

Minutes of the 101st Meeting of the Executive Committee, CBT (EPF)
11th March, 2022 at 11:00 AM, Guwahati

The 101st Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC), CBT (EPF) was chaired by Shri Sunil Barthwal, Sectary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment. List of attending Members is at Annexure A.

2. Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Central PF Commissioner (CPFC) welcomed the Chairman and members to the 101st meeting of EC, particularly the new member Shri Harbhajan Singh Sidhu.
3. Chairman welcomed the members, in particular, Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, CPFC and Shri Harbhajan Singh Sidhu to their first meeting and appreciated all members on attending this physical meeting after a long time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Shri Dilip Bhattacharya suggested that since meetings and activities of CBT (EPF) are being done in Virtual/on-line mode, a laptop/tablet may be provided to CBT members. He also emphasised this in view of members coming to them for resolution of technical issues being faced by them. Shri Sunkari Mallesham also seconded the suggestion. Secretary advised that the competent authority may take further action in the matter.
5. The Agenda Items were then taken up for discussion:

Item No. 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 100th meeting of the Executive Committee, CBT (EPF) held on 18.11.2021

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 2: Action Taken Statement in respect of decisions taken in the EC meetings held upto 18.11.2021 (100th EC Meeting)

Shri Sunkari Mallesham observed that the matters of stagnation at the level of EO/AO level may be sorted out, as it has spiralling effect upto lowest cadre. He lauded CPFC for clearing the vacancies upto 2017 and suggested that the vacancies upto 2022 may be filled as soon as possible.

Shri Govind Lele observed that although a communication has been made to the Directorate General of Income Tax (Exemptions), no exemption has been allowed by the Income Tax department. Chairman directed that a communication be sent through the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Shri Harbhajan Singh Sidhu observed that wherever benefits to staff are being delayed on account of administrative issues, these may be given from the date of eligibility. Chairman observed that the purpose of MACP scheme is not served if benefits are not given from the due date and directed to consider the same. Shri Harbhajan Singh Sidhu also observed that cadre restructuring benefits have also not been provided to

the staff due to pending Recruitment Rules (RR) and suggested that promotions may be made as per model RRs of DoPT.

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 3: Coverage and other related issues in EPFO

Chairman suggested that the proposal may be placed before the ad-hoc committee on coverage constituted by Chairman CBT. Shri Dilip Bhattacharya observed that many employees are deprived of the benefits as regular inspections are not being conducted. He suggested that the threshold of coverage under EPF & MP Act may be made at par with ESIC.

Shri Harbhajan Singh Sidhu observed that members are not getting their benefits as recoveries are pending for years. Chairman instructed that efforts may be made to improve the recovery of dues and the status be placed before EC in its next meeting.

Item No. 4: Audited Annual Account in respect of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 for the financial year 2019-20

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 5: Status note on the implementation of Double Entry Accounting System (DEAS) in EPFO

Shri Govind Lele observed that there would be changes in the figures as reported earlier in the Balance Sheet and Annual Accounts due to implementation of Double Entry Accounting System and suggested that Impact Analysis of Double Entry Accounting System (DEAS) may be done. Chairman, EC appreciated the suggestion and directed to consider the impact analysis.

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 6: Delegation of Administrative and Financial powers for Appointment and payment to Auditors/ Consultants/ Forensic Audit Experts for Investment related activities carried out by EPFO

CPFC observed that delegations in these activities were last made in 2004, and proposed that further delegations may be made to streamline these activities and keeping in current market trends.

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 7: Transfer of the unclaimed amounts and utilisation of fund under Senior citizen welfare Rules, 2016

CPFC informed that as per the provisions of the Finance Act 2016, a Senior Citizen Welfare Fund (SCWF) is to be created by Government of India for the welfare of Senior Citizens in line with the National Policy on older persons and the National Policy on

senior citizens. As the instructions of the government all unclaimed funds will be brought under the purview of SCWF.

A revised MoU with Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance has been prepared committing an amount of Rs. 100 crores to be transferred to SCWF for welfare of senior citizens who are pensioners of EPS.

