

EXTENDED SICKNESS BENEFIT

1. What is Extended Sickness Benefit ?

Extended Sickness Benefit is paid for prolonged illness due to 34 specified diseases, over and above the sickness benefit. Extended sickness benefit may also be sanctioned by the prescribed authority in case of any rare disease or special circumstances on the recommendation of the specified authority.

2. What are the conditions for availing Extended Sickness Benefit ?

The eligibility criteria for availing Extended Sickness Benefit are:

- ❖ Should be an insured person on the date of commencement of spell of extended sickness benefit.
- ❖ Should have been employed continuously for a period of 2 years or more in covered factory or establishment.
- ❖ Continuous employment means that the insured person should have completed four contribution periods immediately preceding the spell of sickness.
- ❖ Contributions should have been paid/payable for 156 days in the above said four contribution period.
- ❖ The insured person should be eligible to claim sickness benefit in at least one of the four contribution periods.

The above conditions may be relaxed on humanitarian grounds, subject to sanction by the appropriate authority and based on the following criterion:-

- ❖ Those who have not completed two years but have paid contributions for 156 days and also qualified for SB in one of the contribution periods.
- ❖ Those who have completed two years and also paid contributions for 156 days, but are not eligible for SB in any contribution period.

3. What is the scale of Extended Sickness Benefit payable ?

The scale of benefit is as follows :-

- ❖ After exhausting 91 days of Sickness Benefit, ESB is payable upto 124/309 days i.e., which includes SB for 91 upto 400 days.
- ❖ Upto 2 years i.e., 730 days in special circumstances or till the insured person attains 60 years, whichever is earlier, subject to recommendations of the appropriate authority.
- ❖ Payable @ 80% of average daily wages.