

Employees' Provident Fund Organization (श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन

(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. Of India) मुख्य कार्यालय/ Head Office,

भविष्य निधि भवन, 14-भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली -११००६६ Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, 14-Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066 www.epfindia.gov.in

No. Conf.3(1)/98th EC, CBT(EPF)/2020

Date: 01.10.2020

To,

All Members, Executive Committee, CBT (EPF).

Sub: Minutes of the 98th meeting of the Executive Committee, CBT (EPF) held on 08.09.2020.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith the minutes of the 98th meeting of the Executive Committee, CBT (EPF) held on 08.09.2020, duly approved by the Chairman of Executive Committee, CBT (EPF).

(अमिय कान्त)

क्षेत्रीय भ निः आयुक्त-। (सम्मलेन)

Copy to:

- 1. PS to MOS (I/C), Labour & Employment for information.
- 2. PS to Central Provident Fund Commissioner, Head Office, New Delhi.
- Internal Circulation: CVO, FA & CAO, All Addl. CPFCs (HQ), Director (PDNASS), All ACCs EPFO (Head Office).
- 4. RPFC-I (NDC) with request to facilitate upload on EPFO's website.
- 5. Under Secretary (SS-II), Ministry of Labour & Employment, New Delhi.
- 6. Deputy Director (OL) for Hindi Version.
- 7. APFC/Protocol Officer, EPF Headquarters, New Delhi.
- 8. Guard File.

(अमिय कान्त)

क्षेत्रीय भ निः आयुक्त-I (सम्मलेन)

MINUTES OF THE 98th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CBT (EPF)

(By Video Conference; 08th September 2020, 03:00 PM)

The 98th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC), CBT (EPF) was chaired by Shri Heera Lal Samariya, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment. List of attending members is at **Annexure A**.

CPFC welcomed the Chairman and all the members to the 98th meeting of the Executive Committee.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 97th meeting of the Executive Committee, CBT (EPF) held on 04.03.2020.

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 04.03.2020 (97th EC Meeting).

2(2) Shri Sunkari Mallesham said that EPF pensioners can be provided medical benefits under Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

The Committee took note of the information in ATN placed before it.

Item No. 3: Audited Annual Accounts in respect of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 for the financial year 2018-19.

The audited annual accounts of all three schemes were discussed in FIAC and the Committee applauded the Finance and Accounts team for completing the work and resolving all issues in a timely manner and the report finalised with satisfaction of CAG.

Shri Sunkari Mallesham, Shri Virjesh Upadhyay and Shri Govind Lele made specific observations about terminology with respect to 'claimed', 'unclaimed', 'inoperative' etc. accounts, wherein ambiguity if any, may be removed as per the accepted accounting practices. Suggestions were noted.

The proposal as contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 4: Draft 66th Annual Report on the work and activities of the Central Board for the year 2018-19.

Shri Sunkari Mallesham said that the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner (II) West Bengal vs Vivekananda Vidya Mandir and Ors should be implemented so that the members get their due benefits, at least prospectively. Shri Dilip Bhattacharya said that it should be ensured that due amount is recovered from the establishments defaulting in payment of interest.

CPFC informed that instructions for giving effect to the Supreme Court judgement in Vivekananda Vidya Mandir case have already been issued to the field offices. Regarding

Supreme Court judgement restricting stay on recovery proceedings to 6 months, CPFC assured that the issue will be examined. CPFC further informed that interest is being recovered as per the provisions in the Act.

The proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 5: Status note regarding implementation of Double Entry Accounting System in EPFO.

The Committee took note of the information placed before it.

Item No. 6: Preliminary Estimate (PE) for upgradation/replacement of Sub Station along with LT Panels, HT Panel, wiring, Fire Fighting accessories and replacement of old lights fixtures with LED luminaries etc at EPFO, Head Office Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi.

Shri Dilip Bhattacharya enquired about the loss incurred due to fire incident at Vigilance Headquarters of EPFO. CPFC informed that e-office system has been implemented to eliminate possibility of loss of files in future due to fire or any other disaster. He further informed that fire proofing of the office building has also been done.

The Chairman advised to constitute a committee to examine the PWD estimates and recommend replacement of only those items that need to be necessarily replaced. Subject to this observation, the proposal contained in the agenda was approved.

Item No. 7: Authorizing Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC) to enter into agreement with International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ITC-ILO) for Training and Capacity Building of Officers of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

Shri Govind Lele suggested that training can be conducted on digital platform as this would enable imparting training to all officers and would also result in savings on foreign travel expenses.

