

# EPFO to continue accepting offline claims for PF withdrawal above INR 10 lakh

## Summary

In light of the problems faced by its members/claimants, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has issued a circular<sup>1</sup> instructing its office to continue accepting offline claims for withdrawal of provident fund (PF) and employee pension scheme (EPS).

## Background

- The EPFO had, vide circular<sup>2</sup> dated 27 February 2018, made it mandatory for members to submit only online claims for withdrawal of PF amounts higher than INR 10 lakh and for EPS amounts over INR 5 lakh.
- In light of problems faced by members/claimants including international workers in filing online claims, the Central Provident Fund Commissioner, in a recent meeting, took the decision to reintroduce physical forms/offline claims, thereby keeping the earlier circular of February 2018 in abeyance.
- However, in view of the need to step up security vis-à-vis online claims, such claims from member/claimants will be sent online to employers for additional verification, post which the claim will be settled. The employer needs to revert within 3 days to EPFO office either accepting or rejecting the claim.

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<sup>1</sup> H.No. WSU/17(4)2015/F/Part/1276 dated 13 April 2018

<sup>2</sup> H.No. WSU/17(1)2017/Frauds/20514 dated 27 February 2018

## Our comments

This move will bring relief to a large number of members/claimants as it does away with the need of mandatory online filing of PF and EPS withdrawal claims. Now a member can make a claim for PF/EPS withdrawal of above INR 10 lakh and INR 5 lakh respectively, in both online and offline mode, based on their convenience. This also brings respite to international workers who were unable to file online applications in the absence of Aadhaar details.



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