**EPFO mail communication**

**Subject:** Extending benefits under the EPF & MP Act to Orphans - reg.

Sir/Madam,

 EPFO provides for social security cover to members and their families in old age as well as in case of untimely death of the earning member, including for deaths due to COVID-19. In event of untimely passing away of a member of the EPS 1995 in addition to widow/widower and children Pension, orphans are eligible for pension under EPS 1995. Pension to orphans, is equal to 75% of the monthly widow pension with minimum pension of Rs. 750 p.m. to each child. The EPS, 1995 ensures the protection of social security for life to disabled orphans by ensuring lifelong pension in cases of orphans suffering from disorder or disability of mind or physically crippled or disabled.

 The family of the deceased member including orphans are also entitled to benefits under the EDLI Scheme 1976. The maximum benefit under para 22(3) has now been increased to Rs.7 lakh, while minimum benefit has been reinstated as Rs.2.5 lakh w.e.f., 15.02.2020. Furthermore, now the minimum benefit of Rs.2.5 lakh & maximum benefit of Rs.7 lakh shall also be available in such cases where the deceased member was in continuous employment for 12 months prior to his death in the same establishment/multiple establishments.

However, it is noticed that it becomes difficult for the orphans to claim these benefits as loss of both parents, not only results in mental trauma for such child, but may also result in his/her physical relocation. Therefore a need is felt that in such cases the employer of the parent should also proactively assist the orphans in claiming their due benefits under the Employees Provident Fund & Act 1952.

Therefore, you are requested to immediately forward the list of employees of your establishment who have lost their lives during the Second Covid Wave in the following format so that our designated officer can also contact the concerned family members, help and guide them in claiming their EPF benefits. You are also requested to immediately contact the family members of the deceased employee, inform them of EPF benefits and help them in submitting claim forms for availing benefits.

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| Sl. No. | Name of employee | PF A/C No. or UAN No. | Age & Gender | Date of Death | Name & Contact number of family member to be contacted |
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Regards,

EPFO

Compliance Wing

RO, Bengaluru(Central)