

BEL OPTRONIC DEVICES LIMITED

HR Dept

CIRCULAR

BELOP/HR/PF-JOF/04/2023-24

Date: 11.04.2023

Sub: - Submission of 'Joint Option Form' under Para 11(3) and Para 11(4) of EPS, 1995 in accordance to the directions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide Order dated. 04.11.2022 – regarding.

Ref: - i) Circular No. BELOP/HR/HIGHER PENSION/02/2022-23 dated. 09.02.2023.

ii) EPFO, Head Office, MoL&E, GOI, Order No. Pension / 2022 / 56259 / 16541 dated. 20.02.2023

iii) BELOP/HR/PF-JOF/02/2023 dtd. 22.02.2023

1. Reference is made to this Office's Circulars cited above, on the Subject.
2. Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) instructions in compliance of Orders contained in Para 44(iii) & (iv) read with Para 44(v) of Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated. 04.11.2022 in the matter of Special Leave Petition (C) Nos. 8658-8659 of 2019 vide EPFO internal Circular No. Pension/2022/56259/16541 dated. 20.02.2023, was notified vide this Office Circular dt. 22.02.2023 cited at ref. (iii) above, for information.
3. In line with the instructions as at para 7(i) of the EPFO Circular dt. 20.02.2023, EPFO has released the online facility for submission of Joint Option. The URL can be accessed in the EPFO portal, as indicated below:

<https://www.epfindia.gov.in> → Services → For Employees → Member UAN/Online Service (OCS/OTCP) → Pension on Higher Salary: Exercise of Joint Option under Para 11(3) and Para 11(4) of EPS-95 on or before 3rd May 2023.

The same URL can also be accessed directly through the link <https://unifiedportal-mem.epfindia.gov.in/memberinterfacePohw>. → Application Form for Joint Option.
4. As regards permission under Para 26(6) of EPF Scheme, 1952 which is a mandatory document for submission of Joint Option, it may be noted that no separate Joint Request by the employee & employer was made to the EPFO for contribution on actual salary. Hence, as a way out to facilitate employees / ex-employees to submit Joint Option, Permission Certificate in lieu of Para 26(6) of the EPF Scheme, 1952 is enclosed at **Annexure-A**, which may be attached in the Portal. However, consideration / acceptance of the same is purely at the discretion of EPFO.
5. Further, an irrevocable Affidavit cum Undertaking duly notarized needs to be uploaded in the Portal by the Ex-employees who had withdrawn the PF amount as also by the employees who have insufficient balance in the EPFO to deposit the contributions along with interest due till date of payment through the last employer. The Affidavit-cum-Undertaking format is enclosed at **Annexure-B**. Further, Affidavit-cum-Undertaking without appropriate value of Non Judicial Stamp Paper / Notarization is liable to be rejected.

6. As per the EPFO website, last date of exercising the Joint Option has been extended up to 03.05.2023. However, after exercising the option for availing pension on higher wages by the eligible EPS' 95 members, Employer (BELOP) has to verify and validate details in respect of each opting member and considering the quantum of work involved at BELOP 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 by **24.04.2023** giving sufficient time to BELOP for further procedural formalities.
7. The SOP for filling online Joint Option Form and FAQs are enclosed along with this circular. Signed 'Permission Certificate' (as per size notified in the EPFO Portal) in lieu of Para 26(6), Affidavit-cum-Undertaking template will be made available on BELOPINTRANET(BELOPSERVER) / BELOP Website w.e.f. 11.04.2023.
8. This is for information and necessary action.

N.R. Shitole
11/04/2023
Dy. Manager - HR
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To,

Notice Board

Standard Distribution