

Now info on PF just an SMS away

EPFO WILL ALSO GIVE REMINDER CALLS TO THE EMPLOYERS ON EVERY 10TH AND 15TH DAY OF THE MONTH

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched SMS service for its members. Under this service, a member has to send an SMS in predefined format from her mobile number registered with the EPFO. On receipt of SMS, EPFO will send the members information on last contribution, total PF balance and know-your-customer (KYC) details. Available in 10 different languages, the service was launched by the labour minister Bandaru Dattatreya last week. The service is part of the changes the NDA government has envisaged in retirement fund system. In 2014, EPFO had launched the Universal Account Number (UAN) programme wherein UAN was allotted to all the members and a variety of services such as passbook and monthly SMS of their contribution were provided on its activation at EPFO's UAN portal.

The short code SMS service will be available to all UAN activated members. EPFO will also give reminder calls to the employers on every 10th and 15th day of the month so that they do not have to bear penalty. All the establishments have to pay its dues and submit the statutory returns by 15th of each month. PF commissioner (regional), Manoj Kumar Yadav, informed that EPFO has improved its services in last one year as 99.24% cases were settled in less than 30 days, while 78% claims were settled within three days of their receipt. Death claims are settled on the same day of its receipt. **ONLINE PF WITHDRAWAL FACILITY DELAYED NEW DELHI:** Meanwhile the online PF withdrawal facility which was to start soon will be delayed by few months as retirement fund body wants the system to be "fool proof". After the launch of this facility, subscribers will be able to apply online for withdrawal of the provident fund which will be transferred directly to their bank accounts.

(Hindustan Times)