



पूर्व सैनिकों को राष्ट्र हित में संगठित करने को समर्पित

अखिल भारतीय पूर्व सैनिक सेवा परिषद् (पंजी)

AKHIL BHARTIYA POORVA SAINIK SEVA PARISHAD (REGD)

साईट 11, प्लॉट न.8, निचला भूलल, (मेन पोस्ट आफिस के समीप) पश्चिम पटेल नगर, नई दिल्ली 110008

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Lieutenant General (Retd) V M Patil, PVSM, AVSM
PRESIDENT

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Dear Mr Arun Jaitley,

Jai Hind!

The One Rank One Pension (OROP) is a heart burning and emotive issue for all Ex Service Men (ESM) and you are completely aware of it. Just to recap the definition of OROP by the Koshyari Committee and accepted by the Parliament:

1. One Rank One Pension (OROP) implies that uniform pension be paid to the Armed Forces Personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service; irrespective of the date of retirement; and, any further enhancements in the rates of pension to be automatically passed on to the past pensioners.
2. This implies bridging the gap in the rate of pension between past pensioners and the current pensioners and also future enhancements in the rates of pension to be automatically passed on to the past pensioners.
3. Hence, two Armed Forces Personnel in the same rank and equal length of service should get the same pension, irrespective of the date of retirement; and any future enhancements in the rates of pension to be automatically passed on to the past pensioners.

90% of the Armed Forces Personnel retire below the age of 42 years. This is the main reason why OROP needs to be implemented. This being the case, Mr Jaitley, there is no scope whatsoever to modify it or alter it in any manner.

Without delving too much into the history of how this issue and ESMs have been treated, I would like to highlight that it has been an uphill battle for us veterans even to get a hearing by the previous governments and the bureaucrats. No one listened to us, much less meet us during the previous regime. This conveyed to us in no uncertain terms a message that the government in power wanted nothing to do with either ESM or OROP.

In September 2013, at the Rewari Rally, Mr Narendra Modi gave us hope with his words that the Armed Forces Personnel of this nation, retired & serving, will be looked after by the BJP when elected to power. The ESM across the country felt that finally here was a political party that is friendly and empathetic towards the cause of the soldier. As a result most of us went all out to campaign for the BJP throughout India.

Thereafter, in your first budget speech, Mr Finance Minister, you assured all of us about the implementation of OROP. However now we hear that your ministry, if not you personally, is delaying the implementation process and are exploring the possibility of combining the issue with the 7th Pay Commission, or worse, just delay the announcement of OROP indefinitely.

Mr Jaitley, we are soldiers and are therefore prone to talk straight and bluntly.

The signals emanating from your ministry compels us to believe that the government or at least a section of the government, is bent on breaching the trust of the 25 lakh Ex Service Men in India. Various ESM organisations have met you while you were Defence Minister and as Finance Minister too. You are not



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unaware about the angst and pain of the retired armed forces personnel. Hence, the delay in announcing an implementation plan for OROP makes us wonder, whether the faith we had imposed in the BJP, the Government of India and in you, has been misplaced.

The impact of this delay and the breach of trust will be felt in the 1.5 million active serving personnel of the Armed Forces also, as they will also become part of the ESM force eventually. This percolation cannot be avoided as the serving Armed Forces Personnel are within the same ambit of influence.

It will be a sad day for India if the ESM of this country have to resort to protests and hunger strikes to get what is their rightful due. A due, promised to them by the Government, not only as part of their election campaign, but also as part of their budget speech and Parliamentary addresses.

You are also aware that the while your government initiated the OROP process, the opposition is waiting for you to fail in the implementation. They strengthen the hardliners in the ESM community and encourage them to protest and demonstrate in front of the Parliament. It will be most unfortunate for democratic India if the opposition of this country have to use the Ex-Service Men as a tool against the ruling party. Assuming that your government announces the OROP implementation after the 14th of June, it will be seen as a strong government buckling under the pressure of an agitation and opposition attacks. Suffice it to say, Mr Jaitly, the opposition and the media will have a field day in gaining mileage and publicity out of the OROP issue at the cost of the Government of India and the BJP.

Our sincere and earnest request, therefore, is for you to announce without delay, the following:

1. Implementation of OROP as defined by the Koshyari Committee without any departure from or dilution of the accepted definition.
2. Declaration of a definite date for implementation of OROP.

We, the ESM, would like to assure you that if this is adhered to, our support for the Government and the BJP will continue unabated in making India a strong economic and military power.

Jai Hind.

Sincerely,

Lt Gen V M Patil, PVSM, AVSM (Retd)

Shri Arun Jaitly,
Hon'ble Finance Minister of India,
North Block,
New Delhi-110001