

राष्ट्रीय इस्पात निगम लिमिटेड RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED
विशाखपट्टणम इस्पात संयंत्र VISAKHAPATNAM STEEL PLANT
विशाखपट्टणम VISAKHAPATNAM-530031

मानव संसाधन विभाग - नीति व नियम
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT - POLICIES & RULES

सं.No.HR/RR/08/06/e-dak:26

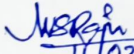
दि.11.02.2023

विविध परिपत्र MISCELLANEOUS CIRCULAR NO.02/ 2023

Sub: Submission of Joint Option Form for higher pension under EPS-95 as per direction given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 4th Nov, 2022.

1. This is further to Circular No.01/2023 dated 24.01.2023 on **Recent Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on Employees' Pension Scheme 1995(EPS-95)**.
2. Reference is invited to Para 43 and Para 44(ii) & (iv) of the judgment dated 04.11.2022 of Hon'ble Supreme Court wherein eligible employees/ ex-employees and employer are required to submit a joint option under pre- amended paragraph 11(3) and amended paragraph 11(4) of the EPS'95 within a period of 4 months from the date of judgment.
3. 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 Provident Fund Department for exercising joint option along with the employees and PF Department shall keep in mind the time limit fixed by the Apex Court.
4. Considering that no 'Joint Option Form' has been officially made available/ or any clarification/guideline in this regard has been provided by EPFO and keeping in view the position at Para(2) & (3) above, a customized 'Joint Option Form' is now made available in **EPSS** for employees on rolls and in **REIS**(Retired Employees' Information System) for ex-employees.
5. All the employees who have not attained the age of 58 years as on 01.09.2014, only are eligible for submission of joint option under EPS-95 Scheme. Accordingly, employees / ex-employees of the Company **who are/were members of the EPS-95 as on 01.09.2014** and are willing to exercise option for contribution on actual wage towards pension fund are hereby required to fill and submit requisite "Joint Option Form" to get the benefit of enhanced pension on actual salary as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
6. All the eligible employees desirous of exercising the option are required to fill the **Online Joint Option Form** and submit duly signed print-outs in original **in triplicate** along with requisite documents (as mentioned in the form) to the concerned Zonal HR Establishment. Similarly ex-employees will submit their duly signed filled in original print-outs of joint option form **in triplicate** along with requisite documents (as mentioned in the form) to Final Settlement Cell-SEWA by hand on working days only or by post. The postal address of Final Settlement Cell-SEWA is given at Retirement Employees' Information System (**REIS**) under "Contact us". **Submission of the Option Form shall be done latest by 22.02.2023.**

7. The option is being sought as a precautionary compliance and in order to adhere to the timeline stipulated in the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 4th Nov, 2022. 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.
8. It is to clarify that any arrears/ enhanced pension payable cannot be determined at present. The joint option submitted by eligible employee/ex-employee does not confer any right to receive or make RINL responsible to pay higher pension to them. The same will be subject to compliance(s) of EPFO and/or any judicial pronouncements/ statutory announcements. 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 relevant information/clarification from EPFO in this regard.
10. Details with regard to clarification/modification in EPS-95 will be made available on EPSS and REIS portal from time to time and all concerned are advised to visit the aforementioned portal for any further update.
11. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.


11/02/23
(एन वी एस राजु N V S Raju)
महाप्रबंधक (मा सं)- नीति व नियम, का स्था और गैर-संकर्म
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