To,
The Zonal ACCs/Director (PDNASS)/RPFCs in-charge,
All Zonal Office/Regional Offices/ZTIs.


Sir/Madam,

Kind attention is drawn to Rule 149 of the GFR 2017 which deals with Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and lays down in unambiguous terms that “The Procurement of Goods and Services by Ministries or Departments will be mandatory for Goods or Services available on GeM.” The spirit behind Rule 149 of GFR 2017 has been reiterated vide Head Office Circulars dated 09.07.2019 and 23.07.2019 available at Sl. No. 158 and 176 respectively on the official website of EPFO (under Office Orders/Circulars link).

2. It is observed that some field offices have floated tenders on Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) for procurement of certain goods and services. Referring to the aforesaid tenders, Government e-Marketplace has conveyed through Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E) that the aforesaid items procured by EPFO are available on GeM; hence procurement of the same outside GeM Portal is in contravention of GFR provisions. In this regard Ministry has sought clarification from EPFO.

3. In view of above, RPFCs/OICs are requested to review the matter at their level, take corrective measures, if necessary, and ensure strict compliance of Rule 149 of GFR 2017.

Yours faithfully

(Animesh Mishra)
Addl. Central P.F. Commissioner (PDU)