

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4171
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023**

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4171. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the companies and EPF subscribers have sought for further clarifications on how to opt for higher pension under EPS;**
- (b) if so, the response of the Government, thereto;**
- (c) whether those subscribers who have less salary and do not want to contribute higher amount and whether minimum monthly pension will be increased in their cases;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether clarifications or guidelines being issued for method of deducting the interest for higher pension in case of companies with their own private PF Trust; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (f): As per directions contained in paragraph 44(ix) read with paragraph 44(v) and 44(vi) of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 04.11.2022, online applications were called by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on 29.12.2022 from pensioners who had retired before 01.09.2014 and had exercised joint option for contributing in pension fund on salary exceeding wage ceiling before their retirement but whose joint options were rejected by the EPFO (on account of cut-off date). Joint options were to be filed on or before 03.03.2023. Now this date has been extended up to 03.05.2023.

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Further, as per directions contained in paragraph 44(iii) & paragraph 44 (iv) read with paragraph 44(v) of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 04.11.2022, instructions have been issued by EPFO on 20.02.2023 for online joint options to be filed by the employees who were in service prior to 01.09.2014 and continued to be in service on or after 01.09.2014 but could not exercise joint option under erstwhile proviso to paragraph 11(3) of Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995. Joint options can be filed on or before 03.05.2023.

The Government, for the first time, in the year 2014, provided a minimum pension of Rs. 1,000/- per month to the pensioners under the EPS, 1995 by providing budgetary support, which was in addition to the budgetary support of 1.16 per cent of wages provided annually towards EPS to EPFO.

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