

**STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD.**  
**Corporate Office, New Delhi**

**Circular**

No. PERS/ITB&Med/EPS-95/2023

Dated : 09.02.2023

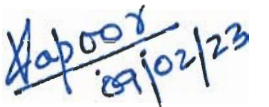
**Sub : Submission of Joint Option Form in compliance to the Judgement dated 04.11.2022 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of EPFO and Anr. Vs. Sunil Kumar B and Ors., under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 (EPS-95)**

1. This is in continuation to our circular dated 25.01.2023 and circular dated 04.02.2023 regarding opening of SAIL EPS-95 portal for employees/ ex-employees.
2. Reference is also invited to Para 43 and Para 44 (ii) & (iv) of the judgement dated 04.11.2022 of Hon'ble Supreme Court wherein eligible employees/ ex-employees and employer are required to submit a joint option under erstwhile Para 11 (3) & 11 (4) of the EPS-95 within a period of 4 months from the date of judgement.
3. Eligible employees/ ex-employees of the Company, as per SAIL circular no. PERS/ITB&Med/EPS-95/2023 dtd. 25.01.2023 and who are willing to exercise the option of contribution on actual salary/wages under EPS-95, are required to fill and submit a '**Joint Option Form**' to avail the benefit of enhanced pension on actual salary/wages.
4. Considering that since no 'Joint Option Form' has been officially made available/ or any clarification/ guideline in this regard has been provided by EPFO, a customized 'Joint Option Form' for SAIL employees and ex-employees is now available in the EPS-95 Portal.
5. All concerned are advised to login to SAIL EPS-95 portal (link available on SAIL website/ Intranet) and carefully read the DISCLAIMER before proceeding ahead. Post filling-in of the 'Joint Option Form', the eligible member is required to take print out of the same. The original **signed print-out (2 pages) in triplicate** along with requisite documents (as mentioned in the form) are to be submitted to the Nodal Officer of concerned Plant/ Unit (separating Plant/ Unit in case of ex-employees and current Plant/ Unit in case of serving employees) clearly mentioning '**EPS-95 Joint Option Form**' on the envelope, by **18.02.2023**. Contact details of Nodal officers are available on portal.
6. The filled-up and signed form received on or before 18.02.2023 shall be verified by concerned official at Plant/ Unit and submitted to concerned EPFO office by 24.02.2023.
7. Hon'ble High Court of Madras in WP No. 5424 of 2020 has pronounced on 25.01.2023 that the employer need not wait for any circular from the Provident Fund Department for exercising joint option along with the employees and PF Department shall keep in mind the time limit fixed by Apex Court. The option is being sought in compliance and adherence to the time line given in the judgement dated 04.11.2022 of Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, in-case of any further development/ modification in this regard by EPFO, the above procedure shall be modified, accordingly. The eligible members would be required to adhere to the same. For serving employees, transfer of contribution to EPFO by SAIL PF Trust will be decided subsequent to receipt of detailed guidelines from EPFO.

*Kapoor*  
29/02/23

8. It is to clarify that any arrears / enhanced pension payable cannot be determined at present. Also, mere submission of 'Joint Option Form' does not imply that the employees/ ex-employees shall be entitled to enhanced pension on actual salary/wages out of employer's contribution towards EPS-95. The same will be subject to compliance(s) of EPFO and/ or any judicial pronouncements/ statutory announcements. Further, SAIL assumes no responsibility or liability in case EPFO does not enhance pension, as mentioned above, for any reason whatsoever. The decision of EPFO shall be final in this matter.
9. Payment modalities for employees/ ex-employees who opt for enhanced Pension, will be finalized subsequent to receiving information/ clarification from EPFO in this regard.
10. Details with regard to clarification/modification in EPS-95 will be made available on SAIL website/ SAIL EPS-95 portal from time to time and all concerned are advised to visit SAIL website/ SAIL EPS-95 portal for any further update.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

  
(Vaani Kapoor)  
GM (Personnel)

**Distribution:** Standard