



All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association

Central Headquarter, New Delhi

(The Recognised Representative Association of BSNL)

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GS/AIGETOA/2022-23/02

Dated: 09.11.2022

To,

Shri Arvind Vadnerkar
The Director (HR), BSNL Board
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
Janpath, New Delhi

Subject :- Measures for streamlining the aberrations connected with EPF accounts on war footing basis & Initiatives to allow the benefits of EPF Full pension & measures for BSNL Employees - reg

Ref : -

1. SLP verdict 4-11-2022
2. Corp Office Ltr NO:500-85/CA II/BSNL/EPF/2013/Vol VI Dated 30.03.2017

R/Sir

Your kind and immediate attention is sought towards the allowing of EPF Full pension option under EPS Scheme which is already have national importance on social security measure of employees who are under EPF/EPS Scheme.

As per the directions from Hon'ble Supreme Court of India through the verdict dated 4-11-2022 (attached for ready reference) with regard to allowing of EPF full pension in line with actual Basic + DA according to the options submitted/to be submitted by employees within the stipulated time frame. Even though the concerned ministry & EPFO need to come up with the modalities for acceptance of the joint option forms for inclusion of those employees who are eligible and desirous, the very important limiting factor of time span (i.e only 4 months) is causing much apprehensions amongst employees who are willing to opt for this scheme. The urgency in the matter may kindly be noticed that, even a delay for submission of option (combined from Employer side and employee side) due to one or another unforeseen reasons will cause an irreparable loss to the employee and their family, in terms of pension. It may be kindly noted that the same has no financial implication on BSNL side as the same required as shifting of accounted amount from one head to another.

It may be noted that BSNL comes under un-exempted organization and is contributing the Employee and Employer share with respect to Full Basic+DA from their respective date of joining to EPFO. In accordance with Hon'ble Apex Court direction and as per the EPS Scheme guidelines, the joint full pension options need to process duly through employer to respective EPFO. In this regard, we request that BSNL corporate office may start the measures for streamlining any aberrations connected with EPF accounts of employees on war footing basis & initiate procedures for implementation may be done so that all the employees who are eligible and desirous to join the full pension scheme as allowed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India get the chance to join the scheme within the time limit.

There are thousands of employees in BSNL who are transferred from one circle to another and thus from one EPFO unit to another, thus have more than one EPF accounts with different entry/exit dates even though they have single UAN. Even some cases it can be mentioned as break of service even though in actual there is no such break from the single employer ie BSNL. The date of entry/exit in various old EPF accounts (changed due to transfer under the same employer ie BSNL) and the same may kindly be incorporated with EPF account system also linked with UAN.

It may also be noted that BSNL as employers already paid the training period (Phase-1) EPF contributions also into respective EPFOs but most of the employees date of joining in their respective EPF accounts are still mentioned as date of appointment instead of date of joining as training (ie date of joining in EPF Scheme). Since the pension is related with the number of service years, the correct entry ie date of training joining date is also need to ensured which is of paramount importance.

It is also noted that in many employees single UAN linked EPF accounts who have multiple EPF accounts EPF/EPF contributions are scattered instead of getting transferred to single present running EPF account. Hence amount available in earlier EPF accounts need to transferred the present running account for which the employer need to communicate with respective EPFOs so that the employees will get actual picture of contributions that need to be made available in pension account.

It may also noted that the time given for submission of options is only four months and hence a concentrated effort from our accounts wings across Circles and BAs are required to scrutinize and clear any anomalies/aberrations/clarifications for each and every EPF member employee. We request that the directions may be given to field unit in such a way to deal all such matters with utmost urgency. It is also requested that necessary directions may be given to concerned sections to keep ready the formalities for collection of joint options to be submitted by BSNL & employees along with required Form 3A/6A and other material information for realization of said process. (Earlier BSNL corporate office had initiated the same in 2017 letter dated 30-03-2017 on submission from this association but due to the legal proceedings, the process couldn't materialized at that time). Now the time limitation is very important and hence entire process need to be sped up accordingly at the earliest in consultation with respective EPFOs/CPFO as EPF accounts are kept centralized there.

We also place a request for exploring the applicability of joint options collection through ESS as done for GTI & Medical reimbursement scheme, which can further submit to respective EPFO. This matter may kindly be discussed with CPFO or at the highest level so that the works involved in handling and cross verification of the option forms can be minimized. As the recognized association we are ready to support management for completion of this tedious task within the stipulated time and appeal to all employees to put all efforts to get this procedures for implementation of full pension options in true spirit through our employer, BSNL at the earliest.

Yours Sincerely

Sd/-

Pavan Akhand

For: General Secretary, AIGETOA

Copy to:

1. Shri Saurabh Tyagi, PGM Estt, BSNL CO, New Delhi
2. Mrs Anita Jauhari, PGM (SR), BSNL CO, New Delhi
3. Shri Surojit Mondal, Sr GM (CA), BSNL CO, New Delhi.