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Employers cannot be forced to contribute over and above the statutory wage limit

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) recently issued a circular and directed regional PF authorities to not force employers to contribute over and above the statutory wage limit (presently 6,500 INR per month) with respect to employees.

The direction has been issued by the EPFO after considering a recent judgement of the Kolkata High Court in the case of Nava Nalanda High School and Another vs Employees Provident Fund Organisation and Anr. [W.P 32587 (W) (2014)]. While answering the question of law on this issue, the HC relied on the decision of the Supreme Court of India in the case of Marathwada Gramin Bank Karamchari Sanghatana and Another v. Management of Marathwada Gramin Bank and Others [4 L.L.N. 422 (2011) - SC] and held that the employer could not be compelled to pay contribution on an amount in excess of the statutory wage limit fixed by the statute.

The EPFO has also decided not to file a review petition against the apex court's judgement in the Marathwada Gramin Bank Karamchari Sanghatana case.

It may be noted that the statutory wage limit (presently 6,500 INR) is not applicable to international workers (IWs) and therefore this circular is not applicable in respect of contribution by employers for their IWs. For IWs, employers need to contribute on their full salary.

The link to the circular is attached below.

http://epfindia.com/Circulars/Y2014-15/LC ReviewPet MarathwaraGraminBank 203.pdf

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