

One Rank One Pension

One Rank One Pension (OROP), or "same pension, for same rank, for same length of service, irrespective of the date of retirement", is a longstanding demand of the Indian armed forces and veterans. The demand for pay-pension equity, which underlies the OROP concept, was provoked by the exparte decision by the Indira Gandhi-led Indian National Congress (INC) government, in 1973, two years after the historic victory in the 1971 Bangladesh war, and shortly after Field Marshal SHFJ Manekshaw retired, to decrease armed forces pensions by 20–40 percent, and increase civilian pensions by 20 percent, without consultation with armed forces headquarters. The downgrading of military pay and pensions by the Congress government in 1973 is cited by veterans and OROP protesters to highlight the start of the process led by the bureaucracy, and security police, abetted by successive governments, including the present BJP government, to undermine military pay-pensions and ranks.

In 2008 after decades of failed attempts to get the government to address armed forces grievances, often voiced by veterans under the banner of OROP, the OROP protest movement gained salience and wide support following decision by the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government to controversially sanction a career path for all civil servants and Indian Police Service (IPS) officer that ensures all retire with OROP at the highest pay grade called the apex pay grade (Rs 80,000) and create hundreds of new posts of secretaries, special Secretaries, director general of police (DGP) at the apex grade pay level; upgrade scores of police posts to DG-apex grade pay level, to ensure that all police officers retire at at the highest pension scale and reward all civil services including the Indian Police Service (IPS) with Non-functional financial up-gradation' (NFU) to ensure all, irrespective of job title or responsibility, retire at the pay and pension of Armed Forces Lt Generals and equivalents.

These decision had the effect of down-grading and depressing armed forces pay grades, allowances, pension, ranks, and status, and creating radical[clarification needed] asymmetries between armed forces and police-civil pay grades and pension outcomes; widening the growing the pay, pension, and status gap between defence and civilian officials; and downgraded and debasing military ranks.

Potential beneficiaries of OROP

Potential beneficiaries of OROP is about 2.6 million ex-servicemen, and 60,000 widows, including war widows, i.e., a combined total of 3.2 million, of whom about 86 percent are widows, JCOs, NCOs, and other ranks, about 14 percent are officers. Out of the estimated outlay on OROP of Rs 8400 crores about Rs 6200 Crores will be on account of Widows, JCOs, NCOs, and other ranks, and about 2200 for Officers.