing the Medical College and 32 Acres of land and buildings were handed over to the

State Government for running the Medical College. He requested for reservation of 50 bed for ESIC beneficiaries at ESI Medical College, Parippally. Shri. Padmalochanan, Hon'ble Member stated that the decision taken during the meeting held on 09.08.2017 should be implemented. The Hon'ble Chairman verified the minutes of the meeting held on 09.08.2017 and the DIMS was advised to implement the decisions taken in the meeting immediately and submit a report before the Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Skills Department.

3. Subsidiary Corporation:-

It was informed that meetings were conducted at various levels to discussing the formation of Subsidiary Corporation. The decision of the State Govt. is still awaited.

4. Speciality Eligibility:-

Regarding speciality eligibility, the Director of Insurance Medical Services informed that a proposal had already been submitted to Government for providing reasonable medical care to IPs from day one of enrollment and the file is still pending with the Finance Department. It was also pointed out that as per Section 57 and 58 of the ESI Act, it is within the powers of the State Government to specify the scale of medical benefit to be provided to the insured persons and their dependant family, as its funds may permit.

5. Starting of a Dispensary at Pathanamthitta:-

It was informed that ESI Dispensary, Pathanamthitta has started

functioning from 18.09.20017.

6. Setting up of ESI Dispensary at Adimaly and Munnar:-

The DIMS informed that Adimaly and Munnar are included in the ~~proposed~~ new ESI Dispensaries to be started. [Already discussed in Item No. 3/25]

7. Computerization and Implementation of Dhanwantari Module in ESI Dispensaries and Hospitals:-

It was informed by the DIMS that quarterly training for Dhanwantari Module was conducted at the Insurance Medical Services Directorate Thiruvananthapuram during the period from 23.10.2017 to 27.10.2017. A total number of 160 employees of various categories attended the training programme.

Shri. V.Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Member expressed his displeasure regarding the effective implementation of Dhanwantari Module in ESI Dispensaries. Dr. Ajitha Nair, DIMS informed that constant efforts are being made for the full implementation of the Dhanwantari Module and also explained the difficulties faced by them due to technical issues. She further stated that they have already made attempt to rectify those defects and successfully completed the implementation task in Thiruvananthapuram District with the help of ESIC Sub Regional Office, Thiruvananthapuram. The Hon'ble Chairman advised the DIMS to complete the implementation process in other districts and also requested for proper support and help from the concerned ESIC Offices for resolving the technical / hardware issues. Shri. V.Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble

Member requested to DIMS to make arrangements for ~~provision~~ certificate from ESI Dispensaries for convenience of Insured Persons.

AGENDA ITEMS OF DIMS

1. Starting of 18 new dispensaries:-

The same has already discussed in item no. 2 (2).

2. Handing over of Buildings of ESI Dispensary, Kulasekharapuram, Kadampanad, Vilakudy & Vadavathur:-

Regarding handing over of buildings of ES Dispensary, Kulasekharapuram, Kadampanad, Vilakudy & Vadavathur the Hon'ble Secretary informed that the construction of the above buildings are already over and electricity connection is awaited in Vilakudy. Kulasekharapuram and Kadampanad Dispensaries has already been provided electricity connection and is ready for handing over. The electricity connection at Vadavathur is progressing and may take another 2 weeks.

3. NOC for the construction of new buildings - ESI Hospital, Alappuzha, and ESI Dispensaries at Factory Ward and Pathirappally:-

The Hon'ble Chairman informed that Government of Kerala is willing to construct new buildings for ESI Hospital, Alappuzha, and ESI Dispensaries at Factory Ward and Pathirappally, since these building are in irreparable

condition. But the Corporation has not given NOC for the construction. Tom Jose IAS, Vice Chairman, has requested to take up the matter with ESIC for an early decision.

4. **Reimbursement of Super Speciality Bills of IPs/IWs:-**

The members unanimously expressed their strong objection against the decision taken by the State Medical Commissioner regarding Emergency Super Speciality Treatment Bills. As per the existing prevalent practice Super Speciality Treatment claims, whether it is emergency or not, was being processed and passed by State Medical Commissioner, except during the period from 04/2015 to 08/2015. The SMC returned the Emergency Super Speciality Reimbursement Bills of previous years, on the basis of the discussion & direction of the Director General in the meeting of Additional Commissioners & Regional Directors held on 22.09.2017. The Hon'ble Chairman informed that this cannot be accepted since there is no official communication in this regard from ESIC Headquarters Office. DIMS informed the Board, by citing various ESIC Instructions that the entire expenses on SST has been agreed to be borne by ESIC outside the ceiling, irrespective of being referral or emergency case. The Hon'ble Chairman advised the SMC to follow the existing rules of SST Bills till getting further instruction in this regard from ESIC Headquarters Office. He further added that the SMC should take a lenient view in this matter without violating the rules.

5. **Settlement of 56 Crores:-**

Regarding settlement of 56 Crores, it was informed that the Accountant

General, Kerala has already conducted one round of Audit to which reply was given. A.G Kerala will again visit and carry further Audit, which is awaited.

