



Vayalar Ravi
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Dear Friends,

The overseas Indian community is a very important contributor to India's economy. It has been my Ministry's constant endeavour to ensure your welfare and address your needs while you are working overseas.

In recent months, my Ministry has been actively thinking about your financial needs and security when you return to India and also during your old age. We have also held discussions with both overseas Indian workers and returnee associations to better understand your views in this regard.

I am very happy to announce a special Scheme, named the Pension & Life Insurance Fund (PLIF), for the overseas Indian worker community. This is a voluntary Scheme that combines three important benefits. It helps you to save for your old age, helps you accumulate savings for your resettlement when you return to India and also provides you with a life insurance cover while you are working overseas. This is a secure and well regulated Scheme which will keep your money safe.

I am confident that the PLIF will address your social security and resettlement needs and urge you to join and benefit from this Scheme.

With regards,

Vayalar Ravi



PENSION & LIFE INSURANCE FUND



What is the Pension & Life Insurance Fund (PLIF)?



This is a special scheme of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) for overseas Indian migrant workers. While you are working overseas, this scheme will help you to regularly save a part of your income for your resettlement when you return to India and also for your old age. The MOIA will also contribute towards your pension and resettlement from its own budget.

Is this a compulsory Scheme?

No. This is a voluntary scheme.



Who can join PLIF?

Persons who are between 18 and 50 years old and have an ECR passport and a valid work permit or employment contract in an ECR country can join this Scheme.

What are the benefits offered through PLIF?

Eligible overseas migrant workers who join the Scheme will get 3 important benefits :

- Pension benefit from NPS-Lite,
- Return and Resettlement (R&R) savings benefit from UTI AMC,
- Life insurance benefit from LIC



What is NPS-Lite?



The National Pension System or NPS has been launched by the Government of India to help central and state government employees to save for their old age. Since 2004, over 20 lakh government employees are savings for their old age through NPS.

NPS-Lite is a special scheme under the same National Pension System. It has been launched by the Government of India to help people like you to save for your old age. You will be expected to save between ₹1,000 and ₹12,000 for your old age. Your old age savings will be managed by credible public sector pension funds.



What Return and Resettlement savings benefit is provided by UTI?

You will be expected to save ₹4,000 per year for your return and resettlement (R&R). Your R&R savings will be managed by UTI AMC. UTI is one of the oldest financial institutions in India and is owned by SBI, Punjab National Bank, LIC, and Bank Baroda. UTI manages savings of nearly one crore people like you.

What insurance benefit is provided through LIC?



Everyone who joins the PLIF will get a free life insurance cover from MOIA. This life insurance will be provided through the Life Insurance Corporation of

India (LIC). In the unfortunate event of death of a PLIF subscriber, his or her family will be paid ₹30,000 in case of natural death and ₹75,000 in case of death through an accident by LIC. If a person suffers permanent partial disability due to an accident, he or she will be paid ₹37,500 by LIC. This life insurance will be provided as per LIC's rules.

What other benefits will MOIA provide me in PLIF?

For all female workers who save ₹5,000 per year in PLIF, the MOIA will put ₹3,000 into their PLIF account per year. Therefore, a female worker will accumulate ₹8,000 per year.



For all male workers who save 5,000 per year in PLIF, the MOIA will put ₹2,000 into their PLIF accounts per year. Therefore, a male worker will accumulate savings of ₹7,000 per year.

For how many years will the MOIA co-contribute for my pension and R&R?

The MOIA co-contribution into your PLIF account will continue while you are working in an ECR country but for a maximum period of 5 years.

How will my savings be distributed between pension and R&R?



For female workers:

Of the total savings of ₹8,000 per year, ₹4,900 will be sent to UTI for your R&R and ₹3,000 will be sent to NPS-Lite. And ₹100 will be sent to LIC for life insurance.

For male workers:

Of the total savings of ₹7,000 per year, ₹4,900 will be sent to UTI for your R&R and ₹2,000 will be sent to NPS-Lite. ₹100 will be sent to LIC for life insurance.



What is the procedure for joining PLIF?



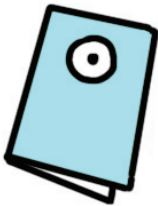
To join this scheme, you must have a valid bank account. The MOIA will try and help you with opening a bank account if you do not have one already. You can open your PLIF account at the special Enrolment HelpDesks set up by MOIA at POE offices in India and at Indian mission offices in ECR countries. You would need to fill up the prescribed PLIF application forms, provide necessary identity and address proof documents.

Who is a nominee?

A nominee is usually your spouse or children. You will need to provide your nominee's full details in your PLIF Application Form. This is mandatory.



Why do I need to have a Bank Account for PLIF?



Your PLIF savings cannot be collected in cash. Once you have joined PLIF, you will give a simple instruction to your bank. Based on your instruction, your bank will automatically take out a fixed amount from your bank account and send it to the institutions who will manage your old age and R&R savings. You will need to only ensure that you deposit the required amount into your own bank account.

What should I do if I don't have a bank account in my own name?



Then you will need to open a new bank account in your own name. Ask an authorised counsellor at the enrolment desk at the POE or Indian mission office how he or she can help you with opening your bank account.

Why is it important for me to provide my telephone number?

The enrolment helpdesk may need to call you from time to time to give you some important information regarding your savings in PLIF. Or to confirm that some request that you have made has been carried out. It is best for you to provide the telephone number of your spouse or family member in India. Your family members can pass on relevant information to you.



How will I know how much I have accumulated in PLIF?

You will receive a statement of your UTI and NPS Lite accounts once every year through PLIF. This will show you how much you have saved over the last year and the value of your overall savings on that date.



How will my PLIF savings grow?



Your savings will be managed by designated financial institutions appointed by MOIA. These institutions will invest your savings on your behalf into government bonds and a small part of your savings will be invested into shares of large companies. This will be done strictly as per rules of PFRDA and SEBI the 2 agencies set up by the Government of India to protect your interests and rights.

Will I get any guaranteed or fixed returns on my savings?

No. The rate at which your savings in NPS Lite and UTI MIS will grow is not fixed or guaranteed. The returns under the scheme are market driven.



What could be my pension or resettlement amount?



Your pension will depend on

- (1) how much you have saved per year,
- (2) the number of years over which you have saved, and
- (3) the returns that NPS-Lite and UTI earns for you on your savings.

If you save more, start at an early age and if you save regularly every month for a sustained period of time, you will get a higher pension when you are old and a higher resettlement amount on your return.

What will happen to my PLIF savings if I am unable to save for a month or over a few months?



The savings accumulated in your PLIF account will remain old and a higher resettlement amount on your return. remain securely invested in NPS-Lite and UTI in your own name. But you must save regularly if you want to accumulate enough savings for your old age and for your resettlement.

Is there a penalty if I am unable to save in a particular month?

No. There is no penalty. However, the co-contribution from MOIA will be deposited into your account only in the years in which you save ₹5,000 in your PLIF account.

When can I withdraw my R&R Savings?

You will be permitted to withdraw your R&R savings when you return to India or 5 year after joining the PLIF whichever is earlier.



When can I withdraw my NPS Lite savings?

You can start receiving a pension from your NPS-Lite account when you are 60 years old

How will my resettlement and pension benefits be paid to me?



All payments that you receive from PLIF will be deposited directly into your own bank account.

Do I have to pay a fee to any entity?

No. You do not need to pay any charges or fees to any entity.

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