

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 612
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023**

UNIFIED PORTAL OF EPFO FOR HIGHER PENSION

**612. DR. VISHNU PRASAD M.K.:
SHRI T.R.V.S. RAMESH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of criticism against unfeasible requirements and complex process in the unified portal rolled out by EPFO for submission of joint options for higher pension;**
- (b) whether the Supreme Court judgement has not prescribed for submission of any other documents, but fresh joint option, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government permit EPF pensioners for offline submission of joint option directly, without insisting on any other documents, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government would withdraw the stipulation in portal to upload proof of joint option purported to be given while starting higher contribution on actual salary as per Para 26(6) of EPF Scheme; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The process in unified portal for submission of joint options for higher pension is simple and easy to understand and contains simple requirements as per provisions of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 1952, Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 and judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 04.11.2022 in SLP (C) No. 8658-8659 of 2019. For convenience of members and pensioners, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has directed its field offices located all over India for assisting the applicants in filing these online forms.

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Online option forms contains simple requirements in accordance with aforesaid judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 04.11.2022, EPF Scheme, 1952 and EPS, 1995.

The joint option under paragraph 26(6) of EPF Scheme, 1952 is not a new requirement and predates the EPS, 1995. It was required as per the Scheme provisions and direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

However, upload of proof in respect of the joint option under para 26(6) of EPF Scheme, 1952, is not mandatory and to facilitate the applicants for pension on higher wages, instructions have been issued by EPFO that the same can be filed any time prior to grant of pension wherever the due contributions and administrative charges have been fully remitted to EPFO under Para 26(6) of the EPF Scheme, 1952.
