



Circular No -071/2023

Date: 06.06.2023

To

All Members of the Association

**EPFO DIRECTS FIELD FUNCTIONARIES TO EXPEDITE THE
SCRUTINY OF APPLICATION FOR VALIDATION OF JOINT OPTION**

EPFO had issued guidelines to their field functionaries for processing the Applications for higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme vide internal circular dated: 23.4.2023. The guidelines were circulated by KEA Circular No.55/2023 dated: 27.4.2023.

The EPFO at the Head Office level has reviewed the progress achieved by the Field Officers for scrutiny of Applications for validation of the joint option exercised by the employees and the employers and found that the progress is very slow. EPFO have issued instructions to the Field Functionaries to adhere to time line for scrutiny of Application for validation of the joint option. Copy of the Circular No. Pension /2023/ 101123/1344 Dated: 1.6.2023 of EPFO is enclosed.



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If the pensioners have not heard anything from the concerned local office of the RPFC, it is open to them to send a reminder to the said Authority for expediting the processing of their claim and take further action for payment of higher pension in accordance with the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of EPFO vs Sunil Kumar.B decided on 4.11.2022.

For KARNATAKA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

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



कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन
EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION
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No. Pension/2023/101123/1344

Date:-01.06.2023

01 JUN 2023

All Addl. CPFCs, Zonal Offices
 All RPFCs / OICs, Regional Offices

Sub:- Adherence to timelines for Scrutiny of Applications for Validation of Joint Option /Joint Option- reg.

Madam/Sir,

Kind reference is invited to the above cited subject.

In this regard, it is informed that a meeting was held under the Chairperson ship of Hon'ble Secretary, L&E to review the progress of scrutiny of Applications for Validation of Joint Option /Joint Options. In the meeting, the Secretary has expressed extreme displeasure that progress of scrutiny of Applications for Validation/ Joint Options is very slow in Field Offices as most of the Applications/Joint Options are kept pending at DA level in Field Office Application Software. CPFC has also shown extreme displeasure about such slow progress in scrutiny of Applications for Validation/ Joint Options and no case being found eligible till date. Further, even though a lot of cases are being reported as scrutinized, it seems the one-month opportunity has not been given as yet to the concerned through a formal communication in accordance with this office circular number Pension/Supreme Court/Judgement/HPM/2022/405 dated 23rd April, 2023. CPFC has further directed that action about applications/ joint options be taken within 20 days like settlement of claims. Accordingly, it should be ensured that pendency about issuance of notices to give opportunity of one month is cleared in all offices.

2. Therefore, all the Zonal Offices are directed to effectively monitor the progress and ensure timely scrutiny of Applications for Validation /Joint Options in Field Office Application Software and in e-office. Further, it is also

directed to ensure that status matches across all reports and presentations and there shall be no mismatch of the data among different reports/presentations and FO interface. Accordingly, steps be taken to immediately ensure that progress being reported in the presentation is reflected in the FO interface as well.

[This issues with the approval of ACC-HQ (Pension).]

Yours faithfully,


(Aprajita Jaggi)
Regional P.F. Commissioner-I (Pension)