



19/08/2021
 कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन
 EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION
 श्रम एवं रोजगार विभाग, भारत सरकार
 MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 मुख्य कार्यालय/Head Office
 भविष्य निधि भवन, 14, भिकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली-110066
 Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, 14, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066
 Website: www.epfindia.gov.in, www.epfindia.nic.in



25 AUG 2021

To
 The ACC(HQ)/ACC
 All Zonal Offices.

**Sub:- Review of 7-A Inquiries pending for more than 3 years-
 Regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

Please refer to the email dated 03.02.2021 followed by Head Office letter no. even dated 23.06.2021 and subsequent e-mail/reminders dated 25.06.2021, 15.07.2021 and 27.07.2021 on above noted subject and also the previous instructions issued on 03.01.2019 on pending 7A cases. Time and again higher authorities have expressed serious concern about long pendency of 7A cases specially for over 5 years.

2. It is deeply regretted that in spite of so many letters and reminders and introduction of the virtual hearing mode for quasi judicial inquiries from October, 2020, no significant steps or major actions have been taken by the Zonal Offices to review and bring down the pendency of 7A/14B cases pending beyond three years and five years.

3. That several cases are pending in r/o non-functional / closed establishments in which the whereabouts of employers is not known due to which the summons / notices are not served and no report regarding the amount due from establishment is available on record to conclude the proceedings. Thus basic legal requirements for initiation of cases are not fulfilled but cases are going on for years. In the various review meetings, it was informed by few Regional Offices that they have resorted to issue of public notice in such cases to invite information from the employers / ex-employees and general public regarding the disbursement of wages and employment of persons during the period of inquiry and final decision has been taken according to the response to the public notice. It appears that all Zonal / Regional Offices have not taken such action resulting in huge pendency of cases.

- 4 . In view of the above it is directed that all ACCs-in-charge of ZO shall:
- a. review all 7A cases pending for over 5 years on fortnightly basis and furnish the details of such cases to Head Office along with name of assessing officers, the reasons of pendency and the actions taken by the Adjudicating Officer to dispose them within the time period stipulated by the Head Office guidelines issued from time to time, the specific remarks of their respective supervisory officers regarding the efforts made by them to ensure compliance with the HO guidelines.
 - b. time bound disposal of all cases pending for more than 5 years by 30.09.2021 and all cases pending for more than 3 years by 31.12.2021; and
 - c. advise all Adjudicating Officers within their jurisdiction to complete the 7A inquiries in a time-bound manner considering the provisions of section 125 of the Code on Social Security, 2020.
 - d. In case it is required the officers not clearing pending cases as per targets their continuity in compliance function be reviewed.
6. A comprehensive report in this regard along with specific recommendations of ACC-in-charge of the ZO and actions taken/contemplated against erring officers may also be furnished to this office by 31.08.2021.

Yours faithfully,


(Jag Mohan)

Addl. Central PF Commissioner (HQ) (Compliance, Recovery & Legal)