

**NPCC LIMITED**  
**(A Government of India Undertaking)**

No. 300954/PENSION/HIGHER PENSION/04

June 27, 2023

Sub:-Submission of 'Joint Option Form' under Para 11 (3) and Para 11 (4) of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 in direction given by Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 passed in SLP No.8658-8659 titled EPFO Vs Sunil Kumar B & Ors. Etc.  
( **Last opportunity for submission of Joint Option Form till 11.07.2023.**)

This is with reference to our circular dated 17.2.2023 & circular dated 19.4.2023 & 09.06.2023 on above subject.

(1) EPFO has released a circular no. Pension/2022/56259/16541 dated 20.02.2023 according to which the eligible EPS'95 members need to apply to the concerned EPFO Regional Office in the form and manner to be specified by them. Further, a facility, for exercising the joint option is provided by EPFO for which URL was provided by them and the option will have to be exercised upto **3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023**. **The last date for submission of Joint Option form which was extended till 26.6.2023 has further been extended by EPFO till 11.07.2023 as last opportunity.**

On Roll / Off-Roll eligible employees can submit their joint option form through the following path in EPFO website:

[www.epfindia.in](http://www.epfindia.in). > Services >for employees >Member UAN / Online Services (OCS/OTCP) > Important Links > Pension on Higher Salary: Exercise of Joint Option under para 11 (3) and para 11(4) of EPS 95 **on or before 11.07.2023(11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023)**

The same can also be accessed directly through the following link:-

<http://unifiedportal-mem.epfindia.gov.in/memberInterfaxcPohw/>

Exercise of joint option for the 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 provision to para 11 (3) of EPS 1995.

1. As per the EPFO circular no. Pension/2022/56259/16541 dated 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 the eligible EPS'95 members need to exercise their joint option for higher pension through the URL link provided by EPFO on their website only. Hence, all eligible employees need mandatorily to submit the joint option form through the link as provided by EPFO on their website.
- (2) The above circular also mentioned that method of deposit and method of computation of pension will be shared by them through subsequent circular. Till date no further circular has been issued by EPFO.
- (3) It may be noted that those EPS members who would be required to make full / partial lumpsum payment from their own sources shall make arrangement of funds and remit the amount in the manner that will be notified later. For EPS members, whose funds are still with the NPCC CPF Trust the contribution amount will be transferred to EPFO without further reference to them.
- (4) EPFO has sought following documents to be uploaded while submitting the joint option form online their website.
  - (a) Permission letter under Para 26 (6) of EPFO scheme (PDF file of size 250 KB is allowed). A copy of compliance to the Para 26 (6) of the EPF Scheme 1952 is enclosed as Annexure-A
  - (b) Documentary proof such as salary slip ((PDF file of size 250 KB is allowed).
  - (c) Undertaking from the members to deposit the contribution along with interest due till date of payment through his / her last employer (PDF file of size 250 KB is allowed). The undertaking format is enclosed as Annexure-B which is to be uploaded.
- (5) Further, it is also submitted that members opting for "Joint Option Form" should carefully read the declaration / undertakings given by them, which are available whilst submitting online option form and also subject to any further circulars and clarifications s provided by EPFO.

(6) As per the EPFO website, last date of exercising the joint option has been extended upto **11.7.2023**. However, after exercising of the option for availing pension on higher wages by the eligible EPS'95 members, employer (NPCC Ltd) has to verify and validate details in respect of each option member and considering the quantum of work involved at NPCC end as well as the anticipated heavy load on EPFO website / URL, this exercise would require considerable time., Hence EPS'95 members, willing to exercise the option, are advised to submit their option well in timegiving NPCC sufficient time for further procedural formalities.

**Disclaimer:** This circular is in continuation of this officer circular dated 17<sup>th</sup> February , 2023,19<sup>th</sup> April'2023 & 9<sup>th</sup> June'2023 and EPFO circular dated 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. This circular is being issued to notify our employee / ex-employee who are eligible to apply through EPFO portal online for higher pension. The Annexure-B attached with this circular is clarification on operation of 26 (6) and compliance of EPS Scheme 1952 as a permitted exempted establishment under law. However, the joint option submitted by eligible employees does not confer any right to receive or obligation upon NPCC to pay higher pension to them.

( Alok Kumar )

Joint General Manager(Fin)/Trustee Secretary