

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3342  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024**

**PENSION UNDER EPS-95**

**†3342. SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:**

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

- (a) whether EPFO is implementing the Hon'ble Supreme Court order of 4th November, 2022 which abolished the salary limit of Rs. 15000 for EPS-95 pension calculation and made the last salary the basis for cases involving former employees of Bhilai Steel Plant in Durg Lok Sabha Constituency, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the EPFO, Raipur office has recovered 15 to 30 lakh rupees as the difference amount from these employees based on their last salary and returned the said difference amount about a month later on and subsequently refused their pension; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

**(a): In implementation of the Judgement dated 04.11.2022 passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP No. 8658-8659 of 2019, an online facility was provided by EPFO, wherein total 17.49 lakh applications for Validation of Option/ Joint Options were successfully submitted by the applicants.**

**Bhilai Steel Plant is a PF Exempted Establishment. Therefore, the applications received from its employees are to be examined and decided considering the rules of the PF Trust.**

**(b) & (c): All erroneous amount received from applicants have been refunded back by EPFO Regional Office, Raipur along with interest. The applicants were members of the PF Trust of Bhilai Steel Plant where contribution to the pension fund beyond wage ceiling was not permitted. The contribution of the members to the pension fund was accordingly restricted to the wage ceiling.**

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