



**Circular No – 032 / 2023**

Date: 25.02.2023

To  
All Members of The Association

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF JOINT DECLARATION  
FOR HIGHER PENSION EXTENDED BY TWO MONTHS.**

1. An interactive session (virtual) had been organized jointly by Employers' Federation of India and Confederation of Indian Industries with the Central Provident Fund Commissioner and Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-Pension, Employees' Provident Fund Organization, New Delhi, on 24.02.2023. Smt. Aparajitha Jaggi, RPFC-Pension, during the course of interactive session, clarified several issues raised by the participants and the gist of discussion/clarification is captured below for information of Members of the Association.

- EPFO will design the format of joint declaration and it will be available on the website of EPFO during the week commencing from 27.02.2023. The employers/employees may upload the Joint declaration online and the portal will be ready for receiving such declaration during next week.
- Joint declaration should be made online to ensure that the declaration is available with the EPFO and also with the employer and there is no scope for anyone to complain that they had made declaration but it was not forwarded by the employer to the respective Regional



Offices. Further, RPFC concerned will have the Joint declaration on the system and there will be no scope for misplacement or missing at the Provident Fund office.

- **The last date for submitting joint declaration will be extended by two months. Once the Member/Establishment logs in for uploading joint declaration, the system itself would display the last date for submitting declaration. The EPFO, HO, may not issue any Circular in this behalf.**
- In case of employees who have worked with multiple employers, wages drawn, month wise, are necessary for the purpose of calculating quantum of pension. The employee should, therefore, ensure that certificate issued by the previous employer along with monthly salary drawn for the entire period of service and the contribution made to the Provident Fund and Pension Fund, month wise, should be furnished. Joint declaration should contain complete data to enable PF department to calculate the additional amount to be deposited and sanction higher pension, if eligible.
- In case of multiple employers, if any deposit is required to be made to the Pension Fund, the PF department would direct only the current employer to deposit the amount. It is for the current employer and the employee concerned to ensure that the amount is deposited, as demanded by PF department.



- The employee/employer should submit Joint declaration complete in all respect. However, if declaration under para 26(6) of the EPF Scheme is not available and is not attached to the Joint declaration, Joint declaration may be submitted without such declaration and as and when such declaration is traced, it should be submitted. The EPFO, Head office would decide whether declaration under para 26(6) is to be insisted or otherwise, if warranted at later stage.
- The retired employees who have withdrawn their PF shall have to remit the amount specified by the EPFO. However, before making Joint declaration, the member concerned should workout and decide whether it is beneficial to them to opt for higher pension or not? They shall have to take into consideration all the financial aspects and personal health before deciding to opt.
- Widow or the other dependents who are already drawing pension due to deceased employee, may also apply but, they should first examine whether exercising option and refunding the amount determined by EPFO, is a viable proposition?
- Online declarations should be linked to Aadhaar. Otherwise, declaration will not be accepted on the Portal.
- All employers should educate their employees, existing or retired with regard to the benefits available to the retired employees.
- The interaction was very interesting and educative. RPFCL Pension was quite clear and open. Her responses were positive.



2. The Member establishments may note the above clarifications while forwarding the Joint Declaration submitted by the employees for claiming higher pension in terms of decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of EPFO vs. Sunil Kumar.

**For, KARNATAKA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION**

**Sd/  
[B C Prabhakar]  
President**