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No. 57/04/2019-P&PW(B)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare

Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market,
New Delhi, the 25th June, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Coverage under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, in place of National Pension System in terms of DoPPW OM dated 17.02.2020 - clarifications- regarding.

The undersigned is directed to say that instructions have been issued vide this Department's O.M. of even number dated 17th February, 2020, that in all cases where the results for recruitment were declared before 01.01.2004, against vacancies occurring on or before 31.12.2003, the candidates declared successful for recruitment shall be eligible for coverage under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. Accordingly, such Government servants who were declared successful for recruitment in the results declared on or before 31.12.2003, against vacancies occurring before 01.01.2004 and are covered under the National Pension System on joining service on or after 01.01.2004, may be given a **one-time option** to be covered under the CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972.

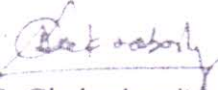
2. References have been received in this Department seeking clarifications in regard to the implementation of the aforesaid instructions in certain circumstances. The issues raised by the various Departments have been examined in this Department and the position is clarified as under:

S. No.	Issue raised	Clarification
1	A Government servant joined in a Department /Office of the Central Government on or after 01.01.2004 on the basis of results declared before 01.01.2004 against vacancies occurred prior to 01.01.2004 and thereafter joined another Central Government Department / Office with proper permission after tendering technical resignation. Can the option exercised by such a Government servant be considered in accordance with the O.M. dated 17.2.2020 and, if so, which Department/office will take	Such a Government servant is also eligible to exercise option under O.M. dated 17.02.2020. A decision on the option shall be taken by the <u>appointing authority of the post in the Department/Office</u> for which such option is exercised by Government servant. In case the Government servant has submitted his option in his latest Department/office, that Department/Office shall forward the option to the concerned Department/office, for taking an appropriate decision. The decision taken by the concerned Department/Office shall be communicated to his latest Department. In such cases, the instructions relating to mobility as contained in this Department's O.Ms. No. 28/30/2004-P&PW(B) dated 26.07.2005 and 28.10.2009 shall also be applicable and further action for counting of past service for pension/gratuity shall be taken in accordance with the CCS(Pension) Rules. 1972 by the latest Department/Office.

2	<p>Can an option exercised by a member of the family of the deceased Government servant be considered.</p>	<p>If a Government servant, who was otherwise eligible to exercise option in terms of the O.M. dated 17.02.2020, has already died, the option exercised by the member of the family, who is eligible to receive NPS benefits on death of the Government servant in accordance with PFRDA (Exits and Withdrawals under NPS) Regulations, may be accepted and processed in accordance with the instructions contained in this Department's OM dated 17.02.2020.</p> <p>If, before his death, the Government servant had joined another Central Government Department/office with proper permission after tendering technical resignation, the option exercised by the such nominee shall be processed in accordance with the clarification No. (1) above.</p>
3	<p>In cases covered by clarification No. (2), how will the amount of the corpus in the NPS account, which was transferred to the Government consequent on death of the Government servant in accordance with the O.M. No. 38/41/06/P&PW(A) dated 05.05.2009, be adjusted.</p>	<p>The amount of the corpus in the NPS account, which was transferred to the Government consequent on death of the Government servant, shall be adjusted in the manner indicated in para 9 of this Department's O.M. dated 17.02.2020, with the modification that the employee's contribution in the NPS account along with up-to-date interest, calculated on the rates applicable to GPF from time to time, shall be paid to the person in whose favour a nomination to receive NPS amount was submitted by the Government servant under the Regulations notified by PFRDA.</p>
4.	<p>Will the instructions contained in the OM dated 17.02.2020 be applicable in the case of Government servants who joined on or after 01.01.2004 on appointment on compassionate grounds. If so, how will the eligibility of such Government servants to exercise option under OM dated 17.02.2020 be determined.</p>	<p>A Government servant, who joined on or after 01.01.2004 on appointment on compassionate grounds, shall be eligible to exercise option in terms of the OM dated 17.02.2020, if the competent authority had taken the decision on the recommendation of the Screening/Selection Committee to appoint the Government servant on compassionate grounds before 01.01.2004.</p>

3. All Ministries / Departments are requested to bring the contents of these clarifications to the notice of Controller of Accounts/Pay and Accounts Officers, Attached office and Subordinate Offices under them.

