

# EPFO relief in joint declaration form

**There is good news** for some Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) account holders. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has issued a circular providing relief to certain EPF account holders from submitting a joint declaration form. However, the relief does not apply to those who have applied for the higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).

Employers and employees are required to submit this form jointly for contributing to the EPF account on a basic salary higher than the cur-

rent statutory wage ceiling of ₹15,000 per month.

The EPFO circular provides relief to the EPF members who left employment or died before a specific date and certain existing members as well. It also includes the employees who have paid more than the statutory limit, but left employment or died 'till 31 October 2023'.

Radhika Viswanathan, Executive Director, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP, says, "For EPF members, who left employment or died on or after 1 November 2023, the submission of joint declaration form is man-

datory if their contributions to the EPF account are higher than the statutory limit."

All the EPF members who are already contributing on pay exceeding the statutory limit and their employers are paying administrative charges on the higher contributions, will not have to file the joint declaration form immediately.

According to Viswanathan, "The EPFO circular will provide immediate relief to two categories of existing employees. The first category of employees is those who have joined the EPF scheme with a basic salary

that is below the statutory wage limit and continued to contribute to the EPF account even when the basic salary exceeded ₹15,000 per month over time. The second category is those employees who joined with a basic salary below the statutory wage limit and switched jobs over time but forgot to submit the joint declaration form. An employee with a basic salary exceeding the statutory wage limit of ₹15,000 per month will have to submit the joint declaration form at the time of joining a new job."

—Preeti Motiani