

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL-CUM-LABOUR COURT,**ERNAKULAM****Date: 23.04.2026****PRESENT: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR-II,
PRESIDING OFFICER****APPEAL No.40/2022****BETWEEN****Ashtanga Educational Trust
1/1062, Guruvayoor Road
Koottanad
Palakkad – 678001**

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I Party / Appellant**AND**

- 1. The Central Board of Trustees
EPFO, Bavishyanidhi Bhavan
14, Bhikaji Cama Place
New Delhi – 110066**
- 2. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner
Employees Provident Fund Organization
Eranjipalam P.O.
Kozhikode – 673006**
- 3. The Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner
Employees Provident Fund Organization
District Office, Chandra Nagar
Palakkad – 678007**

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II Party / Respondents**Appearance****For the Appellant
For the Respondents****Adv.Viju K.Raphel & Siby P. Jose
Adv.(Dr.) Abraham P. Meachinkara**

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1. This appeal has been filed by the Appellant against Order No. KR/DO.PKD/28849/Damages/2021/2692 dated 02.12.2021 of the Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner, Palakkad by which damages amounting to Rs.6,53,257/- was levied against appellant under Section 14B of the Act.
2. The Appellant stated that assessment is made at high point without assigning any reason to impose maximum amount of damages.
3. As per the provisions of Section 14B, there are three ingredients.
 - A. There must be default on the part of the employer in payment of any contribution to the fund payment of any charge.
 - B. The Authorised Officer may recover from the employer (by way of penalty such damages) not exceeding an amount of arrears for such damages, and
 - C. Limit of amount not to exceed arrears.
4. These were three ingredients specified that there must be some due payable to the employer and the Authorized Officer may recover it not exceeding the amount of arrears. Thus, Section 14B of the Act is enabling provision and does not envisage any compulsion to levy damages in all cases up to a maximum limit. Before levy of damages, on the given circumstances must be considered by the authority before imposing damages.
5. Having gone through the record and after hearing upon the parties, it appears that the Respondent authority has imposed maximum penalty without assigning any plausible reasons.


ORDER

Therefore, in view of the statements made by both the parties and considering the facts of the present case, it is appropriate to waive 40% of the amount of damages assessed by the Respondent. Ordered accordingly.

Record be consigned to the record room.

Place:Ernakulam
Date: 23.04.2026




(SUSHIL KUMAR-II)
Presiding Officer