Chairman informed that efforts were made that instead of transferring the EPFO amount to the general fund, it may be utilised for the welfare of EPFO members. Therefore, a revised MoU with Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance was prepared, committing Rs. 100 crores for transfer to SCWF for welfare of senior citizens who are pensioners of EPS. It was also informed that as per letter dated 15th May, 2017 of Minister of Finance, the fund may be operated by EPFO itself on behalf of the Ministry.

All members observed that the amount being treated as inoperative accounts should be treated as unsettled accounts, and efforts should be made to return this amount to members or their dependents to whom it belongs. They further observed that the draft scheme for utilisation of SCWF is catering to small number of pensioners and were of the view that a generalised scheme such as medical facility to all pensioners may be considered.

Chairman suggested that the matter may be placed before Central Board of Trustees for further deliberations and later be taken up by Pension and EDLI Implementation Committee, a sub-committee of CBT.

Item No. 8: Adoption of 'Cloud Technology by the Employees' Provident Fund Organization for hosting its services – For 'In-Principle' approval of the Executive Committee CBT

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 9: Procurement of Aadhaar Data Vault/ HSM BOX and accompanying paraphernalia

Shri Govind Lele observed that there has been a lot of data fetching by EPFO with the UIDAI which is increasing the cost. The requirement of the same may be analysed.

Shri Pankaj Raman, Addl. CPFC (IS) apprised that Aadhaar Vault is a mandatory requirement informed by the UIDAI authorities during the audit of EPFO paraphernalia.

Chairman stated that the proposal contained in the agenda was approved in principle and a meeting may be fixed with respect to the financial part of the proposal.

Members of the Committee observed that there should be facilities such as mobile van, camps at industrial areas to facilitate members to resolve their UAN and AADHAAR related issues. CPFC informed that district/regional offices of EPFO will also be considered to provide space in office premises to UIDAI to run its Kiosk.

Item No. 10: Establishment and Management of the Security Operation Centre at Alternate Data Centre of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization at Secunderabad

Chairman observed that the concurrent audit by EPFO may be strengthened and a proposal for strengthening the concurrent audit may be placed in the next EC meeting.

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 11: Constitution of Sub-Committee on IT

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 12: Procurement of 35 Mid-Range Servers for replacement of servers which have reached End of Life and End of Support Life

Chairman observed that the matter may be re-examined in view of availability of cloud services.

Item No. 13: Proposal for Procurement of Services from RailTel for PAN India e-Office Implementation

Chairman observed that a comparative study of the cost may be done with NIC which is implementing e-file in Govt. of India.

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved subject to above observations.

Item No. 14: Draft Transfer policy for Group B Officers, 2022

All EC members requested for some time to examine the issue. Chairman instructed that members may provide their inputs in the next 15 days, and a special meeting on this may be scheduled.

Item No. 15: Draft Transfer policy for Commissioners' cadre in EPFO – revision of Transfer Policy of 2016

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

The 101st Executive Meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

ANNEXURE A

List of attending members at the 101st Meeting of Executive Committee, CBT(EPF)

1.	Shri Sunil Barthwal, IAS Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment	Chairman
2.	Ms. Vibha Bhalla Joint Secretary (Social Security), Ministry of Labour & Employment	Central Government Representative
3.	Shri Prem Prakash Singh Special Secretary (Labour), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Labour Department, Lucknow	State Government representatives
4.	Shri Sougata Roy Choudhury	Employers' Representatives
5.	Shri Govind Lele	
6.	Shri Harbhajan Singh Sidhu	Employees' Representatives
7.	Shri Sunkari Mallesham	
8.	Shri Dilip Bhattacharya	
9.	Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, IAS	CPFC & Member Secretary (Ex-Officio)

The following members could not attend the meeting:-

10.	Additional Secretary or Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Labour and Employment	Central Government Representative
11.	Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, Industry, Labour and Energy Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.	State Government representatives
12.	Secretary to the Government of Haryana, Labour and Employment Department, Chandigarh.	
13.	Shri Arun Chawla	Employers' Representative