

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL-CUM-LABOUR COURT,**

**ERNAKULAM**

**Date: 13-03-2026  
(SPECIAL CAMPAIGN)**

**PRESENT: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR-II,  
PRESIDING OFFICER**

**APPEAL No.17/2022**

**BETWEEN**

**M/s.The Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd  
Kallala Estate  
Kalady Plantation P.O.  
Ernakulam – 683581**

**... I Party / Appellan**

**AND**

**The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner  
Employees Provident Fund Organization  
Sub Regional Office  
Bhavishyanidhi Bhavan, Kaloor  
Kochi – 682017**

**... II Party / Respondent**

**Appearance**

**For the Appellant**

**Adv. Rajesh N.**

**For the Respondent**

**Adv. Sajeev Kumar K. Gopal**

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1. This appeal has been filed by the Appellant against Order No. KR/KCH/2632/PENAL DAMAGES/2021/292 dated 03.12.2021 of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Kochi by which damages amounting to Rs.12,89,110/- 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.

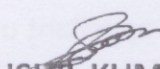
### ORDER

Therefore, in view of the statements made by both the parties and considering the facts of the present case, it is appropriate to waive **35%** of the amount of damages assessed by the Respondent. Ordered accordingly.

Record be consigned to the record room.

Place:Ernakulam  
Date: 13-03-2026



  
(SUSHIL KUMAR-II)  
Presiding Officer