

## EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

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Assistant PF Commissioner

Dated: 23.09.2016

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Ram Krishna Tripathi, APFC

(Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh)

Ajay Kumar Singh, APFC

To

Dr. V. P. Joy, I.A.S.,

Chairman (Anomaly Redressal cum Implementation

Committee)

Central Provident Fund Commissioner

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

New Delhi

Subject: Implementation of Organisational and

Cadre Restructuring in EPFO - reg.

Reference: EPFOA Letter dt. 09.09.2016 on resolution

of issues/anomalies in the Cadre Restructuring in EPFO – reg.

Respected Sir,

Please refer to the subject and EPFOA letter dt. 09.09.2016 cited in the reference above. Thereafter, the undersigned also had the pleasure of having a meeting with your goodself wherein the resolution passed by the newly elected Executive Body of EPFOA, on above subject, in its meeting dated 19.08.2016, attended by its office bearers was also deliberated.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to make it very clear that the incumbent EPFOA is in favour of immediate implementation of the long pending cadre restructuring in EPFO. Further, as per discussion with your goodself, please find below the vital issues, prepared after taking inputs from various stakeholders of EPF Officers' community, that need to be addressed along with suggestions for solutions that we pray to be incorporated through the Anomaly Redressal cum Implementation Committee under your Chairmanship. These may kindly be incorporated in the existing Cadre Restructuring format and implementation orders may be issued for implementation of cadre restructuring in EPFO at the earliest. For convenience, the issues / anomalies along with solutions are summarized in tabular format below:

| SI. | Relevant portion (Issue /    | Brief description of the issue / anomaly            | Solution Proposed                             | Relevant changes to      |
|-----|------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| No. | Anomaly) in the Anomaly      |   |   | be incorporated          |
|     | Redressal cum                |   |   | through the Anomaly      |
|     | Implementation Committee     |   |   | Redressal cum            |
|     | Report to be addressed       |   |   | Implementation           |
|     |                              |   |   | Committee                |
| 1.  | Creation of new post of DPFC | The new post of DPFC at 6600 GP, functionally       | Every field office should comprise of         | The Integrated Circle    |
|     | at 6600 GP without any       | same as APFC is being created without               | Integrated Circles (Integrating service       | (Integrating service     |
|     | structural / organizational  | appropriate reorientation of the field offices      | delivery and compliance functions in field    | delivery and             |
|     | reorientation at APFC/DPFC   | structure. Presently, the work division in field    | offices) instead of the present system of     | compliance functions)    |
|     | level in field offices.      | offices at APFC level is done purely on             | only Compliance Circles under each            | under every APFC /       |
|     | Functionally the DPFC &      | discretionary basis without any set criteria, norm  | APFC/DPFC. The Integrated Circle under        | DPFC in field offices is |
|     | APFC posts are same.         | or defined work load, having strong bearing on      | APFC / DPFC comprising of defined             | approved in-principle.   |
|     |                              | the efficiency of the system. To substantiate,      | number of establishments (with weightage      | Every APFC / DPFC        |
|     |                              | presently, compliance division in field offices are | to number of subscribers) as per the norm     | posted in field office   |
|     |                              | divided into compliance circles purely on           | set by implementation Committee may be        | shall essentially head   |
|     |                              | discretionary basis without any consideration to    | created in field offices. Every APFC / DPFC   | an Integrated Circle to  |
|     |                              | the service delivery component. This leads to       | posted in field office shall essentially head | perform the service      |

unsatisfactory service to the various stakeholders. widens compliance gaps, increases organizational cost apart from adding to delay and avoidable coordination issues between compliance and service delivery functions which seriously hampers the efficacy of the system. With creation of post of DPFC at STS level, having same functionality as that of APFC, the situation will further worsen. The unstructured, irrational work profile management in field offices at APFC/DPFC level must be addressed to improve service delivery and bridge the huge gaps in compliance functions apart from putting in place a system of checks and balances to avoid misuse of power and improve the overall work culture and ethical standards of the organization. The earmarking of 35 DPFC headed offices is a

an Integrated Circle to perform the service delivery compliance and functions pertaining to the Integrated circle and report to RPFC (OIC). Profiles (other than service delivery and compliance) can be rationally allocated between APFC/DPFC. This will ensure a lifecycle approach to an establishment where all the tasks ranging from compliance to service delivery will be carried out under single window. This will facilitate employers and employees and will go a long way in improving EPFO's perception and ranking in Ease of doing business index.

delivery and compliance functions pertaining to the Integrated circle. The detailed modalities of integrated circle system under APFC / DPFC to be worked out and orders to be issued along with implementation of cadre restructuring.

2. It is recommended that offices having less than 1 lac monthly contributing members be headed by Deputy PF Commissioners. There are 35 such offices. It is recommended that all such

The earmarking of 35 DPFC headed offices is a welcome step. But the threshold of 1 lac contributing members for making it RPFC headed is impractical since the contributing members keep fluctuating on month to month basis and with this rider, even a situation can arise where a RPFC headed office becomes

The present earmarking of 35 DPFC headed offices by the Implementation committee may be kept. The rider condition of upgrading DPFC headed offices to RPFC on crossing the threshold of 1 lac may kindly be removed/not operationalized considering the fact that number of