Shri Virjesh Upadhyay said that if officers are sent abroad for training, the economies of those countries would only benefit. While international training can be conducted on digital platform, training programmes in physical mode should be conducted only in India.

Shri Sunkari Mallesham said that since EPFO is an important social security organisation, EPFO should not just get training from international organisations but also impart training to the world.

CPFC suggested that EPFO officers may be allowed to avail of the training programmes conducted by ITC-ILO, whether in physical or digital form in order to give them exposure to global best practices. He assured that maximum training programmes would be conducted in India only.

The Chairman advised that, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the international training of officers of EPFO at present should be conducted on digital platforms only.

It was decided to defer the present agenda and to modify proposal in accordance with new realities.

Item No. 8: Authorizing Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC) to depute officers of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for training at The International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ITC-ILO).

The agenda item was deferred.

Item No. 9: Hiring of M/s Ernst & Young LLP (NICSI empanelled e-Governance Consultant) as Implementing Agency for Data Analytics Services for EPFO in project mode

The Chairman observed that Consultant should be selected in a transparent and fair manner and advised to re-examine the proposal with reference to extant rules and procedure applicable as per GFR.

The agenda item was deferred.

Other Issues:

Shri Dilip Bhattacharya and Shri Sunkari Mallesham said that the minimum pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 should be increased to Rs.3000/- per month. The Chairman informed that the matter is being taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

Shri Dilip Bhattacharya expressed concern that some employers deduct contributions from the wages of their employees but do not deposit the contributions with EPFO. He said that, consequently, such employees are also deprived of the benefits such as advance due to COVID-19. CPFC assured to take strict action in such cases.

Shri Dilip Bhattacharya said that EPFO has invested in ETF in order to get higher returns. He said that the loss incurred on investments in stock market is a matter of concern. CPFC clarified that the realised gains and losses on investments in ETF accrue only on actual sale or disposal by EPFO and that investments are made in accordance with the prescribed pattern of investment.

Shri Govind Lele and Shri Sunkari Mallesham complimented CPFC for his stewardship of EPFO in innovative use of technology to bring succour to the stakeholders of EPFO during the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Shri Sunkari Mallesham appreciated the Prayas initiative through which members have been given Pension Payment Orders (PPO) on the date of retirement itself.

Shri Sunkari Mallesham appreciated the fact that the benefit has been increased to Rs. 10 lakhs from ex-gratia Death Relief Fund on death of an EPFO employee due to COVID-19 but still it is not sufficient. He suggested that the benefit of Rs. 50 lakhs, available to corona warriors under the scheme of Govt. of India, may be provided to staff members of EPFO. He said that appointment on compassionate grounds should also be fast-tracked. CPFC assured that compassionate appointments will be expedited and instructions have gone to field offices.

Shri Sunkari Mallesham said that the staff members should be given their due benefits under MACPS. He said that there are many vacancies in various posts which need to be filled up. He said that one-time benefit of a promotion should also be given to staff members in isolated cadres.

Shri Sunkari Mallesham said that the threshold of 20 employees for coverage of establishments under EPF Act should be reduced to 10 employees while the wage ceiling for coverage of employees should be increased from Rs. 15000/- per month to Rs. 25000/- per month.

Shri Sunkari Mallesham said that in order to increase the accessibility to the customers, there should be a district office of EPFO in each district of the country. He further suggested that each regional office should operate from a different building.

Shri Virjesh Upadhyay, on behalf of all members of the EC, thanked the Chairman for the guidance given by him to the EC and conveyed his best wishes on his retirement.

All suggestions were noted for suitable action as per rules.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

ANNEXURE A

<u>List of attending members</u>

98th meeting of Executive Committee, CBT (EPF)

1	Shri Heera Lal Samariya, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment	Chairman		
2	Ms. Anuradha Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment.	Central Government's		
3	Ms. Sibani Swain, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Labour & Employment.	representatives		
4	Shri Prem Prakash Singh, Special Secretary (Labour), State Govt. (Uttar Pradesh).	State Government's		
5	Shri Raviraj llawe, Joint Commissioner of Labour, State Govt. (Maharashtra).	representatives		
6	Shri Arun Chawla			
7	Shri Sougata Roy Choudhury	Employers'		
8	Shri Govind Lele	representatives		
9	Shri Virjesh Upadhyay			
10	Shri Sunkari Mallesham	Employees' representatives		
11	Shri Dilip Bhattacharya			
12	Shri Sunil Barthwal	CPFC & Member Secretary (ex-officio)		

Following member could not attend the meeting:-

1	Principal Secretary,	Govt. of	Haryana,	State	Govt.	State Government's
	(Haryana).					representative