4. Hindi version will follow.


(S. Chakrabarti)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

To,

1. All Central Govt. Ministries / Departments.
2. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi.
3. C&AG, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
4. Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, for information, New Delhi.
5. Department of Personnel and Training, North Block, New Delhi.
6. Department of Financial Services, Jeevan Deep Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi.
7. CGA, Department of Expenditure, INA, New Delhi,
8. AD(OL) for Hindi Version
9. NIC for posting on the website of this Department.

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No. 57/04/2019-P&PW(B)
Government of India
Department of Pension and PW

Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market,
New Delhi, the 17th February, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Coverage under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, in place of National Pension System, of those Central Government employees whose selection for appointment was finalized before 01.01.2004 but who joined Government service on or after 01.01.2004.

The undersigned is directed to say that consequent on introduction of National Pension System (NPS) vide Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification No. 5/7/2003-ECB & PR dated 22.12.2003, all Government servants appointed on or after 01.01.2004 to the posts in the Central Government service (except armed forces) are mandatorily covered under the said scheme. The Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 and other connected rules were also amended vide Notification dated 30.12.2003 and, after the said amendment, those rules are not applicable to the Government servants appointed to Government service after 31.12.2003.

2. Representations have been received in this Department from the Government servants appointed on or after 1.1.2004 requesting for the benefit of the pension scheme under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 on the ground that their appointment was delayed on account of administrative reasons or lapses. Similar references have been received from Ministries/Departments seeking advice of this Department on the question whether the Government servants who were appointed on or after 1.1.2004 could also be extended the benefit of pension scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules, if their appointment was delayed beyond 31.12.2003 on account of administrative reasons and the delay in appointment was beyond the control of the said Government servants.

3. From the representations of the Government employees and the references received from Ministries/Departments, it has been observed that in many of the cases referred to this Department, selection process (including written examination, interview and declaration of result) for recruitment had been completed before 01.01.2004 but the employee joined the Government service on or after 01.01.2004. A few illustrations where the selection was finalized before 01.01.2004 but actual joining took place on or after 01.01.2004 are as under:

(i) The result for recruitment was declared before 01.01.2004 but the offer of appointment and actual joining of the Government servant was delayed on account of police verification, medical examination etc.;

(ii) Some of the candidates selected through a common selection process were issued offers of appointments and were also appointed before 01.01.2004 whereas the offers of appointment to other selected candidates were issued on or after 1.1.2004 due to administrative reasons/constraints including pending Court/CAT cases.

(iii) Candidates selected before 01.01.2004 through a common competitive examination were allocated to different Departments/organization. While recruitment process was completed by some Department(s) / organizations on or before 31.12.2003 in respect of one or more candidates, the offers of appointment to the candidates allocated to the other Departments / organization were issued on or after 01.01.2004.

(iv) Offers of appointment to selected candidates were made before 01.01.2004 with a direction to join on or after 01.01.2004.

(v) Offers of appointment were issued to selected candidates before 01.01.2004, and many/most candidates joined service before 01.01.2004. However, some candidate(s) were allowed extension of joining time and they joined service on or after 01.01.2004. However, their seniority was either unaffected or was depressed in the same batch or to a subsequent batch, the result for which subsequent batch was declared before 01.01.2004.

(vi) The result for recruitment was declared before 01.01.2004 but one or more candidates were declared disqualified on the grounds of medical fitness or verification of character and antecedents, caste or income certificates. Subsequently, on review, they were found fit for appointment and were issued offers of appointment on or after 01.01.2004.

In all the above illustrative cases, since the result for recruitment was declared before 01.01.2004, denial of the benefit of pension under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 to the affected Government servants is not considered justified.

