

Sixth pay commission to revise salaries

The central government Thursday approved the setting up of the sixth pay commission to upwardly revise salaries and perks for its 550,000 employees across the country.

A cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh decided that the term of the commission would be for 18 months.

'The commission will comprise one chairman of the rank of minister of state, one part time member and one member-secretary of the rank of secretary or additional secretary in the central government,' Information and Broadcasting Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunsi said after the cabinet meeting.

'The prime minister will appoint the chairman and other members of the commission,' he said.

The proposal is estimated to cost the government an additional Rs.200 billion (\$4.2 billion).

According to the official [press](#) note released after the cabinet meeting, the panel would also examine 'desirability, the need, and quantum to sanction interim relief, if any'.

'This will enable consideration of certain aspects of service conditions of central government employees,' the note said.

The implementation of the panel's proposals is expected to take two to three years, and an interim relief of 10-15 percent may be announced for that period.

The sixth pay panel had been announced by Manmohan Singh in February this year. Pay panels are periodically constituted to examine various issues such as pay and allowances, retirement benefits, conditions of service and promotion policies of central government employees.

There is no stipulation regarding any specific time period for constitution of a pay commission.

The first pay commission, constituted in May 1946, had submitted its report in a year. The second panel had been set up in August 1957 and had given its report exactly after two years. Its financial impact was Rs.396 million.

The third pay commission, set up in April 1970, gave its report in March 1973. Implementation of its proposals cost the government Rs.1.44 billion. The fourth was constituted in June 1983, its report was given in three phases within four years and the financial burden to the government was Rs.12.82 billion.

The fifth pay commission, formed in April 1994 and submitted its report January 1997. The financial impact of the fifth pay panel was Rs.170 billion.

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