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Press Note

Press Release

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GCCI organized a highly successful Interactive Session in the august presence of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-1 Shri Manoranjan Kumar, Regional Commissioner Shri Abhishek Ranjan and Senior Official Shri Rajesh Pillai from EPFO and Shri S.K.Gautam of ESIC on 18th June, 2019 at GCCI premises.

In his opening remarks, GCCI President, Dr. Jaimin Vasa highlighted the need of such "Interactive Sessions" due to continuous rise in tensions between government implementing agencies and Industry in general due to difference in interpretations of various laws, leading to huge rise in litigation and the resultant compliance costs for business establishments.

Shri Manoranjan Kumar complimented GCCI for such worthy initiative and thereby playing crucial role as the liaison between Trade & Industry on one side and the Governmental authorities on the other side.

Shri Abhishek Ranjan Regional Commissioner-II presented complete flow chart of Compliance and various E-Governance Initiatives undertaken by the EPFO department to the audience and how employee and employer can take advantage of this online facilities.

The Most Important Issue raised was regarding **Notice of " Attachment of bank Accounts under section 8F of the EPF act," as received by nearly 30 units in Vatva alone**, similar cases were also reported in Naroda region.

Responding to this Shri Manoranjan Kumar said that the due process as per the department guidelines is to first call the owner of the establishment before sending the Notice to the respective bank for attachment, and only on non-receipt of satisfactory reply such notices are to be sent to the banks, he assured that he would check whether the process has been followed or not and then further stressed that **though the matter is outside his jurisdiction, he would surely take up the same with respective officers at Naroda and Vatva PF offices and review them at the earliest and based on merits the department would ensure that the notices where not applicable are revoked if they are found to be unjust.**

Mr. Manoranjan Kumar also cleared various doubts of the industry on recent supreme court judgement with respect to the definition of salary and its applicability and clarified what wages means and how Special allowance if given to the employee needs actually to be special against specific skill set or performance of an Individual, and if the establishment cannot justify this special allowance, then the said allowance is to be considered as a part of salary . He further shared that the maximum salary limit of Rs.15000 is intact for the purpose of compulsory PF contribution from the employer's side.

Shri S.K. Gautam from ESIC clarified on Non availability of the ESIC facility at Santej Industrial Area, and said that as per the procedure they have to take feedback from the state government to start any ESIC facility at any new location and further added that they had yet not received any feedback from the respective state Government authorities.

ESIC officials said that at present there is no such provisions that an insured person can avail facility anywhere in India with the help of online portal of ESIC, but they took note of the suggestion and assured to place the same before the higher authorities.

Considering the importance of Provident Fund related issues, Dr. Jaimin Vasa proposed that there should be a dedicated PF helpdesk at GCCI. Shri Manoranjan Kumar welcomed the suggestion and agreed to provide weekly 2 hours services from their official at such GCCI helpdesk.

Editor/Chief Reporter/Commercial Editor/Bureau Chief/News Editor
For Favour of publication


19/6/2019
Jagdish Shah
Secretary General