4. The matter has been examined in consultation with the Department of Personnel & Training, Department of Expenditure and Department of Legal Affairs in the light of the various representations/references and decisions of the Courts in this regard. It has been decided that in all cases where the results for recruitment were declared before 01.01.2004 against vacancies occurring on or before 31.12.2003, the candidates declared successful for recruitment shall be eligible for coverage under the CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972. Accordingly, such Government servants who were declared successful for recruitment in the results declared on or before 31.12.2003 against vacancies occurring before 01.01.2004 and are covered under the National Pension System on joining service on or after 01.01.2004, may be given

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a **one-time option** to be covered under the CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972. This option may be exercised by the concerned Government servants **latest by 31.05.2020**.

5. Those Government servants who are eligible to exercise option in accordance with para-4 above, but who do not exercise this option by the stipulated date, shall continue to be covered by the National Pension System.

6. The option once exercised shall be final.

7. It is clarified, that the above option would be available to only those Government servants who were declared successful for recruitment before 01.01.2004, against vacancies pertaining to the period prior to that date. This option shall, however, not be available to the Government servants appointed on or after 01.01.2004 if they fall in any of the following categories:

(i) Government servants whose names were included in a panel of selected candidates before 01.01.2004 for recruitment against vacancies occurring on or after 01.01.2004 and were, accordingly, recruited on or after 01.01.2004.

(ii) A Government servant whose name was included in a panel of selected candidates prepared before 01.01.2004 for vacancies arising before and after 01.01.2004 but was actually appointed after 31.12.2003 against a vacancy arising on or after 01.01.2004.

(iii) Government servants who were selected against vacancies pertaining to the period prior to 01.01.2004 on the basis of an advertisement/notification issued before 01.01.2004 or a written examination/interview held before 01.01.2004 but results for recruitment were declared on or after 01.01.2004.

(iv) Government servants who joined on or after 01.01.2004 after they were granted extension of joining time on their own request and, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training, their seniority was depressed on account of such extension of joining time to a batch for which the result for recruitment was declared on or after 01.01.2004.

8. The matter regarding coverage under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 based on the option exercised by the Government servant shall be placed before the appointing authority for consideration in accordance with these instructions. In case the Government servant fulfils the conditions for coverage under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, in accordance with these instructions, necessary order in this regard shall be issued latest by **30th September, 2020**. The NPS account of such Government servants shall, consequently, be closed w.e.f. **01st November, 2020**.

9. The Government servants who exercise option to switch over to the pension scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, shall be required to subscribe to the General Provident Fund (GPF). Regarding account of the corpus in the NPS account of the Government servant, Controller General of Accounts (CGA) has furnished the following clarification vide letter No. 1(7)(2)/2010/cla./TA III/390 dated 14.11.2019:

- i. **Adjustment of Employees' contribution in Accounts:** Amount may be credited to individual's GPF account and the account may be recasted permitting up-to-date interest (Authority-FR-16 & Rule 11 of GPF Rules).
- ii. **Adjustment of Government contribution under NPS in Accounts:** To be accounted for as (-) Dr. to object head 70 - Deduct Recoveries under Major Head 2071 - Pension and other Retirement benefit - Minor Head 911- Deduct Recoveries of overpayment (GAR 35 and para 3.10 of List of Major and Minor Heads of Accounts).
- iii. **Adjustment of increased value of subscription on account of appreciation of investments** - May be accounted for by crediting the amount to Govt. account under M.H. 0071- Contribution towards Pension and Other Retirements Benefits 800- Other Receipts (Note under the above Head in LMMHA).

10. **All Ministries/Departments are requested to give wide publicity to these orders.** The cases of those Government servants who fulfil the conditions mentioned in this O.M. and who exercise option to switch over to the pension scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules may be settled by the administrative Ministries/Departments in accordance with these orders.

11. These orders issue with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, vide their I.D. Note No. 1(7) EV/2019 dated 08.01.2020.

12. In their application to the employees of Indian Audit and Accounts Department, these orders are issued after consultation with Comptroller and Auditor General of India, as mandated under Article 148(5) of the Constitution.

13. Hindi version will follow.


(Ruchir Mittal)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

To,

1. All Central Govt. Ministries / Departments.
2. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi.
3. C&AG, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
4. Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, for information, New Delhi.
5. Department of Personnel and Training, North Block, New Delhi.
6. Department of Financial Services, Jeevan Deep Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi.
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