

BID TO STRENGTHEN PENSION DIVISION

EPFO Plans to Set up Actuary, Hire more Staff

ON THE AGENDA Decision taken because of increased work load following SC's 2022 order on higher pension

Yogima Seth

New Delhi: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) plans to overhaul its pension division, including by setting up an in-house actuary and hiring additional staff, as the Supreme Court's 2022 order on higher pensions has significantly added to the workload of the retirement fund body.

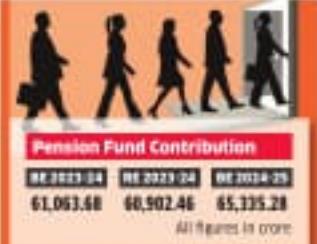
EPFO may also ask exempted establishments to pay for the administrative charges involved in computing and processing of higher pension for their employees.

The proposals were put before the EPFO's central board of trustees that met on Saturday. "There is an urgent need to have an in-house actuarial setup also. The details for the set up are currently being explored," the EPFO said in the agenda document, which ET has seen.

The EPFO has already appointed an actuary to assess the

Gearing Up

- ▶ SC directive on higher pension added to its workload
- ▶ Exempted establishments may have to shell out more
- ▶ EPFO may charge for higher pension cases from them



Source: EPFO

impact on the pension fund from the court order. But since millions of employees who have opted for higher pensions are still working, the retirement fund body feels the process will continue for years and hence it requires an in-house facility.

Seeking the board's approval to hire additional staff, the retirement fund body said a large proportion of applicants permitted to opt for higher pension are in service.

"As such, the work related to pension on higher wages

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TRACKING THE TAX STORY

Net Direct Tax Mopup Rises 20% till Feb 10

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's net direct tax collection surged 20.25% year-on-year to ₹15.00 lakh crore till February 10 this fiscal year, showed data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Sunday. This collection is 90.22% of the total Revised Estimates of Direct Taxes for 2023-24.

The Centre expects to comfortably meet the revised target in the remaining 40 days of the current fiscal.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in the interim budget presented on February 1 raised the FY24 estimate for direct tax collection to ₹15.45 lakh crore from ₹15.20 lakh crore.

Better compliance and improvement in economic activities helped in direct tax collections exceeding the budget target. Gross direct tax collection was

up 17.30% from a year ago at ₹14.30 lakh crore, data showed.

Gross corporate income tax (CIT) for the period grew 9.18% while personal income tax (PIT) was up 25.67%. After adjustment of refunds, the net growth in CIT collection was 11.57% while that in PIT collection was 26.91%.

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