EPF PENSION - OPTION FOR HIGHER PENSION TIME LIMIT

3944. SHRI VAIKO:
      SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:

      Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any direction to Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to take steps for immediate follow-up to the Supreme Court's directions on enabling concerned employees and pensioners to opt for higher pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether EPFO has issued any circular and opened online facility to pensioners and employees for exercising the higher pension option, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether, in view of the deadline being 4th March, it would be extended, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per directions contained in paragraph 44(ix) read with paragraph 44(v) and (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.

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.

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