



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

Dated : 24.03.2023

CIRCULAR

Sub : Submission of Joint Option by eligible employees/ ex-employees in pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 04.11.2022

1. This has reference to the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order under reference; circular issued by EPFO dated 20.02.2023 and our circular dated 28.02.2023 on the subject.
2. EPFO vide its Circular no. Pension/2022/56259/16541 dated 20.02.2023 has enabled the URL on its website for exercising joint option for higher pension for employees who were members prior to 01.09.2014 and continue to be members on or after 01.09.2014.
3. As per the modalities indicated in the above EPFO circular, the following documents are required to be uploaded while submitting the joint option through EPFO website:
 - a) Permission required under clause 26(6) of EPS scheme for contribution on actual wages.
 - b) PF account balance on the date of filing option and relevant documentary proof for the same.
 - c) Undertaking by the member to deposit the contribution along with interest due till the date of payment.
4. In view of above, it has been decided that the following documents may be uploaded by interested & eligible members, against the above requirement as given below:
 - i) Certificate, as per Annexure-1, to be submitted in lieu of permission required under clause 26(6) of EPS scheme. The certificate, in the given format, will be made available to the eligible employees/ ex-employees by PF trust of the concerned Plants/Units. The same would then have to be uploaded by interested & eligible members.
 - ii) The PF Account balance statement as on 31.03.2022 for on-roll employees and the final settlement PF statement issued by concerned Plant/Unit(s) at the time of separation in case of eligible ex-employees.
 - iii) Duly filled-in & signed undertaking by the members, as per Annexure-2.

The URL for exercising Joint Option of EPS-95 for higher pension available on EPFO site is as below:

<https://unifiedportal-mem.epfindia.gov.in/memberInterfacePohw/>

Handwritten signature

5. Interested and eligible members are advised to strictly follow the EPFO guidelines while submitting online joint option and are requested to submit the same preferably by 17.04.2023. Members may please note that mere submission of joint option doesn't confer any right to higher pension and the same is subject to final decision of EPFO authority.
6. Further details with regard to directions/guidelines on EPS-95 will be made available on SAIL website from time to time. All members are advised to keep themselves updated on any further instructions being issued by EPFO in this regard. For any queries/help, members can contact the nodal officers of the concerned Plant/Unit, details of which are available on the SAIL website.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

V Kapoor
24/03/2023
(Vaani Kapoor)
GM (Personnel)

Distribution : Standard



Annexure- 1

Certificate in lieu of permission required under clause 26(6) of the EPF Scheme

This certificate is being issued to the employees/ ex-employees of Steel Authority of India Limited (*unit*), as per the requirement mandated vide EPFO Circular No. Pension/2022/56259/16541 dated 20th February, 2023.

As per clause 6(vii) of this circular, members are required to submit the proof of remittance of employer's share in Provident Fund on higher wages exceeding the prevalent wage ceiling and proof of joint option under Para 26(6) of EPF Scheme.

SAIL PF Trust, (*Unit*) is an exempted Provident Fund Trust received exemption under Para 27A of the EPF & MP Act 1952 and the rules of SAIL PF Trust is duly approved by the EPFO.

We hereby certify that the employees / ex- employees of SAIL (*unit*), are/were members of the SAIL PF Trust, (*Unit*), an exempted Provident Fund Trust received exemption under para 27A of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

As per the approved rules of the SAIL PF Trust, (*Unit*) (*Relevant Rules governing the membership, contribution by members and contribution by employer are : _____*) employer and employee have been contributing to Provident Fund on full / actual wages / salary ever since the employee becoming a member of the Fund. It is further certified that inspection charges are being paid on actual wages and accounts of SAIL PF Trust, (*Unit*) are being audited by EPFO, from time to time.

SAIL (*unit*) employees are, therefore, fulfilling criteria stipulated in EPFO circular dated 20.02.2023 and are eligible for exercising option for higher pension. This certificate is being submitted as a proof of remittance of employer's share in Provident Fund on higher wages exceeding the prevalent wage ceiling and proof of joint option under Para 26(6) of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 to enable the members to submit their option for higher pension.

**For & on behalf of
SAIL PF Trust, (*Unit*)**

(Trustee – Secretary)

NOTE : The above certificate is to be uploaded subsequent to issuance from PF Trust of concerned Plants/ Units



Annexure-2

*Draft for employee/ex-employee of corporate office.
Modification may be made by concerned units accordingly.*

UNDERTAKING

To,

Steel Authority of India Limited, Corporate Office (SAIL)

AND

*Steel Authority of India Limited Provident Fund Trust (SAIL PF Trust),
BOTH at Ispat Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110003*

I, _____, [Son/Daughter/Wife] of _____, presently residing at _____, and [retired from/currently working in] Steel Authority of India Limited as _____ hereby declare and undertake as follows:

1. I have read and understood the terms of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 ('Pension Scheme') as amended from time to time including as it was before the amendment of 2014.
2. I am aware of the Supreme Court judgment dated 04.11.2022 (in SLP (C) Nos. 8658-8659 of 2019)
3. Pursuant to the aforesaid judgment dated 04.11.2022 and Employee Provident Fund Organisation circulars/orders/notifications etc., I have exercised the joint option under para 11(3) and 11(4) of the Pension Scheme.
4. I agree and acknowledge that I will not be able to withdraw or modify my option once exercised, unless otherwise permitted by the Employees Provident Fund Organization or the applicable law, and I will be bound by the terms of the Pension Scheme as may be notified or modified or communicated by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation from time to time.
5. I undertake and agree to make payment of the due contribution along with interest up to the date of payment with *SAIL PF Trust* for deposit with the Employees Provident Fund Organisation in terms of the Pension Scheme and any clarifications /notifications/circulars/orders in relation thereto, including any further payments as may be required, upon demand from EPFO or SAIL PF Trust or SAIL without any delay or demur.
6. In case, where SAIL is required to make any payment on my behalf to EPFO owing to failure on my part to contribute the amount pursuant to joint option exercised by me under para 11(3) & 11(4) of the Pension Scheme, I hereby permit SAIL and/or SAIL PF Trust to recover any due payments to the Employee Provident Fund Organisation in relation to the Pension Scheme from any dues to me from SAIL.
7. I will not hold *SAIL or SAIL PF Trust* responsible or liable in any manner whatsoever for any act, commission or omission on the part of *SAIL or SAIL PF Trust* in relation to my exercise of joint option under the Pension Scheme.
8. I agree that *SAIL PF Trust* and/or SAIL shall be entitled to initiate appropriate proceedings for recovery of any amount due in relation to aforesaid.

Signature

Name of [Employee/Retired Employee]

Employee P No.

Address

Mobile No.

UAN No

EPS No.

PPO No