

STATE TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD., NEW DELHI
(PERSONNEL DIVISION)

STC/CO/PER/EPS-95/02023

Date: 18.04.2023

CIRCULAR NO: 08/2023

Sub: EPS,95-Online Submission of Joint Option Form in line with directives of EPFO Internal Circular No.: 20.02.2023.

Reference STC's Circular No.: 03/2023 dated 06.02.2023 regarding exercising of 'Joint Option Form' under Para 11(3) and Para 11(4) of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 in terms of EPFO Circular dated 29.12.2022 issued pursuant to the directions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 04.11.2022 passed in SLP No. 8658-B659 of 2019 titled EPFO Vs Sunil Kumar B. & ORS.

2. EPFO further vide Circular dated 20.02.2023, in line with the para 7(i), has announced on its website (<https://www.epfindia.gov.in>) to submit Joint Option Form Online on or before 03.05.2023 provided therewith an URL be accessed directly through the link <https://unifiedportal-mem.epfindia.gov.in/memberinterface>.

3. In this regard, all eligible & willing employees/ex-employees have to exercise the Joint Option in the Online/Digital mode only in the URL indicated above in order to be considered for higher pension in line with the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 04.11.2022.

4. It has been informed by some of the Serving/Retired Employees about documents to be uploaded as per the requirement of EPFO under Para 26(6) of EPF Scheme, 1952.

5. Keeping in view the problems being faced in applying online for Joint Option, it has been decided with the approval of the Competent Authority to issue Permission Certificate under Para 26(6) of EPF Scheme, 1952. The Permission Certificate duly signed by authorized signatory on behalf of the establishment/STC is attached with this Circular which can be uploaded while applying for higher pension by the Serving/Retired Employees on EPFO portal. However, this certificate is subject to acceptance by EPFO and any clarification/guideline/circular issued by EPFO from time to time. The employees/ex-employees are requested to attach the certification for further processing by EPFO.

5. Eligible employees/ex-employees who wish to exercise the joint option for EPS 95 Pension on actual/higher salary are requested to submit Online Joint Option on or before 25.04.2023 positively in order to enable us to authorize the same on behalf of the employer before closing date i.e. 03.05.2023.

6. In cases where PF balance is insufficient for payment of proposed arrears which shall be decided by EPFO in due course of time, an employee/ex-employee(s) is

required to give an undertaking as per EPFO portal that they shall deposit the contributions along with interest due till date of payment through their last employer (that is applicable where PF account has no balance or insufficient balance).

7. All employees/ex-employees may carefully read the instructions/declarations before submitting their option at EPFO portal. They should also keep track on any further Circular/Guidelines/Clarifications being issued by EPFO in due course of time.

8. Employees/ex-employees having valid UAN and linked to Aadhar can only exercise the Joint Option in the EPFO Portal. In case, the UAN is not linked to Aadhar, such of those employees/ex-employees should link the same first and then proceed to submit the Joint Option. Activation of UAN and linking of UAN with Aadhar is the sole responsibility of the individual concerned. However, in case of any doubt in this regard, the matter may be discussed with the concerned dealing Manager of the Corporation.

9. This Circular is being issued with the approval of the Competent Authority for implementation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement vis-à-vis the instructions issued by EPFO from time to time which is subject to any ratification(s), guidelines(s) etc. that may be issued from EPFO in future and /or any judicial pronouncements/statutory amendments/Court Orders etc. Therefore, mere submission of Joint Option Form by employees/ex-employees does not confer any right to receive or obligation from STC/STC EPF Trust to pay higher pensions on them.


(S.K. Meena)

Jt. General Manager(Personnel)

Encl.: As above

To all concerned

Copy to:

- ES to CMD
- PS to DIRs/CVO
- All HODs/BM/ROs - to circulate amongst the employees/ex-employees
- CM(F) & CFO
- GS to STC Officers' Association
- GS to STC Employees' Union
- GS to STC SC/ST Employees' Association
- Portal for Ex-employees
- Notice Board
- STC Website



प्रभाग
DIVISION



दि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कार्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)
THE STATE TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Permission Certificate in lieu of Para26(6) of the EPF Scheme, 1952

This certificate is being issued to the Serving employees/Ex-employees complying with the requirement mandated vide EPFO's Internal Circular No. Pension/2022/56259/16541 dated 20.02.2023 for Online submission of Joint Option in the EPFO's Unified Portal Member Interface, in terms of Clause 6(vii) of the said EPFO Circular mandates eligible & willing employees/ex-employees to submit proof of Joint Option under Para 26(6) of the EPF Scheme duly verified by the employer.

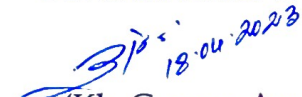
STC is an exempted Establishment under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. STC has set up a centralised Provident Fund Trust at New Delhi by the name and style as the State Trading Corporation of India Limited Employees Provident Fund Trust (Trust) w.e.f. 04.03.1963 with establishment code no: DL/CPM/791 and is covered under the jurisdiction of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner (RPFC), Delhi-Central. The Trust is also recognized as STC Employees Provident Fund Trust under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

The establishment has been complying with the respective Trust Rules and the provident fund contribution made by the employee and employer to the Provident Fund is on the actual salary/wages and not on the statutory ceiling of Rs.5000/6500/15000/-. Out of the employer PF contribution on actual wages, Pension Contribution @8.33% limited to the wage ceiling under the Act is being remitted to EPFO and the remaining amount is deposited to the Member's PF Account. This is applicable to all eligible STC's serving employees/ex-employees.

STC is also remitting inspection charges to EPFO at prescribed rate on actual salary drawn by its employee and not on the statutory PF wages. This has also been verified by the EPFO officials during annual compliance audit and special audit as and when ordered by EPFO.

In view of above circumstances, the provisions of Para 26(6) of the EPF Scheme, 1952 is deemed to have been complied with by the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and consequently entitled to contribute on the actual wages/salary to the Pension Fund in terms of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement dated 04.11.2022.

For & on behalf of STC


(Kh. Gyanen Angom)
Chief Manager (Personnel)

Place: New Delhi

Date: 18.04.2023

पंजीकृत कार्यालय : जवाहर व्यापार भवन, टॉलस्टॉय मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001 / Regd. Office : Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

कॉर्पोरेट पहचान संख्या/Corporate Identity No. : L74899DL1956GOI002674

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“हिन्दी में प्राप्त पत्रों का स्वागत है।”