

HZL EMPLOYEE'S CONTRIBUTORY PROVIDENT FUND TRUST

Regd. Office: CRDL Building, Zinc Smelter Debari, Udaipur-313 024 (Rajasthan)

Establishment id: RJUDR0001272000 Phone: (0294)-2652648 & 2652166

April 12, 2023

Circular regarding Higher Pension

Sub: Submission of Joint Option by eligible employees/ ex- employees in pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 04.11.2022 & Circular issued by EPFO dated 20.02.2023.

1. This is with reference to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 04.11.2022 regarding Employee's Pension Scheme-1995(EPS'95), instruction issued by EPFO dated 20.02.2023 wherein it was informed that all the employees/ Ex-employees are to submit 'Joint Options' for enhanced pension online at EPFO portal in accordance with EPFO Circular dated 20.02.2023.
2. EPFO vide its circular no pension/2022/56259/16541 dated 20.02.2023 has opened the URL on its website for exercising joint option for higher pension for employees who were members prior to 01.09.2014 and continue to be member on or after 01.09.2014.
3. As per the modalities indicated in the above-mentioned EPFO circular, the following documents are required to be uploaded while submitting the joint option on the EPFO website:

- a) Permission required under clause 26(6) of EPF scheme for contribution on actual wages.
HZL ECPF Trust does not have such a permission letter, hence, HZL ECPF Trust issued a certificate in lieu of Clause 26(6) as Annexure-1 which is to be uploaded by all the interested & eligible members. It is pertinent to mention that, after extensive correspondence with RPFC Udaipur (including but not limited to meetings, letters and e-mail communications) we have not received clear directions from RPFC, Udaipur regarding clause 26(6). In the interest of the eligible members, PF Trust decided to issue a certificate in lieu of clause 26(6), as has been followed by other companies like HPCL, NTPC, etc. This decision is also approved by PF Trust in its meeting held on 12th April, 2023.

It is hereby informed that, in case the PF department does not accept the above certificate in lieu of clause 26(6) and rejects the online applications on its portal, neither Hindustan Zinc Ltd. nor the HZ Employee PF Trust will be liable in any manner, whatsoever.

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- b) Undertaking from the members to deposit the contribution along with interest due till date of payment through his/her last employer
(pdf file of size 250KB is allowed). The undertaking / Affidavit format is enclosed as Annexure- 2, which is to be uploaded after executing in stamp paper of Rs 100/- and after due notarization.
- c) The PF Account statement as on 31.03.2023 for all the members who employees as on date and also the employees, who are superannuated, but have not withdrawn their PF balance. This can be downloaded from PF portal (FactoHR).
- d) On- roll/Off roll Employees, as the case maybe, can submit their Joint Option Form through the following path in EPFO website:

www.epfindia.gov.in > Services > for Employees > Member UAN/ Online Services (OCS/OTCP) >Important links > 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 can also be accessed directly through the following link:

<https://unifiedportal-mem.epfindia.gov.in/memberInterfacePohw/>

- 4. **NOTE:** Before applying for Higher Pension, KYC in UAN should be completed in all aspects.
- 5. Since the employer has to verify and validate each joint option application for higher pension filed by the employees and heavy online traffic at EPFO Portal, all the eligible employees are requested to submit joint options on or before 20.04.2023 to ensure timely implementation of this exercise, beyond which it will be extremely difficult for the employer to verify and validate the applications and ensuring submission to EPFO on or before 03.05.2023.
- 6. All employees/ex-employee may carefully read the instruction/declarations before submitting their joint option online at EPFO portal. They also keep a track on any further circular/ guidelines/ clarifications being issued by EPFO indue course of time.

DISCLAIMER: Members kindly note that mere submission of joint option doesn't confer any right to higher pension and the same is subject to final decision of EPFO authority. Hindustan Zinc Limited & HZL ECPF Trust is not liable for any rejection for any reason.

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Members are also advised to keep themselves updated on any further instruction being issued by EPFO in this regard.

7. Guidelines for submitting the joint option form is attached as per Annexure-III.
8. **Helpdesk:** In case of any clarifications or help w.r.t submission of online application form, members may contact Mr. Sachin @83066 65529 or Mr. Kishore Kateja @ Mobile 98298 57303 or Mr. Chirag 80786 04639.

For and on behalf of HZL ECPF Trust
For Hindustan Zinc Limited
Employee's Contributory Provident Fund


Trustee & Secretary

Rajendra Pandwal
Secretary