

## Long wait of central government employees for 7th Pay Commission pay hike may end soon

**New Delhi:** The final meeting of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries, who is processing the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission is set for today as the secretaries' committee hopes to make its final recommendations before the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley within this month.

Secretaries' committee has been comparing notes, taking into account concerns from employees' unions, Trade Unions and departments demands through Implementation Cell of Pay Commission recommendations in Finance Ministry which works as the Secretariat of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries.

"This will be the final meeting of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries. After that, Pay Commission award will come out," an official in Finance Ministry said adding "we have kept our fingers crossed on the Pay Commission award."

While it was earlier reported the minimum basic pay will be around Rs 24,000 to Rs 21,000 — Rs. 6,000 to Rs 3,000 more than the sum recommended by the 7th Pay Commission — it is now being speculated the Empowered Committee of Secretaries is likely to recommend a 30 per cent increase in the central government employees' basic salary, as reported by Media.

The hike salaries are likely to reflect in the July pay. "Central government employees could get the revised pay-scales with their July salaries that would be credited on August 1," the [Financial Express](#) quoted finance ministry officials as saying.

7th Pay Commission had recommended a minimum monthly basic salary of Rs. 18,000 and maximum Rs. 2,50,000. A 30 percent increase would translate into minimum salary of Rs. 23,400 and maximum at Rs. 3,25,000, respectively.

However, the Empowered Committee of Secretaries is likely to recommend a minimum basic pay at Rs 24,000 and the highest salary at Rs 2,70,000 also likely to recommend for doubling of existing rates of allowances and advances.

The 7th Pay Commission headed by Justice A K Mathur proposed the highest salary at Rs 250,000 and the lowest at Rs 18,000 on November 19. The commission also recommended 14.27 per cent increase in basic pay, 23.55% overall increase in salary, allowances and pensions. The increase in allowances was recommended 63% while pension was proposed to rise 24%.

The government formed a 13- member secretary-level Empowered Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha in January to review the pay panel's recommendations and an Implementation Cell has also been created in the Finance Ministry which works as the Secretariat of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries.

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