The following portion in the report may either be removed or not operationalized – "It is recommended that all such offices be upgraded to RPFC

offices be upgraded to RPFC level offices once they DPFC headed if there is decrease contributory members is dynamic level offices once they cross contributing members below 1 lac. This will lead phenomena and creating this caveat is cross the threshold of neither rational nor justified and may lead threshold of 1 to avoidable confusion and administrative contributing lac lac contributing members. chaos. Further, the rider of 1 lac is also in to promote undue adhocism. There can members." contradiction to the very purpose outlined in the be situation where RPFC headed offices reduces to 1 lac threshold. Instead, once report itself which stipulates for DPFC headed offices for providing leadership roles to the the DPFC headed offices reach the young APFCs by giving them opportunity to threshold of 2 lacs, more DPFC headed independently head offices. Such criteria seem offices should be created to broaden the to be against principles of efficiency and opportunity and motivation for each level of officers. This will ensure and fulfill the motivation, because motivated efforts for increasing members can lead to change of office objectives set in the report of providing status. Therefore, this may kindly be relooked. leadership role to young APFCs and also provide opportunity of heading offices to departmental promotee APFCs. No profile, powers defined for Sub-Committee DPFC should be a substantial promotion DPFC Report The on Cadre to be а DPFC. Restructuring prepared under Chairmanship of post (60 % of combined cadre of APFC & promotion post for DPFC only redesignation of DPFC) for APFCs with 4 years of regular AS (L&E) and approved by the CBT made it APFC and it will APFC (STS) very clear that DPFC is a promotion post for service, as recommended by the Subexercise all legal, APFC cadre. Further, due to upgradation of Committee Report on Cadre Restructuring administrative and RPFC-II, the vacuum created at STS level is headed by AS (L&E) and approved by CBT financial powers supposed to be filled by DPFC but no work instead of mere change in designation. This hitherto exercised by profile of this newly created post has been done would also be in sync with equivalent RPFC-II. DPFC should

|    |                                  | and even legal, administrative and financial   | position of Deputy Commissioner in Income          | be notified as            |
|----|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
|    |                                  | powers have not been defined. This will have   | Tax. DPFC should exercise all legal,               | Inspector, Recovery       |
|    |                                  | serious repercussion in the efficient          | administrative and financial powers hitherto       | Officer. Notifications to |
|    |                                  | administration and delivery of services in the | exercised by RPFC-II. Notifications to this        | this effect should be     |
|    |                                  | field offices.                                 | effect should be issued. This will fill the        | issued along with         |
|    |                                  |  | vacuum created by upgradation of RPFC-II           | implementation.           |
|    |                                  |  | and ensure administrative continuity with          |                           |
|    |                                  |  | least disturbance in the existing structure.       |                           |
|    |                                  |  | This is very much required as DPFC has             |                           |
|    |                                  |  | also been proposed to be OIC of 35 offices.        |                           |
| 4. | Gradation of field offices based |  | Due regard should be given to seniority by         | Due regard should be      |
|    | on seniority                     |  | earmarking big field offices to officers of        | given to seniority by     |
|    |                                  |  | senior batches.                                    | earmarking big field      |
|    |                                  |  |  | offices to officers of    |
|    |                                  |  |  | senior batches.           |
| 5  | NFU                              |  | Since very less number of JS level posts           | NFU implementation        |
|    |                                  |  | have been approved, NFU implementation             | should be made part of    |
|    |                                  |  | should be made part of Implementation              | Implementation            |
|    |                                  |  | Committee report so that senior officers           | Committee report.         |
|    |                                  |  | stagnating can at least get financial benefit      | Cadre Restructuring to    |
|    |                                  |  | as available to other Organized central            | be carried out on a       |
|    |                                  |  | Services, as per provisions of section 5D of       | continuous periodic       |
|    |                                  |  | EPF & MP Act, 1952 and decision of the             | basis preferably within   |
|    |                                  |  | 72 <sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee, EPF granting | 5 years.                  |

|   |                             |   | parity to EPF Officers with IRS (IT).          |                           |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
|   |                             |   | Further, considering the fact that this is the |                           |
|   |                             |   | first Cadre Restructuring, yet to be realized  |                           |
|   |                             |   | in the history of EPFO, it should be carried   |                           |
|   |                             |   | out on a continuous periodic basis             |                           |
|   |                             |   | preferably within 5 years. Also, exercise      |                           |
|   |                             |   | should be done post cadre restructuring for    |                           |
|   |                             |   | having more posts at JS level as per ideal     |                           |
|   |                             |   | pyramidal structure recommended by DoPT        |                           |
|   |                             |   | considering the exponential increase in the    |                           |
|   |                             |   | workload in the horizontal as well as          |                           |
|   |                             |   | vertical dimensions in EPFO.                   |                           |
| 6 | District offices under APFC | Existing infrastructure of district offices need to | Till the time necessary infrastructure and     | Till the time necessary   |
|   |                             | be dramatically improved for making it a reality.   | modalities are not in place, District Office   | infrastructure and        |
|   |                             |   | may form part of the proposed integrated       | modalities are not in     |
|   |                             |   | circle jurisdiction under APFC/DPFC placed     | place, District Office    |
|   |                             |   | at respective field offices.                   | may form part of the      |
|   |                             |   |  | proposed integrated       |
|   |                             |   |  | circle jurisdiction under |
|   |                             |   |  | APFC/DPFC placed at       |
|   |                             |   |  | respective field offices. |

Sir, the above issues are not complex in nature but have strong bearing on the organizational efficiency, effectiveness and its sustainability. These are very minute alterations and enabling provisions which will go a long way in establishing appropriate structure, systems and processes synchronising the ongoing cadre restructuring exercise with organizational effectiveness under your esteemed leadership. It is our firm belief that these issues can be easily addressed by the Anomaly Redressal cum Implementation Committee under your Chairmanship and can be incorporated in the existing framework of cadre restructuring by giving in-principle approval in the implementation order itself and detailed modalities can be worked out after issuance of implementation orders.

Therefore, it is again respectfully submitted to you to kindly incorporate above issues in the existing cadre restructuring format and simultaneously issue implementation orders of the same at the earliest.

Thanking You

Yours Sincerely,

(Abhaya Nand Tiwari)
Secretary General