



One Rank One Pension

Why in the News?

Recently, the [Supreme Court](#) asked the Centre to show how many persons in the **Armed forces** have benefitted from [‘One Rank One Pension’ \(OROP\) policy](#).

- The court also said that Centre’s stand on OROP presented a much **"rosier picture"** than what is actually given to the **pensioners of the Armed forces**.

What is OROP?

- OROP means the payment of the **same pension to military officers** for the same rank for the same length of service, irrespective of the date of retirement.
 - Before OROP, ex-servicemen used to get pensions as per the **Pay Commission's** recommendations of the time when they had retired.
- **Uttar Pradesh and Punjab** have the highest number of OROP beneficiaries.
- Armed Forces Personnel who had retired till **30th June 2014** are covered under it.
- The implementation of the scheme was based on recommendation of the **Koshiyari committee**, a 10 member all-party parliamentary panel formed under the chairmanship of Bhagat Singh Koshiyari.

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PENSION TANGLE

1 OROP means payment of **uniform pension to military personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service**, irrespective of their date of retirement

2 Plus, any further **enhancement in pension rates to be automatically passed on** to past pensioners



Ex-servicemen rally to demand OROP in New Delhi on Saturday

JUSTIFICATIONS

- **Military personnel retire much earlier** (civilian employees retire at 60). Jawans retire at 35-38; NCOs & JCOs at 40-45; Most officers in early-50s. Denied opportunity for longer service at higher pay grades & hence, higher pensions
- **Each Pay Commission widens gap between veterans who have retired earlier & those who retire later** since retirement date also determines quantum of pension (50% of last pay drawn)
- Terms & conditions of military service much tougher than civilian employees. **Soldiers undergo prolonged hardship postings, risk to lives & restriction of fundamental rights**

Numbers:
24.25 lakh
ex-servicemen
& over 6 lakh
widows

PROBLEMS

- FINANCIAL** | Grant of full OROP will further **bloat the government's pension bill by ₹8,300 crore ahead of 7th Pay Commission** in 2016
- ADMINISTRATIVE** | **Huge task to pass all the benefits, with no cut-off date**, to all living ex-servicemen. Records of pensioners before 1980s were maintained manually
- LEGAL** | **Will lead to similar demands by other government employees**, especially paramilitary forces. Employees on contributory pension scheme since 2004 may demand return to fixed pensions

[Source: TH](#)

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