

C I R C U L A R

Sub.: Contribution to EPS, 1995 on actual (Higher) wages exceeding the wage limit of ₹5000/₹6500 p.m. – exercising of JOINT OPTION FORM – ONLINE - reg.

Reference is invited to this Office circular No.C-DAC(T)/FIN/EPF/H_PENSION/2023/2 dated 19th January 2023 and recent judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on the Civil Appeals of 2022 (Arising out of the Special Leave Petition (C) Nos.8658-8659 of 2019) dated 04th November 2022, on the subject matter.

In this connection, it is brought to notice of all concerned that EPFO has opened its **ONLINE link for Registration request for exercising of Joint options under Para 11(3) and 11(4) of EPS, 1995** for employees who were in service prior to 01/09/2014 and continued to be in service on or after 01/09/2014 but could not exercise joint option under erstwhile proviso to para 11(3) of EPS, 1995. **The above option form is to be exercised by eligible members of EPS, 1995 within the extended time frame of on or before 03rd May 2023** in accordance with para 44(iv) of the order dated 04th November 2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme court in SLP No.8658-8659 of 2019.

Copy of letter issued in this regard by EPFO Headquarters to its field offices is attached herewith for ready reference.

As such, all eligible and willing employees in scale of pay (Regular/GBCs) who being members of EPS, 1995 are requested to log in to the following website of EPFO and upload/submit documents ONLINE as per the directives therein.

The URL for the same is <https://unifiedportal-mem.epfindia.gov.in/memberinterface/>

Before submission of Joint option form, employees are requested to be ready with the following data's and documents pertaining to the members concerned for login and uploading as part of online submission.

- i. UAN & Password to login the above member portal.
- ii. Aadhar linked Mobile number.
- iii. Service History of the member concerned, as applicable :
(If a member has worked in different Organizations where EPF was in force prior to joining C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram, the service details of the same has to be entered, in case the same is not reflected in the "service details" heading, by adding rows.)
 - a. Date of Joining in FPS & Exit from FPS (applicable to members in service prior to 16.11.1995).
 - b. Date of Joining in EPS (w.e.f. 16.11.1995)& Exit from EPS.
- iv. Bank Account Number & IFSC.

- v. Copy of the relevant page of EPF pass book indicating latest EPF balance as on date of filing option.
- vi. Joint option declaration form(s) under 26(6) of EPF Scheme 1952 (attached) as requested by EPFO duly certified by the respective employer(s) for the period of service in C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram and in the previous Organizations, if any, in line with the service details.
 - a. *One of the pre-requisite condition as regards contribution is that the employer should have contributed to EPF on actual wages, i.e., wages exceeding the statutory limit of ₹5000/-, ₹6500/- as the case may be during the period of service.*
 - b. *As far as members who have become Regular/GBCs on scale of pay, after serving as consolidated contract staff are concerned , it may please be noted that employer has contributed to EPF only on the limited wage ceiling of ₹5000/-, ₹6500/- as the case may be, based on the applicable rules/policy of the Centre. In such cases, the member's eligibility for higher pension is restricted]*

Accordingly, **eligible** and willing employees in scale of pay (Regular/GBC) who are already members of EPS, 1995 are required to submit the above TWO forms (as applicable as the case may be), being circulated here with, duly signed by the employee. The same shall be returned to the concerned employee after due certification by the Employer, for onward submission (ONLINE) to EPFO by the employee.

It is pertinent to note that employees have to apply due diligence and be prudent while submitting relevant informations and documents in the portal to avoid subsequent rejections at various levels, as the Employer's role in this regard is very much restricted.

Duly filled up and signed in original of the TWO DECLARATION FORMS (hard copy) exclusively for the service in C-DAC (Annexure 1 and Annexure 2, as applicable) may be submitted to Finance Dept. on or before 12th April 2023.

For any clarifications on the above subject, please contact Smt. Lakshmy V A (Extn. No. 373).

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.



Manager (FINANCE)

For Circulation thru' email