6. **Reduction from On Account Payment:-**

Regarding deductions from On Account Payment, DIMS informed that the cost of drugs for malignancy and supportive care given to SST patients are being deducted from On Account Payment. It was also pointed out that if any short comings are noticed in the bills, SSMC is deducting the entire bill amount from on account payment without even affording chance to rectify it. DIMS therefore insisted that consent should be obtained from State Government before making any deductions by SSMC from the on account payment. DIMS also informed that the SST drugs given to inpatients also form part of the SST expenses and requested SSMC not to deduct the cost of SST drugs given to inpatients from on account payment. It was also stated that SST oral drugs will be indented and distributed from DIMS office.

The Members stated that no action has been taken yet for tie-up for cashless treatment at Shree Chitra Institute of Medical Sciences and Regional Cancer Centre. As per the communication received from Shree Chitra Institute of Medical Sciences, they are ready to make tie-up arrangement with ESIC on Institutional Rates only and not on CGHS Rates. The Member Secretary informed that ESIC is not in a position to make tie-up at such rates. In the case of RCC, they are currently providing cashless treatment to IP even without tie-up agreement. RCC has informed that they have difficulties in following the tedious bill documentation process specified by ESIC and being a Government Institution, they had requested for a lenient view and minimum documentation.

process. As RCC is a Government Institution and a centre of excellence, tie-up arrangement is highly beneficial and essential to the IPs.

7. Bone Marrow Transplantation - ESI Hospital, Alappuzha

(a) The State Medical Commissioner has denied to pay the Bone Marrow Transplantation bill of Shri. Aswin Krishna (Ins. No. 4805084135) for Rs. 2,03,734/- approved by the Medical Superintendent of ESI Hospital, Alappuzha. Since the case is a Super Speciality Treatment, bill has to be paid by the State Medical Commissioner. The members strongly objected to the stand taken by the SSMC and the Board directed SSMC to clear the bill for the treatment already availed in a tie-up hospital, which was referred to it, in consultation with Headquarters Office.

(b) Super Speciality Treatment Claim of Ms. Gourikrishna (Ins. No. 4805410549) for Extra Corporal Membrane Oxygenation. The case was referred from ESI Hospital, Peroorkada on emergency basis to KIMS, as a life saving measure as the 11 year old had developed complications and gone into ARDS and was not able to maintain Oxygenation. However the emergency treatment expenses were not admitted by SSMC. The Board advised SSMC to take a lenient view in such cases where life saving emergency treatment is availed and to admit the admissible amount in consultation with Headquarters Office.

8. Imprest Money

It has already been requested to allot imprest money for an amount of Rs.

25,000/- at a time to Superintendent of ESI Hospitals and Rs. 25,000/- Insurance Medical Officers of ESI Dispensaries having own budget for emergency requirement. As the imprest money is essential and Medical Superintendents are requesting the above amount from ESI Corporation Commissioner, after passing it in Hospital Development Committee. The Commissioner stated that they have already issued letter to Headquarters Office regarding the same vide letter dated 26.04.2017, but the reply has not been received from Headquarters yet. When the DIMS enquired whether the imprest money is allotted from Improvement Fund, the SMC informed that there are no funds available to do so. DIMS pointed out that the ESI Hospital are finding it very difficult to meet expenses of very urgent nature which may affect their day to day functioning. The Hon'ble Chairman suggested the State Government to follow the same procedure of ESI Corporation in this regard. When the DIMS enquired about the sources of imprest money of ESIC run Hospitals, the SMC informed that the ESIC run Hospitals has imprest limit of Rs. 20,000/- to meet expenses of urgent nature, but the same is not available for State run ESI Hospitals. Since imprest money is to be made available in cash, to meet urgent expenses, and already there is a system in ESIC Hospitals to maintain imprest money of Rs. 20,000/-, the same could be extended to ESI Hospitals.

9. Construction of new buildings for ESI Dispensary, Navaikulam, Koratty & Enathu

It was reported that the construction of new buildings for ESI Dispensary at Navaikulam, Koratty and Enathu has been taken up with the Construction Branch of Headquarters Office.

The Members requested to consider the upgradation of ESI Hospitals Thottada & ESI Hospital Feroke to Super Speciality Hospitals as these places are the ~~main~~ ~~best~~ location for IPs of the whole Malabar Area. ~~The~~ ~~Member~~ ~~pointed~~ ~~out~~ ~~the~~ ~~difficulties~~ ~~facing~~ ~~ESI~~ ~~Hospitals~~ ~~due~~ ~~to~~ ~~lack~~ ~~of~~ ~~specialist~~ ~~doctors~~ and he suggested to utilize the service of retired specialists on contract basis, if necessary. The Member Secretary informed that the Corporation has allotted one Super Speciality Hospital to the Malabar and Kerala region and already has its own Super Speciality Hospital at Puthamam, Kollam. The Hon'ble Chairman advised to consider the upgradation of both ESI Hospital, Thottada & Feroke to Super Speciality Hospitals on priority basis. DIMS was also advised to explore the possibility of engaging retired specialists on contract basis at the ESI Hospitals.

Due to non availability of sufficient time, it was decided to discuss the remaining items of Agenda in the next meeting of Regional Board scheduled to be held on **16th March, 2018 at 2.00 PM** in the Chamber of the Hon'ble Minister for Labour & Skills.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, by the Member Secretary, the meeting came to end at 4.00 PM.

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